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The Cullman Tribune

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ARTS

'A community arts event unlike any you've ever attended': Cullman playwright to release interactive new work May 9

Heather Mann
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CULLMAN, Ala. – Mother's Day 2021 will be the online debut of a new "community arts event" from the mind of Cullman-based playwright Ben South. Titled "HOUSEBOUND & GARDEN: The Pandemic Letters Dramedy," the show tells the story of grandmother and granddaughter through letters shared between the two over the span of 30 years. In a press release about the show's debut, South stated, "When an inter-generational group of us in the Cullman arts crowd first brainstormed this project, we recognized people feel isolated, lonely and anxious during this challenging time. We are doing what theater, music, all the arts are good at—reminding folks they are not alone and giving them hope."

The show will become available for free on YouTube and Facebook May 9, with an interactive option to allow for the most immersive viewing experience. According to the release,

"When you link on social media to 'HOUSEBOUND & GARDEN' » PAGE 2

Food that touches the soul



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right: Jayzohn Merriweather, Cierra Merriweather, Dierra Merriweather and Merriweather's Soul Food owner Kierra Merriweather

Christy Perry
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HANCEVILLE, Ala. – "Food that touches the soul." That's how the owner of Merriweather's Soul Food describes what you can expect at their new restaurant located inside the Joann Walls Center on Bangor Street in Hanceville. The meat and three style eatery has generated quite the buzz since opening on Easter Sunday.

"Food has always been a part of our family and when we saw that the building was empty, we decided that was the perfect opportunity. It was God's calling and we felt that Hanceville needed something like this--something different," said owner Kierra Merriweather.

Merriweather is a 2019 Hanceville High School graduate and is currently studying at Wallace State Community College to be a physical therapy assistant.

Despite already being busy as a full-time student, she now gets up and starts cooking alongside her three siblings at 3 a.m. Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Currently Merriweather's Soul Food is open Saturday and Sunday, but the plan is to add additional days of operation in the near future. This Saturday, breakfast will be served for the first time beginning at 6 a.m.

Menu items will be biscuits, gravy, bacon, sausage, waffles, pancakes and more. Lunch is served from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The lunch menu varies day to day. Merriweather explained, "It depends on what the people want. Somebody will come in and request something. We try to get it in to make our customers happy."

The most popular lunch menu item has been Merriweather's chicken and dressing and the beef tips with rice.

The recipes the Merriweather's use are recipes passed down through the family including their mom and grandmother. Bring your appetite because Merriweather's does not skimp at all.

"We try to give out a good amount of portions too," Merriweather added. "People are requesting that we get a bigger place and we are working on it, but you have to crawl before you walk. We will eventually get there."

For more information and a glance at each day's menu, visit Merriweather's Soul Food on Facebook.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Holly Pond Town Council votes to surplus two properties, discusses sewer rate increase » PAGE 6

Cullman Strawberry Festival a big success » PAGE 5

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fairview Town Council hears request for noise ordinance » PAGE 2

RNR Search and Rescue in need of donations » PAGE 5

HEALTH

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Baileyton Town Council member Dewayne Sumner continues to recover from accident; council discusses downed phone lines » PAGE 6

PET OF THE WEEK

Cool off with Bailey!



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Bailey » PAGE 6

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Fairview (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. – The Fairview Town Council Monday evening heard from local resident Paula Brock, who asked the council to consider enacting a noise ordinance. According to Brock, a nearby household is prone to playing loud music even after midnight, disturbing neighbors, including a child with Asperger's syndrome and noise sensitivity. The resident said that the sound reached even through noise-canceling headphones that she purchased.

Mayor Keith Henry told Brock that he spoke to Sheriff Matt Gentry recently about the matter.

According to the Mayor, Gentry said that the county does not have a noise ordinance, and that the town would have to create a municipal court and appoint a municipal judge in order to enforce a noise ordinance of its own. For that reason, Henry declined to consider an ordinance at present.

The Sheriff had said that he could send deputies to talk to the neighbors, and Henry told Brock that he would talk to Gentry about doing so.

OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS

The council approved a motion to purchase a large Kubota mower in the amount of $14,187.22 from Dixie Tractor. According to Henry, the town's two current mowers are both out of commission and in need of repairs. Once the mowers are running again, the council will consider surplusing and selling them.

A request from Allison Merriweather to grant an easement across town property to a parcel of land she wants to sell was tabled. According to council members, the parcel is not landlocked, but is accessible through property Merriweather is keeping.

The general consensus at the council table was that the resident should provide a thoroughfare through her own property, but the matter was set aside for further consideration after the council can get maps to show the exact location and dimensions of the parcel.

Other council discussion items included improvement of drainage and construction of dugouts at the town's ball fields.

The Fairview Town Council meets at 6 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at Fairview Town Hall. The public is invited to attend.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Fairview resident Paula Brock talks to the council about noise issues around her home.

Event (from Front)

anytime beginning May 9, you'll be provided a suggested 'dinner theater-at-home menu' with additional links to Cullman restaurants, gifted cooks and mixologists, including original recipes shared in some cases. Another creative way this community effort is stitching everyone together with this theatre/music/arts project is through sewing craft. Twice during the storytelling of 'HOUSEBOUND & GARDEN,' a simple but meaningful hand-sewn gift is mentioned. When you link to the FREE showings where 'Watch Parties are Encouraged,' you can link to a special, printable design (also FREE) to stitch your own, sweet, mailable gift."

While the free sewing design is still a mystery, the "dinner theater-at-home menu" has already been released. It contains both the name of the food and where it can be purchased:

APPETIZER

- Cullman Festhalle Farmers Market Sicilian Bruschetta - Jennifer Branham, Facebook

SALAD

- Steele Orchard Alabama Apple and Pecan Salad - steeleorchard.com

ENTREE

- Butcher Tamara's Brickyard Meats - brickyardmeats.com

- Johnny's Barbecue Sauce - johnnysbarbq.com (also at Publix Grocery)

SIDE DISH

- North Alabama Agriplex Sweet Potato Fries - agriplex.org

BREAD

- St. Bernard Monastery Monk's Bread - avemariagrotto.com

DESSERTS

- Cullman Strawberry Festival Ice Cream - cullmanstrawberryfest.com

- Grilled All-Steak Orange Rolls - allsteakrestaurant.com

- Grilled Duchess Donuts - Duchess Donuts/Facebook

BEVERAGES

- Goat Island Beer - goatislandbrewing.com

- Dreher's Bunny Melon Cocktail by Christine Chambliss, mixologist/owner - Dreher's Cocktail Bar & Restaurant/Facebook

- Karma's Coffee by Katie Fine, barista/owner - karmascoffeehouse.com

The press release also identified some figures who were key to the making of this project:

- Tekoa Walker - teen actress playing the granddaughter of the story

- Melva Hackbarth Jackson - actress playing the grandmother of the story

- Morgan Wooten - designer for promotional graphics

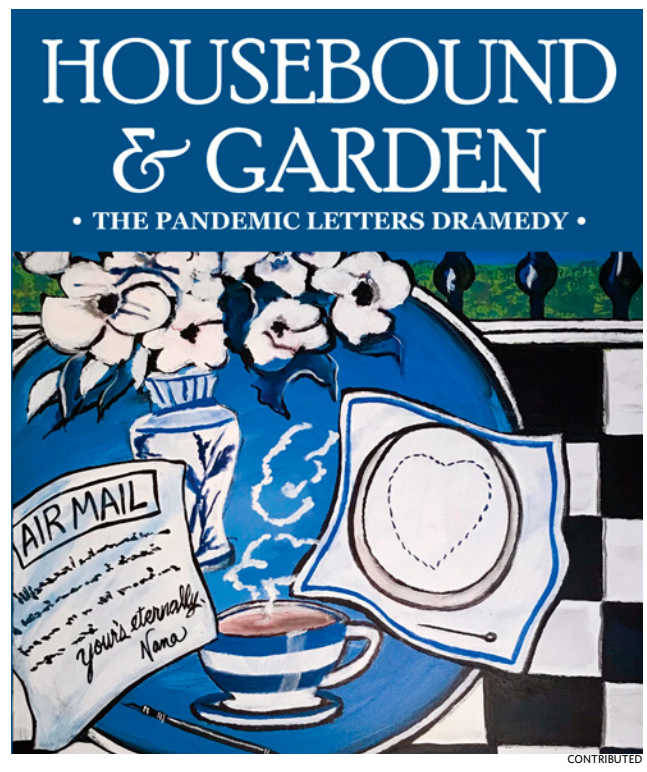
- Chandler Ogles - Wallace State student who composed some of the symphonic pieces

- Brian Kirk - videographer and composer of some musical pieces

- Kathy Lee - heritage sewing instructor at the Agriplex who created the audience participation craft

- The Ladies Prayer and Wine Circle - group of community women who critiqued the work to make sure the male playwright understood how to portray female characters

Actresses Walker and Jackson both stated that the inter-generational aspect of the production makes for an enjoyable and relatable experience, with the characters described as "strong, loving, fun women that viewers are going to embrace" by Jackson herself.



CONTRIBUTED

Described as an "intimate but universal story about family love and loss during the coronavirus pandemic," South believes that the family experiences portrayed in the show will connect with everyone who watches.

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Dashboard Hub (https://bit.ly/3iVJwXK)

Case details*

- Total confirmed cases in AL: 409,028 (+0 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in AL: 119,756 (+0 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in AL: 8,602 (+0 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in AL: 2,311
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 6,504 (+0 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 3,113 (+0 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 129 (+0 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 64
- Total tested in Cullman Co.: 40,801
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 2,087
- Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 72
- Total tested in Alabama: 2,510,134
- Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 3,771
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 118,822
- Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 345
- Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama (reported M-F): 49,008
- Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 335,669

Vaccine details (updated Monday-Friday)

- Doses delivered to Alabama: 3,947,595
- Doses delivered to Alabama providers: 2,942,275
- Doses administered: 2,580,086
- Number of people receiving one or more doses: 1,139,121
- Number of people who have completed vaccine series: 1,126,796
- Doses delivered to federal programs: 1,005,320

Alabamians in Phases 1a, 1b and 1c (including those 16 and older) are now eligible to receive a vaccine.

View the Alabama COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Plan at: www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/assets/adph-covid19-vaccination-allocation-plan.pdf

DPH encourages age-appropriate groups to get COVID-19 vaccine

ADPH continues to encourage persons in the age-appropriate groups to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention mitigation guidance to reduce the risk of this severe and deadly virus. All Alabamians need to continue to take personal responsibility to understand the benefits of vaccine to their own health and their need to practice efforts to reduce contracting this illness.

Governor announces May 31 end to Safer Apart order

Governor Kay Ivey announced that Alabama's COVID-19 public health order will end Monday, May 31, and the state of emergency will end Tuesday, July 6 Governor Ivey announced that the current Safer Apart order consists primarily of recommendations aligned with CDC guidance. However, specific guidance applies to two groups. Senior Citizen Centers must continue to follow guidelines issued by the Alabama Department of Senior Services. Hospitals and nursing homes must follow current guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services with respect to visitation. Barring a great spike in COVID-19 cases, these last remaining requirements should be lifted with the expiration of this order May 31. Governor Ivey continues to encourage Alabamians to get the safe and effective vaccine.

Due to notifiable disease rules, isolation and quarantine timeframes remain after order ends

Exceptions include fully vaccinated individuals. COVID-19 patients and close contacts will continue to follow isolation and quarantine measures to protect the public's health, as this virus remains a notifiable condition in Alabama. Many Alabama schools have resumed face-to-face classes and some people incorrectly believe that isolation and quarantine requirements for COVID-19 have ended. However, these protections are still needed. Isolation separates non-healthcare personnel with COVID-19 from people who are not sick. Quarantine separates non-ill persons exposed to an infectious disease to determine if they may become sick. People with COVID-19 and their symptomatic close contacts must be isolated for at least 10 days after symptoms first appeared, at least 24 hours since fever ended without the use of fever-reducing medications, and other symptoms have improved. Fully vaccinated people are exempted from isolation and quarantine. Fully vaccinated people are those who are two weeks or more past their second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna vaccines), or two weeks or more after receiving the single-dose (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine. Exceptions are also made for people who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three months and recovered, so long as they do not experience symptoms. Isolation and quarantine timeframes may be viewed at www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/assets/cov-timeframes-isolation-quarantine.pdf

New vaccine website now available - www.vaccines.gov

A federally supported website that makes it easier for individuals to access COVID-19 vaccine is now live. Vaccines.gov – powered by VaccineFinder – is available in English and Spanish, with high accessibility standard, and will help connect persons with locations offering vaccines near them. In addition to the website, a text messaging service is also available. People can text their ZIP code to 438829 (GETVAX) and 822862 (VACUNA) to find three locations nearby that have vaccines available.

Health care providers urged to strongly recommend COVID-19 vaccine

ADPH is asking all health care providers in the state to strongly recommend all age-eligible patients take COVID-19 vaccine. Health care professionals are often the most trusted source of information on vaccines for their patients in making informed decisions about getting a COVID-19 vaccination and taking actions that enable them to move back to normal activities. The CDC has provided information for providers on how to talk to patients about COVID-19 vaccination, available here www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/engaging-patients.html

FDA anticipated to authorize COVID-19 vaccine for adolescents age 12 to 15 soon

ADPH anticipates the Food and Drug Administration to authorize use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents 12 to 15 years of age soon. The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is likely to meet soon after the authorization to review clinical trial data and make recommendations for the vaccine's use in adolescents. ADPH will provide additional information as it is made available.

ADPH still encourages use of facial coverings

Masks or other facial coverings are no longer a mandate under the Safer Apart order. ADPH still encourages the use of facial coverings, and reminds everyone that masks remain one of the most successful tools to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Many businesses and health care facilities continue to require facial coverings in their facilities.

*People with COVID-19 who have symptoms should wait to be vaccinated until they have recovered from their illness and have met the criteria for discontinuing isolation; those without symptoms should also wait until they meet the criteria before getting vaccinated. This CDC guidance also applies to people who get COVID-19 before getting their second dose of vaccine.

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported May 3

Cullman Tribune Staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported May 4, 2021. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No incidents or arrests reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

April 29

• third-degree criminal trespass; harassment; person; 2nd Way NE

May 1

• second-degree domestic violence; person; Woodvale Dr. NW

May 2

• fourth-degree theft of property; third-degree criminal mischief; person; Cherokee Ave. SW; miscellaneous; damaged phone; $255

May 3

• harassment; person; 3rd Ave. NE

• third-degree harassment; person, Cleveland Ave. SW

ARRESTS

May 3

McAnear, Taylor A.; 25

• possession of drug paraphernalia

Sullivan, Kayla R.; 32

• DUI (controlled substance)

Jones, Hagen E.; 26

• FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

• FTA- third-degree criminal mischief

• FTA- driving without license

Williams Jr., Theodore V.; 33

• FTA- second-degree possession of marijuana (2 counts)

• FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

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


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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submit your calendar items or public notices to olivia@cullmantribune.com

"Come to the Well" Community Women's Bible Study

• Tuesday mornings at 10 at the Hebrews Cafe at East Side Baptist Church, 1111 Third St. SE in Cullman

• Please wear a mask/face covering.

Baileyton Bargain Days

• First and third Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the old Baileyton fire station next to the town's park

• Beauty and health products, toys, home goods, pet items, food and many everyday items

• A donation of $20 will allow a shopper to fill up a bag, and for $40 a shopper can fill a large box. Some of the items of greater value will require a larger donation. There will be some restrictions and product limits on the items. Cash and checks accepted.

• Proceeds will be used for park improvements and capital improvements for the town.

Alcoholics Anonymous

The Grace of God group of Alcoholics Anonymous has open AA meetings (all are welcome) Monday and Thursday nights from 7-8 p.m. at the Carriage House, located next to Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE Cullman. Contact phone numbers: 256-347-1097, 256-841-2209 or 256-708-1340

Church Services-Spirit Life Church of GOD

• Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman

• Prayer meetings-Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Come and pray with us or come to receive prayer.

• Ladies' exercise classes- Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Children welcome.

• Classes- Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult class, "The Phases of Armageddon" by Pastor Bobby Dodd

• Sundays at 9 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points area. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. Small group classes for adults, children and youth at 10 a.m. Praise and worship and message at 11 a.m.

• Mondays-Fridays-Our 5 Points Ministry provide free hot meals for children and elderly 3:30-5 p.m. at the Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW Please call Aimee at 256-841-2060 to register or for more information. Eat in or take out. Kids' activities are available. Kids do not have to come to the center to get a free meal. Adults can list the names of the children and do takeout meals. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.

• Sundays - 9 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. Small group classes for children, youth and adults at 10 a.m. Praise and Worship and message at 11 a.m.

• Sunday, May 9t- 11 a.m. Praise and Worship. Special Mother's Day message by Pam Dodd. Italian meal for women and mothers immediately after morning service prepared by our men. Come join us for our morning service and meal.

Free Community Dinner at Center Hill Baptist Church

• 5 - 6 p.m.- The first Wednesday of every month we will be offering a Free Community Dinner. Church members, community members, neighbors and friends are welcome. This will be takeout only. Please message or comment with how many plates you will need to help us prepare enough food for everyone. RSVP at http://bit.ly/centerhill.

• 13108 County Road 747, Hanceville, AL 35077

Miércoles de Despensas

• 6 - 7 p.m. ler. miercoles del mes, En Su Tierra Cullman FUMC

• Despensas para la comunidad. No requiere ID. Entrega en su vehículo. Por favor use mascarilla.

Festhalle Farmers Market

• 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from April – October

• Stop by to shop the freshest produce from Cullman-based farms

• For more information, call 256-590-5009 or send an email to mgraveman@cullmanrecreation.org

2nd Annual Ridin' for Residents

• May 8 - The 2nd Annual Ridin' for Residents is coming up Saturday, May 8. This is a joint benefit between Cullman County Wranglers and USA Healthcare to bring joy and smiles to the faces of the residents of some of Cullman and surrounding areas' assisted living centers and nursing homes.

• Our inaugural event had 127 Jeeps! Let's make our 2nd event even more fun for our residents!

• If you would like to bring a donation, we are seeking stamps, stationery, blank greeting cards, pens, lotions, shower gel or card games. Donations are completely optional.

• Registration is free. We ask that you register, so we have an accurate count to give city officials, so they can offer assistance with traffic the day of the event. To register or purchase a T-shirt, visit https://cullmancountywranglers.com/ridinforresidents/.

• To purchase a T-shirt, click "register," and you will see the option to purchase. To receive your shirt by the day of the event, you must order by 10 a.m. April 22. Shirts are $20 and available in youth and adult sizes. XXL and XXXL shirts are $22 and $23 respectively.

Cullman City Cemetery Decoration

Sunday, May 9

Cullman Shred Day

Saturday, May 22 – Presented by the Better Business Bureau of North Alabama, Cullman Shred Day will offer free contactless drive-up services, such as document shredding and drug take back (no needles) from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the King Edward Plaza Shopping Center – 1731 2nd Ave. SW, Cullman, AL 35055. For more information, call 256-734-8209.

Cullman County Bosom Buddies Craft Fair and Vendor Expo

• Saturday, June 12 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Cullman Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2214

• 112 Veterans Dr. SW, Cullman, AL 35055

• For more information, call Judy Grissom at 256-347-5993

Christ Lutheran Church Anniversary

• June 20 - 100th Anniversary Kickoff Event

• Free Community Ice Cream Social

• 2 - 4 p.m.

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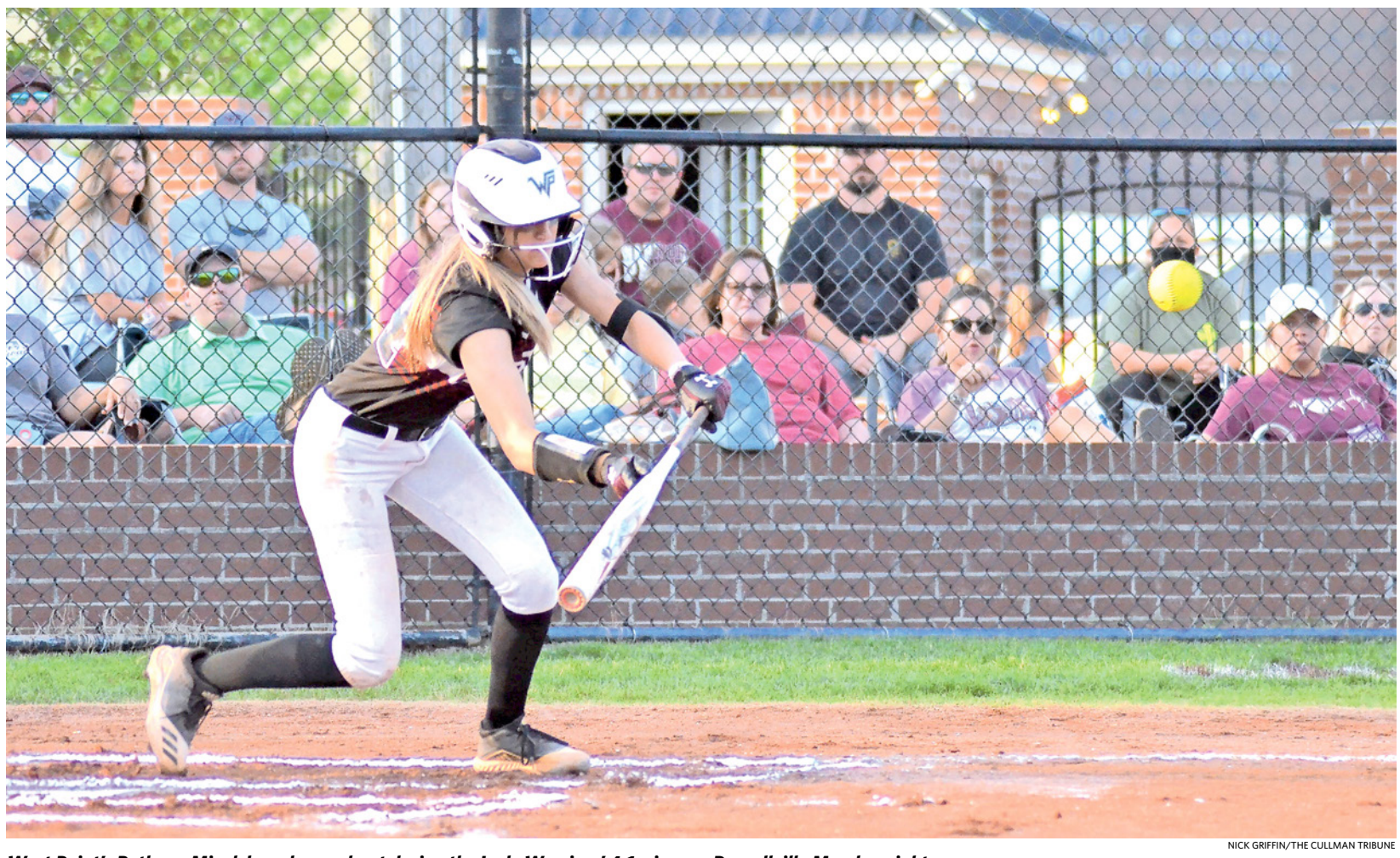
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AREA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

West Point downs Russellville 4-1 to advance

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

West Point's Bethany Minck lays down a bunt during the Lady Warriors' 4-1 win over Russellville Monday night.

WEST POINT, Ala. – This year's 5A, Area 15 Tournament began at West Point High School Monday night and after Russellville defeated Lawrence County in the opening round, the Lady Golden Tigers advanced to face the top-seeded Lady Warriors. After a pair of scoreless innings, West Point put a pair of runs on the board in the third and tacked on two more in the next two innings to pull away and defeat Russellville 4-1.

After Russellville reached first with a leadoff walk, Carlie Wilkins fanned two of the next three batters she faced to end the top of the first, but West Point wasn't able to get on the board in its half of the inning either.

Wilkins collected four more strikeouts over the next two innings and the Lady Warriors were able to take a lead in the bottom of the third.

Wilkins drew a walk to get on base and just a few pitches later, Braelee Quinn drilled a 2-run bomb over the center field fence and put West Point on top 2-0 going into the fourth.

The Lady Tigers went down in order in the top of the fourth and in the bottom half of the inning, Bethany Minck laid a bunt down the third base line to bring home Kaci Minck and make it a 3-0 game.

Russellville threatened to get on the board in the top of the fifth with a pair of two-out singles, but Wilkins got the next batter to pop out and kept the West Point lead intact.

Wilkins helped herself out with a leadoff home run in the bottom half of the fifth and extended the lead to 4-0 but after they led off the top of the sixth with a double into center field, the Lady Tigers trimmed the lead to 4-1 with an RBI single and made it a 3-run game going into the sixth inning.

The Lady Warriors went back out on the field for the top of the seventh needing just three outs to advance in the winner's bracket and Wilkins retired the final three batters with a line out and a pair of strikeouts to secure a 4-1 win for West Point.

Wilkins tossed a complete game for the Lady Warriors, allowing one run on just four hits and striking out 11 batters.

Bethany Minck led West Point with two hits and an RBI and Quinn (HR) posted a pair of RBIs in the win.

Wilkins added a hit and an RBI and Lexi Kimbril finished with a hit for the Lady Warriors as well.

Russellville will face Lawrence County again in an elimination game tomorrow at 4 p.m. and the winner will advance to take on West Point in the 5A, Area 15 Championship Game immediately after.

AREA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Lady Broncos top J.B. Pennington, Susan Moore

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. – Holly Pond began its area tournament at home Monday, and they took on J.B. Pennington to kick things off. After falling behind early, a huge fifth inning helped propel the Lady Broncos to a 7-6 win over the Lady Tigers to keep Holly Pond in the winner's bracket of the 3A, Area 13 Tournament.

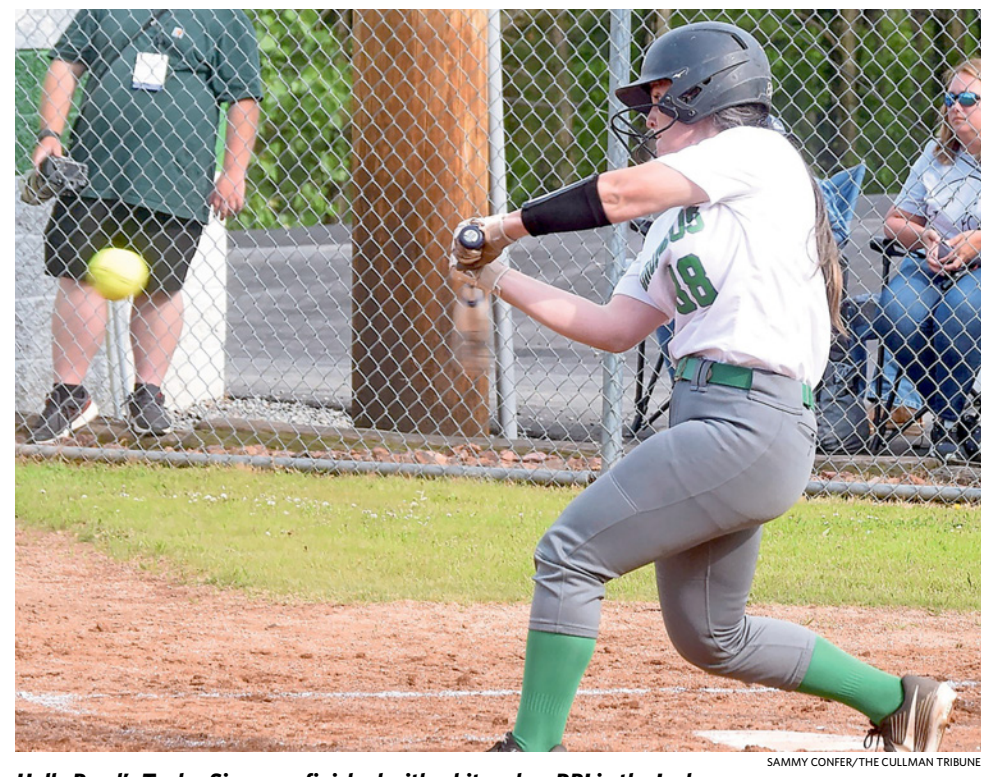
After a scoreless first inning, both teams got a pair of runners on base in the second inning, but both pitchers got the final five outs to keep the game scoreless after two innings. The fourth inning saw J.B. Pennington strike first as they scored on a passed ball and a suicide squeeze play and the Lady Broncos found themselves down 2-0 after four innings.

Holly Pond quickly got something going in the bottom of the fifth. Rebecca Bell hit a leadoff single, then after a lineout, Samantha Giles reached on a bunt single. Back-to-back errors by the Lady Tigers allowed Bell and Giles to score, then another throwing error allowed Bai Widner to cross the plate and that gave the Lady Broncos a 3-2 lead. But they weren't done just yet as Audrey Armstrong scored on a wild pitch, then back-to-back RBI doubles by Madyson Rickman and Taylor Simmons quickly stretched the Holly Pond lead to 6-2 going into the sixth inning.

But the Lady Tigers countered in the top of the sixth as they scored two runs on a pair of passed balls and they later made it 6-5 on an RBI single. The Lady Broncos added another run in their half of the sixth as Giles scored on another J.B. Pennington error. The Lady Tigers hit a leadoff home run in the top of the seventh, but starter Lexie Smith got the final three outs to end the game and Holly Pond moves on to the next round of the Class 3A, Area 13 tournament with a 7-6 win over the Lady Tigers.

Rickman and Simmons each finished with a hit and an RBI for the Lady Broncos. Giles added three hits and scored a pair of runs, while Brooke Hill and Bell (scored a run) each collected a hit of their own.

Holly Pond's night on the diamond continued against Susan Moore after the Lady Bulldogs defeated Brindlee Mountain and the Lady Broncos collected a 10-8 win to earn a spot in the 3A, Area 13 Championship Game Thursday.



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Holly Pond's Taylor Simmons finished with a hit and an RBI in the Lady Broncos' 7-6 opening-round win over J.B. Pennington Monday.

'Life-changing moment': Auburn's Anthony Schwartz, Jamien Sherwood share NFL Draft stories

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. – In the third round of the 2021 NFL Draft Friday night, Anthony Schwartz answered a call from Cleveland, Ohio.

"My heart just dropped," said Schwartz, a standout Auburn receiver from 2018-20. "It was an amazing feeling."

Schwartz then joined a Zoom call with Cleveland Browns general manager Andrew Berry and head coach Kevin Stefanski, posing a question.

"They asked me, 'Are you tired of waiting around?'" Schwartz recalled. "I said, 'Yes, I am.' Our GM said, 'You don't have to wait around anymore. We want you.' At that point, I was just ecstatic. It was amazing. I was excited and ready, it felt like a huge weight was off my chest."

The Browns' decision-makers told Schwartz they were impressed with his physical and mental abilities.

"They said what they loved about me the most, what separated me from all of the other receivers they were considering, was how I prepare," said Schwartz, describing how he recounted plays and routes from previous seasons as if they'd happened yesterday. "They said I did the best on those interviews than any other receiver they interviewed."

In a flash, Schwartz's NFL journey began, pick No. 91 overall.

"And of course, I'm a guy who brings something to the table that every team needs, and that's speed," said Schwartz, who ran a 4.29 40-yard dash at the NFL Combine and clocked an unofficial 4.26 on Auburn's Pro Day.

Schwartz will attend Cleveland's three-day minicamp in mid-May, then continue preparing at House of Athlete in Weston, Florida, with new teammate Jarvis Landry for his first NFL preseason camp in July. Last season, the Browns made the playoffs for the first time since 2002.

"That organization has made a complete 180 from the time I was in high school to now," Schwartz said. "Especially the past three years, starting when Jarvis got there, and especially getting a great quarterback in Baker Mayfield, they've changed the program. Now, we're looking at possibly, we hope, Super Bowl contenders this year. We have big goals ahead of us."

The next day, three more Tigers were taken, beginning with Jamien Sherwood to the New York Jets early in the fifth round, No. 146 overall.

'It was crazy and exciting at the same time," Sherwood said. "Day one went by, didn't get a call at all. Day two went by, still no call. After the 105th pick, I was a little let down, hoping I would be called on day two, but I wasn't.

"Sitting there and the fourth round ended, I'm just sitting there watching, just waiting. The phone started ringing. A Madison, New Jersey, number pops up. I'm like, 'Oh, this might be it finally.' Then I'm on the phone call, and they're telling me they're interested in me and congratulations and they're going to get me with the next pick.

"My heart just started dropping and pounding. Then everybody around me started noticing what was going on. It was like my world was changing like that, in the blink of an eye. My name popped up on the screen, everybody just went crazy. It's a life-changing moment. Everybody was excited for me. I was excited for myself. It was just a proud moment to be a part of."

An Auburn safety from 2018-20, Sherwood will play linebacker for the Jets.

"I'm fine with that," he said. "I'm a ballplayer, I'm versatile. I can do it. I have to know my ability as a player and a person. Playing on the field and watching the film, I make most of my productivity closer to the line of scrimmage. I didn't have a lot of interceptions, everyone knows that.

"Me playing in the back half, not saying I couldn't get interceptions in the league, but I feel like I'm better closer to the line of scrimmage. Playing linebacker, I think that's a great fit for me, and I'm excited to play it."

Later in the fifth round, the Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay Bucs selected former Auburn linebacker K.J. Britt at No. 176, then the Denver Broncos drafted receiver Seth Williams in the sixth round, No. 219.

Two undrafted former Tigers signed as free agents, with receiver Eli Stove getting an opportunity with the Los Angeles Chargers and safety Jordyn Peters reuniting with Sherwood on the Jets.

"I'm ecstatic. I just got chills all over again thinking about it," Peters said. "It's really a testament to all the hard work I put in. I'm just ready to get up there and go to work. It makes it even that much better than I can do it with Jamien, one of my best friends on the team."

A special teams standout, Peters believes his versatility helped attract the Jets' attention.



TODD VAN EMST/AU ATHLETICS

Auburn wide receiver Anthony Schwartz was selected by the Cleveland Browns with the 91st pick in this year's NFL Draft.

"My special teams experience helped tremendously," he said. "Coming in as an undrafted rookie, that's where I'm going to shine, that's where I'm going to make a name for myself. Before I play a snap on defense, I'm going to have to get on those special teams and make plays and be an impact player."

"He was a DB at Auburn with me so it's just great to have a friend with you everywhere you go," Sherwood said. "We've already planned, we're going to get a house or a condo together, save money for our first couple years.

"We're both going to make the team, we're going to do what's necessary, put in the work. It's awesome to have one of those teammates, he's my brother. That's the great thing about college, it brings you together with people you never knew you would meet. Jordyn's a great person, great guy. I'm just happy for him."

PREP BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

Cold Springs falls to Westbrook Christian in round 2

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. – Cold Springs was on its home field in front of a big home crowd Friday night to host its first ever matchup in the second round of the AHSAA state playoffs. The Warriors took an early lead in game one and went on to take the opener over the Eagles 6-1. In game two, Cold Springs held a 3-2 lead over Westbrook after four innings, but the Warriors plated five runs in the fifth to move back in front and defeated Cold Springs in game two 7-3 to earn a spot in round three.

Westbrook Christian 6 – Cold Springs 1 (Game one)
After a scoreless opening inning, Westbrook Christian scored a pair of runs in the top of the second to take an early 2-0 lead. Cody Bales worked through another scoreless frame for Cold Springs in the top of the third, but the Warriors were able to put two more runs on the board in the top of the fourth to extend the lead to 4-0.

The Eagles got on the board in the bottom of the fourth when Andrew Weaver drew a walk to get a runner on base and later in the inning, Roberto Ayala singled into left field to bring Weaver home and make it a 4-1 game.

Both teams were once again scoreless in the fifth, but Westbrook Christian was able to add two more runs to the lead in the bottom of the sixth and went on to take game one over Cold Springs 6-1.

Bales tossed a complete game on the mound for the Eagles and Ayala posted the only hit and RBI in the loss.

Westbrook Christian 7 – Cold Springs 3 (Game two)
Both the Warriors and Eagles were able to score a run in the first inning to make it a tie game going into the second, but Cold Springs pushed two more runs across the plate in the top of the second to make it a 3-1 game going into the third.

Westbrook put another run on the board to cut the lead to 3-2 in the top of the third and after a scoreless fourth inning, the Warriors plate five runs in the top of the fifth to pull ahead 7-3 going into the sixth.

The Eagles were unable to cut into the lead in the top half of the sixth and were kept off the board in the top of the seventh as well, securing a 7-3 win for Westbrook Christian and a spot in the 2A quarterfinals next week.

Ayden Alexander posted Cold Springs' only two hits in the loss.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Cold Springs fell to Westbrook Christian in round 2 of the state playoffs Friday night.

RNR (from Front)

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – RNR Search and Rescue, a recently-formed S&R team that serves Cullman and surrounding counties, is in need of donations and volunteers. For six months, the group has served the local community by undergoing search and rescue missions using canines (some trained to seek out all people in an area, others trained to sniff out specific individuals), horseback searchers, boats and ATVs.

Each team sent out consists of two people--a canine handler and a backup searcher--who provide basic first aid and medical care to found parties who may be injured or ill.

Assistant Chief Raetta Young, co-founder of the group, said that the group is in need of donations such as night vision gear, safety glasses and high visibility safety vests.

Treasurer Danielle Carter said they are also in need of wilderness survival equipment such as compasses, pocket knives, signal mirrors and first aid gear.

Both women said the group also is accepting monetary donations to pay for canine equipment like harnesses and leashes.

In addition to donations, RNR is looking for volunteers.

Those interested in search and rescue missions who have boats, ATVs or broken horses can apply to help search on their vehicle of choice.

Those who are interested in volunteering but not performing search and rescue can volunteer for training exercises for the canines, where all that is required is for volunteers to run and hide while the dogs practice locating them.

Cullman County residents with donations can contact Carter for drop-off information at 205-362-8115, while Blount County residents can contact Young at 337-912-0013. Both women may also be contacted to inquire about volunteer opportunities.

Festival (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – For 82 years, the city of Cullman has celebrated the area's prolific strawberry crops and, after facing the COVID shutdown of 2020, folks were ready to celebrate once again last Saturday. Even without the popular Senior Shindig usually held Friday, this year's one-day event still drew huge crowds and saw thousands of gallons of strawberries sold.

Cullman Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism (CPRST) Recreational Development Director Christy Turner told The Tribune, "Our estimates are around 15,000 for the one-day event. It seemed like everyone had a great time and there was no shortage of strawberries, which is the reason Strawberry Festival started years ago. It is part of our history and we are very thankful we celebrated it in 2021."

CPRST Executive Director Zac Wood said, "This year we were blessed with awesome weather and over 3000 gallons of strawberries. We know people were ready to get out to see their friends and neighbors, and we are glad they chose to spend the day with us.

"We had a great selection of food vendors and craft vendors. They helped make this event a success. We can't wait for Oktoberfest and the Christkindlmarkt coming later this year!

"We want to say a big "thank you" to all those that worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this event fun for everyone. They do what they do without complaining because they love our community."

Upcoming 2021 CPRST events include:

- Dinner on First - May 21
- ASA Pro-Am Archery Tournament - July 25 - 31
- Oktoberfest - Sept. 30 - Oct. 2
- Christmas in Cullman Parade and Tree Lighting - Dec. 3
- Christkindlmarkt - Dec. 10-11

For more information, visit https://www.cullmanrecreation.org/special-events.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Crowds filled Depot Park and Arnold Street Saturday afternoon.

Week (from Front)

ADMH
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – Each year in May, the Alabama Department of Mental Health recognizes Children's Mental Health Awareness Week (May 2 – 8) as an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health. This year's theme "Flipping the Script on Mental Health," aims to put an end to prejudice and discrimination by changing hearts, minds and attitudes regarding mental health.

Many individuals and families have been impacted by the current pandemic, which has been particularly distressing for children and youth, and even more so for those previously experiencing mental health challenges.

Throughout the last year, they have experienced school closures, the loss of peer interaction, social connection and time spent in-person with extended family, educators, therapists and other community members.

Many have missed important rites of passages or had to grieve the loss of loved ones or friends.

This week, and every day of the year, ADMH remains committed to inform and educate families and communities on the importance of accessing important mental health resources.

Mental health stigma often discourages parents and children from seeking appropriate treatment.

Children and youth with mental illnesses and their families deserve access to services and supports that are family-driven, youth-guided and culturally appropriate.

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week is an opportunity to change hearts, minds, and attitudes regarding mental health.

We invite you to join with other communities around the state to continue the conversation about mental health and encourage positive attitudes and perceptions which are essential to a child's healthy development.

In 2020, the Alabama Department of Mental Health served over 32,000 children with mental health prevention and treatment services.

The Office of Mental Illness Community Programs and Children and Adolescent Services manages many important programs that assist children in our state, such as but not limited to, the School-Based Mental Health Collaborative and the First Episode Psychosis.

To learn more about children's mental health and providers who offer services, including screenings, referrals, and treatment, visit https://mh.alabama.gov/children-and-adolescent-services/.





Bailey (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

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

Bailey is a 1-1.5-year-old Husky/Shepherd mix. Get ready to play; she's a medium to high energy pet who loves her doggie toys and enjoys cooling off on warm days in the kiddie pool.

She craves human company and is mastering the finer points of leash etiquette.

Ruttkay said that "her serious look is just a disguise; she's a silly girl."

Bailey has the makings of a good companion, therapy or hiking dog.

Bailey's adoption fee is $100 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).

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 canine friends have even been "hired" to work as therapy and special needs service dogs.

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.

Good news!
Ruttkay reported that recent POTW's Dixie Doodle and Peaches have been adopted! Thanks to the whole community for making forever homes a regular destination for our furry friends.

Baileyton (from Front)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

BAILEYTON, Ala. – The Baileyton Town Council was short one council member Monday night as council member Dewayne Sumner continues to recover at home from a lawnmower accident. The first meeting at the new Baileyton Town Hall began with the recognition of all elected officials, past and present, who have served the community of Baileyton.

Following the special presentation, the council tackled a short agenda.

The town is currently having issues with their phone service.

Phones are down at the old town hall and phone installation at the new town hall has hit a few snags. Mayor Windell Calloway suggested that anybody needing to speak with Pat Gilbert, himself or any town official, to reach out on social media until the phones can be fixed, hopefully this week.

The town's bucket truck is now fixed. Mayor Calloway thanked Commissioner Kerry Watson, Joe Perry and the Cullman County Garage.

The town's weather siren is currently not working as they wait on parts to arrive.

Work at the town's park continues as new curbs are almost complete.

Other efforts to beautify are ongoing as the town prepares for the Fun Day in the Park celebration scheduled for June 12.

Baileyton Town Council meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Baileyton Town Hall. The public is invited to attend.

Holly Pond (from Front)

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. – During their meeting Monday evening, members of the Holly Pond Town Council voted to surplus two properties that no longer had any municipal use. On the advice of the town attorney, the council accepted ordinances to sell 28 Brooklyn Road and 0.34 acres of land on Lick Creek Road as surplus, but the prices of the properties will be discussed in an executive session of a special meeting next week. The council also asked the attorney to draw up an ordinance to increase the sewer rates by 20%, which will be discussed and voted on before the first of July.

The sewer rate increase was suggested by Tyler McKeller, the town's wastewater representative from Living Waters.

McKeller attended the meeting to discuss the annual Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Report, which grades municipal water systems based on how well they prevent water pollution.

The grades fall on a scale from zero (perfect) to 783 (terrible), and Holly Pond received a grade of 50.

Ten points were added due to system flow amounts exceeding design flow limits, as leaks have caused runoff during storms to infiltrate the system and add to the amount of flow, which accelerates system wear and tear.

The remaining 40 points came from the age of the system; points are added based on each year of system age, with 40 being the maximum.

Most systems are built for a life of 15-20 years, while Holly Pond's is 35 years old.

Given the age of the system and the numerous repairs that come with it (including finding and repairing the leaks that cause excessive flow), McKeller raised the concern that the town's current sewer rates will not allow the town to pay for repairs and upgrades they need.

Holly Pond's current rate has a minimum of roughly $12.50, and McKeller stated that towns of similar size with systems that require fewer repairs have minimum rates of $23-26.

Mayor Carla Hart mentioned that the rates should have been gradually increasing over several years, but the fact that they haven't means that the town does not have the money it needs to sustain the system without implementing massive price hikes on the residents.

As an immediate solution, the council asked for an ordinance to increase the rates by 20% (bringing the minimum to roughly $15) to be drawn up.

The changes will be posted around town once voted on to give the residents ample time to voice their concerns and prepare for the change to take effect.

In addition to the increased rates, McKeller proposed increasing the impact fee for commercial users.

Currently there is no set impact fee, and there was concern that the new high-traffic businesses might add a lot of wastewater which the current system could not handle without upgrades. No action was taken on this.

Other business included approving $10,000 to help the high school pay for a new outdoor building, set a budget of $3000 to contract services to clear small trees and brush at the ballpark and rescinding a payment of $750 for a new culvert on Cemetery Road due to the discovery that the area is under county jurisdiction rather than town.

Council member reports:

Gladys Wisner (Parks) - Everything is going well at the ballparks, and all three fields that night were in use.

Ricky Carr (Sewer) - Deferred to McKeller to give the report

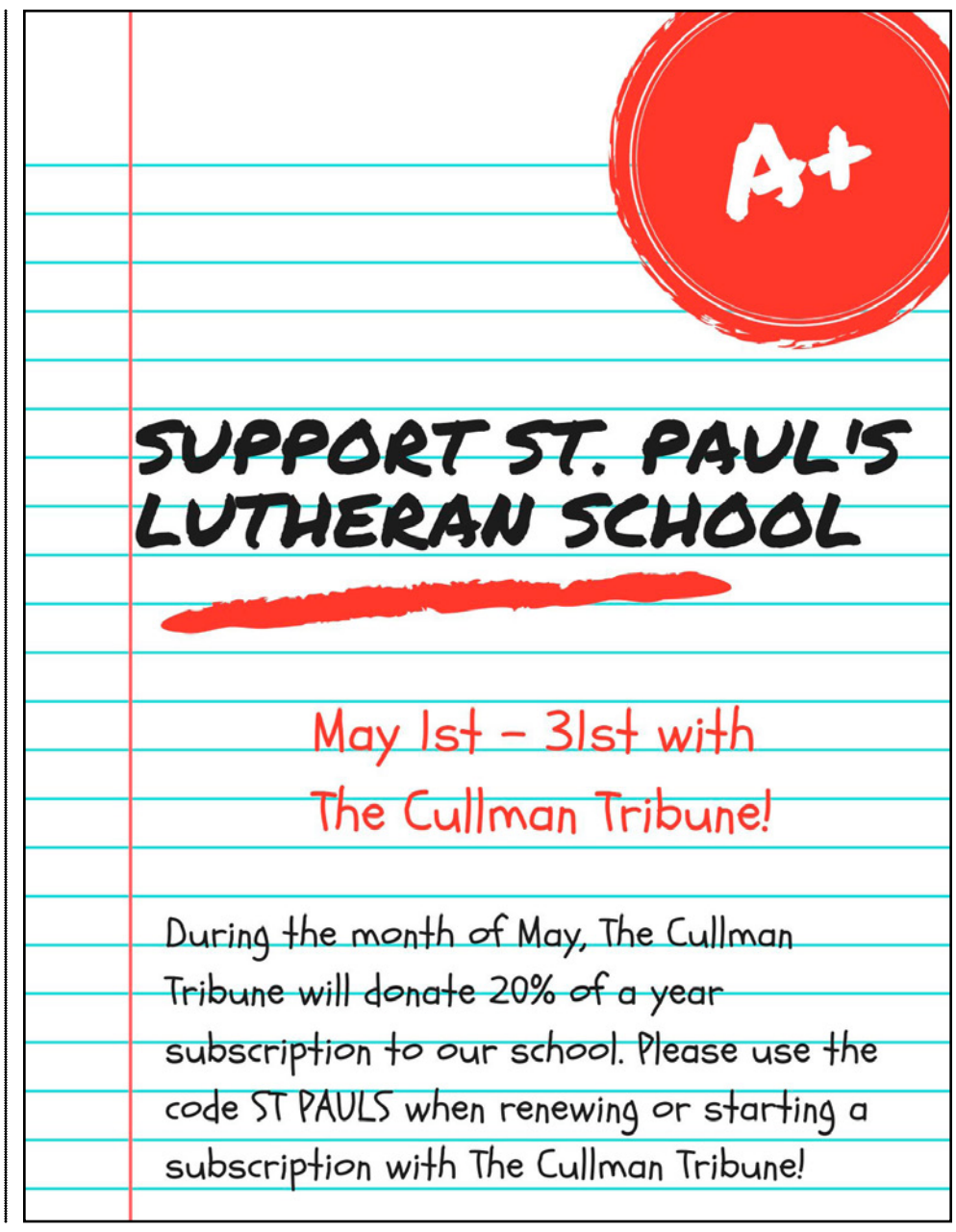
Paul Brown (Safety) - No reports around town, but warned everyone to be weather alert Tuesday.

Charles Holcomb (Streets and Lights) - All streetlights seem to be working, but they are keeping an eye on the one in front of the post office. Additionally, they will be getting in touch with someone from the State to try to get some responses on road repair projects that the town had applied for, but not heard an answer.

Julie Ray (Beautification) - Asked the council to consider purchasing hanging flower baskets to make and set up around the parks, and also announced that the flower beds at the senior center need some attention. Additionally, asked the council to consider building a small food pantry ("take what you need, leave what you can") somewhere in the town for people to drive up to and use as they need without having to wait for a specific building to open.

Carla Hart (Mayor's Comments) - All kitchen equipment left in the Carpenter's Cabinet building was successfully donated and transported to the North Alabama Agriplex last week, and Pals Clean-Up Day April 17 was a success.

Holly Pond Town Council meets on the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Guy Hunt Library. The public is invited to attend.



LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
BELINDA KILGORE,) Case No. CV-2017-000060.00
an Incapacitated Person.)

NOTICE OF FILING OF PARTIAL SETTLEMENT

YOU WILL TAKE NOTICE that Shelbie Hankey, as Conservator of the Estate of Belinda Kilgore, an Incapacitated Person, filed her account and vouchers for a partial settlement of said Estate on the 21st day of April 2021, and that the 13th day of May 2021 at 1:30 pm has been appointed to hear said settlement.

DONE this 23rd day of April 2021.

Lisa McSwain, Circuit Clerk

FILED IN OFFICE
APR 27 2021
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

PB WIL BK 102 PG 1 - 04/26/2021 01:58 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
HARLIS DAREN MELTON * CASE NO PC 2021-150
Deceased *

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to **Daren Travis Melton**, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of Harlis Daren Melton deceased, on the 26th day of April, 2021, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Daren Travis Melton
Personal Representative

Annette Irons-Parker
Attorney for Personal Representative
215 Main Avenue, Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

PB WIL BK 101 PG 979 - 04/23/2021 02:26 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO.: PC 2021-156

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF OLEN TAFT WILLIAMS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Pattie Williams on the 23rd day of April, 2021, 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.

Pattie Williams
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

PB MIN BK 195 PG 997 - 04/23/2021 03:01 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE ESTATE OF)
BRENDA TURNEY) CASE NO.: PC2021-153
Deceased)

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 23rd day of April, 2021, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Cathy Mills

Roy W. Williams, Jr.
JACKSON & WILLIAMS
416 First Avenue, SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256) 739-5400

To: Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

Hon. Tammy Brown, Probate Judge

WRECKER/TOW TRUCK Driver

Clean driving record, clean criminal record, able to pass DOT physical, able to pass pre-employment drug and alcohol screening, must be 21 years of age or older, good positive work ethics.

NO PHONE CALLS

Stop in office to fill out application
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Mullins Body Shop, LLC
11042 US Hwy 31 South, Cullman, AL 35055

RUMMAGE SALE
SAVE THE DATE!
May 14 and 15
Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church
Located on Saint Joseph Street, NW
Watch for Signs!

Obituary Announcements: May 4

Marston Hester Lancaster, 58, of Good Hope
Graveside services for Marston Hester Lancaster, 58, of Good Hope, Alabama will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 6, 2021 at Bethlehem East Cemetery in Hanceville. Visitation will be from 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Wednesday evening at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mr. Lancaster was born in Cullman, Alabama to James Lancaster and Elaine Jackson Persal March 27, 1963. He died at his residence in Good Hope May 3, 2021. Survivors include his children: Matthew Lancaster and Tony Lancaster; mother: Elaine Jackson Persal; sisters: Kimberly Thomas and Kelly (Jeff) Cornett; stepmother: Jewell Lancaster; four nephews, one niece, four great-nieces and a special friend: Debbie Greer. Mr. Lancaster was preceded in death by his father: James Hester Lancaster and stepfather: Jack Persal.

Gregory Allen Cleghorn, 46, of Double Springs
Gregory Allen Cleghorn, 46, of Double Springs, entered into rest Sunday, May 2, 2021 in Jasper, Alabama. Greg was born May 29, 1974 in Cordele, Georgia. Visitation will be held Thursday, May 6, 2021 from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Pleasant Hill No 2. Baptist Church in the Ashridge Community, where services will be held Friday at 2 p.m. Burial will follow in the adjoining cemetery. Brother Kirk Cagle and Brother Jeffery Wiggins will officiate. Greg is survived by his daughters: Erika Cleghorn and Courtney Cleghorn; parents: Mac and Shirley Cleghorn; brothers: Carlos (Regina) Cleghorn and Rodney (Debbie) Cleghorn; granddaughters: Hazel and Addaline Richie and Joshlyn Cleghorn. He was preceded in death by his son: Joshua Key; brother: Earnest Lee Cleghorn; grandparents: E.T. and Murline Cleghorn, and Carlo and Dot Robins.

Ella Marie (Hagan) Burns, 93, of Cullman
Ella Marie was a consummate and loving mother, wife, teacher and friend adored by all who knew her. A graduate of Cullman High School and member of Cullman First Methodist Church, she married Cullman native Alan Burns in 1949 and they raised two children whose life ambition was to make them proud. A child of the Depression, Ella Marie knew how to live on very little early in their marriage; as educators, she and Alan earned less than poverty-level income the year their first child was born. Ella Marie was an exceptionally strong person, suffering from and surviving uterine cancer, broken bones, a series of strokes, diabetes and Covid-19. She shepherded her children through, not only the usual childhood traumas, but also smallpox for one and polio for the other. Her tireless physical therapy with her son is the reason he walks today, decades later. While she was afraid of little things like snakes and the dark, she was fearless in the face of death and threats against her husband's life in the 1960s. She is a beautiful soul who loved her family, friends and her Lord, along with flowers, playing bridge and wearing big earrings. Ella Marie was given a gold record by Polydor Records for telling her son to play Frank Mills' instrumental "Music Box Dancer" on the radio in Chicago. He did, others followed, and it became a hit song. In Heaven, Ella Marie joins her mother and father: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hagan Sr; her brothers: Robert, Harold, and Tom Hagan and her beloved husband: Alan Sr. She is survived by her daughter: Marie Lutz, and son: Alan Burns; their spouses Rick and Donna respectively; grandchildren: Jillian and Erick Lutz; nephews: Joe Hagan, Bob Hagan, Dan Beaver, and Tracy Beaver; nieces: Jane Hagan, Beth Medley, Angi Meyers, Linda Evans, Carol Albritton, Sandy Letcher, and Karen Ritter; brother-in-law: Bucky Beaver and many great-nephews-and-nieces. Funeral services for Ella Marie Burns will be held Thursday, May 6 at 2 p.m. at Cullman First Methodist Church, 320 3rd Ave. SE in Cullman, where she and Alan were married. Visitation will be the same day from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. The church suggests and the family requests that attendees be masked for the indoor portions of the service out of respect for others. Ella Marie's children have established the Alan and Ella Marie Burns Memorial Scholarship to provide a yearly grant to help deserving graduates of Cullman High School attend college. Friends and family are welcome to send flowers or to donate to the scholarship fund as they prefer. Donations are accepted at any branch of Merchants Bank or via GoFundMe.com (https://gofund.me/797c129e).

Michael "Shane" Graves, 47, of Blountsville
Michael "Shane" Graves, age 47, of Blountsville, Alabama died Monday, May 3, 2021. Shane was born Dec. 28, 1973 in Birmingham, Alabama to Marjorie Ann Williams Schultz and Harold Ray Graves. Shane is survived by daughters: Kaytlynn (Heath) Townson and Carianna Graves; grandchildren: Lane and Jada Townson; significant other: Myndi Wilkins; mother: Marjorie (Dave) Schultz; father: Harold (Linda) Graves; sisters: Kala (Shawn) Banes, Britney (Kyle) Spears; brothers: Kelly Graves, Kris Graves, Steven Graves, Kevin Graves, Shannon Schultz, Jeremy Schultz; grandparent: Frances "Boots" Jackson and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. Along with family an abundance of friends, including the mother of his daughters. A visitation for Shane will be held Thursday, May 6, 2021 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home, 1901 2nd Avenue, N.W., Cullman, Alabama 35055, followed by a celebration of life funeral service at 6 p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Shane's memory may be made to Wounded Warriors Project, PO Box 758516, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8516 US; Nick's Kids Foundation, 1130 University Blvd., Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401 US; and Gracepoint Church, 1312 Riverview Ave., Decatur, Alabama 35601 US. The family requests that attendees please wear a mask for the service out of respect for others.

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MAY 5, 2021

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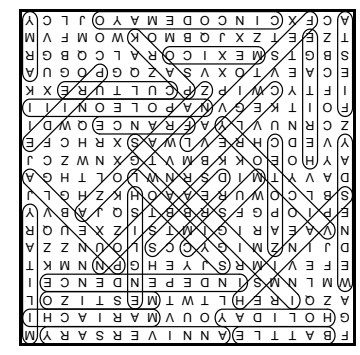
Anniversary
Army
Battle
Celebration
Cinco de Mayo
Culture
Debts
English
Festival
Fiesta
France
Heritage
Holiday
Immigrants
Independence
Mariachi
Mestizo
Mexico
Military
Music
Napoleon III
Park
Pride
Puebla
Spanish
Symbol
Victory
Wednesday
Zapotec
Zaragoza

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

MAY 5, 2021

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9	5	8	3	1	6	7	4	2
1	4	7	5	2	8	9	3	6
6	3	2	4	9	7	8	1	5

OPINION

Editorial: Time to check your wall heaters

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

I consider myself quite lucky after discovering a fire in my living room Monday afternoon. For anyone with older homes with built-in electric wall heaters, please pay attention. Even if you think the heater doesn't work, do not put anything in front of the heaters unless you know they are 100% disconnected.

Our home was built in the 1950s and each room has a built-in wall heater. Some of them work as they should. A couple do not work, or so we thought. One in particular decided Monday afternoon to work for the first time in over 18 years.

I was getting ready to cover a story at the Cullman City Primary School when I first smelled something burning. At first, I thought it was the hair dryer but as I grabbed my keys to leave, my hallway was filled with smoke. I ran to the living room to find large flames.

A cardboard box filled with packing material and other paper was placed against a wall heater next to my front door. This wall heater had not worked in the 18 years we have lived here. The knob on the heater was not turned completely to the off position and without warning, the heater decided to turn on. The box was basically kindling and was engulfed with the flames shooting up the wall to the ceiling.

I was able to kick the box out the front door and extinguish the fire. The house was filled with smoke and my son, who was downstairs in the basement, was completely oblivious to the fact that the house was on fire above him.

My daughter was at band practice and our roommate was at jury duty. Had the fire started five minutes later, I would have been gone and the fire would have surely spread quickly.

The operator at 911 was incredibly helpful and the Cullman Fire Department arrived quickly. Although I felt the fire was out, only the CFD could determine if the inside walls were still burning. Three trucks each equipped with firefighters were ready to help our family and we are extremely grateful. They arrived within 3-5 minutes and determined that the fire was completely out.

What I know now is that these wall heaters are unpredictable and have a mind of their own. The firefighters I spoke to let me know that this type of fire is not so uncommon. I spoke to my friend Bart Absher with the Hanceville Fire and Rescue who told me that our fire is the third recent fire he has knowledge of that began because of the wall heaters.

We will be making sure the wiring is disconnected to all the heaters in our home that we do not use or don't "work."

There are some in the house that do work properly, and we are careful to not place anything in front or near them. This incident has made everyone in our home more aware of how important that rule is.

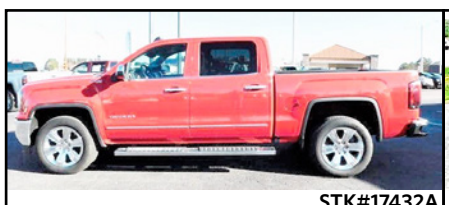
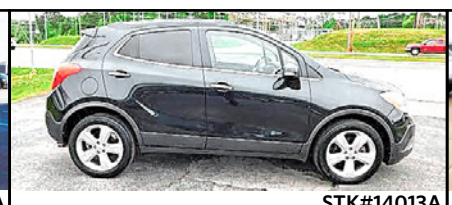
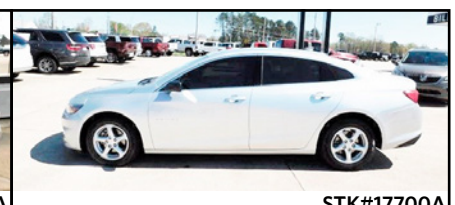
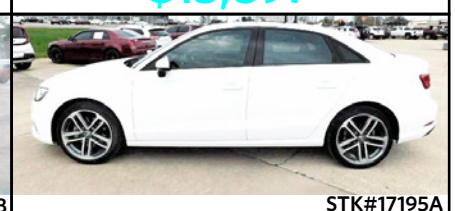
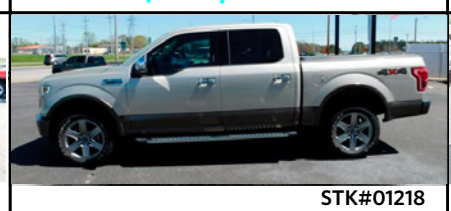
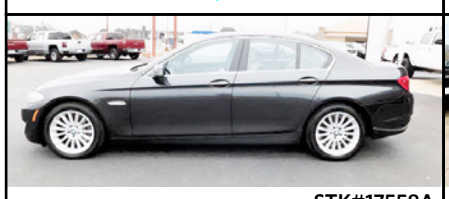
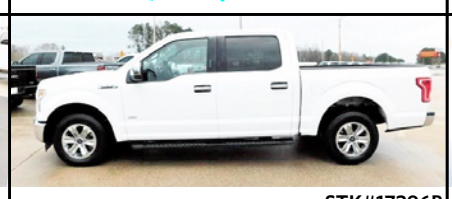
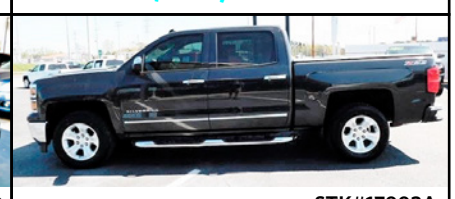
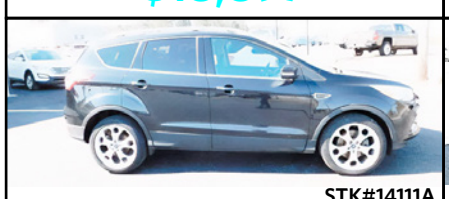
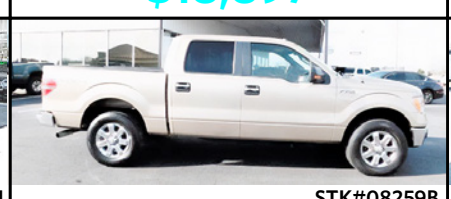
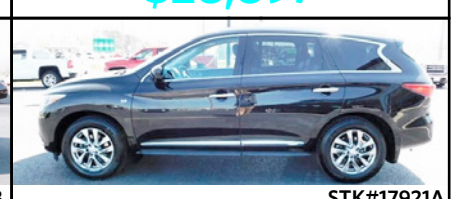
If you have an older home with built in wall heaters, have them checked by a licensed electrician. Let them make sure you don't lose everything due to a faulty heater.



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The heater in my house after the fire

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