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EDUCATION/ARTS

SPREAD THE NEWS!

West Point Theatre presents 'Newsies' this week



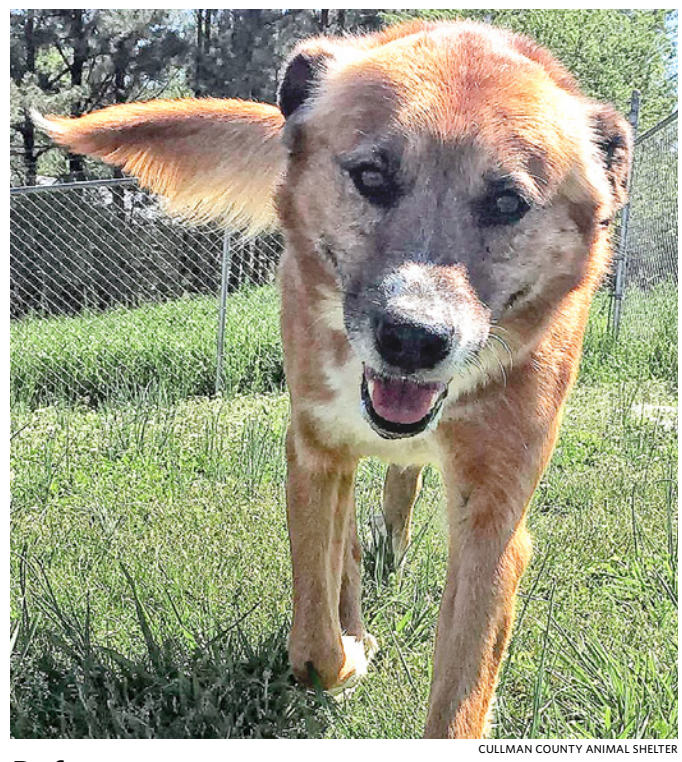
W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The cast of "Newsies" rehearses in preparation for Thursday's opening at Fairview High School.

» PAGE 8

Annual State of Our Communities event this Friday

» PAGE 7



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Rufus

PET OF THE WEEK

Need to unwind? Meet Rufus!

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

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

Rufus is a mixed hound who may have some golden lab and Anatolian shepherd in him. He's approximately 3-and-a-half to 4 years old, a seriously laid-back, low- to medium-energy pet. Shelter staff reports, "Not a peep from him in his kennel; (he) just waits patiently to go out," and, "He enjoys being groomed."

Rufus has the makings of a great reading, therapy, companion or emotional support dog.

Ruttkay shared, "His unassuming personality invites folks to say hi to him. His personality is a perfect fit for an emotional support dog; he can be brought into a high-anxiety situation."

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 therapy and special needs service dogs.

Rufus's adoption fee is $90 which includes: DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet, neutering, 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.

'63 AGGIES HOLD 55-YEAR* REUNION

**Classmates jokingly insist it won't be 56 years until the end of May*

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. – The Fairview High School class of 1963 met for a reunion Saturday at the local Brandin' Steakhouse, where close to 25 members of the class, along with their spouses, remembered all the great times from more than 50 years ago. They also remembered the classmates who have passed.

The reunion was organized by Joyce Williams Rodgers and Melba Fay Stidham Clark.

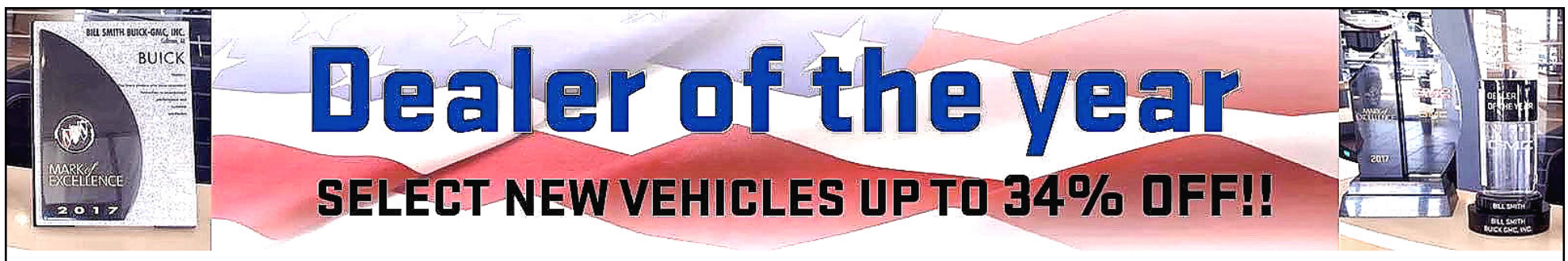
Rodgers said, "This is 1963 class of Fairview High School. That's 55 years, and we never had but two reunions maybe. When we had one for the 50th, I got with some of them and said hey, let's start doing something."

Now the class has meetings January-October on the third » PAGE 2



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Seated, left to right: Joyce Williams Rodgers, Melba Fay Stidham Clark, Jo Ann Lands Hall, Linda McGriff Wilhite, Donna Yeager Price and Glenda Gay Bilbrey; standing, left to right: Wayne Roberts, Galeon Campbell, Dwight Rayburn, Donna Boyd Prentice, Zonie Linton Sullenger, Gary Reid, Kenneth Bowen, Kenneth Ray, Geraldine Roberts Baker, Willene Moody Creel, Jo Mangum Needham, Beverly Jo Smither Waters, Albion Hudon, John Wayne Thurston, W.D. Perry and Larry Arrington



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Arrests and incidents reported on April 22

Maggie Darnell
maggie@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported on April 22, 2019. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INCIDENTS
April 18
• theft of property; CR 223
• theft of property; Hwy. 91
• theft of property; CR 222
• theft of property; CR 1344
• theft of property; CR 68
• domestic violence; Chad Dr.

April 19
• unlawful possession of marijuana, illegal possession of prescription drugs; CR 572
• domestic violence; CR 1730
• violation of a protection order; CR 1545
• trespassing; CR 855
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 616, CR 467
• theft of property; 2nd St. SW Garden City
• theft of property; Hwy. 91
• harassment; CR 1635
• burglary; CR 356
• theft of property; Hwy. 69 N

April 20
• domestic violence; CR 606
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance; CR 244
• criminal mischief; CR 1851
• violation of a protection order; CR 1269
• violation of a protection order, possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 26
• domestic violence; CR 1118
• unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; CR 1212
• domestic violence; CR 940
• domestic violence; CR 1592

April 21
• harassment; Hwy. 31
• criminal mischief; CR 574
• trespassing; CR 1763
• domestic violence; CR 109
• possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 157, CR 1224
• theft of property; CR 1347

ARRESTS
April 18
Blakely, Jaden Hunter, 18
• harassing communications

Delgado, Angela Colman, 36
• FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Freeman, Logan Lee, 30
• probation violation – unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle (without theft)

James, Jason Ray, 42
• fourth-degree theft of property (2 counts)
• unauthorized use of a motor vehicle

Speegle, Samantha Gail Annett, 19
• harassment

Willingham, Joshua Joe, 35
• FTA- third-degree assault
• FTA- attempting to elude

April 19
Brown, James Raymond, 36
• violation of a domestic violence protection order

Gilland, Chad Michael, 37
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Newell, Seth Craton, 24
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Rittenberry, Skyler Lyn, 18
• violation of a domestic violence protection order

Robinson, James Nathan, 31
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Stone, Robert Allan Jr, 31
• FTA- public intoxication

Williams, Summer Paige, 25
• third-degree theft of property

April 20
Combs, Holly Ann, 46
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Hann, Barbara Jean, 49
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Jewell, Jason Maclain, 35
• third-degree domestic violence- menacing
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• violation of a domestic violence protection order

Patterson, Zachary Thomas, 27
• public intoxication

Robinson, Jerry Wayne Jr., 41
• probation violation – unlawful possession of a controlled substance

April 21
Green, Brittney Lashea, 24
• FTA- second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument
• FTA- second-degree forgery

Knight, Summer Danielle, 32
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Palmer, James Allen, 50
• FTA- public intoxication

Smith, John Dennis, 41
• probation violation – unlawful possession of a controlled substance (2 counts)
• unauthorized use of a motor vehicle

Smith, William Sage, 32
• FTA- third-degree domestic violence

Tankersley, April Miranda, 35
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENTS
April 19
• fourth-degree theft of property, third-degree criminal trespassing; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; miscellaneous; $57
• fourth-degree theft of property; Hibbett Sports; Town Square Shopping Ctr.; general merchandise; $61
• fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; general merchandise; $56

April 20
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment; person; Poplar Dr. SW

April 21
• fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $98
• third-degree theft of property; person; Olive St. SW; phone; $845

ARRESTS
April 19
Williams, Summer P., 25
• FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Thursby, Jessica L., 29
• fourth-degree theft of property
• third-degree criminal trespassing

Bennefield, Nicolas J., 19
• third-degree burglary

April 20
Griffin, Jeb S., 25
• DUI
• attempting to elude

Strickland, Ronnie J., 45
• FTA- public intoxication (4 counts)

Aaron, Benjamin L., 40
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

Simmons, Jennifer A., 39
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA- failure to signal
• FTA- insurance violation

Walker, Jr. Shonn W., 20
• public intoxication

Odom, Donovan C., 46
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Palmer, James A., 50
• FTA- third-degree receiving stolen property
• FTA- driving without a license
• FTA- insurance violation

Harris, Onis S., 27
• fourth-degree theft of property

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No incidents or arrests reported.

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

Reunion (from Front)

Saturday of the month. They meet at the Golden Corral.

Class vice president Gary Reid welcomed everyone to the reunion, reminding his classmates, "By today's standards, we didn't really have a senior prom. We thought we called it a prom and it was kind of special to us. That was 56 years ago tonight. Where did the years go??"

He recalled an assembly near the end of their 10th-grade year. Students who were running for class officers for the upcoming year were making speeches. One of the candidates said something that has stuck with Reid all these years.

The candidate addressed the student body: "A students, B students, C students, D students and friends." Reid laughed, "There are report cards here tonight so we are all friends."

Reid recognized the many in the class who served in the U.S. military, and a moment of silence was observed for all of the class members who have passed away: Benny Bailey, Duval Bennefield, Ann Butler, Hershel Chumley, Morman Easterwood, Don Garmon, Jerry Harper, Becky Hodge, Wilda Faye Hood, Kathryn Horton, Donald Lewis, Harold Martin, Nina Martin, Frankie Mechaw, Edna Morgan, Jerry Nix, Jackie Persall, Joe Ponder, Carson Redding, Johnny Sears, Alton Shedd, Gaynell Smith, Ronnie Thornton, James Hoyt Tipton, Wayne Tomlin (class president), Edward Vaughn and Billy John White.

Wayne and Pam Roberts traveled from South Carolina to be at the reunion. They spoke of their time at Fairview High School as they flipped through their senior yearbook.

Fairview wouldn't have a football team until 1964, so basketball was big during their years.

Wayne Roberts spent much of his time playing with his band on Friday nights and his love of music has stayed with him. Now retired, he still plays guitar.

Reid described himself and his classmates as mostly "farm kids" who had to work when not in school, saying, "We thought just going to school was a big deal. Most of us came from feeder schools."

Fairview and Holly Pond were big rivals in basketball. When asked who the basketball players were, Reid looked around and laughed, "The two shortest people here."

Wayne Roberts told about playing pranks on one teacher, Mrs. Creel, laughing, "She had an alarm clock sitting on her desk and we would go in there and set the alarm clock and hide it down in her desk for it to go off in the middle of class."

Another teacher that made a lasting impression was their American History teacher Mr. Lambert. In the early 1960s schools still had a smoking ground and Mr. Lambert could be found out there often.

Reid described Mr. Lambert as "a Marine veteran and he always wore a starched white shirt and a tie. He had really high pants and they called him 'high pockets,' but not to his face. Mr. Lambert would have to unzip his pants to get his cigarettes out of his pocket."

Lambert was remembered for being a great teacher, but strict. He eventually went on to teach at Snead State.

Jo Helen Mangum Needham joined her classmates for the reunion despite graduating from Cullman High School. She attended Fairview until the end of the 10th grade, but said she considers herself a Fairview Aggie and attends all the events.

A sly Reid had to clear his conscience, so he made a confession: "Jo Helen introduced her sons to me and I wanted them to know how much I thought of her.

"So I told them the reason Jo Helen was so smart was because she copied off my paper in school. That part was a lie, but one time I did had to shove her out of the way. I was trying to copy off of Larry Arrington's paper."

The laughter filled the room for a couple of hours as everyone remembered all their fun times together.

Rodgers and Clark said they hope to plan more events with their senior classmates.

They kicked around the idea of a cruise in the near future as well as continuing their monthly lunches that start at noon. They hope to make sure everyone stays in touch and to create more memories as the Fairview Class of 1963.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR
April 23 - 25

TUESDAY, APRIL 23
Cullman County Commission Meeting
10 a.m. in the Commission meeting room at the Cullman County Courthouse

Lunch at VFW Post 2214
Everyone come to Tuesday's lunch at the VFW Post in Cullman. Starts at 11:30, $5 per plate. We have carryout if you can't stay and eat with us. We always have a great time. Love to see new folks and enjoy the usual group. See you on Tuesday! 112 Veterans Dr. SW

TOPS Meeting
• TOPS - Take Off Pounds Sensibly- meets every Tuesday at the Donald E. Green Senior Center, 1625 Cleveland Ave. SW Cullman
• Weigh-in 3-3:30 p.m.
• Meeting 3:30-4:30
• Contact- Candy Wachter 256-338-1272
• Facebook- TOPS AI0073 Cullman

Colony Town Council Meeting
6 p.m. at Colony Town Hall

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24
Yoga at the Library
• Every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
• Cullman County Public Library, 200 Clark St. NE, Cullman, AL 35055
• Bring your own mat, strap and block. These items are optional.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24-FRIDAY, APRIL 26
Quilting Class at the Cullman Extension Office
• April 24 & 25 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
• April 26 from 10 a.m.-noon
• Learn to piece, applique and put together a wall-hanging/table topper, game/checkerboard.
• All supplies furnished; cost is $45
• Call Raydonna Sims at 256-737-9386 for more information.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25
5th Annual Harvest-to-Home Local Foods Dinner and Silent Auction
The North Alabama Agriplex Board and Foundation will host the fifth annual Harvest-to-Home Local Foods Dinner and Silent Auction Thursday, April 25 at 6 p.m. at the Wallace State Community College Conference Center in Hanceville. This fundraising event will be catered by Chef John Wilson and the Wallace State Culinary Pride using locally sourced ingredients. FatBack Pig Project of Eva will be providing the pork, and bread will be produced by the monks of St. Bernard Monastery in Cullman. Vegetables and fruits will be sourced directly from the Wallace State Small Farmer Training program and local farmers from north Alabama. For more information, contact Rachel Dawsey, director at the North Alabama Agriplex, at 256-297-1044 or cullmanag@gmail.com.

Hanceville City Council Meeting
6 p.m. at Hanceville City Hall

UPCOMING...
Good Hope Public Cemetery Special Event- Saturday, May 4
On Saturday, May 4, the Good Hope Public Cemetery will participate in the Alabama Bicentennial living history tours, with Good Hope High school students telling about some of the cemetery's residents. Hope to see you there!

Good Hope Public Cemetery Decoration- Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5

2nd Annual Auto, Motorcycle & Antique Tractor Show- Saturday, May 4
Holly Pond High School from 4-8 p.m. Sponsored by the Holly Pond Band. Registration starts at 2:30 p.m. $20 for first entry; $15 for each additional entry. For more info or to register online, visit www.facebook.com/HPBronco-Band.

Vinemont High School Class of 1994 25 Year Reunion- Saturday, May 4
The Vinemont High School Class of 1994 will hold its 25-year reunion on Saturday, May 4 at The Brandin' Iron in West Point at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call Julie Barck at 256-339-1924.

Good Hope High School Class of 1969 50 Year Reunion- Thursday, May 16
Good Hope High School's Class of 1969 will hold its 50-year reunion on Thursday, May 16 from 5-8 p.m. in Belle Vue Hall at Stone Bridge Farms in Cullman. For more information, contact Becky Barnard at 256-339-1806 or Jeanne Milligan at 256-520-5951.

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FEATURE

Meet Brooks' Place forensic nurse Liana Hill

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Liana Hill is not from around here, and if you talk to her, it's pretty obvious. A distinct native English accent with a subtle hint of Highlands spice from a sojourn in Scotland makes her an interesting person to listen to on any subject of conversation. But she has a calling to help children in crisis, and talks about her profession with a passion you'll remember long after you forget the accent.

Hill is a forensic nurse with Huntsville-based Crisis Services of North Alabama (CSNA), who comes to Cullman on a regular basis to provide services to the clients at Brooks' Place (BP) Child Advocacy Center. Here in Cullman, she has a state of the art examination room with all kinds of cool "CSI"-ish stuff like special lights and a serious camera linked to an even more serious computer system. But it's the person who makes all the toys work. Hill knows how to use the tools, but she also knows how to communicate with victims and their families, as well as prosecutors, judges and juries. Above all, she knows how to help kids.

Hill explained what she does:

"There's different fields of forensic nursing, but I'm specializing in the forensic nursing where I see patients that have been assaulted. That means that I'm going to collect evidence from them, whether that's DNA evidence related to possibly sexual assault or strangulation cases, anything with touch DNA. We're actually looking for DNA evidence," she said. "But, from the forensic standpoint as well, it's not just collecting DNA evidence. It's collecting photographs from a patient's body, or looking for injuries and showing some consistency or inconsistency with what the patient's telling us. As a forensic nurse, you can be specialized in looking after pediatrics, adults, adolescents; I'm trained to see 0 and up (all ages)."

Hill has served at BP for three years as a forensic nurse. BP is one of only three child advocacy centers in Alabama that can offer medical services onsite, saving patients the time and expense of having to travel to places like Birmingham or Huntsville to be seen in a timely manner. CSNA is on call 24 hours a day, and even after regular hours, can send Hill or another nurse to Cullman on short notice.

Those who are examined are not just victims. Operating as a neutral forensic expert, Hill will also examine some accused abusers/attackers, finding evidence for or against claims made about the crime or the accused.

The child advocacy center conducts more than 300 interviews per year, and each child is offered a free medical exam to check for unmet medical needs, not just evidence of assault. Exams can help staff identify signs of neglect or other health conditions, and allow them to develop a response plan to do as much for that child as they can. All examinations and testing conducted at BP are free of charge.

BP Executive Director Gail Swafford said, "On the forensic side, yes, we want that, but even more so, we want to make sure that kids are getting medical services that are sometimes overlooked."

As a nurse who is not a nurse practitioner, Hill cannot diagnose medical conditions, but she can look for signs of health issues and refer the child and family to other medical resources. Almost all of the children who come in, though, have been the victims of some type of assault or abuse. Hill and BP offer them medical examinations that uncover evidence, but in ways that don't subject them to further frightening and invasive experiences. In this setting, the children and their parents/guardians are given a high degree of control--being able to say yes or no to any proposed procedure--for that very reason: to feel a sense of ownership of their bodies that an assault or abuse may have taken from them previously. For younger children, procedures are explained to parents/guardians in detail, and trained child advocates walk through the process by the child's side.

Said Hill, "It's driven by that child. It's not something like they go to the emergency room and they have to be held down to have an IV or something like that. This is a process, making them feel comfortable, giving them some power of control back, because sometimes they haven't had that for many, many years."

Swafford added, "A child is not forced to undergo an exam, especially with a teenager. I mean, they can stop an exam at any time. It's giving them that power of control back that they didn't have during an assault. They may not be ready.

"And what we've found is, we can do a forensic interview--that's what we've been trained to do. They may not disclose as much to us as they will a medical person, because they feel like if you're going to the doctor, you can tell a doctor or a nurse anything. And sometimes, they're actually told more information than we are."

BP's waiting area and even exam rooms are not as "medical" as some doctors' offices, and that's by design. The presence of toys and age-appropriate decorations helps kids be at ease in an otherwise very uneasy situation.

When you know you're likely to have to perform a forensic exam on a child, how do you first approach that child?

Hill said, "It all depends on the age of the child, because you're going to handle different ages differently. But if you're talking about small pediatric cases, parents, they're going to have some discomfort. They're going to have an idea of what that medical exam's going to involve, and so just letting them know that it's not a scary exam; it's more just an examination that's done while someone's playing and talking to the child. Because I'm not in there on my own.

"I work very closely with the family advocates here, because I could not do an exam without having somebody else there, looking after the child, making sure that they're feeling comfortable. And if I'm doing something and that child, maybe their face is saying (they are afraid), that advocate's going to be right there, watching and seeing what's going on.

"We bring them into the exam room. We show them the exam room, so they're not kind of scared. It's not kind of an unknown: 'Okay, come down to the exam room now. This is where you're going to be;' take them in there.

"And, you know, if it means I have to get down on the ground and color for a few minutes, I'll get down on the ground and color for a few minutes. It's not a question of 'I've got to get you in here, got to get you out;' it's really trying to make them feel comfortable."

In cases of sexual assault, teenage girls are often subjected to invasive examinations at emergency rooms, but BP takes each victim on a case-by-case basis and allows him or her control over the degree of examination he or she is comfortable receiving. In some cases, the most important thing a victim needs from his or her nurse is a little knowledge and a very willing ear.

Said Hill, "(It's) a child being able to talk to someone about the concerns they have medically, but they may not feel that they can talk to anybody else about because it's sometimes embarrassing or uncomfortable. Talking to a medical professional who's trained in this specialty; it's very different from walking into the ER or walking into a doctor's office. What we're looking at when we're looking at injuries, we're trained specifically to look for certain things. So, even when I'm doing an exam, sometimes I can say to a child something that they've probably been thinking about but they don't want to talk about, because I'm seeing something that's related to assault or abuse. It's all about play therapy through a forensic exam."

Standing alone in the field of forensic nursing

Hill reported that CSNA is the only forensic medical service in the U.S. authorized by the International Association of Forensic Nurses to train nurses in examining all age levels of victims. A recent upgrade in the training procedure--the only one of its kind in Alabama--allows new nurses more opportunity to hone their skills with knowledgeable mentors before having to jump headfirst into traumatic situations, giving them more ability to respond professionally and compassionately to real victims.

Giving victims control

Shared Swafford, "What's so phenomenal to me is because it is so much geared toward making that patient in control of the examination and letting that patient know, 'You're okay.' And the nurses are trained to talk to them about 'Your body's okay,' because that's the question when you're assaulted: 'Am I ever going to be the same?' You just have all these ideas in your head.

"It's all about giving power and control back to that patient and letting them know, 'This is your body; you're in control. And we as the associate are trying to impart on these nurses, 'Pay attention to your patient, because they may not have the ability to say, 'I want to stop,' but by looking at them and keying in on their affect--just their face--you can tell they need to stop, they need a break, they can't go any further. But it's all about that trauma-informed approach, because again, we don't want to retraumatize them in any way. So that's what I like about it: it's very victim-oriented and it's all about that person that's on that table and giving them that control, and helping them feel less vulnerable, I guess."

The numbers

- In 2017, the most recent year for which statistics are available, BP conducted 307 client interviews, 117 medical exams and more than 1,500 counseling sessions. BP considers those numbers to be fairly consistent.
- Most victims who receive medical exams at BP are between 4 and 8 years old, or between 14 and 17 years.
- 65 percent of BP clients are female; 35 percent are male.

Swafford said of Hill and the nurses from CSNA, "I'm so bought into what they do. Some of the things that they have done have helped improve the lives of these kids and families so much. I can't even describe what that is, because it's just so huge. I don't know what we did without them before."



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Liana Hill

Hill said of her experience at BP, "I see the need in this community. It's huge to be part of it, to be part of Brooks' Place. You know, they have a great team of individuals that work together to provide care to the families and the patients.

"I just come in that little bit at the back of it, and just make sure that these patients are okay medically and they receive the care they need. Coming from Huntsville and being allowed to have this space here, to be contracted here to work for Brooks' Place, has been huge. My passion--I see victims of assault--but my passion is pediatrics, my passion is the kids.

"And just knowing that someone can come in here and talk to me about anything, and I'll listen, and it doesn't sound stupid, because you're concerned about something on your body that you just don't want to tell someone else about because you think it's related to a sexual assault--and it might not be--but you're too scared to tell someone about it; that's huge for someone, huge for someone to move forward and take that healing away with them.

"I feel honored that they've allowed me to move into this space and see the children of Cullman, because there's a need there. There's a huge need for the children."

For more about Brooks' Place Child Advocacy Center, visit www.caccullman.org or call 256-739-2243.

PREP BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

Bearcats advance after sweeping Albertville, Fairview and Cold Springs fall on the road

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

ALBERTVILLE, Ala. – For the 18th straight season, the Cullman Bearcats are headed to round two of the AHSAA state baseball playoffs after sweeping the Albertville Aggies on Saturday. The 'Cats took game one 4-3 and put the series away with a 6-1 win in game two to advance past the Aggies.

Cullman head coach Brent Patterson was proud of the way his guys fought to win game one against a solid Albertville squad and has seen Brennen Norton grow into a big role on the mound throughout the season.

"In the playoffs this is important to everybody. Those kids are fighters, they're battlers and they're super competitive so they put a great first inning together and they hit some pitches.

"So, for us to respond, Braxton (Jones) settled down and responded to give us some time to get back out there and get a couple of runs," Patterson said. "When they mounted another threat, it was big to have Brennen come in because he's getting more experience in that role and he loves that situation and we love to go to him."

Peyton Colvard was nearly untouchable in game two and Patterson was very pleased with how his starter looked Saturday against the Aggies. Colvard's no-hit bid was broken up in the bottom of the seventh but he still kept Albertville at a safe distance the whole way.

"I thought he was phenomenal, and the thing about Peyton is that he has such a good feel for pitching. He calls his own pitches and he's got a great feel and he can read hitter's swings and he can change speeds with the same pitch. He's just a really good high school pitcher," Patterson said. "Usually we play pretty well defensively when he's on the mound because he's throwing so many strikes, the game moves fast, and Peyton's just been consistent. He's been huge for us and offensively I was really proud of our at bats again. When you have good at bats, play good defense, throw a lot of strikes and change speeds, you've got a chance and that's what we want."

Cullman 4 – Albertville 3 (game one)

Cullman took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first after Brady Patterson was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded and an RBI single from Ben Hollis made it a 2-0 game just one pitch later. Albertville was able to tie the game with back to back RBI singles in the top of the second, but the Bearcats went back ahead for good in the bottom of the fourth.

An RBI single from Brennen Norton put Cullman on top 3-2 and Cooper Beck tagged up to score on a sacrifice fly from Peyton Colvard and stretch the lead to 4-2. The Aggies scored on a fielder's choice in the top of the sixth to cut it to a 4-3 game, but Norton picked up the final four outs on the mound to seal the game one win for Cullman.

Norton (one RBI) and Beck each led the way with two hits and Colvard, Brady Patterson (one hit) and Ben Hollis (one hit) each drove in a run for the Bearcats.

Cullman 6 – Albertville 1 (game two)

The 'Cats took an early lead in the second game just like they did in the first. Cooper Beck scored on an error in the top of the first and after a scoreless second inning, Cullman began creating some separation.

An RBI single from Beck made it a 2-0 game and a 2-run double off the wall in center field from Peyton Colvard stretched the early lead to 4-0. Colvard got the start on the mound for the Bearcats in game two and made quick work of the Aggies' lineup for most of the day.

Cullman got back on the board in the top of the fifth with an RBI single from Brady Patterson that made it 5-0 and Patterson came around to score on an error just a few pitches later to extend the lead to 6-0.

Colvard had a no-hitter intact until the bottom of the seventh when Albertville singled and drove a run in with an RBI double but it was too little too late for the Aggies and the 'Cats held on to win it 6-1 and punch their ticket to round two.

Colvard allowed just two hits in the win and collected five strikeouts. Beck (one RBI), Niklas Fondren and Colvard each finished with two hits for Cullman and Colvard led the way with two RBIs.

The Bearcats will take on Pell City in the second round. A location and time for the games has not yet been determined.

Sulligent 3 – Cold Springs 2 (game one)

Cold Springs fell in a heartbreaker in Saturday's first playoff matchup against Sulligent after a walk-off single in the bottom of the seventh sealed a 3-2 loss for the Eagles.

After three scoreless innings, Sulligent took a 1-0 lead with an RBI single in the bottom of the fourth. Cold Springs came up with an answer in the top of the sixth when Logan Rice drove in Jake Abbott to tie the game and Lawson Burgess scored on a fielder's choice to give the Eagles a 2-1 lead.

Sulligent scored on an error to tie the game at 2 in the bottom of the sixth and a walk-off RBI single in the bottom of the seventh lifted Sulligent to a 3-2 win in game one and a 1-0 lead in the series.

Rice (one RBI) finished 3-for-3 in the loss, Ayden Alexander and Abbott each collected a pair of hits for the Eagles and Dylan Gable drove in a run as well.

Sulligent 13 – Cold Springs 0 (game two)

The season came to an end for the Eagles on Saturday after dropping game two on the road against Sulligent 13-0. Cold Springs trailed 6-0 after four innings but Sulligent plated seven in the fifth to pull away and win it.

Brylan Aaron and Jake Abbott collected the only two hits of the game for Cold Springs.

Haleyville 4 – Fairview 3 (game one)

The Aggies jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first, but Haleyville was able to plate four runs in the bottom of the fifth to pull in front of Fairview for good. An RBI single from Dalton Payne made it 1-0 and Parker Martin scored on an error to put the Aggies up 2-0.

After four scoreless innings, Fairview stretched its lead to 3-0 in the top of the fifth with a sacrifice fly from Payne, but the Lions tacked on four in the bottom half of the inning to take a 4-3 lead.

Haleyville 12 – Fairview 3 (game two)

After falling to Haleyville in a very tight game one, the Aggies couldn't hold the Lions offense in check in game two and they pulled away to knock off Fairview and advance to the next round. Haleyville took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first and the Aggies had the lead down to 4-3 after five innings but seven runs from the Lions in the top of the sixth was too much for Fairview to overcome.

Parker Martin finished a perfect 4-for-4 at the plate for Fairview and Malcolm Parker and Riley Carroll collected the other two hits in the loss for the Aggies.

Southeastern 4 – Addison 1 (game one)

The Bulldogs trailed just 2-1 after 5 innings of Saturday's first matchup against Southeastern but the Mustangs scored a pair of runs in the bottom half of the sixth to pull away from Addison and take game one.

Jesse Brock (one RBI) and Brett Smith recorded the only two hits for the Bulldogs in the loss.

Addison 2 – Southeastern 1 (game two)

Addison bounced back to take game two over the Mustangs in dramatic fashion Saturday night when Kendrick Smith singled to left in the bottom of the eighth to drive in Jesse Brock and tie the series. Luke Waldrep went seven and a third for the Bulldogs, allowing one run on just four hits and striking out six.

Brock (one hit) and Smith (one hit) each drove in a run for Addison in the win. The Bulldogs will be back on the field at Southeastern Monday for game three with everything on the line for both teams.

HISTORICAL

Cakewalk through Cullman

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – A great crowd came out Saturday morning for the third April Walking Tour this month. Cullman County Museum Director Drew Green and Ben Johnson South were the guides for the tour, which had a special "Cullman Cakewalk" theme and featured several stops including the newly reopened All Steak Restaurant for warm orange rolls.

South focused in on the abundance of wonderful art and artists in Cullman as well as a few of Cullman's delicious culinary offerings. Edgar Veigl also joined South to explain the beautiful architecture of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The first stop on the tour, Sacred Heart was the second church in Cullman.

Veigl explained, "The initial Sacred Heart Church was a very small, spartan and plain little structure. I understand when you walked across the floorboards, they would rattle. As the town grew, they wanted a proper church."

The church was renovated 20 years ago and the steeples are 170 feet high.

Laughed Veigl, "There are all kinds of stories about who had the tallest church. Apparently the Baptists thought they did, but we got to measuring things and nah, it's the Catholics. When we did the restoration back in 2000, we added a couple of more feet just in case."

The finial under the north cross contains a time capsule for future generations to eventually find and open. The original plans for the church called for the building to be 40 feet taller, including a clock tower.

South said, "They had the money, but a fellow working at the German Bank embezzled the money from the funds that the people raised so they had to bring down their expectations."

The theft caused the failure of the bank and the employee disappeared and was never caught.

The group was able to tour the inside of Sacred Heart and see its magnificence. The stained glass windows of the church were made in Germany and were buried in Germany during World War I to guard them from being destroyed. With its Romanesque architecture and Munich windows, Sacred Heart Church is one of Cullman's greatest treasures.

After leaving the church, the tour stopped by The Cullman Tribune. The Tribune is Alabama's oldest continuously published weekly newspaper. There, South announced to the crowd a project by Cullman's Will Justice Drake, sharing, "He is a published poet and really gifted. His poetry is accessible. It makes nature and the South come alive."



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

All Steak owner Zac Wood goes in for the orange rolls as tour guide Ben Johnson South looks on.

Tour participants were given poetry published by Drake as well as newspapers containing South's "67-County Alabama Garden Party" series, which is being published throughout 2019 for the state's Bicentennial.

Before leaving, guests posed for pictures in front of The Tribune windows painted by talented local artist Seth Miller.

The next stop was the All Steak Restaurant. On the way, South pointed out the location where the Esther Opera House once stood. The opera house also had an ice skating rink inside. The bricks from the opera house were used to build the current All Steak location.

Dyron Powell and Zac Wood are the new owners of the All Steak, which is probably best known for its orange rolls. The pair has brought back the original orange rolls recipe, using real oranges.

Plump with orange roll goodness, the group strolled over to Cullman Florist, the location of which was originally a saloon, until Prohibition when it became a bowling alley and luncheonette. After Prohibition, it went back to being a saloon.

"At one time, Cullman had more bars than it did churches," South laughed.

The building has had several transformations but the florist has taken it back to its original look.

Cullman Florist Manager Stephanie Cook gave two lucky winners beautiful Easter Lilies. Prior to leaving, Daisy the cat came out to say hello to everyone.

In keeping with the fine arts theme, the tour's next stop was the Brooke Desnoes Ballet Studio. Desnoes has recently moved back to her native Cullman from Paris where she owned a ballet studio for many years.

"This is the first time for Cullman to have really classical ballet. Her classes are going to be for experienced dancers who want a master class with her as a choreographer and instructor, " South explained.

The final April Walking Tour of the year will be this Saturday, April 27 starting at 10 a.m. at the Cullman County Museum. Southern Ghost Girls founder Lesley Hyde will be the guide. The tours are free to the public and last approximately one hour.

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YARD SALE
SATURDAY MAY 11th
8 AM TO 1PM
Denna Chivers, 11 years old is having her 3rd annual yard sale and donating all the money she makes to the animal shelter. Last year she raised over $1400.00.
Location: 7th Street Baptist Church parking lot
708 7th Street SW Cullman, AL 35055
Raffle: Mother's Day basket (massage, haircut, manicure, lots of amazing stuff in this basket) Chances are $1.00 each, 6 for $5.00 or 30 tickets for $20.00...bring cat or dog food and get a free raffle ticket. Drawing will be at noon on Saturday (5/11/2019)

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EDUCATION

CATA Building Construction students bring home state honors

Mike Burkett, W.C. Mann

CULLMAN, Ala. – Two student teams from the Building Construction program at the Cullman Area Technology Academy (CATA) last week brought home honors from the Alabama SkillsUSA 2019 State Championships.

CATA Building Construction teacher and SkillsUSA team sponsor Mike Burkett shared that Fairview High students Payton Oden, Trevor Cheatham and Nate Borem won the state championship in community service for the second year in a row, this time for the construction of a pergola at Harmony School that required them to give up part of their Thanksgiving break last November. (See The Tribune's story at https://www.cullmantribune.com/2018/11/22/helping-hands-cata-construction-students-spend-thanksgiving-break-on-building-project-at-harmony-school/).

Burkett said of his students, "They did an awesome job!"

Additionally, a team comprised of Simon Reza, Dusty Burney and Jacob Ryder were state SkillsUSA runners-up for its development of a CNC woodworking business within the CATA Building Construction Program.

Burkett said, "They did a full-blown business and marketing plan along with the display shown.

"All three students hope to start and own their own businesses one day. Great students!"



MIKE BURKETT/CATA

Left to right: Simon Reza, Dusty Burney and Jacob Ryder were state SkillsUSA runners-up for creating their own business.



MIKE BURKETT/CATA

Left to right: Payton Oden, Trevor Cheatham and Nate Borem won the state SkillsUSA Community Service championship for a project at Harmony School.

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Tony Serra Nissan

MEET JOSHUA VANDIVER
SALES CONSULTANT



Joshua Vandiver, Sales Consultant, has been with Tony Serra Nissan of Cullman for nearly two years. Joshua says that customer satisfaction is his ultimate goal at Tony Serra Nissan of Cullman.

"My favorite part about working at Tony Serra Nissan has to be the satisfaction of making a customer happy and excited about their new vehicle. I don't want to be just your salesman; I want to be your 'car guy' no matter your needs. I once had this lady so happy about her experience that she personally delivered brownies to my home for my family. Those are the moments I cherish and makes me love my job. I want everyone to have that experience when they see me. Plus, I just love brownies."



Joshua says the family atmosphere within Nissan is one that is accommodating to the staff, but more importantly, the customer.

"We strive to make everyone feel like family and welcomed, which comes with a warm hello and a wonderful, caring staff."

Come meet Joshua Vandiver at Tony Serra Nissan of Cullman, located at 1724 Cherokee Ave SW, and see what he can do for you!

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Always Reforming: How to listen to a sermon (conclusion)

Tom FIllinger
Tribune Columnist

This is the final article in our series on **How to Listen to a Sermon**. Today we address the person of **Jesus Christ**.

Jesus Christ: Every message MUST bring the listener face to face with the Person and Purpose of Jesus Christ. He is LORD.

The focus of IgniteUS Ministries is the reformation and renewal of the church. Reformation is a profound and growing need in the American church. The central issues of the gospel have been slowly but persistently lost.

We have established the fact that preaching is one of God's primary means for the transformation of his chosen people. The focus of the church gathered must be the systematic transformation of believers into the fullness of the image of Christ. The focus of the church scattered is evangelism, confronting lost people with the message of salvation from sin. That message is two-fold – repent and believe. Without repentance there is no true faith and there is no salvation.

Lost people and believers alike need to hear the gospel, repeatedly. The heart of the gospel is Jesus Christ and his finished work of redemption.

When from the cross he uttered the word "tetelesthai," it is finished, the purchase of a people for himself was completed. Being reminded of his sacrifice and my responsibility to honor him in all that I think, desire, and do must be a central factor in preaching. He is LORD!

Many pulpits today have lost this focus. You may hear messages about how to have a godly marriage or effective child rearing. Those issues should be taught. They should not be the central message of the pulpit. Effective pulpit ministry must have Jesus Christ and his work of redemption as the focus from week to week.

Listen to the Apostle Paul as he wrote to the Corinthian church. He makes abundantly clear what the message of the gospel and the person of Jesus Christ is:

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

"Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you - unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures."

Biblical literacy is a virtual crisis issue in the church today. For evidence of this claim go to the following website and read the response of people who claim to know the Lord: TheStateOfTheology.com. Simply terrifying. When you hear a speaker mention Jesus Christ you do well to ask – What Christ is the speaker declaring? Doctrinal error is not promoted with clear declarations. It is accomplished through the little drip, drip rip departure from the truth. Make sure what you are hearing is pointing you to the risen Son of God.

Is this the message you hear from week to week?

LEGALS

Notice Of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice IN-N-OUT Self Storage located at 106 13th St., Cullman, AL 35055 intends to hold a sale to sell the property stored at the facility by the below occupant who is in default at an auction. The sale will occur or otherwise disposed as an online auction via www.storageauctions.com on 4/30/2019 at 10:00 a.m. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings.

Don Salter, unit #4, 1802 Warnke Road, Northwest, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

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

City of Cullman

Building Inspection Department

201 SECOND AVENUE, NORTHEAST
P. O. BOX 278
CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35056-0278
(256) 775-7203

City of Cullman
Planning Commission

On Monday May 6, 2019 Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M, at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Planning Commission, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. Short-form subdivision – Olive Street SW – Divide one lot into 3 lots
2. Short-form subdivision – Planned Housing Development – 9 lots – Ash Ave. NE & Meldrum Street NE – Phase 1
3. Short-form Subdivision – 1st Street NW & 3rd Ave NW
4. Short-form Subdivision – 114 4th Street SE – Divide one lot into 3 lots
5. Short-form Subdivision – Alabama Highway 157 NW – Lots 39 – Lots 44 – create two lots

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF NORMAN O. THOMAS, Deceased.) **CASE NO.: PC-2019-098**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to PAULETTE LEACH, as Personal Representative of the Estate of NORMAN O. THOMAS, deceased, on the 15th day of April, 2019, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate 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 15th day of April, 2019.

Paulette Leach
Personal Representative

Nathan A. Brock
Attorney for Estate
2nd Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

LEGAL

[THIS COPY FOR THE NEWSPAPER: THIS NOTICE MUST BE PRINTED PRECEDING THE BILL]
STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

NOTICE is hereby given that a bill substantially as follows will be introduced in the 2019 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama and application for its passage and enactment will be made:

198707-1 : n : 04/04/2019 : KBH / tj LSA2019-694

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to Cullman County; to amend Section 11 of Act 81-599 of the 1981 Regular Session (Acts 1981, p. 1002), relating to the distribution of the 1981 sales and use tax; to further provide for a portion of the distribution of the proceeds to the Cullman County Fire Association Training Center.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 11 of Act 81-599 of the 1981 Regular Session (Acts 1981, p. 1002), is amended to read as follows:

"Section 11. The proceeds of any taxes herein authorized to be levied shall be distributed as follows:

"(1) 45 percent to the general fund of the City of Cullman~~.~~.

Page 1

"(2) 15 percent to the general fund of Cullman County to be used by the County Commission~~.~~.

"(3) 15 percent to the Cullman County Commission to the credit of the road fund~~.~~.

"(4) 10 percent to the Cullman County Commission for use by the Cullman County Board of Education~~.~~.

"(5) 10 percent to the municipalities of Cullman County, except Cullman, to be distributed on a population basis~~, and~~.

"(6) ~~5~~ a. Five percent to the rural volunteer fire departments of the county, to be equally distributed among the following volunteer fire departments in Cullman County: Arkadelphia, Baileyton, Battle Ground, Berlin, Bethsadia, Bremen, Cold Springs, Crane Hill, Dodge City, Fairview, Garden City, Gold Ridge, Good Hope, Holly Pond, Johnson Crossing, Jones Chapel, Joppa, Logan, Loretto, Providence, Sardis, Trimble, Walter, and West Point.

"b. The Hanceville Fire Department and the Cullman County Fire Association Training Center shall also receive a share of ~~such~~ the proceeds equal to that received by each ~~said~~ volunteer fire department. Additionally, volunteer fire departments may be designated to receive funds hereunder by resolution of the Cullman County Commission upon the recommendation of the Cullman County Volunteer Fire Department Association and the Cullman office of the Alabama Forestry Commission."

Page 2

Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first day of the third month following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

Page 3

ARTS

Annual Big Band Dance a hit at Wallace State

Maggie Darnell
maggie@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. - "It's about keeping the big band music of that era alive," Wallace State Music Department Director and director of the college's Jazz Band, Ricky Burks, said Friday evening, when the school hosted its annual Big Band Dance.

"The other universities around, when they do jazz band, they do more 'stylistically' jazz-type music, more east coast-west coast-type jazz, and they don't dig a lot into the old traditional big band literature. That's one of the things that we do here is try to keep that particular music alive. It gives our students the opportunity to play that, and when they go on to university they're going to play the other style of music, so it makes them more well-rounded."

Burks said he's grateful for the community's support of the annual event.

"We've got a pretty good dance group here in north Alabama, so we usually have a pretty good crowd. Community support. That's the whole thing is that we're very lucky and very blessed to live in a community that is very supportive of the arts. Our administration is very supportive of the arts. It's the building that we're in; you know our president and administration are very pro arts, so we're very blessed in that. That's the reason we've been doing it for so long and why our department is very successful."

Wallace State Concert Band Director Jacob Keisler echoed Burks, sharing, "This is a yearly dance that we do and it's just to expose the students to jazz history, really, and to provide them a ballroom dance setting... for the kids to kind of get a feel for what it would be like to play an actual dance gig."

Jazz Band member Stephanie Kennamer smiled, "I feel amazing; this band I love is like my family. They always want me to become a better player and they have helped me transition into a great musician and I love it."



MAGGIE DARNELL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Dancers enjoy the annual Big Band Dance at Wallace State.

State (from Front)

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce is set to host its annual State of Our Communities event this Friday, April 26 at the Cullman Civic Center. Doors open at 7 a.m.

According to Communications Manager Rob Ketcham, "Major session topics include the State of Education, a Community Session and the State of Local Government.

"Representatives from agencies and organizations related to human and community services, utilities and the Chamber will be set up in breakout rooms and provide information/demonstrations to visitors until the event concludes at 1:30 p.m.

"Many of these breakout participants will have giveaways."

He continued, "One breakout room will also be reserved for the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) Trade Show, allowing the Cullman area's YEA! students to showcase the products and services they've been working hard on this academic year."

The event is free to the public. Those who wish can buy an All-Access Pass for $50.

The All-Access Pass includes priority seating, breakfast, lunch, hospitality room access and a swag bag. Breakfast and lunch can also be paid for separately, for $15 and $20, respectively.

Session Information:
State of Education, 8 a.m.
"During this session, we'll hear from Cullman City Schools Superintendent Susan Patterson, Cullman County Schools Superintendent Shane Barnette and Wallace State Community College President Vicki Karolewics. The Student of the Year and Career Technical Student of the Year will also be announced. The Teachers of the Year for the city and county school systems are also recognized."

Community Session, 10 a.m.
"WBRC FOX6 Meteorologist Matt Daniel will speak on weather preparedness during this first-time session, which will include a weather radio giveaway."

State of Local Government, 11:30 a.m.
"During this session, the Cullman County Commission and area mayors will provide general updates from their respective municipalities."

For more information or to purchase an All-Access Pass, contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or info@cullmanchamber.org.

Obituary Announcements: April 19 - 22

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Cullman, Alabama 35055
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J.C. Baker, 81, of Hanceville passed away on Friday, April 19, 2019. He was born Jan. 20, 1938 to Euis and Pluma Vaughn Baker. Mr. Baker was a maintenance supervisor, working for Golden Rod for many years. J.C. loved to work in the yard and had a talent for growing beautiful flowers. After the death of his beloved wife, Frances, J.C. could be found in the cemetery visiting with her and keeping her grave maintained. J.C., often called Paw Paw, loved his family. He cherished his wife and daughters, and as his little family grew into a big family, his pride and adoration for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren was evident. J.C. touched many lives and he will be missed greatly. Mr. Baker is preceded in death by his parents, Euis and Pluma Baker, and his wife of 60 years, Frances Ballard Baker. Survivors include his daughters, Pam Fields, Edith (James) Roberts; brothers, Jr. (Jane) Baker, Frank (Betty) Baker; sister, Barbara (Howard) Love; grandchildren, Ron (Heather) Fields, Cody (Jamie) Fields, Brandy (Brad) Twilley, Christopher Roberts; great-grandchildren, Parker Twilley, Colton Roberts, Karrigan, Ely, Adalyn, Anzlie; and his little dog, Bama. Funeral services for Mr. Baker will be 1 p.m., Tuesday, April 23, 2019 in the Holly Pond Funeral Home chapel. Burial will follow in Hopewell Cemetery, Hanceville, Alabama. Friends may visit with the family on Monday, April 22, 2019 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Donald Edwin Day, 83, of Vinemont passed away on Friday, April 19, 2019. He was born March 17, 1936 to Glenzy Alonzo Day and Christine Neldean Day. He is preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Shelby Jean Ridgeway Day, daughters; Kathy (Ric) Montgomery, Donna Brooks, son; Tommy (Sherry) Day, grandchildren; Paul Day, Tommy (Monica) Day II, Mary (Cranson) Asherbranner, Matthew Montgomery, Nathan Montgomery, Emily (AJ) Hatley, great grandchildren; Alyssa and Lucas Day, Eli and Cheyenne Asherbranner, Lily and Andrew Hatley, sisters; Melba Louise (Harold) Chandler, Shirley Faye Whittle and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Funeral services for Lelia Russell Osoinak, 76, of Cullman will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at Springhill Primitive Baptist Cemetery with Rev. Jeremy Wilbanks officiating; burial at Springhill Primitive Baptist Cemetery, Brantley, AL. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Osoinak passed away on Saturday, April 20, 2019 at Cullman Health Care Center. She was born, April 14, 1943 to Tyson and Gertha Lee Henderson Russell. She is preceded in death by her husband, Larry Osoinak, and parents. Survivors include her, sons, John (Michelle) Osoinak, David Thomas "Brock" Osoinak, grandsons, Jacob Osoinak and Benjamin Osoinak, brothers, Jimmy Russell, Jerry Russell and Sammy Russell.

Funeral services for James Milton Lee, 91, of Cullman are 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at Cullman Funeral Home, Elder David Guttery officiating, with interment with military honors in Cullman City Cemetery. Visitation on Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home directing. Mr. Lee passed away Saturday, April 20, 2019. He was born December 31, 1927 to Robert Thomas Lee and Narcisse Blackwood Lee. James was a native of Cullman County and longtime dedicated member of Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church. He was a loving husband, father and caregiver to their handicapped son for 35 years and was loved by so many. His wife, Margie was the love of his life and they were inseparable until her death in 2017. He retired after 40 years with Borden's Ice Cream and served our country in the US Army and Army Reserves. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 62 years, Lela "Margie" Lee; son, Paul Robert Lee; brother, Ollon Lee; sister, Margie Davis; niece, Mary Jones and nephew, Stephen Lee. He is survived by his daughter, Nancy Lee (Dewayne Brown); nephews, Mike Lee and Danny Davis; special neighbors, Ray and Margaret Tribble; beloved dog and companion, Benji and a host of cousins, other family and friends.

Claire Denise Jacobs Johnson of Cullman passed away April 21, 2019 at the age of 31. She was born December 7, 1987 in Birmingham to John and Donna Tucker Jacobs. She is preceded in death by her grandparents Wilfred and Doris Tucker, Woodrow and Dean Jacobs, aunts Deborah Tucker, Pam Keller and Charolette Jacobs. Graveside services are Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at Cullman City Cemetery with Pastor Bobby Hill officiating. Survivors are: parents Donna Tucker Jacobs, John Jacobs, children Chelsey Denise Johnson, Savannah Leigh Johnson, Shelby Lynn Johnson, sisters Abigail Jacobs, Tiffany (Josh) Cantrell, nieces Olivia Cluxton, Madeline Cluxton, nephew Ryder Cantrell, aunts Karen Shedd, Debra (Dwight) Holcombe, Joyce Jacobs, uncles James Tucker, Woody (Connie) Jacobs, significant other James Fite and son Ryan, a host of cousins and friends. Pallbearers are: Reese Fuller, Hunter Fuller, Isiah Fuller, Jason Edge, Kevin Hollis, Bradley Johnson. Visitation is Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at Moss Funeral Home from 11 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Funeral services for Dena Lynette Parker, 49, of Cullman are Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home, Ray Whitaker officiating, with interment in Center Grove Cemetery. Visitation on Tuesday from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home directing. Dena passed away on Sunday, April 21, 2019. She was preceded in death by her son, Steven Tolbert. She is survived by her parents, Kenneth and Linda Parker; wife, Stephanie Parker; daughters, Sylena (Blake) Benson, Kaitlynn Cole, Chiara Godwin and Brandi (Jarod) Hawkins; brothers, David (Pam) Parker and Danny (Celeste) Parker; grandchildren, Jace Benson, Gracie Campbell and Landon Campbell; nieces, Emily (Shawn) Cecil, Lauren Parker, Kaitlyn (Chase) Julius, Autumn Parker, Mallory Parker and Kaitlyn Marie Wilkinson; great niece, Ella Mae Cecil and a host of other family and friends.

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Newsies (from Front)

W.C. Mann
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WEST POINT, Ala. – This Thursday, April 25, West Point High School Theatre will begin a four-day run of the Disney Broadway production "Newsies" with in-school shows; public shows will begin at 7 p.m. Friday. Due to the size of the set and limitations of West Point's auditorium, all performances will be held at Fairview High School.

"Newsies" is loosely based on true historical events of the 1899 New York Newsboys' Strike, in which child laborers, under the leadership of older teens, went on strike against Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst, reducing newspaper circulation in New York by two-thirds over a period of two weeks. The strike was successful in shortening work days and lessening the workload on thousands of kids who made up the papers' distribution workforces.

Co-directors Jimmy and Kimberly Harbison both pointed to history as a major point in their fondness for "Newsies."

When asked what the "wow" factor is for this show, Jimmy Harbison told The Tribune: "The story, which is based on true events, is a wow factor for me. It is not a fairy tale with fictional characters and fictional events but an actual account from history of what life was like during the early 20th century in America. This is a major reason we chose to put on this performance, to bring a part of history to the audience as they see some of the hardships their ancestors faced."

Kimberly Harbison added, "I also feel that the inspirational true story is a wow factor, especially when combined with the theatrical aspects of the show. This show has a little something for everyone, I believe. I don't want to give too much away, but the story includes a range of emotions, and I feel that our audience will be easily pulled into the story as we, as a cast and crew, have been."

The production

Kimberly Harbison talked about putting "Newsies" together.

"We have been preparing for this show since last summer when we were asked to be theater directors for West Point," she said. "We had been part of last year's production, both as actors and assistant directors, but this is our first attempt at directing a musical. The experience has been a great one, especially because we have been able to work with such a wonderfully talented group of students. To be a part of the process, from auditions throughout rehearsals, to watch these students' talents to grow and develop, is so rewarding. All along, our main goal for this program has been to have something for these students to be a part of, to showcase the gifts and talents they have been given.

"We have a very diverse group of students in the program who are involved in so many other aspects of the school: musicians, athletes, dancers, scholar's bowl competitors, etc. To see them all come together to be a part of this production is a wonderful thing. Our school has been buzzing with excitement about 'Newsies' since August.

"We have been blessed to work with several of these talented students over the last couple of years, and we are blessed with many new faces and talents this year as our theater program has grown from about 50 students last year to about 70 students this year."

Lily Whitesell, who was recently featured in The Tribune for her academic achievements (www.cullmantribune.com/2019/04/10/math-whiz-west-points-lily-whitesell-undefeated-in-7-years-of-math-competitions/), is co-stage manager with Declan Cornett.

She talked about the technical challenges of "Newsies," a production bigger than the school's stage: "Learning all of our positions without having our stage there has been really interesting. We've made lots of notes and, obviously, moved things on, moved things off. But still, not having that proper setup to where we can set it up every single time in the same place has been really difficult on us."

Whitesell reflected on watching the Harbisons and their cast put on the first production since former theater director Ty Parker's departure last year, saying, "I've always really loved theater, just being a part of it and helping at it. And they've worked so hard for this, it's just incredible. I think watching them put on their first successful show is going to make it all worth it."

Senior Joshua Couch, who stars as newsie Jack Kelly, shared, "I'm just happy to have this opportunity to help our school grow, and help our theater program grow. And I'm just glad that it's going to bring a little bit of happiness to our community, and it's just a good thing for us to do."

Senior Nathanael Ferster, who plays newspaper tycoon Joseph Pulitzer, talked about the challenges he has faced, saying, "My voice has a tendency to crack. And I've been doing a lot of training with these guys, just trying to keep it in check. And so, the biggest challenge for me is getting onstage, being a nervous wreck while trying to sing these songs that are both low and high pitch."

Ferster enjoys playing the part of the fine and fancy upper-class businessman, saying, "I love wearing the hat! No, it's the suit; I love the style. I love being out here and being in a big fantasy world with these guys. It's just one of my favorite things to do. This is just fun! It's fun, it's wholesome, it's great. And it's something other than academics. I love it, I just love it!"

Logan Eady, who plays Race, said, "I really just love getting to sing and dance out here and act with all my friends. The biggest challenge for me was, I was a really shy person, so it was really hard to do this in front of everybody, but I'm getting over that, so it's getting better. God helped me a lot, and my friends were there to support me."

Newsie Logan Hyde said simply, "I just wanted to be in a play, and dancing around and stuff."

CAST

- Jack Kelly - Erik Griggs, Josh Couch
- Katherine Plumber - Sarah Hudson, Anna Armstrong
- Davey - Carson Partain, Kell Wilson
- Les - Rylee Harbison, Peyton Chamblee
- Crutchie - Hayden Chandler, Garrett Willingham
- Race - Logan Eady, Miriam Oldacre
- Albert - Lyssi Nuss
- Specs - CJ Patton, Angela Buckmaster
- Finch - Mallory Campbell, Hayden Chandler
- Henry - Leila Cherry
- Romeo - William Ferster
- Elmer - Tamela James
- Mush - Lashay Robbins
- Buttons - Josh Campbell
- JoJo - Gracie Rainwater
- Tommy Boy - Jade Burks
- Scabs - Matthew Harbison, Thomas Ferster, Peyton Chamblee, Rylee Harbison
- Spot Conlon - Keaton Chappell
- Darcy - Annalyse Cole, Mallory Campbell
- Bill - Tyler White, Whitt Laney
- Wiesel - Dathan Campbell, Rylan Jones
- Morris Delaney - Samuel Flores
- Oscar Delaney - Tariq Nemrouri
- Joseph Pulitzer - Nathanael Ferster
- Bunsen - Leila Cherry
- Hannah - Tekoa Walker, Annalyse Cole
- Nunzio - Tyler White, Whitt Laney
- Snyder - Jade Burks
- Medda Larkin - Presley Palmer, Isabel Newby
- Bowery Beauties - Dancers
- Stage Manager - Josh Couch, Josh Campbell
- Nuns - Abbey Wren, Olivia Wren, Hallie Wheeler, Tekoa Walker, Annalyse Cole
- Woman Customer - Debra Jolly
- Jacobi - Mrs. Kelly Scott
- Policeman - Kolton Sapp
- Mayor - William Ferster
- Gov. Teddy Roosevelt - Mr. Shane Carter
- Additional Newsies - Logan Hyde, Bryce Harbison, Cole Chamblee, Dylan Davis, Ethan Davis
- Dance ensemble members - Alexia Adair, Maddie Davis, Macy Millsap, Ashley Mann, Isabel Newby, Presley Palmer, Allie Sims

STAGE AND TECH. CREW

- Lily Whitesell
- David Whitesell
- Declan Cornett
- Michelle Herrick
- Zeta Hood
- Payton Overton
- Aleah Campbell
- Jack Sellers
- Ethan Little
- Christian Parker
- Taylor Jenkins

At a glance

West Point High School Theatre production of "Newsies"

- Public shows Friday, April 26 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, April 27 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m.
- All shows at Fairview High School auditorium, 841 Welcome Road, Cullman
- Admission $10

