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# The Cullman Tribune

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# 2 local McDonald's giving away free backpacks this Saturday



MCDONALD'S OF CENTRAL ALABAMA

**Will Hogue**
will@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – Two local McDonald's restaurants, as a part of McDonald's of Central Alabama's third annual McDonald's McBackpack Giveaway, will be giving away 200 backpacks each this Saturday, Aug. 5.

The McDonald's in Cullman at 1425 Second Ave. SW will give them away from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. The McDonald's in Hanceville at 740 Main Street will give them away from 2-4 p.m. The backpacks will contain school supply items such as pencils, crayons, paper, a ruler, a folder and more.

There will be one grand prize backpack at each location with extra supplies and McDonald's items that will be given out at random.

The backpacks will be given on a first come, first serve basis to students accompanied by a guardian or parent.

McDonald's owner/operators will be on hand to hand out backpacks and meet the students.

According to McDonald's of Central Alabama, over two weekends, July 27-29 and August 4-5, 17 participating McDonald's restaurants will give out a total of 3,400 backpacks to local students in an effort to support education and prepare students for the new school year.

# Meet Lynn Beshear, new commissioner of Alabama Department of Mental Health

## Beshear visited Cullman Thursday, July 27, to meet with area leaders



M.D. CONNECTION

***Alabama's new State Mental Health Commissioner Lynn Beshear***

**Office of Gov. Kay Ivey**
Contributor

**MONTGOMERY** – Gov. Kay Ivey in July appointed Lynn Beshear commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health.

"I am honored to appoint Lynn Beshear as commissioner of the Department of Mental Health," Ivey said. "Through active participation in securing mental health services in the River Region, Lynn understands the complexities of the department, and the importance of its work on behalf of the people of Alabama."

"I did not seek out this position, but I am honored to be chosen to serve my fellow Alabamians," Beshear stated. "I am excited to work with Gov. Ivey, her cabinet, the Legislature, and the professionals within the Department of Mental Health, to provide excellent services for Alabamians with mental illness, those who are developmentally delayed,

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# Pet of the Week: Ollie is looking for his forever home

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – Ryan Whisenhunt of the Cullman County Animal Shelter introduces us to the Pet of the Week:

"We are pleased to introduce you to Ollie. He is approximately 2 years old and currently available for adoption. His adoption fee is $90, which includes a 5-in-1 (DHLPP) vaccine, Bordetella vaccine, rabies vaccine, dewormer, a general exam with a vet, spay/neuter, microchip, a free 45-day trial of pet insurance through 24 Pet Watch (with valid email only), and a free bag of food from Cullman Pet Depot (you must pay sales tax)."

For more information, call 256-734-5448 or come by the shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. Please share to help Ollie find a loving, forever home.



RYAN WHISENHUNT

***Ollie is available for adoption at the Cullman County Animal Shelter.***

# Bussman weighs in on mental health care; strong words on state of Alabama education

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – Mental health care has been an issue in desperate need of attention for some time in Alabama. Funding has been declining, bed space has been decreasing; the only things on the rise seem to be the number of crimes committed by mentally ill perpetrators, and the number of suicides. Last year, Cullman County saw 15 people take their own lives; with almost half the year still to go, 2017's total already stands at 20.

Maybe something's about to change.

After a lot of talk and a frustratingly small amount of action, Alabama's officials have mental health care on their radar.

A recent federal court ruling mandated improvements in mental health care in Alabama's prison system, and the new commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health personally visited Cullman last week, at the request of Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview, to hear from local officials who have to deal with the issue ev-

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ANDREW CRYER/TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

***Paul Bussman speaks at the Cullman County Republican breakfast in February 2017***






ANHA

***Left: Ms. Folsom Center Miriam Kelley was 2nd runner up at the 2017 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant. She is pictured with Eldridge Stewart, Administrator of Camden Nursing Facility. Right: Cleo McLeroy***

# *Ms. Folsom Center for Rehab & Healthcare, Miriam Kelley named 2nd runner-up in Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant*

## *Ms. Woodland Village Rehab & Healthcare Center, Cleo McLeroy was also in the top 10*

**ANHA**
Contributor

**HOOVER** – Two Cullman women were among the top 10 finalists for the 2017 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant Monday in Hoover. Ms. Folsom Center for Rehab & Healthcare, Miriam Kelley, 89 and Ms. Woodland Village Rehab & Healthcare Center, Cleo McLeroy, 87 competed for the coveted crown of Ms. Alabama Nursing Home at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham – The Wynfrey Hotel in Hoover.

Ms. Kelley took home the second runner-up prize. View Ms. Kelley's profile here: http://qrne.ws/miriam

**Rounding out the top 10 were:**

- Ms. Albertville Nursing Home & Rehab Select, Helen "Roslin" Williams, Albertville, age 82
- Ms. Cherry Hill Rehab & Healthcare Center, Evelyn Dent, Birmingham, age 62
- Ms. Cottage of the Shoals, Cora Steen, Tuscumbia, age 83 (named fourth runner-up)
- Ms. Haleyville Health & Rehab Center, Edna Everly, Haleyville, age 83
- Ms. Hartford Health Care, Norma Self, Hartford, age 92
- Ms. Shelby Ridge Rehab Select, Katherine Moorer, Alabaster, age 59 (named first runner-up)
- Ms. Thomasville Health Care & Rehab Center, Barbara Pugh, Thomasville age 66 (named third runner-up)
- Ms. Westside Terrace Health & Rehab First, Sarah Scott, Dothan, age 83 (Crowned the winner, Ms. Scott will serve as a spokesperson for nursing home residents and the Alabama Nursing Home Association (ANHA).

"These contestants prove you can make a difference regardless of your age or ability," ANHA President & CEO Bill O'Connor said. "Each lady is a wonderful ambassador of her rehabilitation and long-term care center."

Preliminary judging was held in Montgomery to narrow the field of 49 contestants to the top 10 finalists. Contestants were evaluated on their outlook on life, personality, poise and involvement in their individual nursing homes.

Miss Alabama Jessica Proctor and retired nursing home administrator Bob Coker co-hosted the event.

Celebrity judges included: Ms. Senior Alabama Elaine Willingham, Alabama's Distinguished Young Woman Claire Kendrick, Alabama Director of Homeland Security Shirrell Roberts and UAB School of Health Professions Director of Communications Kevin Storr.

The top 10 finalists had individual interviews with the panel of celebrity judges on the morning of July 31 before competing on stage that afternoon. All the other contestants in attendance were part of the Honor Court and individually recognized during the pageant.

# Scam Jam and Health Fair for seniors this Friday

**Will Hogue**
will@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – The annual Scam Jam and Health Fair for Cullman's senior citizens is this Friday, Aug. 4 from 9 a.m.-noon at the Cullman County Center, 1807 Beech Ave. in Cullman. The event, sponsored by the Cullman County Commission on Aging, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) will focus on fraud prevention and health.

The health fair portion of the event will include organizations providing scans for bone density, blood pressure checks, BMI checks and information on home health care, assisted living and rehabilitation and more.

"It is just a great day for everyone, and such a great turn out each year that we've had the event," said Lorri Lee, health promotion coordinator for the Commission on Aging.

"There will be free lunch provided to the first 250 people who arrive," Lee said, "which is about how many usually attend the event."

Along with health scans and info, there will be a panel of experienced professionals talking about the most common scams plaguing Cullman's senior-citizen community.

"The panel will consist of about six people," Lee said, "and each person will speak regarding a specific subject that they are experienced in, those special topics."

Fraud prevention panel topics will include identity theft, internet scams, door-to-door scams, mail and telephone scams and Medicare fraud. Local law enforcement will be on-hand to speak and answer questions.

It is very important, according to Lee, for members of the elderly community in Cullman to learn about the potential identity theft and financial theft threats that exist.

"We keep it to a question and answer format," Lee said. "That way we don't overwhelm those in attendance by making it be presentation after presentation."

Along with free lunch, there will also be door prizes and drawings.



LORRI LEE

***Blood screenings, like these at last year's Scam Jam and Health Fair, are provided by Cullman Regional.***

# Peinhardt Homesteaders plan schedule for remainder of 2017

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – The Peinhardt 1930 Homesteaders met Sunday afternoon to plan their event schedule for the fall, and here's what folks can look forward to. Please note: all events are open to the public, unless otherwise noted. Sunday events are from 2-4 p.m. in the museum building at Peinhardt Farm.

**Sunday, Aug. 20:** Raising Rabbits on the Homestead - learn about breeds, feeding, housing and even processing meat (not a program about pets!) from guest presenters Robert Spencer and Jesse Murphy.

**Monday, Sept. 4** (Labor Day): Mule Day at Peinhardt Farm - learn about farming with mules, with classes on harnessing, driving, plowing and mule care. Open only to the first 15 people who pre-register. Email 1930homesteaders@gmail.com to register.

**Sunday, Sept. 17**: Emergency Preparedness - prepping the homestead for severe weather and other emergencies with safe points, food and water, first aid and other topics.

**Saturday, Oct. 28:** Peinhardt Farm Day - the homesteaders and other volunteers open Peinhardt Farm to the public. Come see antique farm equipment, live animals, craft demonstrations and much more.

**Sunday, Nov. 19:** Traditional Leather Crafting - see demonstrations, and try your hand at common 18th and 19th century techniques for manufacturing sheaths, holsters, pouches, bags and horse tack. With Dr. Craig Mann, former assistant curator for living history at Old Alabama Town.

**Saturday, Dec. 9:** Homesteaders Christmas Party - potluck lunch with live traditional music and carol singing.

For more information about the Peinhardt 1930 Homesteaders or upcoming events, visit "Peinhardt 'Homesteaders'" on Facebook, or email 1930homesteaders@gmail.com.

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ANDREW CRYER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

*Former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice and U.S. Senate hopeful Roy Moore speaks to guests at Friday night's Republican dinner.*

# Party faithful turn out for Republican candidate dinner, minus Strange

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – More than 150 area Republicans turned out Friday evening, when the Cullman County Republican Party held its first fundraising dinner, welcoming numerous hopeful candidates planning to make runs in 2018, and drawing three who are running in this year's special U.S. Senate election. One noticeable absence was that of U.S. Sen. Luther Strange, whose plane was said to be stuck in Washington, D.C. The show went on, however, with guests enjoying dinner catered by Stone Bridge Farms, a silent auction and some face-to-face time with local elected officials and candidates.

Said County Republican Party Chairman Waid Harbison just before the evening got underway, "This is kind of the first year we've done this event, something I wanted to start when I took over as chairman of the party. Just a few things we want to do with this: we want it to be an annual thing where we kind of come together to celebrate the party's accomplishments, because this is kind of like our annual meeting. We have breakfast meetings once a month, but just something for everyone to get together, one big shindig (to) highlight some of our elected officials locally, highlight some of our accomplishments as a Republican party. Obviously, we have some featured speakers that are going to be here, too.

"This is something I would like to start, in the future going down the road, for us to have as a Republican party."

Harbison invited all persons running for office to come to the stage and be recognized.

**The line stretched out as eight candidates (in addition to the three Senate candidates) introduced themselves to the audience:**

- Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, running for governor
- Alabama Sen. Rusty Glover, running for lt. governor
- Scott Dawson, running for governor
- Alabama Attorney Gen. Steve Marshall, seeking re-election
- Alabama Sec. of State John Merrill, seeking re-election
- Jefferson County Commission President David Carrington, running for governor
- Alabama Public Service Commission, Place 1 Jeremy Oden, seeking re-election
- Blount County Criminal Court Judge Chess Bedsole, running for Alabama attorney general

The big draw of the night was the promise of presentations by the leading candidates for the upcoming special U.C. Senate election. Incumbent Strange, appointed to fill the seat left vacant by current U.S. Attorney Gen. Jeff Sessions by then Gov. Robert Bentley, was supposed to appear, but reportedly had to cancel due to a late flight from Washington.

His leading challengers, former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore and Rep. Mo Brooks, were joined by lesser-known candidate Trip Pittman to present their platforms to the crowd.

**Alabama Sen. Trip Pittman, R-Montrose**

Pittman's presentation emphasized his background as a businessman.

"We need to understand, businessmen get things done," he said.

"They have to accomplish things, they have to be successful, they have to build relationships and have repeat business and have referrals.

"So I think it's extremely important that we understand and consider the fact that we have a businessman in the U.S. Senate."

He also pointed to his recent 10-year career as a state senator, with seven years as budget chairman overseeing multiple balanced budgets.

Though a multi-election politician, Pittman stated that he supports term limits; and promised to serve no more than two terms in the U.S. Senate.

**Former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore**

Moore pointed to himself as a Washington outsider who is feared by the establishment represented by both Democrat Charles Schumer and Republican Mitch McConnell.

Pointing to the Republican legislative majority's inability to overturn "Obamacare," he claimed that Washington needs anti-establishment leaders to get things done.

Responding to Republican establishment leaders' fundraising efforts to boost Luther Strange's campaign, Moore replied, "(Why) I am very upset about this is that they are trying to buy the people of Alabama, and buy their vote out of Washington D.C. They're trying to tell you who should be senator, who they want to keep there; and it's this establishment that is preventing things from moving, and we've got to wake up to that fact."

Moore also called for a stronger military, stating that the current military culture is plagued by political correctness and social experimentation. He argued for a reduction in federal regulations and taxes to promote American business, and called for a legal system that strictly interprets and follows the U.S. Constitution.

As would be expected of the candidate who has always displayed his faith openly, Moore called for a return to morality and traditional values.

"We cannot be great again," said the candidate, "unless we are good again."

**U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks, R-Alabama**

Brooks went right after Strange, arguing that the incumbent is portraying him as a "Nancy Pelosi lover."

He spent a fair amount of time responding to establishment claims that he is an anti-Trump politician, pointing to funds he personally raised for the president's campaign and saying that, while he wished Trump was stronger in certain respects, he still supports him.

Brooks pointed to himself as the kind of ethical candidate needed by a corrupt system; taking pride in the fact that, in his entire political career, he has never been the subject of a single ethics complaint.

He viewed his nine re-elections as evidence of Alabamians' opinions about the quality of his work, pointing out that he has won every election by at least 30 percentage points.

"I mention that for this reason," said Brooks, "I want you to know that if you honor me with this election, that I will serve you as I have served the people who have asked me to represent them in those 12 different elections, nine of which were re-elections."

The U.S. Senate special election primary will be held on Aug. 15, with an if-needed runoff on Sept. 26. The special election will take place on Dec. 12.

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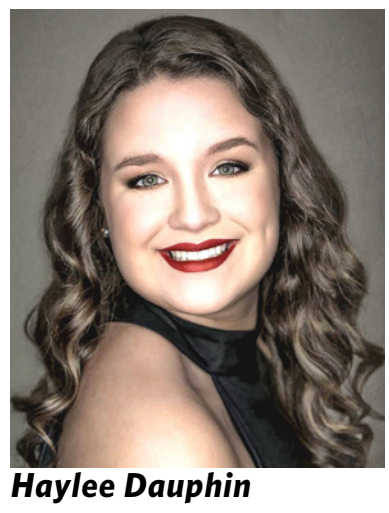
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# Miss Cullman County Fair Queen 2017 pageant set for Sept. 26

**Wendy Sack, Cullman County Fair**



***Ally Knight***



***Haylee Dauphin***



***Serah Hudson***



***Hillary Holcomb***



***Averie Harris***



***Savannah Aaron***



***Raven Gilliland***



CONTRIBUTED

***Gracie Thomas***

**CULLMAN** – Believe it or not, fair time is quickly approaching. The Cullman Lions Club recently released official photos of the eight Miss Cullman County Fair Queen 2017 contestants. The pageant will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. in the Coca Cola Theater at the Cullman County Fairgrounds.

Representatives of the eight public high schools in Cullman County will compete for a $3,000 scholarship award (paid to the school in which she enrolls) given by the Fair Association.

The winner also receives a diamond pendant from Doug Doggett Jewelers of Cullman.

The first alternate receives a $2,000 scholarship; in the event the winner is unable to fulfill any of her duties, the first alternate will serve in lieu of the Queen.

The second alternate receives a $1,000 scholarship.

Wallace State Community College gives a one year scholarship in the field of performing arts to the winner of the talent portion of the contest.

The Cullman Lioness Club awards $200 for Miss Congeniality. Lion Thomas Warhurst will emcee the pageant.

**This year's contestants are:**

- Savannah Aaron - Cold Springs High School
- Haylee Dauphin - Cullman High School
- Averie Harris - Fairview High School
- Ally Knight - Good Hope High School
- Serah Hudson - Hanceville High School
- Gracie Thomas - Holly Pond High School
- Hillary Holcomb - Vinemont High School
- Raven Gilliland - West Point High School

For more information on the Cullman County Fair, including the Tiny Fair Princess and Petite Fair Princess Pageant and Little, Junior and Teen Princess Pageant, exhibitions, vendors, the parade and more, visit www.cullmanfair.com.

The 2017 Cullman County Fair will take place Sept. 21-30.

## HOME AND GARDEN

# Composting creates healthy soil

**Loretta Gillespie**
Tribune Correspondent

Composting creates richer, looser and more organic soil, is easier to work with and ensures that your plants will get more of the nutrients they need to be vigorous and healthy.

Composting can be as easy as digging a hole and burying vegetable peelings in your flowerbeds or vegetable garden, or as complicated as building a wooden or wire structure to keep it neatly contained. In most cases, if placed in an unobtrusive spot, it can be left on the ground in a pile to rot. Covering the pile of compost with a tarp or black plastic speeds up the process. Be sure to place it in the sun, and water it occasionally.

Gathering materials used for composting isn't hard either; you can use your grass clippings, leaves, barnyard manure and kitchen scraps.

Even the cardboard roll from paper towels, junk mail (as long as it's not the shiny, slick paper) and the lint from your dryer are compostable materials.

Save your kitchen scraps, egg shells, cores from fruits and peels from vegetables along with coffee grounds and wilted flowers from cut arrangements, tea bags, etc. under your sink in an old ice cream container, the kind with the handle.

When it's full, just chunk it in the compost pile, or if you have something to plant, put the contents in the bottom of the hole, add just a little soil and pop in the plant. You plants will love it, and, as an added bonus, this brings worms to the soil. Worms help to aerate the roots, which add another element of compost, worm castings.

By recycling these kinds of scraps, clippings and cuttings, you are putting back much-needed elements into soil that is what... about, oh, two million years old. That's pretty old for topsoil, and it needs replenishing. Wind, erosion and relentless baking in the sun for all that time has turned most of the earth into hard, empty, dusty soil or packed it into red clay.

Making a garden is a labor of love, but a labor, nonetheless. By adding compost and layers of soil conditioner, (that's the really fine mulch, also sold at the co-op) you can build up flowerbeds and borders over a period of about 12 years.

Just to recap; don't put anything in your compost that a dog would eat, nothing meaty or cheesy, no cooked eggs, etc. No cooked vegetables with salt or oil added, no bread, meat, fish or bones. Remember what salt does to snails? Well, it does the same thing to worms, and worms are a sure sign of healthy soil.

Healthy soil resists disease, fungus and insects. The less we have to use chemicals or insecticides the better for the beneficial insects and worms. (Not to mention us!)

By recycling and giving back to the earth we sustain one of our most valuable assets.

Without soil to grow crops and gardens we would soon perish.

So leave those leaves and clippings on the ground, or gather them for compost. Sending them to the dump in trash bags does nothing for the environment, and fills up the landfills faster than necessary.



WJPA.NET

***Worms are a sure sign of healthy soil.***

Start saving those leftover vegetable and fruit peelings and you'll be amazed at how fast they accumulate.

You will be rewarded with a lush lawn, and beautiful flowers and shrubs. So go ahead, begin your own compost bin today, and use this newspaper as a start!



# Cullman Rotary hosts Earl Smith, veteran who helped divert nuclear disaster in 1961

**Loretta Gillespie**
Tribune Correspondent

*Airman 1st Class, Earl T. 'Buster' Smith, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Tech was one of the first two people on the scene on Jan. 24, 1961, when an Air Force plane, "Keep 19" crashed 12 miles north of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. It came to rest in a tobacco field just a few yards away from Big Daddy's Road in the farming community of Faro, North Carolina. The plane was carrying two bombs reported to be 250 times more powerful than either of the bombs dropped on Japan in WWII.*

**CULLMAN** – Last week's meeting of the Cullman Rotary Club was especially interesting to the history buffs present. Speaker Earl Smith held the group spellbound with his true story of heroism during what could have been the worst nuclear disaster of all time, had it not been for his quick thinking.

Humble about the experience now, he was duty-bound not to speak of it for the past 50 years.

Due to the time limit on the Freedom of Information Act, he is now at liberty to tell his story.

Even so, he probably wouldn't have gone public with it, had not one of his superior officers tried to claim credit for the whole recovery of the nuclear bombs that fell from the sky and landed in a little wide spot in the road called Faro, North Carolina.

Since going public about the incident, Smith has spoken to several groups in North Carolina, including the Rotary of Goldsboro, North Carolina, and was filmed by the "Tar Heel Traveler," which is similar to "Absolutely Alabama."

The film was shown at last week's meeting in Cullman.

It detailed how the plane carrying two bombs reported to be 250 times more powerful than either of the bombs dropped on Japan in WWll, crashed in the middle of one of the coldest nights on record at the time.

"It would have changed the whole coast line of the United States, the map would look different today," Smith said.

He began the story by telling the audience that he and his cousin were in town from the farm on a Saturday afternoon when they noticed a recruitment office.

"Let's go in there and make the recruiting officer think we're going to join the Army," he said, jokingly.

"By that afternoon we were on a bus to be inducted into the Air Force," he laughed.

He was only 24 years old when he received the call in the middle of the night. Within a half hour, the young soldier would be in a helicopter with a five star brigadier general at his side. He admits to being nervous.

"When we landed, the whole countryside was red from the fire," he recalled.

"I imagined that there was radiation everywhere and went into a panic attack, thinking that I was breathing it and was about to die."

He says that in the distance, the flashing lights of an ambulance seemed to work to steady his nerves and he thought, "Well, if I'm about to die I might as well get as much done as possible," and he went to work on the one bomb that he could clearly see.

Its parachute had caught in a tree in the middle of some farmer's field, and was a clear indication of the first bomb's location. The second bomb was another story.

"The other one went underground, parts of it were found, but the uranium is still buried down there somewhere in that field," he said.

"To give you an idea of how big the hole was where we dug in an effort to find it, there were five or six bulldozers down in the bottom of it at one point, but still, it was never found."

Smith laughed when he remembered that one local resident of the area thought that the Russians had landed in the field.

"You can imagine the sight, all the fire and noise, and that big parachute coming down out of nowhere.

"The man grabbed a pone of cornbread and took off away from the explosion. When they found him a couple of days later, sitting under a tree, he was relieved to know that the Russians hadn't taken over the country."

Smith answered questions after his story was told.

Someone asked about the land as it is now.

"The government bought it up and no one can use it for anything," he replied, "but it's not even fenced in or anything."

The story has been picked up by several newspapers, magazines and even a French documentary producer, who came and filmed Smith on the actual location where the near disaster took place in North Carolina.

Smith says that it took about two days to film his part of the story.

"The producer said that it will probably be a year or so before it's shown in France. Then it will go to National Geographic, I think," he said.

The film is titled, "The Cold War."

The story was President John F. Kennedy's first press release.

Read Smith's entire story as printed in The Cullman Tribune last September here: www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2016/09/11/north-alabama-man-plays-critical-part-disarming-nuclear-weapon

**Rotary Program Chairs**

- 1st Quarter: Mike Krassick
- 2nd Quarter: Dawn Owens
- 3rd Quarter: Vicki Karolewics
- 4th Quarter: John Lang



LORETTA GILLESPIE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

***Smith only broke his silence about the incident after the Freedom of Information Act time limits had expired. Even then, he only did so to set the record straight, not for any attention to himself, but for his buddies in the Explosives Ordinance Disposal (EOD) unit who were also heroes that night.***

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# Obituary Announcements: July 30-Aug. 2

**A graveside service for Jimmie Ray Hunt Sr.**, 78, held Sunday, July 30, 2017 at New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church in Hanceville. Moss Service Funeral Home directed.

**Freda Calvert Wooten** age 85 of Crane Hill, died Friday, July 28, 2017. Mrs. Wooten was preceded in death by her parents: Henry & Helen Calvert and grandsons: Matthew Wooten & Adam Wood. She is survived by her husband, Roy Nelson Wooten; Children: Tommy Wooten, Richard Wooten, Kathy Leatherman, Billy Wooten & Sandy Lenning; 10 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. The celebration of Mrs. Wooten's life held Sunday, July 30, 2017 at Bowman Chapel Cemetery.

**Ormond Dewayne Elam**, 86 of Addison passed away on July 29, 2017 surrounded by his family. Mr. Elam was born on February 7, 1931 in Winston County, AL. He was a member of Mt. Pleasant Church and served his country in the United States Army. Funeral service will be held on Monday, July 31, 2017 at Mt. Pleasant Church. Brother Junior Garmon officiated. Burial in Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Greenwood, Indiana. He is survived by his wife, Louise Elam; Son, Bryan Elam; step son, Bobby Watson; daughter, Carla Elam; step daughters, Michelle (Chuck) Rivers and Pam (Danny) Mitchell; brother, Hugo Elam; sisters, Allene Privett, Mervene Currie; sister in law, Marge Elam; three grandchildren, Candy Caldwell, Joel Elam and Matthew Elam; five step grandchildren, Chase (Jessica) Echols, Brent (Heather) Mitchell, Josh (Shae) Mitchell, Jason (Jessie) Watson and Scotty (Summer) Watson; three great grandchildren, Alyssa Caldwell, Andrew Caldwell and Alex Caldwell; and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, William Elam and Della Glover Elam; son, Daryl Elam; and brother, Jack Elam. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.

**Memorial services for Ira J. Williamson** held Monday, July 31, 2017 at Daystar Church. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. Mr. Williamson passed Friday, July 28 at Huntsville Hospital. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to be made in Ira's name to Daystar Church Project Fund, 200 Daystar Dr., Cullman, Alabama 35057.

**Graveside funeral service for Travis Sherrell Hunt**, 80 of Cullman, held Monday, July 31, 2017, at Cullman City Cemetery, Rev. Delbert Freeman officiated. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Hunt passed away Saturday, July 29th at his residence. He was born January 21, 1937, to parents, William Jefferson and Okiedale Flanagan Hunt. He is preceded in death by his parents; son, Bobby Ray Hunt, and brothers, Hurley, Arley, and Cletus Hunt. Survivors include his wife, Mary Gossett Hunt; son, Randy (Cindy) Hunt; grandson, Daniel (Leia) Hunt; granddaughter, Leslie (Benjamin) Dean; and great-grandchildren, Elizabeth Hunt, Ethan Hunt, Sawyer Hunt, and Olivia Dean.

**Lottie Mae Teague Drake**, 86, of Falkville, Alabama passed away Saturday, July 29, 2017. Lottie was born March 11, 1931 to the late William Jerome (Jack) and Audrey (Yarbrough) Teague in Falkville, Alabama. Lottie lived in Alabama until the 1970s when she moved to Oklahoma with her husband, William Hansel Drake and her five younger sons. During her time in Tulsa, OK she obtained her Bachelor's degree in Art and her Master's degree in Education from the University of Oklahoma. She was rightfully proud of these accomplishments, but never more proud than she was of her family and her role as a loving Christian mother. She returned to Alabama with her husband, Hansel Drake, in 2014. Lottie was a vibrant woman who always had a story to tell and a laugh to share. She never met a stranger. Her adventurous spirit was demonstrated in many ways, including the many times she loaded her boys in the car to head to a planned or unplanned destination. Often these journeys were trips back to Alabama to visit relatives. She was a remarkable artist, fantastic cook, collector of antiques, curator of family memories and loving mother and wife. She is survived by her husband William Hansel Drake and sons Randy (Cherri) Drake of Cullman; Vann (Connie) Drake of Tulsa, OK; Butch Drake of Tulsa, OK; Jeff (Sandy) Drake of Denver, CO; John (Sharon) Drake of Vinemont; Paul Drake of Tulsa, OK; Eric Drake of Tulsa, OK; sisters Dorothy (John D) Wilhite; Martha (Larry) Weaver; Anna Sue Hosmer; brother Edward (Becky) Teague and a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. The family received friends at Moss Service Funeral Home, Monday, July 31, 2017 for the celebration of Mrs. Drake's life. Burial will follow in Flint Creek Cemetery. Mrs. Drake will be at Moss Service Funeral Home

**Funeral services for Mary E. Plunkett**, age 98 of Panama City Beach, FL. will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at Holly Pond Funeral Home. Interment following in Union Grove Cemetery. Mrs. Plunkett was born in Cullman County, AL to R.G. Lovell and Lela Taylor Lovell in 1919. She worked in the printing industry for a shipping company. Mrs. Plunkett was a member of United Methodist Women's Club, Pioneers Club of Pelham, and the Methodist Quilting Club. She passed away in Clanton, AL on July 28, 2017. Mrs. Plunkett was predeceased by her parents and husband, Carmon Plunkett. Survivors include her sons, Terry (Erin) Plunkett and Danny Plunkett; grandchildren, Jennifer Letner, Robert Plunkett, Matthew Plunkett, Lee Plunkett, Chris Plunkett, and Kevin Plunkett; 8 great grandchildren; brother, Darrell (Candice) Lovell; and sister, Kathlene (James) Mitchell. The grandchildren will serve as pallbearers. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the family.

**Marie Ellen Cleghorn**, 66 of Arley, entered into rest on Saturday, July 29, 2017 at Cullman Regional Medical Center surrounded by her loving family. Marie was born on September 4, 1950 in Hartselle. She was a member of Bethel Baptist Church for 13 years and was the lady that was guaranteed to have candy and gum readily available for the kids sitting near her during services. Marie graduated from Addison High School Class of 1968 and went on to Calhoun Community College and 1 year at UNA. She retired from the Postal Service in Bessemer in 2010 after 30 years of service. Marie also worked as LPN, and at Dairy Queen as a waitress and cook, where she met her husband Dennis. She was "Nana" and she loved to take full advantage of that role. She loved to sneak off with her grandkids and go shopping, go out to eat, watch a movie or pile them in her kitchen to help her cook. She was the best "Nana" to all of the neighborhood kids and never met a dog, cat, turtle or any other pet that did not gain at least 5 pounds after her visit. Marie made the best cornbread, banana pudding, and chicken and dressing. There was not a laundry stain that she couldn't remove. She had a servant's heart and never ending patience. She led by example and never by force. Marie was the walking definition for what Moses spoke of when he said "Love your neighbor as yourself." Visitation will be held on Wednesday, August 2, 2017 from 12 noon until 2 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home Chapel in Addison, where services will be held at 2pm. Brother Mike Tidwell and Brother Kenny Sudduth will officiate. Burial will follow in Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery in the Upshaw Community. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Dennis Cleghorn; son, Bobby Cleghorn and his wife Amy; daughter, Elizabeth Cain and her husband Jeremiah; a host of nieces and nephews, including Mark Wilson, Cindy Nuss, Leasa Quiles and John Sharp; she was "Nana" to 7 grandchildren, Jonathan Cleghorn and his wife Stephanie, Ethan, Garrett, Amylia, and Zoey Cleghorn, Madalyn and Justin Cain, and 1 great grandchild, Silas Cleghorn. Marie was preceded in death by her parents, Master Sergeant Silas Wafray and Lena Grace Nixon Wilson; and brother, Philip Wilson.

## Free Obituary Listings

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*Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanSense.com/obituaries.*

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# Bussman (from Front)

ery day.

At the Cullman County Republican Party candidate dinner Friday evening, The Tribune caught up with Alabama Sen. Paul Bussman, R-Cullman to ask about what folks might expect to see in the next legislative session.

With no topical prompting, the senator responded, "We've always got funding issues: we've got Medicaid issues that've got to be fixed, prison issues that've got to be fixed. Mental health has got to move to the top of the priorities, because that filters down to prisons and crime."

**With the recent federal court mandate to upgrade mental health services in the state prison system, is there talk of upcoming legislation?**

"Not with us being out of session right now. That won't come till January, but I'm sure there's going to have to be some.

"(Prisons are) a symptom of the problem, and the problem's much bigger than just what's in the prisons. We've got that out in the general population right now.

"We've got so many people that need mental health (care), that are not getting it; and when they don't get it, then bad things happen which puts them in jail, or puts the sheriff (Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry) in a position where he's got to deal with them, or the chief's (Cullman Police Chief Kenny Culpepper) got to deal with them.

"At some point, that has got to move to a priority, and that's one of the things that I'm looking to try to do this year, is to move mental health up in the priorities. I know we've got a lot of needs in the state, but that tends to have a lot of collateral damage that goes along with it."

**How do you move something up in priority?**

"Usually it's a funding issue, simply by rearranging funding to put more resources into mental health. That's generally the way you fix things. So I think that's what's going to happen, but you've got to do it in a way that you're not just throwing money at the problem; you're fixing the problem.

"So I'm looking forward to the new mental health director (Lynn Beshear) coming up with some ideas that we can look at. I think we've got to do more local mental health, and that's going to take community involvement. There's just a lot of issues that come with it; but that, I think, is one of the biggest issues."

**The state of education in Alabama**

After addressing the mental health care issue, Bussman took a moment to speak about matters at the Alabama State Department of Education that have him and other officials frustrated and annoyed.

Bussman stated, "We've got a tremendous problem right now in education. I mean, our state department of education is just in disarray right now, and it's very discouraging to watch them continue to fight and fight and fight, and Mr. (Michael) Sentance has always challenged, and the things that went on with the (Dr. Craig) Pouncey investigation, and those kinds of things, that should not occur."

*(Michael Sentance is the current state superintendent of education. Dr. Craig Pouncey was a candidate for that post until his bid was derailed in part by an anonymous accusation of unethical conduct in the research and writing of his dissertation. An investigator appointed by Sentance reported that the anonymous accusation and its role in the superintendent selection process were the products of a conspiracy between the interim superintendent, a board member, and three department of education attorneys. All five deny the allegations.)*

"All that does," continued Bussman, "is distract the state board from what they're supposed to be doing, (which) is trying to improve education in the state of Alabama. And so we're going to be looking at that issue very closely. I may look at moving some state education dollars to local dollars, to get their attention.

"If they can't get their act together, then I think we need to start moving money away from them, because they're just blowing it, and moving it down to the local school boards, and let them fix the problems in their individual areas.

"You know and I know that Cullman schools are different than Baldwin County schools, and Baldwin County schools are different than Green County schools.

"And we're all different than urban schools. So if you move money to local areas where they can fix the problems that specifically affect them, that's where I think we need to start going. So I'm going to start trying to move money from the state department (of education) down into the local areas, and help resolve some of those issues."

See our story on Beshear's recent visit to Cullman: www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2017/07/29/spotlight-mental-health-new-al-mental-health-commissioner-visits-cullman.

# Beshear (from Front)

and those who struggle with substance abuse."

Beshear moved from Kentucky to Montgomery in 1978 and has been a key player in the city's positive development ever since. She has previously served on the board of directors for organizations and establishments including Montgomery Academy, United Way, First United Methodist Church and others.

She currently serves on the board of Joint Public Charity Hospital, Montgomery Metro YMCA, and the AUM School of Liberal Arts Advisory Board. She is a founding member of Envision 2020 and currently serves as its Executive Director.

Among other honors, Beshear was named the Montgomery Advertiser Woman of Achievement in 1993, and received the Maury D. Smith Excellence in Professional Ethics Award in 2016.

Beshear was born in Durham, North Carolina and is married to Dr. Bob Beshear, a retired pediatrician.

She graduated from North Carolina Baptist Hospital School of Nursing. She worked as a staff nurse in the Intensive Care Nursey at Duke University Medical Center and was promoted to head nurse in the Duke Well-Baby Nursey.

As commissioner, Beshear will work toward developing new polices and strive to better existing programs.

On Thursday, July 27, State Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview hosted a meeting at the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) training center, to introduce Beshear to professionals in his district who are on the front line of Alabama's mental health care struggle. See that full story at www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2017/07/29/spotlight-mental-health-new-al-mental-health-commissioner-visits-cullman.

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# Fishing 4 a Cure 4 ALS debuts first vendor & crafts fair

**Heather Mann**
Tribune Correspondent

**CULLMAN** – For years, the Harris family and their associates have helped raise funds and awareness in Cullman for ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, sometimes called Lou Gehrig's Disease). Founded in honor of Danny Harris, who is battling the disease, the group hosts an annual bass fishing fundraiser in the fall, but recently they decided to add another event to the calendar.

Organized by Megan Harris, the group's first of what it hopes to make an annual vendor and crafts fair was held at the Festhalle Saturday evening.

The fair hosted almost 20 vendors - though the group hopes that the event will grow larger in future years - and also provided live music from the Coleman Brothers.

The vendors included Strength by Design, JewelScent, Perfectly Posh, Housewife Handcrafted, LipSense, Plunder, Mary Kay, adornable.u, Scentsy, doTERRA, Turquoise Cotton Boutique, Mental Healthcare of Cullman, Magic of Mickey and Lula Roe (the inspiration to have a craft fair in the first place). Visitors could choose from a wide variety of clothing, makeup, scented candles, jewelry and self-care products.

Fishing 4 a Cure 4 ALS is a 501c3 nonprofit organization working with the Alabama chapter of the ALS Association, and all proceeds from their events are put toward patient care and medical research.

Currently there is no cure for ALS, but there are certain treatments that can slow the progression of the disease.

ALS is a progressive neurological disorder that kills motor neurons, causing increasing paralysis which often leads to death.

The disease typically develops between the ages of 40-70 (though diagnoses in 20-30-year-olds aren't unheard of), and military veterans are twice as likely to be diagnosed with it.

Since it results from a genetic mutation, it is not contagious, though it can develop in anyone with the mutation at any time regardless of race, gender or ethnicity.

More than half of all patients will live more than three years after being diagnosed, a quarter up to five years, 10 percent living 10 years, and five percent living over 20 years after being diagnosed.

For more information about the disease, visit www.alsa.org (ALS Association) or www.nih.gov (National Institutes of Health).

For more information about Fishing 4 a Cure 4 ALS, visit www.facebook.com/FishingforACure4ALS, where you can find out more about the group's annual bass fishing tournament.

This year's tournament will be held on Sept. 23 at Smith Lake.



HEATHER MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

***Nonprofit Fishing 4 a Cure 4 ALS hopes to make its vendor & crafts fair an annual event.***

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