The Cullman Tribune

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VOL. 144 • 50¢ PER COPY | *NOVEMBER 25, 2017* | USPS 139-700 • NO. 100

Bearcat coaching job up for grabs

CHS out to replace longtime coach Mark Britton, who retired this season



WENDY SACK/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman High School Principal Kim Hall, speaking to The Tribune's Nick Griffin, said the school hopes to have a new head coach in place by Christmas break.

Nick Griffin, Wendy Sack
Tribune Correspondents

CULLMAN – It's been a little more than two months since Cullman High School head football coach Mark Britton announced his retirement. The question every Bearcat fan is asking now is: Who is going to fill those storied shoes?

Britton's 17-year tenure as head coach ended this year, when, on Sept. 22, he announced that the 2017 football season would be his last. Little did he, or anyone, know, that the longtime coach's retirement would come much sooner.

CHS Principal Kim Hall said in a statement in September, "Within 72 hours of this announcement, Coach Britton had health concerns that required medical attention. Through a series of tests and the attention of local physicians, Coach Britton received a diagnosis of renal cancer on Wednesday, Sept. 27. Due to the nature of his condition, Coach Britton will need to follow his doctor's orders at this time and take care of himself through this process. He will undergo surgery once his medical team completes the scheduling process. At this point, the cancer is contained in the kidney and he will require no additional chemotherapy or radiation treatments."

Stepping up, on Oct. 11, CHS Assistant Principal of Student Affairs and Athletic Director Mark Stephens was named the interim head football coach for the remainder of the season.

Now that the 'Cats season is officially over, though, the search for a full-time permanent replacement for Britton is in full-swing.

In an exclusive sit-down interview with The Tribune, Hall said she recognizes the challenge of replacing the winningest football coach in her school's history and wants to make sure the right hire is made for CHS moving forward.

"Coach Britton has never had a losing season here and there are a lot of variables that come into play when you're looking to fill his shoes because those are really some big shoes to fill," shared Hall. "That's why we're trying to be very cautious in the process, to be very thorough, and you know there isn't a surefire answer to who the right person will be.

"You have to have all the right pieces of the puzzle working together and Coach Britton has had a very special career and we've been blessed to have him and his leadership. He loves the kids; he's very passionate about our school and our community, so finding that kind of balance will be very difficult."

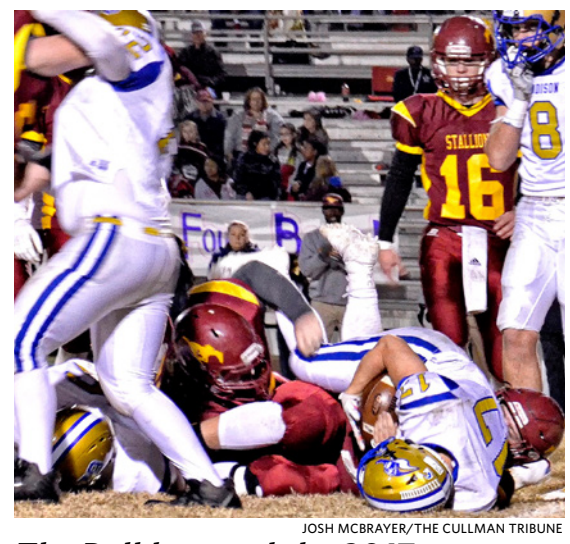
Hall talked about the process that she and others are going through to evaluate the extensive list of candidates for the position. To that end, a search committee was formed, made up of a cross-section of people from the community. Hall said the names of the members would not be released at this time, in order to ensure the validity of the hiring process.

"The coaching world is a pretty tight-knit community so once people knew that Coach Britton would be retiring, they knew the job would be open. From that point I've worked with (Cullman City Schools Superintendent) Dr. (Susan) Patterson to get our job description online and we're looking at exactly what we need to do to fill that position. I've been accepting resumes for a little over a month now and we've had over 60 applicants from in-state, out of state, small schools, large schools and private schools."

Hall said » PAGE 2

PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Addison's season ends with 34-20 loss to South Lamar



JOSH MCBRAYER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Bulldogs end the 2017 season with a very respectable 10-3 record, 6-1 in 1A, Region 7.

Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmantribune.com

MILLPORT – Addison ran into a buzzsaw Friday night in the form of the South Lamar Stallions in a 34-20 season-ending loss.

After swapping punts with the Addison Bulldogs, the Stallions put together an impressive 11-play drive that was led by Herachio Washington and Buster Griffin, who combined for nine carries and 43 yards, but on third-and-goal from the Addison 11, the Stallions took to the air and Addison made them pay when Zayne Guthrie picked off the pass at the goal line and returned it to the Addison 16.

It did not take Addison to capitalize on the turnover, thanks to a 26-yard rush from Tyler Borden that put the Stallions on their heels long enough for Guthrie to connect with Colton Chambers for a 48-yard pitch and catch for a touchdown. Addison did not convert the 2-point try, taking a 6-0 lead.

South Lamar started its next possession from its own 25 and went on the move, with Washington and Griffin chewing up yards down to the Addison 45 at the end of the first.

Starting the second quarter with a third-and-1, quarterback Jack Dowdle kept the ball himself for 12 yards and the first down. On the next play, Dowdle connected with Jarrett Bryant for 39 yards and a first-and-goal from the 1. Dowdle called his number on the very next play, scoring from 1 yard out. The PAT was good and South Lamar took a 7-6 lead, a lead they never lost.

Addison's next drive ended in an interception and South Lamar went right back to work. From their own 24, the Stallions covered 76 yards and capped the drive with a 37-yard touchdown run by Washington. The PAT was booted through the uprights for a 14-6 lead.

The Stallions added another touchdown late in the half when Washington got South Lamar in position for Dowdle to carry the ball from 1 yard out for the second time in the half. The PAT was good, and the Stallions took a 21-6 lead to the half.

Addison got the ball to start the second half, but the drive ended in an interception. The Stallions could do nothing with it, however, and were forced to punt the ball right back to Addi- » PAGE 4

Grace Episcopal launching ministry for victims of memory loss

Grace Place will take place twice a week for four hours of stimulation for body, mind, spirit and socialization

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Grace Episcopal Church is preparing to offer a ministry especially for victims of forms of dementia. On Tuesday, Jan. 2, the church will begin Grace Place, which will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Parish Hall at 305 Arnold St. NE, for what it describes as "four hours of mental, physical, social and spiritual stimulation for people with mild to moderate memory loss."

The Tribune contacted Grace Episcopal's Deacon Jerry Jacob for more information about the program.

Where did you get the idea for Grace Place?

"Jay Jones, a member of Grace Episcopal Cullman, works for » PAGE 2



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Deacon Jerry Jacob outside Grace Episcopal's Parish Hall, where Grace Place will meet

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Job (from Front)

she has also been gathering input from CHS parents, faculty and other parts of the community as to what they would like to see in the next football coach.

"In a coach, we're obviously looking for strong leadership skills and someone that will help us to raise young men to be strong leaders in our community.

"Yes, we want a great football mind, but we also want someone that is invested in Cullman and that acknowledges and respects the commitment that our teachers and other extracurricular sponsors show," Hall stated. "One of the first things I did was have a parent meeting and I created a survey of input and asked parents to provide some sample questions or other things they'd like to see be a part of the process.

"As resumes are coming in right now I've worked with our administrators on campus as well as Dr. Patterson and our other head coaches on campus to formulate a rubric to score the resumes. It's a very calculated, academic process because there's a lot of qualities that we're looking for in a head coach, including that coach being, or wanting to become, an invested member of our community."

The administration is still in the search process, but Hall and the search committee are working hard to try to make the hire by the time the semester ends for Christmas break.

Hall said she would like to have the new coach in place before the beginning of the year, to work on developing next year's schedule, with the Alabama High School Athletic Association's (AHSAA's) regional re-alignment coming up soon, as well as to get the students ready for off-season programs.

Coach Britton not only coached football, but also baseball. Under his leadership, the Bearcat baseball team made it to the final four of the state playoffs; the team garnered 199 game wins during his 10-year run as head baseball coach.

Since 1998, two of Britton's former players have served as CHS head baseball coaches: Brian Bowen and Brent Patterson. In 1998, Britton was hired on as the head football coach at Fairview High School, where he led the Aggies to a 17-15 record during his tenure.

In 2001, Britton returned to his alma mater to take over the helm as head football coach of the Bearcats. Britton had 151 wins on the Cullman grid iron, the last coming when his Bearcats beat Fayette Co. 37-34 on Friday, Sept. 29.



"It was a great victory," Britton said following his team's stunning upset of Fayette County in the final seconds.

"It's wonderful. The kids fought all the way through it. I'm just proud of the kids."

The next Bearcat football coach has a lot to live up to after the long, successful Britton era of Cullman football, but Hall is confident that the detailed search and hire process will result in the right hire for the school.

Ministry (from Front)

a home health company in Birmingham. Part of his job is offering training in dementia for social workers, nurses, hospital discharge staff, etc.

"He had a session at Canterbury United Methodist in Mountain Brook and met the director of their mature adults programs, Valerie Boyd. She introduced him to Respite, their version of this program that is also based on the first program of its kind at the Methodist Church in Lawrenceville, Georgia, begun in 2004."

Jones returned to Grace Episcopal and approached Jacob and Senior Warden Donnie Moyer, who began looking into the work of similar existing ministries in Birmingham and Montgomery.

Earlier this year, the church decided to proceed with the project, naming Jacob as the interim director until two permanent staffers can be hired.

What programs and services will the ministry offer?

"Each twice-a-week session will consist of four hours of stimulation for body, mind, spirit and socialization. Each participant, a person with mild to moderate memory loss, will be paired with a volunteer throughout the session. A hot, nutritious lunch will be catered in by the Red Door Café. Experienced volunteer exercise leaders, who have worked with seniors, will conduct the morning chair exercise sessions. We are looking for people skilled in arts and/or crafts who can lead those sessions.

"We will be asking organizations with pre-school day care programs if they would allow some of their children to visit and interact with our folks. And, we hope to find someone with a therapy animal who might visit."

Regular meetings will include: table activities such as puzzles, word games, bingo, reminiscences; singing both secular songs popular during the clients' youth, and hymns; lunch; and exercise activities.

Each meeting will also feature celebrations based on established holidays like New Year's Day and Mardi Gras, and some more fun like National Fig Newton Day. Each quarter, clients and volunteers will take part in a community service activity as well, such as writing cards of thanks and encouragement to local charities.

Who will be involved with Grace Place?

"Churches that have expressed serious interest include Cullman Church of Christ, St. John's E.P. Church, Christ Lutheran Church and First Presbyterian Church. The Cullman Rotary Club has expressed interest and we look forward to working with them. United Way of Cullman provided assistance.

"We have an advisory board made up of volunteers: Wesley Harding, Jay Jones, Lori McGrath, Amy Speegle and Kathy Yoho, who will bring what the public is saying about the program, both good and bad, and help us find ways to make improvements.

"We will also ask caregivers and families of participants to give us regular feedback on how the program works for them and their loved one."

Caregivers will not be expected to accompany their patients to all Grace Place functions, but will be welcomed and encouraged to attend from time to time, to see for themselves what is happening.

How do interested parties get information or get people enrolled?

"They can call Grace Place at 256-736-4260. We will invite them to come for an interview to learn details about the program. Those will be taking place every Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon through Dec. 21. We are not asking for caregivers or families to enroll their loved ones before they both have a chance to participate in a session.

The first session will be provided, then they can see for themselves how it works and if it might be right for their situation.

Volunteers will attend a training session prior to the first program day to learn how best to work with people with memory loss. They also should call 256-736-4260 to schedule an interview."

Participants in the program will be dementia patients with mild to moderate memory loss who can still move about on their own (even if a walker or wheelchair is required), feed themselves, and tend to their own restroom needs.

Participation in Grace Place will cost $30 per day, including lunch and all activities.

With sitters routinely charging $12 to $15 per hour, Jacob believes the program's fee for four-hour meetings is a bargain. He also wants to be sure caregivers and families understand that no client will be turned away due to an inability to pay.

"If they can't afford it," said Jacob, "we're going to take the person anyway. This is not a money-making deal."

Clients and their caregivers can decide how often they will participate in the program. No minimum number of sessions is currently required.

For caregivers of dementia patients

Grace Episcopal is already home to The Caring Support Group, which helps caregivers of memory loss victims provide each other with mutual support, encouragement and understanding fellowship.

This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Arnold House at 305 Arnold St. NE.

The final word

Jacob said that a victim of dementia "is a child of God, still has a soul, still matters, and ought to matter to other people . . . They're no less a person, just because they don't have the memory they used to have. These folks aren't monsters, by any stretch of the imagination. But for the grace of God, we could be there, too."

For more information about Grace Place, call 256-736-4260 or email Jacob at dcnjacob@gmail.com. For more information about the caregivers' support group, call Jones at 205-914-1289.

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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 vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80.

2005 Ford LGT Convt, Vin. #1FTPW14505FB40076, tag #WDK380.

This vehicle will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Ponder's Wrecker Service and Auto, 2600 Alabama Highway 157, Cullman, Alabama 35058, on Friday, December 29, 2017, at 8:00 a.m.

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1994 Honda CBR600F2 VIN # JH2PC2500RM301598
1992 BMW 850i VIN # WBAEG2315NCB74573
2005 Chevy Trailblazer VIN # 1GNET16S256145371

These vehicles will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Smith's Body Shop and Wrecker Service, LLC, 11597 US Highway 278 East, Holly Pond, Alabama, 35083, on Friday, December 29, 2017, at 8:00 a.m.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

HOLLIS CECIL KEEL, deceased CASE NO. PC2017-319

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF HOLLIS CECIL KEEL, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Beverly Charlene Keel on the 17th day of November, 2017, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Beverly Charlene Keel, Personal Representative

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 Beverly Charlene Keel
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on April 19, 2005 by Tabitha A. Bonner, a single woman, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book 1424, Page 163 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on December 5, 2017:

Thirty-three (33) acres, more or less, in the Southwest Quarter (SW ¼) of the Northwest Quarter (NW ¼) of Section Sixteen (16), Township Twelve (12), Range Four (4) West Viz Beginning at a sweet gum near a branch at a corner of lot sold to J.W. Johnson 270 feet E of the SW corner of said lot; thence due E to the Cullman and Bremen Highway; thence along W boundary of said highway to an intersection with a line parallel to and ten feet south of a store building; thence on said parallel line 152 feet to an intersection with a line parallel with and ten feet W of the small dwelling house; thence with last named parallel line 83 feet to the Brushy Pond Highway; thence along the S side of said highway to the N line of said forty acre lot; thence due W to the NW corner of said lot; thence S 880 feet to the NW corner of said J.W. Johnson lot; thence with the boundaries of the said J.W. Johnson lot to the place of beginning.

LESS AND EXCEPT: Begin at the NW corner of the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 16, Township 12, Range 4 West and go E 640 feet to the center of the old abandoned Brushy Pond Road, then go in a Southerly direction along the center of said road 923 feet to the point of beginning, then go back along center of said road in a Northerly direction 260 feet, then go in a Westerly direction and perpendicular to said road 170 feet, then in a Southeasterly direction to the point of beginning, this land being one-half acre, more or less.

ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT: Begin at the NW corner of the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 16, Township 12, Range 4 West and go E 640 feet to the center of the old abandoned Brushy Pond Road, then go in a Southerly direction along center of said road 663 feet and then go in a Westerly direction and perpendicular to said road 170 feet to a point of beginning, continue along said perpendicular 84 feet to NW corner, then Southeasterly along a meandering Branch 167 feet to SW corner; thence in Easterly direction 294 feet to Southeast corner; thence 20 feet along abandon Brushy Pond Road; thence back to point of beginning..

ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT: From the SE corner of the SW ¼ of the NW ¼, Section 16, Township 12 South, Range 4 West; thence W along the S boundary of said forty to the intersection with the W R.O.W. of old Hwy. # 69; thence S21°00'W along said R.O.W. a distance of 31.2 feet to the point of beginning; thence an interior angle of 90°00' a distance of 340.6 feet to a point; thence an interior angle of 90°00' a distance of 192 feet to a point; thence an interior angle of 90°00' a distance of 340.6 feet to a point on the West R.O.W. of old Hwy. #69; thence an interior angle of 90 degrees 00' a distance of 192 feet to the point of beginning, lying and being in the NW ¼ of SW ¼, and the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 16, Township 12 South, Range 4 West and containing 1.5 acres, more or less.

ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT: From the SE corner of the SW ¼ of the NW ¼, Section 16, Township 12 South, Range 4 West, go W along the S boundary of said forty to a point on the W right-of-way of Old Hwy. #69; thence continue along same said line a distance of 77 feet to the point of beginning; thence N66°45'W a distance of 267.5 feet to a point; thence S88°00'W a distance of 114.6 feet to a point; thence S7°00'E a distance of 73.8 feet to a point on the S boundary of said forty; thence E along said boundary a distance of 354 feet to the point of beginning, lying and being in the SW ¼ of the NW ¼, Section 16, Township 12 South, Range 4 West and containing three tenths of an acre, more or less. Situated, lying and being in Cullman County, State of Alabama.

ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT: Beginning at the NW corner of the SW ¼ of the NW ¼, Sec. 16, T12S, R4W and go E 640 feet more or less to the center of the old abandoned Brushy Pond Road; then go in a Southerly direction along center of said road 663 feet more or less to a point; then go in a Westerly direction 254 feet more or less to the center of a meandering branch; then go in a Northwesterly direction 1200 feet more or less to the point of beginning.

All of the above described property situated, lying and being in Cullman County, Alabama.

The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874
Publication Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422
Humble Roots, LLC
Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: robin@cullmansense.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES

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

NoahGalilee–Publisher
DustinIsom–Editor
Wendy Sack – Newsroom Editor
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Will Hogue – General Reporter
W.C. Mann– General Reporter
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Shrine Nativity Creche offers unique, quiet alternative to commercial Christmas

W.C. Mann
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OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS MONASTERY

The Creche chapel includes seating for small groups, votive candles and holy water.

HANCEVILLE – For almost all of us, the beeping and booping of price scanners and cash registers are as much sounds of the holiday season as Christmas carols. Whether face-to-face or online, it's hard to get away from the commercial side of Christmas. We all shop for friends and loved ones (and The Tribune hopes its readers will patronize local businesses in Cullman County).

But just in case you need a moment now and then to clear your head and recapture the essence of the season, over the next few weeks, The Tribune will present a few things readers can do around the Cullman area to celebrate without needing to ask for gift wrap or a return receipt.

In our first installment: a unique place in a quiet rural setting that offers a meditative journey back in time.

On the grounds of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament outside Hanceville sits the Creche, an enclosed devotional grotto housing an impressive nativity set.

And for those who like nativity sets, this one is quite impressive: a collection of Fontanini figures more than half actual life size (50-inch scale): the Holy Family, shepherds, animals, wise men and angels in a permanent year-round display.

The chapel before the display includes seating for small groups, along with votive candles and holy water.

The Shrine's website describes the Creche as "a place of meditation on the mystery of Christmas, this little chapel is more than a simple nativity display. The Holy Cave, or Creche, is meant to help preserve the awe and wonder of Christmas throughout the entire year. In a unique way the Creche brings to mind the reality of what actually happened 2,000 years ago: 'The Word was made Flesh, He lived among us, and we saw His glory, the glory that is His as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth' (John 1:14). This little chapel is a year-round reminder of the Incarnation and the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ."

For more information on the Shrine's attractions and programs, visit www.olamshrine.com, or call 256-352-6267.

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1959

Miss James Dies

Funeral services were held on November 11th at the Moss Service Chapel for Miss Alice James, 79, of Cullman, who died in Tuscaloosa on October 30th.

Reverend J.B. Lane conducted the services and Moss Service directed interment in City Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Frank James, Preston James, Morris James, Grady Smith, Ralph Oaks and Martin H. Holcomb.

Surviving are one brother, W.E. James, of Cullman; two sisters, Mrs. S.C. Sloan and Mrs. Hattie Mae Ballenger, both of Birmingham and eleven nieces and nephews.

Miss James taught school in Cullman and Blount County.

Crumbley Rites Held

Mrs. Tansy Crumbley, 37, died on October 29th at Cullman Hospital and funeral services were held at Roswell, in Blount County, on October 31st with the Reverend George Helms officiating and Moss Service directing interment.

Survivors include: her husband, W.J. Crumbley; two sons, James R. and Dannie R.; one daughter, Brenda Joyce; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Powell; four sisters and three brothers.

Texas Rancher, 92, Wins Bride In City A 92-year-old rancher from Lomita, Texas, is honeymooning with his 75-year-old Santa Barbara bride.

George Ashwander and the former Mrs. Alice Helene Simpson, of 2679 Puesta del Sol Road, were married at 3:30 p.m., yesterday in the First Methodist Church by the pastor, the Reverend Frank Matthews.

Their only attendant was a friend of the bride, Kathryn Martin, also of Puesta del Sol Road.

Friends said that Mrs. Simpson is a former Army nurse and has served in hospitals around the world.

For seven years she operated a hotel in the Philippines.

The above is a clipping from a Santa Barbara, California, newspaper sent by the bridegroom to his brother, John Ashwander, of Hanceville.

The bridegroom was reared at Hanceville and resided there a great deal of his adult life.

A local Hanceville resident quipped, "The Ashwanders are from Switzerland and are the best time keepers in the world. Old George will probably outlive his young bride."

Burns Fatal To Woman

Mrs. J.E. Pruitt, 57, died around midnight on Monday, the victim of burns from her ankles to her head.

The accident, which caused her death, occurred at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, while she and her 90-year-old husband were attempting to improvise a gasoline lantern, after they had exhausted their supply of kerosene.

The Pruitts lived in a remote corner of Cullman County, a considerable distance from their nearest neighbors.

Only a path leads from the Pruitts house to the nearest road.

Coroner J. Grady Moss said that Mr. Pruitt told him that he tried to ease the pain of his wife's burns for five hours, after the accident until she died. He applied some homemade salve to her body.

Funeral services for Mrs. Pruitt were held at Bell Springs on November 4th with Moss Service directing interment.

Surviving are her husband and four sisters.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

What do I have for which I give thanks?

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Thanksgiving comes at a time of year when crops have been gathered and the calendar year is winding down and almost over. It was originally set aside as a special day to give thanks to God for the harvest and for the blessings of the year. I have picked cotton, but I have never been a farmer. I grew up working in the family garden, but these days my only crops are a muscadine vine and maybe a few tomato plants. As for the year of 2017, quite honestly, it has been a tough one for my family and me. Someone recently asked me how I could go through all I've been through recently and still have a sense of humor about it all. The answer is simple; I'd rather laugh than cry. Besides that, many others are going through far worse than I have. In spite of it all, I am blessed. So, this Thanksgiving, what do I have for which I give thanks?

I give thanks that the sun came up this morning and so did I. Each day is an unearned gift. I give thanks for life – the one I live this day, and the one I will live when this one ends. I give thanks to the One who gave them both to me.

I also give thanks to my parents for bringing me into this world.

They've both been gone a long time, but I give thanks for my memories of them, as well as other family members who have left us, like my siblings Elbert and Joan, my niece Teresa, and most recently my nephew Paul.

While I wish they were still here, I give thanks for the time I had with each of them.

I give thanks for Jean, my soulmate and love of my life for the past forty-two years. I give thanks for Ashley, our daughter, her husband, Justin, and Drew, my buddy-boy and grandson.

I give thanks for a multitude of friends made through the years. I even give thanks for "man's best friends," especially Ginger (sixty-five) and Cocoa (fifteen).

I give thanks for this country and that I am an American. Yes, we have our problems and they seem more and bigger each year, but I wouldn't live anywhere else.

I give thanks for this opportunity to write for you in your newspaper. I give thanks for my new novel that came out this year.

I give thanks for the beautiful autumn array of colored leaves in my backyard. I love our new back porch, where I have sat during my recovery and enjoyed viewing God's handiwork. I give thanks that with all those dozens of trees there, only one of them fell on our house during Irma!

Most of all I give thanks that no one was hurt. I give thanks that the repairs have been made and our house is almost back to normal.

I give thanks that kidney stones are more the size of B.B.s than golf balls. I'm glad God doesn't answer every prayer we pray, especially during kidney stone attacks! I give thanks for robotic surgery, skilled doctors and compassionate nurses.

I give thanks that I'm cancer free and do not need treatments. I give thanks for all the prayers, not to mention the good food, cards, emails, Facebook messages, visits, and calls from so many friends during this time.

I give thanks for turkey and dressing, yams, and cranberry sauce. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and please don't forget to give thanks, even if it's been a tough year.

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

Poet's Corner

Carry

By: Tyler Adams
Hayden, Alabama

Each and every day I carry my
loved ones in my heart,
They are my strength and wisdom
that gives each day a bright start.
Loved ones are there to listen
when no one else can,
Always are they eager to lend a helping hand. For
my loved ones are a great strength to my life.
They are with me through joy, happiness
and even strife. Loved ones are there
to wipe away my every tear...
They are with me throughout my life, year
after year. Loved ones are worth more than
any conceivable treasure, They will love and
carry you in their heart now and forever.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
NOVEMBER 25, 2017

PREP BASKETBALL

Annual Holly Pond tournament ends with spectacular performance from Broncos

Good Hope, Cullman, Holly Pond notch wins

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Holly Pond's offense erupted in the final two minutes of the Broncos' game against Good Hope, making up a double-digit deficit going on to win it 68-62.

HOLLY POND – The 61st annual Holly Pond Thanksgiving Invitational Basketball Tournament is in the books, and the final day was full of great games and stellar performances from several local teams.

The junior varsity teams finished their tournament before the varsity starting with the third-place game between the Good Hope Raiders and J.B. Pennington Tigers.

It was a tough 32 minutes for the Tigers as they struggled to come up with offense against Good Hope's press defense. The Raiders defense came up with 12 steals during the game. On the other side of the ball, the Raiders got great games out of Eli Phares and Tanner Malin, who finished with 19 and 22 points respectively. The high-scoring offense and stout defense paved the way to a dominant 62-28 victory for the Good Hope Raiders.

Up next in the junior varsity championship game were the Cullman Bearcats and the Holly Pond Broncos. This contest was much more competitive than its predecessor as the momentum shifted back and forth between the two teams for four quarters.

Holly Pond got off to a hot start going up 10-0 early in the first quarter and led 21-10 by the end of the quarter. Cullman was able to get their offense going in the second quarter to tie the game at 31 going into the half.

The Broncos stayed with Cullman through the third quarter as well, thanks to big performances from Isaac Ludwig, who finished with 17 points, as well as Jordan Albright, who put up 16 points and five rebounds of his own. The Broncos pulled away in the fourth quarter thanks to some defensive adjustments and won 81-63. Mason Herron led the 'Cats in scoring, with 12 points including two deep 3-pointers.

The first varsity matchup in the final day of round robin play was between the J.B. Pennington Tigers and the Cullman Bearcats. The Bearcats got off to a slow start, trailing 14-5 at the end of the first quarter but made up some ground in the second quarter to cut the lead to 21-20 at halftime.

Cullman came out of the locker room shooting and put the Tigers away in the second half on their way to a 57-44 win and a 3-0 record in the tournament. Drew Morton led the way for the 'Cats on offense with 19 points and three baskets from beyond the arc. Dylan Finch wasn't far behind with 13 points and six rebounds.

In the final game of the tournament, the Holly Pond Broncos and the Good Hope Raiders faced off in a physical game with a dramatic ending.

The Raiders started the game on fire, scoring 21 points in the first quarter, 11 of which came from forward Kallen Sharpton. Sharpton finished the game with 13 points and four rebounds.

The Raiders led 21-10 at the end of the first and didn't give up the lead until there was less than a minute remaining in the game. Holly Pond's offense had been contained for the entire game but erupted in the final two minutes to make up a double-digit deficit and tied the game at 61 on a layup from Kyler Chaney with less than a minute to play. The Broncos took their first lead on a free throw from McKinley Garrett with 38 seconds to play and sprinted through the finish to win it 68-62. Garrett was all over the floor pulling in a game-high 13 rebounds to go along with 17 points.

The 2017 basketball season is in full swing with the local Thanksgiving tournaments wrapping up and teams looking to build off their performances this holiday season.

Addison (from Front)

son.

The Bulldogs started the drive from their own 13. After going backward on the first play of the drive, Guthrie found a seam and busted up the middle for an 81-yard touchdown run. The 2-point conversion was good and Addison pulled to within seven, 21-14.

South Lamar looked for a little breathing room on its next possession and got it in the form of a 54-yard scamper for a touchdown by Griffin. The PAT made the score 28-14. Addison answered the Stallions' score in the opening minutes of the fourth with a 4-yard touchdown pass from Guthrie to Logan Wilkins. The PAT was missed, and the score stood at 28-20.

South Lamar effectively put the game away on its next drive with a 3-yard touchdown from Washington. The 2-point conversion failed, and the score stood at 34-20, where it remained, as the Stallions move on to the fourth round of the 2017 AHSAA 1A state football playoffs.

The Bulldogs end the 2017 season with a very respectable 10-3 record, 6-1 in 1A, Region 7.

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PREP BASKETBALL

Flanigan, Evans lead Bulldogs to 45-42 tournament victory

Norman Bush
Tribune Correspondent



NORMAN BUSH/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Bulldogs celebrate after their overtime tournament victory Friday night.

HANCEVILLE – The 35th annual Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament wrapped on Friday evening, with the home team Hanceville Bulldogs taking the crown, in overtime, 45-42, against Corner.

The first game of the day saw Falkville Blue Devils take a close one from the Curry Yellow Jackets, 66-61.

The third-place game was a showdown between the Tarrant Wildcats and the Dora Bulldogs. Dora came out on top, 56-43.

The first period of the Tarrant and Dora contest was a slow one, with the Bulldogs taking an 11-7 lead.

In the second, Dora blew things wide open, outscoring the Wildcats 23-10. At the break, the score stood at 34-17.

In the third, the Bulldogs kept up the pressure widening their lead to 48-24.

The Wildcats attempted a comeback, but the Bulldogs were having none of that.

Final score: Dora 57, Tarrant 43

The final game of the night matched the Hanceville Bulldogs against the Corner Yellow Jackets for the tournament title.

As time expired in a slow-going opening period, the Bulldogs' Raiden Morgan banked a 3-pointer, giving Hanceville a 10-6 lead.

The Bulldogs opened the second by banking two more 3-pointers, back-to-back. They outscored the Yellow Jackets 16-6 to extend their lead at half to 26-12.

In the fourth, the Yellow Jackets perked up, going on a 14-6 run to tie the game 38-38 with 1:40 left to play.

The Bulldogs would take the lead back quickly, 40-38, before the Yellow Jackets tied it up again, 40-40 with: 59 seconds to go.

Time ran out in the fourth with score all tied up, 40-40.

Jumping into overtime, the Yellow Jackets took a one-point lead, but the Bulldogs answered back, getting the last 3 points to win the tournament, 45-42.

Hanceville's Brendan Flanigan led the Bulldogs with 15 points, and R.J. Evans ended up with 10.

Bill Smith
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WSCC NEWS

Final Health Fair of 2017 set for Nov. 29

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College's Department of Nursing Education will offer its final CELEBRATE Health Fair of the fall semester on Wednesday, Nov. 29, from 8 a.m. to noon, in the Wellness Center.

The public is welcome to attend the free event, which includes the opportunity to check blood pressure, bone density and more.

Wallace State Nursing students and staff will be available to outline possible drug interactions, as well as advise on healthy eating habits, exercises, stress relief, safe driving, signs of heart attack or stroke and more.

Students Heather Hann and Eric Faulkner, educated visitors about strokes and heart attacks at the Staying Alive table during the most recent health fair in October.

Hann, of Hartselle, said the difference between a stroke and a heart attack is that a stroke causes damage to the brain due to lack of oxygen.

She tells them about the difference between regular strokes and TIAs, or mini-strokes, which resemble a stroke, but the blood supply isn't completely clogged.

"I'm teaching about the signs and symptoms of stroke and," Hann said.

Knowing those signs and getting help at the earliest possible time are crucial to preventing more damage, she said. Hann also gave participants tips on how to prevent strokes.

Faulkner, of Oneonta, gave participants the warning signs of a heart attack.

"The most common heart attack symptom is chest pain and discomfort," Faulkner said. Patients can also suffer pain in their arms, back, neck, jaw and stomach.

One of the main things they tried to get across is if someone suspects they are having a heart attack or stroke is to go ahead and call 911. "Don't hesitate," Faulkner said.

Hann and Faulkner both said that working at the Staying Alive table will help them as they go forward in their education.

Jody Sharp of Hayden attended the health fair in September with her friend, Virginia Hollis of Hanceville.



WSCC

A CELEBRATE Health Fair participant gets information on how to relax during the October event held at Wallace State Community College. The last event of the year will be held from 8 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, Nov. 29, in the Wellness Center.

"It's a great program," Sharp said. "We got a lot of information on different health issues. We appreciate them doing this."

"The last two that we went to, the dietician and the medication, I enjoyed them," Hollis said. "It gave me a lot of information."

Both women encouraged others to attend the health fair. "It's great," Hollis said.

The Wellness Center is located next to Tom Drake Coliseum on the west side of the college campus.

The health fair is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Amy Burtram at 256-352-8062 or amy.burtram@wallacestate.edu.

For more information about Wallace State visit www.wallacestate.edu or call 256-352-8000.

Obituary Announcements: Nov. 25-26

Funeral services for Wesley Arthur Barnett, 78, of Hanceville are Saturday, November 25 at noon at Hanceville Funeral Home; with interment in Mt. Grove Congregational Cemetery. Visitation on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Mr. Barnett passed away on Tuesday, November 21, 2017. He was preceded in death by his parents, William Arthur Barnett and O'neil Thompson Barnett and brothers, Don Barnett and Ralph Barnett. He is survived by his wife, Ann Barnett; daughter, Dana Barnett; brother, Howard "Butch" (Becky) Barnett; sister, Rebecca "Becky" (Mark) Hounschell and sister-in-law, Sheila Barnett.

Donald Lewis King, 75 of Bristol, TN Formerly of Cullman, AL. died Thursday, November 23, 2017. He is survived by his daughter, Tracy Johnson; son, Danny King; 5 grandchildren; and 4 great grandchildren. The family will celebrate the life of Mr. King with a graveside service on Saturday, November 25, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Moss Service Funeral Home Directing.

McArthur "Mac" Gurganus, age 75, of Cullman, passed away Thursday, November 23, 2017, at home. He was born June 11, 1942 to Arie Willard and Martha Lanningham Gurganus. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He worked in the carpet industry as a salesman. Mr. Gurganus was a member of The Church of the Highlands. Mr. Gurganus is preceded in death by his parents, his daughter; Mandy Grieden, and his brother; Roland Gurganus. He is survived by his wife, Sue Carden Gurganus; son, Russell (Shannon) Gurganus; brothers, Grady Gurganus, George Gurganus, and Danny Gurganus; sisters, Betty Alexander, Rose Vickery, Gladys Penney, and Mary Harpman; and two grandchildren. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mr. Gurganus.

Funeral services for Goldie Jean Clements, 83, are Saturday, November 25 at 11 a.m. at Antioch Baptist Church; with interment in the church cemetery. Visitation on Friday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mrs. Clements passed away on Wednesday, November 22, 2017. She was preceded in death by her parents, Odie and Annie Mae Robbins; her husband, Don L. Clements; son, Roy Timothy Clements; sister, Carolyn Sims and Kathleen Sivley and brothers, J.R. Robbins and James Edward Robbins. She is survived by sons, Donald (Cindy) Clements, Charlie (Connie) Clements and Robert (Pam) Jackson; six grandchildren; eleven great grandchildren; brother, David (Violet) Stanford and sister, Ann (Bruce) Manasco.

Thomas "Tommy" Maurice Brown, 78 of State Center, IA, passed away on Friday, November 17, 2017 at State Center Specialty Care. Graveside service for Mr. Brown will be held Sunday, November 26, 2017 at 2 p.m. at Falkville City Cemetery. Following the service, a gathering for family and friends will be held at the Cullman Commission on Aging Senior Center at Sportsman Lake Park in Cullman, AL. Tommy Brown was born on September 16, 1939, in Falkville, AL to Walter M. and Ruby L. Blackwood Brown. Mr. Brown served his country honorably in the United States Air Force. On November 30, 2002, Brown was united in marriage to Beth Henze at St. Paul Lutheran Church in State Center. He retired from truck driving after fifty-six years and had also been a member of the Masonic Lodge. He enjoyed Alabama football "Roll Tide", camping, and was an avid NASCAR fan. Mr. Brown is survived by his wife of almost fifteen years, Beth; children: Terry (Dean) Maddox of Falkville, AL and Perry Brown of Cullman, AL; grandchildren: Christopher (Ashley) Dover of Logan, AL, Tabatha (Justin) Veal of Falkville, AL, and Jake (Nissa) Dover of Falkville, AL, as well as six great grandchildren.

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EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Holiday safety tips from local fire officials

W.C. Mann, Will Hogue
Tribune Correspondents

CULLMAN – With the joy of the holiday season comes colder weather, and with that, come out the heaters, electric blankets and warm fireplaces. Each winter there are tragedies that affect communities around the nation due to the methods taken to stay warm during the cold months. Homes often see more clutter, more activity around fireplaces, more cooking, more electrical usage (often with "creative" use of wiring), more people and more distractions.

Cullman Fire Marshal Chris Chaffin, along with fire chiefs from around the county, has some words of advice for all Cullmanites on how to avoid dangerous situations.

The three most common issues they mentioned encountering in a typical Christmas season are:

1. Kitchen fires, especially when cooks are trying to prepare too many things at once, or are distracted by kids or house guests

2. Electrical fires from overloaded circuits or shorted wiring in lights

3. Ignition of flammable objects and decorations placed too close to heat sources (fireplaces, candles, space heaters, heat lamps for pets or plants)

Chaffin said, "Unattended cooking, failure to follow manufacturer instructions, dry Christmas trees, electrical issues and unattended candles," are the top sources of fires this time of year.

Regarding Christmas trees, Chaffin shared, "Some people like live Christmas trees. Though very pretty, they can become the largest fire hazard in the home during the holidays. Trees should be watered daily. If you buy a live tree, the lot you purchased from or yourself, should cut approximately 2 inches off the bottom to ensure the tree can absorb the water up through the trunk.

"Water daily and check often if you have small animals that can get to the water. Ensure that the lights that are on the tree have a UL listing and are rated for indoor use. Do not place trees near fireplaces (wood or gas) or in any path that leads to an exit door. Turn all lights off when not in use, especially at night before bed. Do not leave lights on when not and home and the best bet is to unplug from the wall receptacle."

Chaffin also spoke about how an overlooked cause of many fires is the electrical wiring in homes.

"Overloads and faulty wiring is a hazard due to the amount of additional Christmas lights being used. Before using, inspect each string of wires for cuts, nicks, dry rot and plug ends are secure. If any of these are found, cut off the ends and throw away. If purchasing new lights, ensure they have a UL rating and they are listed for use for indoor, outdoor, or both. Use caution with the number of extension cords while using light strings. Extension cords should never be plugged into another extension cord.

"We suggest using power strips that can be used both indoor and outdoor for connections. As with indoor lighting, it is best to be unplugged from the receptacle when not in use. If used with a timer, make sure the timer works, has no signs of overheating and is in good condition. Remember, you get what you pay for, if it is cheap then it probably is not going to be the best choice."

Chaffin listed off several quick tips that people can heed to help avoid tragedy.

"Everyone should check and ensure all the smoke alarms are working. Fire extinguishers should be checked and be readily available. If you don't have one, give yourself an early Christmas present and purchase one from a local retailer or fire extinguisher company. A last minute shopping idea is to give weather alert radios," and finally, "extra caution should be used when using electric space heaters."

Here's a detailed list of things you can do to keep your home safe this holiday season, according to Chaffin and others:

Christmas trees

- Have the bottoms of live trees freshly cut, so they will more easily absorb water.
- Water live trees DAILY. (According to Chaffin, they are "thirsty, thirsty vegetation.")
- Turn off tree lights at bedtime, even on artificial trees.
- Don't use live candles on the tree.
- Keep trees away from fireplaces and space heaters.

Decorative lights and candles

- Keep candles out of the reach of children.
- As mentioned above, don't put candles on the tree.
- Use plastic clips to hang lights; nails can accidentally penetrate wiring and cause shorts.
- Check labels to see if lights are for indoor or outdoor use, and use accordingly.

Lit fireplaces

- Have the chimney flue cleaned before the first usage of the season.
- Use a grate or screen in front of the fireplace.
- Keep stockings and other decorations out from in front of a lit fireplace.
- Don't set up the tree too close, and don't let gifts pile up toward the fireplace.

Kitchen

- Keep kids out of a busy kitchen.
- Limit the number of cooks and "official tasters" in the kitchen.
- Keep lids handy; cover a grease fire and turn off the stove.
- Don't try to carry a pan full of flaming grease through the kitchen and out the door.
- Don't try to cook everything at once.
- No matter how cold it is, don't bring outdoor grills indoors.

Emergency/escape plan

- Have a fire escape plan, and go over it with visitors.
- When rearranging furniture or setting up decorations, don't block doors.

General seasonal advice

- Get gas lines checked before you turn the heat on for the first time in the season.
- Have a fire extinguisher or two, and make sure they are charged.
- Use smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, and keep good batteries in them.
- Buy space heaters with tip-over switches that can turn them off automatically.
- Keep space heaters away from flammable materials.
- Turn off space heaters when you leave a room or go to bed.
- Avoid the use of any outdoor heating or cooking device for indoor heat.
- If using heat lamps to protect pets or plants, make sure those devices are not mounted on, close to, or pointing directly at combustible materials.











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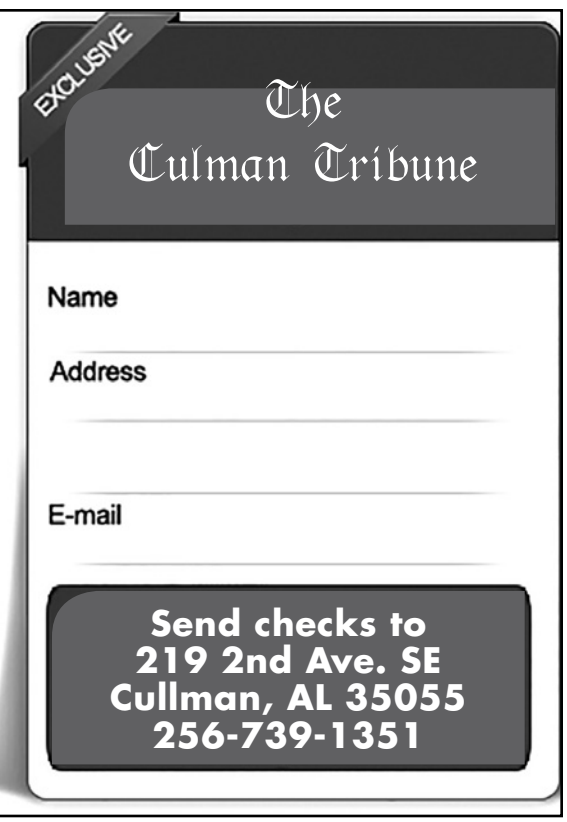
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>Misc: Fireproof Safe, Stanley thermos's, Collection of Modern and Old bells, Cast iron small man and stage coach, New items in the box, All sorts of pictures, Golf items, Golf clubs, Golf clubs with wooden shafts, golf tees, Wooden ducks, Duck pictures signed by artist, Artwork, Antique drink thermometer, Miller beer light, Coke glasses, Coke bottle opener, Cast iron Dutch oven, Cast iron bean pot, Old projectors, Vintage TV, wall hanging mirrors, Lamps, Art glass, Milk Glass, Several salt and pepper shakers. Serving pieces including- Sterling Silver, Silver over copper, Hammered Aluminum, Several sets of China, Pottery, Very nice set of RED CLIFF DINNERWARE Approx 98 pieces...and more...Primitive furniture to include pegged table, Oak center Table with drawers on each end.

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