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FAITH

127th annual Cullman County Courthouse Singing Convention coming July 13-14


W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Singers filled the courtroom of District Judge Kim Chaney during last year's convention.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – On Saturday and Sunday, July 13-14, Cullman will celebrate what has become a unique tradition in Alabama: the state's last regular courthouse singing convention. Singers from all over the state, across the country, and even overseas will fill the Cullman County Courthouse's district courtroom for the 127th installment of a local crossroads of faith and arts that began in 1893. Singers, listeners and the public are invited to attend.

Once a common occurrence in courthouses all over the South, Cullman's is now the only regularly scheduled event of its kind in the nation, though occasional special events will take singers into courthouses. Factors ranging from shifting cultural tastes and lack of interest in old-fashioned things to concerns about church-state separation led to a decline in courthouse singings over the years. Though it may not draw crowds of thousands like it used to, the tradition has managed to stay alive in Cullman.

Event coordinator Henry Guthery shared with The Tribune at last year's event, "Used to, people every year would have annual singings and events at their courthouses, and they gradually got just closed down, and it stopped.

"But, anyway, people come here from Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida; they come from all over. Many of the people are new singers, and many of the people have been singing all of their life, but whatever station in life, they come. We have judges, doctors, lawyers, politicians, congressmen; we have all kinds of people come to the singings, including newspaper reporters, which we're glad for!" he smiled.

What happens at a singing convention?

Well, singing, of course! If you grew up in a church with hymnals, you'll probably be familiar with a lot of the music, though the style of performance might be a little different. Convention singing is unaccompanied by instruments, and focuses on rich four-part vocal harmonies. Songs can be joyful, loud, and boisterous--described by one observer as "organized hollerin,'" or dark and soulful as to convey the mysteries of faith.

Convention singers follow a long-standing form, singing from a modern edition of a songbook that dates back to the 1840s in a style known by several names:

- **Shape/Shaped Note Singing** – The notes in the sheet music have different shapes depending on the note in the scale: round, square, triangular.
- **Fa-So-La/Fasola Singing** – The names given to three note shapes. When the singers warm up at the beginning of a song, they're not singing in a foreign language or speaking in tongues; they're singing the notes by name.
- **Sacred Harp** – from the title of the most popular songbook used.

Singers sit in a square, grouped by vocal part--soprano, alto, tenor, bass--with the director standing in the center. The director changes from song to song, so if your favorite song is in the book, you'll have a chance to both request and lead it. It's not rehearsed, and singers of all skill and experience levels are welcome, even if they're not familiar with things like shaped notes.

Said Guthery, "The event is something that is treasured. And some people come mainly just to learn how to sing, but for the majority of us, we sing because it's like singing prayers all day. Anyway, it's something that we all enjoy, and the fellowship that's involved with it."

Following the music to Alabama

Tom and Linda Booth are mainstays of the north Alabama singing convention culture, but they haven't even been Alabamians for that long. Linda Booth talked to The Tribune about what drew them across the country:

"North Central Alabama is a Fasola singer's paradise. We are California transplants, and we've lived in Cullman for almost 3 years now. Many people here are surprised that we first heard Fasola singing in San Francisco. I loved the spare, plaintive minor tunes and the adrenaline rush of fast, intricate fugues. Learning the shapes made it possible for us to sight-read any song.

"Over the years, my husband and I flew to singing conventions in several states, but in 2010 we came to Ala- » PAGE 8

Search continues for missing boater on Smith Lake

Crane Hill Fire Department Chief describes initial response and ongoing search

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

SMITH LAKE/CRANE HILL, Ala. – On Friday, the search continued for a boat passenger missing since a two-boat collision on Smith Lake Thursday evening. The accident, which occurred just west of Crane Hill across the county line in the Winston County portion of the lake, injured mul- » PAGE 2

Tyson: recent road spills not a health threat


BLACK WARRIOR RIVERKEEPER

Tyson/River Valley Ingredients plant in Hanceville

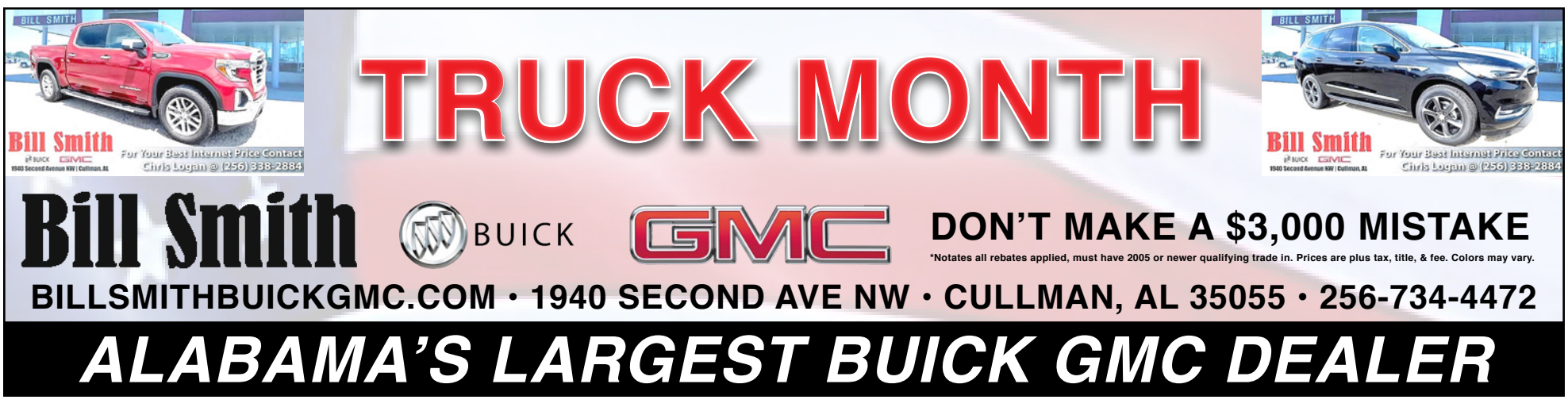
W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – As it continues to confront lawsuits and other legal issues related to an early June wastewater spill than contaminated miles of the Mulberry Fork and a short portion of the Sipsey Fork, Tyson Foods subsidiary River Valley Ingredients has also had two recent road spills from trucks going to the company's Hanceville plant. The first occurred in a remote area, on Hwy 91 at the intersection with CR 509 where the trucks turn off of the highway to go to the plant. The second was much more visible, occurring Thursday morning in the intersection of Hwy. 91 and Hwy. 31 in downtown Hanceville. Tyson officials said that the spilled material poses no health threat.

Tyson spokesman Worth Sparkman told The Tribune, "A valve opened on a truck taking organic inedible material to the River Valley Ingredients plant for rendering on Thursday. We use water, lime and a product called Oil-dri for clean up; the material spilled was not hazardous."

A separate automobile accident happened at the same intersection in Hanceville a short time later. According to the Hanceville Fire Department, which was on the scene, the auto accident happened around 20 minutes after the spill and was unrelated to the spill.

Investigation into the river spill is ongoing.



LOCAL BUSINESS

Pets on Parade at Second Friday celebration July 12

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – This coming Friday, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce will enjoy another of its increasingly popular Second Friday summer celebrations, and the Cullman Downtown Merchants' Association (CDMA) is joining the Chamber in planning for the south end of the event district around 1st Ave. NE/SE to put on the dog, be the cat's meow, (insert your favorite animal catch phrase here)! However you care to say it, Friday will be a good night for fluffy friends downtown as the CDMA hosts a special evening for animals and their humans.

CDMA event coordinator Ron Pierce shared with us that the event will include:

- Pet parade at 6 p.m. - a limited number of spots are available, so reservations are encouraged; call 256-682-1501. Pay $5 or donate food for the Animal Shelter to get in. Participants get gift cards and prizes from downtown merchants.
- Cullman County Animal Shelter, bringing pets available for adoption, across from Busy Bee.
- A rolling petting zoo where you can get up close and personal with some critters. A good place to stop during the evening, since it's air-conditioned, too!
- Therapy dog trainers
- Pet Depot will have pet goods for sale.
- Staff from Happy Tails, Lee's Veterinary Hospital, and Hope Horses will be on hand.

Pierce told us, "Need to give Happy Tails a lot of credit, because they're helping to organize the whole thing, plus they've got a thing to give away to everybody's who's in the parade."

Of course, plenty of other fun features will be there as well:

- 40-foot Ferris wheel across from Moe's Original Bar B Que, riding from 5-10 p.m. Rides are free, but $2 donations will be accepted and appreciated.
- Live entertainment featuring Thick as Thieves on the main stage, as well as street musicians
- Vehicle show, this time featuring off-road power: Basch Brothers Powersports OHV's and ATV's, Jeeps, 4x4's and trucks from Ford, Chevrolet, Nissan, GMC, Ram
- Food: taco truck, pizza truck, snow cones and all the regular downtown supper spots

At a glance

- Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and Cullman Downtown Merchants' Association Second Friday Celebration
- Friday, July 12, 2019
- Along 1st Ave SE/NE between the Busy Bee Cafe and Festhalle, and other select locations downtown
- Bring your pets! To enter 6 p.m. pet parade, call 256-682-1501. Entry fee $5 or donation of pet food for Cullman County Animal Shelter

Search (from Front)

tiple other boaters as well. Early reports included the sinking of one of the boats and a third boat involved, but a local fire chief on the scene maintains that only two boats were involved and that both are still above water, though one capsized.

On Friday afternoon, Chief Brandon Williams of the Crane Hill Fire Department, which was the first department to reach the scene, talked to The Tribune:

"Initially yesterday, the call went to Arley Fire Department on the other side of the lake, and I was listening to them. And, at the request of them, we were dispatched to Wren Rd. (in Cullman County, but the closest access road to the lake), which (an accident victim) was actually calling from; so we had the first units on the scene.

"We triaged and treated nine people on the dock, transported two out of those. And after we got all of them triaged off of the boat that had capsized, we went back and got the other patients on the other boat that was not in the water."

According to the Crane Hill Chief, the capsized boat was towed to the Cullman County side and secured.

Search assisted by local residents

"So Arley FD, along with Crane Hill, obtained a pontoon boat from a passer-by, from a resident down this way. We had a couple of other residents in boats helping us out last night. And then we began doing shoreline searches and all for the missing person out of the boat."

"And then today--we stopped and called off all searches last night, went home, and basically rejuvenated I guess, because we couldn't see or anything. And today, we've got Crane Hill's in the lead. We've got the Cullman County Fire boat out here with us. I think they've got some members from two or three different departments manning that. Crane Hill's got a couple of personal boats in the water, manning those.

"ALEA's down here, the Sheriff's department's down here from Cullman County with a couple of divers.

"We've also got a couple of divers from the Smith Lake Task Force, and their boat is down here, as well.

"And we're still just doing some searches, just trying to find--pinpoint--where the person might be, and go from there."

Williams reported that the Arley FD rejoined search efforts Friday, joined by the nearby Helicon FD.

On Friday morning, ALEA issued this statement:

ALEA Marine Patrol Troopers are investigating a two-boat crash that occurred on Smith Lake Thursday night. The crash occurred in Rock Creek at approximately 10:00 p.m. There were 5 people injured, 4 of them were transported for medical attention. The severity of the injuries is unknown. There is one person still missing. Search efforts were suspended at 1:00 a.m. They are resuming this morning with multiple agencies assisting.

A member of the Arley FD reported that another boat accident with two injuries occurred early Friday afternoon near the Corinth Recreation Area, between Double Springs and Houston.

This is a developing story.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
July 6

JULY 6

American Legion Post 4 Community Cookout
American Legion Post 4 together with the Woodmen will host a community cookout at the post on July 6 beginning at 4 p.m. Free hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, drinks, and desserts will be provided. Regular bingo games at 6 p.m. and fireworks display to follow. Everyone is invited! Address: 181 Reid Road Cullman

UPCOMING....

West Point Class Of 1962 Reunion
The West Point Class of 1962 will hold their class reunion on Saturday, July 27th, at the Brandin' Iron Steakhouse at West point, from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. For more information please call 256-747-6883.

Christmas in August Kickoff Event
The annual Christmas in August Kickoff Event will be held Wednesday, July 31st, at 6:30 pm at Northside Baptist Church (1310 Katherine Street, NW). Every year, the West Cullman Baptist Churches collect and fill backpacks for under-privileged children. This year, the backpacks will be delivered to the Mississippi River Ministry. The Kickoff program includes Christmas music, skit, video of area that will receive backpacks, how to fill a backpack and speaker Jonathan Reid of Sardis Baptist Church. Pizza will be served following the program. All ages are welcome to attend! Contact 256-620-0828 for more information and to RSVP.

Fairview High School Class of 74 Reunion
The Fairview High School Class of '74 will have their 45th year class reunion on Saturday, July 20th 2019, at 5:00 P.M., at Whispering Cedars, 1244. Co. Rd. 730, Cullman, Al. 35055. We will receive donations only for this evening of fun, fellowship and food. Casual dress. See you there. For info contact Ray Hulen Wren at 256-412-7238.

Grace Episcopal Church VBS
Grace Episcopal Church VBS invites all pre-K through 5th grade to join us as we learn, create, play, and sing about God's love shown to us through the story of Joseph "The Merciful Dreamer." Monday, July 15 through Thursday, July 18, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm each evening. There is no cost and no strings for your children to participate. To register, go to www.GraceChurchCullman.org and click on the VBS link at the bottom of the front page. Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold Street NE, Cullman, 256-734-6212.

Vinemont High School Class of 1972 47-Year Reunion
The Vinemont High School Class of 1972 will hold its 47-year reunion Saturday, July 13 at 11 a.m. in the Florida Room at The Shrimp Basket in Cullman. Call Jolene Gamble Bethke at 256-612-7201 or Linda Williams Skinner at 256-595-7808 for more information.

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 ¼mile, Cold Springs Community Center is on the RIGHT!
- Sandlin Chapel & Cemetery are off AL-69S.

LEGALS

PB MIN BK 180 PG 365 - 06/28/2019 10:04 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
CAROL A. SMITH,
Deceased.

CASE NO.: PC-2019-081

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Melissa I. Smith, as Administrator of the Estate of Carol A. Smith, deceased, on the 28th 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.

Melissa I. Smith
Administrator

C. Blake West
Attorney for Administrator
1701 Main Ave., SW
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

PUBLIC NOTICE TO SELL LAND

The City of Cullman approved to vacant and surplus 3 residential lots, which are no longer needed for public or municipal purposes. The City is requesting bids for the following lots: Lot 5 and Lot 6 of Terrace Heights (the minimum bid per lot is $33,150), and Lot 673 located on 9th Street SE (the minimum bid is $29,825). The lots are being purchased in "as is" condition and will be conveyed by statutory warranty deeds. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids without cause. Bids must be hand delivered to the City Clerk (204 2nd Ave NE) or mailed to PO Box 278, Cullman, AL 35056. Bids will be opened in the City Clerk's Office on Friday, July 19th, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. No bids will be accepted after the bid opening. The successful bidder will be required to follow and comply with all local, state, and federal laws and/or regulations and deposit $5,000.00 (earnest money) on the day of the bid opening with the City Clerk. Closing shall occur within 30 days after bid is awarded. Any cost of financing, title insurance, and title search shall be at the cost of purchaser. For additional questions about bidding or the properties, please contact the City Clerk at (256) 775 - 7110.

PB WIL BK 91 PG 187 - 06/20/2019 08:13AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
)
WILLIAM CLAUDE PICHELMAYER,) CASE NO.: PC-2016-155
)
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING MOTION TO CLOSE OUT ESTATE

TO: JESSIE EVANS, ERCIE BAKER, JEFF CHILDERS, LILLIE MAE WOLFE, RONALD JOHNSTON, SHIRLEY NIMS

ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS

The Motion of Freddie Donald Smith, to close out Estate of **WILLIAM CLAUDE PICHELMAYER**, deceased, has been set for hearing on the 26th day of August, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

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

Done this the 20th day of June, 2019.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

MICHAEL D. HAYNES
Attorney for Petitioner
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 100
Cullman, AL 35055
(256)737-5068

PB WIL BK 91 PG 188 - 06/20/2019 08:26 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
TOMMIE WAYNE REAVES) CASE NO PC 2019-138
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: SHERRY A. REAVES BRAZELTON AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS
ADDRESSES UNKNOWN

The Petition of Linda Kay Bailey Reaves to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Tommie Wayne Reaves, deceased, has been set for hearing on the 11th day of September, 2019, at 9.00 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.

Done this the 20th day of June, 2019.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper

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4th Infantry Division veteran from Cullman receives Order of St. Maurice medal

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman resident Gerry Howard is a Vietnam Veteran who served with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. He served from May of 1969 to March of 1970 as a draftee platoon leader. He has dedicated his life to honoring fellow veterans and advocating for veteran's rights and causes.

As the country celebrates the 4th of July, it is his hope that people will remember its patriotism for longer than one weekend a year. He also reminds people to, "Respect your neighbors and your veterans. Don't go off popping fireworks at us. I STILL have a startled reflex to all that noise." however, he does understand that fireworks can also be patriotic.

He said, "Know your neighbors! I like a long weekend too, but stick a flag on your boat. Do something." Howard buys each new neighbor in his neighborhood a flag for their home when they move in, and he is often dismayed at how few display the flag. He has even found one in the garbage.

As a Vietnam veteran, Howard said their homecoming was different from other wars. He told a story about being denied a job due to fighting in Vietnam. He said, "Even the other veterans didn't like us. Today, when people say 'thank you for your service', it's late coming. We were treated with less than respect. When you're a Cullman County boy and you get drafted, you go do what's expected of you.

The stereotype is the worst oxymoron in our society that's ever been. 99.99% of Vietnam veterans got on with their lives and became productive Americans. I had to take an early retirement for health reasons nine years ago, and I try to spend time everyday to do something [in order] to do away with the stereotype."

Howard keeps busy with his involvement in the National 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division Association. "Our primary concern is to get 4th Infantry, all era, to reunite and do good. We have a service officer that works full time on helping guys get benefits and we have meetings every year. I joined 35 years ago for therapy for myself and it worked."

"I do other volunteer work in the veteran's area. We have a suicide team." Howard recalled the last veteran his team tried to help. The man took his life due to the chronic pain he was unable to endure. "The state politicians have limited the amount of pain killer you can give in an effort to help stop the epidemic of opioid abuse. There's a percentage of people who need more than that. Two [veterans] a day in Alabama kills themselves. Two a day. Primarily, the guys my age who don't have the education or the strength to play the system. Then they play the system then the pain people say, 'you can have 70 mg. a day. You can get a seven-day supply.' If you've got a chronic Agent Orange condition and you can't stop hurting, what do you do?", Howard asked.

Howard has been to the governor's office and the CDC with a task force to try and alleviate the barriers that exist for veterans. He said, "There's got to be a screening process to separate illegal drugs, over-prescribing and, occasionally, there's somebody-- I'm one of them--that needs them. There are days I can't get out of bed. Wait until the clock can go so I can take one more pill. If I take more than they give me, then I'm in trouble. They make me come to Birmingham to have my pills counted and I'm treated like a criminal."

Howard suffers from the exposure to Agent Orange he had while serving in Vietnam. Agent Orange is dioxin used in Vietnam as an herbicide and defoliant chemical. He explained, "It took decades for the government to approve any of our conditions, hoping we would die off. I hate to be so blunt, but I'm honest as I can be. They couldn't pay enough unless they started another printing press to take care of at least 100,000 people poisoned."

He continued, "Dioxin, the primary chemical, was developed at Ft. Mc Clellan. Those of us who trained at Ft. McClellan--I did twice--was exposed to it there and then went to Vietnam and slept in the stuff." Agent Orange was used to move defensive positions by killing the thick vegetation. Howard, who worked as a drug rep for 30 years, spent a lot of time studying the dioxin molecule. He learned that it has a half-life of 700 years and is the third-harshest poison in existence. He added, "The places that were defoliated in Vietnam, America, Canada, and everywhere else, they used the purest form of dioxin. There ain't nothing growing there now and there won't be 100 years from now."

Calhoun County reached a settlement with Monsanto in 2013. The manufacturer of the dioxins and PCBs agreed to pay $700 million to compensate the county and its residents for the clean-up and contamination caused by the chemicals. Howard points out, "But they didn't pay the soldiers."

In the mid-70's, a group of doctor's began a study of those exposed to Agent Orange. Howard said, "In my particular case, they took seven samples including hair, skin, bone, semen and others. In five of the seven samples, there was Agent Orange floating around. There were seven forms of agent dioxin and they put it in different colored barrels. That's why it's called Agent Orange. They used it because it worked so well."



GERRY HOWARD

Gerry Howard at the East Room of the White House

He recalled one mission he had in Vietnam which Howard said, "Killed us."

He explained, "It was called a bomb assessment detail. We were grunts and we lived in the woods. We were supposed to go out to an area that was defoliated. We couldn't fight the enemy out of that valley so we defoliated it so they wouldn't have a place to hide.

"My platoon was given a bomb assessment mission to walk through that valley. It killed us. Everyone in my platoon has diabetes, every one of us.

"Half of my platoon is dead already. Anyway, the job was to walk through this valley and count plants 6 inches high, 6 feet high, and 16 feet high that were still alive. There weren't any. The three nights we were in there, in the morning we would wake up and had to pat down our arms and stuff to get the dioxin powder off."

Through his own struggles, Howard has worked tirelessly to better the treatment of all veterans. Howard and The National 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division Association have also been successful in building a 4th Infantry Division memorial in Arlington Cemetery and nine other memorials.

On August 17, 2017, Gerry Howard received the Order of St. Maurice Medal during a ceremony on Founders Field at Fort Carson, Colorado. The Order of St, Maurice Medal recognizes those who have served the infantry community with distinction, must have demonstrated a significant contribution in support of the infantry, and must represent the highest standards of integrity, moral character, professional competence, and dedication of duty. https://www.cullmantribune.com/2017/09/05/4th-infantry-division-veteran-from-cullman-receives-order-of-st-maurice-medal/

"I am not bitter person. I did the American dream. I raised a step-family, went to school, and prospered," Howard said. "Society wasn't ready for us. We were going to carry the memory of the guys we lost. The draft dodgers, being pardoned ...we had a lot in our basket."

Howard encourages everyone, "If you ever go to D.C., you need to spend at least a day around the Lincoln Memorial and see all the other memorials that are right there. All the other memorials, people laugh, joke, throw their trash on the ground, but at the Vietnam Wall, it's quiet, no bicycles no screaming, the kids are there, but it's quiet. It's moving.

"I still cry when I go after dozens of times. Everytime I go up there, I spend one day at the wall showing people how to find a name. It's not about me. It's about what we as a group have done versus the perception of what we were: baby killer drug addicts. There's been an effort the last few years to say, 'thanks for your service.' You can thank me by being a good American."

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Obituary Announcements: July 2 - 5

Mary Grace Harper Newman, better known as "Polly" was born on November 19, 1921 and died on July 2, 2019. She was a member of the Mulberry Baptist Church. Preceding her in death were her husband Oves Barto Newman, parents Warner and Wessie Putman Harper, five brothers and two sisters. Survivors include her daughter Mary Jo (Hershell) McAlpine, sons Charles (Karen) Newman and Robert Newman, thirteen grandchildren, twenty-two great grandchildren and twenty-six great great grandchildren. The family will receive friends on Friday, July 5, 2019 at Blountsville Funeral Home from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. Funeral service will be held in the Chapel of Blountsville Funeral Home on Saturday, July 6, 2019 at 11 a.m. Burial will be in the Mulberry Cemetery. Justin White, Austin Maclean, Daniel Maclean, Andrew Latta, Cy Sisson and Quentin Killian will serve as pallbearers; Cam Lay will be the honorary pallbearer. Blountsville Funeral Home directing.

Olga Mae Gray Jacques, 95, of Remlap, AL., was born on February 13, 1924 and died on July 2, 2019. Mrs. Jacques was a member of the Church of Christ in Pinson. Preceding her in death were her parents Belton and Vila Fowler Gray, husband Danal Jacques; sisters Opal Gay and Frances Abair; brother Paul Gray and son Ronald Wayne Jacques. Survivors include her daughter Pat Elkins of Remlap and Rebecca Vaughn of Tacoma, Washington; three grandchildren; six great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. The family will receive friends on Friday, July 5, 2019 at Lemley Funeral Home from 9 a.m. until service time. Funeral service will follow in the Chapel of Lemley Funeral Home at 11 a.m. Burial will be in Remlap Cemetery. Pallbearers will be family members. Lemley Funeral Home and Crematory directing.

Donald Paul "Donnie" Logsdon, 54 of Addison, entered into rest on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. Donnie was born on July 6, 1964 in Louisville, Kentucky to Wayne Logsdon and Jeanie Ruth Tyree. He was an avid fisherman. Donnie will be greatly missed by his family and friends. The family will have a memorial service on Saturday, July 6, 2019 at 2 p.m. at Fairview Baptist Church in Addison. Brother E.J. Ergle will officiate. Donnie is survived by his brothers, Gary Logsdon, and Jerry (Kathy) Casey; Vickie (Michael Olser) Brannon, and Cheryl (Gracie) Bullard; step-father and friend, David Tyree; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Wayne Logsdon; mother, Jeanie Ruth Tyree; brothers, Bryant Bullard and Terry Casey; sister, Debbie Havens; and nephew, Kenneth Gene Shockley.

Services for Mr. Billy Ray Pitts, 80, of Hanceville will be 3 p.m. Sunday July 7, 2019 at the Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Visitation will be 6:00 p.m., Saturday July 6 at the Funeral Home. Mr. Pitts will be laid to rest at the Fairview West Cemetery with Reverend Doug Pitts officiating. Mr. Pitts died Thursday, July 4, 2019 after an extended illness. Mr. Pitts is survived by a daughter, Sheila (Rodney) Morgan and son Phillip (Shelley) Pitts both of Hanceville, two brothers, Roger Pitts and Willie (Elaine) Pitts. Grandchildren include Justin (Monica) Morgan, Briona (Ervin) Wilbanks, Erica (Jeff) Watts, and Madison (Brandon) Tanner. Great grandchildren include Ily Wilbanks, Mia Wilbanks, Cooper Morgan, Trayla Tanner, Lansen Tanner, Crimson Watts and Jay Jay Watts. Special friend Norma Greer. Mr. Pitts is preceded in death by his wife Ruby Ann Pitts, sister Betty (Howard) Black, Jean Ann Pitts and grandson Chase Winfrey and parents.

Linda Gail Fike, 62, of Double Springs, entered into rest on July 4, 2019 at Huntsville Hospital. Mrs. Fike was born on February 7, 1957, in Haleyville, Alabama. Linda was a member of The Rock Family Worship Center for 30 years. She loved spending time with family, friends, and going to church. Linda enjoyed taking nature walks, playing badminton, and being a prankster. Visitation will be held on Sunday, July 7, 2019 from 2-4 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Double Springs, where services will be held at 4 p.m. Burial will follow in Frost Chapel Cemetery. Pastor Drew Robbins will officiate. Linda is survived by her son, John Lucas Lee and her his wife, Lena; daughter, Shelly Brown and her husband Jonathan; grandchildren, Rachel Rush, Matthew Rush, Dylan Lee, Willow Lee, Cheyenne Lee; and sister, Shirley Garrison. She was preceded in death by her husband of 22 years, William Fike; biological father, Dan Creel; biological mother, Earlean Swims; step parents, Travis and Ruby Martin; brothers, Ray Creel, Tommy Creel; and sister, Tressie Duboise.

Dovie Pope, 90 of Hanceville, passed away at her home on Wednesday, June 3, 2019. She is preceded in death by her husband, Charles Leroy Pope; son, Danny "Bub" Pop; daughter-in-law, Carolyn Pope, son-in-law, Sonny Millican, 1 great grandson, 5 sisters and 2 brothers. She leaves to cherish her memory her daughters: Charlotte Millican, Diane Crocker, Susie (Danny) Crocker and Carol (Randy) Phillips; sons: Terry Pope and Tristan Colfield; 9 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and 8 great great grandchildren. Her family will receive friends at Mt. Grove Baptist Church on Saturday, July 6, 2019 from noon until 2 p.m. The Celebration of Life Funeral Service will begin at 2 p.m. at the church with Bro. Jerry Scott officiating. Burial will follow in the adjoining cemetery.

Funeral service for Noal Richard Harris, age 60, of Hanceville, will be at 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 7, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Pastor Barbara Trussell officiating; interment in Holly Pond Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Harris passed away on Thursday, July 4, 2019, at his home in the loving arms of his wife and daughter. He was born April 23, 1959, in Cullman, Alabama, to Alvin Noal and Omie Glenn Harris. He was a member of the Cullman High School class of 1977. and just retired from CSX transportation (formerly L&N Railroad) after 38 years of service where he was a heavy equipment mechanic. He was preceded in death by his parents and special aunt and uncle, Mary and Bud Shaw of Holly Pond. Survivors include his wife, Marsha Lynn Whitener Harris of Cullman; daughter, Erica Lynn Harris of Cullman; sister, Brenda Carol (Jerry) Harris of Decatur; nephew, B.J. (Victoria) Harris; great-nephews, Cade Harris and Drew Harris; step-sisters, Brenda Jarkey and Ann Shindler; step-brother, Bob Shelton, and a host of aunts and cousins. The family wishes to send special thanks to mother-in-law, Gail (Russell) Hoff, CRMC Hospice, UAB staff and nurses of P9 in the West Pavilion, and a host of special friends and family. Pallbearers will be Barry Calloway, Glenn Dovel, Tyrone Hubbard, Josh Speake, Chris Eads, John Pate, Doug Harris, B.J. Harris. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday, July 6, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Mary Elizabeth Powe was born on July 10, 1925 and passed away on July 4, 2019. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Edith Roberts Fuller; husband, James Howard Powe; and her brothers. Mrs. Powe leaves to cherish her memory her son, Dennis (Carol) Powe; grandchildren: Michael (Pam) Powe, Brian (Alicia) Powe, Christina (Jimmy) Wright, Lorie (Jamey) McRee, Jennifer (Chris) Newman; thirteen great grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren. Visitation for Mrs. Powe will be Sunday, July 7, from 5-7 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. A celebration of her life will be Monday at 2 p.m. with lie in state from 1-2 p.m. Interment will follow services at Pleasant Grove Cemetery. To leave condolences for the Mary Elizabeth Powe family please go to mossservicefh.com.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JULY 6, 2019

6th Annual Cullman Area Tourism Awards highlights stories of Cullman's most famous tourist destinations

Heather Mann
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CULLMAN, Ala. – In celebration of the achievements of the businesses and venues that have helped make Cullman County a more popular tourist destination, and to share the stories behind some of the most famous areas and events, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center held their 6th Annual Awards Ceremony for Excellence in Tourism on Thursday morning. Elected officials and corporate sponsors, as well as representatives from restaurants, hotels, and popular events and locations joined the Chamber and its Tourism Board bright and early at Stone Bridge Farms for the ceremony, which featured a catered breakfast and stories about three of Cullman's most popular tourist destinations before the award presentations.

The story of the Ave Maria Grotto - Br. Paschal Pautler, St. Bernard Abbey

"128 years ago, a scrawny 13-year-old boy from Bavaria, in southern Germany, came to this country on a boat. He left his father, who was a brewer in Germany, and his stepmother (his mother died when he was young), and never went back to his homeland, never saw those parents again. That's because he had a great dream. His dream was to come to America and be a priest, a great preacher of the gospel.

Well, tragically that didn't happen. He had a deformity-once as a young boy, he was hurt and he was hunched over for the rest of his life. Because of that, he was not able to carry out that mission and go out and preach the gospel. He was stuck in a little monastery in Alabama shoveling coal in a powerhouse, really a tragic story.

"But out of that tragedy, he made something wonderful: he started making little miniatures, which is now known today as the Ave Maria Grotto. Some 120 years later, he's done more preaching of the gospel than any other monk of St. Bernard Abbey ever has. So it's amazing that, through his tragedy and determination, he left that country, came to America, and is one of the most famous sons Cullman has ever had."

The story of Smith Lake - Roger Steele, Tourism Director

"In 1961, the dam on the Warrior River near New Hope was completed. It was expected to take weeks, maybe even months, for the reservoir-which would become Smith Lake-to fill up. However, it seemed as if the Lord had other plans. Rain fell so hard that it took just a matter of days for the water to cover the entire landscape. It's funny, it seems like we had a repeat of this when the Duck River reservoir filled up a few years back in the exact same manner. I guess [it's] just another reason to know that Cullman County really is truly blessed, and the Lord is watching over us.

"Smith Lake, to me, represents a major step forward in the history of tourism in our area. Right from the beginning, it became a regional mecca for boating, skiing, fishing, and a number of tournaments in the 1960s. My personal memories of Smith Lake date back to the '70s and early '80s. I vividly remember my brother and I, when we got off work at the Dairy Queen, jumping in his 1978 white Thunderbird with a boat hitch on it, and towing an old ski boat to the lake. We normally launched at Smith Lake Park or Speegle's Marina. We loved to ski all over the lake, especially on a weekday afternoon, as I recall, just after it rained. That was when the lake was absolutely smooth and was perfect for skiing.I remember jumping off rocks in the lake, these little mini cliffs, always admiring the castle, and also exploring streams that would run into the lake. Thinking back now, I sure was lucky to have such a magnificent body of water right next door to where we lived.

"For me, Smith Lake represents a turning point in our story of tourism. It's had a tremendous effect on all of us since its creation, but its tremendous potential still lies in the future. Certainly I believe that its story has not been completed, that's for sure."

The story of Rock the South - Shane Quick, Premier Productions, Rock the South

"Many people don't realize that the idea for Rock the South actually started in 2008. I was walking around Heritage Park and I kept seeing that open field, and I kept having this vision of a country music festival in Cullman. I grew up going to June Jam up in Fort Payne. Me and my parents were the ones waiting with lounge chairs for them to open up the gates [so] we could run and get the best seats.

"I always felt like Alabama needed a major country music festival. If you look around and talk to people, it's obvious that that's what the people around here love. So in about 2008, I asked several people around the city and county. I said, 'I got this dream. There's something I wanna do. I wanna bring a country music festival to Cullman.'

"We started meeting once a month at William's BBQ and just started dreaming. I really came to a conclusion: we could invite the biggest bands in the world, we could promote this festival, we could really put the infrastructure together to build this festival; but we really needed a reason. Great festivals need a reason to come together. There has to be more than just songs and a concert and a stage. There has to be something bigger than that to make it great. Our company does twelve festivals a year across the country, and what we've seen over the years is that the ones that have a purpose, something deeper than music, actually survive.

"April 2011 came and the tornadoes came through the city and the county, and Mayor Max [Townson] called and asked me to meet. We were thinking, 'What do we do?' We got this city that's kinda torn apart, all these churches are working. You gotta remember the way we all came together in that moment. In a weird way-I know it's kinda hard to say-but a tornado gave us one of the greatest moments in the history of our community. I saw churches coming together--I remember Desperation and Daystar feeding people, and First United Methodist, First Baptist, and the Pentecostals were working with the Catholics to take care of people--and I was looking around and realized I'm not really good at anything outside of pushing music, but Max asked me to put together an event.

"The miracle of that event, a band called Casting Crowns, was [there]. It was Casting Crowns that pulled me out of a sawmill in Hanceville and allowed me to do what I do for a living around the world. It changed my life, so they had a deep impact on me and my life and my family already, but the lead singer's wife actually grew up in Cullman. So just a few days after the tornadoes, we were all helping each other in the middle of the chaos, and Max thought we needed a break. He said, 'People are tired. They need a reason to come together and just kind of rest for a moment.' So we started looking for generators, and there were no generators in the state of Alabama, but we called a guy up in Indianapolis who said he'd be there in a few days. We found a stage, and all these things kinda came together. I called the lead singer of Casting Crowns and said, 'This tornado hit Cullman. We wanna come together and have an event on Sunday. Our churches, our people, our community, our neighbors, they need rest. They need a reason to come together and support each other.' He said they had an event in Memphis that would bring them through North Alabama Sunday morning, so they just pulled right on in. We had maybe 15,000 people and we raised $20,000. We gave all that money to the Red Cross because their building had been wiped out.

"Our company will do over 600 events this year around the world, and we've been doing that every year for about fifteen years, but there is no event that I've ever been a part of, including all the Rock the Souths that we've been a part of, that can even touch the moment we had at the fairgrounds in 2011, just a few days after that tornado. It was one of the greatest moments of my career."

After the stories had been shared, Tourism Chair Josh Wiggins came up to give a report on how tourism has been in the past year, as well as outline some plans for the future. Based on reports from businesses and event venues, the Chamber estimated around one million visitors to Cullman County in 2018, which is a significant portion of the 27 million visitors to the state estimated by the Alabama State Department of Tourism. Wiggins stated that the Chamber and Tourism Board will look to increase tourism rates further by increasing appropriate tourism infrastructure and expanding areas that have been previously unexplored.

One method of increasing tourism that Wiggins listed was analyzing hotel occupancy rates across the county and using them as a metric to measure how much tourism grows in a given month, year, or specific location. The data from 2018 indicated that the month for highest occupancy was June (over 70% of hotel rooms occupied), while the lowest month was December (less than 45% of rooms occupied). To help fill in the gaps between the high-occupancy months and low-occupancy months, Cullman hosted the 2018 Fishers of Men Southeast Region bass tournament last November and a Bassmaster regional college tournament in April of this year. The tournaments combined brought over 800 contestants and their families to Cullman during a typically low-tourism time of year, and also generated an estimated $750,000 in economic impact.

To help showcase Smith Lake's potential as a premier bass fishing location, Wiggins announced that Cullman has secured three major bass tournaments for 2020: the 2020 Bass College Regional and the 2020 Bass High School Regional (both from Bassmaster) back to back, plus an Alabama Regional Tournament from Alabama Bass Nation. While these tournaments will help increase occupancy rates during slower months of the year, Wiggins also posed a question on how to increase general occupancy year-round in ways that wouldn't take years to grow significantly. He then answered that the best way would be to take advantage of the tourist sites already popular in Cullman County, especially religious and agricultural sites.

Officials from the Ave Maria Grotto and the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament estimate a total of 200,000 visitors to one or both sites each year, and Wiggins announced that officials from both sites have agreed to help the Tourism Board carry out a plan intended to double the number of visitors to the sites, while also directing visitors to local shops and restaurants. Other religious leaders from churches around the county will also join this plan, and the people involved will soon meet at a "Cullman Religious Tourism Roundtable" in order to brainstorm ideas that will benefit the entire community.

Wiggins also announced that the Board will be taking a similar approach to agricultural tourism, reaching out to people and businesses such as Rachel Dawsey from the North Alabama Agriplex Heritage Center, Travis Cress from Cress Farms, and Greg Anderson from Sullivan Creek Ranch for their ideas and perspectives. In order to get the process rolling, the Board is working on creating itineraries for farm tours, seasonal tours, agricultural heritage tours, and "You Pick It" farm tours. They are also working with local restaurants to help highlight locally-grown produce on their menus, and plan on working with the Festhalle for farmers' market tours.

With these two areas of tourism promoted, Wiggins projected seeing an overall increase in tourism year-round instead of in specific months, stimulating Cullman County's economy continuously while also giving annual events time to grow over several years.

THE AWARDS
Presented by Jeff Tolbert (Chamber Vice Chair for Tourism) and Emily Bussman (Tourism Board Treasurer)

Exceptional Festival or Event Award: Recognizes a festival or event that attracts visitors as well as locals, generates regional and/or state media attention, and positively promotes the Cullman area.
- Nominees: Bloomin' Festival, Second Fridays, & Strawberry Festival
- Winner: Second Fridays

Best Attraction Award: Recognizes a regional attraction--including museums, performing arts, parks, amusement parks, etc.--which attracts visitors and contributes an outstanding tourism experience.
- Nominees: Cullman Agricultural Trade Center, Clarkson Covered Bridge, Stony Lonesome OHV Park, & Cullman County Museum
- Winner: Stony Lonesome OHV Park

Rockin' Retailer: Recognizes a retailer that provides an outstanding shopping experience for visitors.
- Nominees: Southern Accents, Jack's Western Wear, & Mary Carter Store
- Winner: Mary Carter Store

Extraordinary Everyday Eatery: Recognizes a restaurant offering an atmosphere that provides an outstanding experience for visitors.
- Nominees: All Steak Restaurant, 412 Public House, & The Brandin' Iron
- Winner: 412 Public House

White Glove Award: Recognizes exceptional service from an individual hotel housekeeping staff member.
- Winner: Peggy Doles, LaQuinta Inn

Silver Spoon Award: Recognizes consistent superior service by a restaurant or food service employee.
- Nominees: Casey Jones (412 Public House) & Debbie Smith (Buffalo Wild Wings)
- Winner: Debbie Smith, Buffalo Wild Wings

Savvy Retail Sales Associate: Recognizes excellent customer service from a retail sales associate who has first contact with the public.
- Nominees: Sylvia White (NY Jewelers), Lyndsey Todd (Monograms Plus), & Melanie Chance (Yates-Chance Christian Bookstore)
- Winner: Lyndsey Todd, Monograms Plus

Tourism Professional of the Year: Recognizes the person who has made a significant contribution to the tourism industry through five years or more of innovation, inspiration, and industry leadership.
- Winner: Mother Angelica, Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament (received by Father Mathew Bartow and Pilgrimage Assistant Lizzie Bomback)







Freedom Celebration lights up the night in Fairview

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

FAIRVIEW, Ala. – In the evening of Independence Day, crowds filled Randall Shedd Fairview Town Park as the town's First Baptist Church hosted its 18th annual Freedom Celebration.

Dr. David Chambers, Pastor of Fairview First Baptist Church told The Tribune, "First Baptist Church of Fairview started it in 2002; real small show, I think we put in $325. Drew a pretty good crowd, though, and so the next year we made it a little bigger. And after that, the town came in with us, so they still help sponsor it. Superette still helps sponsor it, Welcome Baptist still helps sponsor it. Etha Baptist and the Methodist church typically do; both of them had some conflicts this year that they weren't able to, but they'll be back in with us next year. And other area businesses and all, over the years, have helped sponsor it. Merchants Bank is a big sponsor as well, this year.

"Typically, what we try to have is, we try to have gospel type singing, whether it's southern gospel, bluegrass gospel, something like that.

"This year, we've got Living Faith, which they're out of Cullman and Danville, their members are. Excellent, excellent southern gospel group, that'll also do some patriotic songs.

"And, of course, we're giving away free hot dogs and water, and that type stuff."

Why do you do it?

Chambers answered, "It's Independence Day. Our country's been blessed with our independence, first of all, from Great Britain. But then, over the years even since then, the freedoms that we enjoy in this country that God has blessed us with, we want people to celebrate that.

"And so, we say it's a freedom celebration because of our freedom from Great Britain--of course, that's the initial aspect of it that we're looking at on the fourth of July. But, ultimately, the freedom that God has blessed us with; we want people to celebrate that. So we come together and do that."

Thousands flock to Smith Lake for food, fun and fireworks

Heather Mann
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SMITH LAKE, Ala. – Despite the heat and humidity, Smith Lake Park once again saw a crowd of thousands throughout its annual Fireworks and Music Festival. The festival featured all-day live entertainment from artists Donny James, Trey Lewis, Ben Myrick, Matt Bennet, Justin Holt, and Christian Gann, as well as contests like a Pepsi chugging competition (for both kids and adults) and their annual patriotic golf cart parade and decorating competition. The best-decorated golf cart was chosen by a panel of four volunteer judges and received a free night of RV camping in the park.

As part of the festivities, cadets from Camp Liberty's Extreme Military Challenge summer camp presented both the American flag and the Extreme Military Challenge flag during the national anthem.

Park manager Brittney Heron stated that she felt the festival had been very successful, and estimated that the park saw at least five thousand visitors - at $5 per person, admission charges brought in at least $25,000 - who were not deterred by the early afternoon rain showers.

Upcoming events at Smith Lake will be the Sweet Tater Festival on September 1st and 2nd, and Tricks & Treats in the Park on October 26th.

Locals pack Heritage Park for annual Cullman Fireworks Festival

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – This year's Cullman Fireworks Festival is in the books and things got underway at Heritage Park at 5 p.m. when families poured on to the soccer fields to enjoy inflatables, giveaways, food vendors, competitions and more before the light show began. This is the eighth year that Desperation Church has helped organize the event and Pastor Andy Heis was excited see another crowd come to the park to join them for this year's festivities.

"We've got inflatables for all the kid to jump on and we've got some things we're going to be giving away tonight.

"We've got Alabama and Auburn Iron Bowl tickets we're going to give away, we've got food trucks here like Steel City Pops and all kinds of stuff going on before the fireworks tonight," Heis said.

"We'll have all kinds of competitions once people really start getting here and piling up.

"We'll have people doing some dance competitions and signing competitions and we'll have a lot of fun with it."

Heis says he thinks the fireworks show itself has improved over the years but has seen a consistent turnout from the community every year.

"You know I feel like the fireworks have really gotten a bit better but when it comes to size of the crowds and the people coming, I think has been about the same every year," Heis said.

"It's just a great environment and it's fun to watch families come together and really watch the whole community come together to watch fire in the sky and celebrate our country.

"I think it's always really come to see everyone unified, it's awesome."

The event is free to attend thanks in large part to sponsors like Nelson, Bryan and Cross Law Firm, Ashley Mercantile and Metal Central and Heis is excited to see as many folks as possible make their way to the celebration each year.

Heis is always happy to hear about people who can enjoy the show from their homes as well.

"We always want to do as much as possible for free. We like seeing families together, having fun with kids and enjoying something together.

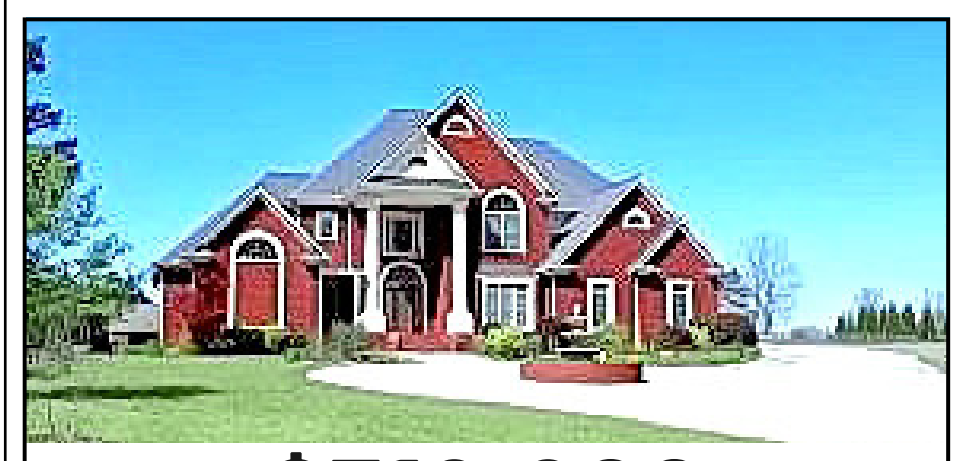
We love the community coming together to hang out, and the more the merrier," Heis smiled.

"There's a lot of people that can just watch from their front porch.

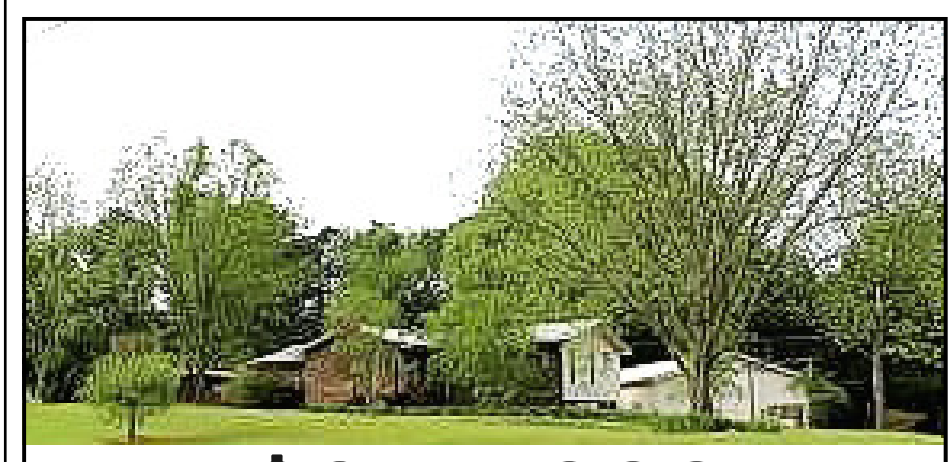
"It's so big that I have people tell me all the time that they're sitting way off somewhere and watching them on their porch, so I always think that's really cool."

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"THE 67-COUNTY, ALABAMA GARDEN PARTY"

PERRY COUNTY

Ben Johnson South
Tribune Correspondent

I flew home from President Jimmy Carter's inauguration with Coretta Scott King and her children. We talked a bit about both being from Alabama and she spoke fondly of her roots in Perry County.

The King kids were doing their school homework and I helped with some quiz questions. I've prayed that I gave them correct answers because I wouldn't want to arrive in heaven and have Dr. King booming a sermon at me.

Coretta Scott grew up in rural Heiberger, about 10 miles north of Marion, Alabama the county seat of Perry. She and Martin met in college when she was majoring in music and he in divinity. They married on the lawn of her parents', Obadiah and Bernice McMurry Scott's, home on June 18, 1953. This was one of the most historic, garden parties in Alabama's two-hundred-year history.

At first, Coretta Scott, who Dr. King called "Corrie," wasn't interested in dating a future preacher but he wooed her with words like this valentine, "Dearest, Love is such a dynamic force, isn't it? It is the most inexplicable and yet the most beautiful force in life. O how joyous it is to be in it...My life without you is like a year without a springtime which comes to give illumination and heat to the atmosphere which has been saturated by the dark, cold breeze of winter...O excuse me, my darling. I didn't mean to go off on such a poetical and romantic flight. But how else can we express the deep emotion of life other than in poetry? Isn't love too ineffable to be grasped by the cold, calculating heads of intellect?"

From what lifelong Perry County residents recall, the wedding vows were said on the porch of the bride's family house and their well-wishers stood on the green grass of the front yard.

There would have been music at this Alabama garden party. Dr. King's favorite hymn was "Take My Hand, Precious Lord" by Thomas A. Dorsey. Coretta Scott led her church choir, sang in high school musicals and she played piano and trumpet. Her new husband, Martin, sang in church choirs but he was not a confident soloist. In her memoir, Mrs. King remembered being proud of him that he once overcame stage fright to sing a solo of "His Eyes Are On The Sparrow," all the way through.

Because I'm writing this Alabama Bicentennial series about where PLANTS + PEOPLE come together across the state, I'm researching what flowers and shrubs were blossoming that June in Perry County and what late-Spring, vegetable gardens would have been producing. My savvy contact in the area, Katrina Easley, Coordinator of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System office, is helping me communicate with Scott family relatives and friends who have period photographs of the house and yard.

Also, I'm researching what foods were served. You know it was delicious, this is Alabama. I'm guessing the local cooks brought their signature dishes. I know, Dr. King, loved peas. In fact, it's reported he enjoyed a "soul food" meal of fried chicken, collard greens, cornbread and black-eyed peas, his last on earth, that tragically sad day in Memphis, only fifteen spring times after his happy wedding day in Heiberger.

By late-June in Perry County, gardens and farmers markets offer a bounty from this rich, Black Belt soil. Baskets are loaded with tomatoes, peppers, peaches, plums, blueberries, green beans, onions, eggplants and more. You'll find English peas and purple hulls and at some points during the year Dr. and Mrs. King would have enjoyed all of these varieties:

• **BLACK-EYED PEAS**—(Vigna unguiculate), this sub-species of the cowpea is really a legume; they are grown all over the world which seems fitting for a King who won the Nobel Peace Prize; we have many varieties of black-eyed peas in Alabama farm stands, including rare, heirloom types

• **LADY PEAS**—called "The Queen Of Summer Peas," this smaller version of black-eyed peas have a creamy texture and sweet taste and are loaded with substantial nutrients

• **ENGLISH PEAS**—these are also called "Garden Peas" (Pisum sativum) and are shelled for their spherical fruits

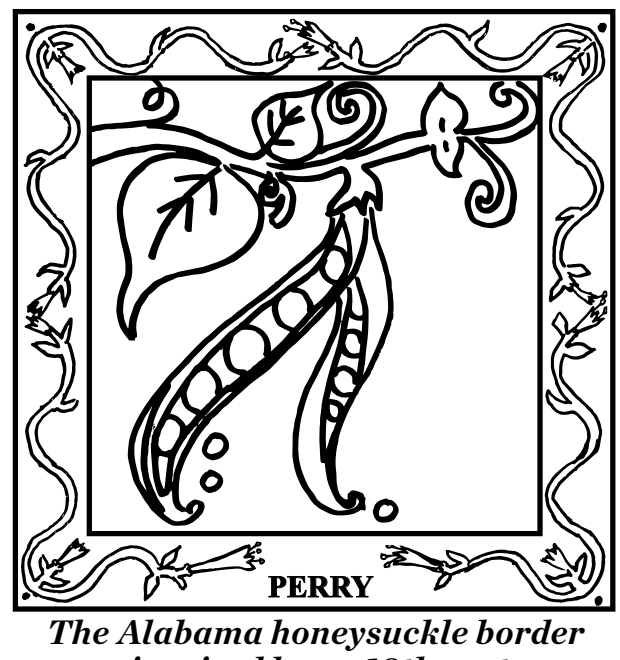
• **SNOW PEAS**—a variety of pea harvested young and eaten pods and all; they can be grown in winter, hence the name; the stems and leaves are used in Chinese cooking; these are the peas, Austrian scientist, Gregor Mendel, used in his breakthrough, genetics research

• **SNAP PEAS**—aka Sugar Snap Peas are more spherical than snow peas but are also eaten pods and all; snap peas are climbers and need trellising to thrive; they are delicious in salads; before cooking, snap peas need to be "stringed"

Dr. King praised his wife, Coretta, as being the "rock" for himself and his family. They parented four children: Yolanda, Martin III, Dexter and Bernice. He admitted keeping such an intense focus on the march for justice that at times he put second, those closest to him, his loved ones. Looking back to that June, 1953 day in a garden in Perry County, Alabama, he would quote this scripture from Proverbs 18:22 "He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor."

Besides peas and prayers, here are other ways PLANTS + PEOPLE come together positively and pleasurably in Perry County including our original recipe for Snap Pea Summer Rolls with Spicy Peachy and Peanuty Sauce:

• **PERRY COUNTY FARMERS MARKET**—469 MLK, Jr. Memorial Parkway, Marion, AL 36756; Thursday – Saturday, 9am-2pm, June 7-November 17



The Alabama honeysuckle border was inspired by an 18th century, Southern applique quilt.

• **UNIONTOWN FARMERS MARKET**—100 Front Street, Uniontown, AL 36786; Wednesday and Saturdays, 7 a.m. -12noon, June-November

• **PERRY COUNTY FARMSTANDS**—Jacob Waddy, Route 1, Safford, AL 36773; James and Willie Nell Avery, Route 1, Newburn, AL 36765; Willie Skeen, Route 1, Newburn, AL 36765

• **BOTANIST, CAROLINE DORMAN**—graduate of Judson College in Marion, became an acclaimed plantswoman, horticulturist, conservationist and author of many botanical books including FLOWERS NATIVE TO THE DEEP SOUTH (1958); she willed her homestead in Louisiana to found the Caroline Dorman Nature Preserve

• **THE ALABAMA BAPTIST NEWSPAPER**-printed for more than 175 years, had its first presses in a tiny building on the campus of Judson College (Marion); tours of this historic campus are available by request

• **PERRY LAKES PARK TRAIL COMPLEX**—entrance to the park is on the east side of State Route 175 alongside the Marion State Fish Hatchery; hiking trails include boardwalks and dirt paths; this is one of the finest viewing areas for early spring wildflowers in central Alabama

• **CHEF SCOTT PEACOCK's BISCUIT EXPERIENCE**—(Marion) former chef of the Georgia Governor's Mansion and James Beard Chef Of The Year, Peacock has opened the historic kitchens of Reverie Mansion for ½ day workshops on the fine art of biscuit-making; Peacock features heirloom ingredients from the Alabama land-and-farmscape he's restoring including original, biscuit wheats; www.chefscottpeacock.com

• **PLANTING AN IDEA**—One of my favorite aspects of this Bicentennial series, "THE 67-COUNTY, ALABAMA GARDEN PARTY" is to "plant" an idea related to PLANTS + PEOPLE. Inspired by the garden wedding of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott at her parents' home in the rural town of Heiberger in Perry County, my idea here is to create a "teaching museum" for family and parenting skills. The world revered Coretta Scott King for what Dr. King called being "a firm foundation, a rock" for him and their four children. Because the house is modest-sized in a remote area, I'm imagining this to have much broader outreach as an internet-based, long-distance learning hub. One possible element of this initiative could be a "Letters To Coretta" program where those planning for a family could ask questions answered by a team of trained counselors and social workers at Judson College in Marion. A superb resource for exploring how the Coretta Scott King family home could further Mrs. King's legacy in family and child development is Katrina Easley, Perry County Coordinator, of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES). Ms. Easley has a Master's Degree in Adult Education and has been a dynamic resource for me in my efforts to celebrate the Scott and King families in Perry County.

ACES has a number of child and family support classes already in place. Maybe at a Coretta Scott King "teaching museum" someone could plant sweetpeas in pots on that historic Alabama porch.

Y'ALL COME to Perry County on your 67-County, Alabama Garden Party tour! And, let's give peas a chance.

Many thanks to Katrina Easley, Coordinator of the Perry County office of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System for all the resources and ideas. Also, thank you to Laurie Johnson for the imaginative and delicious, nutrient-loaded Snap Pea Summer Rolls.

The Cullman Tribune is celebrating the Alabama Bicentennial (1819-2019) with statewide field reporting by Alabama Master Gardener/ Botanical Artist Ben Johnson South. This year-long feature, "The 67-County Alabama Garden Party," will spotlight different counties each week. Each county will get its own "quilt block," along with a historical profile, and we'll share a recipe specific to the area. At the end of the year, all 67 counties will be put in a book to commemorate the Bicentennial.



PERRY COUNTY SNAP PEA SUMMER ROLLS WITH SPICY PEACHY AND PEANUTY SAUCE

These fresh and crisp summer rolls showcase the snap peas of Perry County along with other Alabama favorites such as peaches, peanuts, carrots and onions.

INGREDIENTS

For sauce:

- 3 (of 5) ripe Alabama peaches (choose the most ripe for the sauce)
- "Liquid ingredients"– 1 splash each of soy sauce and balsamic vinegar (peach infused if you can get it), 2 splashes each of hot sauce (sciracha), red wine and lime juice from at least one lime – more or less of each to your taste
- 1 cup crunchy peanut butter

For rolls:

- ~ 18 fresh sugar snap pea pods
- 2 (of 5) ripe Alabama peaches
- 1 crisp cucumber
- 1 bunch green onions
- ~ 1/2 cup matchstick carrots – buy or slice your own
- 6 spring roll wrappers (translucent wrappers made from rice)
- 4 Tbsp. Dry roasted peanuts, coarsely chopped

SPICY PEACH, PEANUT SAUCE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Peel and dice 3 peaches and place into a small amount of water in a sauce pan. Retain as much juice as possible and squeeze what remains on the pit over your pan before discarding. Simmer a few minutes to soften and then add the "Liquid ingredients". Warm gently over low heat for about 20 minutes, stirring frequently, smashing up the peach pieces with your spoon.
- Toward the end of the 20 minutes, stir in the peanut butter and use more "Liquids" to your taste and to thin the sauce as it simmers. Keep warm while assembling the summer rolls.

SUMMER ROLL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Blanch snap peas in boiling water for ~ 4 minutes, until just softened. Drain, cool in ice and dry.
- Peel remaining peaches and slice into thin spears. Slice cucumber into thin spears, discard seeds and squeeze dry with a paper towel to remove as much water as possible. Slice green onions into long, thin spears. Reserve some chopped green parts for garnish.

ASSEMBLE SUMMER ROLLS:

- Using instructions for wrappers, immerse one at a time in a plate of warm water for a few seconds to soften, blot with a paper towel and place on a silicon cutting board for non-stick assembly.
- Put 3 snap peas and few each of the peach, cucumber, green onions and carrot matchsticks, lengthwise, on the center. Drizzle with 1 tsp. of the peachy peanut sauce.
- Roll up tightly as directed by wrapper instructions (fold in the sides and the bottom closest to you and roll up tightly away from you).
- Cut, diagonally ~ 1/4 inch from one end of each roll and place seam side down on plate. Serve with the remaining sauce and garnish with green onions and peanuts.

Makes 6 servings

Funny Things from Yesterday: The sixth finger

Robert N. Tidwell, Sr.
Tribune Contributor



Robert Jr. and Robin were good kids and minded real well. They learned early in life that a little hickory tea goes a long way in helping children to behave. Even though Robert was a good kid, he had a little bit of a con artist in him. When he was a youngster he attended pre-first at St. Paul Lutheran school. He enjoyed school and being with other children. They shared information about and showed off the latest toy each one had. One afternoon, Robert Jr. came home from school with a hang-dog look on his face - as if he had absolutely lost his last friend. His mother was right concerned about his depression and started to question him about his problem. Now, he starts to pull the wool over his mother's eyes. He told his mother that almost every boy in pre-first class had a Sixth Finger except him. He was awfully upset that he was so underprivileged and deprived in his childhood.

If you don't know what a Sixth Finger is, then let me explain. A Sixth Finger was a well disguised lethal weapon, a cap gun, that was designed to look exactly like one of your natural fingers and was made to fit between your fingers. The only way you could tell that someone had one of these weapons was to be able to count to six. If you saw someone with six fingers on one hand you really had to watch out.

Anyway, Robert Jr.'s mother took him to town that very afternoon and bought him a Sixth Finger. A few days later, however, we learned, by a some slip of the tongue, that Robert Jr. and one other little boy in the pre-first class were the only two in the entire school who belonged to the elite group of proud owners of a Sixth Finger.



PROFILES IN FAITH

Keitha Scalf reaches out to bring hope to those recovering from trauma

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - Women facing the emotional aftermath of long-term abuse, addiction, abortion, and other traumas may feel like there's no way to a "normal" life. Sometimes finding the way starts with meeting someone who has traveled down the same path. One Cullman resident is trying to make those meetings happen.

In terms of the crises of life, Keitha Scalf has "been there, done that" and, in a recently-begun public speaking ministry, she hopes to help other women put the pieces of their broken lives back together.

Scalf told The Tribune, "When I was born, I weighed one pound, nine ounces. I've heard that story and how amazing my survival was my entire life. When adversity continued to come in wave after wave, I began to wonder if a person like me could go through so much and come out on top one day.

To be honest, when my pain from abuse shifted into self-hatred [in the form of] promiscuity, extensive drug use, self-harm, homosexuality, sheer recklessness, and all that comes with the chaos of simply trying to stay alive yet never wanting to live, I was never certain of how life would turn out. I often wondered what would be my breaking point. The future looked very bleak.

"However, in my deepest pit of despair, I always had a spark of hope that it would, or could, change at some moment. For me, like many, I encountered Jesus. After years of inner chaos and turmoil, I finally met someone whose love was bigger than my self-hatred. Love won me over.

"I believe that people need to see someone who isn't afraid to share their story, as well as live fully present, free of shame and guilt. Someone has to set an example that a person never has to stay as low as their circumstances dictate. While I am not the only one to overcome adversity, the world can never have too many people that do so, and lead the way for others to follow. So often, people settle in their hearts, lifestyle, and mental space, myself included. But, as a person who wants to fully live life, pressing into character-defining moments takes you to the next place of freedom."

Going Public

"Over the last few months, I found myself in a place to be able to share my story without shame or guilt," said Scalf. "I hope to be an example to those around me that you can be more than you've ever thought possible, that you enjoy and fully participate in the beauty of life without [being] shackled to the past."

In just a short time, Scalf has gotten to share her story with churches and organizations across Alabama and even in other states, including Whispers of a Married Woman with Brown Ministries, Royal Pines Recovery Center, One New Man, Hope Center Church, and others. Later this year, she is scheduled to speak in Forestdale and at the Alabama Post Abortion Recovery Benefit Dinner in Birmingham.

Scalf told us, "Primarily, I speak to adult men and women who are in a vulnerable place such, as active drug recovery, or in church/youth group settings. I have had opportunities to focus on younger adults as well as youth who are being faced with or experiencing similar adversity."

"I hope that my ministry shows the power of Jesus on a hard and calloused heart. I hope to plant seeds of life in others, [and] to spark hope for the original intent of their life on the earth that so often gets buried under shame and guilt of life circumstances."

Scalf concluded, "I'm thankful for where I am at now in my life. I have a family of my own, actively involved in my church body, and [have] strong relationships with friends and family who care and love me. It is with this supportive body, spiritual parents, and my relationship with Christ, that I continue to grow in my relationship with Christ. We're not made to do life alone. If you're in a place that you need help, there is no shame in asking."

To contact Keitha Scalf, email keithathespeaker@yahoo.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEITHA SCALF

Keitha Scalf

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

What I love about the Fourth of July

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



For about as long as I can remember, I have loved the Fourth of July. It has never been my favorite holiday, for reasons I will discuss, but it is certainly among my top three or four. Honestly, Christmas has always been my favorite, but not always for the right reason.

As a kid, I loved Christmas because it came with presents. We didn't get many presents like today's children do, but we always got something and were glad to get it. As an adult and as a Christian, Christmas is still my favorite but for a different reason. It is because this is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Easter is my second favorite holiday because that is when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Thanksgiving is probably my third favorite, because I have so much for which to give thanks.

The fact that I love turkey and dressing has nothing to do with it... well, it could color my thinking slightly.

I love Independence Day because it does not involve gifts. No, I'm not opposed to giving or getting gifts, but I do think they have become too much of the focus of certain holidays. The Fourth is one of the few holidays that have not been lost in the wrappings of materialism. Even Valentines, which is not even an official holiday, has gifts. Not long after the Fourth, stores will get out their Christmas items and the commercials will begin, but Independence Day can easily slip up on us without much announcement.

I have fond memories of the Fourth as a child. While my dad was still living, this was a day we spent together as a family. Dad closed his business and we cooked hamburgers and hot dogs on a charcoal grill, made ice-cream with a hand-cranked freezer, and cut a watermelon.

One time we even had an entire tractor-trailer full of watermelons from which to pick. We had a huge rock in our front yard that was about six-feet long and three-feet wide.

It stuck up out of the ground probably eight to ten inches high. Mama would cover that rock with a quilt or vinyl tablecloth and we used it like out outdoor picnic table. Sometimes I took a dip in the pond after lunch.

My family now still does some of those same things, but we don't have a rock. I'm also thankful that ice-cream freezers these days have electric motors! We don't have a pond but we do have a pool. These days, the Fourth is often my first time, and sometimes my only time all summer, to dive in.

I love the fourth because it is when we celebrate our nation's birth and our freedom. I appreciate the men who declared our independence, the soldiers who fought to gain it, and those who have served to protect it since then. Even though we the people aren't always united, I love these United States. This country is far from perfect but it is still "my" country. I have visited several other countries and haven't found any of them to be perfect either. I love to see that star spangled banner flying high any time but especially on Independence Day. In a day when far too many Americans no longer respect our flag, I still do. I love that our rocket's red glares are not weapons being fired but simply fireworks.

I love our national anthem and other patriotic songs like "God Bless America," "God Bless the USA," America the Beautiful," and "My Country Tis of Thee." I thank God for our country and I pray for our country's future.

May God help our country and may you have a happy Fourth-of-July weekend!

Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com or 334-745-0588 (office) or 334-728-5514 (cell).

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files of 1923

The W.A. Hand farm on Dripping Springs Pike will be sold at auction on October 30th. There will be daylight fireworks, band concert and balloon flying, along with the sale.

Reverend T.J. Chamblee, Baptist minister, died suddenly on Tuesday morning, at 6:00 a.m., at the depot, while waiting for the southbound accommodation train to go to Garden City.

Cullman High beat the Jasper Vikings, 50to0inagamehereonFriday afternoon.

Guests of Mrs. L.L. Otwell this week are her cousins, Mrs. Albee Smith and Miss Louise Smith, of Chicago.

Among Cullman people going down to see the Ringling Brothers Circus, on Wednesday, were Doctor and Mrs. A.P. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Will Boub, Mrs. J.C. Norwood and Miss Jennie Biggers.

Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Self are parents of a baby son.

Bob McKinney has returned to Canton, Ohio, after a visit with relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. Irving Young have returned from Barberton, Ohio and will make their home here.

Ford touring cars can now be bought for $295.00 F.O.B. Detroit.

Mrs. Downey from New York, is spending this week here, to help the ladies with their complexion problems. She is at Cullman Drug Company's toilet goods section. Adv.

Miss Viola Brooks and Miss Audrey Fuller are the teachers for Baldwin School, which will open on November 1st.

Married at 9:00 a.m., on Sunday, were Miss Bessie Bradford and Curtis Hancock.

\From The Files Of 1963

Hanceville News

Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. J.O. Jones and Mrs. Cynthia Cook were Mr. and Mrs. Dan Baker and daughters, Linda, Glenda and Rita Ann, of Empire; Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Jones, of Dora; Talmadge Baker and Miss Jewell Brown, of Birmingham; Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Cagle and Betty, of Center Hill and Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Baker.

Mrs. Kenneth Carr and children, of Tuscaloosa, were the Thursday guests of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. L.W. Meadows.

Spending Thursday with Mr. and Mrs. E.R. Taylor were Royce Bland, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Mrs. Helen Willingham, of Birmingham.

Mr. and Mrs. Grady Wiggins and Miss Dot Wiggins have returned, after visiting Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Hendrix and family, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Mr. and Mrs. David Moore and Mrs. John Yaney, in El Dorado, Arkansas and Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Moore, in the Ozark Mountains.

Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Griffith and Miss Fay Griffith spent Sunday afternoon in Vinemont with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Linton and family.

Mrs. Grady Johnston spent the weekend in Gardendale, with Mr. and Mrs. Hobert Johnston.

Tuesday guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. L.H. Formby, were Mr. and Mrs. Bob Burford, of Birmingham and Mrs. Wendell Watts and Gary, of Cullman.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Devine, of Decatur, were the guests on Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Bert McGlawn.

Mrs. T.W. McKibbins is ill in Cullman Hospital.

George Clapp visited friends, in Garden City, on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hagemore and family, of Good Hope, were the Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Hagemore.

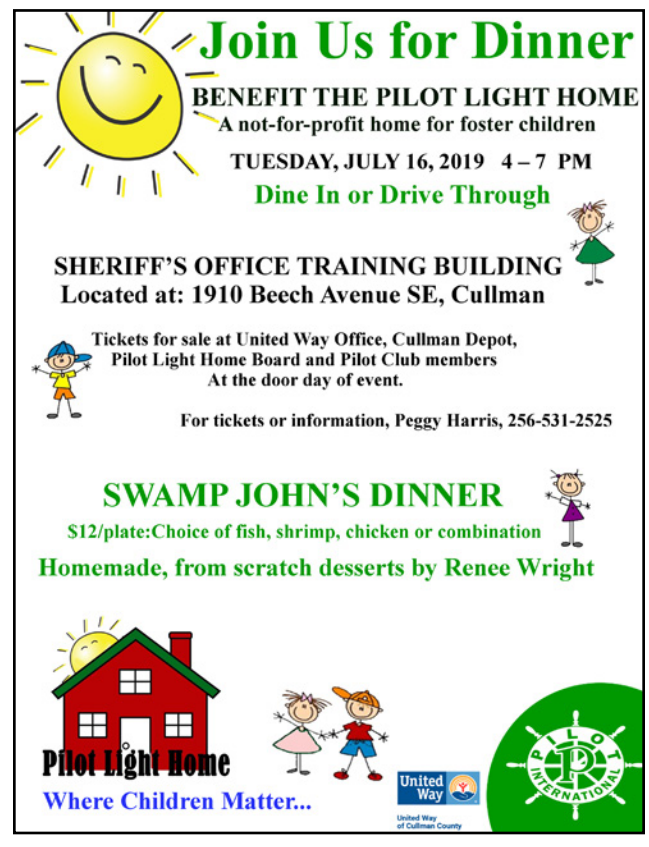
Mr. and Mrs. Homer Thigpen spent a few days last week visiting Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnston and family, in Clanton.

Sunday guests of Mrs. Hobert Thornton were Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Schultz and Mrs. R.P. Newman, of Gardendale, Mr. and Mrs. Ray McCord, of Oneonta and Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Casey, of Welti.

Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. L.B. Jones were Mr. and Mrs. George Starr, of Pensacola, Florida and Barton Starr, of Birmingham.

Valley Grove News

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Newton, of Birmingham, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Canant, last weekend.



Poet's Corner

The Summer Queen is Upon Us

By: D. Ann of Missouri
Submitted by Randy C. Hale

Verdant tendrils sashay

in the belly of the warming pond.

Fish dart from their hiding place

to gobble splashing bugs.

Pink-sherbet skies glisten in mirrored

ripples orchestrated by feasting fish.

The Summer Queen smiles a dewy smile

and sprinkles humidity on upturned

faces, they drink every bobbing bead.

A hush breathes over the pulsing

forest, heartbeats of every creature

bow to the ruling Queen

while she floats in liquid cadence

singing cashmere-warmth songs.

Convention (from Front)

bama for the first time. The courthouse convention in Cullman was one of our first Alabama singings, and I'll never forget how we were treated as family that very first day.

"Right then, we pitched our tent towards Alabama. There is a refreshing way of making people welcome here; a genuine, family-oriented way of living that seems to be disappearing in so much of America. Alabamian singers reflect this, thus drawing singers from all parts of the world to come back and visit again and again."

At a glance

- 127th annual Cullman County Courthouse Singing Convention
- July 13-14, 2019, starting at 9 a.m. Saturday with a potluck lunch around noon, and 9:30 a.m. Sunday
- Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Ave SW (Hwy. 31) in Cullman
- Second floor District Courtroom of Judge Kim Chaney
- For convention veterans: bring your 1991 Denson book
- For newcomers: they've got books that can be borrowed

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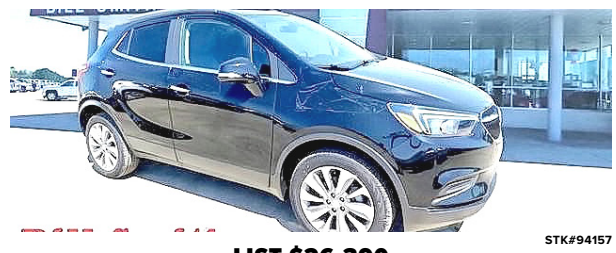
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STK#94157
LIST ~~$26,390~~
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Essence AWD



STK#84238
LIST ~~$40,955~~
SALE $27,671*

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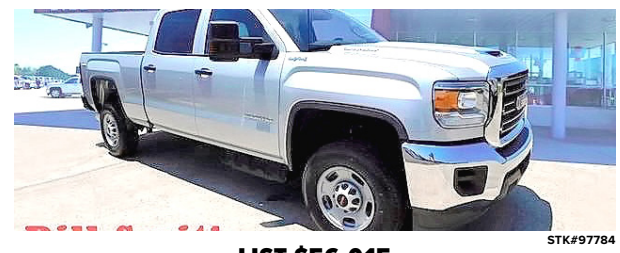
STK#97762
LIST ~~$40,755~~
SALE $32,395*

2019 GMC ACADIA
FWD Denali



STK#98112
LIST ~~$50,570~~
SALE $39,201*

2019 GMC SIERRA 2500HD
Crew Cab Standard Box 4-Wheel Drive



STK#97784
LIST ~~$56,015~~
SALE $45,895*

2019 BUICK CASCADA
2dr Conv Sport Touring



STK#94095
LIST ~~$38,145~~
SALE $27,535*

2019 BUICK ENVISION
FWD 4dr Essence



STK#94068
LIST ~~$37,940~~
SALE $27,095*

2019 BUICK ENCLAVE
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STK#94242
LIST ~~$47,085~~
SALE $36,295*

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