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VOL. 146 • 50¢ PER COPY | *JULY 9, 2019* | USPS 139-700 • NO. 83

– FEATURE –

COURT DOG!

Meet Brooksie, the Cullman County Courthouse's new facility dog



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Circuit Judge Gregory Nicholas poses with the court's newest officer, Brooksie, a 2-year-old labradoodle.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman County Courthouse on Monday officially welcomed its newest officer, Brooksie, a 2-year-old female labradoodle trained by Service Dogs Alabama (SDA).

SDA head trainer Ashley Taylor, who delivered Brooksie to Circuit Judge Gregory Nicholas Monday afternoon, told The Tribune:

"She's fully trained. She's trained to pick up on stress and anxiety. She'll do a couple of different things: she'll lean up against the person, she'll put her head in their lap for them to stroke her while they're on the stand or testifying. And she knows over 50 commands."

Brooksie will "work" at the courthouse in several different courts, as well as the Child Advocacy Center and other programs. She will spend her off time at Judge Nicholas's home. Taylor supervises a two-year program to develop dogs for various forms of work, including diabetic service, seizure alert, stability/balance, wheelchair assistance, autism anxiety interception and PTSD episode response.

In an interesting twist, 18 months of the dogs' training is done by Alabama inmates under SDA supervision. That's right: folks in prison for committing crimes are working in a program to help crime victims.

And it's good for everyone: SDA reports on its website that not a single inmate involved in its training program, who has subsequently been released, has yet returned to prison. Training service dogs in prison over a period of time, according to SDA, improves life skills including parenting, self-control, anger and emotion management, communication skills, teamwork, compassion and purpose.

SDA was the first organization to place a dog in an Alabama court, sending a service dog named Kit Kat to Dale County in Oct. 2015.

The group's dogs are currently in use around Alabama in courthouses, schools (where their use has been shown to reduce isolation of special needs students and improve academic performance and grades) and as personal service animals.

In fact, this court came into contact with SDA through a Cullman County veteran who has a PTSD service dog, and one previous candidate for Cullman's court dog was placed with an autistic child in the county.

The dogs are trained to sense increasing heart rate, blood pressure and other indicators that their assigned human's stress levels are getting out of control, and respond with subtle distraction techniques like nose nudges or putting their heads in the human's lap to help ground them and pull them out of panic attacks and other negative stress reactions.

As traumatized victims- especially children- testify in court, according to Taylor, "The dog's laying their head in their lap and letting them pet the dog helps them. You know, it doesn't feel like someone's staring at you when you're having to retell all these things.

"They, a lot of times, will say the person is looking down the whole time at the dog, stroking the dog, and it's a little bit easier for them to get the words out.

"You do not get them having panic attacks as much. They typically are giving way more details because they feel at ease; you know, their anxiety is being relieved, and it's easier for them. They feel like they're talking to the dog, and obviously a dog is not judgmental."

Cullman has been on the waiting list for a facility dog for more than six months. As late as last week, the county was still looking at up to two more months, but SDA felt like Brooksie was ready, so they brought her on in. She is the third facility dog placed in a court-

» PAGE 6

Falkville woman killed in crash near Vinemont

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. – A single-vehicle crash at 7:25 a.m. Sunday, July 7 claimed the life of a Falkville woman, according to Alabama State Troopers.

Shelly Dawn Woods, 47, was killed when the 2001 Nissan Pathfinder she was driving left the roadway on County Road 1435 and overturned. Woods was pronounced dead at the scene.

Troopers said the crash occurred 6 miles north of Vinemont.

Nothing further is available as State Troopers continued to investigate.

LIFESTYLE

Dorothy Newell Rice crowned 2019 Lady Liberty



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

From left to right are Mary Ellen Jones, Dorothy Newell Rice, Wanda Raines and Edith Davis. » PAGE 6

Tribune brings home 6 APA awards, announces move from 3 to 5 days per week



SETH MILLER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right are Cullman Tribune Sports Editor Nick Griffin, Publisher Noah Galilee and Reporter Christy Perry. » PAGE 6

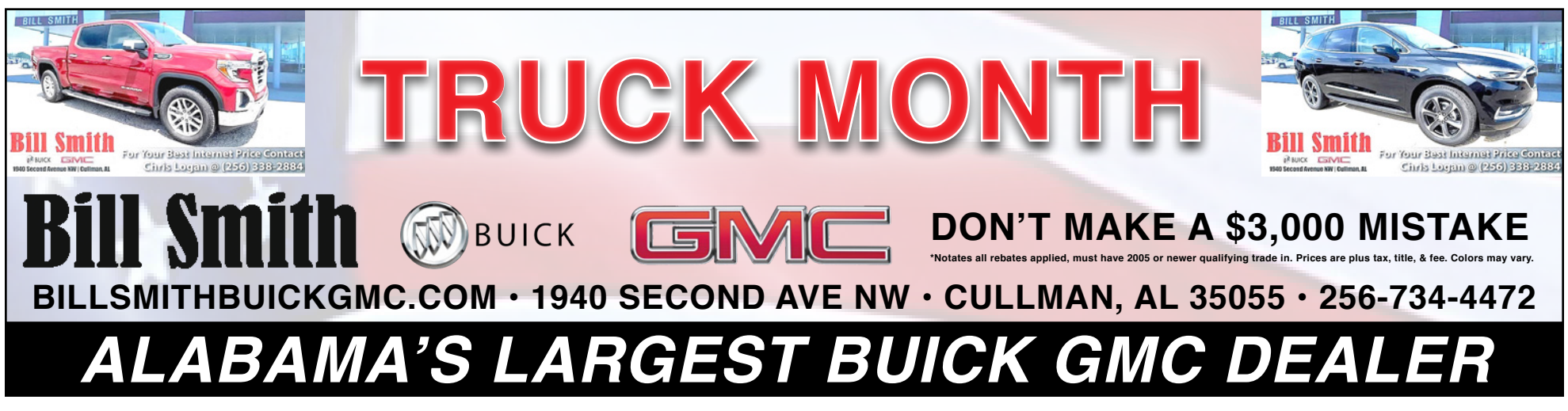
PET OF THE WEEK

Spend your weekends with Bernie



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Bernie » PAGE 5





W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A cottage at Stone Bridge Farms burned early Sunday evening.

Fire destroys cottage at Stone Bridge Farms

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CULLMAN, Ala. – Multiple agencies responded to a fire at Stone Bridge Farms early Sunday evening, where a cottage in the northeast corner of the property had caught fire.

Firefighters from Hanceville Fire and Rescue, Cullman Fire Rescue, Johnson's Crossing Volunteer Fire Department and Berlin Volunteer Fire Department, along with personnel from Cullman EMS, Hanceville Police and the Cullman County Sheriff's Office worked the scene, which was already heavily involved when the first crews arrived.

Though the cottage was a complete loss, firefighters contained the blaze and prevented it from spreading to the large grassy field and farmland surrounding the structure.

Officers from Hanceville and Cullman EMS confirmed that no one was injured in the fire, and that all emergency responders were safe.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Hanceville man charged after 15 grams of meth found in car

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) deputies on July 4 arrested Christopher Shaunn Bell, 29, of Hanceville after 15 grams of methamphetamine were allegedly found in his vehicle following a traffic stop.

According to a media release from the CCSO, a deputy on patrol July 4 stopped Bell on U.S. Highway 31 near County Road 616 for a traffic violation and discovered the vehicle Bell was driving had a switched tag.

During the stop, it was also discovered Bell had an active warrant with another law enforcement agency.

After he was placed under arrest on the active warrant deputies conducted a search of Bell's vehicle and allegedly found approximately 15 grams of methamphetamine.

Bell was charged with possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance. He has made bond.

"I am glad the deputies were able to arrest this suspect and seize this much meth before it was distributed into our community," said Sheriff Matt Gentry.

"I would also like to point out this arrest was made on July 4, which shows the bad guys don't care what day it is, they will still sell drugs, commit thefts and do other crimes, and I am very thankful for our deputies and all law enforcement that work during holidays to keep us safe."



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Christopher Shaunn Bell

Annual Back to School Sales Tax Holiday returns July 19-21

Maggie Darnell
maggie@cullmantribune.com

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – Alabama's annual Back to School Sales Tax Holiday will take place July 19-21.

Cullman Economic Development Agency Retail Development Manager Susan Eller shared how this impacts Cullman, saying, "This is a great tax break for our citizens.

"I want to encourage everyone in Cullman to shop local and take advantage of this tax-free weekend.

"The local stores are the ones who support our schools, sports teams, academic teams, local charities and more.

"This is our opportunity to support them. Remember to 'shop local' not just during the sales tax holiday but all year long."

Alabama's 14th Annual Back to School Sales Tax Holiday for school-related items is set for July 19-21.

During this time, from 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 19, until midnight, Sunday, July 21, the state waives its four-percent sales tax on school-related supplies and clothing.

Throughout Alabama, more than 300 cities and counties throughout Alabama will waive their local taxes as well.

Shoppers can check the list of participating counties and cities by visiting https://alabamaretail.org/resources/salestaxholidays/back-to-school/.

Eller added, "Take this opportunity to visit a merchant you may have never shopped at before.

"We think you can find everything you need right here at home."

Exempt items include:

- clothing priced at $100 or less per article of clothing
- school supplies valued at $50 or less per item
- books that cost $30 or less per book
- tables, laptops, computers and printers with a selling price of $750 or less

To view a more in-depth list of what is exempt and what is taxable, view the Alabama Department of Revenue's visit https://alabamaretail.org/resources/salestaxholidays/back-to-school/.

EDUCATION

Vinemont's Cooper participates in 21st Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum

Rick Couch
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – Vinemont resident Emylee Cooper recently participated in the 21st annual Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) on the campus of Troy University.

The five-day event – sponsored by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services – seeks to equip high school students with disabilities with valuable leadership skills through sessions on self-esteem, career exploration, technology, independent living and etiquette.

As part of the camp, the participants travel to Montgomery to meet state leaders. That trip also includes a tour of the Capitol and a mentor luncheon, where delegates interact with and receive advice from successful adults with disabilities.

YLF delegates are chosen through a statewide search for students displaying leadership potential.



RICK COUCH

Those selected represent the state's demographics in terms of geography, gender, ethnicity and type of disability. To be eligible, an individual must be a high school junior or senior with a disability who is between 17 and 21 years old.

Other sponsors of this year's YLF included the Alabama Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, the Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Troy University.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July 9 - 11

TUESDAY, JULY 9

Cullman County Commission Meeting
10 a.m. in the commission meeting room at the Cullman County Courthouse

Lunch at the VFW
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 in 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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

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, JULY 11

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....

2nd Fridays- July 12
- Who's ready for 2019 2nd Fridays round two?! This month we have some awesome bands ready to rock the streets of Downtown Cullman, including Jake Robertson & The BamaCountry Band, Avenue G Band and Kent Duchaine. So bring your air guitars and come jam out with us!
- Activities include: Kids' Zone, Antique and Classic Car Cruse-In, Artist Alley, Farm Y'all Cullman, Depot Park featuring Ladies Night in the Park, Goat Yoga, Sips n Strokes Cullman class, traditional beginner yoga, food demonstration, Cake Walk, Food Truck Alley and extended hours for participating Cullman Warehouse District businesses
- The festivities will begin at 5 p.m. and wind down at 10 p.m. Admission to 2nd Fridays is free, but don't forget to bring your wallets to support local eateries, vendors, merchants, artist and farmers! We encourage attendees to bring their own chairs, as well, for your comfort. We are excited to see you there!

Pets on Parade
- Happening at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and Cullman Downtown Merchants Association 2nd Fridays Celebration-Friday, July 12 at 6 p.m.
- Along First Avenue SE/NE between the Busy Bee Cafe and Festhalle, and other select locations downtown
- Bring your pets! To enter the pet parade, call 256-682-1501. Entry fee $5 or donation of pet food for Cullman County Animal Shelter.

127th Annual Cullman County Courthouse Singing Convention
- This 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.
- 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 Second 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 you can borrow.

Olen F. and Clara Blackwood Bishop Annual Family Reunion
The Olen F. and Clara Blackwood Bishop Annual Family Reunion will be held Saturday, July 13, 2019 at the Berlin Community Center (located 5 miles east of Cullman at 3309 Highway 278 East, Cullman, AL 35055). Please bring your favorite covered dish to share - lunch will be at noon. Visiting will begin at 10 a.m.

Davenport Reunion
The Davenport reunion will be Sunday, July 14 at the Moody Center in Hanceville, AL. Please bring a covered dish and enjoy food, family and fellowship.

Fairview High School Class of 1974 Reunion
The Fairview High School Class of 1974 will have its 45-year class reunion Saturday, July 20 at 5m p.m. at Whispering Cedars, 1244. County Road 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.

West Point High School Class of 1962 Reunion
The West Point High School Class of 1962 will hold its 57-year reunion Saturday, July 27 from 1:30-4 p.m. at the Brandin' Iron in West Point. For more information, call 256-747-6883.

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.

Grace Episcopal Church VBS
Grace Episcopal Church VBS invites all pre-K through fifth graders 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, 5:30-7:30 p.m. 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 St. NE, Cullman, 256-734-6212.

Christmas in August Kickoff Event
The annual Christmas in August Kickoff Event will be held Wednesday, July 31 at 6:30 p.m. at Northside Baptist Church (1310 Katherine St. NW). Every year, the West Cullman Baptist churches collect and fill backpacks for underprivileged children. This year, the backpacks will be delivered to the Mississippi River Ministry. The kickoff program includes Christmas music, a skit, a 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.

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.

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Publication Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422

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

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

ANNUALLY BASED RATES

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

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Arrests and incidents reported July 8

Maggie Darnell
maggie@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported June 8, 2019. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

July 3
- trespassing; CR 1360
- domestic violence; CR 1214
- trespassing; CR 1485
- harassment; Chad Dr.
- failure to deliver title; Hwy. 69 S
- criminal mischief; CR 704
- theft of property; CR 35
- burglary; CR 490
- theft of property; CR 1435
- giving false name to law enforcement officer; CR 940

July 4
- harassment; CR 315
- unlawful possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia; Smith Lake Park
- harassment, menacing, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest; I-65, MM 314
- burglary; 1st St. Hanceville
- theft of property; CR 437
- theft of property; Tweety Lane Hanceville
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 436
- resisting arrest, attempting to elude; CR 1718
- attempting to elude; CR 464
- theft of property; CR 109
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Beech Ave. SE
- domestic violence, resisting arrest; CR 386
- unlawful possession of marijuana, illegal possession of prescription drugs; I-65 SB, MM 318

July 5
- burglary; CR 68
- obstruction of justice, illegal possession of prescription drugs; Hwy. 69 N
- unauthorized use of a motor vehicle; CR 616
- domestic violence; CR 1251
- harassment; Griffin Dr.
- violation of a protection order; CR 1138
- criminal mischief; CR 702
- burglary; CR 1625
- unlawful possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 781
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance; Hwy. 157
- domestic violence; Hwy. 278 E

July 6
- harassment; Hwy. 91
- domestic violence; CR 702
- theft of property; CR 941
- harassment; CR 160
- theft of property; CR 1663
- harassment; CR 1143
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 62

July 7
- illegal possession of prescription drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 67, CR 1756
- harassment; CR 437
- burglary; CR 1141
- theft of property; CR 623

ARRESTS

July 3

Bunt, Jamie Lee, 34
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Conn, Nathaniel Brent, 38
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence – harassment

Fanning, Johnathan Allen, 39
- public intoxication

Hansen, Autumn Nicole, 41
- third-degree domestic violence – harassment

Keller, Lee Matthew, 37
- probation violation – unlawful possession of a controlled substance

July 4

Bell, Christopher Shaunn, 29
- possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Cheatham, Nathan Ray, 27
- attempting to elude
- FTA- permitting dogs to run at large
- resisting arrest

Farr, Carles Matthew, 35
- second-degree burglary
- FTA- driving while revoked
- probation violation – second-degree theft of property

Foshee, Jennifer Joy, 44
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- public intoxication
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Jackson, Amanda Lynn, 34
- public intoxication

Johnson, Kelly Renay, 38
- illegal possession of prescription medicine
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Jones, Kelly Letitie, 36
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Kelley, Eric Dewayne, 33
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

King, Spencer Andrew, 31
- attempting to elude
- reckless driving

Mitchell, Brittain David, 34
- public intoxication

Moore, Christina Johnson, 42
- second-degree criminal trespassing (2 counts)

Murphey, Cheryl Lynn, 47
- third-degree domestic violence – harassment
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree promoting prison contraband
- resisting arrest

Pace, Mark Anthony, 50
- third-degree domestic violence – harassment

Phillips, Jonathan Lee, 27
- resisting arrest
- FTA- first-degree theft of property

Reeves, Rachel Ann, 35
- chemical endangerment of a child

Sellers, Amber Deann, 36
- public intoxication

Stidham, Joshua Clint, 34
- third-degree assault
- disorderly conduct
- menacing
- resisting arrest

Washington, Pendilo Candace, 42
- public intoxication

July 5

Bentley, Amanda Dawn, 41
- third-degree criminal trespassing
- public intoxication

Buckelew, Michael Andrew, 31
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Jones, George Alan Jr., 54
- public intoxication

Netherton, Brandon Heath, 41
- obstruction – using false ID

Payne, Jason Wayne, 41
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Pope, Kristi Lynn, 54
- FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Poston, Kristy Lynn, 40
- Illegal possession of prescription medicine

Tucker, Weston Boyd, 18
- harassment

Wood, Danielle Rene, 27
- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

July 6

Baker, Zachary Chance, 22
- probation violation – attempted breaking and entering of a motor vehicle
- GJ- first-degree sexual abuse
- probation violation – first-degree theft of property
- probation violation – unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Cole, Erica Ann Swell, 31
- second-degree assault
- attempted murder
- reckless endangerment

Elliott, Joshua Dustin Donnie, 35
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence – harassment
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Evans, David Eric, 39
- probation violation – third-degree burglary (5 counts)

Lacy, Kimberly Ann, 35
- FTA- second-degree burglary

Mooney, Clint Ronald, 40
- second-degree assault

Sivley, Joseph Bradley, 36
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence – reckless endangerment

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

July 7

Jones, Jennifer Renee, 38
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- illegal possession of prescription medicine (2 counts)

Kincade, James Alton, 53
- public intoxication

Scruggs, Ben Cody, 32
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- FTA- first-degree unlawful possession of marijuana (not for personal use)
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Smalley, Bobby Shane, 33
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- illegal possession of prescription medicine

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

July 3
- fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $64

July 5
- fourth-degree theft of property; Alabama Farm Credit; unknown location; tag; $100
- fourth-degree theft of property; Dollar General; 4th St. SW; alcohol; $15
- third-degree theft of property; person; Ward Ave SW; cash; $900
- third-degree domestic violence; person; 6th St. SW
- fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Hwy 157; tent; $27
- fourth-degree theft of property; Dollar General; 4th St. SW; general merchandise; $35
- fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Hwy 157; miscellaneous; $52

July 6
- fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Hwy 157; general merchandise; $210
- third-degree domestic violence – harassment; person; Town Square SW

July 7
- second-degree assault; person; Hickory Ave SW
- third-degree burglary; Seven Bark Dr. NW; damaged door; $500

July 8
- fourth-degree theft of property; 278 Chevron; Hwy 278 W; general merchandise; $28

ARRESTS

July 3

Harbison, Ann M., 35
- fourth-degree theft of property

Hale, Daxton K., 20
- fourth-degree theft of property

Eddy, Monika L., 29
- second-degree theft of property
- third-degree receiving stolen property
- fourth-degree theft of property

Dasilva, Rachel M., 30
- second-degre receiving stolen property
- fourth-degree theft of property

Mathis, Alan B., 39
- public intoxication

July 4

Turney, Aaron K., 28
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia

Holliday, Jr., Vernon E., 30
- FTA- harassment

Phillips, Jonathan L., 27
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Burney, Colt W., 36
- fourth-degree theft of property

July 5

Oliver, Daniel M., 32
- third-degree domestic violence

Moore, Christina J., 42
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Carbajal, Lazaro S., 35
- DUI

Blanton, Freda J., 43
- fourth-degree theft of property
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Trussell, Jerry L., 66
- DUI

Rhodes, Logan A., 23
- public intoxication

July 6

Chaney, Eddie W., 45
- DUI

Perkins, John D., 62
- public intoxication

Holliday, Jr., Vernon E., 30
- public intoxication

Greathouse, Bennie, 65
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence

Cotton, Christopher M., 24
- public intoxication
- third-degree domestic violence

Isbell, Matthew A., 36
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence
- FTA- driving while suspended

July 7

Hobbs, Carol J., 34
- DUI

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

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

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Dine In or Drive Through
SHERIFF'S OFFICE TRAINING BUILDING
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Tickets for sale at United Way Office, Cullman Depot, Pilot Light Home Board and Pilot Club members At the door day of event.
For tickets or information, Peggy Harris, 256-531-2525
SWAMP JOHN'S DINNER
$12/plate:Choice of fish, shrimp, chicken or combination
Homemade, from scratch desserts by Renee Wright
Pilot Light Home
Where Children Matter...
United Way of Cullman County
Pilot International



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$100 or less per item of clothing (including diapers) or footwear
$50 or less per item for certain school supplies
$750 or less on single purchases of computers/computer equipment
$30 or less on any book. $50 or less on textbooks
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ALABAMA RETAIL ASSOCIATION
SHOP ALABAMA
*4% state sales tax waived statewide; cities and counties can opt into the tax holiday, for savings up to 10% on covered items



EDUCATION

Cold Springs' Maddie Mitchell wins gold at FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Anaheim

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. – Members of Cold Springs High School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) joined more than 8,500 FCCLA student leaders, members and advisers at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, California June 28- July 5 for the annual FCCLA National Leadership Conference (NLC).

Cold Springs' Maddie Mitchell participated in one of 30 family and consumer sciences-related competitive events offered at NLC, including STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) events.

These events support foundational, leadership and workplace skills in areas such as advocacy, culinary arts and entrepreneurship.

Competing with more than 5,800 STAR Event participants, Mitchell achieved gold in the "National Programs in Action" category. Mitchell's advisor is Stephanie L. Blair from Cold Springs High School.

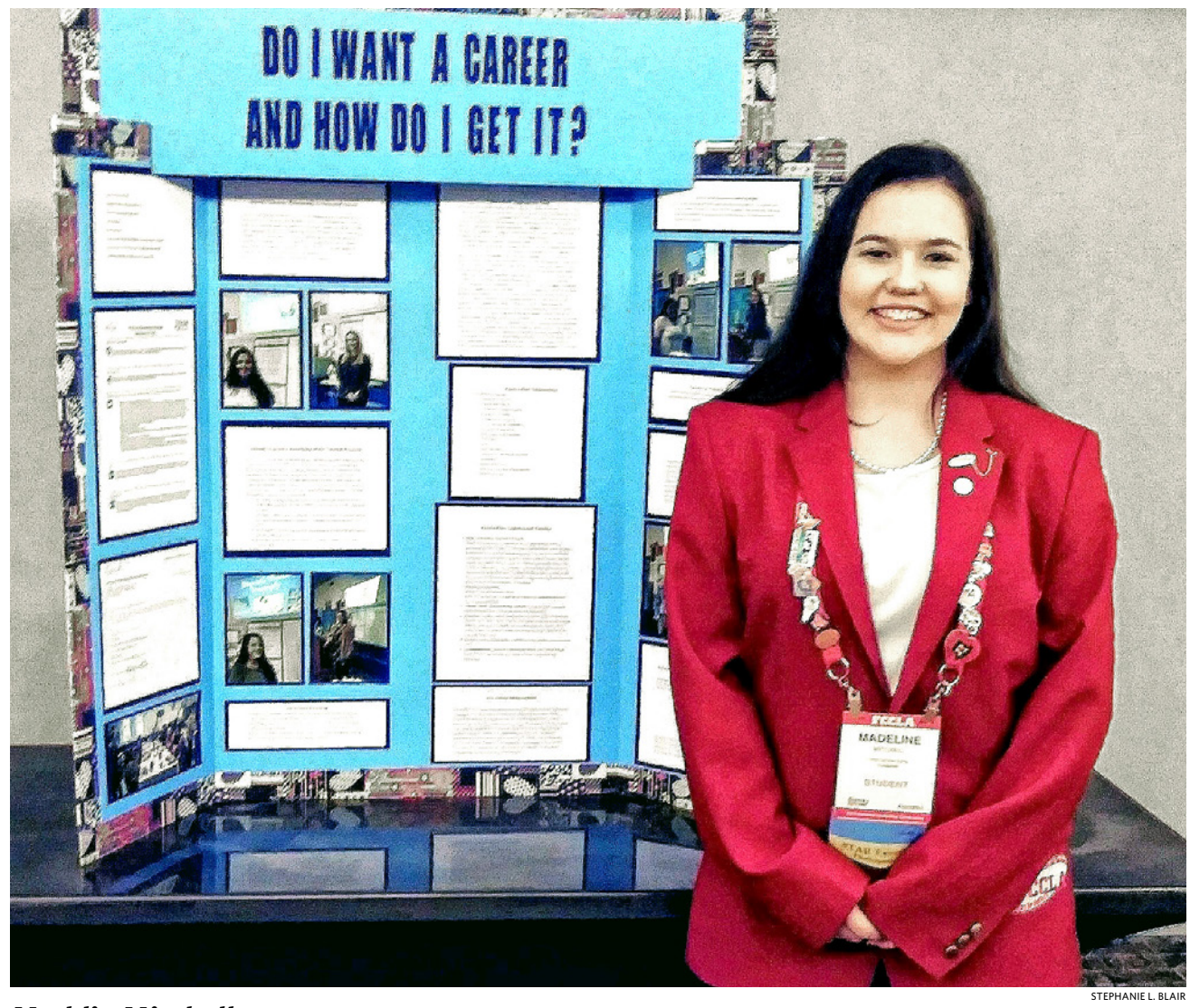
While in California, Mitchell and Blair also experienced the 6.4 earthquake that hit southern California on Thursday, July 4. The pair was around 150 miles away from the epicenter, but still felt the earthquake in Anaheim.

Said Blair, "All of a sudden I felt hot and thought I was going to be sick. I felt like I was swaying back and forth. In truth, the whole hotel building was swaying."

Blair said of the conference: "The conference provided Cold Springs' students opportunities for listening to inspiring speakers, attending learning sessions, competing on the national level and networking with other leaders.

"The theme of this year's conference was 'Believe in Yourself,' which inspired attendees to discover the unlimited possibilities within their reach while exploring career opportunities, developing leadership skills and growing personally while making difference in their families and communities.

"Overall the FCCLA National Leadership (Conference) was a success for Cold Springs High School."



STEPHANIE L. BLAIR

Maddie Mitchell

EDUCATION

Vinemont's Courtney Monroe earns degree from Valdosta State University

Jessica R. Pope
Contributor

VALDOSTA, Ga. – Courtney Monroe, of Vinemont, has earned the Bachelor of Arts in English from Valdosta State University.

Monroe was among more than 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students who completed the requirements for their respective degrees during the Spring 2019 semester.

"Graduation is a defining moment in every student's life," said Doctor Richard A. Carvajal, president of VSU.

"We are excited to pay tribute to the outstanding efforts of our spring graduates and celebrate education as the foundation upon which success is built.

"These students have had to overcome any number of challenges to reach this point in their life's journey.

"It is that very perseverance that protects and nurtures Blazer Nation's 100-plus-year-old tradition of academic, creative, athletic, research, and service excellence.

"This celebration is not an ending but the beginning of many great things to come."

Established in 1906, Valdosta State University is a premier comprehensive university that offers both the extensive academic, cultural, and social opportunities of a major university and the small classes and close, personal attention of smaller institutions.

It boasts more than 100 degree, certificate, and endorsement programs on campus and online for undergraduate and graduate students.

It also has a full menu of extracurricular activities, from national championship athletic and academic teams to honors organizations, sororities and fraternities, intramural sports, educational and service clubs, a symphony orchestra, art and theatre, research opportunities, and more. Even as underclassmen, students file patents on inventions and make life-changing scientific discoveries, present at national and international conferences, publish research in collaboration with their professors, work in campus-based clinics that benefit the community, live and learn at partner institutions around the globe through study abroad, and more. The possibilities are endless.

EDUCATION

Jared Thomas Stanley Named to Spring 2019 Dean's List at Mars Hill University

Mike Thornhill
Contributor

MARS HILL, N.C. – Jared Thomas Stanley, of Hanceville, Alabama, is one of 333 students named to Mars Hill University's Honor Roll of the Academic Dean at the end of the Spring 2019 semester.

In order to qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a grade-point average of 3.5 on a minimum of 12 semester hours and also carry no grade below a C.

Mars Hill University is a premier private, liberal arts institution offering over 30 baccalaureate degrees, as well as master's degrees in criminal justice, elementary education, and management.

Founded in 1856 by Baptist families of the region, the campus is located just 20 minutes north of Asheville in the mountains of western North Carolina.

The university's Asheville Center for Adult and Graduate Studies is located on Airport Road in Arden.

EDUCATION

Furman University Spring 2019 Dean's List

Vince Moore
Contributor

GREENVILLE, S.C. – The following Furman University students from the Cullman area are included on the Dean's List for the 2019 spring semester.

Furman's Dean's List is composed of full-time undergraduate students who earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher on a four-point system.

• Graham Sanders, of Cullman, son of Lauren Sanders and Rodney Sanders

Furman is a private, undergraduate liberal arts and sciences university of 2,800 students in Greenville, South Carolina. The university is noted for its rigorous academic program and strong faculty, and its 750-acre campus is widely recognized as one of the most beautiful in the nation. At the heart of the university's academic experience is The Furman Advantage, a strategic plan that combines learning with immersive experiences outside the classroom, creating a personalized pathway that prepares students for lives of purpose, successful careers and community benefit.

OPINION

Always Reforming: Life in Community (10)

Tom Fillinger
Tribune Correspondent

Today we resume our focus on the One Another Commands of Scripture. How are you doing? Has any of your conduct changed as a result of these articles? Remember, no transformation, no change = no regeneration. As the command we examine in this article makes clear, bearing with one another demands a good dose of humility and repentance. Obedience to this command would prevent and/or resolve a host of "church squabbles."

Get a cold drink, make sure you are in a cool place.

Then ask the Holy Spirit to press deeply into your soul and require you to live with integrity on this vital aspect of your Journey to The Celestial City! After all, it is summer in Alabama!

Introduction – (This is an inter-active quiz – answer these questions)
1. Why would the Apostle Paul command his readers to "bear with" one another?
2. Has there ever been a time in your pilgrimage as a believer that you needed people to "bear with" you?
3. How will you develop the essential maturity that enables you to obey this command of Scripture?
4. How will you know that you are equipped and ready to exercise obedience to this command?
5. What will you expect in terms of outcome, response, as you obey this command?

Text: Be completely humble and gentle; be patient bearing with one another in love (Eph. 4:2)

Bearing with one another requires intentional focus and action that brings nurture and encouragement to the recipient and glory to our God.

I. Focus area #1 – be completely humble.
ταπεινοφροσύνη - low-minded, base, which is from tapeinós, lowly, humble. Humility, lowliness of mind, the esteeming of ourselves small, inasmuch as we are so, the correct estimate of ourselves (Acts 20:19; Eph. 4:2; Phil. 2:3; Col. 2:18, 23; 3:12; 1 Pet. 5:5). For the sinner tapeinophrosúnē involves the confession of his sin and a deep realization of his unworthiness to receive God's marvelous grace. In the NT, as a quality of voluntary submission and unselfishness, humility is the opposite of arrogance & pride. The capacity to listen to the one we are too bear with.

II. Focus area #2 – be gentle.
Πραΰτητος - as a quality of gentle friendliness gentleness, meekness (as strength that accommodates to another's weakness), consideration. This brings a sharper focus on the "life in community" that the one another commands require; bringing my strength to another's weakness with deep and abiding humility.

III. Focus area # 3 – be longsuffering.
μακροθυμία - as a state of emotional quietness in the face of unfavorable circumstances patience, long-suffering; (1) as patience under trial endurance, steadfastness, (2) as constraint exercised toward others forbearance, patience (2C 6.6); (3) as God's constraint of his wrath long-suffering, forbearance:

God has demonstrated this quality to you – will you do so for others?

Romans 2:4 or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience...

Do you consistently "bear with" others in the body of Christ as he has with you?

Do you consistently 'bear with' others in the body of Christ as He has with you?

BOWLING FOR BABIES!

Upcoming tournament to benefit First Source for Women

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Over two upcoming weekends, the Cullman Bowling Center will host "Bowling for Babies," a fundraising mixed team tournament to benefit First Source for Women, a faith-based center offering a wide range of services for pregnant women and new families.

The tournament will take place at the Cullman Bowling Center, 1710 Tally Ho St. in Cullman on the weekends of July 20-21 and July 27–28. Saturday start times will be 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday start times will be 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Tournament entry is $30 per person; pot entry is $5. The winner of the tournament will receive $1,000. Door prizes include a three-night stay in Gulf Shores and a YETI cooler.

Sanctioned tournament

Bowling for Babies may be a fundraiser, but it's also going to see some serious bowling. This tournament will be sanctioned by the United States Bowling Congress (USBC). For an online guide to current USBC tournament regulations, download the official manual at http://usbcongress.http.internapcdn.net/usbcongress/bowl/rulebook/2018-2019Rulebook.pdf.

Immediate need for funding

First Source Director Catherine Bethell told The Tribune:

"First Source for Women is excited about partnering with Cullman Bowling Center for our (inaugural) Bowing for Babies! All proceeds from this event will go directly to First Source to help women in an unplanned pregnancy.

"At First Source we use education and advocacy to give every mom and her baby the best possible start, from a free ultrasound and pregnancy test to a new baby bed, car seat, diapers, clothing, blankets and more. The expectant mom will feel secure in the fact that they are loved and that we are there to help.

"Why are we having this event? Because we are now at a pivotal point in the ministry due to an increased level of community awareness, which has resulted in a greater influx of new clients in need of help. To date we are on target to double the number of clients we served in 2018. Bowling for Babies is critical for funding in these slow summer months, so we can continue in our mission to protect the most vulnerable by sharing Christ and helping women choose life for their unborn child.

"Please pray for this event and come out and join in the fun!"

For more information or to register for the tournament, contact Brian Vance at the Cullman Bowling Center at 256-734-2600.

For more on First Source for Women or to make a donation, visit www.firstsourceforwomen.org/ or www.facebook.com/firstsourcecullman/.

At a glance

- "Bowling for Babies" USBC-sanctioned mixed team bowling tournament benefiting First Source for Women
- Cullman Bowling Center, 1710 Tally Ho St. in Cullman
- July 20-21 and July 27–28. Saturdays 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sundays 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.
- Tournament entry $30 per person; pot is entry $5.
- The winner of the tournament will receive $1,000.
- To register, contact Brian Vance at the Cullman Bowling Center at 256-734-2600.

Bernie (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

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

Bernie is a 1-year-old basset hound/bully mix. He's a laid-back, low- to medium-energy pet who's submissive to his human and great on the leash. He likes following his folks around and is quiet when in his kennel. Ruttkay advises, though, that he's "not a big fan of chickens."

Bernie has the makings of a good therapy, emotional support or companion dog. Animal shelter staff and volunteers work with their dogs to make sure they are accustomed to being around people, walking on a leash and practicing good behavior. Several of the shelter's dogs have even been "hired" to work as therapy and special needs service dogs.

Bernie's adoption fee is $90 which includes: DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet, neutering, microchip, free 30-day health insurance policy issued by 24PetWatch (with valid email only) and a free bag of food from Cullman Pet Depot (you must pay sales tax).

Please consider adopting to give a rescued pet a chance at a happy and healthy life. Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or visit them at 935 Convent Road NE. Reach them by email at cullmancountyanimalshelter@gmail.com.









Court (from Front)

house by the training service; other courts around the state also have facility dogs supplied by other services.

Nicholas told The Tribune Monday afternoon, "Testifying in a legal proceeding can sometimes be a traumatic experience, especially for child witnesses and developmentally delayed adults who have been victims of abuse or neglect.

"Several years ago, I presided over a criminal murder trial where the only eyewitness to the crime was a child.

"Despite many gentle attempts by the prosecuting attorney to get the child to tell what she had observed, the child was simply so nervous that she was unable to answer any questions.

"I don't know whether the child would have been able to testify with the assistance of a court facility dog, but I think it's important that judges do everything possible to make testifying in court easier for all witnesses, especially children.

"Numerous studies show that court dogs help witnesses remain calm and to focus on telling a judge or jury about what they have seen or what has happened to them.

"Court facility dogs are becoming more commonly used in courtrooms throughout the country because the dogs make a real difference in calming the nerves of witnesses so that they can tell about what they have seen.

"I was initially somewhat skeptical about the idea, but the more data I looked at and after talking with other judges with court facility dogs about their experiences, I became convinced that having a court dog will provide some practicable benefits at no cost to the public.

"Brooksie is a welcome addition to the Cullman County courts and she will provide many years of faithful service."

Note: in an earlier story on Alabama and Cullman court dog programs, The Tribune included information from SDA and the Alabama District Attorneys' Association facility dog program. ADAA's program dogs are provided by a different service, and the two programs are not affiliated.

For more on court dogs and other programs of Service Dogs Alabama, visit www.servicedogsalabama.org.

Tribune (from Front)

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman Tribune on June 29 received six 2019 Alabama Press Association (APA) Media Awards. According to the APA, this year, 90 publications submitted 3,394 entries in the annual contest. The Illinois Press Association membership judged the entries.

The awards were presented at the 2019 APA Summer Convention at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach. In the Best In-Depth News Coverage category, Tribune Reporter W.C. Mann and Editor Wendy Sack won second place for their coverage of the March 2018 hailstorm.

Reporter Christy Perry took first place in the Best Human Interest Column category for her piece, "SURVIVOR'S STORY: You have to get on with it.'"

Another first-place award went to Sports Editor Nick Griffin, who won for Best Sports Photo for his coverage of the Cullman County Softball Tournament.

In Online Breaking News Coverage, Sack won second place for "2nd person arrested for murder of Leslie Clements; Kayla Thursby picked up in Tuscaloosa" and third place for "Cullman man charged with murder in shooting death of stepfather."

Mann also took a second-place win in Best Use of Social Media for "Tribune reporter William Craig Mann shows off some of the hail that fell around his home."

"This is the first time in decades that The Cullman Tribune has been entered into the crowded field of newspapers and for the crew to pick up six awards is a major accomplishment for all involved," said Publisher Noah Galilee. "We have strong editors and journalists who each have a passion for the profession. It doesn't get much better than that!"

Galilee continued, "However, next year we are hoping for a much better showing as we will be leaving the D category for weekly newspapers to B category which is for daily publications. So, you heard it here first. The Tribune will be a Tuesday - Saturday print edition beginning the first full week of August and will cost less than half of the price the other daily in the area."

Rice (from Front)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Ten of the loveliest ladies in Cullman County competed lasts week at Westminster Assisted Living for the title of Lady Liberty 2019. This is the first year for the pageant, and although the ladies admitted to being a bit nervous, all were exquisite as they competed in their beautiful gowns.

Dorothy Newell Rice was selected by the judges as Lady Liberty. Edith Davis and Mary Ellen Jones tied for first runner-up.

All the pageant contestants had a wonderful time and especially enjoyed and appreciated the cheers from the standing room-only crowd as they worked to impress the judges.

The ladies were escorted to the stage by Delbert Freeman, Ronnie Jean, Royce Jean, Brad Smith and Louis Price.

The contestants included:

- **Joyce Sparks**- Her interests include country music, collecting dolls and Christmas lights.
- **Barbara Flack**- a gospel singer, talented pianist, and dancer who enjoys Elvis, Johnny Cash and The Beach Boys
- **Della Starkey**- With a master's degree in English, she worked as an editor on Redstone Arsenal and brags about the time John F. Kennedy and Neil Armstrong kissed her cheek.
- **Wynelle Duke**- A retired teacher from Holly Pond, she loves being outside, enjoying the birds and clouds. She also enjoys yawning during her daily exercises.
- **Edith Davis**- She loves gospel music, her family, trips to the beauty shop and outdoor strolls. Her favorite phrase is "You ain't right!"
- **Viva Johnson**- Her talents include cooking and imitating bird whistles. She also loves her family, music and dancing.
- **Juanita Hunt**- A member of Mt. Vernon Primitive Baptist Church, she is proud of her family and enjoys playing Scrabble with her niece.
- **Landalean Jean**- A Holly Pond native and gifted pianist, she is able to play by ear and enjoys entertaining her Westminster neighbors. She also enjoys gardening and sewing.
- **Dorothy Newell Rice**- She met the love of her life in 1947, she is a Cullman native and a retired cosmetologist. She is often described as the "life of the party."
- **Mildred Terrell**- She is a retired school teacher who taught for more than 40 years in Cullman County. She loves playing dominoes, sewing and embroidery. She has been a member of First Baptist Church in Cullman since 1964.
- **Mary Ellen Jones**- A graduate of the University of Alabama, she is a retired English teacher and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Even though she is 88, she said, "I feel like a spring chicken."

After the show, family and friends posed for pictures with the participants.

The Tribune caught up with the new Ms. Lady Liberty as she posed for pictures with her beautiful flowers and sparkling tiara.

Said Rice, "I had a great time. We all did."

Westminster Executive Director Wanda Raines hopes to have Rice in this year's Cullman County Fair Parade.

Upon hearing that, Rice joked about practicing her "parade wave."

Raines was pleased with the success of the pageant and said she hopes it becomes a yearly tradition.

The pageant was coordinated by Ashley Uptagrafft and Anita Whitlock.

All the contestants spent the morning being pampered and having hair and makeup done by the glam team of Jeanette Speegle and Charity Knight.

Some of the beauties wore their own gowns and others wore gowns provided to them by The Better Store of Hanceville and Better Than Before.

Hunt loved the dress chosen for her, saying, "We had the option to buy the dresses so I did. I plan on wearing it to church on Sunday."

The pageant was emceed by the 2019 West Point Fair Queen Miriam Oldacre and Miss Sweet Elite Minnie Perry.

Judging the pageant were Bethony Sterling, Teresa Cook, Nancy Graves and Kim Allred.

Uptagrafft said, "We had so many vendors that provided us with everything we needed. I thank everyone for making this so successful."



City of Cullman
Building Inspection Department

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

City of Cullman
Zoning Board of Adjustments

On Monday, July 15, 2019, at Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M., at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Zoning Board, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. Appeal- Variance Request- Brunner Street NW & Cleveland Avenue NW
2. Appeal- Variance Request- 501 9th Avenue SE
3. Appeal- Conditional Use for Medical Facility- 910 24th Street SW

For further information contact Brian Landreth or Amber Duke at the City of Cullman Building Department at 256.775.7203.

PB MIN BK 180 PG 502 - 07/08/2019 10:23 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GARRY NORMAN MATZ, deceased. CASE NO.: PC 2019-190

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF GARRY NORMAN MATZ, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Keith Pattillo and Ronald Patillo on the 3rd day of July, 2019, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Keith Pattillo and Ronald Patillo, Personal Representatives

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith, Esquire
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorney for Keith Pattillo
328 First Ave SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Phone: (256) 734-4721
steve@smithandsmithllp.com

PB WIL BK 91 PG 289 - 07/01/2019 11:26 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
MELBA L. KUGLER ROOKS,
Deceased. CASE NO.: PC2019-204

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Dana A. Gann on the 1st day of July, 2019, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Dana A. Gann, Personal Representative

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Personal Representative
Smith & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721
steve@smithandsmithllp.com

PB MIN BK 180 PG 181 - 06/21/2019 11:50 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
DALE WAYNE COOK SR.,
Deceased.
CASE NO.: PC-2019-103

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Jackie Cook Porter, as Administratrix of the Estate of Dale Wayne Cook Sr., deceased, on the 20th 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.

Jackie Cook Porter
Administratrix

Annette Irons-Parker
Attorney for Administratrix
Parker And Parker, P.C.
215 Main Avenue 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

FAITH

Hanceville Ablaze Revival Center hosts prophet Ryan Johnson at annual Encounter Weekend

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – Every year, Hanceville Ablaze Revival Center holds a three-day Encounter Weekend to encourage people to hear the message of Christ in an enthusiastic and engaging environment. Every Encounter hosts a different special guest speaker, and this year welcomed prophet Ryan Johnson of Ryan Johnson Ministries (www.ryanjohnson.us/). Johnson told about his travels all across the globe-Mexico, Chile, Ireland, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Israel and many areas of the United States-during his ministries, and has plans to return to Ireland and Great Britain later this year.

Pastor John Purcell described the turnout for this year's Encounter as "absolutely phenomenal," averaging over 60 people during the Friday and Saturday night services, but with fewer during the Sunday morning service.

"We were packed out," he said. "It was a great weekend. A lot of people received a touch from the Lord, a lot of people had emotional stuff dealt with, physical healings took place. We just were so grateful for the presence of the Lord this past weekend."

Johnson delivered three different sermons each day, all coming together to form one overall message on how to recognize one's purpose in God's work, and how to become more effective in spreading the Word, going from just discipleship to apostleship.

He briefly recounted the sermons he delivered and offered a few comments on what he wanted to be the main takeaways for each one: "Friday was dealing a lot in understanding who you are as a Son of God, and knowing that we have a calling in our lives to represent the Kingdom of Heaven. It's more than not disqualifying yourself, not saying, 'Well I'm not like these people.' Don't fall on the sword of comparison, but know that you have an assignment, you have a purpose, (and) you have an identity in the Kingdom.

"Last night, we were dealing with understanding the reality of revival and knowing that revival, first, really has to begin with us-(who) are part of the church, (who) are Sons of God. Revival is about something that once had life but had become weakened-even to the point of death-being revived. There's this process of understanding that if we're going to see awakening in our communities, we gotta first begin with us. It's not about looking at people that are in sin and thinking that we're better than them-because we all have issues, we all have things that we struggle with and battle-but we need to say, 'Lord, revive us again that we may see our community thrive.'

(Today's takeaway) "If you're going to love your community, you have to be a part of your community. You've got to represent who you are in the church as a Son of God, you've gotta represent that in the community.

"You've gotta tell people at the gas station, at the restaurant, at the service station, that God loves them and God has a plan for their life and a purpose for them. It's not just, 'Hey, come be a part of our revival service,' [but] it's about really loving people outside. We talk about how God is good all the time, but rarely do we ever demonstrate the goodness of who God is, so it's about trying to get people to be the demonstration of His goodness."

Johnson concluded, "God is not through. There is a greater plan and a greater hope, and we just have to stick through to see it."

FAITH

Grace Episcopal Church gets back into Vacation Bible School

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – After a hiatus of several years, Cullman's Grace Episcopal Church is getting back into Vacation Bible School under new leadership from Rector Jay Gardner and wife Paige Gardner, who joined the parish earlier this year (See www.cullmantribune.com/2019/03/02/grace-episcopal-church-welcomes-new-rector-jay-gardner/).

Paige Gardner told The Tribune, "We have not had a VBS for the past six years and are eager to have one at Grace. The story of God's redeeming love for us in Christ is written all through scripture, and VBS is a wonderful way to share this with our beautiful children!

"Grace Episcopal Church VBS invites all pre-K through 5th grade (students) 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.'"

Grace Episcopal Church Vacation Bible School

- Monday, July 15 through Thursday, July 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m. each evening
- Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE, Cullman, 256-734-6212
- For students pre-K through fifth grade
- To register, go to http://www.GraceChurchCullman.org and click on the VBS link at the bottom of the page.



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Obituary Announcements: July 3 - 8

Ann Reynolds, 97, of Remlap, AL., was born on September 23, 1921 and died on July 3, 2019. She was a homemaker. Preceding her in death were her husband Winston Bryce Reynolds and parents John Osvald and Katrinia Cermack Osvald. Survivors include her daughter Gertie Jones (Del); grandchildren Richard Odom (LuAnne), Camela Lockett (Marc) and Jeri Reynolds; great grandchildren Zeke Lockett and Samantha Lockett; R. J., Katryn and Hannah Odom; and Jonathan, Trish and Katie Reynolds. Graveside funeral service was held on Monday, July 8, 2019 at the Randall Cemetery in Montevallo. Lemley Funeral Home and Crematory directing.

Avon Harold Tubbs, 95 of Cullman, passed away on Friday, July 5, 2019 at his residence. Mr. Tubbs was a business owner here in Cullman and retired from Hanna Steel. He loved vegetable gardening and growing beautiful roses. He and his wife Louise, attended Bethlehem Methodist Church. He is preceded in death by his parents: Thomas and Dora Tubbs, 3 sisters and 1 brother. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Louise Parker Tubbs; daughter, Linda Kallio; sons: Tony Speegle and Wayne (Angie) Speegle, 6 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. His graveside service was on Sunday, July 7, 2019 at Good Hope Cemetery with his son, Wayne Speegle, who officiated.

Funeral services for Rev. Jimmy Wayne Greathouse, age 78, will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at Ridgecrest Baptist Church. Burial will follow at Union Baptist Church Cemetery in Warrior, with Pastor Keith Whitley, Pastor Carlos Wilhite & Pastor Jeff Isbell officiating. He will lie-in-state at the church from noon until 2 p.m. when the service begins. Jinny was born on April 30, 1941 and passed away on Saturday July 6, 2019 at Princeton Baptist Medical Center. He was a lifelong Minister in the area. He is preceded in death by his parents, Clanton & Clara Coffman Greathouse; 1st wife Charlotte and 2nd wife Janice; son, Jimmy Clanton Greathouse; and one brother Johnny Greathouse. Survivors include one Daughter - Carmen Greathouse; Sister - Linda Cheatwood Dickerson; Aunt - Mona Roberts; 2 - Nieces - Jayna Green & Becky Devine; 2 - Nephews - Darren Cheatwood & Chris Cheatwood. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Tuesday July 9, 2019 from 4:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Nita Loyce Tidwell Bullard, 84, of Locust Fork, AL, was born on November 22, 1934 and passed away on July 6, 2019 in Blount County, Alabama. Preceding her in death were her husband Leslie Bullard, mother Vivian Robinette Tidwell, father Grover Tidwell; son Philip Tidwell; daughters Janice McCay and Teresa Isbell. She is survived by her daughter Kathy Fiessler (Bruce); sister Joyce Tolbert; grandchildren Stacy Swann (Dewayne), Sandy Wiggins (Dwight), Kara Hicks (Mose) and Kebin Isbell; great grandchildren Mitchell Swann, Steven Swann, Cameron Vandergrift and Miguel Vandergrift. The family will receive friends on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at the Locust Fork Baptist Church from 1 until 2 p.m. Funeral service will follow at 2 p.m. at the Church with Bro. Daryl Holt and Bro. Mike Young officiating. Burial will be in the Pine Bluff Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Joey Lay, Dylan Warnix, Brian Love, Kenny Fendley and Jerome Robinette. Lemley Funeral Home and Crematory directing.

Mary Ann Stover, 73, of Oneonta, AL., was born on February 17, 1945 and died on July 6, 2019. She worked at BellSouth/AT&T Phone Company until retirement with 30 years of service. Preceding her in death were her parents Elbert and Willene Epperson Stover. Survivors include her caregiver Toney Todd and family; a host of cousins; and aunt Clara Brothers. The family will receive friends on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at Lemley Funeral Home from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. A graveside service will be held at the Mt. Moriah Cemetery at noon. Lemley Funeral Home and Crematory directing.

Graveside services for Jimmy R. Thomas, 85, of Hanceville, will be Tuesday July 9, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Bethlehem East Cemetery with Reverend Russ Fox officiating. Mr. Thomas leaves two sons; Bill (Margaret) Thomas of Corner and Marty (Regenia) Thomas of Hueytown, a brother; Billy Thomas of Falkville, a sister; Louise Kanaday of Hanceville, four grandchildren; Bill Thomas Jr., Kerry Adams, Kristy Thomas and Tina Shinaberry and several great grandchildren. Mr. Thomas is preceded in death by his parents; Ellis and Gay (Millican) Thomas and his brother; Charles Thomas.

Memorial Service for Shelly Dawn Woods, age 47, of Falkville, will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Ms. Woods passed away on Sunday, July 7, 2019. She was born Sunday, October 3, 1971, to William "Billy" and Kathy Woods. Survivors include her daughter, Savannah (Tyler) Osborn; parents; sister, Sonya (Eric) Vest; brother, Shine (Misty) Woods; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family, and friends. Visitation will be from 5-6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to St. Jude Hospital.

Funeral Service for Nellie Sue Sartin, age 93, of Cullman, will be at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, July 10, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Greg Aldridge officiating; interment in New Home Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Sartin passed away on Sunday, July 7, 2019, at her residence. She was born September 8, 1925, to John Henry and Daisy Viola Weaver. She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry Alvis Sartin; parents, John Henry and Daisy Viola Weaver; son, Dalton Sartin; and son-in-law, Don Miller. Survivors include her daughter, Hilda Miller; sons, Gary (Brenda) Sartin and Jack (Gerri) Sartin; 11 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Graveside services for Sharron Adler, 72, of Hanceville, will be Tuesday July 11, 2019 at 2 p.m. at the Garden City Cemetery with Reverend Brent Hatfield officiating. Ms. Adler leaves her spouse; Tim Hatfield, a daughter Robyn Adler of Hanceville and a son; Scott Adler of Phoenix, AZ, grandchildren; Laira Adler and Dreya Adler and four half-sisters.

Walter Ronnie Curl passed away the morning of July 8, 2019. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Pam; daughter and son-in-law, Sheree and Jon Benefield; son and daughter-in-law, Walter Nicholas and Morgan Curl; grandchildren, Elizabeth (Nick) Speer, Will and Wyatt Benefield; great-grandson, Waylon Speer; and sister, Vicky Curl. He is preceded in death by his parents, L.D. and Velma Curl. He leaves behind a loving family and many wonderful memories. Funeral services are 1 p.m., Wednesday, July 10, 2019. Burial will follow in Bethlehem East Cemetery. Friends may visit with the family on Wednesday, from 11 a.m. until services begin at 1 p.m. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Curl family.

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EDITORIAL

‘Make me look good, now!’ A guide to positive media relations

W.C. Mann
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More than half the time I conduct interviews, the episode concludes with the interviewee saying one of two things (actually the same thing in two different ways):

• “Make me look good, now!” And yes, most of them add the “now;” this is the South, you know.

• “Please don’t make me look stupid”/“like a hillbilly”/etc. For the record, I’ve known quite a few hillbillies, and they’re mostly fine people.

I have told many people, and now announce to all: *it is not the job of the media to make anyone look good, or to make them look bad.*

Here, of course, I have to acknowledge that some media think that’s exactly their job. Cable news has almost ceased to be news any more, preferring punditry to journalism.

Even in our own area, if you review recent controversies (Rock the South relocation, Morningside rezoning, “Project X,” etc.), you’ll find folks who either avoided dealing with certain controversies completely, or repeatedly presented sanctified images of one side of the issue through what were little more than ads designed to look like interviews and news items.

But, whether certain people, corporations, and networks play by the rules or not, *still it is not the job of the media to make anyone look good, or to make them look bad.*

If you want to look good, do good

The job of the media is somewhat forensic: to gather evidence and present it accurately, so that other people can make informed decisions of their own about what’s good or bad.

I tell interviewees, “If you’re doing good things, you make yourself look good; and we’re just there to point it out. But if you do bad things, we’re going to point that out, too.”

Bad news stories are difficult to write but, if it’s news, it’s our job to write it. What helps us keep our heads on straight when the bad news comes are the good news stories we get to do.

Charities helping the needy, students making great achievements, recounting and recognizing the deeds of our war veterans, and other subjects delight us greatly.

But being only sunshine and rainbows is simply not an option for a real journalist, just as it’s not an option in the real world we live in.

Controversy breeds opposition and downright meanness

If you’re in the middle of a controversy, you’re going to have opponents, even if your cause is noble. Given the right controversy, you could have a lot of opposition and find yourself holding a minority opinion.

And, thanks to social media and the power of the anonymous keyboard warrior, your opponents can be noisy and even abusive. There’s no valid excuse for that, but you know it happens.

In covering controversy, it’s the media’s job to present both sides. If I cover only one side, I’m not a journalist; I’m at best a publicist, at worst a propagandist.

If I publish your statement and include a quote from someone who thinks you’re nuts in the same article, I’m not conspiring against you. I’m doing my job.

Sometimes, though, we may present a lopsided story on a controversy, but it’s often because we have lopsided data. A person involved in a recent controversy complained to me that they felt the Tribune was against them.

It would be interesting to review their phone log and see how many of our calls went unanswered and unreturned during that time.

If you won’t talk to us but your opponents will, don’t complain that your position is under-represented. We’re not under-representing you; you’re under-representing yourself. And we don’t hate you; we just have to use the information we have.

Please understand that bad news happens, and we will report it.

We want to report good news; we look for it. Good news stories are a joy and, for that reason, they’re generally easier stories to write.

We invite, encourage, and implore you to make our jobs easier.





