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VOL. 146 • 50¢ PER COPY | JANUARY 15, 2019 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 7

County, nation facing volunteer firefighter shortage



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A Johnson's Crossing volunteer firefighter on the scene of a house fire in White City in November 2018

W.C. Mann
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CULLMAN COUNTY – When Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail sounded the proverbial alarm at Thursday night's Hanceville City Council meeting about a serious shortage of volunteer firefighters, he wasn't crying wolf by any stretch of the imagination. A study of national statistics shows that, over the last three decades, the number of volunteer firefighters has dropped by 12 percent nationwide, while calls for service to fire departments have increased by more than 200 percent. Even a 43 percent increase in paid firefighters over that period hasn't kept up with the demand, and means nothing for the small volunteer departments that comprise 70 percent of the nation's firefighting/emergency medical response force and protect approximately half of America's citizens.

Nail told the Hanceville City Council, "This is a problem. The problem isn't just in Hanceville. The problem is in Cullman County and in Alabama. We've got four full-time firefighters. We responded to 1,100 calls last year. We have five volunteers.

"In the last month, I have heard we were the fourth fire department toned out, and of course we responded. It is starting to be a public safety emergency. Especially the volunteers, these guys do the best they can, but most of them still have to go to work. We have five volunteers. Five! In the daytime, everybody fights fires-everybody. The police, fire, public works; everybody helps."

Hanceville has already begun basic fire training for its police department, but with fewer people volunteering, Nail said the departments are struggling.

Shared Nail, "One of our fires yesterday, one of the firemen was on the scene by himself for a few minutes before the other guys got there. I've done it and (Councilman) Jim (Nuss) has too, rolled up and been the only guy there at a house fire for several minutes. It's a long several minutes.

"I think we're in a public safety emergency. I don't know what the answer is. People don't volunteer anymore. The volunteers we've got are wonderful. They are great, but it's a serious, serious problem. You have a structure fire at the wrong time during the day, when other folks have gone to work, you've/we've got problems."

A sampling of opinions from Cullman County volunteer fire chiefs around the county supports Nail's concerns:

Logan Chief Toby Bates
"We really don't have a situation necessarily in Logan. I've got probably 20 volunteers. But the problem, really, is the countywide. I mean, Logan could stand to use more volunteers, just like every department could, but in today's time, there's nobody volunteering anymore.

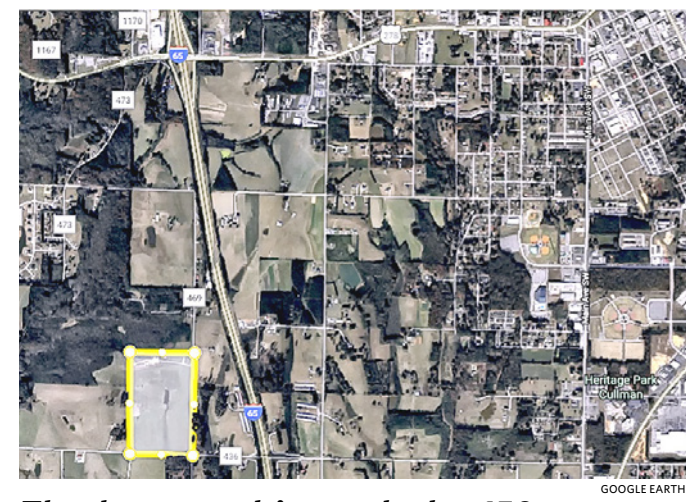
"You don't get these young kids out of high school that are interested in volunteering. And that's the people that needs to be volunteering, you know, the ones right out of high school, 18, 19 years old,

» PAGE 2

TRIBUNE EXCLUSIVE

Rock the South moving southwest of downtown Cullman

Festival growing from 15 to 150 acres



GOOGLE EARTH

Thanks to a multi-year deal, a 150-acre portion of a City-annexed parcel west of Interstate 65 (southwest corner of map) is the new home of Rock the South.

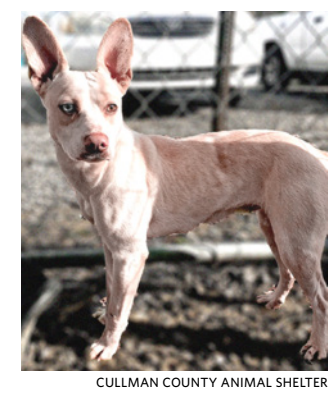
» PAGE 6

PET OF THE WEEK

Now 'ear' this: Auggie's looking for her forever home

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

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



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

When you have Auggie's attention, you know it!

Auggie is an "Australian shepherd-whatever-else mix" and, more importantly, a "sweet girl." She's an exciting medium- to high-energy pet who loves human companionship and could have a future as a therapy, companion or comfort dog. Ruttkay said she's "very smart," and that she's taken to her leash well.

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.

Auggie's adoption fee is $90 which includes: DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet, spaying, microchip, free 30-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 cullmancountyanimalshelter@gmail.com.



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Arrests and incidents reported on Jan. 14

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests and incidents reported on Jan. 14, 2019. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

No incidents reported

ARRESTS

Jan. 10

Bartlett, Troy Lee, 45
- FTA- public intoxication

Calvert, Chaulka Charles, 43
- writ of arrest- child support

Edge, Patrick Thomas, 24
- first-degree burglary

Gordon, Erica Sharee Overton, 29
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- illegal possession of prescription medicine
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Shikle, William Carlton, 31
- FTA- second-degree criminal mischief

Jan. 11-13

Aaron, Matthew Eli, 36
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Anderson, Madilyn Paige, 20
- FTA- public intoxication

Byram, Christopher Dale, 37
- probation violation- second-degree theft of property

Carter, Kenneth Shane, 37
- second-degree bail jumping- third-degree domestic violence
- second-degree bail jumping- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- second-degree bail jumping- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana (2 counts)

Dauksza, Christopher Lee, 32
- FTA- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Green, Charlie Eugene, 50
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Hill, Christopher Shane, 43
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Hollenack, Lyndsey Nicole, 24
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- resisting arrest
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- terrorist threats

Kitchens, Timothy Justin, 28
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

McDonald, Shannon Alford, 37
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Moore, Christina Johnson, 41
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Pilkington, Michael Shane, 38
- FTA- switched tag

Runyon, Jeremy Alan, 31
- contempt of court- first-degree theft of property

Smith, Tommy Jacob, 31
- third-degree burglary

Stewart, Anthony Chawn, 37
- second-degree bail jumping- fourth-degree receiving stolen property

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Jan. 11
- unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, Fox Meadow Trail, misc., $220
- second-degree theft of property, Swafford Rd. SW, misc., $2,450
- fourth-degree theft of property, Ann St. SW, bicycle, $200
- fourth-degree theft of property, Wal-Mart South, misc., $266
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle, Hwy. 157, damage to '05 Ford Taurus, $2,000

Jan. 12
- third-degree burglary, second-degree criminal trespassing, Swafford Rd. SW
- fourth-degree theft of property, Poplar Dr. SW, bicycle, $130
- third-degree domestic violence, Ave. F SE
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle, Cherokee Ave. SW, damage to '14 BMV, $500
- third-degree theft of property, third-degree criminal trespassing, Wal-Mart South, TV, $598

ARRESTS

Jan. 11-13

Anderson, Madilyn P., 20
- DUI- controlled substance

Gillis, Justin D., 31
- fourth-degree theft of property

Smith, Patricia L., 29
- fourth-degree theft of property

Davenport, Darrell G., 53
- DUI- controlled substance
- illegal possession of prescription drugs

Walmsley, Cody J., 19
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Taub, Katherine A., 19
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Brown, Marcus A., 18
- third-degree burglary
- second-degree criminal trespassing

Fitzgerald, Alan R. II, 38
- attempting to elude
- third-degree burglary
- second-degree criminal trespassing
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- providing false information to law enforcement

Dauksza, Christopher L., 32
- third-degree domestic violence

Kaiser, Christopher B., 33
- third-degree domestic violence
- resisting arrest

Halbrooks, John K., 42
- obstructing government operations
- resisting arrest

Allred, Terry D., 41
- third-degree theft of property
- third-degree criminal trespassing

Malin, Jennie R., 55
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Simmons, Joshua B., 41
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Renfro, Bryan H., 51
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests reported.

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

Shortage (from Front)

because that's the next generation of firefighters.

"And if we can't get those people to start volunteering, all the older people that's in the fire departments now, you know, I'm 44, but I can't keep doing this forever. But if there's not nobody behind me coming up to sort of carry things along, you know, several years down the road, there ain't going to be no fire departments.

"It's not just a problem here; this is a problem all over the United States. Every state, every county has the same problem, that they're just running into shortages of volunteers."

Bates feels that some sort of per-call compensation would be needed to solve the problem in the long run.

"That's about the only way I'm seeing that you can attain people, is by paying them, because people nowadays, they've got so much going on. Families and whatnot--you know, the husband and wife, sometimes they don't have time. They can't volunteer.

"They may want to volunteer but they can't, because they might be having to work two jobs just to pay their bills or whatever. Then their kids got ball games or whatnot. And they just don't have that time to volunteer.

"I know a lot of people right now that wants to volunteer, but they just ain't got the time, between work and everything else, the time's not there. And it's getting worse and worse because, as the economy gets--you know, everything's more pricey and everything's higher and higher. People are having to work more to pay for everything.

"In the end, where it hurts is people in the fire service, for volunteers, because you don't have those people who have time to come to calls, because they can't do it."

Bates also noted that many departments suffer from a lack of manpower during weekdays, when most people work.

"If you get a house fire in the middle of the day," said Bates, "heck, everybody that's in that fire department, they all may work day jobs and all them may be at work. So when you get in that situation and you get a house fire in that area, there's nobody in that area to even run the call, and they have to call the neighboring department. Well, the neighboring department may be the same way, you know. They may not have nobody because everybody's at work.

"And it's been like that for years. It just keeps getting worse and worse. But we're seeing a bigger struggle getting younger kids to come in. They're just not interested in it. They've got so much going on, you know. Today, their phones--people's phones consume their life. And kids, they just have so many other things to do.

"And then, on top of that, is most of them, when they join, you know the first thing they ask is, 'Well, how much does it pay?' Well, it don't pay anything, you know. Well then, when you tell them that, and then you start having to make them do some training and what-not to cover the bases--you know, covering them in case they were to get hurt and covering the fire department--you know, they don't have time to attend the training hours and whatnot.

"And it's a struggle all the way around, because even though they're volunteer departments and we're all volunteer departments, we still have to operate and run like a city-paid department.

"The same guidelines and regulations fall on volunteer departments that they do in the city. I mean, we have to do the same training that they do, a lot of the same required hours. They don't have a volunteer training schedule. They base everything off of a paid, funded city fire department, and that's what everybody across the United States has to operate off of."

Bates pointed out that volunteer firefighter training, both basic and annual continuing training, is considered when establishing homeowner insurance rates in a community. The extensive training schedules discourage many volunteers from starting, and lead to many dropouts by those who do start.

Berlin Chief Ralph Laney

"We're thin. They're real thin right now. We are down to about six to seven firefighters that goes, that can make calls.

"We are real thin, especially during the daytime when everybody's at their workplace. We've got one, possibly two, but they work just on their own time. They just make calls on heat pumps and stuff like that. And they might be around, and they might not be. So that's where we stand right now; we really don't have anyone during the daytime.

"And it's got to a critical point right now. It's not only us; it's every department in the county. And us being volunteers, people don't want to do that anymore. I don't know what it is. I don't know if they don't take pride in their community any more, or anything like that, but it's gotten to the point that nobody volunteers any more.

"We've had two or three come in and get an application, and say, 'What's the pay?' And I say, 'What pay?' I say we're strictly volunteer. I say we don't get paid for anything. There's two or three departments in the county that does pay on each call--I don't know what they pay on each call--but that's a paid on-call volunteer, I think that's what they call it. And they get paid so much per call that they make with those, but most of us is strictly volunteer.

"And I know Holly Pond is thin. Walter said, (Walter Chief) Randall Henderson said they were getting thin down there during the daytime, and sometimes at night they don't have enough to really go. But they muster up enough to back us up on something or another when we need it, and we try to back them up as best we can. But in the daytime is when it's critical."

Good Hope Chief David Scott

"We, as all departments, are running short of people and volunteers. It's harder and harder to get, seems like, to get our young people interested in the fire department service. You know, a lot of them, when you ask them about the fire department and stuff like that, first they want to do is, 'Hey, what does it pay?' 'You know, it's volunteer, don't pay anything.' 'Well, I'm not interested.'

"Seems like the value of people helping just to help their neighbors and the community's kind of gone away from what it used to be. And it's just harder and harder to get them to volunteer.

"And one thing too, now, there's so much requirements for schooling and training that's required, you know, to be a volunteer. And it takes up a lot of time. It's stepped up some, you know, and it's for the good. It's for the good, and a lot of people just don't want to take the time do it, especially in the medical field. I don't know what the answer is."

Is there a solution?

Brad Davidson, writing for the American Military University publication In Public Service, identified three factors that motivate people to become or remain volunteer firefighters:

- Serving their community - Younger firefighters not only want to serve by fighting fires, but through meaningful service projects, fundraising dinners and educational events at local schools. Davidson wrote, "A proven way to burn out a volunteer is with insignificant or infrequent service opportunities."
- Emotional fulfillment - Volunteers in any organization report that their service gives them a sense of worth to the community. A community that demonstrates its appreciation for its volunteers is more likely to recruit and keep more of them.
- Camaraderie - Emergency responders, whether fire, medical or law enforcement, enjoy a sense of brotherhood not found in many other professions. Departments that foster a sense of community and brotherhood between veterans and rookies, and between paid and unpaid firefighters in combination departments, tend to recruit and retain well. A separate study on volunteerism among millennials indicated that inclusion of a meal as part of an organizational meeting made them feel more a part of things, and more likely to participate.

See https://inpublicsafety.com/2018/03/understanding-what-motivates-volunteer-firefighters/.

What can the community do?

Davidson identified a sense of self-worth based on community service and community recognition as big reasons why people volunteer. You can help your local volunteer fire department by doing a few simple things:

- Attend department-sponsored outreach events
- Recognize department volunteers at church or at local civic group meetings
- Invite department volunteers to talk to students, church groups and clubs
- Invite departments to participate in community events
- Show appreciation to the department. Food or other simple thank-yous at the station can go a long way.
- And, of course, volunteer! Find out more about local volunteer departments and volunteer opportunities by visiting the Cullman County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments at www.facebook.com/CullmanCountyAVFD/. Nail urged those considering volunteering for Hanceville's combination department to call the fire station at 256-352-5544.

The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874
Publication Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422

Humble Roots, LLC

Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: robin@cullmansense.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES

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

NoahGalilee–Publisher
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Wallace State's Learning Communities welcomes poet Kate Daniels to campus Jan. 24

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State's Learning Communities welcomes poet Kate Daniels to campus on Thursday, Jan. 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. at the Burrow Center Recital Hall. The event is free and open to the public!

Daniels, the Edwin Mims Chair of English at Vanderbilt University, is the author of six poetry collections, including "The White Wave," "The Niobe Poems," "Four Testimonies," "A Walk in Victoria's Secret," "Two Syllables Describing Addiction," and the upcoming "In the Months of My Son's Recovery."

Daniels was awarded the Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize for Poetry after penning "The White Wave," and she's also earned honors at the Bunting Fellowship at Harvard; the Guggenheim Fellowship in Poetry; two "Best American Poetry" selections; the Pushcart Prize; and the election to the Fellowship of Southern Writers.

Daniels serves as the director of creative writing at Vanderbilt.

She earned a bachelor's degree and Master of the Arts in English Literature from the University of Virginia and her MFA from Columbia University's School of the Arts.

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


WSCC
Kate Daniels

JSU announces fall 2018 Honor's List

Buffy Lockette
Contributor

JACKSONVILLE - Jacksonville State University named 2,049 students to the President's and Dean's Lists for their outstanding academic performance during the fall 2018 semester, including:

- Jayna Densmore of Arab, President's List
- Ross Quigley of Arab, President's List
- Matthew Willis of Arab, Dean's List
- Stephen Kinney of Arab, Dean's List
- Colby Cain of Arab, Dean's List
- Luke Tatum of Arab, President's List
- George Beason of Arab, President's List
- Summer Kelly of Arab, President's List
- Nicholas Williss of Arab, President's List
- Daniel Vanegas of Arab, Dean's List
- Madeline Paris of Arab, President's List
- Micayla Garrett of Arab, Dean's List
- Kate Fleming of Arab, President's List
- Lauren Watson of Arab, Dean's List
- Sydnie Marsh of Arab, President's List
- William Dyar of Arab, President's List
- Kortni LaRue of Arab, President's List
- Samantha Jo Hosler of Arab, Dean's List
- Kelsie Heitert of Arab, Dean's List
- Priya Ragha of Arab, Dean's List
- Jada Avila of Blountsville, President's List
- Kelsey Smith of Blountsville, Dean's List
- Justin Ortiz of Blountsville, Dean's List
- Micheal Myrick of Bremen, Dean's List
- Mason Myrick of Bremen, Dean's List
- Ulises Herrera of Cleveland, Dean's List
- Lori Speakman of Crane Hill, President's List
- William Starnes of Cullman, Dean's List
- Lauren Harbison of Cullman, President's List
- Virginia Earwood of Cullman, President's List
- Katie Peyton of Cullman, President's List
- Justin Turner of Cullman, Dean's List
- Zoe Chafin of Cullman, Dean's List
- Harley Stickney of Cullman, President's List
- Allison Grund of Cullman, President's List
- Anna Mangum of Cullman, President's List
- Caleb Chambers of Cullman, President's List
- Rachel Lester of Hanceville, President's List
- Taliyah Lavilette of Hanceville, President's List
- Matthew Sapp of Hanceville, Dean's List
- Bennett Fulenwider of Vinemont, Dean's List
- Adam Estep of Falkville, Dean's List

To be named to the President's List, a student must earn a perfect 4.0 GPA while attending full time.

Full-time students earning a GPA of 3.5-3.99 are named to the Deans' List of their respective schools.

Cullman's Rachel Neal named to Maryville College fall Dean's List

Chloe Kennedy
Contributor

MARYVILLE, Tenn. - Maryville College recently announced students who made the Dean's List for the fall 2018 semester. Consideration for the Dean's List is open to full-time students who have a grade point average of at least 3.6 in all work undertaken, no grade below a "C" and no incompletes for the semester.

The following Cullman-area student was named to the Dean's List: Rachel Neal, of Cullman.

Maryville College is located in Maryville, Tennessee and is a nationally-ranked institution of higher learning that successfully joins the liberal arts and professional preparation.

8 area students graduate from JSU

Buffy Lockette
Contributor

JACKSONVILLE - Jacksonville State University conferred degrees to 582 students at its fall commencement ceremony on Dec. 13.

Due to ongoing repairs at Pete Mathews Coliseum following the destructive March 19, 2018 tornado, the ceremony was held on Burgess-Snow Field at JSU Stadium.

JSU President John M. Beehler presented degrees to 441 undergraduates and 141 graduate students, including:

- Katelyn Downs of Cullmanw
- Tyler Glenn of Cullman
- Tracey Holmes of Cullman
- Zackery Qualls of Blountsville
- Samantha Stasica of Cullman
- Thomas Sutton of Arab
- Alexander Tolbert of Blountsville
- Matthew Willis of Arab

Provost Rebecca O. Turner served as mistress of ceremonies. Curtis McGhee, Jr. - who graduated with a Master of Arts in English - served as the student commencement speaker. Derrick D. Jordan (Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, 1992) spoke on behalf of alumni.The bell ringer was Ashlee Goff, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

Cullman's Ryder Jones to participate in UA's Cooperative Education Program

Richard LeComte
Contributor

TUSCALOOSA - University of Alabama student Ryder Jones, of Cullman, will participate in UA's Cooperative Education Program for spring 2019. Jones will be working at Saiia Construction.

In the Cooperative Education Program, more than 230 students alternate periods of full-time study with periods of full-time employment.

This program offers work related to the academic major or career interests of each student.

While in school, students carry regular course schedules.

While on co-op, they work with professionals in their desired fields who supervise their training and work.

At work, co-op students earn competitive salaries and may receive benefit packages in addition to valuable job experience.

Participants maintain their full-time student status while at work and have priority registration status each semester through graduation.

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UA Randall Research Scholar Myles McLeroy of Cullman participates in RRS Live

Richard LeComte
Contributor

TUSCALOOSA - University of Alabama student Myles McLeroy, of Cullman, recently shared results of research at the RRS Live program, an interactive broadcast of projects conducted by students in the Randall Research Scholars Program. Students discussed the goals, outcomes and societal impact of the research they conducted during the fall 2018 semester.

McLeroy, whose major is computer science, shared information on a project titled "Using Isochrones to Examine Transportation Modalities of the Elderly." McLeroy's adviser is Dr. Travis Atkison in computer science.

The Randall Research Scholars Program (formerly Computer-Based Honors) pairs exceptional students directly with leading research professors and cutting-edge computing technology to complete scholarly research projects in any field of study.

During their freshmen years, students complete an intensive series of courses on technology fundamentals, problem solving, project management and research fundamentals.

These skills enable students to quickly learn and adapt to new knowledge domains and technical environments required for faculty-directed research projects.

Throughout their sophomore to senior years, Randall Research students interview with faculty and select a project to work on as a research assistant with a faculty member who will act as project director.

Premier Bank of the South

Furlough Assistance Loan

Premier Bank is aware that the ongoing government shutdown has and will affect many families in our area. We would like to offer our assistance to any government employee affected by the shutdown. We will be offering low interest short term loans to those government employees affected by the shutdown, who meet our credit criteria.

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Community Note: Parkside Outreach Program

Parkside Outreach Program Thrift Store and Community Assistance Services, 12756 Alabama Highway 69, Baileyton, 35019; 256-683-0715.

One-hundred percent of proceeds go to the Parkside District.



CHERYL KELLEY

Blue Corvette

ARTS

Car show and cruise-in to kick start 'LUSTER' exhibition this Saturday

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – The Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State Community College will host the Alabama Cable Network car show, and a cruise-in open to all collectors and enthusiasts to kick start its new exhibition "LUSTER: Realism and Hyperrealism in Contemporary Automobile and Motorcycle Painting." The LUSTER Exhibition Opening Reception and Alabama Cable Network Car Show will be held on Saturday, Jan. 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The car show will be held in the parking lot of the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts, with the exhibition inside.

"With such a wonderful collection of paintings featuring cars and motorcycles, we decided to pair the opening reception with a car show. We welcome the community to come out and see the real-life automobiles there and then see the life-like paintings in the exhibit," said Kristen Holmes, administrator of The Evelyn Burrow Museum. "The realism in these paintings is amazing; you would think you were looking at a photograph, not a painting."

In the museum, throughout the run of the exhibit, the first hot rod to run more than 200 mph at the Bonneville Salt Flats will be on display to accompany the LUSTER exhibition. The So-Cal Streamliner was built by Alex Xydias, founder of So-Cal Speed Shop, and driven by Dean Batchelor. It broke two speed records at Bonneville, 196 mph in 1949 and 210 mph in 1950. Keeping with a Bonneville theme, a Triumph Bonneville motorcycle will also be on display.

The car show sponsored by the Alabama Cable Network and other collectors on Jan. 19 will feature automobiles including Corvettes, a 1946 Ford and more. It will be a cruise-in format open to the public to bring their automobiles.

"LUSTER: Realism and Hyperrealism in Contemporary Automobile and Motorcycle Painting" is on exhibit from Jan. 12 through Feb. 11. The traveling museum exhibition features more than 50 paintings in a range of media and size by 15 realists and hyperrealists who specialize in automobiles and motorcycles as their primary subject of choice. Hyperrealism emerged in the 1990s as a new generation of artists began producing an impressive, collective body of work that extended photorealist automotive painting.

A list of exhibiting artists includes: A.D. Cook (Las Vegas), Randy Ford (Easthampton, New Jersey), Allan Gorman (West Orange, New Jersey), Marc Jones (Loveland, Colorado), Cheryl Kelley, (Fortuna, California), Richard Lewis (Los Angeles), Lory Lockwood (New Orleans), Sherly Luxenburg, (Ottawa, ON, Canada), Robert Petillo (Hardyston, New Jersey), Kris Preslan (Lake Oswego, OR), Joseph Santos (Buena Park, California), Ken Scaglia (Weston, Connecticut), Guenevere Schwien (Portland, Oregon), Brian Tull (Antioch, Tennessee) and Harold Zabady (Camp Hill, Pennsylvania).

LUSTER encompasses a broad range of cars and motorcycles from vintage vehicles to classics of the 1940s and after. The exhibition is curated by David J. Wagner, who earned his Ph.D. in American Studies and served as a museum director for 20 years.

It is co-sponsored by The Evelyn Burrow Museum and Wallace State's Automotive programs.

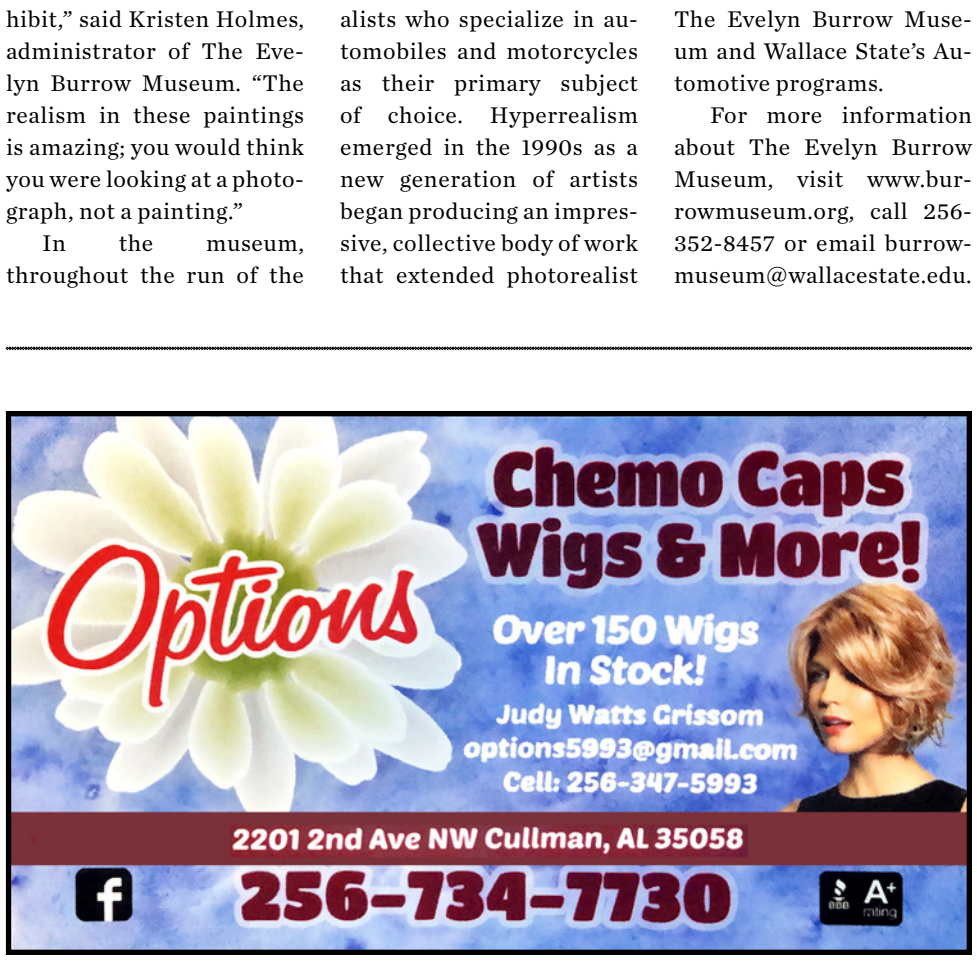
For more information about The Evelyn Burrow Museum, visit www.burrowmuseum.org, call 256-352-8457 or email burrowmuseum@wallacestate.edu.















LEANNE WEST

Pictured left to right: MaKenzie Cruce, Anna Agnello, Mayor Woody Jacobs and Shawna Norman

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Jacobs proclaims Catholic Schools Week in Cullman

Leanne West
Contributor

CULLMAN – Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs on Monday officially proclaimed the week of Jan. 27-Feb. 1, 2019, "Catholic Schools Week" in the city of Cullman. On hand to accept the proclamation on behalf of Sacred Heart School were Shawna Norman and students MaKenzie Cruce and Anna Agnello.

The proclamation reads:
Whereas, the Catholic School System in the Diocese of Birmingham has been a consistent advocate of academic achievement by the young people of Sacred Heart School in Cullman for 141 years; and,

Whereas, the Catholic School System's support of community and family through teaching and example have set the highest standards for emulation by those who reside in Sacred Heart Parish in Cullman, Alabama; and,

Whereas, Sacred Heart's parish, school, and families work together to form a cornerstone of excellence in education in Cullman, and the primary purpose of the school continues to be to provide an instruction program with a Catholic Christian atmosphere of love and guidance; and,

Whereas, the strengthening and encouraging role that Sacred Heart School continues to play in the lives of its many students and their families here in Cullman is worthy of all respect and admiration; and,

Whereas, Catholic Schools Week, an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States, starts on the last Sunday in January and runs all week and includes events that focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and on the contributions of Catholic education to our communities and our nation.

Now, therefore, I, Woody Jacobs, as Mayor of the City of Cullman and on behalf of the City Council and our citizens, do hereby proclaim the week of January 27-February 1, 2019, #CATHOLICSCHOOLSWEEK in the City of Cullman and urge all of our citizens to recognize the influence and impact Catholic education has on our society, and to celebrate the success of Sacred Heart School and its many contributions to our community.

#CSW19

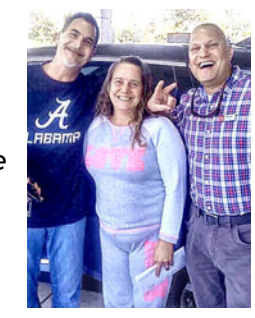
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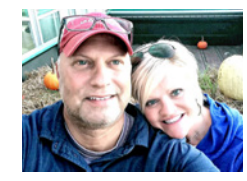
DJ has worked in the automotive industry for almost two decades and has been with Tony Serra Nissan since 2012 serving as a Sales Consultant / Truck Specialist. "Working with other sales consultants, we are able to provide the best service, whether it's a new car or a pre-owned from our new Used Car Super Center, at Tony Serra Nissan we are making for a pleasant experience with friends."



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DJ, left, with his wife Christa, enjoying some down time during the recent holiday season

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Rock the South (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – On Monday morning, Rock the South (RTS) and production company 46 Entertainment announced that the massive music event has found a new and bigger home away from Heritage Park and downtown Cullman, but still "in the neighborhood." In an exclusive to The Tribune, 46 Entertainment's Nathan Baugh said RTS has signed a multi-year lease on a 150-acre parcel about 2 miles from Heritage Park, along County Road 469 and County Road 436 (Swafford Road Southwest), just west of Interstate 65 at 1872 Country Road 469 Cullman. RTS' previous venue, Cullman's Heritage Park, property which included substantial portions not used for the festival, totaled only 72 acres, with approximately 15 acres used for the festival.

The new RTS site is outside Cullman proper, but is on private land previously annexed into the City of Cullman.

The property was once considered for the location of a new city industrial park, and, appropriately for the festival which began as a disaster relief fundraiser after the 2011 tornadoes, was used for disposal of debris generated by the storms before the City sold the property to its current owner.

Official statement

On Monday morning, RTS issued the following statement:

Rock the South, one of country music's largest music festivals, is announcing it is moving to a new location in Cullman, AL. With over 140 acres, the new location will allow Rock the South to now offer Camping, RV Camping, on-site parking, expanded food and drink offerings on top of an incredible A-List lineup.

Since 2012, Rock the South has entertained hundreds of thousands of fans in Cullman with incredible country music talent like Eric Church, Luke Bryan, Thomas Rhett, Alan Jackson, Florida-Georgia Line, Sam Hunt, and many more.

Rock the South is doing substantial infrastructure improvements to the property, including working with multiple outside engineers to develop the property and traffic plan to be ready for 65,000+ people in June.

Baugh told The Tribune Sunday night, "The biggest thing that we're excited about is, basically, it's about 10 times the size, and the biggest thing is letting us stretch our legs a little bit and adding more amenities like onsite parking, RV parking and camping in general. So, it kind of becomes a more true festival experience.

"We're still staying two days. We've already worked with public safety and all that stuff; they've been aware of this for a couple of weeks.

"(Cullman) Economic Development's kind of spearheaded the project for us, and they've been great to work with, along with (Rep.) Corey Harbison (R-Good Hope) and some other people."

While the site could be used occasionally for other events, Baugh said that his company has no current plans to develop the property as a year-round entertainment venue.

City partnerships still in place

Despite the move out of downtown Cullman and away from Heritage Park, Baugh insisted that nothing has changed in the partnership between RTS and the City of Cullman.

"Basically, everything's staying the same," said Baugh. "We still have a relationship with Parks and Rec; we're still working with them on parking; all that is staying the same. The partnership and all that is exactly staying the same. We're just lifting up and moving to a new location.

"Obviously, there's some new kinks to be worked out. And Parks and Rec is not like--we're not in a Cullman city park, but we're still working with them through our charity angle to work with them on parking and all that stuff. They will still be managing parking with us, and all that.

"So, basically, everything's staying the same, except bigger and 2 miles over."

Away from downtown, smaller impact

Said Baugh, "Obviously, any time you have a festival--anything of this size--it's going to have impact to the area around it. The new area has far less impact than where it was at Heritage, just because it's not in the downtown corridor.

"The biggest conglomerate of people is Deer Trace (subdivision), which is about 1,000 yards behind the site. But we've reached out to a couple of the land owners there already and provided contact information in regards to some stuff.

"And Corey's working with us with some of the Good Hope side, because it's Good Hope, basically, till right before the property. We're going to be a good neighbor, just like we have been at Heritage."

Responding to concerns

Baugh and RTS included in their announcement responses to common questions people have asked about the event in the past, or about locations the organization has considered. Some questions that were addressed in our interview have been omitted here.

What about the traffic?

"For months, we have been working with an engineering firm out of Birmingham, Alabama that specializes in traffic engineering, transportation planning and parking consulting. They have given approval for this site to be used for Rock the South based on the size of the event and the needs of the event (parking, drainage, wetlands, etc)."

What if it rains?

"We have also been working with a civil engineering firm out of Cullman to develop a master plan for the property. This plan involves drainage plans, grading, permanent solutions for staging and other high impact areas such as parking lanes and entrances."

Will there be any impact to surrounding neighborhoods?

"While the impact to surrounding areas will be far less than Heritage Park, we do recognize an event of this size will have impact, regardless of its location. Prior to the announcement, we began to reach out to neighborhoods and residents surrounding the site. Since there (are) a lot of questions about this move, we do believe it is important for residents to have a direct relationship with the festival to work together to address concerns. We have already started that process and will continue that process until it is complete."

Will you have parking on-site?

"Yes. One of the main selling points was to have parking on-site, including RV parking and VIP Parking."

This year's lineup to be biggest ever; announcements begin soon

According to Monday morning's release, "Rock the South will begin announcing its incredible 2019 lineup on Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 at 7 a.m.

"Visit www.rockthesouth.com for more information."

While still quiet about names, RTS promises that a larger site is going to mean a larger event.

According to Baugh, the company plans to book 15 acts for this year's festival.

Ticket sales are set to begin on Wednesday, Jan. 23.

Said Baugh, "It's obviously going to be the biggest lineup ever, because we now have the biggest area ever."

RTS will take place May 31 and June 1.

For more information, visit www.rockthesouth.com or www.facebook.com/RockTheSouth/.



CITY OF CULLMAN POLICE OFFICER
NOTICE OF EXAMINATION

The **City of Cullman** is accepting applications for the **Police Officer** exam. Duties consist of general police work. Preference will be given to current Police Reserves and Veterans Honorably Discharged. Beginning salary is $35,977.24. Employment is contingent upon successful completion of a written exam and drug test. A physical fitness and polygraph exam may be required. Benefits include individual health insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, retirement, vacation, holiday pay, sick leave, and uniforms. Applications must be submitted to the Personnel Department by 4:00 P.M. on January 25, 2019, to be eligible for the exam. Please visit www.cullmanal.gov for more information.

The City of Cullman is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Obituary Announcements: Jan. 15 - 18

Johnny Mack Williamson, 78, of Addison, entered into rest on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at his home surrounded by loved ones. Mr. Williamson was born on August 23, 1940 in Cullman, Alabama. Johnny graduated from West Point High School in 1958. He was raised in the Church of Christ faith, but had attended Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church for many years. He served in the United States Army for 2 years. Johnny sold insurance for 34 years, and enjoyed riding and mowing the lawn, and traveling. Visitation will be held Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Nesmith Community, from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. with services at 2 p.m. Brother Jr. Garmon and Brother John Echols will officiate. Johnny is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Virginia Kathy Williamson; sons, Manuel Todd Williamson, Terry Chad Williamson and his wife Clancy Randolph; sisters, Louise Howse, Vivian Ann (Cecil) Cole; grandchildren, Nathanial Todd Williamson, Benjamin Randolph Williamson and Gracie Beth Williamson. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bud and Una Williamson; and brother, Jimmy Williamson.

Hazel Lorene Yarbrough, 99, of Haleyville, entered into rest on January 13, 2019 at Haleyville Health Care Center surrounded by her loving family. Mrs. Yarbrough was born on January 13, 1920, in Haleyville, Alabama. Lorene was a member of Sunny Home Baptist Church for 70 years. She was employed by Haleyville Textile Mill and Manasco Hospital. Lorene enjoyed sewing, quilting, reading, cooking and spending time with her family. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville, where services will be held at 2 p.m. Brother Greg Burcham and Reverend Mitch Nethery will officiate. Burial will follow in Winston Memorial Cemetery. Lorene is survived by her sons, Wayne Yarbrough and his wife Jo Ellen, Gregory Yarbrough and his wife Sandy; daughters, Sarah Cochran, Iva Lee McNutt; brothers, Wilburn Ray Holdbrooks, Kennith (Margie) Holdbrooks, Joseph (Joan) Holdbrooks; sisters, Magdalene "Mag" Gurganus, Clara Earl, Rosa Nell Martin, Jeanette Lawson, and a host of nieces and nephews. She was "MawMaw" to 10 grandchildren, Karla (Greg) Burcham, Kirk (Karen) Cochran, Kristi (Jay) Raney, Benga (Jon) Quick, Jason (Brooke) Yarbrough, David McNutt, Brett McNutt, Leah (Dennis) Fuqua, Amy Berry, and 14 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Aaron Grant Yarbrough; parents, Reverend D.H. and Leotha Holdbrooks; brother, J.B. Holdbrooks; sister, Gail Armstrong; sons in law, Eugene Cochran and Larry McNutt. The family would like to extend a special thank you to all of the Haleyville Health Care staff and Comfort Care Hospice for the loving care they provided.

Robin M. Gable Cryer, 53, of Holly Pond, passed away on Sunday, January 13, 2019. She was born October 29, 1965, to Travis and Nellie Pearl Allen McCormick. Robin is remembered by her family as a special lady. She will be greatly missed. Ms. Cryer is preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her companion, Larry Cryer; daughter, Wendi Hendrix (Blake Gregory); sons, Justin (Mercedes) Cryer, Cody (Kristen) Cryer; brothers, Randy (Sandra) McCormick, Ricki (Donna) McCormick; sister, Rhonda (Walter) Colbert; grandchildren, Tucker Cryer, Kinlee Cryer, Tori Cryer, and Skipper Cryer. Funeral services for Ms. Cryer will be 11 a.m., Tuesday, January 15, 2019, in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in Walls Chapel Cemetery. Friends may visit with the family one hour prior to services, from 10 a.m., until services begin. The Cryer family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff of Alacare Hospice. Your care and compassion is greatly appreciated. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Cryer family.

Funeral Service for Mylinda B. Teichmiller, age 78, of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Pastor Bob Kurtz officiating; interment in Cullman City Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Teichmiller passed away on Sunday, January 13, 2019, at Cullman Long Term Care. She was born October 12, 1940, to Lucille Barck. She was preceded in death by her parents and sisters, Wildred Ferguson and Frances Barrow. Survivors include her son, Jason (Karen) Teichmiller; grandchildren, Collin and Brylie Teichmiller; brothers, Gene Barck, James Barck, and John Barck; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends. Visitation will be from 12 noon until 2 p.m. on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Graveside service for Bobbie June Duke, 80, of Hanceville will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 16, 2018 at Union Cemetery. Visitation will be from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Miss Duke is survived by her brother-in-love, Sid Ernest and his sister Charlene Smalley. Also, her caretakers, Glenda Moses, Linda and Carlos Wilhite and the staff at Woodland Village Health Care.

Carlton E. Beasley was born on August 13, 1938 and passed away on January 10, 2019. A Celebration of Life will begin at 2 p.m. at the Moss-Service Funeral Home Chapel on Wednesday, January 16, 2019; burial to follow at Jones Chapel Methodist Cemetery. Visitation will be held Tuesday, January 15, 2019 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

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Community with Carol: April German of Victoria's Hope

Carol Berry
Tribune Columnist

April German of Victoria's Hope is my guest on Community with Carol this week.

Back in May 2018 I had a conversation with April when she called to ask me how to start a nonprofit. I gave her all the information I could. She took the information and got busy. April had many others who helped her along the way. Ashley Wilson had the closest thing to her "vision" April could find in Curt's Closet. So, after meeting with Ashley, her vision for Victoria's Hope became a reality.

Victoria Hammond Hankey was the inspiration for this new nonprofit. Victoria was April's mom, a mom who gave everything for her children and went without herself. Watching April talk about her mother was heartbreaking and motivational.

April lost her mother in May 2018 after only a seven-week battle with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. In her grief and depression, April felt the urge to make one of her mother's dreams a reality.

As a single mom with three young children, Victoria struggled, but she always found a way to not only provide for her children but also make their lives as normal as possible. Even though they were in poverty, April and her siblings never felt anything but loved.

It wasn't until they were older that they realized the sacrifices their mom had made for them. After she remarried, Victoria began to give back.

She always helped struggling mothers with whom she came into contact. She dreamed of doing more one day, and she has through April!

Victoria's Hope is located in Dodge City, at 851 Alabama Highway 69 South. This organization is a 501(c)(3) and all donations are tax-deductible. Victoria's Hope is designed to look like any other retail store; however, this shopping spree is free. The shopping experience is to help those struggling to provide for their children and themselves. Victoria's Hope has household items, toys, clothing, shoes and accessories. Individuals must have an appointment. The shopping experience is private and April goes to great lengths to make each person feel special.

April's next big event will be providing prom attire to high school students. Victoria's Hope will be taking donations of prom dresses, men's suits and all the fun accessories.

As the mother of three boys, April is excited to help the young ladies find the perfect dress.

Even though Victoria's Hope has only been in existence a short while, April and her team have served many families. They have not only filled a physical need in our community but a spiritual one as well. The volunteers at Victoria's Hope have seen firsthand the impact they are having on individuals. Some people who have shopped with them are now back on their feet and bringing donations for others! That is what touched April the most.

She cried as she told me, "This is what it this is all about, giving back, just like my mom did!"

What a great mom Victoria Hammond Hankey was. The impact she had on her children has changed a community. How proud she would be of her daughters and her son.

"Successful mothers are not the ones that have never struggled, they are the ones that never give up, despite the struggles." – Sharon Jaynes

See my interview with April Tuesday at www.Facebook.com/CullmanTribune.



BRITTANY HOWELL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

April German, left, and Carol Berry, right

TRIBUNE COLUMN

Always Reforming: Dysfunctions and decline

Tom Fillinger
Tribune Columnist

Last week we focused on assessment and why that process is so important. Assessment informs a local church of the true condition of ministry. It answers the question – "Are we making disciples fully formed in the image of Christ in character and conduct?' If not, you are merely engaging in fruitless activity.

There is a not-so-affirming description of the way many so-called churches function. It is known as the "Happy-Clappy Syndrome." Let me explain. Churches trapped in this syndrome refuse to entertain anything that is even remotely negative. Criticism, even that which is 100 percent accurate, is strictly forbidden.

Often pastors in these churches are quick to cite the 'touch not my anointed" passage. The Hebrew verb in this passage (Psalm 105:15 and other passages) refers to physical violence, not, accountability).

All leaders MUST be held accountable for their leadership. Failure to do so brings major discredit to the Lord and to the church.

Every church has some dysfunction.

Identifying those dysfunctions enables the church to correct those issues. Carefully consider the following items. Identify those that are operative in the church where you gather. Encourage the leadership to bring correction to them. They erode and diminish the Great Commission.

Factors producing failure and decline

The church and her leaders accept activity as a substitute for biblical effectiveness.

Failure to objectively measure true ministry effectiveness – are we making disciples?

Failure in the Pastoral Call Process – 9 out of 10 pastors are deficient leaders and their ministry history confirms this fact, yet, churches do not engage viable and diligent vetting to disclose this fact.They call them anyhow. The most accurate predictor of what a leader will do in the future is what he has done in the past.

Failure to engage in periodic objective assessment of ministry endeavors (a minimum of once a month)

Failure to communicate at all levels in a manner that is accurate, timely and abundant

Failure on the part of pastor/elders to connect with other leaders that will hold them accountable. (cf. the situation currently underway in Chicago with a mega-church pastor, one of many that emerged in 2018).

Failure on the part of pastor/elders to invite and accept relationships that insist on mutual transparency and vulnerability leading to true accountability

Failure on the part of pastor/elders and congregations to regard the scripture as sufficient, the living word of God rather than a collection of ancient writings and information. More to come on this vital topic.

Failure to abide by the injunction/command in the Epistle of James - - be doers of the word not merely hearers

Failure for decades by the church to equip the people with a functional biblical literacy

Failure by the people/members to live in obedience to 1 Peter 3:15 – a result of biblical ignorance

Failure on the part of the church to validate professions of faith; many people who are members of the church are not redeemed. The church must consist of regenerate people.

Failure to define with theological precision terms that shape the transformation process. People must know, understand, and apply these terms if growth in grace is the expected and desired result.

Failure to connect in effective and fruitful ways with the community in which the church exists. Lost/unsaved people are not the enemy, but, they are often treated as though they are.

Failure to establish a systematic and ongoing leadership development ministry that prepares men for future leadership

Failure to define ministry objectives with exegetical precision and support that is monitored by a periodic accountability process

Failure to enlist men to lead who are true leaders. According to Barna, only 1 in 8 pastors are habitual rather than situational or circumstantial leaders. IgniteUS sees this as 1 in 10. Situational or circumstantial leaders maintain status quo – they are managers not leaders.

Next week – Level 5 leaders

Local woman offering hope for area homeless

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – When Angie Handley Young began to take notice of homeless people around Cullman County, she didn't think to herself, "Someone should do something." She thought, "I should do something." And she did. She started a group on Facebook named Hope for the Homeless about two months ago and hasn't slowed down much since.

Young talked to The Tribune about starting her ministry:

"It's just something I felt like God was telling me to do, was to reach out and offer more help than what was out there already. And I just started a Facebook group, and then me and my fiancé went out looking for some homeless in the area that we were told about, to try to find them and let them know that we were trying to help them, whether it be with food or blankets, or trying to find a job, whatever it was they needed.

"This is only something I've been doing for about two months now. So, when we first went out, we really didn't have any luck finding anybody where we had been told there were some staying; so it was just something I prayed about and told God that if this was something He wanted me to do, He needed to lead me where they were.

"And from the next day until now, my phone blows up non-stop.

"I have people coming to me, or other people contacting me, saying, 'Hey, have you talked to so-and-so who is at this location?' They're just coming to me, now."

Despite the short time she's been in operation, Young has found plenty of need, sharing, "It is very recent, but I have about 17 homeless people that I talk to on a daily basis right now.

"Like I said, when I first started, I couldn't find any. But then, after I prayed about it, it was like God said, 'Okay, here you go,' and it just started opening up.

"There have been days that have went by when I didn't encounter any new at all, but then there have been as many as three new in a day.

"I've had people from Falkville contact me. I've had people from Decatur contact me."

Young accepts donations of food and other items, from which she puts together care packages for distribution when needs arise. Young explained, "I'll fix gallon Ziploc bags, and I'll put a bottle of water and a pack of crackers, and maybe a tuna pouch and thing of peanuts and beef jerky, you know, whatever, to give them a variety of different foods, and I put it in the bag.

"And I always try to hand out a Bible with everything that I hand out.

"And I make sure they have dry blankets and they have a coat and they have gloves and toboggan, and sometimes we put hand warmers in there. We give them socks, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, dry shampoo, hand sanitizer, you know, stuff that we use every day that these people don't have access to."

What happens when you locate a homeless person or family?

"I don't send them or take them anywhere, because there's not a shelter. I mean, there is a women's shelter, but they're full. I offer them food, I offer them clothes. I will take them to The Link (of Cullman County) to get a shower, if it's Monday through Friday when The Link is open.

"And I try to get their story. I try to find out what their story is, what led you here. And if it's drugs, then I look for a rehab facility. If it's just bad luck, I try to help them out. If they need a job, I try to help them find a job.

"If they have income coming in, and they say they're on disability but they have limited income, then I've got two right now I'm trying to locate an apartment, a place for them to live, because they both have a vehicle, but they have limited income.

"So I don't really have a place to take them, but I do offer what I can. And I try not to just say, 'Here's some food; have a good day.' I sit down and talk to them, and I get their story, and I try to help them long-term."

The need is real

"The last couple nights, it's gotten down into the 20s," said Young, "and I know that we've had people sleeping in their vehicles. And if they don't have any money to run their car, they're not going to have heat. And then I've got some that have slept out in tents, and I've got some that are sleeping--one of them has an old trailer that a tree fell on the trailer. So their trailer has damage, and the trailer has no power and water, but at least he's in the trailer, out of the elements.

"I mean, there's different circumstances and different situations, but, you know, on rainy nights and on cold nights, it is nice to have somewhere to go that at least has a roof over their head."

Community partners

Young works with other organizations including The Link of Cullman County and Cullman's Little Pantry, as she works toward making Hope for the Homeless a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Said Young, "That way, I can work on grants and stuff to try to get better resources here, because there's not a lot of resources here. And I've talked to two different restaurants about doing what they call a spirit night; it's like a fundraiser night where, you know, we can have people drop off donations.

Also, Legacy Salon is a drop-off location for me now, to where people can take coats and gloves and blankets and food up there and drop it off. If we can't make our schedules collide where we can meet each other, then they can drop it off up there, and I just go pick it up once or twice a week by there."

Young is seeking volunteers, churches and organizations to help out in various parts of the county, to offer more and faster responses to reported needs, and to take some of the burden of response off of herself and her fiancé.

A few local donors and organizations have stepped up to help on specific occasions, including paying for nights in a hotel and opening a church basement to two homeless people on a sub-freezing night.

Get involved

Hope for the Homeless accepts donations of

- ready-to-eat foods in pop-top cans or easy-open packaging
- crackers
- packaged peanuts
- bottled water
- backpacks
- sleeping bags
- hand warmers
- hygiene items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, dry shampoo, hand sanitizer, etc.

Young is also seeking places that homeless people with disability or other limited income might rent, places where the homeless might be housed temporarily and even land owners willing to allow tents to be set up on their property.

Items can be dropped off at The Legacy Salon, 1640 Town Square SW in Cullman. Interested donors or volunteers can also reach Young through the Hope for the Homeless Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/2082354488492150 or by calling 256-733-1129.

LIFESTYLE

Senior Spotlight: Meet Luiceille Cargo

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Luiceille Cargo grew up on Sky Ball Mountain and went to Hayden School. She loved her 14 years growing up on the mountain. She and her six siblings worked hard on the farm and loved school and church.

Luiceille described Sky Ball Mountain as very quiet.

"We worked, farmed, plowed, hoed and did everything there was to do on a farm. We picked cotton, dug peanuts and gathered corn," Luiceille recalled.

Common in those days, the plowing was done by mules. Luiceille was very fond of the family's mules and described them as "the prettiest pair of mules in the whole community."

She remembered, "My daddy went off one morning with the mules, but when he came home, he didn't have no mules. They were such beautiful mules.

"The logging men would ask him about them and daddy sold them for $1,000. That's good for those days. We never had another pair of mules like those and I just can't ever forget them. One of them was blacker than the other. One of them was more red in color."

When Luiceille and her siblings weren't working, they enjoyed climbing trees and playing in the woods. She and her sisters loved to sing and would get their song books and lie on the bed and sing. The family had a spring in their yard that they caught water from to use in the house.

She said, "You talk about some kind of life, well, we did have it."

When Luiceille was 14 years old, her family moved from Sky Ball Mountain when her daddy bought a 116-acre farm near Blountsville.

She said of the move, "It just broke my heart to move. It was 20-25 miles away and I had to leave my school and all my friends."

Her best friend was Lula Francis Harris and they loved spending the night at each other's houses.

Luiceille hopes that this story will help her to find her friend Lula. She said, "She was a special friend. I just loved her mother. I'm not sure if she's still living or if she married. If anything comes of this, I hope it finds her. I believe she may live in Huntsville."

After the move, Luiceille attended Pennington School and opted for her GED just 30 days shy of graduation.

She met and married Ottis Eugene Cargo when she was 18. She found work at the sewing plants in Blountsville and Oneonta.

She said, "If I was able, I'd still be working. I worked any and everywhere I could get a job."

K&D Store opened in Blount County and she worked there until her son was born. She stayed home until her son, Johnny, could start school. She then returned to and ran K&D. Ottis Eugene worked in logging until he began making nail kegs in Garden City. Luiceille still has a special keg in her home that Ottis Eugene made.

She said, "Eugene's boss man came down and when he found out Gene was going to be a daddy, he made sure he got one of those pretty eagles they put on the kegs. I have two or three kegs he made, but he made the prettiest keg and put that eagle on it. It's in my living room at home."

Their son Johnny graduated from Pennington and after two years at Snead State, he went on to earn multiple degrees from Jacksonville State.

Luiceille recalled, "Johnny came to me one day and said, 'I think I'm going to join the service so I can get a college education.' I said, son please don't do that. I would never live through it. I will promise you some way and somehow we'll get you a college education if that's what you want. I'll make sure you get it. So, that's what we did. Johnny was in the paper every week or so. I don't mean to brag, but he's just real, real smart."

Johnny studies engineering and lives in Huntsville with his wife Amy. Luiceille has one step-grandson named Andrew.

She is very proud of Andrew saying, "He's very smart and a very handsome young man. I think he is. He works at Channel 19 in Huntsville as a cameraman."

Ottis Eugene passed away in 2004 and Luiceille lived at home until recently. She moved to Westminster Assisted Living five or six weeks ago. She loves her new friends and the facility but still thinks about wanting to be home again.



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Luiceille Cargo

She spends time doing jigsaw puzzles and enjoys frequent visits from her son and his family. She spent the holidays in Huntsville with them.

She values her new friends saying, "I believe it's a privilege to be able to help people. I ask the Lord every day to help me to do the things to help them. I guess I get that from my mother. It makes me feel good to help others. Sometimes I look back at my life and think I wish I could have gone to college, but whatever you have in your heart that starts bubbling out, that's what you are going to be. Do what YOU enjoy doing."

