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# The Cullman Tribune

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VOL. 146 • 50¢ PER COPY | *JUNE 4, 2019* | USPS 139-700 • NO. 68

- FEATURE -

# Rock the South

## *Behind the scenes*




MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

***Two fans enjoy Rock the South Saturday in Cullman.***

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** – Rock the South (RTS) cranked up for its eighth year, and its first year in a new location outside the contiguous city limits of Cullman (but annexed into the city) over the weekend. It was a new experience with a whole new set of possibilities and a whole new set of problems.

**DAY ONE**

Day one of the 2019 edition of RTS saw loads of music and lots of opportunities for fun, as fans have come to expect from the massive festival, along with new stories to accompany the new venue, including a record crowd.

**Massive turnout**

The numbers are not in, but law enforcement officers onsite commented in the early evening that the 150-acre site appeared to be almost as crowded as the previous 15-acre site at Heritage Park had been. Some estimated that the crowd exceeded 50,000.

**Huge traffic headache**

The huge turnout overwhelmed local roads leading to the venue, causing traffic to back up in multiple directions. One visitor commented that his trip from his home near Holly Pond had taken more than four and a half hours, three of it on less than 3 miles of roads between Cherokee Avenue and the event site. Another, coming from downtown Cullman, reported a travel time of more than three hours.

Several people on roads around the venue went online to post photos of men getting out of their vehicles to urinate in bushes on the sides of the roads.

Fans, some of whom gave up trying to get to the venue, took to social media during and after the evening acts, making statements like:

"It took us 2 hours to get in. We were on 278 because we had VIP. So the parking was that way. Missed Jamie Allen. But it went pretty smoothly."

"Well we sat in line for 3 hours and then at 9:30 and miles before getting to the road we decided to leave. We probably wouldn't even have made it before it was over."

"Three hours to get in. Literally took that long to go three miles. Sitting in same spot so far for 30 minutes to get out. No one is moving. There was absolutely no one directing traffic. This is really bad. Missed a lot of the show because of this traffic."

"Was in traffic for 3 hours an literally left a place that was not even 10 mins away. Got a parking pass and couldn't even find where I was supposed to park so had to pay extra to just go somewhere else."

Others came to the defense of the event planners and law enforcement, writing comments like:

"Omg at the whiners . . . it's for TWO days out of a year. Get over it already. We go through things in life everyday that we dont like and have to deal with, if this is one for you DEAL with it. Complaining will get you no where. This is the first year at the event, they will improve every year to make things better. This does the city good! It gives a lot of businesses more business. Let Cullman thrive and let people have fun for, again, 2 days out of the whole year."

"I am glad people are spending money in our town! They are tipping the waitress/waiter that will get to take that money home to their family. They are shopping in our small and locally owned businesses and even the big chain stores. Traffic was a mess but when you plan for things like that it isn't so bad! . . . I'm sure they will come up with a better plan for the traffic but you can't grow and improve if you don't learn from issues like this."

"RTS can't come in & build new roads. This would have to be approved & done by the county. There will always be growing pains the first years. If any of you have ever been to Gulf Shores or Orange Beach during the summer months, this is an everyday occurrence with traffic there! When you go to events like this you have to expect traffic."

**Weather and site conditions: dusty!**

The weather was great for late May: temperatures were plenty warm but not terribly hot, without a drop of rain. The real climate story was the dust. Within two hours of RTS opening, furniture and equipment across the site had a heavy coating of reddish-brown dust. Increas-

» PAGE 4

# 4 killed, including 2 children, in wreck near Joppa



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

***Senior Alabama State Trooper Chuck Daniel speaks at a press conference about the crash Monday afternoon.***

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PET OF THE WEEK

# Need a sweet treat? Try a Jelly Bean!

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmantribune.com



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

***Jelly Bean***

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

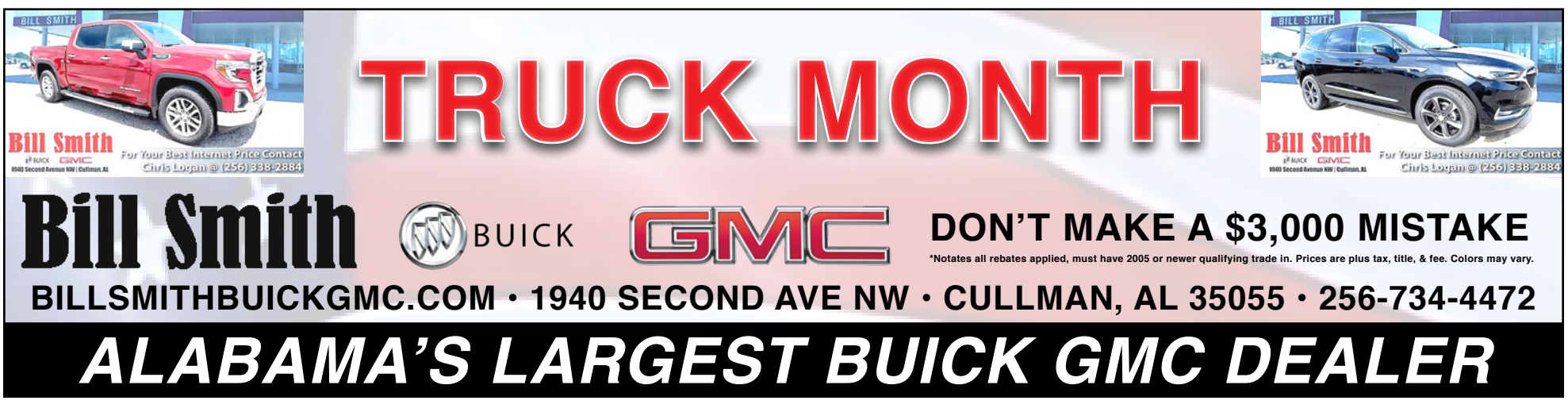
Jelly Bean is a shepherd/hound mix just younger than a year old. He's a medium-energy pup who will be active without running you ragged. He's great on a leash and cherishes human company and could make a good companion or hiking dog.

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.

Jelly Bean'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.



# Cullman Electric Co-op lineman Jeff Osborn receives Alabama's top honor for community service

**Brian Lacy**
Contributor

**CULLMAN, Ala.** – Cullman Electric Cooperative lineman Jeff Osborn was honored for his community service as part of the state's official Alabama Lineman Appreciation Day celebration.

Osborn was given the Energy Institute of Alabama's Outstanding Service Award during a ceremony Monday at Opelika Power Services. The award is given annually to one electrical lineman among all the electric utilities in the state.

"Linemen leaves their homes and families, and work until every customer has power," said Seth Hammett, EIA chairman and vice president of business development for PowerSouth Energy Cooperative.

"These front-line professionals sometimes encounter situation or special needs that prompt them to go the extra mile or extra hours to ensure their customers are served. This is what we recognize today with this award."

Osborn, who has worked as a Cullman EC lineman for 12 years, was unable to attend the ceremony after working the Sunday night and early Monday morning to restore power to Cullman EC members following a car accident that broke a power pole. Cullman EC lineman Justin Davis accepted the award on Osborn's behalf.

"What makes Jeff outstanding when it comes to his service is not one extraordinary or heroic act," said Tim Culpepper, Cullman EC's CEO. "It's his attention to detail and compassion for people exhibited on a daily basis that sets him apart. Jeff regularly talks with members while performing his lineman duties. He understands that sometimes people need a smile, a kind word and a little help even if they are too proud to ask for it."

One recent example came from a co-op member who called the office to thank Osborn and Davis for helping her elderly mother who had fallen outside her home while watching the linemen work.

The two men stopped their work and carried her back inside her house where she was able to call family. It turns out that she broke her hip during the fall and required surgery. The woman's daughter contacted Cullman EC to tell this story and wanted to thank the linemen who helped, knowing the injury could have been life-threatening if her mother had not received immediate help. Osborn, expecting no special recognition for simply doing what was right, had not shared the story. But upon learning of the woman's situation, his first question was to ask what hospital she was at so he could go visit her.



CONTRIBUTOR

*Jeff Osborn*

"Jeff understands that being a lineman at Cullman Electric Cooperative makes him a leader in our community," Culpepper said. "We believe the example he sets for other linemen and all our co-op employees makes him a worthy recipient of the EIA Outstanding Service Award."

Cullman Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative, serving more than 43,000 member accounts in Cullman, Winston, Morgan and Lawrence counties.

# Arrests and incidents reported June 3, 2019

**Maggie Darnell**
maggie@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** – Below are the arrests and incidents reported June 3, 2019. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

**CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

No incidents or arrests reported. All County offices closed June 3.

**CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**INCIDENTS**

**May 30**

• third-degree domestic violence; person; Oak Manor Dr. SW

**May 31**

• fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; miscellaneous; $84 June 1

• third-degree domestic violence; person; 2nd Ave. SW

**June 2**

• fourth-degree theft of property; person; Olive St. SW; backpack and contents, phone; $200

• fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $25

**ARRESTS**

**May 31**

**Johnson, Terry L., 57**
• FTA- insurance violation

**Wimbs, William J., 44**
• FTA- improper lights
• FTA- reckless driving
• FTA- running a red light
• FTA- attempting to elude

**Thornton, Meghan N., 33**
• public intoxication

**Dover, Andrea L., 34**
• FTA- third-degree domestic violence

**Stover, Patrick W., 31**
• harassment

**Dowdy, David D., 28**
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

**Cornett, Randall C., 29**
• FTA- running a red light
• FTA- insurance violation
• FTA- driving while suspended

**Rankin, Jacob B., 22**
• public intoxication

**Terry, Tanner D., 25**
• public intoxication

**Filippone, Antonio V., 30**
• third-degree criminal trespassing
• disorderly conduct
• resisting arrest

**June 1**

**Jackson, Christian B., 21**
• public intoxication

**Parker, Kenneth D., 27**
• disorderly conduct

**Dunleavy, Patrick J., 22**
• public intoxication

**Smith, Hannah M., 20**
• public intoxication

**Baker, Jesse J., 37**
• DUI

**Smith, Timothy M., 32**
• FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• FTA- disorderly conduct
• FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

**Whisenant, Sr., Matthew L., 46**
• disorderly conduct
• resisting arrest

**James, Joseph M., 37**
• fourth-degree theft of property

**Fischer, Jason R., 19**
• public intoxication

**King, Timothy R., 19**
• minor in possession – consumption of alcoholic beverages

**Powell, Daryl L., 24**
• public intoxication

**Edwards, Cheryl M., 52**
• third-degree domestic violence

**Morris, Jason K., 40**
• third-degree domestic violence
• disorderly conduct

**Craig, Matthew C., 18**
• minor in possession – consumption of alcoholic beverages

**Brouillette, Joshua L., 19**
• third-degree criminal trespassing

**June 2**

**Adcock, Patrick B., 19**
• public intoxication

**Harris, Charles S., 24**
• DUI

**Griffin, Kristopher L., 33**
• FTA- DUI
• FTA- driving without a license
• FTA- insurance violation

**Duckett, Aubrey A., 33**
• first-degree theft of property

**HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

No incidents or arrests reported.

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

Guy Hunt Library 2019 Summer Reading Program
(for ages 2-12)

*Programs begin at 2 p.m. every Thursday except July 4th at Guy Hunt Library in Holly Pond.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| June 6th | McWane Center | Final Frontier |
| June 13th | 1-2-3 Blast Off | Larry the Magician |
| June 20th | Things to Remember | Sewing and Rocket ships |
| June 27th | McWane Center | Explore the Universe |
| July 4th | No Program | Happy Birthday America |
| July 11th | Character Art | Mr. Krel Buckelew |
| July 18th | The Middle of Nowhere | Robin White |
| | Puppeteer | Bobby Thomas |
| July 25th | Agriplex | Nichole Taylor |

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## *June 4 - 6*

**TUESDAY, JUNE 4**

**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, Cullman

**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

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5**

**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.

**Free Hot Dogs at Calvary Baptist Church**
Free hot dogs at Calvary Baptist Church, Wednesday, June 5, from 6-7 p.m. The church is located on Dripping Springs Road Northwest. Everyone is welcome! For more information contact Pastor Larry Duke at 256-338-4791.

**UPCOMING....**

**Guthery Reunion**
The Guthery family will meet on Saturday, June 8 at West Point Town Hall (3990 County Road 1141, Vinemont) at 10 a.m. A covered dish lunch will be served at noon. For more information, call Jackie Parker at 256-734-2098.

**Bikers Against Cancer Ride**
Saturday, June 15- New route this year to Guntersville State Park- Rain date is June 22. Riders will be escorted by members of the Cullman County Sheriff's Office and the Cullman Police Department. It begins in the parking lot behind Cullman Regional (POB 2) with registration at 7:30 a.m. and kickstands up at 9:30. Cost is $25 per bike, $10 for extra rider. This includes a complimentary breakfast, snacks at the rest stop and lunch on return. Proceeds benefit the Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation, Inc., which assists cancer patients and families while in active treatment for cancer. For more info, call 256-339-0911 or 256-503-5301.

**Bates Reunion**
The Bates Reunion will be held on Saturday, June 15 at 10 a.m. at the Trimble Community Center.

**Swamp John's**
Friday, June 21, from 4-7 p.m. at 2659 County Road 1545 (Gold Ridge Road). $12 plate. For more information, contact C.H. Loyd at 205-706-2556.

**85th Annual Sandlin Reunion**
• Cold Springs Community Center; 8821 County Road 109, Bremen, AL 35033
• Saturday, Aug. 3, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
• Bring covered dish and drinks; plates, cups, napkins, forks and ice provided.
• Invite your Sandlin relatives.
• Chairman: Dr. Randall Sandlin; Secretary: Patsy Sandlin Medlock
• Contact: Anita Sandlin Glover, 1283 Highland Lakes Trail, Birmingham, AL 35242, patsymedlock@bellsouth.net, 205-995-7988 (home), 205-915-1870 (cell)
• Let's conserve postage! Please email me your email address. If you don't have an email address, invitations will be sent via U.S. mail. Thanks!
• Directions: Interstate 65, Exit 299 toward Dodge City/Jasper, take AL-69 South (approximately 14 miles). Turn RIGHT on CR-54. At 1st STOP sign, turn RIGHT on CR-109. At the STOP Sign at Cold Springs High School, turn RIGHT. Less than 1/4 mile, Cold Springs Community Center is on the RIGHT!
• Sandlin Chapel & Cemetery are off AL-69S

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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

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# 21st annual Antique Tractor and Engine Show this Saturday at WSCC

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmantribune.com

**HANCEVILLE, Ala.** – Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness;" and at the heart of American agriculture for over a century now has been the tractor, a combination tool and conveyance that, in various configurations, pushes, pulls, drags, mows, tills, plants, fertilizes, waters and harvests, not to mention occasionally rescuing other vehicles whose owners decided to try something they should have used a tractor for in the first place.

This Saturday, the City of Hanceville and Wallace State Community College will celebrate the history and heritage of big wheels, horsepower and torque at the 21st annual Hanceville Antique Tractor & Engine show.

Charles Allen, who with Bonnie Hamrick Brannan took charge of the event from founders Jimmy Hamrick and Hershel Needham, told The Tribune, "(In the beginning) most of it was farmers wanting to display their equipment, like a car show. Folks want to display their cars; well, farmers want to display their tractors."

**Featured attractions will include:**

- 50 to 60 vintage tractors dating back to the 1930's, from John Deere, Farmall, Cub, International and others. Many are restored antiques, but some are still working "fresh from the field" vehicles.
- Vintage engines that were used to power farm equipment in the early 20th century, some of which will be operating for demonstrations
- Peddle Tractor Races for the kids
- "Parade of Power" tractor parade, where visitors enjoy the sights and sounds of operational vintage equipment
- Skillet throwing contest for the ladies, using official tournament rules and skillets. Don't believe us? Come see!
- Homemade ice cream, made in motorized churns powered by vintage engines

Allen talked about one event that will be fascinating for gearheads: the Slow Race, which Allen described as "drag racing in reverse."

The object, in this case is to be the last to cross the finish line, tuning the carburetor to make one's tractor move as slowly as possible without stalling the engine.

Said Allen, "When we were young, we used to spend our money trying to make our cars go fast; now we spend our money trying to make our tractors go slow!"

Awards will be given for the Slow Race, Best Looking Tractor/Best in Show (separate categories for older and newer tractors) and Most Original Tractor.

In a previous interview, Brannan said of her father, event co-founder Jimmy Hamrick, "He always loved tractors and had been around them, worked on them, liked restoring them.

"He had a passion for them. He farmed and worked, too. He loved his community, and he loved giving back.

"If he could do anything for you, he would; so this was just one way to give back to the community."




CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

***Vintage John Deere tractors on display at last year's show***

**At a glance**
**Hanceville Antique Tractor and Engine Show**

- Saturday, June 8, 2019, starting at 9 a.m.
- At Wallace State Community College in Hanceville

For more information regarding the upcoming event, call 256-590-2478 or 205-616-4173, or visit www.facebook.com/Hanceville-TractorShow/.

## Wreck (from Front)

**Wendy Sack**
wendy@cullmantribune.com

**JOPPA, Ala.** – Four people were killed, including two children, in a two-vehicle wreck near Joppa Monday morning. The incident happened along the 7000 block Alabama Highway 67 at approximately 8:04 a.m.

Cullman County Coroner Jeremy L. Kilpatrick and Senior Alabama State Trooper Chuck Daniel confirmed the fatalities.

Killed were Allen Dewanne Gore, 41, of Arab and Holly Marie Young, 23, of Arab. The children have been identified only as a 2-year-old female and 3-year-old male.

Said Daniel in a press conference just south of the accident site Monday afternoon, "At approximately 8:04 a.m. this morning, June 3, ALEA State Troopers Decatur Post office received a phone call in reference to a two-vehicle crash on Alabama 67, just south of our location, we are at Alabama Highway 69 and Alabama Highway 67, so about a mile south of our location, just south of Cullman County Road 1763.

There was a two-vehicle crash involving a Pontiac Grand Prix and an empty log truck. There were four confirmed fatalities. All of those fatalities were in the Pontiac Grand Prix. The driver of the log truck was injured and transported to a local area hospital. His injuries were non-life threatening.

"The crash did occur in the southbound lane. The log truck was driving south on Alabama Highway 67 in the southbound lane, and the initial indication is that the other vehicle was in the southbound lane coming northbound."

Daniel said it appears the Pontiac Grand Prix crossed the center line and struck the log truck head on.

Highway 67, south of Alabama Highway 69, was shut down to County Road 1763 for approximately five hours after the crash.

## LEGALS

PB WIL BK 90 PG 952 - 05/24/2019 04:06 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JERRY SKINNER, Deceased. * CASE NO PC-2019-170

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Letters Testamentary having been granted to Linda Roat, as Personal Representative of the Estate of JERRY SKINNER, Deceased, on the 24th day of May, 2019, by the Honorable Tammy Brown. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claim against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Linda Roat
Personal Representative

Andria Sims
Attorney for Personal Representative
300 First Avenue SE
Cullman, AL 35055

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

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

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

PB WIL BK 90 PG 876 - 05/17/2019 01:57 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2019-1600

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF BETTY ALLBRIGHT, DECEASED.**

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Phyllis Daphne Thomas on the 17th day of May, 2019, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

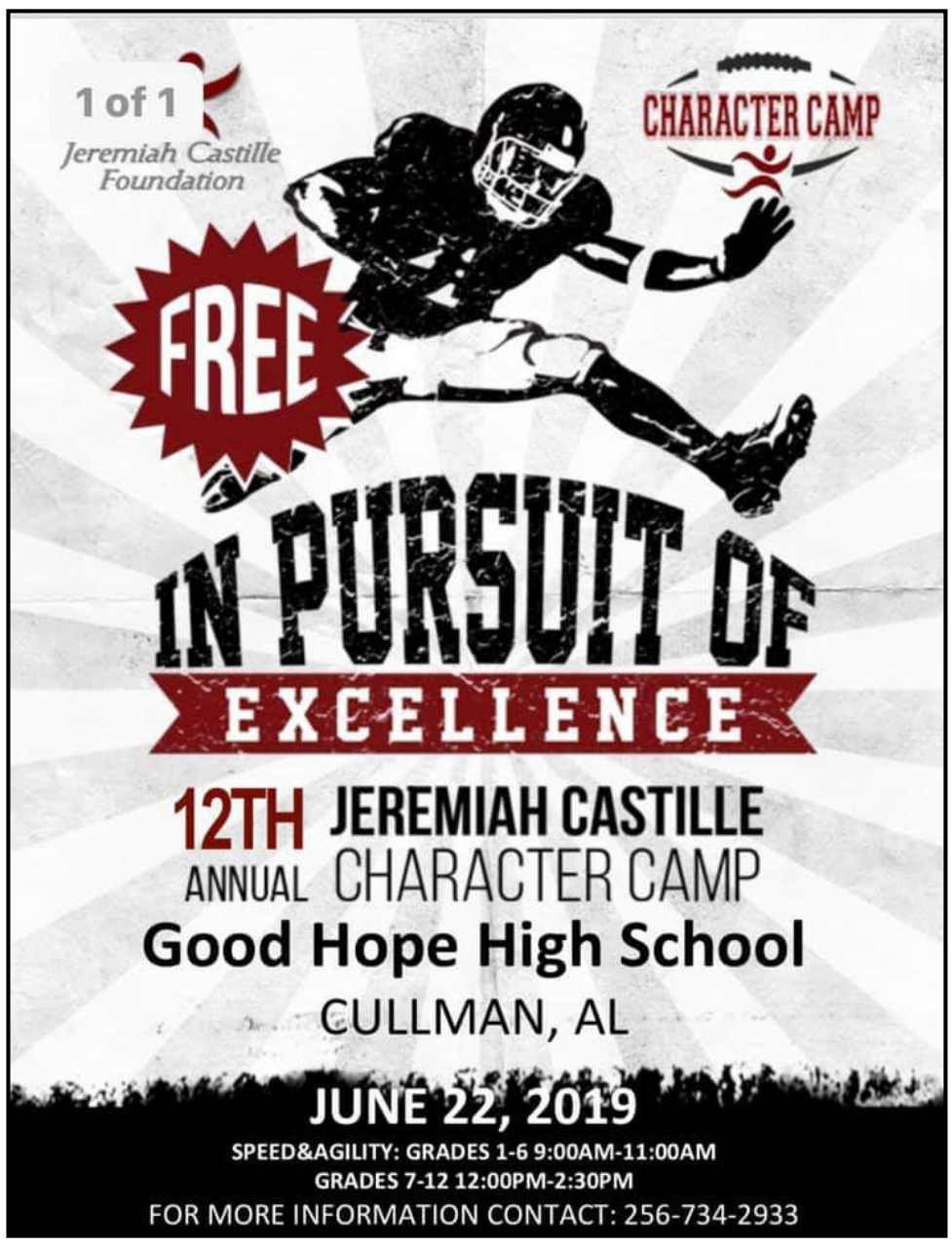
Phyllis Daphne Thomas
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JUNE 4, 2019

# Rock the South: the music

**Christy Perry**
christy@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** – As the gates opened Friday at Rock the South, fans stampeded inside in hopes of grabbing the closest seat for the "Biggest Party in the South." For the next few hours, an estimated 65,000 music fans would come to the party and stay until the wee hours of Saturday morning.

Headliner Kid Rock brought his unapologetic style of rock and country to Cullman and the crowd went crazy for him. His clever use of the Journey song "Don't Stop Believing" led the crowd to unknowingly sing the introduction of Kid Rock, who was "born and raised in South Detroit." As the silhouetted Kid Rock appeared, everyone jumped to their feet, and as the curtain dropped revealing the big screens and lit KID ROCK behind him, the roar of the crowd was deafening.

He sang a mixture of country and hard-hitting rock songs satisfying those who had criticized Rock the South for perhaps being light on the "rock." The younger crowd perked up as Kid Rock sang his more recent hits such as "Picture" and "All Summer Long."

Aliesha Smith, a junior at Cullman High School, who was there with a group of her friends, was having a blast.

"This is great," she said as the group danced and sang along.

Kid Rock also showed off his skills by playing drums for his version of Ted Nugent's classic "Cat Scratch Fever" and also as a mixer as he scratched on the turntables. Many people left as Kid Rock's show continued, but according to some we spoke to it wasn't due to lack of satisfaction with Kid Rock's performance.

Pinson resident Carley Letlow explained, "we knew we could hear and see it great from where we were parked so we jammed out while hoping to get a jump on traffic."

Kid Rock closed the show with an adrenaline fueled "Bawitdaba" that did not disappoint. He masterfully built up the crowd's anticipation before finally bellowing out the legendary "My name is KID ROCK." The thousands who stayed to hear the classic hit rocked out and "bawitdaba da band da bang diggy diggied" to the very end.

Prior to Kid Rock hitting the stage, country legends Brooks & Dunn performed an outstanding set. For the pure country fans, Brooks & Dunn was the act they were there to see.

Opening with the iconic "Brand New Man" was a great choice as the songs instantly lit up the crowd.

Eli Ratliff, a senior at Cullman High School, reacted, "Wait, they sing this song? This is a good song."

The Brooks and Dunn performance wouldn't be complete with a little "Boot Scootin' Boogie," and as one might imagine, it had everyone in the concert on their feet and dancing. Depending on a person's taste in music, Brooks & Dunn was just as much a headliner as Kid Rock at Rock the South 2019.

Up and coming country star Lainey Wilson would get the show started. Lainey was selected as one of CMT's class of 2018 "Next Women of Country." She was followed by Georgia native Trea Landon, another up and coming country star. The crowd showed great appreciation for both of these exciting newcomers.

Travis Denning took the stage after Landon.

Denning posted to his social media page, "We drank the beer and rocked the south. Alabama, y'all were EPIC."

Denning's new single "Tank of Gas and Radio Song" was released Friday and he was excited to share it with the thousands of fans there to see him.

Jimmie Allen performed after Denning. Allen made history with his debut song "Best Shot." He is the first African-American artist to top the country charts with a debut single. He performed his biggest hit and others from his self-titled debut album.

Mitchell Tenpenny put on a great show and set the party mood. With songs like "Drunk Me" and "Alcohol You Later," it's no surprise why he was the perfect choice to entertain the day one crowd that was ready for a fun-filled weekend. He was the final act before Brooks & Dunn.

The crowd steadily grew throughout the afternoon and early evening. Keeping the energy going between the featured artists was Dee Jay Silver.

Mixing in some classic rock, classic country and hip-hop favorites, he had the crowd up on its feet and having a great time.

Letlow summed up day one, saying, "Getting here was a nightmare, but the music this year was better than ever."

Saturday at Rock the South saw an even bigger crowd than the day before. The gates opened at noon and by mid-afternoon the venue was packed. Concert-goers were pleased with the noticeable improvements with traffic flow and parking and ready for round two.

Saturday's headliners Florida Georgia Line returned to Rock the South for the second time in three years, and the crowd couldn't be happier.

The country duo is currently on its "Can't Say I ain't Country" Tour promoting its newest album by the same name.

Some fans left for the exits early, but the overwhelming majority stayed to the end to hear the new songs as well as older favorites such as "Cruise" and "Meant to Be." They instructed the crowd to get a little "sexy" before singing "H.O.L.Y." The hit songs and spectacular light show kept the audience captivated until the very end.

Jake Owen, Morgan Wallen, Colt Ford, Hardy, Tyler Braden and Chase Fouraker made up the lineup for Saturday, leading up to Florida Georgia Line. Fouraker was the first act of day two, followed by Braden.

By the time Braden took the stage the crowd was larger than the Friday crowd at that time.

Hardy performed next. The young songwriter has written songs for Florida Georgia Line and Blake Shelton, just to name a few. Saturday, he entertained the crowd on his own and sang crowd favorite "I'm Rednecker than You."

Next was country artist Ford who brought his unique style of country/hip-hop to the Rock the South stage. He performed his new single "We the People" and other favorites. It was his performance of his most famous song, "Dirt Road Anthem," that he co-wrote with Brantley Gilbert that really got the dust kicked up Saturday night. His salute to the troops also drew huge cheers from the crowd.

Wallen kept the party moving and dancing with his current hit "Whiskey Glasses." He posted after the show to his social media pages photos of his performance with the simple caption "Rock the Damn South."

His was the first performance after the sun went down which helped amp up the energy of the event.

Owen followed with screams from adoring fans. Promoting his latest album "Greetings from Jake," the word that best describes his performance is simple: FUN! He took the crowd "Down to the Honkytonk" and to "Mexico in Our Minds."



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

***Brooks and Dunn***

## Scenes (from Front)

ing crowds late in the day stirred the dust until certain parts of the venue appeared to be covered in fog or haze.

**Medical matters**
Medical staff onsite- which included Cullman Fire Rescue (CFR), Cullman EMS, Good Hope and Bethsadia Fire Departments and many others- reported that the number of medical incidents was typical of a day at RTS. CFR Chief Brian Bradberry reported more than 100 medical contacts (minor issues such as visitors asking for band-aids), 48 patients treated at the first aid tent on the venue grounds and 12 patients transported from the scene.

**Taking it in stride**
Most visitors who got inside the venue didn't seem to be overly troubled by the heat and dusty conditions. They came for music and a party, and got plenty of both, from the stage out to the vendors' booths.

**Here's a sampling of a few fans' comments to The Tribune:**
"All the old country music reminds me of my childhood. My dad was in the Army for 32 years, and listening to country music reminded me of him whenever he was deployed."

"The DJ's mixes and all this haze makes it feel like a rave with the world's largest smoke machine. It's literally like the biggest party in the south!"

"We have been coming to RTS for years, and each time it just gets more and more exciting! And it really helps out the folks around here, too, not just all these big stars.

"Stimulates the economy, gives everyone something to look forward to; even the folks who live down this street can make a little money renting their lawns out for parking. I'm really excited to see how much this can grow with the new venue."

**Law enforcement and security: large presence, but underage drinking a problem**
As Tribune staffers were entering the venue Friday afternoon, they passed a young man who was apparently trying to warn a friend on the other side of his cell phone, shouting into it, "No, no, dude! They've got too much security!"

The presence of numerous officers from multiple police departments and sheriffs' offices across the region, plus state troopers and even onsite Department of Homeland Security (DHS) advisors, received compliments from most people, who felt that the large and visible presence helped keep things a little calmer.

From the outset, though, law enforcement and security personnel had to deal with underage drinking. Officers reported to The Tribune that three juveniles had been caught on the road outside the venue with alcoholic beverages early Friday afternoon, causing them a double whammy: not only were they underage, but they were caught in a "dry" area where possession of alcohol is illegal even for adults.

Through the course of the first afternoon and evening, that trend would continue, both inside and outside the venue. Officers made 20 arrests, telling The Tribune that the majority were for possession or consumption by minors.

Officials informed The Tribune that individual officers had been authorized to remove wrist bands and escort problematic individuals from the venue, so an exact count of ejections could not be determined.

**Pedestrian struck on County Road 469, expected to recover**
Shortly after midnight, a pedestrian on County Road 469 approximately a quarter mile south of the venue was struck by a vehicle, which then left the scene. Good Hope Fire Chief David Scott said the victim suffered head injuries and had to be airlifted from the scene to UAB Hospital. Witnesses noted that a number of pedestrians were walking along the poorly lit stretch of road at the time.

Shella Cross, who lives near the scene of the accident and responded to calls for help after hearing the impact from her front yard, told The Tribune, "There were a lot of drunks walking down that street. I was in my little golf cart with my son out on the front of our property- our house sits somewhat back from the road- and, I mean, there were drunks knocking into the golf cart and saying, 'I'm trying to find my truck to go home.' And I'm thinking, 'They can't even walk, much less drive.'"

ALEA is still investigating, and has not released a description of the fleeing vehicle.

Nathan Baugh and Shane Quick told The Tribune Sunday afternoon that RTS would offer a reward for information leading to the driver who left the scene. Anyone with information should contact the Cullman County Sheriff's Office or ALEA's crime hotline, 1-800-392-8011.

**DAY TWO**
RTS staff and local agencies entered day two having rethought certain issues from day one, including the traffic flow problems and dusty conditions.

**Traffic: not perfect, but better**
On Saturday, cars still lined up down the approaches, but seemed to move better than Friday's flow, which had been described by visitors using terms like "gridlock" and "parking lot." Sheriff Matt Gentry reported that a few "on-the-fly" changes to the traffic/parking plan Saturday morning appeared to be having a positive effect.

One fan took to social media to comment, "Today's experience was much better than yesterday's. The driving in and out time was nothing today. Right in and out. Asked for our parking passes today and were parked accordingly. Much better today Rock the South! Great shows."

Some parking areas were slower to empty than others, drawing continued complaints from some.

**Dust: yes, no, and YES!**
Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs donned a safety vest to help direct tanker trucks to spray down heavily traveled thoroughfares in the morning to cut down on dust, and trucks continued to work in certain areas through the afternoon. As the crowd swelled in the evening, though, the dust came back, covering parts of the venue once again in a reddish-brown haze.

One Saturday attendant commented, "We left early because it didn't matter what we ate or drank all we could taste was dust."

Another fan was not happy with the dust, but was willing to endure, writing, "As for the dust, yes, it was dusty. If you want to celebrate your country roots by singing along with Colt Ford to 'Dirt Road Anthem' why not do it in the actual dirt and have some fun with it?"

**Medical matters**
Bradberry added 49 medical treatments on Saturday to Friday's number for an event total of 97 patients treated at the first aid tent. Saturday would add 18 more medical transports as well, bringing the event total to 30. While he had no specific numbers per day, the chief said minor medical contacts numbered "close to 300" for the weekend. Most medical calls over both days were for treatment of heat-related conditions.

Bradberry said the treatment of an occasional unconscious person is not uncommon for RTS events, including this one, but the social media posting of a photo of one victim (identified by family members online as Landon Howard) in the hospital after being found unresponsive Saturday drew substantial online attention. On Sunday afternoon, the young man's mother posted an update indicating that he was conscious and had been upgraded.

Quick told The Tribune, "That's encouraging. You know, I've got a 13-year-old son; I can't imagine what must have been going through their minds. But we're excited that it looks like he's going to be good."

A fan who required medical transport offered praise for emergency responders in a comment on The Tribune's Facebook page: "I have to say, out of all the negativity for RTS, they were great with me. I was one of the ones the ambulance picked up around 5 or so. I had 2 seizures while in the first aid tent. They were on it and from what I was told had me at the hospital within 10-15 minutes."

**Law enforcement and security:**
Saturday, authorities added 30 more arrests to Friday's count, for an event total of 50. The number of ejections for drunkenness or misconduct was unknown. Officials told The Tribune that most arrests over the two days involved minors possessing or consuming alcohol.

On Saturday evening, witnesses reported seeing a few fights break out within the venue, and seeing groups of law enforcement officers moving quickly toward various points on the grounds. Despite that, appraisals of the event made to The Tribune by officials from multiple agencies indicated that they were generally satisfied with how things went.

One fan, who attended both days of RTS, wrote, "There was usually a law enforcement officer within a few yards at all times and people I spoke to were extremely appreciative of all of them. They were quick to respond and handle issues quickly and before anything could get out of hand. On Saturday night, I watched as they moved quickly towards a situation and they took control before the crowd even knew anything was happening. They definitely did an outstanding job and made people feel safe."

**Sharing the wealth**
On Saturday, RTS presented a study by the University of Alabama indicating that this year's event could have an economic impact on the Cullman area- including hotels, dining establishments, and retail stores, in addition to the direct impact of the concert itself- of up to $10 million.

Saturday evening, RTS followed its regular practice of presenting donations to area charities and organizations. This year's recipients included:

- Childhaven, a group home serving abused and neglected teens
- Brooks' Place, a child advocacy organization that provides multiple services to victims of child abuse
- Curt's Closet, a charity that provides clothing and other goods for children and teens in need
- The Bridge, an organization working to help teens overcome addiction
- The Link of Cullman, an organization that brings together multiple resources to help people work their way out of poverty
- Cullman Regional Foundation, which supports numerous programs of Cullman Regional Medical Center

One fan wrote, "I applauded and was happy to see so many great local charities and organizations presented several thousand dollars from Rock the South. What a blessing for those causes. I saw band boosters, football boosters and other civic groups given the opportunity to work in order to raise money. This money will help the kids at those schools and fund their programs. All of that and they got to rock out with Kid Rock? I love it."

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# Hannah Bates Memorial Buckle Series complete after Sunday's final barrel race

**Nick Griffin**
nick@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** – The Hannah Bates Memorial Series, hosted by the South Cullman Saddle Club, finished its final barrell race Sunday and Nathan Morrow went home with the 1D and 2D Buckles and the prized saddle. The series was held in memory of Hannah Bates, a Cullman High School graduate who was tragically killed on Feb. 24, 2018 in an ATV accident at Stoney Lonesome OHV Park.

The barrell series has been one of several events put on to raise funds for the Hannah Bates Memorial Scholarship at Wallace State.

Hannah's parents and one of her close friends Jayclyn Nail, organized the buckle series fundraiser and the inaugural Hannah Bates Memorial Fishing Tournament in August 2018. Nail also took home the 3D buckle in Sunday's final barrell race.

"The memorial series was brought about to bring the community together in honor and memory of Hannah. She absolutely loved horses. She always wanted to run barrels growing up and loved riding horses around the house with us. She was killed on Feb. 24, 2018 in an ATV accident and we have been working hard to keep her memory alive," Nail said.

"This series has been so amazing for all of us, seeing people come together in memory of her and support us and her memorial scholarship. All proceeds are donated to the scholarship fund at Wallace state community college."

To donate to the Hannah Bates Memorial Scholarship you can visit wscca-lumni.org/hannahbates or call (256) 352-8144.




MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

***Pictured L-R: Sonya Bates, Jayclyn Nail, Nathan Morrow and Lionel Bates***

# Siran Stacy joins field of players at 2nd annual Crimson Ladies of Cullman charity golf tournament

**Nick Griffin**
nick@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** – 39 golfers made their way to Cross Creek Golf Course Saturday morning for the second annual Crimson Ladies of Cullman Charity Golf Tournament and one of them was former Crimson Tide running back Siran Stacy. Stacy, along with the other players in the field, helped to make this year's event another success. This year's tournament featured 41 door prizes, an increase in hole sponsors and the Crimson Ladies received several generous donations from tournament participants as well. Proceeds from the event have gone to both Curt's Closet here in Cullman and the Nick's Kids Foundation, the official charity of Nick and Terry Saban, in the past and they plan to continue supporting those organizations.

The team of Terry Kent, Renee Williams and Whit Saint posted a 56 in the three-man scramble to take home first place and Roger Stewart, Doug Akers and Fuller Smith finished just behind them with a 56 to secure second place. A random place is drawn and awarded each year as well and Carter Funderburk, Ethan Deloney and Grant Lorky took home a prize after finishing fifth with a 62. Jason Kilgore was this year's longest drive champion and Funderburk finished as the closest the tournament's closest to the pin winner.

Stacy's team couldn't go low enough to win this year's event, but he still feels good about how he played out on Cross Creek.

"Well I made an eagle on the last hole so, that's a good way to end it and I feel like I played pretty good," Stacy smiled. "We had a fun time and had a fun group of guys."

Charitable events like these have become a big part of Stacy's life since he began working in ministry and motivational speaking and he's always excited to be part of good causes like this.

"I love it. I love meeting new people and making new relationships but more importantly getting to invest in a worthy cause," Stacy said. "So, I'm honored to be a part of it, and I enjoy giving back to the community because people need it."

Stacy racked up a long list of accomplishments in his time on the gridiron. Stacy is a Hall of fame running back inductee at Coffeyville Junior College in Coffeyville, KS (1987-1988), a second team All-American tail back at The University of Alabama (1989-1991) and second round draft choice by The Philadelphia Eagles in the spring of 1992. In 1995 he was drafted into The World Football League/ NFL Europe with The Scottish Claymores and became league MVP and All-time leading rusher. During this time, he lived in Edinburgh and Glasgow Scotland and traveled throughout Europe playing football.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

***Former Alabama running back Siran Stacy greets fans after completing his round at Cross Creek Golf Course Saturday morning.***

Stacy and his family were struck by a drunk driver in November of 2007, killing his wife Ellen and his children Lequisa, Bronson, Sydney and Ellie Ann-Marie. Siran and his daughter Shelly were the only survivors of the accident. After the life-changing tragedy, Siran begin working in ministry in 2008 and was ordained as a minister in 2009. Stacy now works as an evangelist and motivational speaker, travelling the world and speaking to people who need help getting through tough situations like his.

Stacy will be in town for one more night for another event Sunday morning. Stacy will be speaking at Etha Baptist Church located at 8417 County Road 1545 at 10:30 a.m.

## OPINION

# Always Reforming: Life in Community (6)

**Tom Fillinger**
Tribune Correspondent

Today in our series on the One Another Commands we focus on the Command to Honor One Another.

The resurrection of Christ is the central distinctive of Christianity. All other religious or faith systems have a dead leader. Christ is Risen. We serve a Risen Savior. He is LORD! So important was the resurrection for Paul that he hinged both preaching and faith upon its validity. He considered that a Christianity without the resurrection would be empty and meaningless (1 Cor 15:12–19). Indeed, the resurrection for him was the unveiling of God's messianic power in Jesus (Rom 1:4).

The resurrection of Christ was the presupposition behind other texts of the New Testament as well. Rebirth to a living hope is based upon the resurrection (1 Pt 1:3). It is the foundation for witness and fellowship with God because the living Lord has been seen and touched (1 Jn 1:1–4). It is the bedrock thesis for ministry and apostleship (Acts 1:21–25). The exalted Christ who sits at the right hand of God is the key to understanding the call to perseverance in Hebrews (1:3; 8:1). And the victorious Lamb standing in spite of the fact that he was slain is the premise of the victorious expectation in Revelation (5:6). The Gospels likewise would hardly have been good news if they did not conclude with Christ's resurrection.

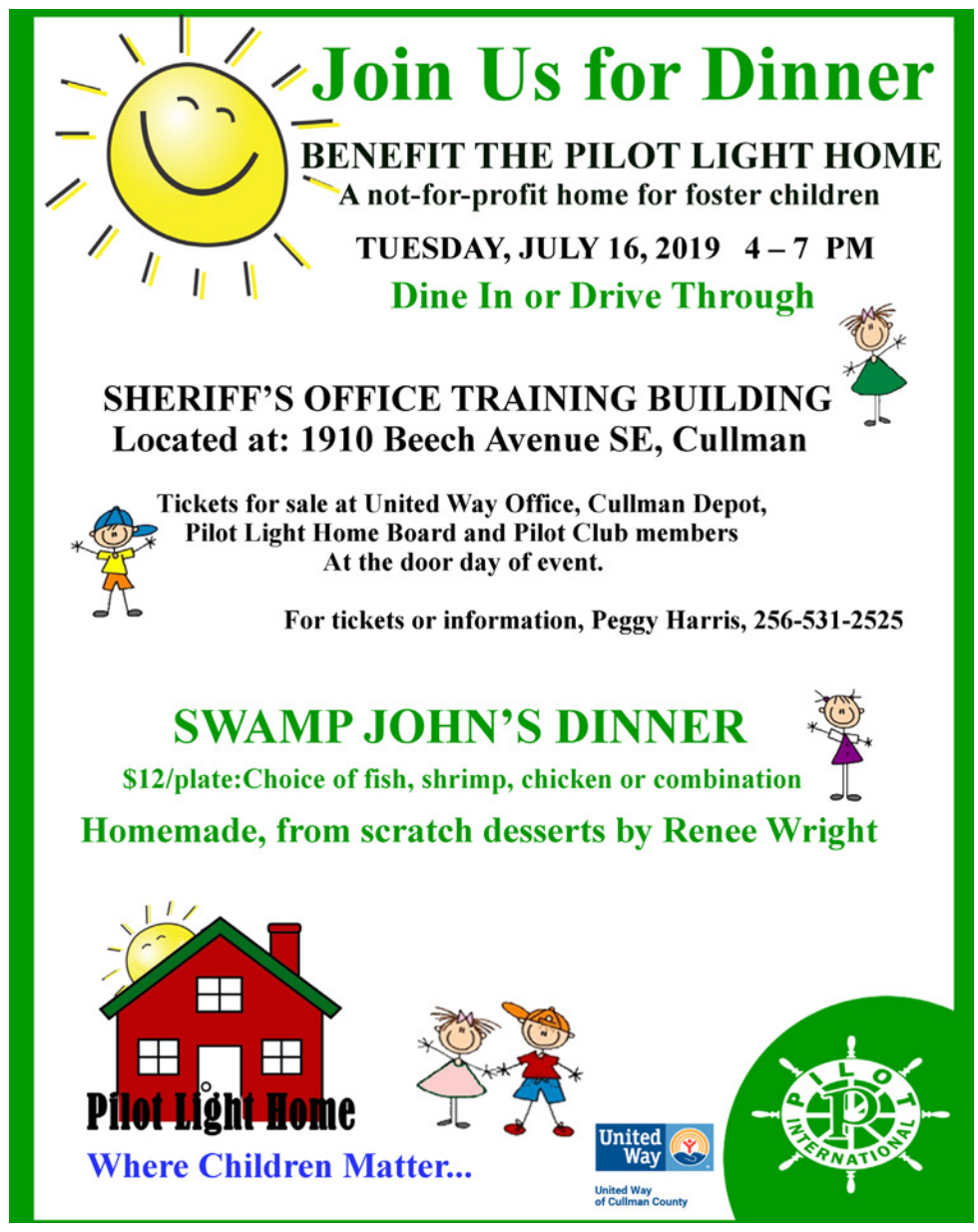
So, in light of the glorious Resurrection, what does it mean to Honor One Another? Honor one another above yourselves Romans 12:10.

**προηγέομαι** *(1) lead the way, be the leader; figuratively in the NT outdo others (possibly RO 12.10); (2) prefer, consider better, esteem more highly* (possibly RO 12.10)

**Phil. 2:4-8** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Dr. Del Tackett – Truth Project – I can smell you! Dr. Tackett had a friend who used this phrase to indicate behavior that was contrary to honoring others. So, what "odors" emanate from your life as you fail to honor others? Create a log or journal. Make daily entries and record when you do and do not honor others. Use this record to improve your obedience to the command to honor others. You will find JOY and Jesus is honored. You will be glad you did this.

**Application:** The resurrection of Jesus Christ brings resurrection life and power to His people. What would you share this week concerning the Resurrection power in your life?



LIFESTYLE

# Senior Spotlight: Meet the Dodsons, part 2

**Christy Perry**
christy@cullmantribune.com

**Read part one at www.cullmantribune.com/2019/05/29/senior-spotlight-meet-the-dodsons.**

By the early '70s, Radginal and Judy Dodson were happy at home with their two young sons, Barry and Tracy. Radginal and Judy both worked hard to provide for their boys while creating wonderful family memories. Life was good. The boys eventually graduated from Vinemont High School and both attended Wallace State.

In the summer of 1991, the Dodsons experienced a terrible tragedy.

Radginal and Judy shared their story:

"In July of 1991, Tracy was fixing to go to Auburn for school probably," said Judy.

Radginal added, "How many times do you have an 18-year-old son want to go on vacation with you?"

"We took him to look at Auburn," Judy remembered. "He was going to see what would transfer from Wallace down there. We went to Savannah after we left Auburn."

"They did a good job down at Auburn. They took him around and showed him- he wanted to be an engineer- they took him and showed him and we spent the better part of a day on campus," said Radginal.

Judy then recalled, "He kind of got sick, seems like. He had a sore throat or something. But, we spent the night at St. Simon's Island not far from Savannah. He played on the beach a little bit."

Radginal added, "And we fished."

Judy continued, "We came back through Atlanta-Stone Mountain area where my sister lived- and spent a couple of days with her. She had supper ready for us. She had made the BEST chicken pot pie.

"Tracy was not real crazy about green vegetables and it had English peas in it. He ate it, and he was hungry, but he never said a thing about those peas being in it.

"He was real polite and ate it. On the way home, he said, 'Mother, don't you get any ideas!' and I said, 'About what?' He said, 'I'm not eating them green things.'"

"He didn't like green things," Radginal said softly. "Tracy was a fine son. He wasn't a saint. He was a mischief. If I could wish a man a son, I would wish him Tracy. He was as wide open as a case knife. His mind would just wrap around something.

"I mean, he didn't have a bit of a problem with mechanical things. I reckon because I made a living with my hands all my life, the two boys are mechanically inclined, but that's all I had to give them.

"I wasn't that smart and I didn't go to college. Both of them managed to have an ability to work with their hands,"

He added, "Tracy was a pistol ball, boy. He was a dandy."

On Sept. 10, 1991, Tracy was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident in Vinemont.

"He borrowed a motorcycle at Vinemont School and rode it across the bridge to see a friend. The friend wasn't home so he went back out, and on his way back towards school had the accident and was killed.

"We don't know what happened; nobody saw it. He was all by himself. When I get to Heaven, I'm gonna, if I think of it. I'll probably gonna be so happy to see him when I get to Heaven, I won't care what happened. He's a good boy," Radginal said.

The Dodsons' oldest son Barry still lives in Cullman County. He has worked at REHAU for more than 20 years.

The Dodsons' friend Gary hired both boys at his lawnmower shop in the summertime.

Radginal said, "Barry went to Wallace to study computers, but he learned from Gary how to fix them lawnmowers the old-fashioned way where you fixed it rather than replace something."

Barry and his wife Cynthia have one daughter, Sidney. Sidney is now a student at Wallace State. Besides spending time with Barry's family, the Dodsons enjoy traveling. They have traveled all over the United States, including Alaska. Judy has made several trips to the beach where she meets her sisters and nieces for some girl time.



COURTESY OF THE FAMILY

***An old family photo shows Tracy Dodson, Judy Dodson, Radginal Dodson and Barry Dodson.***

The Dodsons also own the The Ole Store in Vinemont where Judy sells collectibles, glassware, antiques and other unique items.

She explained, "We bought this building from his cousin in 1998, but his grandfather built in around 1910."

The original tin ceiling and shelves are still in the store. The store was a general store originally and according to Radginal, "Herron, my uncle, had a cash register there.

"You would tell him what you wanted to eat and we would go get it off the shelves and put it in a sack for you. Between this one and the one across the street, just about everyone on this end of the county, this is where they did their grocery shopping."

Back in those days, people could run a tab and pay when they got paid.

"There was no telling how much business he did in my lifetime that was done on a handshake that was law. You didn't violate that law," Radginal recalled.

Radginal is currently the mayor of South Vinemont and he never had to run for it.

"They didn't have any opposition," said Judy.

Radginal added with a laugh, "Me and J.D. (Marcum) just swapped jobs, but there was nobody opposing the council so we saved the town $4,000 for the whole hullabaloo to have an election."

The Dodsons love the town of South Vinemont and have built a wonderful life and home in the town they love.

If you ever want to know where something was located or interesting history, find Mayor Dodson.

They enjoy having more time to relax and spend together these days.

"It was an interesting life. I don't reckon I have too many, what do you call them, regrets, or things I would change if I could," Radginal said.

# Obituary Announcements: May 31 – June 3

*presented by*

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**Gary Lee Steele**, 58, of Holly Pond, passed away May 31, 2019. He was born July 14, 1960, to Leldon and Gladys Harris Steele, in Cook County, Illinois. Gary worked for Brinlee Mt. Pools for many years, and he could tell you just about anything you needed to know about a swimming pool. Gary was also a loving father. His children will miss him greatly. Mr. Steele is preceded in death by his parents, Leldon and Gladys Steele. He is survived by sons, Taylor (Candi) Steele, James Steele, Josh Steele, Justin Steele; daughters, Tania Steele, Stephanie Steele; brothers, Richard Kevin Steele, Troy Steele, Nathan Steele, Danny (Vicky) Steele; and sisters, Glenda Steele and Diane Westmoreland. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to help with funeral expenses.

**Kathryn Olene Hilton Bailey** died Friday, May 31, 2019 at her home in Double Springs. Born to Olin and Kate Burdick Hilton on Feb. 16, 1931, Kathryn was a 1948 graduate of Winston County High School. She received her B.S. degree from Auburn University in 1952 and began work with the Department of Pensions and Security in Phenix City, AL. Following her 1955 marriage to J.N. Bailey, Jr., Kathryn came home to Double Springs and worked for what is now the Winston County Department of Human Resources. Upon completing her Master of Arts and A.A. degrees at the University of Alabama, she later taught Special Education and reading at Double Springs Elementary School. She retired as Special Education Coordinator for the Winston County Board of Education in 1998. Outside the professional arena, she was the 1968 recipient of Winston County High School's Outstanding Alumnus Award. Twice President of the Double Springs Study Club and named their 2003 Woman of Dis-tinction, she also was active in the Winston County Retired Teachers' Association and Alpha Delta Kappa Professional Educational Society. A member of Double Springs First Baptist Church, Kathryn taught Sunday School for approximately thir-ty years. She performed community service at Hendrix Heath Care Facility, the Seymour Home, and was diligent in visiting the shut-in and ill of the community. Kathryn was predeceased by parents Olin and Kate Hilton, husband J.N. Bailey, Jr. and infant daughter Kathryn Leighanne Bailey. She is survived by sons Brad, Brent (Rachel) and grandchildren Lisa (Brian Hixon), John, and Bonnie Bailey.

**Mr. Bobby D. Lowry**, 76, of Altoona passed away on Friday, May 31, 2019. No services are planned at this time.

**Memorial Services for Perry Blaine Raines** will be Monday June 3, 2019 at 6 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Josh Eddleman and Daryl Bailey officiating. Mr. Raines passed away May 31, 2019. He was born October 15, 1960 to John and Juaena Perry. He was a construction worker. He was preceded in death by his mother. Survivors include wife, Wanda Raines; sons, Daniel (Priscilla) Raines, Brian Raines, and Joseph (Christa) Raines; grandchildren, Abigail, Adelynn, Leah, and Norah Raines; sister, Regina (Jeff) Whitehead; father, John Raines; and a host of family and friends. Visitation from 4-6 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

**Emmet O. Wise**, 92, of Holly Pond, entered into the presence of his Lord and Savior on Saturday, June 1, 2019. He was born June 24, 1926, to Luther and Bessie Burnham Wise. Mr. Wise served his country honorably in the United States Army and was veteran of WWII. Emmet was the owner of Wise Trucking Company. He began the company in the early 50's and retired from the business in 2010. Emmet was married to the love of his life for 73 years, Christine. He began holding Christine's hand in the seventh grade, only releasing her in order to enter the presence of his Heavenly Father. Emmet is preceded in death by his parents, Luther and Bessie Burnham Wise; grandson, Grant Wise; brother, Buel Wise; and his sister, Christine Patterson. Survivors include his beloved wife, Edna Christine Shaw Wise; son and daughter-in-law, Keith and Judy Wise; a granddaughter and her husband, Lindsey and Eli Howard; and great-grandchildren, Cooper, Evie, and Porter Howard. Nathan Finley, Mike Patterson, Randy Wise, Robert Norris, Eli Howard, and Alan Walker served as pallbearers. Dewitt Sanford, Felton Easterwood, and Bartee Bryan served their friend as honorary pallbearers. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made, in memory of Mr. Wise, to one of the following organizations; BDSRA.org, Holly Pond First Baptist Church, or Holly Pond Cemetery.

**Mrs. Sherri Nava**, 44, of Cullman passed away on Saturday, June 1, 2019 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. No services are planned at this time.

**Funeral service for Glenda Bates** will be Tuesday, June 4, 2019, at 2 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Andrew Siegenthaler will be officiating. Interment will be at Mt. Olive Cemetery. Mrs. Bates passed away on Saturday, June 1. She was born March 18, 1941, to Theodore and Vella Mae Watts. Glenda was Center Manager at Cullman Commission on Aging for 24 years until her retirement. While there she spread love and joy to the many seniors that she spent her days with. Whenever she received praise she was always quick to say that working there was a true blessing for her. While there she made many wonderful friends and memories including an extra special friend, Becky Faulk. After retirement, she enjoyed spending time with her family and grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Charles H. Bates; son, Chuck Bates; and three brothers, Junior Watts, Bill Watts, and Jack Watts. Survivors include daughters, Patti (Jimbo) Waldrop and Kim (Eddie) Canaday; grandchildren, Jarad Waldrop, Nick Canaday, Magda Waldrop, Reed Canaday, and Jordan Canaday; sister, Polly Ray; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends. Visitation will be from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. prior to the service at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Special thanks go out to Dr. Mike Hall, Paulette Trimble, many amazing staff members at Hanceville Nursing home including Cathy, Suzy, and Renae and many other caring sitters. If you would like to make a donation in lieu of flowers, please donate to Comfort Care Hospice.

**Nancy Elizabeth "Betty" Moore Cornelius** of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Sunday, June 2, 2019 at the age of 82. She was born, at home, July 4, 1936 in Logan, Alabama to Georgia Leola Hutchison Moore Camp Legg Carden and Marvin Wesley Moore. Betty's grandparents were Luther and Mary Moore of Logan, Alabama and Robert and Nancy Horton of Logan, Alabama. Visitation will be held at Moss Service Funeral Home in Cullman, Alabama on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 from noon until 2 p.m. The Celebration of Life Funeral Service will begin at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Moss Service Funeral Home following visitation, with Rev. David Palmer officiating. Betty will be laid to rest at Emeus Cemetery, Logan, Alabama following the service. Betty worked as a Hair Dresser at Daniels Beauty Salon and the Vogue Beauty Salon in Cullman from 1954 to 1973 and in the shoe department of Belk Hudson in Cullman from 1980 to 2001. If you were fortunate enough to know Betty, then you likely remember enjoying a slice of her famous Chocolate Pie with the flakiest piecrust ever, made with Crisco Shortening and Martha White's All-Purpose Flour. Betty is survived by her siblings: Eunice Camp, Huland (Betty) Moore, Hubert (Wanda) Moore and Frances (Randall) Jones; children: Carol (Billy) Rigsby, Ricky (Brenda) Cornelius, Mike (Cindy) Witcher and Tina Cornelius; grandchildren: Will Rigsby, Adam (Jessica) Cornelius, Brandy (Josh) Carnes, Josh (Shelly) Rigsby, Elizabeth (Joshua) Young, Alex (Libbi) Withcer and Christina (Ryan) Thompson and 13 great grandchildren. Betty was preceded in death by her parents, grandparents and husband, Franklin Douglas "Doug" Cornelius. The family would like to thank all of the wonderful, loving and caring staff at Woodland Village Healthcare and Comfort Care Hospice.

**Funeral services for Steven D. Butts**, 54, of Hanceville will be Thursday June 6 at 11 a.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home with Reverend Gary Waddell officiating. Steven passed away on June 2, 2019. after a brief illness. Visitation is Wednesday June 5 from 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home. Interment will be at Duck River Cemetery in Walter. He is survived by his parents Frank and June Butts of Walter, Al. and brother Stuart (Claudia) Butts of Kauai, Hawaii, niece Kylie Butts, nephew Sean Butts, an uncle, Harold Loyd, an aunt, Ellen Harris, and numerous cousins.

**Ella "Odell" Elrod**, age 93, passed away peacefully in her home in the Walter community surrounded by her family on June 2, 2019. She was affectionately known as Maw Maw. She was born January 2, 1926 in Blountsville Alabama to Lon and Nancy New. She met and married Roy Wesley Elrod. They were married in 1943 and was married for 70 years until his death in 2009. They raised 5 children in that community. Throughout her life Odell was a caring and loving mother and neighbor always ready to call and visit those in need with encouragement and something special from her kitchen. Her passion was her family, her home and her Lord. She will be missed by all that knew her. She is preceded in death by her husband Roy, infant son Garry Elrod. Funeral services are Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Moss Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Lane Howard officiating. Interment will be in Duck River Cemetery. She is survived by her five children: Larry (Linda) Elrod, Gary (Lisa) Elrod, Sharon (Junior) Burnham, Keith Elrod, Tony (Kelly) Elrod, ten grandchildren, fifteen great grandchildren, four great great grandchildren, step daughter Yvonne Boone, stepson Ishmil Elrod, three step grandchildren, four step great grandchildren, one step great great grandchild. Those lives who Odell touched and family and friends are invited to attend her visitation on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 from 6-9 p.m. at Moss Funeral Home.

**Rayburn A. Bradley**, 81, of Cullman died Sunday, June 2, 2019. He was preceded in death by his parents: Robert and Myrtle Bradley and his brothers: Robert Jr., Clifton, Winford, and Athel Bradley. Rayburn is survived by his wife, Sue Bradley; daughters: Rhonda Dewalt (Gregg) and Sandra Armistead (Alton); grandsons: Alton Armistead III (Jana) and Macon Armistead (Amy); great grandchildren: Cain and Cash Armistead and Mya and Marli Winchester and his sister, Lucille Shoenewald. The family will receive friends on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 from 12:30 p.m. until the Celebration of Rayburn's life which will begin at 2 p.m. at St. Andrews Methodist Church. Burial will follow in Cullman City Cemetery. Please visit mossservicefh.com to leave condolences for the family. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

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BUSINESS

# Byars|Wright to open office in Cullman

**Lacey Rae Visintainer**
Contributor

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** – Byars|Wright, a local family-owned and operated independent insurance agency, announces its expansion into Cullman. Trae Norrell, currently a producer within the agency, will lead the new office, located in the historic West Side Furniture Building at 216 Third St. SE.

"Opening an office in Cullman is a natural progression for our agency and one that we're thrilled to finally announce, as we've had a Cullman office in our sights for years," said Haig Wright, II, president and CEO of Byars|Wright. "With our fifth location in Cullman, we are well-positioned to continue cultivating our footprint along the I-65 corridor. This opportunity is a positive reflection on our relationships in Cullman as well as our entire team. Both are critical to the success of our endeavors."

As branch manager, Norrell will relocate his office from Gardendale to Cullman. The Samford University alumnus is also a pastor at Grace Chapel and heavily involved with The Link of Cullman County where he is chairman of the board.

"We knew when we hired Trae that he has great potential," said Wright. "We also knew that he would be the one to bring our Cullman office to fruition. His willingness and work ethic are unparalleled."

Andy Byars, vice president of Byars|Wright, said Norrell will be an exemplary leader for this new office.

"Trae demonstrates the servant leadership mentality that we value at Byars|Wright," Byars said. "We're proud to support his professional and personal growth with this opportunity."

Cullman's commitment to its community, focus on supporting local and progressive business and economic development were attractive qualities to the insurance agency.

Investing in and serving their communities is a primary focus of each Byars|Wright branch according to the agency, which has been an active Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce member and Rock the South sponsor for years.

Local contractors will be utilized to complete the renovations to the interior of the West Side Furniture Building. These contractors and Byars|Wright will work together to preserve the history and charm of this unique space.

It is expected to open for business in fall 2019. Byars|Wright plans to grow this office organically and is actively seeking local, talented individuals to join the team in the Cullman office.

This expansion to Cullman is one of many growth opportunities that Byars|Wright has capitalized on in recent years.

The insurance agency opened its doors in Homewood in April and acquired another agency in Alabaster only last summer. With each new office, the independent agency extends Byars|Wright's long-standing history of developing strong relationships and investing in communities.

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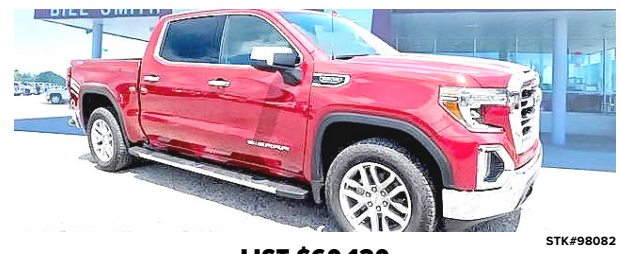
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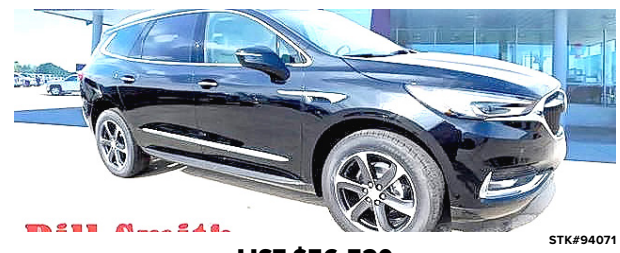
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