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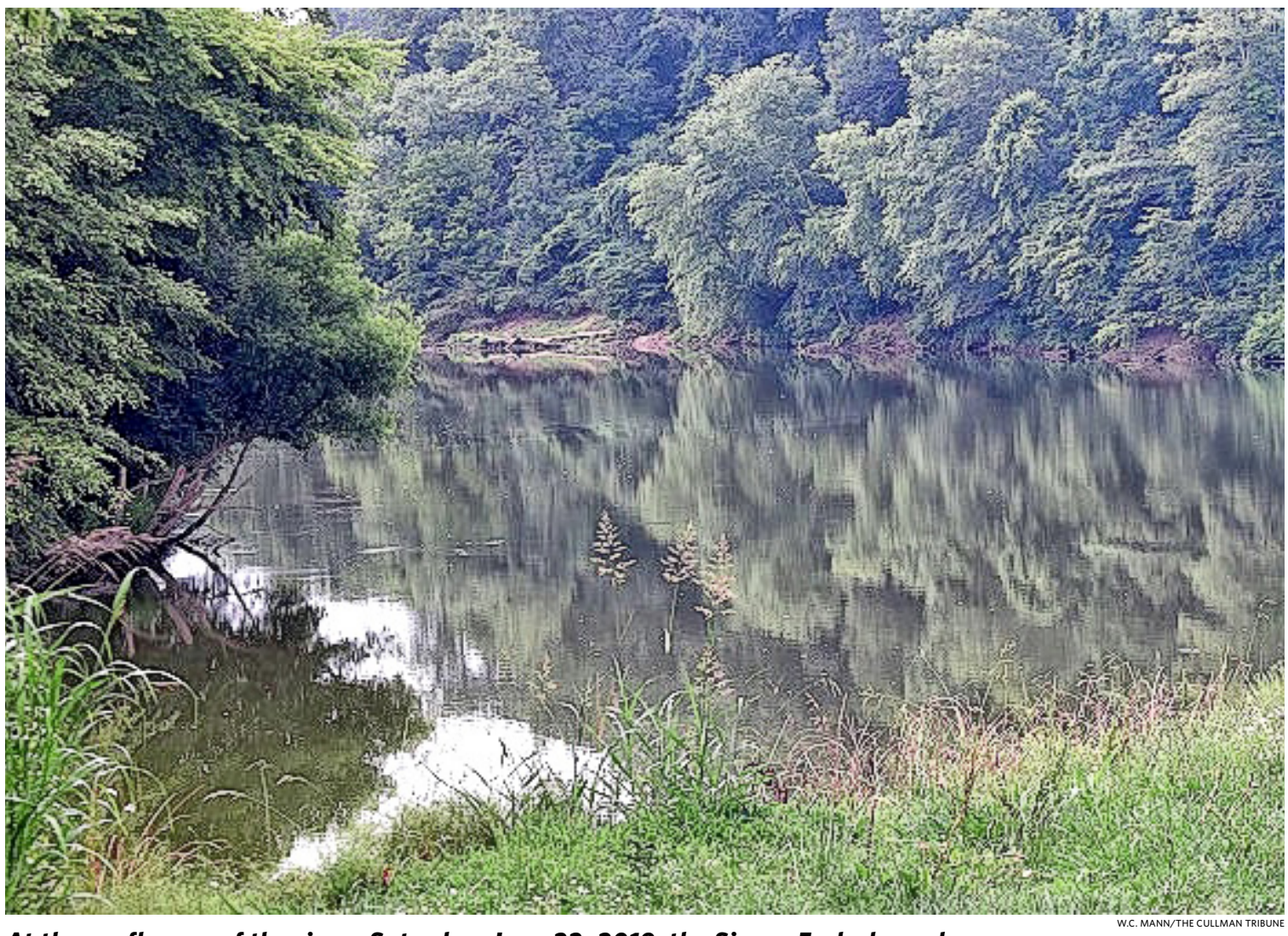
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COURTS

Inside the Tyson/ Mulberry Fork lawsuit

Who did what, who's asking for what



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

At the confluence of the rivers Saturday, June 22, 2019, the Sipsey Fork showed signs of life, while the Mulberry Fork remained still and silent.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

JASPER, Ala. – On Friday, the Sipsey Heritage Commission and Chandler Holdings, along with 40 individual property owners along the Mulberry and Sipsey Forks of the Black Warrior River, filed suit against Tyson Farms, Inc., River Valley Ingredients LLC, RVI Hanceville plant manager Jason Spann, American Proteins, Inc. and Hydraservice, Inc. The lawsuit stems from the Thursday, June 6, 2019 incident in which approximately 220,000 gallons of effluent (liquid waste or sewage) were spilled by the Tyson Foods, Inc./River Valley Ingredients plant (formerly American Proteins) in Hanceville into the Dave Young Creek, which flows to the Mulberry Fork. The spill led to a "massive fish kill" and a warning against recreational use of the Mulberry Fork. It was the plant's fourth environmental incident affecting the Mulberry Fork since 2011.

Plaintiffs

The complaint was filed in Walker County by Edward Jackson of the Jasper-based law firm of Jackson, Fikes & Brakefield, and Judson Allen of Laird & Robertson, also based in Jasper, on behalf of two corporate entities and 40 individual property owners:

• Sipsey Heritage Commission - An organization that describes itself as "dedicated to improving the health and well-being of our community by improving access to our natural resources." It promotes the history, culture, and natural features of the region of the Sipsey and Mulberry Forks. Martha Salomaa is the current President.

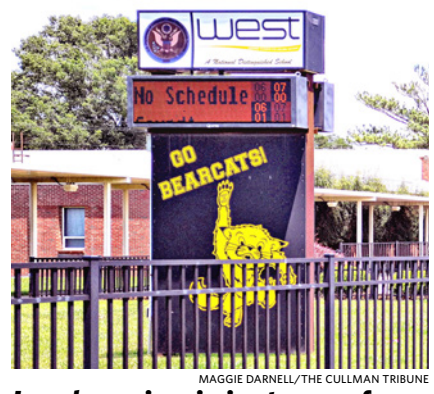
• Chandler Holdings, LLC - A Jasper-based real estate development domestic corporation whose members include Hershel Chandler, Sr., Hershel Chandler, Jr. and Anna Chandler. Bogner Chandler is the listed agent.

- Marnice Aaron
- Sidney Aaron
- Neal Ballenger
- Ann Burke
- Michael Cates
- Joseph Christianson
- Lisa Christianson
- Robert Earl Clifton
- Billy Joey Dill
- Susan Donaldson
- Ed Frazier
- Norma Jane Green
- Ricky Hall
- John Lively
- Linda Lively
- Billy Parson
- Chris Peed
- Kevin Perkins
- Roger Perkins
- Jimmy Phillips
- Michael D. Phillips
- Regina Phillips
- Iris Ramey
- Robert Ramey
- Fred Rutkowski, Sr.
- Rita Rutkowski
- Kari Salomaa
- Martha Salomaa
- Betty Shed
- Don Smith
- Chiyako Starnes
- Norman Starnes
- Rex Starnes
- Toby Stover
- Paul Wigley
- Kerri Wigley
- Westin Wilborn
- A.C. Williams
- Mechelle Williams
- Dennis Yglesias

According to the complaint, "The Plaintiffs, besides the Sipsey Heritage Commission, can be described in two categories with one being those plaintiffs who own property on the Mulberry River and Mulberry Fork of the Black » PAGE 7

EDUCATION

Gettin' spiffy for the new school year



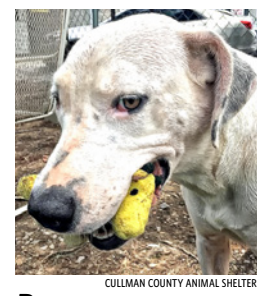
MAGGIE DARNELL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Landscaping is just one of the things being worked on at West Elementary School this summer. » PAGE 7

PET OF THE WEEK

On a hot summer day, you'll enjoy a cool Breezy

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Breezy

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

"This sweet girl is Breezy. She was scared, but now is free! Breezy was so fun to photograph, as her true self was being revealed! She likes carrying a small stuffed giraffe."

Breezy is a 1-year-old bulldog/Catahoula mix. She's a seriously laid-back, low-energy pet. She came to the shelter scared and skittish, but she's settled down to a quiet and unassuming disposition. She's great on her leash and enjoys exploring her surroundings. She has also shown a fondness for dog toys.

Breezy could be a good companion, therapy or emotional support 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.

Breezy's adoption fee is $90 which includes: DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet, spaying, 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 cullmancountyanimalshelter@gmail.com or visit 935 Convent Road NE.



Small fire at Lake Catoma Apartments

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Multiple units responded to a reported fire at Lake Catoma Apartments along U.S. Highway 278 East in the city of Cullman Monday morning.

Cullman Fire Rescue Chief Brian Bradberry said the fire involved an ashtray and possibly a grill. The grill was thrown from the third-floor apartment onto the ground below.

No smoke was visible at the scene shortly after the call went out.

Bradberry said one person had minor burns to his hands but declined medical treatment.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Damage to the exterior wall of the third-floor apartment can be seen in this photo.

Arrests and incidents reported July 22

Maggie Darnell
maggie@cullmantribune.com

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

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INCIDENTS
July 18
- domestic violence; CR 1185
- harassment; CR 431
- harassment; Fairpark Ct.
- theft of property, trespassing; Hwy. 278 E
- harassment, reckless endangerment; 4th St. SW
- domestic violence; CR 1212
- harassment; Hwy. 91
- harassment; CR 1490
- violation of a protection order; CR 1106
- theft of property; CR 222, CR 813

July 19
- harassment; CR 1804
- attempting to elude a law enforcement officer; Moehring Rd., CR 616
- harassment; CR 264
- domestic violence, assault; CR 656
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1291
- harassment; Logan St. SW
- unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; Hwy. 55 E

July 20
- theft of property; Hwy. 31
- receiving stolen property; Hwy. 278 W
- theft of property; Hwy. 157
- theft of property; CR 184
- harassment; CR 658

July 21
- harassment; CR 202
- attempting to elude a law enforcement officer; CR 1485
- criminal mischief, theft of property; CR 248
- harassment; CR 1135
- criminal mischief; CR 1140
- burglary; CR 1728
- domestic violence; CR 1400
- domestic violence; CR 1695
- trespassing; CR 607
- burglary; Hwy. 278 E
- criminal mischief, menacing, harassment; CR 1742
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, unlawful possession of marijuana; CR 222
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 399
- domestic violence; CR 1114

ARRESTS
July 18
Gosnell, Jonathan Michael, 29
- third-degree domestic violence – harassment

Lancaster, Johnie Nekiea, 35
- FTA- attempt to commit a controlled substance crime
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Lane, Brittany Luann Haynes, 29
- second-degree criminal mischief

Lynn, Alexis Tara, 20
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Whitfield, Nathan Wayne, 36
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- violation of a domestic violence protection order (2 counts)
- third-degree domestic violence – reckless endangerment

July 19
Adams, Jeremy William, 36
- FTA- DUI
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Bell, Christopher Shaunn, 30
- attempting to elude
- driving while suspended
- failure to signal
- liability insurance required
- reckless driving
- running a stop sign

Bouldin, Samantha Marie, 29
- FTA- possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- FTA- speeding – reasonable and prudent

Curtis, Jesse Layne, 27
- Judge's order – DUI

Golden, Jesse Gene, 24
- attempting to elude
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- FTA- unlawful manufacturing of a controlled substance

Harris, Steven Paul, 40
- FTA- third-degree theft of property

Rollo, Brandon Dewayne, 35
- harassment
- permitting dogs to run at large

Schafer, Cristina Lynn, 41
- possession of drug paraphernalia

July 20
Bomberry-Wright, Dylan Joseph, 24
- first-degree theft of property

Chappell, Sonya Olivia Sharpe, 25
- first-degree theft of property

Creel, Patrick Scott, 43
- FTA- third-degree theft of property

Hall, Matthew Raeshard, 21
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Spivey, Andrew Louis, 43
- no tag/tag not plainly visible
- second-degree receiving stolen property

Woods, Ashley Denise, 34
- third-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument (3 counts)
- first-degree theft of property

Woodson, Ashley Lashae, 29
- FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

July 21
Black, Robert Lee, 35
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence – harassment

Boyles, Ricky Dale, 54
- FTA- disorderly conduct

Garrison, Sierra Leonni, 30
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Gillis, Daniel Lindsey Sr., 40
- third-degree assault

Krieger, Henry Lawrence, 58
- probation violation – unlawful possession of a controlled substance (2 counts)

Lancaster, Marlon Jade, 28
- illegal possession of alcohol in a dry county
- improper lane usage
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Loggins, Darryl Edward, 57
- FTA- driving without a license

Skinner, Terra Ann, 27
- attempting to elude
- public intoxication

Witt, Dylan Dakota, 23
- writ of arrest – child support

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENTS
July 19
- third-degree burglary; person; Dripping Springs Rd. NW; miscellaneous; $250

July 20
- harassment; person; Katherine St. NW

July 21
- third-degree criminal trespassing; Dollar General; Hwy. 278 W

ARRESTS
July 19
Cray, Shane R., 32
- FTA- third-degree criminal trespassing (2 counts)
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- insurance violation
- FTA- driving without a license (2 counts)

Franklin, Amanda, 31
- fourth-degree theft of property

Schafer, Cristina L., 41
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Beckman, James C., 49
- DUI – any substance

Smith, Larry A., 33
- FTA- insurance violation

Maddox, Dusty G., 33
- DUI – controlled substance

July 20
Eipp, Austin W., 25
- first-degree theft of property

Riggs, Britany H., 27
- first-degree theft of property

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

Creel, Patrick S., 43
- FTA- DUI
- FTA- public intoxication (2 counts)
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- FTA- improper lane usage
- FTA- insurance violation

Leak, Amanda J., 33
- public intoxication

July 21
Morgan, Destiney N., 21
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Davis, Brittany N., 22
- FTA- driving without a license
- FTA- driving while suspended
- FTA- speeding

Woodard, Jennifer B., 45
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance

Graves, Kevin D., 33
- third-degree criminal trespassing

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No incidents or arrests reported.

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR
July 23 - 25

TUESDAY, JULY 23

Bingo at Hilltop Senior Center
Bingo at Hilltop Senior Center every Tuesday- Seniors age 60 and older will meet at the Hilltop Senior Center, 1545 Vine Circle SW, in Cullman from 8:30 a.m.-noon for bingo, a penny auction and meal.

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

Opioid Training Institute
The Opioid Training Institute, a collaborative program offered by the Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy and the Alabama Department of Mental Health, will conduct a training session in Cullman Wednesday, July 24. The session is offered at no cost to attendees and is targeted toward leaders in the community who would like to learn more about fighting the opioid epidemic. The program will be held at the Cullman Civic Center at 510 Fifth St. SW and will run from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Walk-in attendees will be accepted, but participants are encouraged to pre-register by visiting www.AlabamaOTI.org.

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 25

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

Cullman County Sheriff's Office Church Safety Class
The Cullman County Sheriff's Office will host a Church Safety Class Thursday, July 25 at 6 p.m. at Temple Baptist Church (30 County Road 1184, Cullman, AL 35057). The class will focus on prevention and the steps a church and congregation can take to prevent imminent danger. Discussion items will include the creation of a church security team, increasing situational awareness and promoting building security. The CCSO encourages two to four members of each church to attend- members that could make up a security team. Carpooling is also encouraged. Registration is not required, but it is encouraged as it gives CCSO deputies a good idea how many participants will be attending the class. To register, email Deputy Bradley Williams at bwilliams@cullmansheriff.org with your name, the name of your church and the number of people from your group. For more information, call 256-734-0342.

UPCOMING....

Free Drive-In Movie: "Mary Poppins Returns"
Cullman Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism's final drive-in movie of the season will be "Mary Poppins Returns." Join us Friday, July 26 at Nesmith Park for the film. It's FREE to attend, and movies can be viewed from your vehicle, or you may bring your own lawn chairs and blankets. The movie begins at dark (around 8:45 p.m.).

5th Annual Fairview High School Band All Wheel Show & Festival
Saturday, July 27 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be live music, free inflatables, the National Guard rock climbing wall, various food trucks, local arts and crafts vendors and a wide variety of vehicles on display. Money raised from the event will go toward instruments for the band. Admission to the event is free. Randall Shedd Community Park (Fairview Town Park) is located at 605 Wesley Ave. N in Fairview. In case of bad weather, the event will be moved to Saturday, Aug. 3. Find out more at www.facebook.com/events/832059607130358/.

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.

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 1/4 mile, Cold Springs Community Center is on the RIGHT!
- Sandlin Chapel & Cemetery are off AL 69 S.

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'We have seen firsthand the power of prayer and the power of God'

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – When The Cullman Tribune first spoke with the family of Chris Torrisi after he was involved in a car accident June 29, doctors were not very hopeful he would survive. Torrisi, 39, of Cullman, was in a deep coma in UAB Hospital's neuro intensive care unit. The doctors prepared his mother Nancy Thomas for the worst and gave him less than half of 1% chance of survival.

Family members asked one doctor, "Why the half percent?" The doctor replied, "Because we are not God."

Sunday, July 21 Mike Wallace, Torrisi's great-uncle, speaking on behalf of the family, was happy to report, "All good news!! It's just amazing what is happening."

He said Torrisi is awake and responding to commands. He recognizes his family and friends and is able to communicate with them by blinking his eyes. He is breathing on his own and no longer depending on a ventilator. He can move his arms and legs and is showing no signs of paralysis.

Wallace said, "Every day we see improvement and we have seen firsthand the power of prayer and the power of God. Not only have we had our faith in God restored but our faith in humanity. Even the doctors can't explain what is happening."

Throughout Torrisi's time at UAB, he has had a steady flow of visitors and his mother by his side. Torrisi's co-workers from Logan's Roadhouse have continued to support their friend and his mother in any way they can.

The community has rallied around the family with unceasing prayer and Wallace said, "That has made such a difference. We ask that people continue to pray. We still have a long road ahead of us."

Prior to the car accident, Torrisi and his mother had a conversation that would be important sooner than they could have ever imagined.

Wallace explained, "Chris and Nancy had a friend who was involved in an accident a couple of weeks before his. She was in a coma and on life support. Her family was facing a difficult choice. Chris told Nancy that if he were ever on life support to please just give him a chance."

Thomas kept her word to her son and when faced with the same decision, she gave Torrisi a chance. Her family supported Nancy 100%.

Doctors are hesitant to give the family a prognosis after seeing Torrisi defy the odds.

Said Wallace, "It's a miracle. A miracle from God."

Wallace also praised the expertise of the doctors and staff of UAB, saying, "UAB is a first-class hospital and they have been phenomenal."

Torrisi is now in trauma intensive care unit at UAB. The doctors have begun talking about moving him to a private room.

Wallace said, "Every day we see improvement and we are just blown away."

The car accident happened at the intersection of Alabama Highway 157 and Alabama Highway 69 June 29, 2019.



COURTESY OF THE FAMILY

Chris Torrisi looks up at his father, Gary Torrisi.

HEALTH

LifeSouth in emergency need of blood donors

Eric Franchois
Contributor

National blood shortages are impacting blood centers across the country, and locally, LifeSouth Community Blood Centers have emergency need for all blood types.

Summer months take a toll on the blood supply, and this year has been especially difficult here in north Alabama and across the country. Hospitals like Huntsville Hospital, Marshall Medical Centers, Decatur Morgan Hospital, Cullman Regional, North Alabama Medical Center and eight others rely on LifeSouth and LifeSouth blood donors to make sure blood is available before it is needed. All blood types are necessary, and donors are asked to donate now to ensure local hospitals have the blood needed to help patients suffering from traumas, cancers and chronic illnesses.

First-time donors are always welcome and encouraged to give blood donation a try. All donors receive a thank-you gift and a mini-physical, including blood pressure, temperature, iron level and cholesterol screen.

Donors must be at least 17, or 16 with parental permission, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good health.

A photo ID is needed. LifeSouth's donor centers are in Albertville, Huntsville, Madison, Decatur and Florence. LifeSouth's bloodmobiles will also be out at many locations in coming days (See schedule of upcoming blood drives below). For additional information about donations or to find a blood drive near you, call LifeSouth toll-free at 888-795-2707 or visit www.lifesouth.org. Appointments can also be made online.

Hanceville enjoys 2nd Summer Concert Series event

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – It was a gorgeous evening for the Hanceville Music Fest Saturday at Veterans Park. The community came out to enjoy a rain-cooled night while The Natchez Trace Band performed everyone's Southern Rock favorites. This was the second concert in the Summer Concert Series organized by the City of Hanceville and the first in Hanceville's history to have alcohol sales.

Late afternoon rainstorms might have kept some concert goers away but those who decided to come out were not disappointed. The location of the new covered stage, built by the City, made sure that people had shade and created a great open area for folks to dance or place chairs or a blanket and relax.

Beer was an option at the park for the first time in Hanceville's history, but it certainly wasn't the only option. For those not interested in a cold Bud or Bud Light, fresh lemonade and other drinks were also available from the many drink and food vendors that lined the perimeter of the park.

The kids had a rock-climbing wall and inflatables available. Triple B Mechanical Bulls were set up for those wanting to test their bull-riding skills and Mt. Doom Paintball set up a fun shooting range.



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Natchez Trace Band performs at the Hanceville Music Fest Saturday night.

Local band Another Hero got the show started and The Natchez Trace Band took to the stage around 8 p.m. There was a brief delay due to rain showers, but the show did go on. The concert wrapped around 11. Also helping keep the party lively was Blue One DJ, aka Robert Spicer. The Natchez Trace Band had people up on their feet dancing as it played Southern favorites by Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Eagles, The Allman Brothers and many others.

Mayor Kenneth Nail, the Hanceville City Council and other city leaders and entities have worked hard to offer more fun things for the residents of Hanceville. The revitalization of downtown, the improvements to Veterans Park, the addition of festivals and the Summer Concert Series are just a few of the ways city leaders have tried to make Hanceville more attractive.

While the turnout to the events has at times been disappointing, Nail remains optimistic.

Nail joked about the weather at Saturday's concert and other recently planned events, saying, "If Cullman County is ever in a drought, just call Hanceville and we'll plan a concert."

The mayor was pleased by the feedback received from those who came out Saturday night, smiling, "Everyone is having a great time and the band is awesome. The band really liked the new stage and I think if we stick with this, it will get bigger and bigger."

One concertgoer said after the show, "I never thought I would ever be standing in the park legally having a beer while watching a concert with a nice stage. There was nobody out of hand and everybody had a great time."

Those who opted for a beer received special cups to commemorate the history making event.

The last concert in the Hanceville Summer Concert Series will be Aug. 24 at the Hanceville Civic Center with the Kingsmen Quartet. This event will be free to the public and family-friendly. The show is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m.

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DIG IT!

Heavy equipment challenge sponsored by Thompson, Caterpillar

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

DODGE CITY, Ala. – More than 70 participants competed Thursday in Thompson Tractor's Operator Challenge in Dodge City, just off Exit 299 in front of My Way Trucking. The Hanceville Challenge (named by the organizers) was the first of two qualifying events, with the Montgomery Challenge scheduled for July 25-26. Top qualifiers from each regional event will then compete in the finals Sept. 12 in Montgomery. The state winner will qualify for The Caterpillar regional contest and possibly the Caterpillar National Challenge.

This is the first year for the Thompson Tractor Operator Challenge, said Marketing Director Brian Doud, who shared, "Caterpillar makes some of the world's finest heavy equipment, and Thompson Tractor is Alabama's exclusive dealer for the Caterpillar heavy equipment for any size job site. The Operator Challenge gives our customers the opportunity, in a fun and competitive way, to try out the industry's best and most technologically-capable equipment to learn how Caterpillar and Thompson Tractor provide what it takes to make their business more profitable and more efficient."

The Hanceville competition featured six different challenges to test the operators' skills. The most popular event was the Trenching challenge, which showcased each operator's excavator abilities. One competitor, Jeff Adams, came from Saginaw, Alabama and has been operating Caterpillar equipment for at least 30 years.

He explained the objective of the challenge, saying, "They are digging a hole and it's got to be 3 feet deep and it's got to go all the way back. They judge you by your time and how consistent you are."

Adams said the top operators were completing the challenge in two minutes, but he would be happy if he was able to finish in three.

Another popular challenge was the Agility Course, where operators used a Cat skid steer loader to navigate a course and maintain balance and material control" Participants also competed in challenges with wheel loaders, motor graders, dozers and mini or small excavators.

Sarah Price from Lynchburg, Virginia was the only female competitor to register for the competition. She is in Alabama for the summer on an internship with Carmeuse Lime and Stone. She is a student at Virginia Tech studying mining engineering.

She said, "Since I am down here, they asked me if I wanted to come down here and learn how to operate some of the equipment, and I thought it would be a good thing to learn."



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A competitor works a trench in Thursday's Operator Challenge in Dodge City.

Continued Price, "The only thing I ran before today was a skid steer. Basically, right before the challenges, they ran me through how to operate everything and I was off. It was fun. They've also ran me through a larger version of this loader right here, so I had a little bit of experience with that. So, after learning the 990K loader, everything else was a piece of cake."

Price headed back toward the Trench Challenge to support her co-workers, including Adams. As the next-to-last competitor of the day, Adams' number was finally called. He did much better that his three-minute goal and finished the day among the leaders.

Thompson Tractor gave all participants a shirt, hat and belt buckle. They also had Freddie Day Catering on-hand with some great food. The top overall winner won a Cat 2000W Generator.

Second place took home a Cat 27-quart cooker and third earned a Cat speaker and tumbler.

The top five winners will be eligible to compete in the state finals where the grand prize will be $500 and a paid trip to the U.S. Regionals in North Carolina.

The top winners from the Central and North Alabama Operator Challenge

- 1st place- Jonathan Hagood
- 2nd place- Jonathan Poole
- 3rd place- Kelly Childers
- 4th place- Dustin Phillips
- 5th place- Anthony Brooks

The event winners are

- Trenching- Jonathan Hagood 2:08
- Fully Loaded- Kelly Childers 1:48
- Agility- Kelly Childers 2:14
- One for the Road- Jonathan Hagood 1:33
- Easy Doze It- D. Collier 1:23
- Control to a Tee- Jonathan Poole 2:047

Doud was very pleased at the number of people who came out to compete in the challenge, as well as the families who came with their kids to watch. For those interested in the Montgomery Challenge set, registration forms are available at all Thompson Tractor branches. For more information, call 205-849-4527 or visit https://thompsontractor.com/operator-challenge.

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Elks, Jack Aces raise $1,156 for area kids

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Members of the Cullman Elks Lodge and Jack Aces Riding Club pose for a photo Saturday at the annual Christmas in July event.

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman Elks Lodge and Jack Aces Riding Club on Saturday held their annual Christmas in July event to benefit Christmas Love. The groups raised $1,156 and collected many donated toys that will go to help area kids during the 2019 holiday season.

The day of fun began with The Jack Aces hosting a charity motorcycle ride that began at the Elks Lodge and looped around the west side of Cullman County. At least 66 bikes registered for the event with 81 riders enjoying the day. Before the ride began, riders were treated to breakfast at the Elks Lodge. Members of the Elks Lodge had lunch prepared as the riders returned.

The Elks had two raffle prizes donated by Integrity Auto Group. The two lucky winners, Mick Patrum and Ricky Hill, each received a certificate for a $1,500 custom paint job.

Nancy Bryant with Christmas Love said, "We serve 200 children on average. We help kids from birth to 18 years old. We get each child their shoes, their clothes and coats. With the donations we are able to get them some great clothes and some things from each child's wish list. The Jack Aces and Elks have been so great to us and we appreciate all they do."

Jack Aces President Derrick Barton said he looks forward to the Christmas in July event each year and was pleased with the turnout Saturday.

Said Barton, "We didn't have to battle the weather like we did last year. The rain scared people a little last year, but this year was great. We had a great ride and raised a lot of money for the kids."

Cullman Elks Exalted Ruler Dale Ball said after the event, "Besides the camaraderie that was displayed by the two groups, there was much fun had by all. Being an Elk blesses you and so many others. We are so thankful for our partners."

ARTS

Cullman Community Theatre presents 'Oklahoma!'

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman Community Theatre on Friday evening premiered Rodgers and Hammerstein's iconic "Oklahoma!" to a large crowd at Cullman High School. The production is the group's second effort, after last year's "The Music Man."

A few minutes before curtain time, Tyler Skinner, who co-directs the music and stars as cowboy Curley, told The Tribune, "It's been a lot of fun. I've had to work on my country accent quite a bit. I'm originally from Missouri, so I've got it in me a little bit, but it's really over the top in this show.

He continued, "It's been a blast! It's so different, and there's so many cool little things that you don't know about the show, like little weird character things that you can do, that you don't know about until you actually get into the character and start doing things. So it's been a blast. I'd seen 'Oklahoma!' a couple times, a long time ago, and I couldn't remember a ton about it. We watched a production with Hugh Jackman in it from the late nineties, and it just looked like a blast."

Melva Jackson co-directed the show with Wayne Cook.

"The cast has just been so great. Everybody's been working hard. It's been tougher than last year, because we didn't have as much time to put it together, so we were really crunched and everybody's just been really giving 110 percent to make it come together," said Skinner.

"Wayne Cook and Melva Jackson have just been fantastic, helping us out. Any time we do mess up or do anything, they're right there to fix it and tell us what to do. It's going to be a great show, and people are really going to like it."

After the first night's curtain fell, Jackson took a few moments to talk to The Tribune.

"The show went really, really well tonight. It's always hard to do summer theater, you know, because so many people are out, and you have people going on vacation and that kind of thing. It's just kind of hard to pull it all together, but we were a little bit worried about it, like 'Is this going to happen?' but they've really, really, really pulled it out. We have so many great singers in this show, and actors, so I kept thinking- they were like, 'Are we going to pull it out?' And I was like, 'You know, we've got too many good people. It's going to happen.' Plus, we've got Wayne, who's great with the sets and the lights, and all that kind of stuff. I knew it would happen, but it's really nice to see it tonight!"



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Laurey (Sarah Jane Skinner) and Curley (Tyler Skinner) take a ride in a "surrey with the fringe on top" in "Oklahoma!"

Cullman Electric Cooperative celebrates local farmers with Pop Up Farmers Market

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – To help support local agriculture and grow more connected to the local farming community, the Cullman Electric Cooperative partnered with the North Alabama Agriplex to host a small, one-day farmers' market. Featuring booths from Burks Farms, Thompsons' Orchard, Greenleaf Farms, Idlewild South Farms and White Co. Farms, the market took place Monday morning and afternoon in the Co-op parking lot.

Bonnie Baty, communications specialist for the Co-op, explained a bit about the market.

"This is what we're calling a pop-up market. It's just a one-day-only farmers' market here at Cullman Electric Cooperative," she said. "The idea came from Rachel Dawsey at North Alabama Agriplex. The Agriplex does a POP (Power of Produce) program for the kids where they come to the farmers' market, try a sample of produce and get $2 to spend at the market that is reimbursed by the Agriplex. Her idea was to expand that program and try a corporate POP program - do it at an actual business - and so she approached us to see if we'd be interested and we jumped all over it. It was right up our alley."

Baty said the market worked perfectly with the wellness incentives the Co-op offers its employees.

"We have a program where the employees can actually buy produce with the wellness incentives, but we knew that wasn't enough to justify having the farmers come up here for only a hundred employees. So we decided to open it up to the public and let the farmers set up here and sell to the public as well as the employees."

The market also provided the perfect opportunity for Cullman Farm-City to hold a fundraiser: tomato sandwich meal bags. For $5, guests could buy a brown paper bag lunch with a tomato sandwich (all components packaged separately to avoid serving soggy sandwiches), a bag of chips, a bottle of water and a treat; adding a second sandwich to the meal was an additional $2. All proceeds from the lunch bags went toward Cullman Farm-City programs.

Baty thanked the sponsors who donated the items for the lunch bags: Wallace State Community College's Small Farmer Training Program and Will Burks from Burks Farms (locally-grown tomatoes), Warehouse Discount Groceries (fresh-baked bread), Chick-fil-A (salt, pepper and mayo) and the Morgan County Farmers Co-op (water bottles).

When asked if the Co-op planned to continue holding pop-up markets, Baty said, "We definitely want to support our local growers. If this turns out to be something beneficial for them, we will certainly look at opportunities to do this in the future. We allow them to just come and set up at their discretion - no fee for a space or anything like that - and this is just something to do different, give them somewhere else to sell, especially during the peak season like this when everything is in abundance."



HEATHER MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Dion Carroll with Joppa's Greenleaf Farms had a bounty of fresh produce for sale at the market.

Burks said his experience at the market was very positive.

"So far, things have been good. Several people have come through, and I figure since this is the first time it'll be one of those things that nobody knows how it's going to turn out. I see we've got a good variety of produce here, and so far everything's been pretty good," he said.

5th annual Fairview High School Band All Wheel Show & Festival this Saturday

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. – This Saturday, July 27, vehicle enthusiasts can come out to Randall Shedd Community Park to support the Fairview High School marching band at its fifth annual All Wheel Show & Festival. From 9 a.m.-2 p.m., visitors can enjoy live music, free inflatables, the National Guard rock climbing wall, various food trucks, local arts and crafts vendors and a wide variety of vehicles on display.

Event organizers encourage visitors to "bring anything with wheels, bring your family and have an awesome time!"

Fairview Band Booster Michelle Watwood said the money raised from the event will go toward instruments for the band.

"Our sousaphones, our tubas, they're over 20 years old," she said.

"We're hoping to make as much money as possible to repair them, but if we're really successful, we may be able to replace them entirely."

Watwood said the band also needs new drum equipment and new music stands, as they are also more than 20 years old.

Admission to the event is free. Randall Shedd Community Park (Fairview Town Park) is located at 605 Wesley Ave. N in Fairview.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

File photo from 2017's festival

In case of bad weather, the event will be moved to Saturday, Aug. 3.

Find out more at www.facebook.com/events/832059607130358/.



LEGALS

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice IN-N-OUT Self Storage located at 106 13th St., Cullman, AL 35055 intends to hold a sale to sell the property stored at the facility by the below occupant who is in default at an auction. The sale will occur or otherwise disposed as an online auction via www.storageauctions.com on 7/30/2019 at 10:00am. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings.

Veronica Newberry, unit #530, 44 County Road 833, Cullman, AL 35057.

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

City of Cullman
Building Inspection Department

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

City of Cullman
Planning Commission

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

1. Short-form subdivision – Main Ave. SW & Park Drive SW
2. Short-form subdivision – 9th Street SE & 6th Ave. SE – move lot line
3. Short-form subdivision – Bolte Road SE – divide one lot into two lots

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

PB WIL BK 91 PG 467 - 07/12/2019 02:31 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
LORA CORENE ROBINSON HIGGINBOTHAM * CASE NO.: PC 2019-218
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to CHERYL ANN SMITH RASBURY as Personal Representative of the Estate of LORA CORENE ROBINSON HIGGINBOTHAM, deceased, on the 12th day of July, 2019, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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 will be barred.

Cheryl Ann Smith Rasbury
Personal Representative

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056

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

Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

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 478 - 07/12/2019 02:42 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
PEGGY SUE GOODLETT * CASE NO.: PC 2019-216
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to DONALD SCOTT GOODLETT and GREGORY LYLE GOODLETT as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of PEGGY SUE GOODLETT, deceased, on the 12th day of July, 2019, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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 will be barred.

Donald Scott Goodlett
Gregory Lyle Goodlett
Co-Personal Representatives

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056

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

Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

Obituary Announcements: July 15 - 22

Stella Mae Schaffer, age 91 died in the comfort of the home her husband built her in Summerfield, FL on Saturday, June 15th, 2019. Stella was born in Cullman, AL in 1928 to Delton Lawrence and Nina Lawrence. Better known as "Granny", Stella leaves behind her loving husband of 71 years, Martin Adolph Schaffer; two children, Charlotte (Steven) Hering and Martin "Leroy"(Connie) Schaffer; one sister, Peggy McDonald; grandchildren and greatgrandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Delton and Nina Lawrence, a brother Wayne Lawrence and five sisters, Wynelle Lawrence, Maebelle Barfield, Ellen Dean Brock Harbin, Mary Lee Walker and Gertrude Waddle. Graveside service will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery in Cullman, AL on Saturday, July 27, 2019 at 11 a.m.

Margaret "Lois" Fraley-Young joined her heavenly family on July 18th, 2019 at 7:38 am. She was born to Robert & Ackey Dean Fraley on March 1st, 1938 in Beckley, WV. Lois, as she liked to be called, was very proud of her WV roots & enjoyed visiting as often as possible. Lois graduated from Clear Fork High School in Colcord WV in 1956 & was very active in many clubs & organizations. She was an active member of the Colcord Presbyterian Church Choir. She loved to sing "Country Roads" as loud as she could. Her greatest joy was spending time with her family and friends. Lois was well known for her down home southern cooking especially her famous peanut butter fudge & fried chicken and for her talent for arranging flowers. She helped the local flower shops in Alabama with special arrangements and also did the flowers for many of her grandchildrens' weddings. Lois was Elvis Presley's #1 fan and was so proud of her elaborate collection of porcelain dolls, ornate bells, and decorative tea pots. She loved to shop and never left the house without her hair perfect, outfit coordinated with matching jewelry and her famous lipstick. Grandma Lois will always be known by her grandchildren as "the grandma with the lipstick." On Sept. 15, 2006 she married Clyde Winston Young who has preceded her in death. Along with her parents, 2 sons: Denver Lee Barker Jr & David Wayne Young, brothers Randolph Fraley, Ishmael Fraley & Dariel Fraley, 2 sisters: Madge Robinson & Wilma Saunders She is survived by her brother Roger Dean Fraley of Dorothy, WV; children Theresa Lynndell Middleton(Greg) of Richland, IN; Robert Lorne Barker(Candace) of Lawrenceburg, TN; Wanda Elain Robinson (Tommie) Decatur, AL; Linda Sue Young of Winthrop Harbor, IL, 15 grandkids, 33 great grandkids, 5 great great grandkids. Several nieces & nephews and too many friends to mention. Services will be held at Moss Service Funeral Home 1901 2nd Ave NW Cullman Al 35055 Service times are: Visitation Friday July 26th 5-8 p.m. Visitation Saturday July 27 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Service at 1pm Burial at Emeus Cemetery in Logan, AL. Family has requested Expressions of Sympathy may be made to: Colcord Presbyterian Church P. O. Box 227 Dorothy WV 25060 ATT: Gary Anderson In memo section In memory of Lois Fraley-Young Guest registry stand fund.

Funeral service for Kristopher Daniel Harris, 32, of Muscle Shoals, formerly of Cullman will be Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at the Jones Chapel Community Chapel at 2 p.m., with interment in Jones Chapel Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the Community Chapel from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Harris passed away July 20th, 2019. He was born October 23, 1986. He was preceded in death by his brother, Abraham Harris. Survivors include his mother, Tabitha Vaughn; father, Glenn Harris; step-father, Johnny Vaughn; son, Ethan Watter; grandparents, Earl Malone, Betty Duncan, Pat Harris; brothers, Tracy (Ariel) Harris, Jake (Julia) Harris; family and friends.

Dorothy Mae Pitts Pruett, 87, of Holly Pond, passed away on July 20, 2019. She was born in Cullman County, on February 6, 1932, to James Lonnie and Nancy Ann Miller Pitts. Ms. Pruett is preceded in death by her parents, James and Nancy Pitts; brothers, Douglas Fred Pitts, Bernard Pitts, Edward Pitts; and sisters, Ivalee Olinger and Doris Pitts. Survivors include her son, Bobby Pruett; daughters, Teresa (Ronald) Fortner, Tressie Pruett; brother, Earlis (Robbie) Pitts; grandson, Christopher Ditto; and great-grandson, Eli Ditto. Funeral services for Dorothy were Monday, July 22, 2019. Burial in Union Grove Cemetery. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Pruett family.

Funeral services for Mr. Thurman "Bo" Douglas Gregory will be Tuesday, July 23, 2019 at Center Grove Baptist Church. He will lie-in-state from 1-2 p.m. at the church. Mr. Gregory was born on March 12, 1953 in Cullman, Al to Lonnie "Buddy" and Lucy Gregory. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife Teresa Gregory son, Nathan (Ashley) Gregory, daughter, Jessica (Graham) Bufford, grandchildren, Maci, Mali, and Marli Gregory; brother, Jimmy (Glenda) Gregory, brother, Billy (Gidget) Gregory, sister, Betty (Max) Brannan, sister, Carolyn (James) Metz, sister, Beatrice "Pinky" Kugler, sister, Ruby (David) Reasonover, and host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Memorial Service for Cathy McCollum Cotten, age 70, of Bremen, will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Dan Anderson officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Cotten passed away on Sunday, July 21, 2019, at her residence. She was born February 24, 1949, in Jackson, MS, to Percy and Gertrude McCollum. She was preceded in death by her parents and beloved cousin, Mary Jo Shelley. Survivors include her husband, Michael Cotten; daughters, Courtney Smith, Amy (Melvin) Steed, and Amanda (Jeremy) Livingston; grandchildren, Stella Smith, Caitlin Smith, Hannah Smith, Joshua Steed, Olivia Steed, Melvin Steed, Abby Livingston, and Emily Livingston; brother, Michael (Lisa) McCollum; as well as a host of extended family and friends. Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Larry Lorinsky passed away on Sunday, July 21, 2019, at Cullman Regional. He was born July 31, 1944, to Jacob and Bernice Lorinsky. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his daughters, Jessica (Myra) Lorinsky and Jennifer (Mike) Simpson; brother, Michael (Laurie) Lorinsky; and grandchildren, Nicholas Ard and David Simpson. No services are currently planned.

Funeral Services for Nelda "Faye" Fox, 80 of Hanceville, will be 11 a.m. Thursday, July 25, 2019 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hanceville. Pastor John Jankens will officiate. Mrs. Fox will be laid to rest at the Cullman Memory Gardens, Cullman, Alabama. Visitation will be at the Hanceville Funeral Home on Wednesday, July 24 between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Faye was a selfless example of Christ's love. She showed us that no matter what adversities you face; take care of the ones you love. Mrs. Fox is survived by two daughters; Cindy Jones and Lisa (David) Blaylock. Grandchildren; Cassie (Brent) Bowen, Tyler (Nina) Jones, Great Grandchildren; Colter and Cannon Bowen, and Addison and Cole Jones. Other family members include a brother; Walter (Jane) Johnson, brother-in-law, Marion (Virginia) Fox, and sisters-in-law; Martha (Gordon) Blanton, Freida Fox and Bobbie Johnson. A host of nieces and nephews. Mrs. Fox is preceded in death by her husband Allen Fox, son Jeff Fox, and son-in-law Frankie Jones. Parents Alex and Alice (Pender) Johnson, brothers; Gene Johnson, Wallace Johnson, Pete Johnson, and Milton (Nell) Johnson, two sisters; Betty Kovach and Othelia (Floyd) Briscoe. Her father and mother in law Paul and Thelma Fox and a brother-in-law, Michael Fox.

Funeral Services for Jimmy Davis, 81, of Hanceville will be 2 p.m. Thursday July 25, 2019 at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. The burial will follow at Ebenezer Cemetery in West Point, AL. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday July 24, 2019 at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mr. Davis is survived by his children Connie (Jay) Jensen and Phillip (Rhonda) Davis; four grandchildren Stephany Drewry, Bridgette Jensen, Hannah Davis and Jordan Davis; One Great-Grandchild Tayah Drewry; his brother Winfred Davis and his sister Carolyn Hudson. Mr. Davis is preceded by his wife Nellie Faye.

Free Obituary Listings

HAVE YOUR FUNERAL HOME CONTACT US

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OPINION

Always Reforming: Life in Community (12)

Tom Fillinger
Tribune Correspondent

Today in our series on the **One Another Commands** we focus on **Esteem One Another**.

The middle letter in the word pride is "I." The Fall due to Adam's sin made us all, you and I included, think that we are the center of the universe.

Nothing is further from the truth. The greatest JOY in life is serving others. To serve well we must ESTEEM others.

This is not a mere option. God commands us to esteem others. True wisdom says DON'T burn your bridges.

It's a caution that you may need to come back the way you came someday, and if the bridge is gone, it will be difficult to get there.

A similar saying is, "Be careful on your way up the ladder; you don't know who you'll run into on the way back down" (cf. the following passages)

• Prov. 8:13 – I hate pride and arrogance.

• Prov. 11:2 – When pride comes, then comes disgrace . . . but with humility comes wisdom.

• Prov. 13:10 – Pride only breed quarrels. . .

• Prov. 16:18 – Pride goes before destruction . . .

• Prov. 29:23 – A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.

• Matt. 11:29 – For I am gentle and humble in heart.

• James 4:6 & 11 - . . . gives grace to the humble; Humble yourselves before the Lord.

We are called by the Word of God to live lives in connection with Jesus Christ and one another of faith, suffering and surrender - life in community. We must ALL do this to honor the call of our LORD.

The command of scripture states - but in humility, consider others better than yourselves (Phil. 2:3).

Our model is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:1-7 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Here is a challenge for you. Think back over the past year in your relationship with other believers. Did you honor this command to esteem others better than yourself?

This is not merely a mental exercise. Obedience requires action.

In the year ahead, esteem others better than yourself just as Christ Jesus did.

When the roll is called up yonder you will be so glad that you obeyed this command!

School (from Front)

Christy Perry, Heather Mann

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman City Schools and Cullman County Schools are gearing up for a brand new school year. Both systems resume classes Aug. 7.

"I am always in amazement at the amount of work and dedication our teachers and staff show each year to prepare for the upcoming school year, and this one is no exception," exclaimed Cullman City Schools Superintendent Dr. Susan Patterson. "While the students have enjoyed their summer breaks, worked on their extra-curricular activities and had some well-earned rest and relaxation, the schools that make up Cullman City Schools have been a buzz of activity all summer long. From the normal of freshly cleaned and waxed floors to new and exciting program offerings for students, school and district leaders have been working to make improvements."

Patterson said Cullman City Primary School was awarded another year of the Office of School Readiness Grant to fund 4-year old PreK. It also has a new 2,000-square-foot playground.

East Elementary worked on its floor restoration project, while West Elementary's teachers' lounge got an update. Landscaping work was done at both campuses.

Patterson said, district-wide, the system's maintenance department will be completing the removal of all carpeted areas in classrooms and refinishing hardwood or installing new flooring.

The traffic route from the Cullman High School student parking lot has changed. All vehicles exiting CHS will turn right. All vehicles exiting Cullman Primary School at Hoehn Drive will turn right.

"This will eliminate crossover traffic and increase the flow of traffic exiting the CCPS and CHS campuses," said Patterson.

The faculty and staff at Cullman County Schools have been hard at work all summer in preparation for the new year. Each school had its own work to do, some making major improvements and renovations to the campus, with others doing routine cleaning and painting.

At Holly Pond schools, the shared lunchroom has had renovations. There are also plans to build a new home economics facility with two new classrooms for the high school; however, the starting date and timeline for completion are unknown.

Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette said construction should be starting "any day now."

Vinemont Middle School had major renovations to its library including a new circulation desk, new flooring and additions of an instructional lab, STEM stations, computer stations and student study areas. Air conditioning is being installed in the gym.

The field house at West Point schools has been bricked. All hallways and some classrooms at the high school have been painted. Security locks are being installed an doors and new TV added in the hallways. The elementary school has a new roof.

Good Hope High School has repainted hallways and finished a large electrical upgrade that will allow the use of multiple machines and appliances in the same room without flipping a breaker. Air conditioning is being installed in the gym, many doors and handrails are being painted, and several areas are currently being pressure-washed.

Fairview Middle School has new benches for students to use while waiting for parents to pick them up, and fresh paint is being applied to the bathrooms and school exterior. The middle school is also undergoing a major system upgrade, though details on the new system will be unavailable until the project is finished. The high school has installed a new handicap ramp and is repairing the roof.

The Cold Springs lunchroom is getting a major electrical/HVAC upgrade, and the high school gym is getting a new roof. Many areas around the elementary school are being repaved.

Phase 1 of the Cullman County Child Development Center playground renovation has been completed.

No details were given on other schools in the system.

Lawsuit (from Front)

Warrior River or who live and own property in close proximity to the Mulberry River.

"These Plaintiffs fear to go outside, use the river, fish in the river, or let their animals use the river because of these spills. Some of these Plaintiffs use the river as a means for living and fear such way of life has been altered forever costing them money and happiness.

"The other category of Plaintiffs are those who are affected by the horrible smell of the River Valley Ingredients plant. The smell is so regular and potent that it has affected these Plaintiff's daily lives, affected their quiet use and enjoyment of their property, and cause them fear, discomfort, and embarrassment."

Defendants

The complaint names five specific defendants along with 40 fictitious defendants (essentially place holders that will allow the attorneys to name additional defendants whose role in the spill may not yet have been discovered).

• Tyson Farms, Inc. - Listed as a "foreign corporation with its principal place of business located in the state of North Carolina." The corporation is a subsidiary of Tyson Foods, Inc., and manages production of chicken products in several southeastern states. It is listed in the complaint as owning and managing the Hanceville plant at which the spill occurred.

• River Valley Ingredients, LLC (RVI) - Listed as a "foreign limited liability company with its principal place of business located in the state of Arkansas." RVI's headquarters is located at the corporate headquarters of Tyson Foods. The company was formed as an Alabama business entity in 2018, after Tyson's purchase of American Proteins, under the name Tyson Blending, LLC; the name was changed to RVI in Sept. 2018. The company produces feather and byproduct meal from chicken carcasses.

• American Proteins, Inc. (API) - Listed as a "foreign corporation with its principal place of business located in the state of Georgia." API operated the Hanceville plant prior to its being purchased by Tyson/RVI, and was the operator at the time of the 2016 acid spill.

• Jason Spann - The only individual currently named in the suit, he is the current general manager of the RVI Hanceville plant, and also served in that capacity during its API days. The complaint called him "the individual in charge of the safe and proper operation of the discharge of sanitary wastewaters associated with the rendering operations of the plant," and alleged, "Jason Spann and (up to 13 fictitious defendants in management positions) failed to act as the responsible and prudent person to remedy issues that have caused and are causing damages to the Plaintiffs and the Mulberry River and Black Warrior River after receiving adequate warning and notice of such issues."

• Hydraservice, Inc. - Listed in the complaint and its own website as both Hydraservice and Hydra Service, the company, founded by F.J. Doyle near Warrior in 1992, is alleged to be the contractor that installed the pump and equipment at the RVI plant, a failure of which led to the June 6 spill. According to the complaint, "Tyson Farms claims the June 6th discharge was caused by a coupling on a hose/pipe that came loose and was attached to a pump that was pumping sewage from one basin or lagoon into another and that a local contract pump company supplied and installed the pump, piping, and coupling. Upon information and belief Defendant, Hydraservice, is the company or contractor [which] provided and operated the pumps, pipes, hoses, and other equipment for this task of pumping raw sewage from one basin to another basin. From reports at the Alabama Department of Environmental Management ("ADEM"), the work to pump the sewage from the basin was not overseen for several hours and the coupling came loose during that time and was allowed to freely run out and into the Mulberry River for hours."

Charges

The complaint charged the defendants with:

• Negligence – The complaint alleged that the defendants had a duty to exercise reasonable care in the operation of the plant and all equipment there, and failed to do so to the degree of violating the law.

• Nuisance – The complaint alleged that the June 6 and previous spills, along with the foul odor that regularly comes from the plant has interfered with the ability of river residents to use and enjoy their property, has lowered property values and caused the residents undue stress.

• Wanton Conduct – The complaint alleged that the defendants were aware of ongoing issues like the smell, and of the dangers of spills, and deliberately continued to run the plant in a manner likely to result in such problems. According to the complaint, the defendants "continue to wantonly cause or allow harmful substances to be deposited into the Mulberry River and they continue to wantonly cause and allow the offensive odor to permeate continuously onto and around the Plaintiffs' property with actual knowledge."

The complaint also specifically charged that:

• 175,000 fish were reported killed, but the actual number cannot be known; and "The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources concluded that the Mulberry River has been damaged for five years as a result of the June 6th discharge."

• "It is upon information and belief that a representative of Tyson issued a statement less than ten days after the June 6th discharge that the river was safe for recreation," and that "Tyson based this statement only upon the dissolved oxygen levels of the river without testing for e-coli or fecal coliform."

• The spill led to the cancellation of a June 22, 2019 kayak race sponsored by the Sipsey Heritage Commission, resulting in a loss of money to the commission and likely decreased participation in future events.

• "Other sewage spills of Tyson Farms and American Proteins and fictitious Defendants 1-40, like the June 6th spill, were reportedly from lack of adequate maintenance and/or supervision, lack of the proper oversight, lack of proper operation, and lack of proper advice," and that the ongoing smell at the plant has the same origin.

Award for damages sought

According to the complaint, the Plaintiffs are seeking compensation for issues including:

• Loss of property value

• Deprivation of use and enjoyment of their property

• "Fear, worry, stress, anxiety and mental anguish over the past damage and continuing future damage to their property," and the same stress over past and future health concerns

• The loss of funds to the Sipsey Heritage Commission

• Attorney fees and other costs related to the case

• "Punitive damages in such amount as a jury deems necessary to punish defendants, including the fictitiously named defendants, for such reprehensible conduct and to deter defendants and others from engaging in such reprehensible conduct in the future."

• Remediation of the river itself

Tyson Foods Senior Manager for Public Relations/Corporate Communications, Worth Sparkman, visited Cullman Monday morning and met with The Tribune. He declined to speak on the record about the spill or to address the lawsuit, citing its status as pending litigation, but said that Tyson wanted area residents to know that the corporation is still active in efforts to respond to the aftermath of the spill and to improve the RVI Hanceville plant.



Runners fill St. Bernard for 6th annual Nicholas Fillinger Memorial Run

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – With clouds hanging overhead and the temperature in the 70s, Saturday morning provided near-perfect conditions for the sixth annual Nicholas Fillinger Memorial Run. Approximately 140 runners registered for this year's event and the trail at St. Bernard was full of participants of all ages who came to honor Nicholas' memory and support a great cause. Nicholas, a cross country and track athlete at Cullman High School, died tragically in a training accident in September 2013.

The proceeds from the event will go to the Nicholas Fillinger Foundation, which supports the "Not Forgotten" orphanage in Peru and provides a college scholarship to a student who possesses character and skills similar to Nicholas – passion, protection, competitiveness, determination, compassion, and justice.

Nicholas' mother, Julie Fillinger, loves being able to support a good cause through this annual event.

"The proceeds will almost entirely go to an orphanage called 'Not Forgotten' in Peru," Fillinger said.

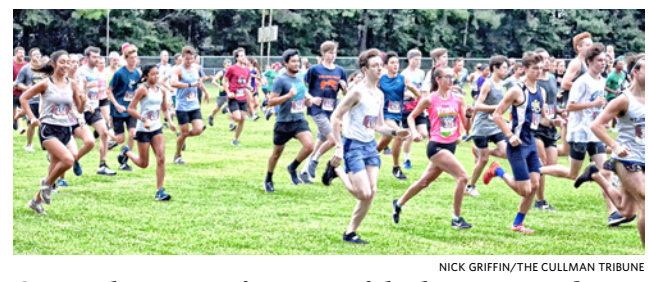
"We were introduced to that after Nicholas died and now, we're monthly supporters and the missionary is actually here today to speak for 'Not Forgotten.' It rescues boys off the street, puts them in a family-style home and they just thrive in that environment. So, it replaces all the bad that was done with the goodness of being in a family environment."

Julie says that the biggest turnout they've had so far is still the inaugural run but participation and support from the community has remained consistent each year.

"The first year was the biggest, we probably had about 250 and that was right after Nicholas died so children from school and all that came out and now this year is bigger than the last couple years," Fillinger said. "It's definitely the most pre-registered people we've had."

It's been nearly six years since Nicholas' accident and Julie is always excited to see family, friends, teammates, church members and others in the community turn out to honor her son's memory by doing what he loved in a place that he loved.

"It's greatly encouraging, not only because it honors Nicholas' memory but also because all the proceeds go to the orphanage so we love supporting that," Fillinger said. "It's exciting and a big deal for us."



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Saturday morning provided near-perfect conditions at St. Bernard for the 6th annual Nicholas Fillinger Memorial Run.

Brontae Harris Named to Paycom Jim Thorpe Award Watch List

UAB Athletics
Contributor

BIRMINGHAM – Junior cornerback Brontae Harris has been named to the Paycom Jim Thorpe Award Preseason Watch List, which is presented annually to the nation's best defensive back by the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame.

Harris was rated Conference USA's top cornerback in 2018 and will again be one of the best defensive players in the league this season.

The Cullman, Ala. product helped contribute to UAB's record-setting defense which finished ninth nationally in total defense last year. The Blazers ranked top 10 nationally in six different statistical categories, and the secondary finished 14th overall in passing yards allowed.

Harris played in 12 games and was limited midway through the season due to a mild injury. He was still able to lead UAB in interceptions and pass breakups en route to All-Conference USA Honorable Mention accolades. He finished the year with 34 total tackles, two picks and 11 PBUs, and saw his targets decrease down the stretch of the season as teams stopped throwing his way.

Harris is one of 46 players on the preseason watch list and one of five players from Conference USA, along with Reed Blankenship (MT), Ky'el Hemby (USM), Chris Jackson (Marshall) and Amik Robertson (LT).

Coming off a year in which the Blazers finished 11-3 overall and won the program's first Conference USA title, UAB is 38 days away from kicking off the 2019 season. The Blazers welcome Alabama State on Thursday, Aug. 29, at Legion Field to open their title defense.

Season tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by calling the UAB Athletics Ticket Office at 205-975-UAB1. Discounted group tickets and fan experiences are available for a minimum purchase of 20 tickets to any home football game. To purchase group tickets for the 2019 season, please contact Chris Curtis at (205) 934-3172 or ccurtis2@uab.edu.

2019 Paycom Jim Thorpe Award Watch List:

- Paulson Adebo, Stanford, So.
- Trajan Bandy, Miami (FL), Jr.
- Essang Bassey, Wake Forest, Sr.
- Julian Blackmon, Utah, Sr.
- Reed Blankenship, Middle Tennessee, Jr.
- Monquavion Brinson, Georgia Southern, Sr.
- Jaron Bryant, Fresno State, Sr.
- Myles Bryant, Washington, Sr.
- Vince Calhoun, Eastern Michigan, Sr.
- TJ Carter, Memphis, Jr.
- Andre Cisco, Syracuse, So.
- Cameron Dantzler, Mississippi State, Jr.
- Alvin Davis Jr., Akron, Sr.
- Grant Delpit, LSU, Jr.
- Greg Eisworth, Iowa State, Jr.
- Desmond Franklin, Appalachian State, Sr.
- Jordan Fuller, Ohio State, Sr.
- Alohi Gilman, Notre Dame, Sr.
- Jeff Gladney, TCU, Sr.
- Richie Grant, UCF, Jr.
- AJ Green, Oklahoma State, Sr.
- Javon Hagan, Ohio, Sr.
- Bryce Hall, Virginia, Sr.
- Mike Hampton, USF, Jr.
- Brontae Harris, UAB, Jr.
- Ky'el Hemby, Southern Mississippi, Jr.
- CJ Henderson, Florida, Jr.
- Lavert Hill, Michigan, Sr.
- Jamal Hudson, Ohio, Jr.
- Juju Hughes, Fresno State, Sr.
- Chris Jackson, Marshall, Sr.
- Darreon Jackson, Arkansas State, Sr.
- Jerry Jacobs, Arkansas State, Jr.
- Jaylon Johnson, Utah, Jr.
- Kevin McGill, Eastern Michigan, Sr.
- Xavier McKinney, Alabama, Jr.
- Josh Metellus, Michigan, Sr.
- JR Reed, Georgia, Sr.
- Amik Robertson, Louisiana Tech, Jr.
- Josiah Scott, Michigan State, Jr.
- Caden Sterns, Texas, So.
- Josh Thomas, Appalachian State, Sr.
- Tariq Thompson, San Diego State, Jr.
- Kindle Vildor, Georgia Southern, Sr.
- James Wiggins, Cincinnati, Jr.
- DJ Williams, Utah State, Sr.



UAB ATHLETICS

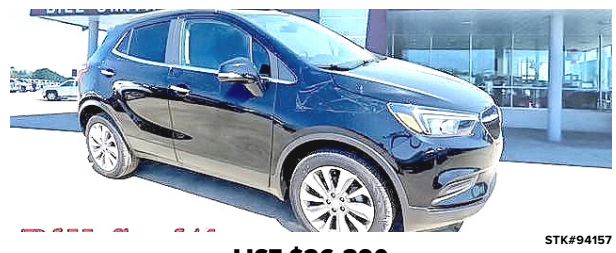
Former Cullman Bearcat Brontae Harris (33) has been named to this year's Paycom Jim Thorpe Award Watch List.

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SALE $16,895*

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Essence AWD

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SALE $27,671*

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Crew Cab Short Box 4-Wheel Drive All Terrain w/Leather

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*

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2dr Conv Sport Touring

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LIST ~~$38,145~~
SALE $27,535*

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FWD 4dr Essence

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LIST ~~$37,940~~
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