The Cullman Tribune

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Cullman Guitarist headed from Wallace State to Belmont P5



CONTRIBUTED

WSCC graduate Katie Fine, owner of Karma's Coffee House, among the youngest entrepreneurs in the area P12

Planning Commission denies Verizon's request for cell tower in Stiefelmeyer Park area P2

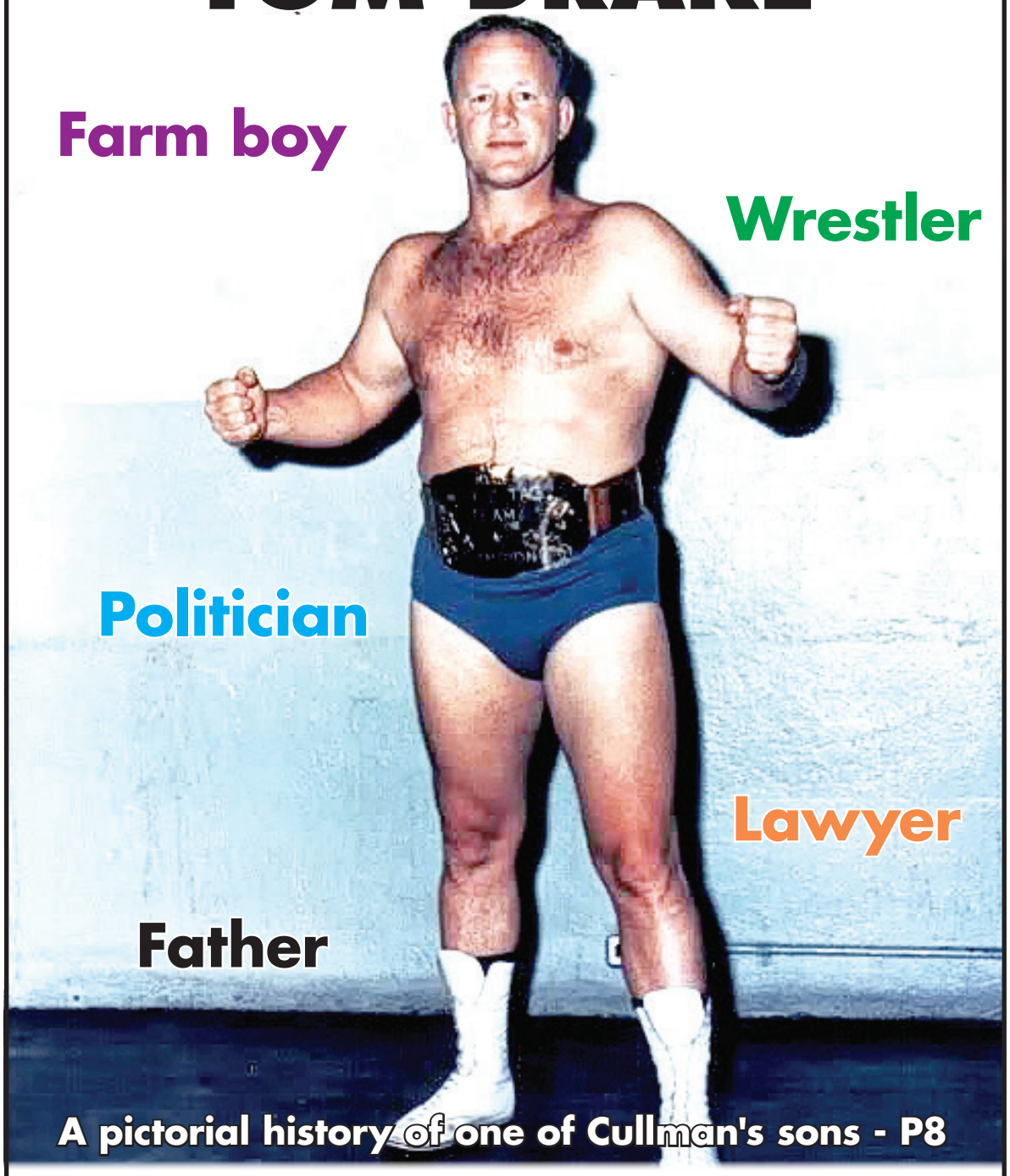
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Cold Springs girls win battle of the undefeated; Eagles pull out late win against Warriors P4

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TOM DRAKE



A pictorial history of one of Cullman's sons - P8

Before he became a prominent political figure in Alabama, Tom Drake/ aka "The Cullman Comet," was a headliner in the wrestling profession and is today an honoree in almost every single wrestling hall of fame in the country.

THE TOM DRAKE FAMILY ARCHIVES

Christmas events and celebrations

CULLMAN – The Christmas season is upon us, including all of the various holiday-themed activities the season brings with it. Many cities and towns will have parades, festivals, tree lightings and holiday markets- to name a few- to mark the season. Cullman is no exception. Below is a wide variety of events for you to enjoy over the coming weeks.

Friday, Dec. 2- Friday, Dec. 23
Winter Wonderland
Sportsman Lake Park will be hosting its annual Winter Wonderland light display during the month of December, beginning on Dec. 2 and ending on Dec. 23. This event features animated light displays, Santa Claus, candy and hot chocolate, Victorian-style carriage rides and a Winter Wonderland train. The hours are 5-9 p.m. during the week and 5-10 p.m. on the weekends. However, weather may modify these hours, so it is advisable to call before you go. The display will also be closed on December 5,6, 12 and 13.

Admission is $5 dollars per vehicle, and an additional $5 dollars if you are interested in the carriage rides.

Saturday, Dec. 10
Relay for Life Pancake Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus
Relay For Life of Cullman County will hold a Pancake Breakfast from 7-9:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 10, at Applebee's on P16

Local agencies discuss aftermath of historic 2015 Christmas Flood

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Christmas Day 2015 the rain was falling...and falling...and falling. Estimates ranged from 8-10 inches in a 24-hour period, rivers and creeks overflowed, roads were washed away and bridges were submerged. Larkwood Bridge in Cullman sat 5 feet below the water line, while the city's wastewater treatment plant suffered more than $2 million dollars in damage as water rose over pumps, motors, disinfection devices and unprotected electrical systems.

On Jan. 21, 2016 FEMA's damage assessment report led to a presidential declaration of Alabama as a federal P16



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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
December 8, 2016

Planning Commission denies Verizon's request for cell tower in Stiefelmeyer Park neighborhood

Wendy Sack
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CULLMAN – The Cullman City Planning Commission on Monday evening unanimously denied Verizon Wireless' request to build a 120-foot, monopole design cell tower on Meadowview Circle in the Stiefelmeyer Park neighborhood in northeast Cullman.

The cell tower proposal sparked fierce opposition from some, especially those in the neighborhood, which is zoned R-1, Residential.

Opponents argued that the construction of a cell tower should not be allowed in a residential area, and that allowing it would set a precedent for future encroachment in residential areas.

Verizon and others disagreed.

"Under the Cullman zoning ordinance, we are a utility; that is a permitted use in an R-1 district," said attorney Andy Rotenstreich, representing Verizon.

"The Alabama Public Service Commission's definition of a utility includes the provision for telephone services. And, under their definition, we are leasing property for the transmission to the public of telephone services."

Rotenstreich spoke at length to the many gathered at Monday's meeting, explaining that the increase in wireless usage in the area, especially around Third Avenue, has led to a capacity issue, allegedly impacting service.

"The real issue we have with it is that we feel it's a commercial use in an R-1 zoning district," said City of Cullman Director of Building, Planning, Zoning Rick Fulmer.

"Andy has made the argument that they're a utility. I guess the determination has to come whether or not they are a utility and exempt from the commercial use regulation. There are multiple carriers on this tower. The tower does not belong directly to a utility. It's a leased tower. So the decision hinges on whether or not you want to consider them a utility or you want to consider them a commercial use in a residential district."

The commission chose the latter, considering the tower a commercial use.

Leading up to tonight's meeting, a Facebook group titled "Cullman Residential Neighborhoods AGAINST Cell Towers," was created, with 191 members as of Monday.

Report of armed subject leads to meth manufacturing arrest

Capt. Becky Boyd
CPD

CULLMAN – A report of a possible armed subject walking on Denson Avenue near U.S. Highway 278 led to the arrest of a Cullman man for unlawful manufacture of a controlled substance on Monday.

Cullman City Police Department (CPD) Investigators Justin Craft, Chris Thomason and Scott Sanford, along with Lt. Jeff Warnke and Officer Adam Walker, responded to the call, where Craft made contact with the suspect, later identified as Timothy Lee Hicks, 34, of Cullman.

Craft reportedly observed Hicks with a long gun pointed in the direction of a tree line. Hicks complied with orders to drop the gun.

As other officers arrived to assist, Hicks was detained. Officers were able to determine that the gun was a BB gun.

Investigators obtained consent to search Hicks and recovered a syringe and an empty baggie from him.

Hicks then gave officers consent to search his residence at 408 Morgan Ave. SW.

Upon searching the residence, investigators recovered components for a methamphetamine lab as well as a used gas generator.





CPD

There was also a used coffee filter with methamphetamine and a small corner bag with methamphetamine residue.

Hicks was placed under arrest for unlawful manufacture of a controlled substance.

He is being held at the Cullman County Detention Center on a $1 million bond.

Cullman Police Department's Shop-with-a-Cop event set for Dec. 17

Wendy Sack
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CULLMAN – This year, the Cullman City Police Department (CPD) will hold its fourth annual Shop-with-a-Cop event on Saturday, Dec. 17.

The event, which is part of a year-round CPD community outreach program, brings less-fortunate children from the city school system together with members of the CPD, giving the kids the opportunity to spend time with a police officer and do some holiday shopping.

"You know, Cullman is a special place," said co-founder of the program, CPD officer Adam Clark.

"But right now, across the country, relations between police officers and their communities are not very good. This program allows us to reach out to the communities and give back to the kids and show them that we're not all bad."

According to Clark, guidance counselors from the city schools provide the CPD with the names of kids who would benefit from the event.

Then, depending on the number of donations that the department receives for the year, as many of those children as possible get a day of shopping with a Cullman police officer.

"We take them, usually one-on-one, to the store. That way their parents don't influence their decisions and they can pick out what they really want," Clark said.

"They have to purchase at least $50 worth of clothes. And then they can go to the toys and electronics or whatever."

Clark said that because donations are low this year and fundraising is behind the program – barring any donations that come in this week – they will only be able to take 10 children. The individual event is only one aspect of the program, however.

Year-round, the department sets aside funds into an account designated for community outreach.

"We just recently bought a new refrigerator for a family who needed one," Clark said.

"And last year we had a community barbecue with the funds we raised for that account."

For anyone wishing to contribute donations to the CPD's community outreach program, checks and cash are accepted at the Cullman Police Department, located at 601 Second Ave. NE.

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Holly Pond Council meets to pass budget and appoint officials

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HOLLY POND – The Holly Pond Town Council met Monday evening at the Guy Hunt Library. In attendance were Mayor Bill Oliver, Clerk Linda Pope and all council members: Carla Hart, Gladys Wisener, Paul Brown, Michele Bell and Lou Thomas.

The minutes of the previous meeting, along with the town's financial report, were approved without discussion.

The floor opened to public comment with only one taker: an unidentified audience member pointed out a non-functioning street light to Hart.

The council then moved to committee reports. First, Hart (Lighting/Streets) noted 12 to 13 street lights out around town, several (unspecified) roads in need of repair and several (unspecified) street signs in need of repair or replacement.

The council also discussed a discrepancy over the name of Pond View Drive vs. Pond View Road, noting that the name needed to be resolved for postal and 911 purposes.

No decision was made on this matter, as the mayor was awaiting more information. The council then discussed the needed replacement of lights at the water treatment plant. The mayor pointed out that old business signs have been removed, and that new security lights have been installed around the Carpenters Cabinet food bank.

Members concluded discussion of streets business by talking about possible designs for new city limit signs, with no decision.

Wisener (Sewer) brought no report, but wastewater plant staffer Barry Levinson spoke up, stating that the plant was running smoothly, and had had no violations in 3 months.

He then invited the Council to visit the plant. It will do so on Monday Dec. 12.

Brown (Safety) reported no new developments on the construction of a town storm shelter.

Bell (Parks and Recreation) brought no report, stating that the town is currently in the slowest season of the year for the park.

Thomas (Beautification) stated that the town is in good shape in preparation for the upcoming parade and "Christmas Cards in the Park" event this coming weekend.

The council moved to old business. First came the appointment of a permanent town clerk.

Linda Pope, already serving in that capacity, was voted in with a three-day, 15-hour work week at $1,100 per month.

The council then voted for Dan Willingham to serve as the town attorney, to serve as needed at the discretion of the mayor or council members at a rate of $200 per hour. Next, Peoples and Traditions Banks were designated as the official financial institutions for the town's accounts.

Still under old business, Oliver gave a detailed explanation of the meeting rules and procedures handout he distributed to the council. The guide, which is based on "Robert's Rules of Order," passed unanimously.

The council then moved to the adoption of an annual budget. Using a proposal drawn up by an outside agency, the presented budget totaled $378,263. Being described as basically the same as last year's budget except for a small projected increase in income, it passed with little discussion.

The last item of old business was a review of the recent 2014-15 audit. Oliver said that the issue of lack of paperwork brought up by auditors had been addressed and resolved, and that it was otherwise clean. The audit report was accepted.

Under new business, the council first voted to declare certain materials at the wastewater plant and town maintenance building to be scrap, so they could be removed. Then a motion was brought and passed to create a reimbursement policy for members based on actual presented costs per receipts, plus mileage at the current state rate.

The mayor then followed with his report. There were several items, a few of which had to come for votes:

The council adopted a leave/holiday policy following the state holiday schedule.

$1,000 was moved from the General Fund to the Library Fund to allow the purchase of need supplies for the facility.

$1,000 was moved from the General Fund to the Parks and Recreation Fund to prepare the park for the start of sports seasons in the spring.

Seeing that the town's two maintenance workers were doing the same job but at differing wages, Oliver asked that the council approve a raise on the lower wage to bring the two in line. The motion passed.

Oliver also noted the installation of high-visibility hazard lights on city maintenance vehicles, the upcoming installation of heaters in the town maintenance building work area and possible upcoming training for Pope.

The last item on the mayor's report involved ethics training for all council members.

Oliver stated that Hart was the only member to have completed hers already, and that Wisener was currently in process. All others, including the mayor, have 90 days from taking office to complete the online course.

After informal council statements were given, Wisener brought up one previously overlooked item of business.

She presented the matter of a $300 per month salary to be paid to the mayor for his secondary duties as superintendent of utilities. That motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

The Holly Pond Town Council meets at the Guy Hunt Library on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

United Way calls on Cullman to fill Santa's sleigh for area's hungry children

W.C. Mann
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CULLMAN – During the holiday season from Thanksgiving to Christmas, most of us at some point find ourselves in a state of saturation: too much shopping, too much stuff, way too much food. But during this season many Cullman area families, including more than 4,000 children, will hope that they might find just enough to get by. Hunger and poverty are very real threats in our area, and some people are coming up with very real responses.

Cullman Caring for Kids (CCK) distributes 8-plus tons of food to area families each month. In October (November number reports are not yet available) CCK served 680 families, and for several months has averaged around 100 families per month more than last year. The Christmas season is often even busier.

Meeting such need is not an easy task. CCK has help from the North Alabama Food Bank, but it relies heavily on community support as well. That's where groups like the United Way of Cullman County (UWCC), of which CCK is a partner agency, come in. The UWCC is sponsoring its second annual "Fill Santa's Sleigh," a food drive based at the UWCC office in the train depot at Depot Park. UWCC Executive Director Sammie Danford, who is overseeing the project, says that last year's initial effort saw community generosity exceed expectations.

"We thought we would get around 1,000 pounds," she noted, "but we got 1,200!"

For its second year, UWCC set the bar higher, with a stated goal of 1,500 pounds of food. They have placed a sleigh with two reindeer outside their office at the old depot (304 First Ave. NE in downtown Cullman), in which people can place groceries. The sleigh is checked through the day, food is gathered, and all of it will be turned over to CCK.

If people want to help, but aren't sure what to get, money is always a good fit. Don't leave it in the sleigh, though; take it to the UWCC office. Danford assured, "If someone walks in and gives us $10, all $10 goes to CCK. We don't keep anything."

CCK Director Javon Daniel spoke to the Tribune about what monetary contributions can do. He says that, through its partnership with the North Alabama Food Bank, CCK can purchase needed food items for 14 cents per pound, a significantly lower price than most of us would have to pay.

Daniel also brought up two other specific needs that CCK has right now. The agency gets constant requests for baby items: diapers (all sizes), wipes, formula and baby food. These are not regular food bank items, so CCK relies on the community to step up and help. The agency also gives away coats to needy families during the cold months, and is taking donations of coats to keep their supply up. These items can be dropped off at the CCK office at 402 Arnold St. NE, Suite W-1.

According to Danford, Fill Santa's Sleigh has gotten off to a slow start, but she hopes it can finish strong. UWCC and CCK have great faith in the generosity of the people of Cullman.

Daniel stated, "This is a community food bank. Without the community, we wouldn't be here. This community is so extra special because they have a giving spirit and a giving heart."

What do teenagers want for Christmas?

Andrew Cryer
Cullman High School

CULLMAN – The holidays are upon us, and yet again we do not know what to get. If you have a teenager that you are buying for this year, fear not; we have a list of suggestions that are sure to make this holiday season memorable. A simple random survey of 20 Cullman High School students brought us into the mind of an average high school student, just weeks before the final sales will be made for this holiday season.

Gifts for teenage girls followed an expected outcome; new purses, puppies, books and jewelry are at the top of many sampled girls' lists this year. Humorously, ACT classes were mentioned in hopes of getting an acceptable score for college. I'd recommend going shopping with your child in the near future, and getting a taste of what their style is if you wish to get them jewelry, purses, or clothes. As far as books are concerned, I'd suggest allowing your child to make a list of series or standalones that they wish to read. For pets, check out the Cullman County Animal Shelter on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/cullmancountyanimal-shelter.

Gifts for teenage boys didn't exactly fit the stereotype in our sample. Male students tended to want new shoes, vehicle parts or improvements and money to make the gift decision for themselves. Although it's a bit impersonal, you can never go wrong with a prepaid card or cash. If you choose to stick to a more traditional approach, I'd suggest getting your child to make a list of their own for their top items this season.

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PREP / PREP GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Cold Springs girls win battle of the undefeated; Eagles pull out late win against Warriors

Johnny Thornton
Tribune Correspondent

WEST POINT – Elizabeth Hill's presence in the third quarter was vital to a big 72-59 victory for the Cold Springs Lady Eagles Tuesday night, handing the West Point Lady Warriors their first loss of the season.

Hill, a 5'11" freshman, delivered 19 of the Lady Eagles' 22 points in the third, helping them overtake the Lady Warriors after they trailed for the entire first half and halfway into the third stanza.

"It was too much Hill," West Point coach John Welborn said afterwards. "She is hard to defend."

Winning coach Tammy West pointed out the value of Hill. "She took over the game. We gave her the freedom she needed to do what she did on offense. She didn't look like a freshman that I have ever seen play in a game like this."

For the first half, undefeated West Point was sharp on offense, scoring 23 in the opening quarter and adding 17 by the second to produce 40 points at intermission.

The Lady Warriors did it by connecting on 15 shots in the opening half, six from downtown.

Two minutes into the second quarter, a field goal by Miriam Oldacre had West Point with its largest advantage of the night at 10 points, 31-21.

With 0:50 to play in the half, free throws from Lexi Shadix sent the home side to a 40-32 lead. But Cold Springs was able to get it down to 40-36 when Hill hit a jumper in the land and Sadie Terry knocked down a pair of free throws in the final 37 seconds.

Emme Willoughby got a 3-pointer to go at 6:25 of the third period and Cold Springs was down 42-39.

Then it was time for Hill to take over the offense. The transfer from John Carroll in Birmingham delivered back-to-back treys that sent them on top for the first time at 45-44 with 4:37 to play in the third.

After a 3-point play by Oldacre got the game even at 47-47, Hill tossed in another trey and the Lady Eagles never trailed the rest of the night.

The score at the end of the third was 58-52 Cold Springs on a Hill field goal before the horn sounded.

Coach West had a pair of big threes from Neely Ellison early in the fourth to extend the lead to double digits. West Point went better than four minutes without scoring and the Lady Eagles had the game in hand at that time, leading 70-56 with under 4:00 to play.

Hill had her season best in a Cold Springs uniform with 32 points, 21 in the second half and 19 in the third quarter. Willoughby produced 17, Camryn Crider scored 11, Ellison finished with six, Terry and Kinley Campbell scored three. The Lady Eagles moved to 8-0 on the season.

For West Point, now 10-1, Oldacre tossed in 18, Bailee Yearwood and Olivia Ball scored 11, Shadix 10, Mackenize Carter eight and Lillie Burdette one.

Cold Springs is at Winston County for the 2A, Area 13 opener Friday with West Point hosting Hayden at Jim Boyd Gym for a 5A, Area 12 game.



JOHNNY THORNTON/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cold Springs 59, West Point 55

West Point got caught in another game that went down to the wire. This time it was Cold Springs to come from behind, using an 11-2 run in the final 4:00 to rally and send the Warriors to their sixth consecutive loss.

The Warriors were ahead 14-10 in the first period when the Eagles stormed back with a 23-point second quarter and led at halftime, 33-28.

The see-saw battle continued in the third with the Warriors getting shots to fall and leading the Eagles 46-44.

A 3-pointer from the left baseline by Cameron Moore with 4:10 remaining pushed West Point to a 53-48 advantage.

Then Blake Wood took over the scoring chores for Cold Springs. Wood scored six in a row, including a pair of free throws with 1:51 to go that lifted the Eagles back in front at 54-53.

He iced the Eagles' third win of the season when he made both from the line to put the score at 59-55 with four seconds remaining. West Point had cut it to 57-55 on a shot by Alex Hernandez with 0:05 left, but had to foul and was out of time outs following the made free throws from Wood.

Wood scored 16 points for the Eagles and was eight of eight at the line. The Eagles made 19 of 23 free throws on the evening. Jesse Lee netted 16, Eli Hamby accounted for 15, Hunter McClendon, Mason Harris and Fisher Willoughby scored four each.

Leading the Warriors was Kolton Sapp with 19, Brandon Farley and Colby Sullins seven each, Hernandez six, Dalton White five, Moore three and Rylan Jones, Hunter Persall, Noah Gammon and Michael Keller two each.

PREP / PREP GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Fairview sweeps Good Hope in Tuesday night hoops

Sammy Confer
Tribune Correspondent

GOOD HOPE – It was an intense game between the Fairview Aggies and the Good Hope Raiders. It went down to the wire and a Bryson Fletcher layup with 10.1 seconds left was the game-winning shot for the Aggies in their 57-55 win.

The first quarter was a 3-point contest for Good Hope as they hit four, but behind senior Tyler Ball, Fairview stayed in the game as he scored 10 points.

The Raiders were able to hold on to an 18-13 lead after one.

In the second quarter, it was more of the same as Good Hope could not quite pull away from the Aggies, who cut the lead to three multiple times, the last at 31-28, before Matt Cofer hit a three to push the lead to 34-28 at the half.

In the third quarter, a three by Fletcher cut the lead once more to three at 34-31, but Kallen Sharpton scored six straight points to push the lead up to 40-31, but Fairview clawed their way back into the game as they finished the quarter on a 6-2 run to cut the lead to 42-37 heading into the final quarter.

Both teams swapped free throws and baskets on the first few possessions of the fourth quarter.

With Good Hope leading 49-48, Blake Lyle got called for an offensive foul, and the Aggies' Kennedy White hit a layup on their next possession to give them their first lead of the game, 50-49.

Off a Raider turnover, Lucas Yarbrough pushed the lead to three with a layup. But Isaac McDonald hit a huge three to tie the game at 52.

Tyler Ball and Cofer traded threes for each team to keep the game tied at 55 with 34 seconds left in the game and Fairview with the ball.

They melted the clock down before they got into their offensive set and Fletcher got the ball in the corner.

He drove down low and pump-faked, which got Cofer in the air, and he hit the layup to give the Aggies a 57-55 lead with 10.1 seconds left in the game.

Sharpton got the ball at the top of the key and drove to the basket.

He got tripped, but there was no call, and he got called for a travel.

Fairview got fouled and missed the free throw, and the Raiders' last heave at the buzzer was no good.

Yarbrough led the Aggies with 16 points. Ball had 15. White and Fletcher each finished with 10.

Fairview improves to 4-6 on the season and head back home to take on the Curry Yellow Jackets Friday night.

"Overall, I thought we played really solid on both sides," Fairview coach Edgar Groves said.

"We took only one bad shot in the last three minutes. We did not defend the three really well. We are still a very young team, but over the last week and a half, I feel like we are growing up."

Cofer led the way for Good Hope with 18 points. Sharpton finished with 15 and McDonald had nine. They fall to 7-3 on the season and will look to regroup against the Dora Bulldogs on Friday night.

Fairview 53, Good Hope 25 (Girls)

Fairview's Taylor Yeager continues to rack up the points as she scored 23 on the night and almost outscored the whole Raider team by herself in the team's dominant win in coach Mary Lauren Hartline's return to her alma mater.

Yeager got off to a really quick start, putting up 10 first-quarter points and the defense completely shut down the Raider attack, only allowing six points.

The Aggies led 12-6 after one and quickly pulled away in the second, outscoring the Raiders 22-6 to take a 34-12 lead at the half, and they led 40-16 after the third quarter en route to the dominating win.

Abby Taylor put up 13 points for the Lady Aggies and Jada Golden added 10. Fairview improves their record to 9-2 and will look to be the second county team with 10 wins as they will take on the Curry Yellow Jackets on Friday night.

Kelly Pickett led the Raiders with eight points and Kyler Hembree had seven. Good Hope falls to 5-4 on the season and will look to get back on track against the Dora Bulldogs on Friday night.

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Cullman Guitarist headed from Wallace State to Belmont

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craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Belmont University in Nashville is a pretty high goal for a teenage amateur guitar picker. Its music program is considered the best in the South, and in various polls it ranks among the top 10 in the country. Admission to the program involves academic assessment, an essay and a nerve-wracking audition process; so, it's not for everyone.

But it is for Case Graham, a 21-year old Cullman High School graduate who recently completed two years of fine arts studies at Wallace State. He has wanted to go to Belmont for years, and in January he will get his chance.

Graham has played guitar for 10 years, and started by accident, literally. As a child, he enjoyed playing football, but he was sidelined for a season by a broken rib when he was 10 years old. To give him something else to do, his parents offered to enroll him in music lessons. He spent a year taking piano lessons, and at 11 years of age he got his hands on a guitar. Surely the rib was better by then, but football was no longer part of the equation; he was hooked.

At first Graham tried self-study with method books, but it wasn't working. He admits that he has never been good with books. He started listening to CDs and heard a song that he remembered from his brief encounter with that ubiquitous elementary school instrument, the recorder. He dusted off the old recorder sheet music he still had, and soon played his first song, the traditional hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

Such a traditional tune probably seems unusual to anyone who knows Graham. He's a church-going man, but his youthful music tastes were hardly traditional. Ready to rock, he enrolled in guitar lessons with instructor Barry Yeager, who introduced him first to the almost-required teen guitarist standards "Sweet Home Alabama" and "Smoke on the Water." The teacher was an unconventional player who made it easy for the student to be unconventional, too.

Today, after 10 years of playing under multiple instructors, Graham still cites Yeager as the main influence on his own guitar style. He said, "I wouldn't be able to do what I do without Barry."

Graham first thought that the guitar would provide an enjoyable pastime to whatever he was going to do with his life. Then when he was 13, he had the opportunity to attend a week-long summer music camp where he got to try his hand at song composition, recording in a studio, making a video and performing in front of an audience. He came home convinced that the guitar WAS what he was going to do with his life.

When Graham was in seventh grade, Cullman Middle School (CMS) Band Director Linda Bean decided to do a set with a theme based on the recently-released video game "Guitar Hero," and recruited the young guitarist and others to make the electric guitar a marching band instrument. After marching season ended, Bean offered Graham the job of opening concert band performances as a solo player on classical guitar. He also went on to play in the CMS Jazz Band.

In the 10th grade, after a solo performance in a Cullman High School talent show, he was invited to bring his guitar to the orchestra pit for the school's production of "Annie." The jazz band took notice, and he played with them for the rest of his high school days.

At the same time, Graham started looking at colleges. Being a big fan of guitarist Steve Vai, he first looked at Vai's alma mater Berklee College of Music in Boston. When classmate and fellow guitar player Ben Tankersley started looking at Belmont, though, so did he. Finding that he liked the degree offerings and the high percentage of graduates working in the field, Graham finished his sophomore year as a dedicated Belmont man.

He knew, though, that his goal was a daunting one. Belmont has high academic standards and an average ACT score of 26 among incoming students. Graham says he has never been strong on such standardized tests, and was worried about the academic rigors of the university (lots of those books he says gave him problems), so he applied to Wallace State to help him "ease into college." He was not only accepted, but also received a two-year fine arts scholarship. There he studied jazz and classical guitar, and played in the Wallace State Jazz Band.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Case Graham having fun at Guitars and More, where he works as an instructor.

As Graham was completing his studies there, he began the application process to Belmont. Shortly after submitting his application and essay, he was notified of his academic acceptance, but was also notified that he would have to audition for the music school.

On Nov. 11, he sat in a practice room at Belmont, running through a last-minute warmup and rehearsal that he described as "awful."

He felt good about his classical guitar renditions of Bach's "Air on the G String" and Mozart's "Turkish March." The committee, though, was straight-faced and in a hurry to get on to the next audition; Graham really didn't know what to think.

On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Graham got his answer. A letter arrived, welcoming him to Belmont's prestigious music school. He'll start in January, majoring in performing arts with a concentration in classical guitar. He thought about studying the business end of the music industry, but decided that his talents outweigh his business sense.

"Stick to what you're good at," he said, "and I'm good at guitar."

If all goes well, Graham will go on to become a full-time composer and performer. He enjoys studio work, and foresees a lot of it in his future. And he's open to the possibility of coming back to an academic setting to teach the next generation of upcoming stars.

While Graham cites Yeager as his main influence, he's eager to thank the other teachers who have helped him along the way. Todd Graveman taught him electric guitar and music theory, and Emily Jones taught him classical guitar. Mark Neal was his advisor at Wallace: academically, musically and otherwise.

At the end of the day, what does Graham want to do?

"My goal is to be the best musician I can be, and I always strive to be better. If I find something I can't do, I try to find a way I can do it."

And he concluded, "...but I still have trouble reading a book."

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News from the Pond

Jimmie Dean Carnell
Tribune Contributor



Good morning, Tribune readers and families. I hope that everyone has survived the Thanksgiving holidays and is now in full swing for the up-coming Christmas Holidays. Have you completed your decorating yet? It seems the weather has changed and because of the cooler weather, at last it truly feels like the Holiday Season.

The Prime-Time Singers of the East Cullman Baptist Association has begun their four appearances of their seasonal programs. The first two were presented last Monday, December 5.

We began at Morningside Assisted Living. Brenda Scott, director, has given each of us an outline of our program.

All the scripture reference is found in the second chapter of the book of Luke, the location of The Christmas Story.

Our narrator is to be Mr. Smiley Robbins. He has a wonderful voice and lives up to the "Smiley" part of his name.

He always lifts our spirits and compliments me on my piano playing and the singers on their presentation. The soloists will be Mrs. Nedra Green and Mrs. Gladys Wisener. There will also be a special trio consisting of Patsy Reynolds, Londalene Jean and Becki McAnnally. Among the old favorite Christmas Carols we are singing will be: "O Little Town of Bethlehem", "Joy to the World", "The First Noel", Silent Night", "Hark the Herald Angels", "O Come All Ye Faithful", and "Beautiful Star".

After leaving Morningside we will go to the Westminster Assisted Living to present our program again. We are looking forward to seeing one of our former choir members, Mrs. Doris Hurt, as well as many friends, especially Miss Wynelle Duke.

The other two performances for the Prime Time Singers will be held on December 12th at the Hanceville Nursing Home and then again, at the Brooksdale Assisted Living.

To put an end to our December and 2016 programs we will hold our Christmas party and meal at the Moody Center in Hanceville. We always have an exceptionally good time at our party and truly appreciate all who give their time and talents to this wonderful group.

Christian sympathy is extended to Mrs. Doris Hurt and her family in the death of a sister, Mrs. Virginia Blackwood. Her funeral was held at the New Hope Number Two Baptist Church last Friday.

I would like to also extend sympathy to the Daniel Family in the death of Mrs. O'Neal Daniel. Her funeral was held at the Pleasant View Baptist Church on Thursday.

Both of these ladies will be truly missed by the Holly Pond Community, their churches and their families. They were near and dear to many of us.

I would like to remind everyone of the Christmas Cards in the Park at Governor's Park, Holly Pond Holly Days Christmas Parade and refreshments sponsored by the Holly Pond Civitan Club members. Activities began on December 1st with the displays being shown in Governor's Park and the Town Hall.

On December 10th, the Holly Pond Christmas Parade will step off at 4:00 p.m. and end at Governor's Park, with Holly Pond Elementary Chorus singing Christmas Carols, a visit with Saint Nick and refreshments at Town Hall. Please join us, all festivities are free.

Until next week, enjoy the season and be safe.

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1940

Mr. And Mrs. Henry Sinyard Celebrate Their Golden Wedding Anniversary

On October 2nd, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sinyard celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at their home near Crane Hill.

Although they are both in their seventies, they live alone and operate their own farm. Those of the family attending the occasion were: Mr. John Sinyard and family, Mr. Ezekiah Sinyard and family, Mr. Timothy Sinyard and family, Mr. Berton Sinyard and family, Mr. Jackson Sinyard and family, Mr. Malcolm L. Phillips and family, Mr. Ben A. Phillips and family and Mr. Barnie Callan and family. A nice dinner was enjoyed by all who attended.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Sinyard were born in Cullman County and have lived at their present home for forty-five years.

Mr. Sinyard is the son of the late William Simpson and Sarah Caroline Bates Sinyard. Mrs. Sinyard is the former Melsena Guthery, daughter of the late William and Martha Beatrice Speegle Guthery.

Nesmith Reunion

Descendants of the late William A. (Buck) Nesmith will gather at the old home, at Logan, on Sunday, October 13th.

A crowd of 1,500 to 2,000 is expected to join in the reunion.

Four of Buck Nesmith's children are still living. Each of them are well- advanced in years.

They are Oliver Nesmith, of Vinemont, Route One, Willie Nesmith, of Vinemont, Route Three, Mrs. Martha Freeman, of Cullman, Route Five and John Nesmith, of Cullman.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Strangers aren't always who we think

Bill King
Tribune Contributor



For the past 15 years I have performed humor, through stories and songs, as Billy Bob Bohannon. I have performed for various kinds of groups at banquets, luncheons, fellowships, fish fries, barbecues, church services, conferences, festivals, or you name it. I've had the privilege of appearing for the Alabama state legislature. Ole Billy Bob is even scheduled for a black tie gala, but I believe the most unusual event where I have performed was a wedding rehearsal dinner. That within itself would not have been so different, except for the fact that the couple didn't know I was coming.

Joyce, the groom's mother, called to ask if I would do a surprise program for her son's rehearsal dinner. I emphatically said, "No. I'm not about to do that if they don't know." She assured me that the couple would love it. Finally, somewhat reluctantly, I agreed to come.

When I arrived, the wedding party was rehearsing upstairs. Before they arrived for dinner downstairs, I set up my equipment and instruments and then ducked out of sight to change into one of my brightly colored, but non-matching outfits, complete with my red and white dress shoes.

Joyce asked me to come out as the wedding party came in to eat and to mix and mingle with them.

She told the couple that my truck had broken down in front of the church and that I had come in and asked for help

She told them I had not eaten anything all day so she had invited me to stay and eat with them. I put one spoonful of barbecue pork on my plate.

I meandered around the room a little and then sat down right between the groom and the minister. The minister was not in on the gag, but he had seen Billy Bob before so he quickly figured out what was going on. He not only played along, but egged me on.

After a few minutes of awkward silence, the groom said, "You didn't get much to eat." I asked, "Is this stuff all y'all have?"

He looked stunned and asked, "Is there something wrong with it?"

I answered, "Well, I don't care much for barbecued possum. Don't y'all have any fried chicken? I would really love me some fried chicken!" The groom looked like he was about ready to throw me out when the minister jumped in and said, "Aren't you a preacher?" I replied, "As a matter of fact I am. Why? Do you need some help with the ceremony?" He pretended to stammer around a little and said, "Well, I don't know. That's up to them." The groom said, "I don't think we need help. We'll be just fine."

Then I looked up toward my instruments and said, "That sure is a nice guitar. I've always wanted to play a guitar like that. Do you think whoever owns it would mind if I tried it out?"

The groom said, "I don't think you should mess with it." I said, "Well, I want to at least get a closer look at it." I got up, walked up there, and picked up the microphone.

I said, "Dearly beloved, we have gathered together this evening to join this man, Brandon and this woman, Brittany...in an evening of laughter and fun on the eve of their wedding." Fortunately for me, the groom's mother was right and the couple howled with laughter.

For good, bad, or funny, always bear in mind that the stranger in your midst may not be who you think. The baby born in Bethlehem was not who they thought.

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

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PHARMACY TOPICS *by Rex Smith*

Hospital Discount Central



Left to right: Becky Cook, Marie Wright, Regenia Geisen, Rex Smith, Rph. And Vanessa Patton

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved Zinbryta (daclizumab) for the treatment of adults with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS). Zinbryta is a long-acting injection that is self-administered by the patient monthly. MS is a chronic, inflammatory, autoimmune disease of the central nervous system that disrupts communication between the brain and other parts of the body. It is among the most common causes of neurological disability in young adults and occurs more frequently in women than men. For most people with MS, episodes of worsening function (relapses) are initially followed by recovery periods (remissions). Over time, recovery may be incomplete, leading to progressive decline in function and increased disability. Most people experience their first symptoms of MS between the ages of 20 and 40.

***

Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine is recommended for all pregnant women in the United States as the key medical intervention to protect newborn infants from pertussis (whooping cough). According to a study published in *Human Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics*, the Tdap vaccine is safe for both mothers and infants.

***

Use of methylphenidate in children and young people with ADHD is associated with a slightly increased risk of abnormal heart rhythm (arrhythmia) shortly after the start of treatment, suggests research published by *The BMJ*. Though the absolute risk is likely to be low, the researchers say the benefits of methylphenidate "should be carefully weighed against the potential cardiovascular risks of these drugs in children and adolescents." Methylphenidate is a central nervous system stimulant used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy. It is sold under various trade names, Ritalin being one of the most commonly known.

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Drake (from Front)

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Correspondent

When Tom Drake came into this world he had no way of knowing, nor did his parents, what an extraordinary life he would go on to live. Over the next eight, almost nine, decades, he would see the advent of televisions and microwave ovens, witness electricity and telephones installed in private homes, serve honorably in the U.S. Army and assist one of the most famous coaches of all time, Bear Bryant. He would campaign for Gov. George Wallace and wrestle some of the biggest names in the sport, including a bear.

He would become one in a long line of prestigious lawyers, and the father of two more, Tommy Drake who shares his father's practice, and Whit Drake, who practices law in Birmingham (both of the boys married lawyers) plus have two more children, Mary Frances (Drake) Pate, assistant professor College of Nursing, East Carolina University and Christy (Drake) Lowe, who lives outside of London and will defend her Ph.D. dissertation in January.

He has piloted airplanes, run for and won a seat in the Alabama House of Representatives, where he was elected as Speaker of the House numerous times, and he has won landmark cases for working people all over the state.

He would be instrumental in advancing Cullman County's educational opportunities, and have a building named for him on the campus of Wallace State Community College.

He would travel extensively with his wife, Chris, win dance contests, and meet some of the most unusual and influential people, including dignitaries from all over the world, while never losing touch with his humble roots nor the people he served in Cullman County.

Tom was born on Dec. 5, 1930 and raised during the Great Depression. That era probably played a key factor in his life, instilling in him a love for his neighbors and friends, and a need to help them through hard times.

Tom keeps coming to his office on a daily basis (even though he has retired) because, "Someone might need me. I love to help people," he said earnestly.

Tom was only 6 years old when his father was killed by a train.

Young Tom attended public schools in Cullman County, where he excelled in sports, eventually obtaining an athletic scholarship to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he wrestled and played football for the Chattanooga "Mocs."

His athletic career was put on hold when he was drafted by the United States Army.

He continued to wrestle on weekends and made a name for himself across the nation with fans of the sport.

After an honorable discharge, he went on to become the head wrestling coach at the University of Alabama and member of the athletic staff under Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant.

Tom wrestled and/or partnered with many of the sports' greatest legends, including Gorgeous George, Lou Thesz, Bearcat Brown, Tojo Yamamoto and Len Rossi.

Known as the "Cullman Comet," Drake wrestled professionally until 1978, and was inducted into the International Wrestlers Hall of Fame in 2001.

Tom entered law school at the University of Alabama in 1960.

While still in school, he ran for public office, defeating 11 opponents without a run-off for a position in the State Legislature.

In that position, he represented Cullman County for 32 years.

While a member of the House of Representatives, he was elected to nine full terms as the Speaker of the House under then Gov. George Wallace.

Tom's story is intricately interwoven with Cullman County history.

The Cullman Tribune is honored to present you with a pictorial history of Tom Drake's most important achievements, which have helped to promote and build Cullman into the bustling little city and thriving agricultural community that you see today.

One of the lawyers that Tom had occasion to work with over the years, J. Barton Warren, of Huntsville, recalls that he and Tom worked together on many cases where injured employees were denied worker's compensation benefits.

"Tom and his wife, Chris, always fought for the rights of injured Alabama employees to make sure they received the proper medical care and benefits while recovering from a work accident," said Warren.

His favorite story about Tom was a fishing trip the two men took with Warren's son, Wilson, when Wilson was 10 years old. (Wilson will be 25 this year).

"We fished all day and listened to Tom's stories about Gov. Wallace," he chuckled.

"Tom always referred to his wife, Chris, as, 'The Madam.' Throughout the day fishing, Tom made references to 'The Madam' going with him to wrestling matches and riding together with Gov. Wallace when Gov. Wallace was boxing.

The stories continued about Tom and 'The Madam' working together as a tag team in court and how she was brilliant in the courtroom," he continued.

After a long day of fishing, Wilson rode back to Huntsville with his dad.

"I asked Wilson if he enjoyed the fishing trip," said Warren. "He responded by saying, 'The fishing was awesome and I really liked hearing the stories from Mr. Drake.'"

Then he added, "Dad, do you have any idea who 'The Madam' is that Mr. Drake talked about all day today?"

Last December, Tom and his daughter, Mary Pate, and granddaughter, Sara Beth Drake, took a much-anticipated trip to Scotland where they visited his daughter, Christy Drake Lowe and her husband, Ben Lowe, and their son Tiberius. (Christy teaches Latin now in London and Ben is a professor).

According to Sara Beth, in addition to visits with the family, there were also trips to Edinburgh, Scotland and St. Andrews were Ben was teaching at St. Andrews University (where royals learn and where Prince William and Kate Middleton actually met).

"We also visited Mary Queen of Scots castle and the infamous golf course at St. Andrews," Sara Beth added.

As for Tom, seeing his grandson, Tiberius, was the icing on the cake.

A farmer at heart, Tom Drake has lived life to its fullest, and continues to do so at the young age of 86! Happy Birthday, to one of Cullman's most colorful living legends!



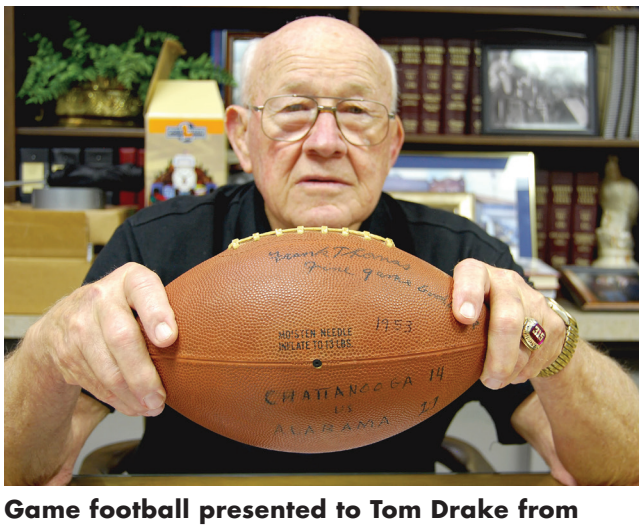
TV personality, Connie Chung, with Tom Drake, Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives



Signing a bill with members of the Alabama House, Senate and Gov. George Wallace



Tom Drake and Junior Samples



Game football presented to Tom Drake from the 1953 game between the University of Chattanooga and the University of Alabama. Drake was the captain of the Chattanooga team, and was voted Most Outstanding Player on the Field.

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World famous boxer, Rocky Marciano, left, with Tom Drake, right



PHOTOS COURTESY THE TOM DRAKE FAMILY ARCHIVES

Tom Drake and his granddaughter at an Alabama football game



Ted Kennedy and Tom Drake



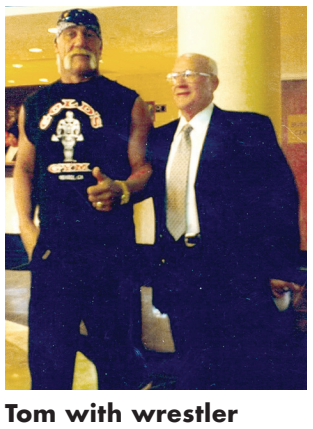
Tom Drake with a young Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant



Chris and Tom Drake on their wedding day



1981 University of Alabama SEC Championship ring



Tom with wrestler and screen star, Hulk Hogan



Gov. Bentley and Tom Drake at the All-Steak in 2013



History in the making: Tom Drake honors his campaign promises to bring telephone service to the Cold Springs area, which at that time did not have service at all.



Tom as baby with his father, Douglas Drake, who died when Tom was only 6



Tom Drake on "What's my Line?"

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, will hold a public hearing on December 19, 2016 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the Lucille N. Galin Auditorium at City Hall, 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. At this time anyone wishing to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-___(set forth in full below) will be given an opportunity to be heard.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017 – ____

TO DECLARE CERTAIN PROPERTY SURPLUS

WHICH IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES BY THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, as follows:

SECTION 1. It is hereby established and declared that the following described real property of the City of Cullman, Alabama, is no longer needed for public or municipal purposes, to-wit:

"A parcel of land, otherwise known as an undeveloped alleyway, which is twenty feet by two hundred and twenty-one feet, more or less, located directly east of 1299 10th Street SE."

SECTION 2. That the Mayor and City Clerk be, and they hereby are, authorized and directed to execute and attest, respectively, for and on behalf of the City of Cullman, Alabama, a warranty deed, a copy of which is on file in the office of the City Clerk, whereby the City of Cullman, Alabama, does convey the premises described Section 1 hereof to the adjoining property owners for its fair market value.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication as required by law.

Wesley M. Moore – Cullman City Clerk

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SECTION 1. It is hereby established and declared that the following described real property of the City of Cullman, Alabama, is no longer needed for public or municipal purposes, to-wit:

"A parcel of land, otherwise known as an undeveloped portion of Short Street, which is fifty feet by two hundred and eighty feet, more or less, located directly west of Broadway Avenue SW."

SECTION 2. That the Mayor and City Clerk be, and they hereby are, authorized and directed to execute and attest, respectively, for and on behalf of the City of Cullman, Alabama, a warranty deed, a copy of which is on file in the office of the City Clerk, whereby the City of Cullman, Alabama, does convey the premises described Section 1 hereof to the adjoining property owners for its fair market value.

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Wesley M. Moore – Cullman City Clerk

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby give to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80, as per Legislative Act 2015-470:

2012 Nissan Sentra, Vin. #3N1AB6AP0CL632861.

This vehicle will be sold on January 9, 2017, for towing/storage fees if not claimed. Located at Hammock Auto Sales, 17 County Road 406, Cullman, Alabama 35057. Phone number: 256-775-3754.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

OVERTON MELVIN L, Plaintiff,
V.
COLE SHIRLEY ANN, Defendant.
Case No.: DR-2016-900307.00

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: THE EDITOR OF THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff has filed a divorce action in the Circuit Court, of Cullman County Alabama, and that an Order was entered directing service be made upon the Defendant by publication. You are hereby commanded and required to file with the Clerk of the Court and to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney, *Melvin Hasting, 407 2nd Avenue S.W., Cullman, Alabama 35055*, an Answer to the Complaint before the 9th day of January, 2017, or a Default Judgment will be entered against you.

DONE this 4th day of November, 2016.

/s/ GREGORY A NICHOLAS
CIRCUIT JUDGE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

YAHN KELLY, Plaintiff,
V.
YAHN CARLOS WAYNE, Defendant.
Case No.: DR-2016-900287.00

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: THE EDITOR OF THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff has filed a divorce action in the Circuit Court, of Cullman County Alabama, and that an Order was entered directing service be made upon the Defendant by publication. You are hereby commanded and required to file with the Clerk of the Court and to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney, *Melvin Hasting, 407 2nd Ave. S.W., Cullman, Alabama 35055*, an Answer to the Complaint before the 9th day of January, 2017, or a Default Judgment will be entered against you.

DONE this 4th day of November, 2016.

/s/ GREGORY A NICHOLAS
CIRCUIT JUDGE

NOTICE OF **MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE** Alabama, Cullman County Default having been made pursuant to the terms of that certain mortgage executed by Penny L Johnson, a married woman to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for America's Wholesale Lender, it's successor and assigns, dated 11/03/06, said mortgage being recorded in Book 1496, Page 122, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, AL said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae"). Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae"), under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash or certified/bank check only. The conducting of the sale will be handled by Auction.com. More information concerning their policies and procedures on bidding at the foreclosure sale can be found on their website Auction.com. The certified/bank check should be made payable to or endorsed to RCO Legal, P.C. The sale will take place at 11:00 AM on 01/26/17 at the backside of the Courthouse of the Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, AL 35055, the following real estate, situated in Cullman County, AL, to-wit: LOT NUMBER THIRTY THREE (#33) OF LAKELAND ESTATES SUBDIVISION SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP SOUTH 3 WEST, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 7, PAGE 61, AS RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE JUDGE OF PROBATE OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA. Said property is commonly known as **408 COUNTY RD 1408, CULLMAN, AL 35058.** The indebtedness has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of default under the terms of said Mortgage and Note, including but not limited to the nonpayment of the indebtedness as and when due. The indebtedness remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same, all expenses of the sale, including attorney's fees and all other payments provided for under the terms of the Mortgage and Note. In accordance with Ala. Code §6-5-248(h) notice is given that Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as part of the foreclosure process. Said property will be sold subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; any outstanding taxes, including but not limited to ad valorem taxes, which constitute liens upon said property; special assessments; all outstanding bills for public utilities which constitute liens upon said property; all restrictive covenants, easements, rights-of-way; the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law; and any other matters of record superior to said Mortgage. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Penny Johnson aka Penny L. Johnson or tenant(s). RCO Legal, P.C. 2970 Clairmont Road NE, Suite 780 Atlanta, Georgia 30329 (770) 234-9181 (770) 234-9192 Cullman Tribune 7345.29569 12/01/16, 12/08/16, 12/15/16 TS#: 7345.29569 FEI # 2013.04840 12/01/2016, 12/08/2016, 12/15/2016,

Auction Notice

Contents of storage unit **A-8,** rented to **Melissa Comer,** on **March 24, 2016,** will be sold for auction for past due rent on **December 10, 2016** at **10:00 a.m**. Consisting of: tool box, tools, deer stand and fishing pole.

Contents of storage unit **A-1 & A-32**, rented to **Rioh Pheigh,** on **April 4, 2014 & December 5, 2014,** will be sold for auction for past due rent on **December 10, 2016**, at **10:00 a.m**. Consisting of: tools, computer, heater, Christmas tree, wooden table and wooden bed and frame.

Contents of storage unit **A-21 & D-5**, rented to **Wayne Wilson, Junior,** on **May 30, 2014 & July 31, 2012,** will be sold for auction for past due rent on **December 10, 2016,** at **10:00 a.m.** Consisting of: toolbox and tools, wooden dresser, deer feeder, crib, wooden table and stereo and speakers.

Your Extra Attic
c/o Werner's Trading Company
1115 4th Street, Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
MATTIE RUTH KENNER,
Deceased
Case No. CV 2015-900422.00

NOTICE OF ORDER SETTING HEARING

TO: Eleanor Clopton, Byron Wendell Kenner, the unknown heirs of Mattie Ruth Kenner, deceased, the unknown heirs of Tom Kenner, and following real property located in Cullman County, Alabama, being more particularly described as follows: A tract or parcel of land being a part of the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 5, Township 13, Range 3 West. Located where the North right-of-way of Highway 91 crosses the SE line of the above described property continue West along said right of way a distance of 160 yards to a point of beginning; thence North 201 feet, thence West 210 feet, thence South 201 Feet, thence East 210 feet more or less back to the point of beginning.

Notice is hereby given that a hearing will be held on the 26th day of January, 2017 at 9:00am in the Circuit Court of Cullman County, Alabama before the Honorable Judge Gregory Nicholas, in regards to the Amended Petition for Declaratory Judgment Quieting Title to Real Property and Order To Sell Real Property To Pay Administrative Expenses and Distribution to Next of Kin filed by Bettye Scruggs and Eleanor Turner as Co-Administrators of the Estate of Mattie Ruth Kenner, deceased.

DATED this the 17 day of Nov., 2016.

GREGORY A. NICHOLAS
CIRCUIT JUDGE

FILED IN OFFICE
NOV 17 2016
CIRCUIT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY

BEVERLY PASCHAL POSTON
Attorney for Petitioner
200 First Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

To the Publisher of: THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Please run the above publication in the **Cullman Tribune** for four (4) successive weeks.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE
PETITION OF CHRIS SCHAEFERS AND SARAH FISH
FOR THE ADOPTION OF
KAYLA LECOMPTE, MINOR.
CASE NO: AD2016-053

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: DON WOOD, biological father address unknown

The Petition for Adoption which is attached to this Notice is important and you must take immediate action to protect your rights. You are required to mail or hand-deliver a copy of a written answer, either admitting or denying each allegation in the Petition to the Attorney for the Petitioner, whose name and address are shown below and you must file the original of your answer with the Clerk of the Probate Court of Cullman County, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055 or P.O. Box 970, Cullman, Alabama 35056. THIS ANSWER MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF THIS NOTICE AND PETITION AS EVIDENCED BY THE RETURN AND, RECEIPT IF YOU INTEND TO CONTEST THE ADOPTION.

DONE THIS 17th DAY OF November, 2016

STUART L.MOORE
409 Second Avenue Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-739-0148

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice once a week for four (4) successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA *
CULLMAN COUNTY *
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA.
CASE NO.: AD2016-074

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF THERESA MADDOX

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: SONIA LYNN BROCK, Natural mother address unknown

The Petition for Adoption which is attached to this Notice is important and you must take immediate action to protect your rights. You are required to mail or hand-deliver a copy of a written answer, either admitting or denying each allegation in the Petition to the Attorney for the Petitioner, whose name and address are shown below and you must file the original of your answer with the Clerk of the Probate Court of Cullman County, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055 or P.O. Box 970, Cullman, Alabama 35056. THIS ANSWER MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF THIS NOTICE AND PETITION AS EVIDENCED BY THE RETURN AND, RECEIPT IF YOU INTEND TO CONTEST THE ADOPTION.

DONE THIS 29th DAY OF November, 2016.

Alex J. Chaney, Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 1052
Cullman, AL 35055

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice once a week for four (4) successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE

PETITION OF CHRIS SCHAEFERS AND SARAH FISH — CASE NO: AD2016-054

FOR THE ADOPTION OF

SARAH WOOD, MINOR.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: DON WOOD, biological father address unknown

The Petition for Adoption which is attached to this Notice is important and you must take immediate action to protect your rights. You are required to mail or hand-deliver a copy of a written answer, either admitting or denying each allegation in the Petition to the Attorney for the Petitioner, whose name and address are shown below and you must file the original of your answer with the Clerk of the Probate Court of Cullman County, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055 or P.O. Box 970, Cullman, Alabama 35056. THIS ANSWER MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF THIS NOTICE AND PETITION AS EVIDENCED BY THE RETURN AND, RECEIPT IF YOU INTEND TO CONTEST THE ADOPTION.

DONE THIS 17th DAY OF November, 2016

STUART L.MOORE
409 Second Avenue Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-739-0148

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice once a week for four (4) successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY

STATE OF ALABAMA
CULLMAN COUNTY — CASE NO: **AD2016-069**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF

VIOLET SADDIE LEE,

A MINOR CHILD. DOB: **08/03/2008**

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION TO BE PUBLISHED

TO: COLLEEN CHRISTINE REYNOLDS, NATURAL MOTHER, ADDRESS UNKNOWN.

YOU MUST ANSWER THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION FILED BY KENNETH WILLARD JACKSON WHICH WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA ON THE 13TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2016, AND THAT SHOULD YOU CONTEST THIS ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE LAST PUBLICATION HEREIN WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE SAID PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, 500 2ND AVENUE SW, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055.

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice once a week for four (4) successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

DONE THIS 21st DAY OF November, 2016.

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

Attorney for Petitioners:
GREGORY A. JOHNSON
427 Second Avenue S.W.
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Phone (256)739-0006

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE ESTATE OF
WILLIAM HENRY JORDAN
Deceased
CASE NO.: PC2016-304

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 21st day of November, 2016, 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.

GEORGE W. PONDER, III

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.

Tammy Brown
Hon. Tammy Brown, Probate Judge

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE:
THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF JOSEPH ALLEN FERRELL and DEBORAH KAYE FERRELL, FOR THE ADOPTION OF A MINOR.
Case no: AD 2016-073

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: JASON PAUL CARSON, THE NATURAL FATHER OF A CHILD BORN TO ALYSIA KAYE FERRELL ON MAY 19, 2003, address unknown

The Petition for Adoption which is attached to this Notice is important and you must take immediate action to protect your rights. You are required to mail or hand-deliver a copy of a written answer, either admitting or denying each allegation in the Petition to the Attorney for the Petitioner, whose name and address are shown below and you must file the original of your answer with the Clerk of the Probate Court of Cullman County, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055 or P.O. Box 970, Cullman, Alabama, 35056. THIS ANSWER MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF THIS NOTICE AND PETITION AS EVIDENCED BY THE RETURN AND RECEIPT IF YOU INTEND TO CONTEST THE ADOPTION.

DONE THIS 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2016.

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

Joseph W. Propst, II, Attorney
810 Sixth Avenue, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC-2016-298

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ROBERT LEE HAGA, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: ROBIN NADINE HAGA AND ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Notice is hereby given that a Petition for Probate of Will has been filed in the Estate of Robert Lee Haga by Robert Carson Haga, Petitioner. A hearing shall be held at 9:00 a.m. on the 15th day of February, 2017, to consider said petition.

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

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
SMITH & SMITH, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
256-734-4721 telephone

The City of Cullman's Alcohol Review Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 12th, 2016 at 4:00 p.m., in the Administrative Conference Room of City Hall, located at 204 Second Avenue NE. Comments will be received on the proposed approval for the sale of alcohol in the City of Cullman by the following applicants: Catfish N Que, Inc. 1610 Main Avenue SW Restaurant On-Premises Alcohol License

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CLASSIFIEDS

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
December 8, 2016

Chamber announces 5-year plan for community growth

Magan Bartlett
Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce

CULLMAN – A project to formalize a community-wide strategic plan to guide the growth and development of the Cullman area is underway. The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Chamber President & CEO, Leah Bolin are pleased to announce the launching of the Chamber's new five-year strategic plan for the community.

After completing a comprehensive interview process with more than 100 area businesses and many area leaders to identify community needs and objectives, the Chamber and its partners have teamed up with a nationally renowned consulting firm, Funding Solutions, to launch the "Converging for Success: Together We Can Accomplish Everything" campaign, according to Bolin.

Texas-based Funding Solutions has a successful track record with numerous chambers in Alabama and assisted the Cullman Area Chamber in identifying five focused areas to compliment the work of other partners and to fill gaps in meeting community needs without duplication of efforts.

Through this plan, the Chamber, in collaboration with its 1,000 members, will utilize volunteers and fundraising to lead in five main areas:

1. Community Development
2. Existing Business Growth and Professional Business Sector Recruitment
3. Entrepreneurship and Education
4. Business and Community Advocacy
5. Tourism

"I am very excited about our new initiatives. The new plan defines the community's priorities and lays the foundation for a successful capital campaign that will take us to new heights in excellence for the Cullman area.

"It will serve as a roadmap for the next five years." Bolin said.

Cullman City Economic Development Agency Director Peggy Smith has agreed to take personal time away from the city of Cullman to serve as a campaign advisor.

Initially, Smith will be working with the chamber board of directors, campaign team and chamber president to help lay out the action steps for the new five-year plan.

Smith has spent a lifetime in the business recruitment, retention and community development arena.

"I am a firm believer in strategic plans. Visions are much easier to identify and communicate when everyone pools their talent and resources," Smith said.

Cullman County, the City of Cullman, both the city and county school systems, Wallace State Community College and Cullman Regional Medical Center are actively working on plans for future growth.

Using data from all those sources as well as others, will ensure our focus is on true community needs, according to Smith.

"I view this plan as a great opportunity for us to make a successful community event better," said Smith.

A county-wide leadership team will provide the groundwork for our new programs.

The campaign will be led by Jason Grimmett of Drinkard Development and Dr. Jeremy Stidham of Cullman Internal Medicine. A complete list of initiative chairs and our leadership team will be forthcoming in future media releases.

As the board progresses in executing the plan through the next year, chamber members as well as the community at large will be asked to provide input and suggestions through focus groups, committee involvement and surveys.

Each initiative has specific goals, and expected outcomes which will be shared with our chamber members and the community over the next few weeks.

The plan will be a "living, breathing" document that can be modified as the community changes.

WSCC graduate Katie Fine, owner of Karma's Coffee House, among the youngest entrepreneurs in the area

Russell Moore
WSCC

CULLMAN – Katie Fine made it a point to participate in campus activities when she was enrolled at Wallace State from 2009-2011.

"It made me feel good to get involved any way I could. It helped me become more confident in myself and around my peers." Fine said. "I've always felt it's good to try something new. You may love or hate it, but you never know until you try it."

Today, as owner of Karma's Coffee House in Cullman, Fine is brimming with confidence and gratefulness as one of the area's youngest entrepreneurs.

Stop by Karma's and you may see a student group studying for an upcoming exam, a group of mothers congregating after dropping their kids off at school or someone tinkering with their guitar – all while enjoying a beverage from the coffee bar, a smoothie or a flatbread sandwich.

Behind the counter is Fine and her staff, greeting each customer with a smile.

Fine, a 2008 Cullman High graduate, completed dual enrollment courses at Wallace State before beginning full-time on campus. While in Hanceville, Fine was a staff member of The Mane Issue newspaper and also partook in multiple campus events.

Meanwhile, she worked at Berkeley Bob's Coffee House in Cullman, where she also met fellow Wallace State classmates to study for tests and class projects.

The 26-year-old Fine transferred to Auburn University from Wallace State and graduated with a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation and disabilities studies in 2014.

While attending Wallace State and Auburn, Fine kept open the idea of one day returning to the Cullman area and managing a coffee shop, but eventually the idea of opening her own coffee shop appealed to her even more

Karma's Coffee House opened its doors in Cullman's Warehouse District in July 2015 and has blossomed ever since.

"There were many challenges to making it become a reality. I heard 'no' many times before I got a 'yes.' My goal has always been to create an environment where people can come in and feel comfortable, whether they are doing some work or looking for a spot to unwind," Fine said. "I've worked hard to make sure you see different groups of people in here. You may come in and see a small church group meeting, a nursing student studying or another group over here enjoying coffee and talking about Plexus."

In Wallace State's recent commercial campaign, Fine said she gained 'confidence' as a student at the college, and it helped her mature into the young professional she is today.

"If someone comes into our shop and they aren't sure about where to go to college, I tell them how much it benefitted me to stay at home and go to Wallace State. When I was at Wallace State, I learned so much about how to be a college student and how to mature as a person. I don't think I would have focused as well if I had went off right away to a four-year college," Fine said. "I completely recommend students going to Wallace State."

Fine's path to becoming an entrepreneur began at Wallace State and today Wallace State's business program even offers an entrepreneurship option. Spring 2017 registration is currently underway at Wallace State and continues until Jan. 10. Students can register for classes at http://www.wallacestate.edu/register-now.

Fine, who completed business classes at Wallace State and Auburn, has established Karma's as one of the top destination spots in the Warehouse District. In a little over a year, the business has added the opportunities to host wedding showers and features live music on weekend nights. Fine, who tries to maintain a staff of eight employees, has also expanded the Karma's menu to offer a variety of breakfast selections.



CONTRIBUTED

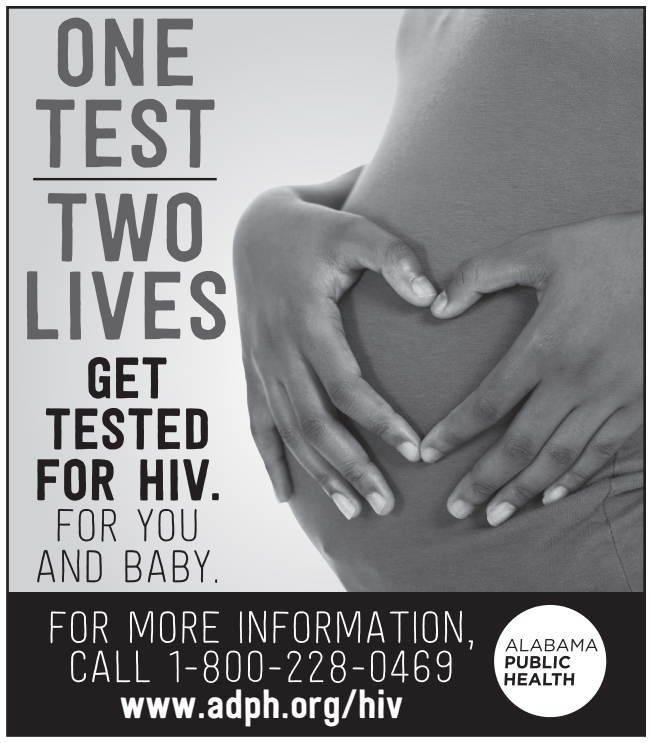
Katie Fine, who attended Wallace State from 2009-2011, is the owner of Karma's Coffee House in Cullman.

"We want everyone to feel at home here. Being on this side of things can be stressful sometimes, so when you hear people say they love and enjoy their time here, that's what it's all about. That's what makes it worth it," Fine said.

Karma's Coffee House is located at 103 First Ave. NE, Suite 140 in Cullman.

For more information about Wallace State, visit www.wallacestate.edu.







OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS: NOV. 30 - DEC. 6

Funeral services for Mary Frances Baker, 74 of Hanceville, held December 1 at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel; Paul Campbell officiated. Interment followed at Hopewell Cemetery. Mrs. Baker was born May 8, 1942 in Cullman County to Lonise and Vera Melton Ballard.

Norman P. Clingan, 71, passed away December 1. Arrangements under the direction of Moss-Service Funeral Home, and incomplete at this time.

Funeral services for Mrs. Veneda Chambers Daniel, age 82 of Holly Pond, held December 1 at Pleasant View Baptist Church. Mrs. Daniel was born in Cullman County to James Otto and Dessa Mabrey Chambers. At the time of her husband's death, they had been married 63 years. She was a member of Pleasant View Baptist Church. Burial at Holly Pond Cemetery.

A memorial service for Robert Theodore Benham, 27 of Cullman, will be announced at a later date. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Benham passed away December 1.

Funeral services for Harold M. Calvert, 80, of Bremen, held December 2 at Hanceville Funeral Home; Bill Hall and Charles Sinyard officiated; interment at Ryan's Creek Cemetery. Mr. Calvert passed away on November 29. He was born in Cullman County on September 19, 1936.

Lewis Don Gurley, 64 of Double Springs, entered into rest on November 30 in Birmingham. Don was born on October 30, 1952 in Childress, TX. He attended Atwell High School and went on to serve his country for ten years in the United States Army. He later received his GED and earned a two-year technical degree. He worked in the manufactured housing industry for 20 years. Don was a known jokester. He loved aggravating his wife and playing with his grandkids. He was always there for his family in the time of need. Funeral services held December 2 at Nichols Funeral Home in Double Springs. Justin Guin will officiated. Burial will follow in Mt. Ebron Cemetery in Double Springs.

Virginia Blackwood passed away on November 29 at the Eliza Coffee Hospital in Florence, AL. Departing this life, her pain is now gone and she remains forever at rest in the arms of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She was Born in Holly Pond, Alabama on April 11, 1930, the second of five daughters to William Ottis and Florence Hyatt. She was preceded in death by her husband James Roy Blackwood and her daughter Rhonda Blackwood. She was a life-long member of New Hope Number Two Missionary Baptist Church. She was a hard worker and devoted much of her life and energy as a caregiver to family members. She had a passion for sewing and was very skilled at it. She enjoyed getting together with her sisters and the rest of the family to sing gospel songs. Funeral services will be at the New Hope Number Two Baptist Church, near Holly Pond, on December 2. Patrick Morton officiated. Holly Pond Funeral Home honored to serve the family.

Mrs. Dora Adams passed away November 29 at the age of 85. Funeral services held at Moss Service Funeral Chapel December 2; interment at Cullman City Cemetery.

Graveside services for Mr. Glenn Ragsdale, 61 of Logan, held Saturday December 3 at New Mt Zion Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home directed. Mr. Ragsdale was born on September 1, 1955 in Alabama, and passed away on November 30 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. He was in building and construction most of his life, finishing the last four years with Caviler Homes in Addison.

Funeral Services for Mr. Randy Donell Malcom, age 47 of Hanceville, held December 3 at Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel. Mr. Malcom passed away at his home on November 28. Burial with Military honors followed at Shelton Grove Cemetery in Dodge City. Mr. Malcom was born in Cullman County and went to Hanceville High School. He played running back for the football team and holds the Cullman County Track & Field record. In his adult years he coached little league football and umpired baseball and softball. Holly Pond Funeral Home in charge of the arrangements.

O.D. (Odford Dale) Prestridge, 78 of Double Springs, went home to be with the Lord on December 2, 2016. He was born on January 8, 1938 in Nauvoo, AL. O.D. was a lifelong member of Old Union Baptist Church where he served as a Deacon. He loved going on mission trips and working on his home church. He graduated from Winston County High School in 1956 and went on to work for Southern Railroad and Norfolk Southern Railroad for 42 years. Funeral services held December 3 at Old Union Baptist Church; Brother George Whitten, Brother Shawn Morgan and Brother Kenny Sudduth officiated. Burial held in the adjoining cemetery. Nichols Funeral Home directed.

Clara Mae Myers, 68 of Haleyville, entered into rest on November 30 at Hendrix Health Care. Clara was born February 13, 1948, in Haleyville, Alabama. She enjoyed visiting and singing with her family. She was known as "Clo" by her family and friends. Funeral services held at Nichols Funeral Home, Double Springs, December 3; burial followed at Pleasant Hill No.2 Baptist Church Cemetery.

Funeral services for Edna Earl Raburn Morgan, age 81 of Cullman, held December 3 at Cullman Heritage Chapel with Greg Wilbanks and Jeremy Wilbanks officiated; interment at Center Grove Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Morgan passed away Wednesday, November 30 at CRMC. She was born February 3, 1935 to Hampton Harris and Linnie Mae Waters Raburn. Before retiring, she worked in sales at Cullman Cabinet.

Funeral service for Alton Rayburn Prince, 74 of Cullman, held December 3 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel; Rev. Albert Dean Estes officiated with interment at Duck Creek Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Prince passed away November 30 at his residence. He was born September 23, 1942 to Lelan and Edith Chambers Prince.

Onnave Carden Hood of Michigan, formerly of Cullman, passed away on November 27 at the age of 57. She was born on December 24, 1958 to Henry B. and Edna Stewart Carden. Funeral services held Monday, December 5 at Moss Funeral Home Chapel; interment in Springhill Cemetery.

Barbara Ann Bush Parker, 73 of Addison, entered into rest on Friday, December 2 in Decatur. Mrs. Parker was born on March 21, 1943 in Bessemer. She was a 1961 graduate of the class of 1961 at Hueytown High School and was a member of Addison Church of God for 16 years. She was a pastor's wife for 40 years and as such had served in many positions in the church, including Sunday School Teacher, Church Pianist, Children's Church Leader, Ladies' Ministries President and Secretary of Family Training Hour. Mrs. Parker was a member of the Ladies Ministries and the Young At Heart. She enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles and her grandchildren. Her family was her life. She was a very faithful, religious and prayerful mother and friend, who read her Bible and devotionals daily. She loved her church family and they were very important to her. She gave her heart to Jesus as a young girl. At the age of 12, she joined Caffee Junction Church. She remained a faithful and devoted member of The Church of God till her death. Her husband gave her the name of Barb-B-Que when they first began dating in 1960. Funeral service held at Addison Church of God December 5. Pastor Rodney Ridgeway officiated. Burial held in the adjoining cemetery.

Funeral Service for Mr. Ricky Dale Lee, age 55 of Vinemont, held at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home on December 6. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Lee passed away on Saturday, December 3 at UAB. He was born Friday, November 24, 1961 in Tupelo, MS to Billy Joe Lee and Helen Lee.

Mr. Larry David Moon, 75 of Vinemont, passed away Sunday, December 4 in Cullman. Mr. Moon was born in Cullman County to Henry David and Venora Butler Moon. He worked with Monsanto as a locksmith and in reproductions before he retired. Mr. Moon was predeceased by his parents. Funeral services held December 7 at Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel; burial at Holly Pond Cemetery.

Funeral services for Judith Ann Fellows Weeks, age 75 of Vinemont, held December 7 at Cullman Heritage Chapel; Ralph Henderson officiated; interment in Friendship Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Weeks passed away on Monday, December 5 at her residence. She was born October 9, 1941 in Chicago, IL to the late Ray Fellows and June Westover Fellow.

Funeral services for Mr. Jeffery Lynn Burns, age 50 of Sumiton, held December 8 at Duck River Baptist Church. Burial followed in the adjoining cemetery; Rev. Wayne Brown and Bro. Malcolm Carter II, officiated. Cullman Funeral Home directing. Mr. Burns was born on April 3, 1966 to the late Charles & Betty Robertson Burns; he passed away at home December 4. Jeffery enjoyed being around friends and family, and he loved his grandchildren. Cullman Funeral Home directed.

Funeral services for Michael Kent Rauch, 57 of Vinemont, held December at Friendship Methodist Church; interment in the adjoining cemetery; Rev. Scotty Griffin officiated. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Rauch passed away December 5th at his residence. He was born August 30, 1959. He was an inspector at Americold.

Funeral services for Billy Ray Alexander, 67 of Cullman, held December 9 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel; interment at Berlin Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Alexander passed away December 6. He was born August 4, 1949 to parents, Dave Charles and Janie Maybelle Cordellia Harris Alexander.

A memorial service for Gary Lamar Davis, age 63 of Logan, will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, December 10, 2016 at Logan Baptist Church with John McKoy officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Davis passed away on Tuesday, December 5th at Cullman Regional Medical Center. He was born August 29, 1953 to Rollas Lamar and Betty Jean Morris Davis. He was a truck driver.

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Hanceville, Alabama 35077
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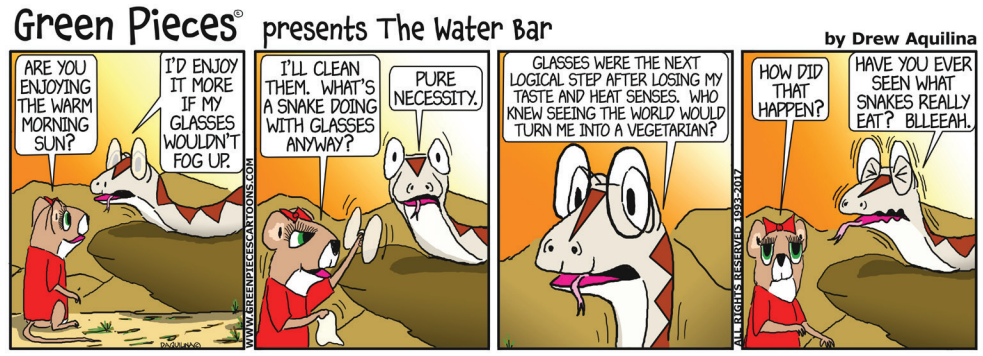
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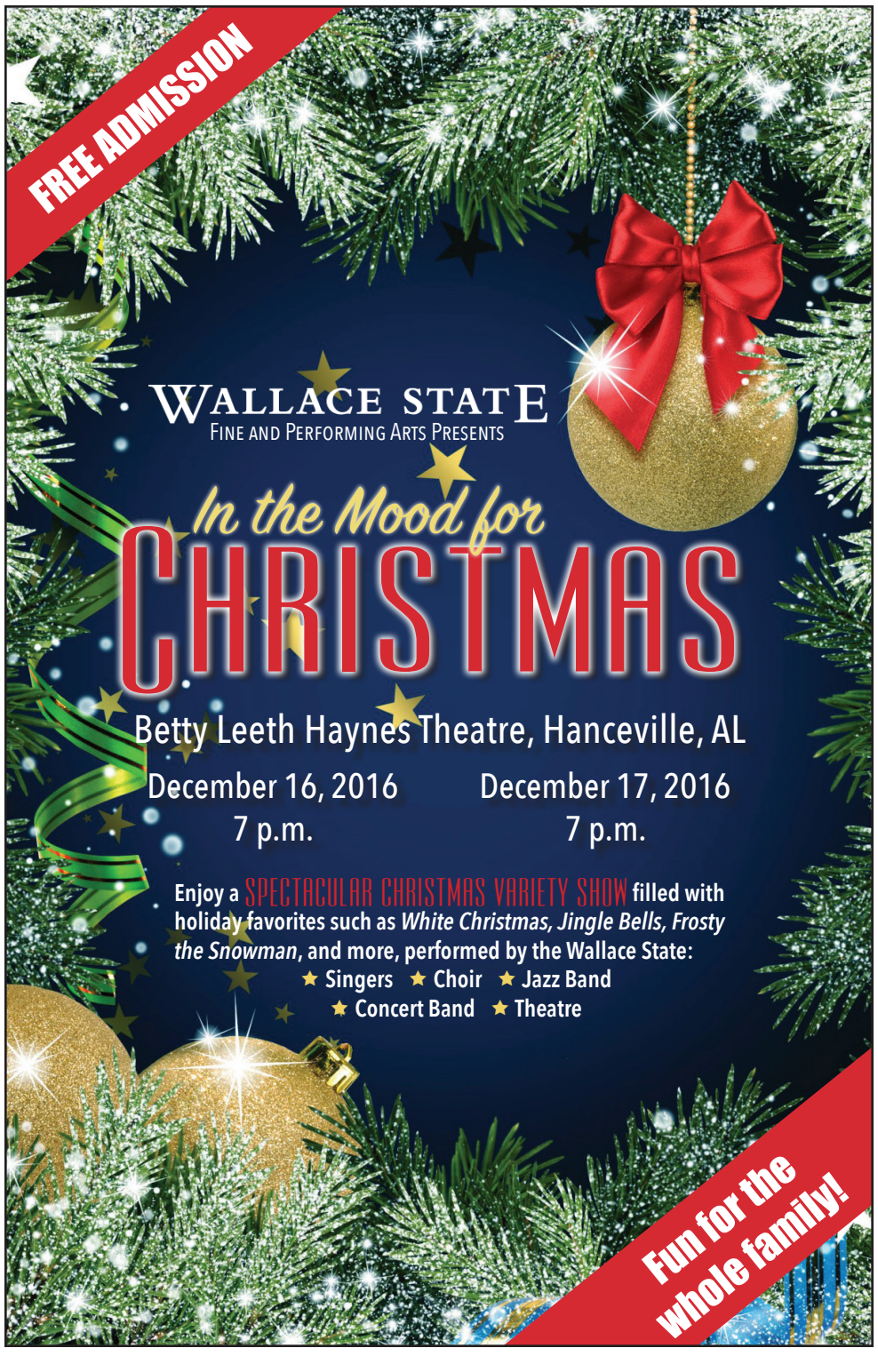
One day, Clark decided he didn't want any siblings.

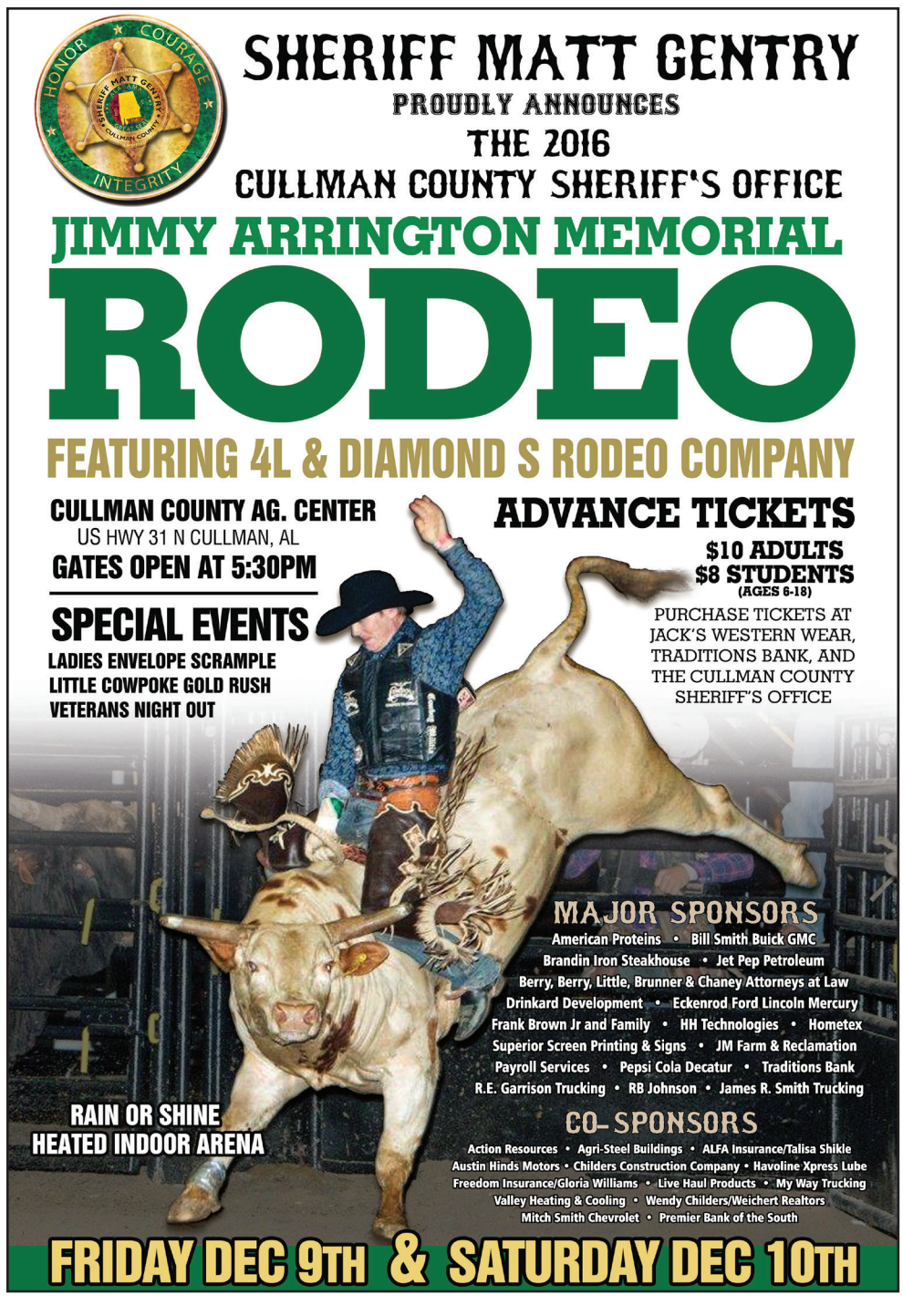


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Editorial Cartoon



Poet's Corner

WINTER'S PROPHETS

A persistent honking could be heard, From
somewhere overhead on high As winter's flapping,
gray prophets Winged their sign across an azure sky.
Undulating waves moved tirelessly
Southward never questioning why.
Taking turns leading their well-formed
flocks, As persistently onward they fly.

Their chilly message must be spread To their
plodding, earthbound ally. Fulfilling their call
as in years past, Carrying on without a sigh.

Take heed to the honking voices. Their
message you should not defy.
Grab coats, quilts and gather fire wood.
Winter's prophets just passed by.

By: Cleveland Brown Evergreen, Alabama • Submitted by: Randy C. Hale

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Tell us what we're doing right and how we can do better.

E-mail feedback@cullmansense.com
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OPINION

Food Politics: The GMO Conspiracy

Mel Gurtov
PeaceVoice

One of the longest-standing tricks of the corporate trade is to produce an item that is dangerous, breakable, or soon to be obsolete and then produce another item that will supposedly remedy the defect. That is what is happening with basic GMO-laden crops such as corn, wheat, and rapeseed: As they become resistant to Roundup and other toxins designed to keep them bug- or disease-free, the producers—such as Monsanto and Syngenta—come up with new herbicides for the farmer to apply.

But the agri-giants have more than one trick up their sleeves. As a major New York Times investigation recently reported, the promise of higher yields using GMO seeds has generally not been fulfilled in the US and Canada.

The investigation, using UN data, determined that US and Canadian yields are no greater than comparable yields in Europe, where GMOs are banned; yet US and Canadian farmers apply far more herbicides than do Europeans. And since higher yields per acre is the holy grail for most farmers, the obvious answer from the agri-giants is to apply more herbicides.

If you've heard this story before, you might be thinking of the so-called Green Revolution that took India and the Philippines by storm in the 1970s.

The promise then was higher yields of rice and wheat thanks to "miracle seeds" supplied by the major agro-businesses, whose research was funded by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Not mentioned was the expensive inputs this miracle would require—lots of water, chemical fertilizer, machinery, irrigation tube wells, and of course capital.

The Green Revolution was a boon to rich farmers, fertilizer and equipment suppliers, and loan sharks to whom poor farmers would become forever indebted.

Corporate control of GMO seeds, pesticides, and herbicides is becoming ever more concentrated. Monsanto is merging with Bayer, Syngenta with China National Chemical Corporation, and DuPont with Dow Chemical. The companies will tell us that these takeovers will cheapen their products and thus help feed the world's 10 billion people in 2050.

Their scientists, meanwhile, will produce "studies" that prove the effectiveness and safety of GMO seeds and related toxins. The reality, of course, is likely to be opposite of such claims: seeds, pesticides, and herbicides will become ever more expensive, available mainly to farmers in the richest countries, and the safety of GMO-based foods will depend on whether you listen to European or the North American scientists.

Debate over GMOs should not, in any case, focus exclusively on safety.

If the human interest is front and center, the debate should be over how to feed growing populations in a way that preserves family farms, which have been proven time and again to be the wisest stewards of the land, and puts the rights of farmers and communities ahead of corporate rights.

From that perspective, the core issue is land reform—restoring land ownership to individual farmers, sharply limiting control of farmland (whether by contract or outright ownership) by corporations, and preventing Monsanto and other agri-giants from suing farmers who choose not to use their GMO seeds.

Fortunately, there are movements underway in a number of states, localities, and countries—called Community Rights—that by law would empower communities to ban GMOs and other destructive practices (such as chemical aerial spraying and fracking).

In Latin America and other developing-country areas, a move to "agroecology" is fast gaining the support of small farmers who combine traditional and scientific practices in pursuit of strengthening the local food base. In the end, defeating corporate control of resources must rely on the people most affected; it's certainly not going to happen from Washington, where political decision making is about to fall into the hands of billionaires and former lobbyists. The call is out for acts of self-determination.

OPINION

Nuclear Weapons Modernization: a New Nuclear Arms Race?

Kevin Martin and Paul A. Olson
PeaceVoice

When General John Hyten recently assumed his post as the new head of U.S. Strategic Command, he and observers listed an array of possible threats to American and global security. Only one however -- nuclear weapons -- threatens all life on Earth. We should focus on that more intently than the others, especially with relations between the U.S. and Russia in the worst shape since the end of the Cold War.

Modernization is the focus that the Defense Department has proposed. However, more money to "modernize" (really overhaul and upgrade) every aspect of the U.S. nuclear arsenal, from weapons laboratories to warheads to planes, missiles and submarines, at a price tag of at least $1 trillion over three decades, is the wrong way to go.

What is striking is the astonishing sense of entitlement by the nuclear priesthood. Equally striking, looked at from voters' and taxpayers' point of view, is the lack of democracy. Nobody voted for this. No politicians ran on it. There was no public debate.

"Modernization" sounds good. It should be called The New Nuclear Arms Race plan. Following the U.S., every other nuclear weapons state has announced its own "modernization" scheme. So apart from the exorbitant cost for this dubious at best "priority," this whole project will make the U.S. and the world less secure, not more. It will thwart nuclear non-proliferation and fill the world with shiny new weapons.

So who will benefit? Certainly Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon and the nuclear weapons contractors in other countries (and the politicians who rely on their campaign cash). Anyone else? Anyone? The children? The environment?

U.S. policy on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation seeks no end to arms races. Recently, the United States and its nuclear-armed allies France, Great Britain and Israel voted against a United Nations resolution establishing negotiations for a global nuclear weapons ban treaty similar to current global treaties on landmines, cluster munitions and chemical and biological weapons. Talks are slated to begin next year in the General Assembly after a positive vote by 123 nations two weeks ago.

Other aspects of U.S. foreign policy -- NATO expansion to Russia's borders, the "Asia-Pacific Pivot" to focus more military assets in that region in order to contain China, provocative "missile defense" deployments which are properly seen by potential adversaries as part of a first-strike posture, over 900 U.S. foreign military bases, and overwhelming conventional military superiority (the U.S. spends as much on the military as the next seven countries combined) -- also help spur nuclear weapons proliferation and over-reliance by Russia and others.

President-elect Donald Trump is all in on the nuclear weapons modernization plan. However, he has consistently advocated better relations with Russia, and soon he and the new Congress will have many budgetary decisions to make, and it's entirely possible other defense and domestic priorities will at least mitigate huge investments in the nuclear arsenal.

Unlike nuclear modernization, the smart way forward is not rocket science. Instead of embarking on a plan we can't afford and that makes our country and the world less safe, let us cancel nuclear modernization, challenge other countries to do the same, and invest in more life affirming priorities. We can invest in diplomacy and international cooperation, as in the successful cases of the Iran nuclear agreement and the opening to Cuba, and get serious about leadership toward verifiable global nuclear disarmament. Recent polls show Americans want a more restrained, less militaristic and interventionist U.S. foreign policy. Nuclear weapons policy would be a great place to start.

Celebrations (from Front)

Cherokee Avenue.

Plates are $5 each and include two pancakes, sausage and drink (coffee, tea, water, Coke products, hot chocolate). Dine in or carry out.

Visits and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be available; $5 suggested donation for photos.

For more information, call 256-709-4019.

Breakfast with Santa
Pancake Breakfast with Santa at Cullman Christian School (in the gym), Dec. 10 from 9-11 a.m.

Tickets to the breakfast are $10 and there will be photo sessions with Santa and Mrs. Claus for $5.

For more info, email lsmith@cullmanchristian.org. Tickets can be purchased at the school. 708 Seventh St. SW, Cullman

Cullman Christmas Market and Festival
Cullman Christian School's Christmas Market and Festival (previously hosted by St. John's Church) will be at Cullman Christian School on Dec. 10 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

This is a free outdoor community festival celebrating the wonders of the Christmas season! There will be bounce houses, 50+ local vendors, food and live entertainment, including the Cullman High School jazz band. 708 Seventh St. SW, Cullman

Cookies and Cocoa with Santa
Come and visit with Santa Claus at Karma in Cullman! This is a free event for low-income families.

There will be a photographer on-site who will take free family photos with Santa. There will also be arts and crafts and of course, cookies and cocoa.

Children will be given the opportunity to "shop" for their parents in the Karma in Cullman warehouse with help from volunteers, who then wrap the gifts so the kids can take them home and put them under the tree for their parents for Christmas morning. 785 Alabama Highway 157, Cullman, AL 35058

Good Hope Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park
On Saturday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m., the city will hold its Christmas parade, starting at Good Hope High School and proceeding to the park at City Hall. The parade will include area school bands, scouts, horse riders, and local churches. The Grand Marshal will be Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry.

Once everyone gets to the park, local kids and their families will be treated to train rides, hot food and refreshments, inflatables and of course visits with Santa. All activities and food will be free.

Holly Pond Christmas Parade
4 p.m. Dec. 10. Hosted by the Holly Pond Civilian Club, the parade route will begin at Lion's Club Park and end at Governor's Park.

Following the procession, the Town of Holly Pond and the Civilian Club will sponsor Christmas Cards in the Park at 5 p.m. at Governor's Park. Expect Santa, luminaries, refreshments and entertainment.

Saturday, Dec. 10- Sunday, Dec. 11
West Point High School Fine Arts to Present "All I Want for Christmas is You"
Dec. 10, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., Dec. 11, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Admission is $5. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Christmas Love and Childhaven.

Monday, Dec. 12
Cullman Community Band Christmas Concert
7 p.m. at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre at Wallace State. The concert is free, but canned good donations will be collected for Cullman Caring for Kids.

Friday, Dec. 16
Fairview Christmas Parade
Dec. 16. Check our online calendar as details become available.

Friday, Dec. 16- Saturday, Dec. 17
Wallace State to Present "In the Mood for Christmas"
Wallace State Community College will present "In the Mood for Christmas" on Dec. 16-17 at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre. Staged as a variety show, "In the Mood for Christmas" will feature a wide range of musical and theatrical entertainment from the Fine and Performing Arts programs at Wallace State, including the Wallace State Singers, Jazz Band, Concert Band and Theatre. The event is free and open to the public.

Friday, Dec. 16- Sunday, Dec. 18
Live, Walk-Through Nativity Story
Valley Springs Baptist Church will have a live, walk-through Nativity story, Dec. 16-18, from 6-8 p.m. each night.

Live animals and actors. Free event. 6979 County Road 437, Cullman, AL 35057

Sunday, Dec. 18
Cornerstone Revival Center presents Sounds of Christmas
Dec. 18 at 4 p.m. Come experience the musical celebration of our Savior's birth with the drama team, kids' choir, men's quarter, mass choir and music influenced by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra as well as other groups. 3151 Alabama Highway 69 N in Cullman

Stay up-to-date with all Cullman events at http://www.cullmansense.com/calendar.

Flood (from Front)

disaster area, opening the way for government assistance.

It was a once-in-a-lifetime (hopefully) occurrence whose statistical probability is one percent or less. No agency could be truly prepared for such a disaster. Cullman County Emergency Management Agency (CCEMA) Director Phyllis Little knows that people whose homes and property were damaged were upset and understandably frustrated, but she maintains that the system worked as well as could be expected under very unexpected circumstances.

"That was a hundred-year event," she said. "You can only be prepared for what you know about."

Little told the Tribune that CCEMA has not made any substantial changes to its policies or methods in the wake of the flood. The system functioned as intended; any drawbacks were the result of the scope of the disaster, not to failures of the system or personnel.

She stated, "What we had in place worked. Very few changes have been made."

Little gave a brief overview of CCEMA's procedure. The agency is the first line of response to a weather emergency. As soon as the National Weather Service in Huntsville indicates dangerous weather, the CCEMA Emergency Operations Center at the office is activated, and staff comes in. All local response agencies (police, fire, etc.) are contacted, and constant communication continues until the event ends.

Little concluded, "We are on duty as long as the threat exists to the people of Cullman."

The road system of Cullman County suffered around $700,000 in damage, according to Cullman County Engineer John Lang.

Even though most county roads were reopened within days of the flood, numerous repairs were needed for long-term safety. Lang says that, as of now, all repair work related to the flood has been completed, and the County is simply awaiting reimbursement of certain expenses from FEMA. Lang was pleased with the way in which the road department handled its share of the flood disaster, and he feels the agency is fully prepared to respond again if needed.

He said, "The guys out here always seem to come in full force and respond well, so I believe we'll be ready for any natural disaster."

While roads and bridges suffered throughout the county, maybe the most visible image of such damage occurred along Convent Road and Larkwood Drive around Larkwood Bridge within the city of Cullman. Road foundations were undermined and pavement collapsed, causing around $700,000 in damage, an amount equal to all the road damage in the rest of the county. The bridge was completely submerged.

Today, Larkwood Drive remains an ongoing project for the City. Cullman has selected engineers to oversee the project, and has approved designs for the new road. According to Cullman City Clerk Wesley Moore, the reconstruction project will be completed within the next year.

Once it is complete, the City hopes Hazard Mitigation assistance from FEMA will allow improvements, including a possible retaining wall, that will make the road more resistant to such damage in the future.

The Larkwood and Eva Road bridges will both be replaced soon, though neither was significantly damaged by the flood. Both had already been targeted for upgrades as far back as 2013, and these projects continue. Geological testing around the sites is underway, and the City will soon begin receiving bids for new bridge construction.

The 2015 flood inflicted some of its worst damage on the Cullman Wastewater Treatment Plant, which suffered more than $2 million in losses as equipment was flooded. Jeff Adams, plant superintendent, says that while the plant is up and running, it is still in recovery mode almost a year later.

All pumps and motors have been repaired or replaced, and all electrical controls at the plant have been relocated 8 feet above their original locations (the flood water inside the plant rose 6 feet).

One of the plant's biggest losses, and its major remaining project, is an ultraviolet device used to disinfect water on its way out of the plant into local streams. The device in use before the flood was destroyed. Today the plant uses a chemical system that introduces then extracts chlorine from the water as it leaves. Adams insisted that, despite the loss of the UV device, the water leaving the plant is still clean and safe.

With 2.4 million dollars in assistance from FEMA, Adams is acquiring an upgraded UV device that can survive total submersion in flood water. Not only will it be more durable, but it will also be more energy efficient than the old device, costing only about half as much to power. The system will go to bid soon, and the City hopes to see it up and running by this time next year.

All those interviewed seemed to agree on three points:

1. Cullman has recovered well.

2. Cullman is as ready as it can be for the next disaster.

3. This was a once-in-a-lifetime event, and once was enough.



