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The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 146 • 50¢ PER COPY | *JUNE 11, 2019* | USPS 139-700 • NO. 71

- FEATURE -

River residents sound off about Tyson's Mulberry Fork spill, fish kill

Photo taken Saturday morning on the Mulberry Fork downstream from the Tyson plant shows dead fish in the water. »



KEITH FINK

W. C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – The June 6 spill of "partially treated effluent" (liquid waste or sewage) into the Dave Young Creek, which flows into the Mulberry Fork, by the Tyson Foods, Inc. Hanceville rendering plant, (formerly owned by American Proteins), provoked anger and fear among residents along the river, and among environmental activists- but it did not seem to surprise anyone. Witnesses to this incident told The Cullman Tribune: "It's not the first time."

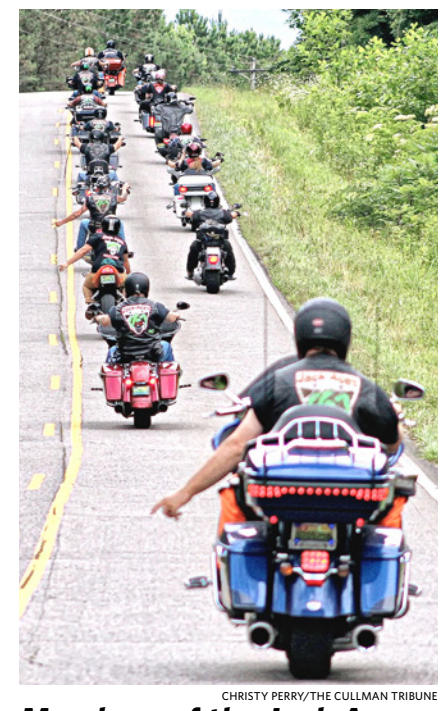
In August 2016, American Proteins spilled 900 gallons of sulfuric acid into the river at approximately the same point where last week's spillage took place. In May and June 2015, American Proteins accidentally released 80,000 gallons of wastewater into the river at the same location. The company was fined $50,000 by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) for the two incidents. (www.cullmantribune.com/2016/12/01/updated-american-proteins-to-pay-50000-fine-for-violations-including-mulberry-fork-acid-spill)

The plant was also the source of a spill in 2011, which was attributed to damage from the April 27 tornadoes. The company was not charged or fined.

All three events resulted in fish kills, but residents say last Thursday's event looks bigger than any of the previous incidents. » PAGE 7

FAREWELL TO A BROTHER

Jack Aces, family say good-bye to Deputy Timmy Puckett



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Members of the Jack Aces Riding Club ride toward Deputy Timmy Puckett's hunting club in Houston, Alabama Saturday. They, along with Puckett's wife and children, rode there to scatter Puckett's ashes. » PAGE 3

Are you ready to roll?

Roller derby team forming in Cullman

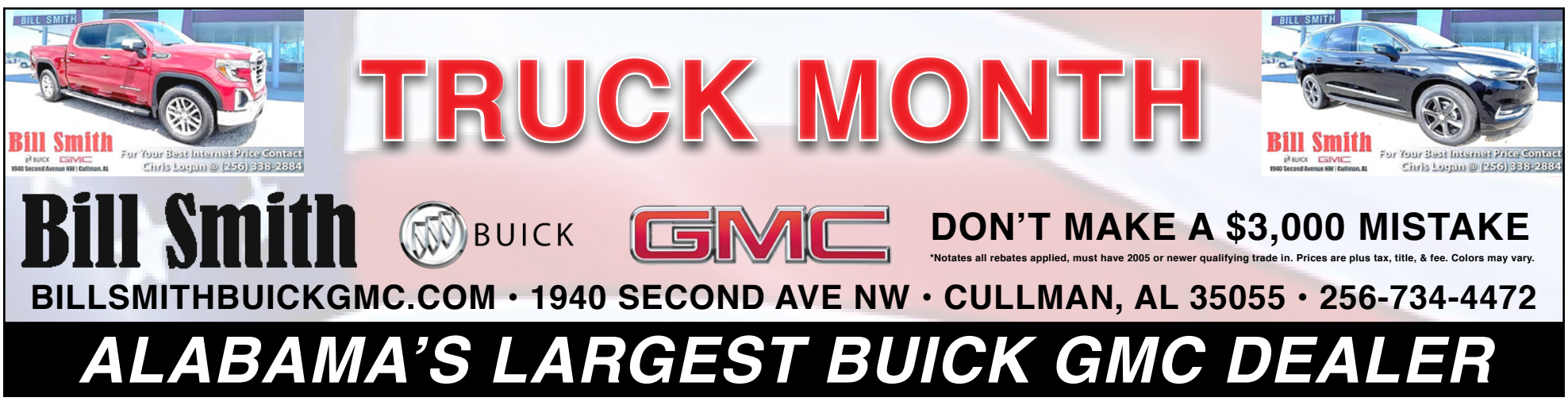
Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – For many people in Cullman County, organized sports end after high school or college. Cullman resident Joe Conkle II is looking to change that by bringing roller derby to the area to compete with other teams in the region.

To find out more about this team (known as the Mud Angels at the moment), The Tribune talked with Conkle, who is the team manager.

What inspired you to form a roller derby team?

"The idea for starting a roller derby team here in Cullman came about almost naturally. Cullman is at least 40 minutes from everything outside of itself and situated right off of an interstate highway. I personally became interested in women's roller derby when I lived in Huntsville, having many friends who were involved with the Dixie Derby Girls. I moved to Cullman in 2014 to live with my fiancée (we will be mar- » PAGE 2



Arrests and incidents reported June 10

Maggie Darnell
maggie@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported June 10, 2019. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

No incidents reported.

ARRESTS

June 6

Aderholt, Shauna Dawn, 38
- FTA- permitting dogs to run at large
- probation violation – unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Billings, Kevin Dwayne, 46
- first-degree criminal mischief

Hale, Daxton Kain, 20
- attempting to elude
- disorderly conduct
- third-degree domestic violence – third-degree criminal mischief

Huskey, Tammie Leann, 25
- FTA- first-degree receiving stolen property
- FTA- running a red light

Marcum, Dennis Ray Jr., 39
- GJ- third-degree burglary
- GJ- first-degree receiving stolen property

Ray, James Edward, 32
- first-degree bail jumping – unlawful possession of a controlled substance
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Romine, Sherry Ann, 44
- DUI – alcohol & controlled substance

Williams, Leslie Brayden, 19
- harassment (2 counts)

June 7

Burgess, Charles Patrick W., 28
- third-degree burglary (4 counts)

Little, Benjamin Jabron, 39
- third-degree burglary
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Parson, Jordan Noah, 18
- second-degree burglary
- second-degree kidnapping
- first-degree receiving stolen property
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence – harassing communication

Ponder, Steven Wayne, 59
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Sansing, Justin Michael, 27
- DUI - .08 BAC or greater

Self, Cru Alex, 30
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence – third-degree assault
- FTA- third-degree theft of property

June 8

Addison, Kayla Mae, 26
- FTA- obstruction– using false ID

Jenkins, Jessica Lynn, 19
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Meyer, Paul Steven, 41
- probation violation – failure to register/establish SORNA

Weaver, Tony Edward, 37
- probation violation – unlawful possession of a controlled substance

June 9

Brock, Ronnie Lee, 75
- home repair fraud

Buxton, Paul Edward Jr., 42
- second-degree bail jumping – third-degree domestic violence – harassment
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence – harassment
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Creel, Zachary Shane, 35
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Edwards, Donald Lee, 61
- fourth-degree theft of property

Hines, Timmy Lemark, 56
- probation violation – unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Lawrence, Raymond David, 30
- third-degree domestic violence – harassment

Mathis, Alan Bradley, 39
- FTA- public intoxication (3 counts)

Rice, Kenith David, 41
- second-degree bail jumping – third-degree domestic violence – menacing
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence – menacing

Watson, Renae, 41
- third-degree domestic violence – harassing communication

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

June 7
- fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; General Merchandise; $127
- first-degree theft of property, unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, second-degree burglary; Tanner Dr. NW; '05 Chev. Suburban, miscellaneous items; unknown amount of property value
- fourth-degree theft of lost property; person; Olive St. SW; cash; unknown amount of property value
- harassment; person; Hickory Ave. SW
- unauthorized use of vehicle; Newman's Cleaners; Main Ave. SW
- first-degree theft by deception; Mitch Smith Chevrolet; Cherokee Ave. SW; cash; $33,011
- fourth-degree theft of lost property; Hwy. 157; cash; unknown amount of property value
- fourth-degree theft of property, third-degree criminal trespassing; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; Misc. items; $75

June 8
- fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; cash; $25
- first-degree theft of property; person; Laurel Ln. SW; '19 Kawasaki Ninja 400; $6,000
- second-degree criminal mischief; R. Champ Crocker LLC; 2nd Ave. SE; damaged property; $600
- third-degree domestic violence; person; Hwy. 157
- first-degree theft of property; person; Cooper Cir. SW; '13 Honda CBR500R; $5,000
- duty upon striking an unattended vehicle; person; Hwy. 157; damage to '14 GMC Sierra; $1,800
- leaving the scene of an accident; Car & Truck Rentals Inc.; Cherokee Ave. SW, Main Ave SW; damage to '20 Toyota Corolla; $3,000

June 10
- third-degree criminal trespassing; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

June 7

Fox, Samantha S., 34
- fourth-degree theft of property

Elms, Roena R., 44
- FTA- insurance violation
- FTA- running a stop sign
- FTA- expired tag

Reid, James W., 25
- fourth-degree theft of property

Crenshaw, Ashley R., 27
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- public intoxication
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

June 8

Ballow, Tracy a., 33
- fourth-degree theft of property

Pearce, Troy E., 30
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Pate, Cody W., 33
- DUI

Rainey, Kelsey A., 28
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Mathis, Alan B., 39
- public intoxication
- FTA- public intoxication (4 counts)
- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

Brizendine, Christopher N., 44
- FTA- insurance violation
- FTA- driving while revoked

June 9

Elliott, Jordan E., 26
- disorderly conduct

Thoma, Edward E., 52
- FTA- public intoxication (2 counts)
- FTA- resisting arrest (2 counts)
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence

McIntosh, Rena S., 41
- obstructing government operations

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

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

Roll (from Front)

ried in September). Noticing Cullman's unique location and equal proximity to cities such as Birmingham, Huntsville, Albertville/Guntersville, Arab and more, I have always felt that Cullman could offer a great deal to north Alabama in regards to sports and entertainment. Rock the South is a great example of that fact.

"But I chose roller derby, a sport that I have become familiar with over the past few years through friends. Cullman has never had any sort of sports team beyond high school and Wallace State to represent this area. We have never had a minor league team or semi-professional in any sport. And unlike other sports, roller derby is one that prides itself on helping the community. The vast majority of roller derby teams out there (over 400 across six continents) are organized as nonprofit organizations that help raise awareness and funding for other charities in their area. To me it is the only sport that is truly giving back."

When did the team officially form?

"This team has yet to officially form according to the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (https://wftda.com/). The organization that oversees all of the rules and regulations of this sport is currently in its season and will not be accepting new teams until early next year. Until then, our focus is on recruiting, organizing and training. When it comes time to become official, we want to stand ready as serious contenders to the other teams in the Southeast. Currently we are holding open practices for anyone who wishes to join us on the old tennis courts at Nesmith Park, a blessing granted to us by the folks at Cullman City Parks and Rec. These practice sessions are every Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. All are welcome to come whether they are there to participate or just watch."

On team composition and future events:

"There are currently 10 to 12 women who are seriously interested in being on this team. We are still working out scheduling details as well as working on finalizing decisions on our team name, team colors and team logo. There is a lot of work still to be done, but we are certainly committed."

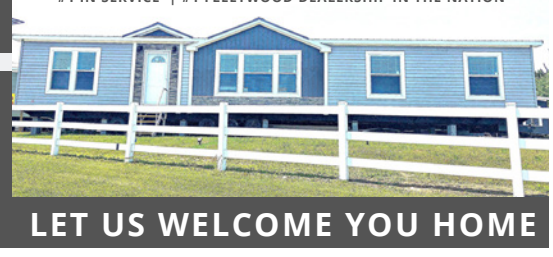
Any other details you want people to know about?

"Right now, we need to get the word out. We have a Facebook page, 'Cullman WFTDA Roller Derby Team,' as well as a Facebook group, 'We Support Cullman Roller Derby.' The group acts as an active petition to show local businesses and local officials that there is an interest among the people on this. Like our page and join our group. That's my most immediate message at the moment."

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR
June 11 - 13

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

Cullman County Commission Meeting
10 a.m. in the commission meeting room on the first floor of 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, 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

Cullman County School Board Meeting
5:30 p.m. in the boardroom at the Cullman County Board of Education

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

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

Cullman County Republican Women Meeting
- 6 p.m. at Cullman VFW Post 2214, 112 Veterans Dr. SW
- All citizens are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.
- June's guest speaker will be Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

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.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

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

Dodge City Town Council Meeting
6 p.m. at Dodge City Town Hall

UPCOMING....

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.

Cullman City School Board Meeting
June 18 at 5 p.m. in the boardroom at the Cullman City Board of Education

Cullman Regional Safety with the Sheriff Seminar
In recognition of National Safety Month, Cullman Regional is hosting a Safety with the Sheriff Seminar on Thursday, June 20. Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry will share information on community safety, scams and drug awareness. Join us for this informative seminar and learn tips to keep you safe! 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Colonel Cullmann Room, located in Professional Office Building 2 on the Cullman Regional Campus (1912 AL Hwy 157, Cullman, AL 35058). The cost of this lunch and learn program is $5 for Healthy Life members and $8 for others. To reserve your spot, register at www.cullmanregional.com or call 256-735-5600.

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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Farewell (from Front)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Kim Puckett fulfilled one of her final promises to her late husband Timmy Puckett Saturday. The Puckett family, accompanied by Timmy's brothers, the Jack Aces, rode to the Yellow Creek Hunting Club in Houston, Alabama to scatter his ashes.

"He loved guns and hunting," Kim said.

The Jack Aces Riding Club is considered family, and along with Kim, the club organized the memorial ride to the hunting club to say farewell to its brother. Timmy Puckett passed away April 23, 2019 at the age of 47 after a hard fought battle with cancer. He and Kim have two daughters, Kinlee and Kyla, who attend Vinemont schools. He served as a Cullman County Sheriff's Office deputy and was a dedicated member of the Jack Aces.

The Saturday morning ride looked as though it was going to be a wet one as club members gathered at the Moore's Texaco in their raingear.

Then a blessing: about 15 minutes before kickstands up, the rain stopped, the sky lightened and the sun appeared. So, off with the raingear and on with the ride.

The day was perfect as Timmy was taken to the place he loved, by the people he loved and by the way he loved.

The impact he made on each and every person could be seen and felt as the Jack Aces made their way to the hunting club.

They undoubtedly took time to personally reflect on all the wonderful times they had with their brother.

Upon arriving at Yellow Creek, the group walked a short distance down a path to a clearing overlooking a valley in the Bankhead Forest. They watched together as Timmy's ashes were scattered, by air, in a place that brought him joy and peace.

"He made me promise," Kim said. "Throughout the whole sickness he was like, 'Promise me, promise me.' He hated funeral homes. He didn't want that."

After the short and intimate farewell, everyone grabbed lunch at Chef Tony's Restaurant in Houston and did just what Timmy would have wanted.

They laughed, they joked and, most importantly, came together as one loving family.

Kim later wrote on Facebook, "I cannot thank this group enough for not only today but for all they have done for us. Today we rode to Timmy's hunting club in Houston, Alabama to scatter his ashes. It's one of the last things I promised I would do. Although it was a hard day, you guys made it easier and possible."

Jack Aces president Derrick Barton shared, "Today was a good day. (It was) also a hard day. Had a good ride even though we got a little wet but it was worth it. Like Tony Hardin said earlier, 'If you missed it, then you missed something we can't duplicate and I hope we never have to.' Today was for Timmy Puckett. I miss you brother. Like I've said before, rest easy. We have your family because they are our family and they will damn sure always be my family. Love you brother."

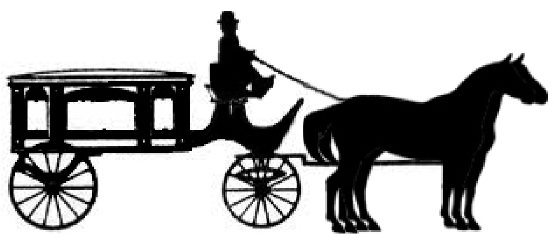
As the ride concluded and Kim, Kinlee and Kyla, each wearing matching silver necklaces with pendants of Timmy's thumbprint, stood sharing stories and pictures of him.

Kim said, "Now it's going to sunshine."

Kinlee replied sweetly, "Because it's over."

Obituary Announcements: June 7 - 10

presented by



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Kaylene Wilkins McReath passed away on June 7, 2019 at the age of 72. She was born June 12, 1946 in Addison Alabama to William Joseph and Evie Emily Williams Wilkins. Graveside services are Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 2 p.m. at Pisgah Cemetery at Addison. Survivors are: daughters Holly Gable, Michele Jacobs, son Terry McReath, sister Martha (Eddie) Knight, brother Willard (Karen) Wilkins and 6 grandchildren. Visitation will be Tuesday at Moss Funeral Home from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Willie Crow, age 78, of Walter Community, passed away Saturday, June 8, 2019. He was born in Morgan County to Herman O'Brien and Hattie Ramey Crow. Willie worked in small engine repair. Willie served our country in the U.S. Army, was a member of the Baptist faith, member of the Masons, Shriner, and Eastern Star. He served as a Worthy Patron of the Eastern Star. He was predeceased by his parents; brothers, Claud, Robert and Elton Crow; sisters, Rachel Halsey, and Nina Sutton. Survivors are his Wife of 51 years, Brenda Hale Crow; Brothers, Donald and Tommy Crow; Sisters, Reva Byrd and Linda Freeman; Brother In-law, Glen Hale, Fred Hale, Randy Hale; Sister In-Laws Barbara Crow, Sue Barnett, and Sandra Allison; and a host of nieces and nephews. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Crow family.

Dorothy Imogene McClendon, age 99, of Cullman died Saturday, June 8, 2019. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ernest McClendon; parents Erie & Agnes Wilson Baker; daughters Glenda Ann Nail & Carolyn Vandiver; son Maxie McClendon; sisters Ruth Moon and Marcell Ginn; and brothers Harold Baker and Howard Baker. Mrs. McClendon is survived by daughter, Melissa Roseberry; son, Leon McClendon (Linda); sisters Mary Ellen Hutchison and Mildred Sandlin; brother, Donald Baker; 10 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. The family will receive friends Tuesday, June 11, 2019 from 1 p.m. until the Celebration of Mrs. McClendon's life, which will begin at 3 p.m. at New Prospect Church. Burial will follow in the adjoining cemetery. Please visit mossservicefh.com to leave condolences for the family. Moss Service Funeral Home Directing.

Donald Jack Tucker of Decatur passed away June 8, 2019 at the age of 91. He was born in Cullman March 17, 1928 to Joel Jack and Mullice Perdue Tucker. He graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and he worked for NASA in Huntsville at Redstone Arsenal. Survivors are: daughter Susan Kingsley, sons Joel Mark Tucker and John Kevin Tucker.

Funeral services for Bobby Ray Hitt, 56 of Hanceville will be held 11 a.m., Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at Mt. Grove Baptist Church with Reverends Mark Long and Gary Sartain officiating. His family will receive friends Monday evening beginning at 5:30 at the funeral home and Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. at the church. Burial will follow in the adjoining cemetery. Mr. Hitt died Sunday at Folsom Center. Bobby is survived by his mother, Othelia Hitt and siblings; Michael (Betty) Hitt, Joyce Shelton, Buddy (Glinda) Hitt and Phillip (Windy) Hitt. He was preceded in death by his father, Robert and siblings Eugene Hitt and Rita Abbott.

Free Obituary Listings

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

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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 6/25/2019 at 10:00am. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings.

Chris Russel unit #410: 38475 State Hwy 75, Altoona, Alabama, 35952.

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

PB MIN BK 179 PG 860 - 06/10/2019 09:15 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

THE STATE OF ALABAMA — IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN — CASE NUMBER PC2019-129
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF APRIL DAWN LANDINGER, DECEASED

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to the **DEBORAH DOLLAR** on the 7th day of June 2019 by the Honorable **TAMMY BROWN**, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 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.

DEBORAH DOLLAR
Personal Representative

John S. Odem
210 West Tennessee Street
Florence, AL 35630

****

To the Publisher of the Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the above notice once a week for three consecutive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

PB WIL BK 91 PG 103 - 06/07/2019 03:18 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2019-134

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF HAZEL BEATRICE PERSALL HATHCOTE, DECEASED

NOTICE OF HEARING OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF HAZEL BEATRICE PERSALL HATHCOTE

TO: THE HEIRS AND NEXT-OF-KIN OF HAZEL BEATRICE PERSALL HATHCOTE AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

The Petition of William C. Porter to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Hazel Beatrice Persall Hathcote, deceased, has been set for hearing on the 13th day of August, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

All persons in interest residing or being without the state are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith, Esquire
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
steve@smithandsmithllp.com
(256) 734-4721

PB MIN BK 179 PG 844 - 06/07/2019 02:33 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
GLINDLE LEE GILL * CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
an incapacitated person * CASE NO. PC 2019-158

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: Deana Davenport
Address - Unknown

You will please take notice that the 10th day of July, 2019, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. has been appointed the day and time for hearing the Petition For Letters of Guardianship and Conservatorship filed by Annie Osborn at which time you can appear and contest the same, if you see proper.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court this 7th day of June, 2019.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

TO: Publisher
The Cullman Tribune

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

Attorneys for Petitioner:
J. Bradley Wilson
BAGGETT & WILSON, LLC
206 Ninth Street Southwest, Suite 102
Cullman, AL 35055
256/737-0740

PB MIN BK 179 PG 854 - 06/10/2019 08:44 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
BETTY JANE DUKE SCREWS * CASE NO.: PC-2019-180
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Philip A. Screws as Administrator of the Estate of Betty Jane Duke Screws, deceased, on the 7th day of June, 2019, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same be barred.

Betty Jane Duke Screws
Administrator

Erick K. Pratt
Attorney for Administrator
P.O. Box 1906
Decatur, AL 35602

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 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, * CASE NO PC-2019-170
Deceased.

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

ALL-STATE SOFTBALL

Swann lands on 1st-team, several local players honored as well

Nick Griffin/ Sammy Confer

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Alabama Sports Writers Association released the all-state softball team for 2019 late Friday night and Good Hope's Bailey Swann earned a spot on the first team after a stellar senior season. Five other local players earned recognition as well, staring with Swann's fellow infielder Skylar Tucker and West Point infielder Makayla Brown who secured spots on the second team. Fairview's Katie Ball, Hanceville's Cassidy Campbell and Cullman's Alex Stansell each earned an honorable mention on this year's all-state team.

Swann, a Snead State signee, was a nearly unstoppable force at the plate this season.

Swann finished the season with a .570 batting average, a team-leading 6 homers, 49 RBIs, 57 runs scored, and she led the team with 35 stolen bases during her senior campaign.

Perhaps Swann's biggest hit of the season came against White Plains in the West-Central Regional title game when her walk-off double in the bottom of the seventh punched Good Hope's ticket to this year's state tournament.

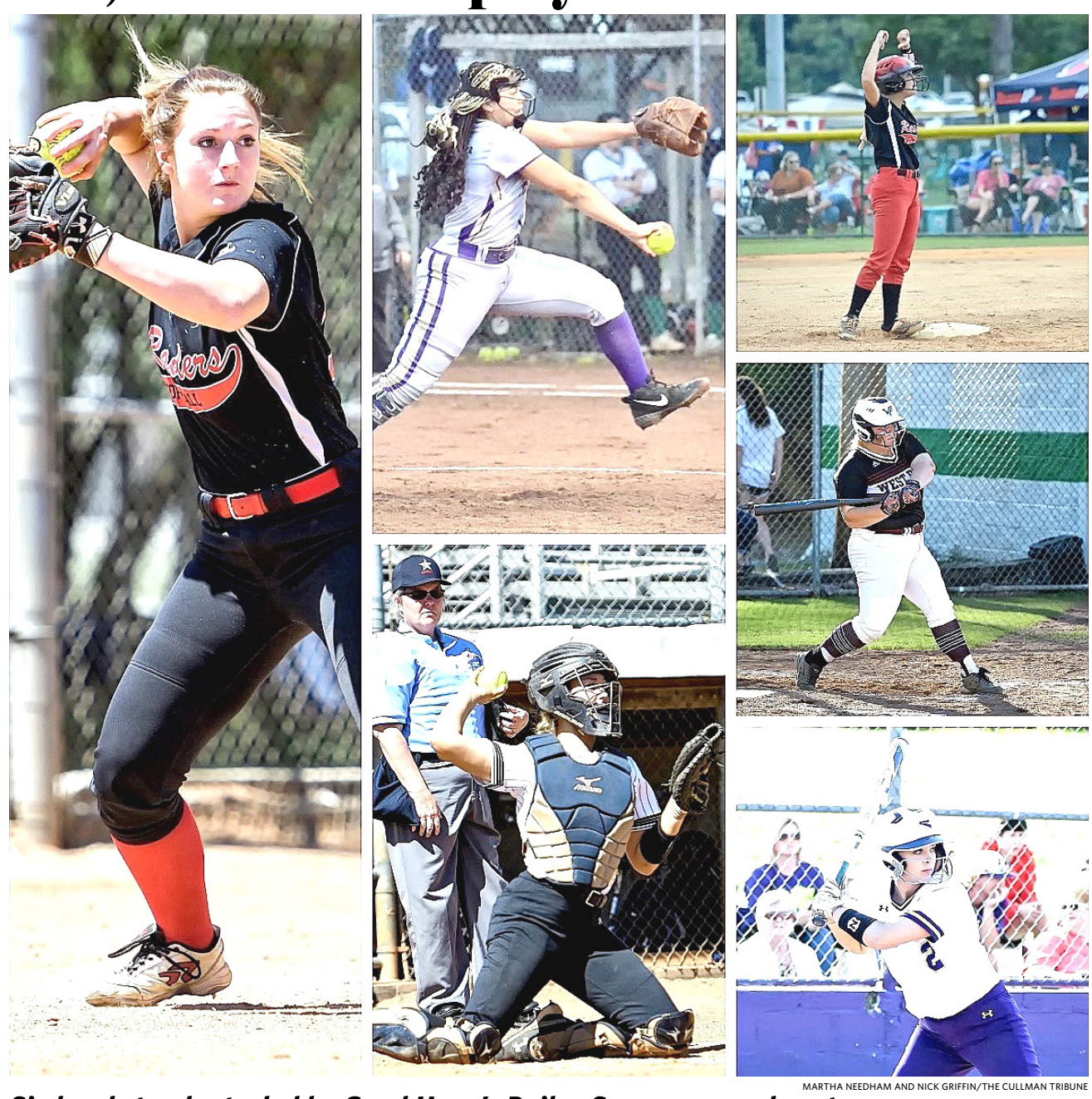
Tucker was another anchor on the left side of the infield for the Lady Raiders this year. On top of leading the defense from her shortstop position, Tucker finished the season hitting .482 with a home run, 36 RBIs, 38 runs scored and a team-high 18 doubles to earn a spot on the second team. Both Swann and Tucker graduated in May and after the careers they've both put together in their time at Good Hope, a few players will have to step up to try and replace all of that production in 2020. Tucker will join Swann at Snead State next season as well.

Tucker is joined on the all-state second team by Lady Warriors infielder Makayla Brown. Along with being a fixture of the West Point defense, Brown was one of the most important pieces of the Lady Warriors' offense.

One of her most impressive performances of the season was against Cullman in March when Brown went 4-for-4 at the plate and racked up a whopping eight RBIs in a 15-4 win. Brown graduated in May and her offensive numbers will be difficult to replace for West Point next year but Brown plans to keep driving in runs when she starts her career at Snead State next season.

Hanceville's Cassidy Campbell earned an all-state honorable mention after posting a 7-6 record as a sophomore. Coming off of an injury, she continued to improve and lead the way in the circle and at the plate for the Lady Bulldogs who finished with an 8-14 mark on the season. Hanceville has a lot of youth returning to the field in 2020 and Campbell will be looked to as one of the leaders as she continues to get better.

Fairview junior Katie Ball collected an honorable mention on this year's team and was a big factor for the Lady Aggies on the mound and at the plate this season.



MARTHA NEEDHAM AND NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Six local standouts, led by Good Hope's Bailey Swann, earned spots on the all-state softball team after great 2019 seasons.

Ball had several highlights throughout the spring including hitting a walk-off, 3-run home run in the Lady Aggies' come-from-behind win over Ashville at home. With her being one of several players coming back next season, Ball will look to make even more noise in her senior year and help the Lady Aggies get back to the postseason.

Alex Stansell was one of just two seniors on the roster for the Cullman Lady Bearcats this season and a big season at the plate earned here an honorable mention on this year's all-state squad. Stansell led the way for the Lady Bearcats at the plate, collecting three homeruns on the season, most notably a walk-off bomb against Southside earlier in the season. With Stansell moving on after graduation, Cullman will have big shoes to both in the box and behind the plate in 2020.

ALL-STATE BASEBALL

Cullman's Patterson named 6A Coach of the Year, 6 local players earn all-state honors

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – 2019 was a great season to be a Cullman Baseball fan and accolades continue to come down the line for the 'Cats, along with several other local standouts. The Alabama Sports Writers Association's All-State baseball selections were announced late Saturday night and Bearcats Head Coach Brent Patterson has been named the 6A Coach of the Year after helping lead the 'Cats to their fifth state title in school history. Patterson's Cullman squad finished with a 30-13 mark this season after playing all but three games on the road and capped of the season with a 6A state crown, Patterson's second as head coach of the Bearcats.

This season was an unconventional one for Cullman. With the construction of the new turf field stretching deep into the season, the 'Cats were forced to play all but three second-round playoff games away from home. In a season full of adversity, Patterson credits not just his fellow coaches on staff for the recognition, but his players on the field as well.

"I don't know how to describe it. Anyone that knows the program knows that it's definitely not me, it's we. It's a culmination of all those assistants I lean on so heavily every day in practice and during games for decisions and everything else.

"I'd say it's an honor because I get to accept it on all of our behalf's, not just mine by any means. It's a team effort for sure and most of the time the coach of the year goes to whoever's players played the best," Patterson joked. "So, it really goes back to them."

Cullman's Cooper Beck earned a spot on this year's all-state first team while his teammate Peyton Colvard, West Point's Aubry Cleghorn and Hunter Persall and Hanceville's Ashton James each landed on the all-state second team in their respective classifications. Brennen Norton collected an honorable mention on this year's 6A team after a stellar sophomore season with the Bearcats.

Beck was a huge part of the 'Cats' success in 2019. The senior second baseman was a fixture in the top of the lineup and along with his contributions offensively and in the infield, Beck tossed some valuable innings on the mound this season. He wasn't a regular part of the Cullman rotation from start to finish but he did collect a no-hitter on the hill during his senior campaign and will try to continue growing and developing his game when he gets his college career started with the Wallace State Lions next season.

"Cooper is just a phenomenal athlete and he brings so many things to the table. Offensively, he hit nearly .400, he can run the bases, apply pressure and covers so much ground defensively at second base," Patterson said.

"He can help you win games in so many different ways so for him to be recognized on the first team is awesome. It's a testament to how much hard work he's put in and what it takes to separate from the rest of everybody in the state."

Colvard was another big-time player and leader for the Bearcats in 2019. The senior right-hander became one of the most important cogs in the pitching rotation for Cullman throughout the season and seemed to improve as the year went on. Peyton finished the season with a 7-2 record on the hill to go along with his offensive production and he'll only look to keep growing as an al-around player when he heads to Calhoun for the start of his collegiate career next season.

"I think when he gave us stability on the mound is when we really took off," Patterson said. "Some guys started to understand their roles and we were able to kind of build a pitching staff around him and I think what he was able to do gave the team confidence to go out and start putting the puzzle pieces together and believe we really had a chance"

2019 was something of a breakout season for West Point sophomore Aubry Cleghorn. The right-hander stepped up and threw some big innings for the Warriors as one of the primary arms in the rotation this year and managed to put together a 6-2 record. Cleghorn also found himself in the heart of Coach Drew Bryson's lineup this season and with a couple more seasons left in front of him at West Point, Cleghorn is set up to only keep growing as a player.

It's been an interesting athletic career for West Point's Hunter Persall. The senior catcher earned a spot on this year's all-state second team after yet another standout season with the Warriors and did damage both behind the plate and in the box this season.

Persall moved into the leadoff spot of the West Point lineup this season and proved to be one of the most reliable bats for the Warriors offensively but the best news for Persall came earlier when he learned he would be continuing his playing career with Wallace State.

Health issues have threatened Persall's athletic career for years but now he'll get the chance to extend his playing days with the Lions starting in 2020.

A Hanceville Bulldog landed a spot on this year's all-state second team as well. Junior outfielder Ashton James earned second-team honors after a phenomenal season with the Bulldogs. James was one of Hanceville's most consistent hitters in the top of the lineup this season and seemed to always find a way on-base.

The Bulldogs will look to James for another big year of production as he gears up for his senior season on the diamond.

Cullman sophomore Brennen Norton already made his presence felt during his freshman season with the Bearcats but has already managed to step it up by the end of his sophomore season. The starting third baseman for the 'Cats also proved to be one of Coach Brent Patterson's most reliable arms on the mound and pitched Cullman out of countless sticky situations throughout the season.

Most recently, Norton recorded the Bearcats' only hit of the game and scored the game-winning run in the bottom of the seventh against Chelsea to take a 1-0 lead in the state championship series in Montgomery.

Norton has already become one of the anchors of this Cullman team and his role will only continue to grow as he continues to improve.

"In my opinion, Brennen Norton is the best third baseman in Alabama," Patterson said. "Because of what he does defensively combined with being just an electric offensive player with gap power to both sides of the field. He can handle the bat, bunt for hits and brings so much to the table offensively. He got off to a super slow start but day in and day out, that guy is phenomenal at third base. He's one of the best at-bats of anyone we've had in a long time."





Dodge City Day powers through rain

Maggie Darnell
maggie@cullmantribune.com

DODGE CITY, Ala. – Dodge City's annual festival, Dodge City Day, took place Saturday despite the rainy weather. Activity buzzed all around town hall with raffles for door prizes at the senior center, gospel group Genesis performing in the community center and several vendors setting up around town hall and near Life Church.

The local Girl Scout Troop handed out barbecue lunches at the senior center, while outside, children hopped the day away on the bouncy houses set in front of the church.

While some played, some were entertained by a clown who made toy balloons. Lakeside Pharmacy held a storewide sale for the festival.



MAGGIE DARNELL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Girl Scouts hand out barbecue lunches Saturday at Dodge City Day.

Dodge City Mayor Tawana Canada smiled, "Considering the rain, we had a good day, and our seniors always have a good day. I was disappointed that we didn't have more vendors out, but the gospel group Genesis had a larger turnout."

Canada thanked everyone for their help, saying, "Thank you everybody who participated. It took a lot of work to get this and we have a good staff and a lot of help."

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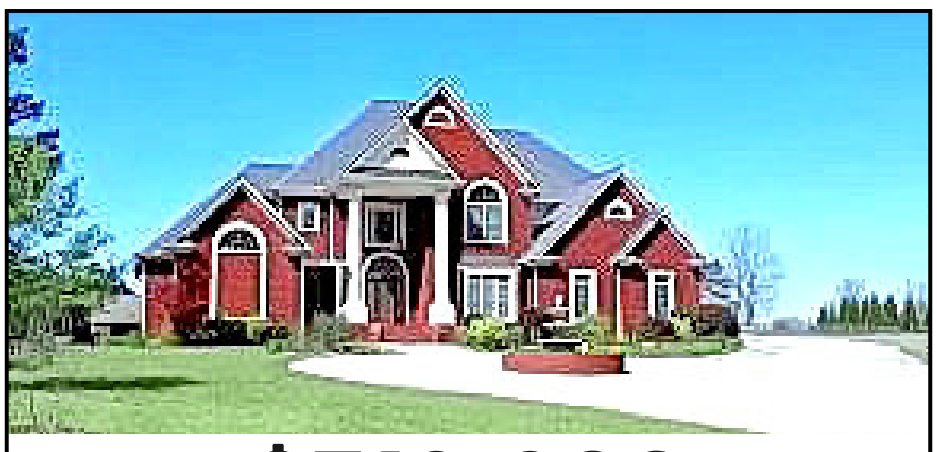


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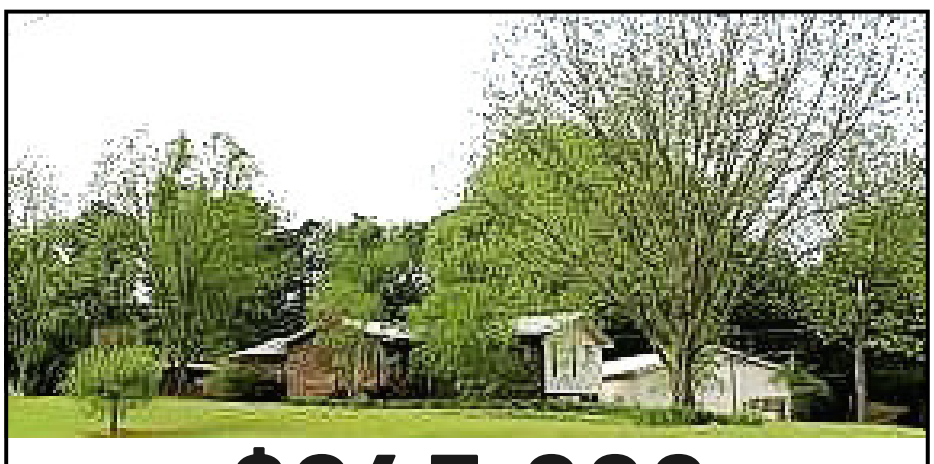
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EDUCATION

2 Cullman County students earn $1K Alfa Foundation scholarships

Mary Johns
Alfa Foundation

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - Two local college students will get a little relief when tuition bills come due for the 2019-2020 school year thanks to a $1,000 scholarship awarded through the competitive Alfa Foundation Scholarship Program.

Cullman County recipients are:

• Lillimae Allen of Cullman is a Cullman High School graduate and a freshman at the University of Mobile studying kinesiology.

• Olivia Ball of Vinemont is a West Point High School graduate and a freshman at Wallace State Community College at Hanceville studying criminology.

The program is administered through Scholarship America, which selects 100 recipients based on academics, participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience and future goals.

"This year's scholarship recipients prove the future is bright for Alabama," said Alfa Insurance and Alabama Farmers Federation President Jimmy Parnell. "I'm excited that we can help these students reach their goals by covering a portion of the cost of their education."

The 100 students hail from 45 Alabama counties and are seeking degrees at 20 institutions of higher learning in the state. Scholarships may be used for tuition, fees, books or supplies.

Over six years, the Alfa Foundation has awarded $550,000 in scholarships to students from 64 counties studying at 35 different Alabama universities, colleges and technical schools.

To view photos of the recipients, visit AlfaInsurance.com or go to Facebook.com/AlfaInsurance.



ALFA FOUNDATION

Lilliemae Allen (left) and Olivia Ball (right)

EDUCATION

2 local students earn degrees from Ole Miss

Rod Guajardo
University of Mississippi

OXFORD, Miss. - The following local students were among more than 5,500 University of Mississippi graduates who received their academic degrees May 11, 2019 at the university's 166th Commencement:

• Sydney Whittle, of Cullman, earned a Doctor of Pharmacy

• Sarah Brickell, of Cullman, earned a Specialist in Education

The University of Mississippi, affectionately known as Ole Miss, is the state's flagship university. Included in the elite group of R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification, it has a long history of producing leaders in public service, academics and business.

With more than 23,000 students, Ole Miss is the state's largest university and is ranked among the nation's fastest-growing institutions.

Its 16 academic divisions include a major medical school, nationally recognized schools of accountancy, law and pharmacy, and an Honors College acclaimed for a blend of academic rigor, experiential learning and opportunities for community action.

EDUCATION

3 local students earn degrees from Troy University

Matt Clower
Troy University

TROY, Ala. - Troy University is pleased to recognize students who completed the requirements for graduation during the spring semester and Term 4 of the 2018-2019 academic year. The spring semester includes graduates from the Troy campus.

Term 4 graduates include students at Troy's campuses in Dothan, Phenix City and Montgomery, along with teaching sites outside of Alabama and online.

Local students who graduated include:

• Jada Jones, of Vinemont

• Jessica Lawler, of Hanceville

• Oakleigh White, of Cullman

Troy University is a public, historic, international university with 22,500 students and 154,000 alumni. Students choose TROY for its quality academic programs, reasonable costs and availability of financial aid, outstanding faculty, and flexible in-class and online class offerings. Students on the Troy campus enjoy a traditional college experience, while adult students are the centers of attention at campuses in Dothan, Montgomery and Phenix City, as well as at locations around the world and online.

EDUCATION

2 local students earn degrees from Trevecca Nazarene University

Mandy Crow
Trevecca Nazarene University

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - On May 4, Trevecca Nazarene University celebrated the University's 118th Commencement Convocation.

The University conferred more than 1,140 degrees during the Saturday morning ceremony.

Local graduates include:

• Matthew Austin Davis, of Cullman. Davis earned a Bachelor of Arts.

• Madison Taylor Rusk, of Logan. Rusk earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Doctor Richard Parrott, Trevecca professor of leadership studies, served as the commencement speaker.

The author of Leadership Essentials: The Proven Path of Effective Leadership, Finding Your Path in Life and My Soul Purpose, Parrott has served on the University faculty since 2008.

He holds degrees from Eastern Nazarene College, Nazarene Theological Seminary, the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Oregon State University.

Trevecca Nazarene University is a Christian university in the heart of Nashville focused on preparing students for lives of leadership and service. Founded in 1901, Trevecca is committed to holistic education, encouraging students to grow intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually. U.S. News & World Report ranked Trevecca as a national university in the annual "2019 America's Guide to Colleges," making the University the only Nazarene institution to receive the national ranking. In 2016, the Carnegie Foundation classified Trevecca as a doctoral university, ranking it among the top 7 percent of schools nationwide. Located just one mile from thriving downtown Nashville, Trevecca offers classes at the main campus as well as four other locations across the Southeast and online classes offered worldwide. With students from 47 states and 25 countries, Trevecca offers 15 associate degrees, 83 undergraduate majors, 20 master's programs, and two doctoral programs, as well as specialist and certificate programs.

EDUCATION

3 local UA students participating in Summer 2019 Cooperative Education Program

Richard LeComte
Contributor

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. – More than 280 University of Alabama students are receiving hands-on, innovative and advanced educational experiences with dozens of companies and organizations across the United States through UA's Cooperative Education Program for summer 2019.

Among the students participating are:

• William Hicks, of Cullman, will be working at GE Appliances.

• Ryder Jones, of Cullman, will be working at Saiia Construction.

• Levi Laney, of Cullman, will be working at Saiia Construction.

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

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

While in school, students carry regular course schedules.

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

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

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

The University of Alabama, the state's oldest and largest public institution of higher education, is a student-centered research university that draws the best and brightest to an academic community committed to providing a premier undergraduate and graduate education.

UA is dedicated to achieving excellence in scholarship, collaboration and intellectual engagement; providing public outreach and service to the state of Alabama and the nation; and nurturing a campus environment that fosters collegiality, respect and inclusivity.

OPINION

Always Reforming: Life in Community (7)

Tom Fillinger
Tribune Correspondent

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

I want to begin by reminding you that these One Another statements are COMMANDS. They are not optional. They are not "I will obey if I feel like it!"

They are COMMANDS that must be honored if you claim to be a regenerate person and honor the LORD Jesus.

Churches endure splits and raging conflict because people who claim to be Christ-followers refuse to accept one another. This is often expressed in passive aggressive ways, but it is real and it is destructive.

Let's begin with this question – "What is your visceral (gut) response to those who are 'different' or those with whom you differ in the body of Christ?"

Question #2 – "What is the basis upon which you make the determination to 'reject' or 'accept' another believer?"

In the "The Homogeneous Church" the policy is "I accept only those who are 'just like me'!" That is a major reason the American Church is in such decline. The true church is incredibly diverse. People of all races, cultures, and nations (cf. Rev. 5:9-14).

Question #3 - "Why is it possible in the contemporary church to harbor rejection as 'normal'" The answer - prejudice, disobedience and a lack of accountability for that disobedience.

Romans 15:7 Therefore welcome (accept) one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Question #4 - "What does it mean to 'accept' another believer, a fellow member of the body of Christ?"

προσλαμβάνω
(1) take aside, take hold of and lead aside (MT 16.22) and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke
(2) receive hospitably, accept, welcome (PM 17) Onesimus was a renegade slave who became a brother in Christ while in prison with Paul. Paul states - receive Onesimus as you would receive me!

Application:
Recall a time/person that you rejected, did not "accept" who is a member of the body of Christ? What are the consequences of that rejection today? For you? For that person? For the church?

Negative Consideration - cf. Jn. 8:1-11 Woman taken in adultery. Why did all the accusers "drop their stones?"

Positive Consideration - What would the church be like today if this command were obeyed?

It is in accepting, "taking others along with us on our faith pilgrimage," living life in community that our Great God is honored and glorified. It is this demonstration of submission to Truth and to our love for one another in spite of our differences that "The Nations" are drawn to the Savior.

Do you and does your church obey this command? If not, you can change that behavior. Start a Reformation right where you worship. God is pleased by such obedience!

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Three on a String delights at Hanceville's 1st summer concert series event

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – Saturday's rain couldn't stop the first concert of the Hanceville Summer Concert Series. Originally scheduled to take place at Veterans Park, the event was moved to the Hanceville Civic Center, where the community was treated to a free concert featuring Three on a String, as well as fun games and activities for the kids.

Three on a String is a musical comedy group out of Birmingham that has made several appearances in and around Cullman throughout its nearly 50-year history.

The group's humor, vocals and ability to play multiple instruments has given it not only staying power, but also a very loyal fan base.

The group had people up dancing, clapping along and laughing non-stop.

Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail estimated approximately 800 people came out to enjoy the festivities and was pleased, considering the rain and storms, saying, "We are really pleased with the turnout that we had. Considering the weather on and off, we are happy. I just hope this thing grows."

Members of the community approached the mayor following the show, expressing how much they enjoyed the concert and saying they hoped to see Three on a String return to Hanceville.

Jerry Ryan, who is considered the lead man of the group, has Cullman County roots.

He explained, "Mom and Dad both went to Hanceville High School. I went over to the school today and got this," he said as he showed a picture taken from the school's hallway.

His parents were in the 1937 graduating class.

Added Ryan, "I've got a bunch of family here. My parents lived in White City and I spent my summers here."

After a standing ovation, fans lined up after the performance to meet the band members and purchase CDs.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Three on a String performs Saturday night in Hanceville.

Local favorite Jesse Priest Music opened the show with a set of rock classics and the Hanceville Middle School football team helped with games and activities outside, including a dunking booth.

The next concert in the series will be Saturday, July 20 featuring The Natchez Trace Band and Another Hero.

Spill (from Front)

Indirect notice omits Tyson name

On Friday morning, the day after the spill, The Tribune received this public notice:

This is a notice to the general public: on June 6, 2019, due to a failure in a pipe owned by River Valley Ingredients located near Hanceville, Alabama, partially treated effluent is believed to have reached the Dave Young creek, which flows to the Mulberry Fork.

River Valley Ingredients acted quickly and is engaged with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and has an environmental management company actively working on clean-up. The company is dedicated to swift remediation of this issue.

In an abundance of caution, the public is encouraged to avoid recreating in Dave Young creek or the Mulberry Fork until further notice.

The notice was sent out by Worth Sparkman, Tyson's senior manager for public relations. River Valley Ingredients is a trademark owned by Tyson Foods, whose local business address is the same as the chicken plant. On the trademark page of Justia.com, its business is described as producing animal feed from feather meal and chicken by-product meal.

Where does the Mulberry Fork go?

The Mulberry Fork begins in northeast Cullman County below Arab, then flows to the southwest, forming a portion of the boundary between Cullman and Blount Counties.

In western Walker County, it is joined by the Sipsey Fork and flows south to man-made Bankhead Lake at the junction of Walker, Jefferson and Tuscaloosa Counties, where it meets the Locust Fork. Together, they flow out of the lake to the southwest as the Black Warrior River, through Tuscaloosa to the Tombigbee River and south to Mobile.

The City of Birmingham Water Works Board draws water from the north end of Bankhead Lake to feed its Western and Putnam filter plants and deliver water to approximately 200,000 customers in Jefferson and four other counties.

Contamination in the tributaries of the Black Warrior can potentially affect wildlife, outdoor recreation, private homes and businesses, and water quality along a corridor from Cullman and Walker Counties through west and southwest Alabama to Mobile and the Gulf Coast, including the cities of Birmingham, Tuscaloosa and many other municipalities.

Residents react

On Saturday morning, Keith Fink, who lives on the Mulberry Fork, shot photos and videos near his home, then took to social media. Mentioning the 2016 acid spill, he went on to write:

"What ever they poured in the water this time has had a greater impact on the rivers ecosystem. This (see photos) is 14 miles down stream from the plant. Fish have been turning up for days with a steady stream floating down. Every size of every kind of fish. There is no telling how this might (impact) the waters further down steam. American (Protein) a Tyson company needs to pay up and They need to help build this beautiful river back up."

In his post, Fink concluded, "They need more than just a slap on the wrist. This is the 3rd fish kill on the same river I know of. All because of the same plant. Something needs to be done."

Michael Cates, who has a farm on the river near the junction of Cullman, Blount and Walker Counties approximately 20 miles downstream from the Tyson plant, told The Tribune:

"I'm 42. I've lived here my whole life . . . My grandfather bought this place back in the 50s, and my family's been there for generations.

"And we've had kills like this before from American Proteins, but it just started really getting out there, you know, with the popularity of social media and stuff like that.

"What they've done this time is just more catastrophic than the acid spill in '16.

"It's just ridiculous, and it seems like that they'll fine them 15, 20 thousand dollars, and then they'll let them go on about their business; then, a few years later, here comes another big leak which, you know tells us it's a maintenance issue.

"And now that Tyson owns it, you would think they could put enough money into their maintenance to prevent these things from happening."

Cates continued, "It's just ridiculous, you know. My dad, he passed away in 2016, and he was 61. He was born and raised on that river, and he wouldn't even eat fish that come out of the river on account of American Proteins. It's just ridiculous.

"What don't get reported is the green film that comes down the river. They've been polluting the river for generations.

"And now they say that they've got a cleanup crew doing this one here, but what they're not telling people is the after-effects. We fish that river: we stock our freezers up every summer for the winter, and, you know, I fish all during the summer and I stock my freezer up with it. And now, you know, our damn dogs can't even drink out of the river, in fear that they're going to die.

"If you think about it, we're 20 miles downstream, and we've got crawfish crawling on the banks and dying.

"A friend of mine sent a video down below us, and had probably a 20- or 25-pound flathead catfish come to the air, just swimming in circles, dying.

"So, the long-term effect is- they're saying they're cleaning it up, but yeah, they clean it up, but how long is it going to be before we can eat fish out of the river?

"Because I can tell you, six months from now, I'm not going to eat a catfish that survived this. They're not talking about the long-term effects of it.

"You know, they're saying cease recreation(al) use, but what about all of us that live on the river, that have animals that drink out of that river. There's just more to the story than they're wanting to put out."

Roger Perkins lives on the Blount County side of the Mulberry Fork, about 14 miles downstream from the plant. He told The Tribune about the amount of dead fish he saw in the river:

"It was huge. I've never seen nothing this big, and I've been here 30 years, approximately, on this river. And this is not the first time it's happened, but it's definitely the biggest.

"Friday morning- I can see the water from where I live- and Friday morning I was watching. You know, I thought, 'That looks strange.' All the fish was on top of the water, you know, and they was dying. But they was swimming around with their mouth like on top of the water: these catfish and bream, and I mean every species.

"And I said, 'I believe these fish are dying.' I got to looking, and Friday morning, this far down, they was dying here. But I didn't see no dead fish at that moment till I got to noticing some little minnows, you know, little fish.

"But Friday, I was watching 20-pound catfish and bream, and, you know, everything was dying. It was like they couldn't get no oxygen. And like I said, I'm way downriver, you know."

"One (catfish) probably weighed 30 or 40 pounds. And I'm up high, you know; I'm probably 50 foot above the river, looking down. This big catfish- I'll tell you what it reminds me of: it looked like one of them whale sharks you see in the ocean, just holding his mouth open. I watched him die.

"He swam around for probably an hour, and he'd get right against the bank and then he'd swim out toward the middle. And that's what they was all doing. But that one fish, I could see him so good because he was so big . . . He had his mouth open the whole time, just swimming right on.

"He was dying, you know, and I watched him. He finally got about 3 foot off the bank and he just bellied up."

Perkins described a patch of rocky shoals in the river near his home where dead fish were "stacked up like cordwood."

Said Perkins, "It's a huge fish kill. But this is not the first time, you know. And something needs to be done, and I don't know what we can do about it."

Later in our conversation, Perkins posed the question, "What's the long-term effect? I mean, there's a lot of questions I'd like to get answered, you know. And they just slap them on the hand.

"I think that last time, somebody said, it was something like a $50,000 fine. Do you realize that's just over a dollar a fish? And they estimated 40,000. I know there's no way to count them, but that is ridiculous, in my opinion.

"You know what? I'm a fisherman, and I do abide by their laws, you know. But it's sickening to know- because I've heard people say like at Smith (Lake), if you get caught with a fish that's not in the limit, it's a $300 fine for one fish, per fish, you know.

" And I think, well, you know, they're killing all these fish in the Mulberry. Why not give them the same?"

Perkins also pointed out that fish are only part of the equation. Crawfish are common in the Mulberry Fork, and numerous birds and land animals live off of the resources the river ecosystem provides.

"What all is it going to affect?" wondered Perkins. "You know, I'm not concerned about the money issue. But there's a lot of questions that need to be answered, I think."

Perkins concluded, "I bought here to enjoy this river, and here lately, I'm scared to even get out in it."

Black Warrior Riverkeeper responds

On Friday afternoon, Black Warrior Riverkeeper representative Nelson Brooke sent this statement to The Tribune:

American Proteins had a large wastewater spill (undisclosed amount) sometime yesterday, which caused a massive fish kill. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries (DCNR) and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) are conducting an investigation into the wastewater spill and resulting fish kill today. Unfortunately, everyone should avoid contact with the Mulberry Fork downstream until further notice.

American Proteins [1170 Co. Rd. 508 | Hanceville, AL 35077 (256) 352-9821)], which they say is the largest rendering plant in the world, is now owned by Tyson. The sprawling plant receives chicken carcasses from slaughterhouses across Alabama and cooks them down into protein products. This facility has a history of spills and fish kills due to poor housekeeping and maintenance.

ADEM is responsible for holding American Proteins accountable for the spill, and should levy a stiff penalty to encourage better housekeeping and deter future spills and fish kills. ADEM failed to issue a stiff penalty in 2016 when American Proteins spilled 900 gallons of sulfuric acid into the river, killing around 40,000 fish. The fine levied by ADEM for that spill and kill was a mere slap on the wrist. Join us in demanding that ADEM hold American Proteins accountable!

On Sunday, The Tribune followed up with Brooke for an update, and he shared, "It might come as a surprise that ADEM, EPA and industry are not readily sharing with us step by step what's going on.

"But typically, we have to do a lot of digging. The most we've heard is from locals, people up and down the river that are really upset about all the dead fish they're seeing, and wanting Tyson to be held very much accountable for what they did out there."

Brooke was frustrated that specific information about the time, amount, extent and chemical composition of the spill have not yet been released.

He reported that, as of Sunday, dead fish were turning up in the river at least as far downstream as the Sipsey Fork junction with the Mulberry, around 15 miles east of Jasper in Walker County.

Said Brooke, "Our whole charge with ADEM for the past several years about proper and adequate public notification when large spills happen- so that people know not to fish or swim downstream- is that they just balked on making strict requirements just for human sewage and industrial wastewater treatment plants.

"But a key contention is that the public is not being notified, for the most part, around the entire state, except for a few places that are doing it.

"So it's a real standing problem, because then it's really hard to like come up with a plan during a disaster, to get the word out, if you don't have a good one in place."

According to Brooke, Black Warrior Riverkeeper is still awaiting a report on a spill that caused a fish kill on the Mulberry Fork near the Alabama Power Gorgas Steam Plant this past April.

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources update

On Monday, The Tribune spoke to Nick Nichols, chief of fisheries for the Wildlife and Fisheries Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

He said field staff reported that contaminated water reached the Sipsey River junction of the Mulberry Fork, a distance of approximately 34 river miles from the plant, around 10 a.m. Sunday, and that dead fish, driven by heavy weekend rains, have appeared in the north end of Bankhead Lake.

Said Nichols, "This is a pretty significant, a *very* significant fish kill. Some fish may have outrun it, but the majority would have succumbed to it."

DCNR staff were on the river Monday, working their way northeast from the Highway 78 crossing, gathering evidence and inspecting dead fish to see if they could detect any fresh kills, or if the fish present were simply victims of the original event that had washed downstream.

Nichols warned that, since this kind of incident can lead to litigation, evidence gathering will be a long and detailed task, saying, "It'll be weeks before we have a final report on this."

The Tribune reached out to ADEM and Tyson Foods. Tyson's Sparkman responded Monday morning, saying the company had new no information available at the time, but that he hoped to be able to get more out shortly. ADEM had not responded by press time.

‘It’s great history’: 21st annual Hanceville Antique Tractor and Engine Show

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – Saturday morning was not a good time to be doing anything outdoors around Hanceville, as the rain fell in buckets and booms of thunder shook folks awake in the early daylight hours. But for farmers, rainy days are just food for the crops, and no excuse for hiding under a roof. Farmers and agricultural enthusiasts braved the elements to set up for the 21st annual Hanceville Antique Tractor & Engine Show.

The weather did shrink the crowd, as some collectors chose to keep their prized tractors out of the rain, but staunch big wheel and horsepower fans still managed to display more than 20 tractors and vintage farm engines between early morning and lunchtime storms.

They got in the ladies’ skillet toss early, then pushed through a hurried schedule of slow races (power ‘em down but don’t let ‘em stall, and the last tractor across the line wins!), kids’ toy pedal tractor races and the “Parade of Power” around Wallace State’s campus. Door prizes and the Best of Show trophy were handed out as the rain began to fall again.

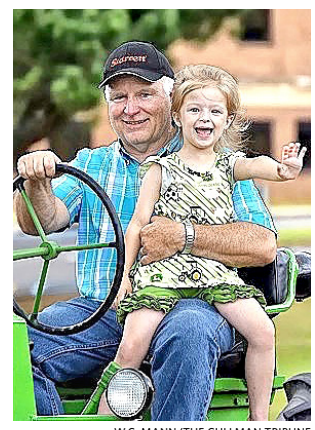
Ed Norris of Nauvoo won Best of Show with his restored vintage International Harvester Farmall 240.

Event co-host Bonnie Hamrick Brannan of Hamrick Farms, whose father Jimmy Hamrick founded the show with friend Hershel Needham, talked to The Tribune about her dad:

“He and some friends, they liked restoring tractors and he liked being around tractors. He’s always worked outdoors. After going to some of the events and different shows around the state, they decided, ‘You know what, we just need to have one in Hanceville!’ And so they did; they started one up. We’ve had years, you know, when he was alive, where we had like 90 tractors. I mean, it was just huge out here.

“He loved it. He restored several tractors. I have one of his tractors; he actually restored the tractor that I’ve been driving. He loved his community and just had so many friends. The tractor community, they’re just a great big family.”

Brannan said many of the tractors and engines, like hers, have stories their owners can tell: equipment coming from multi-generational family farms and being passed down to children and children’s children.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Area Technology Academy precision machining instructor Tim White and a young fan ride one of his restored vintage John Deere tractors in the “Parade of Power” Saturday.

Said Brannan, “It’s great history, you know. It’s a good thing to bring your children out and show them how it was. I mean, we’ve got to have farmers for the future. We’ve got to continue that, so it’s a good thing to bring out. It’s family-friendly, and shows them how it was or how it is, and just a good overall family thing.”

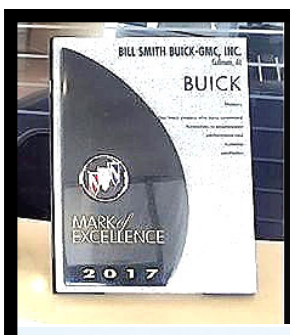
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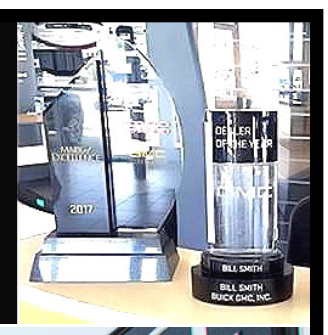
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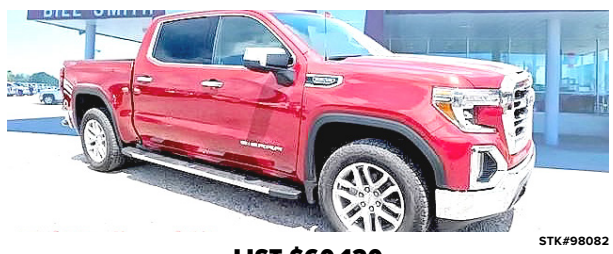
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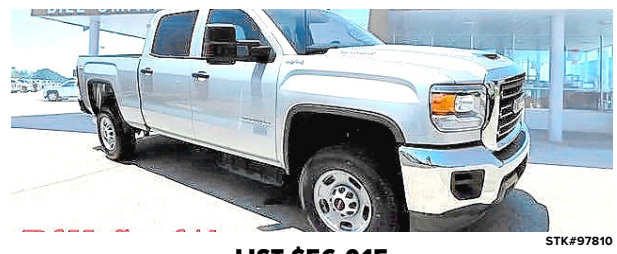
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