The Cullman Tribune

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VOL. 144 • 50¢ PER COPY | *NOVEMBER 28, 2017* | USPS 139-700 • NO. 101

Piggly Wiggly closing its doors



PHOTO COURTESY WENDY SACK/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Both the Piggly Wiggly, and the Ace Hardware inside, are set to close in the next three weeks.

Wendy Sack, W.C. Mann
Tribune Correspondents



CULLMAN – Cullman's Piggly Wiggly, located at 4933 Alabama Highway 157, is set to close in the next three weeks. Employees speaking to The Tribune said management made the announcement shortly after Thanksgiving. A close-out sale at the longtime grocery store is happening now.

The store's Relief Manager, Phillip Williams, addressed a rumor that only the grocery part of the store will close, and that the Ace Hardware that shares the facility will take over the building.

He said that such a move may have received brief consideration early in the process, but that as of now liquidation of all assets--both grocery and hardware--is underway.

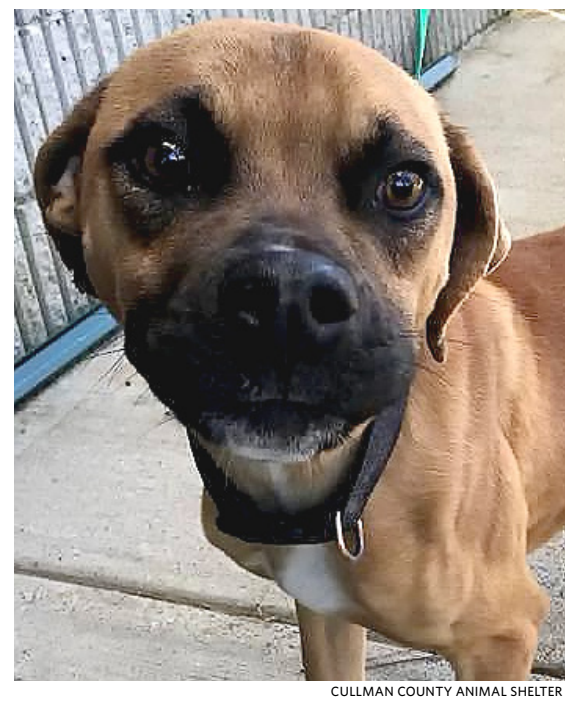
The store's liquidation sale began on Monday, Nov. 27.

"It is always disappointing when a business closes that has had a

» PAGE 7

PETS OF THE WEEK

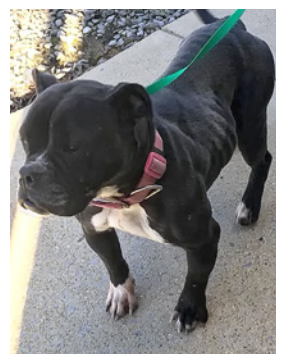
Cullman Co. Animal Shelter seeking help and homes for mistreated animals



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

These animals, seized following an animal cruelty investigation, are in need of loving, forever homes.





W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Monday, Sgt. Chris Westmoreland issued the following statement:

"Cullman County Animal Control & Shelter is currently looking for help. These great animals were awarded to us after being seized from a cruelty case. We're looking for someone to adopt or a rescue group to help us find a great home for these animals. Due to other animals coming in on other cruelty cases, we are close to capacity. Also if anyone would like to help with the cost of the seized animals, they could help by going by Animal Medical Hospital on Hwy 31 to make a donation. We want to thank everyone in advance for any help they can provide."

Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or visit them at 935 Convent Rd. NE. Reach them by email at cullmancountyanimalshelter@gmail.com.

Look for an update on this story, including details on the crime, at www.CullmanTribune.com.

Hanceville man arrested again for sex crimes involving minors

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – A Hanceville man, already behind bars on charges of second-degree rape and second-degree sodomy for crimes involving a minor, was arrested again over the holiday weekend, this time on a warrant for sexual abuse of a child under the age of 12.

Brandon William Brown, 20, is in the Cullman County Detention Center on a $55,000 property bond.

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) said, "These are two separate cases and two separate victims." Brown was arrested on Oct. 11, 2017 for the first two charges.

"I would like to thank the Child Advocacy Center for their commitment to keep children safe and to get them the help they need," said Sheriff Matt Gentry. "I would also like to thank our investigators who worked on this case."

Because of the nature of the crimes, and because the victims involved are minor children, the CCSO declined to release further details.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Brandon William Brown

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
NOVEMBER 28, 2017

Hurricane hero bringing business to Warehouse District

Be Blessed Boutique will be located inside Bella Faire Day Spa and Salon

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Many Cullman area folks know Rhonda Hagemore as an agent with Keller Williams Realty. Folks in Dodge City know her work with the Dodge City Volunteer Fire Department, as well as Be Blessed Boutique, which she and her daughter Jessica own. And people all over this part of the country know her as the coordinator of hurricane relief efforts at the Gov. Guy Hunt Rest Area on I-65 in September. Now she gets to add one more title and one more hat: Warehouse District merchant.

At 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, as the city kicks off Christmas in Cullman, the mother-daughter team will open a second Be Blessed Boutique inside Bella Faire Day Spa and Salon at 104 First Ave. SE in the Warehouse District. The original boutique location will continue to operate, as well.

The store will specialize in women's and young women's clothing and jewelry.

Said Hagemore, "We are so excited to be able to expand our business and the opportunity to be a part of the Warehouse District."

For more information on Bella Faire, visit www.bellafaire.com. For more information on Be Blessed Boutique, call Rhonda Hagemore at 256-736-3220 or Jessica Hagemore at 256-338-7572.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE





Letters to Santa

The Cullman Tribune will be publishing Letters to Santa this year beginning in December through the Christmas holidays.

Each letter will be published, some in hard copy* and some online. Letters should contain a salutation, an introduction of the child, the child's list and any wishes for others, e.g. asking that Santa remember a brother/sister, or children who might not know how to write, etc. Each one should be signed and include the child's age.



The letters should be addressed to:

Santa Claus

c/o The Cullman Tribune

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For more information, contact Robin Winton at 256-739-1351.

The deadline for print is Wednesday, Dec. 20.

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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

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Cullman's Katie Speer awarded Judson College's Mary Whitfield Lee Scholarship

Mary Amelia Taylor
Judson College



JUDSON COLLEGE

Katie Speer, recipient of the Mary Whitfield Lee Scholarship

MARION – Judson College recently awarded the 11th annual Mary Whitfield "Whit" Lee scholarship to Katie Speer, of Cullman, for the current academic year.

"I am so grateful to have received this scholarship," said Speer. "To be put in the same category as Whit Lee is such an honor. I strive to set an example for young women just as Whit Lee set in her short time at Judson. She is clearly an inspiration to the Marion and Judson community."

Speer is the daughter of Mark and Pamela Speer of Cullman and is a graduate of Vinemont High School.

Speer is currently pursuing a double major in business administration and religious studies. After graduation she plans to look for a job in the business administration field. She said that her ultimate goal is "to use both of my degrees to go on mission trips and help open hospitals in third-world communities. God may have different plans for me, though. I will have to let Him guide me to the right places and remain thankful throughout my journey."

Speer is a midfielder and striker for the Judson College Eagles soccer team and is an outfielder for the Judson softball team.

The Mary Whitfield "Whit" Lee scholarship was established in 2006 by George Crawford in memory of an outstanding Perry County student and athlete, Mary Whitfield Lee. Lee died on August 8, 1976, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident that occurred en route to a north Alabama softball tournament with the Judson College softball team.

Lee attended Marion public schools, Perry Christian School, and Morgan Academy in Selma before entering the high school division of Marion Military Institute. She graduated first in her class at MMI Prep with a 98.2 average and never received any grade lower than an A. Valedictorian of her class, Lee was also a member of the National Honor Society and a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. She won the Daughters of the American Revolution "Good Citizen" Award and was listed among Who's Who of High School Students and Distinguished High School Students in 1974-75.

In her first year at MMI Prep, Lee played the No. 5 position on the golf squad when there was no women's team; she moved up to the No. 4 spot the following year.

She was medalist and runner-up in the 1973 Women's Alabama Golf Association State Junior Girls Tournament. An award named in her memory was established by the Women's Alabama Golf Association and is given to a female chosen each year at the State Junior Golf Tournament.

Lee was runner-up in the Vestavia Girls Golf Tournament in 1973 and winner of the Marion Institute Ladies Championship in 1973, 1974 and 1976.

Lee also distinguished herself as an outstanding student. She scored a perfect 36 on the math portion of the ACT and was offered scholarships by several colleges and universities, but chose to be a math major at Judson, where her family had strong historical ties. She was recognized at the 1976 Honors Convocation for having the highest academic average in the sophomore class–a perfect 4.0.

At Judson, Whit was a high scorer and a starting guard on the basketball team, averaging better than 20 points per game and selected for the 1975 All-Star Team at the Alabama Women's Intercollegiate State Basketball Tournament.

She was a member of the Judson Field Hockey team that defeated both Vanderbilt and Sewanee and a member of the 1975 tennis team that lost first place to Auburn by one point in the Alabama Women's Intercollegiate Tennis Tournament. She was also a member of the volleyball team, A-Board and the Blazer Club.

George Crawford remembers Mary Whitfield "Whit" Lee as the youngest daughter of his neighbors in Hamburg, Ala., and a gifted athlete and student. "Whit was gifted in so many areas," Crawford said. "She deserves to be remembered. She was an inspiration to others." Crawford established the scholarship in her memory to ensure that others remember Lee, too. In addition to a memorial plaque in Lee's honor in Riddle Gymnasium on the Judson campus, the College also honors Lee's memory with the Mary Whitfield Lee Award, given to a deserving Judson student-athlete each spring.

Individuals wishing to honor the memory of Mary Whitfield Lee by contributing to the scholarship endowment may send gifts to the Mary Whitfield Lee Scholarship Endowment Fund at Judson College. For more information, contact the Judson College Office of Institutional Advancement at 334-683-5109.

Judson College is a private undergraduate institution offering a residential undergraduate education for women and selected online undergraduate programs for men and women in over 20 areas of study. Founded in 1838 and affiliated with the Alabama Baptist Convention, Judson College is located in Marion, Alabama. For more information about Judson College, visit www.judson.edu.

REAL ESTATE

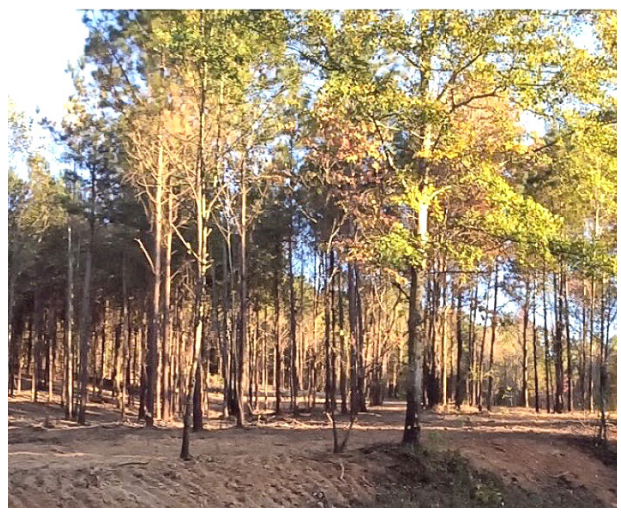








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EDUCATION

West Elementary's Shaddix named elementary counselor of the year

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – On Nov. 16, West Elementary School's Elizabeth Shaddix was named Elementary School Counselor of the Year by the Alabama School Counselor Association at the annual convention of its parent organization, the Alabama Counseling Association, in Mobile.

Shaddix has worked at West for her entire 10-year career in education: three as a teacher and seven as a counselor. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Athens State University and a master's degree from the University of West Alabama.

Shaddix spoke with The Tribune about the award:
"I was previously nominated by a colleague. I was contacted this year by a member of the Alabama School Counseling Association Board member to submit an application. The application process is extensive, as it asks about your school counseling program and requires recommendation letters. A panel of professional evaluators reviewed each of the ALSCA nominee submissions, and my entry was ranked the highest.

"They don't break it down, but I know that we have really strong community support: we have the knapsack feeding program, we work with United Way, with the Volunteers in Public Schools, The Link (of Cullman County), and we work with most of our area churches. I feel like that's a big part of our program here."

Why do you do school counseling?
"I often call school counselors the 'gate keepers.' They are the common link between teachers, parents and students. I love getting the opportunity to work with all three. We are blessed to be part of a giving community. One of my favorite aspects of my job is working with our local community churches and agencies. We work closely with First United Methodist Church in providing weekend meals to students with food insecurities.

"We have also worked with First Baptist Church Cullman to donate shoes for our students. At Christmas, we work with many area churches and community organizations. We closely work with The Link to provide mentors for students who are struggling in the areas of reading or math. I also enjoy working with my students in small-groups where we focus on areas such as academic success."

What would you like to tell folks about counseling at West Elementary?
"West Elementary is a wonderful place with great students and caring teachers and administration. Our teachers go above and beyond to make sure every student has what he or she needs. I am privileged to be able to work with this outstanding faculty to daily help our students.

"The school-counseling program is comprehensive in nature. Students receive individual, small-group and whole-group guidance monthly. Our goal is to be able to provide students with whatever they need to be successful. This is done in a variety of ways. A school counseling focus this year has been coping skills. I have been working with each grade level to provide positive coping strategies to handling difficult situations.

"We look at all areas. We look at how they're performing academically; that's number one. But we're also looking at, in school counseling: what's their behavior like, what's their home life like, are their parents involved. Do they need something? A lot of kids here may not have food at home. They might need help with the power bill, or they might need clothes or shoes.

"As a school counselor, I feel like we're really trying to meet the needs of all kids, whether it's academic or behavior.

"Whatever a child needs to be successful at school, we try to figure out a way to make that happen. Whether it's getting them an appointment at the dentist, or trying to get them into the doctor's office; whatever it is, the school counseling program can usually work with our community to make that happen. I think that's a very important thing to the life of a school."

Shaddix took a moment to call on members of the Cullman community to get involved, asking concerned people to give one hour per week as a mentor to students. Applications for the mentoring program are available from The Link of Cullman County or at West Elementary.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

ASCA/ACA Elementary School Counselor of the Year Elizabeth Shaddix works at West Elementary School in Cullman

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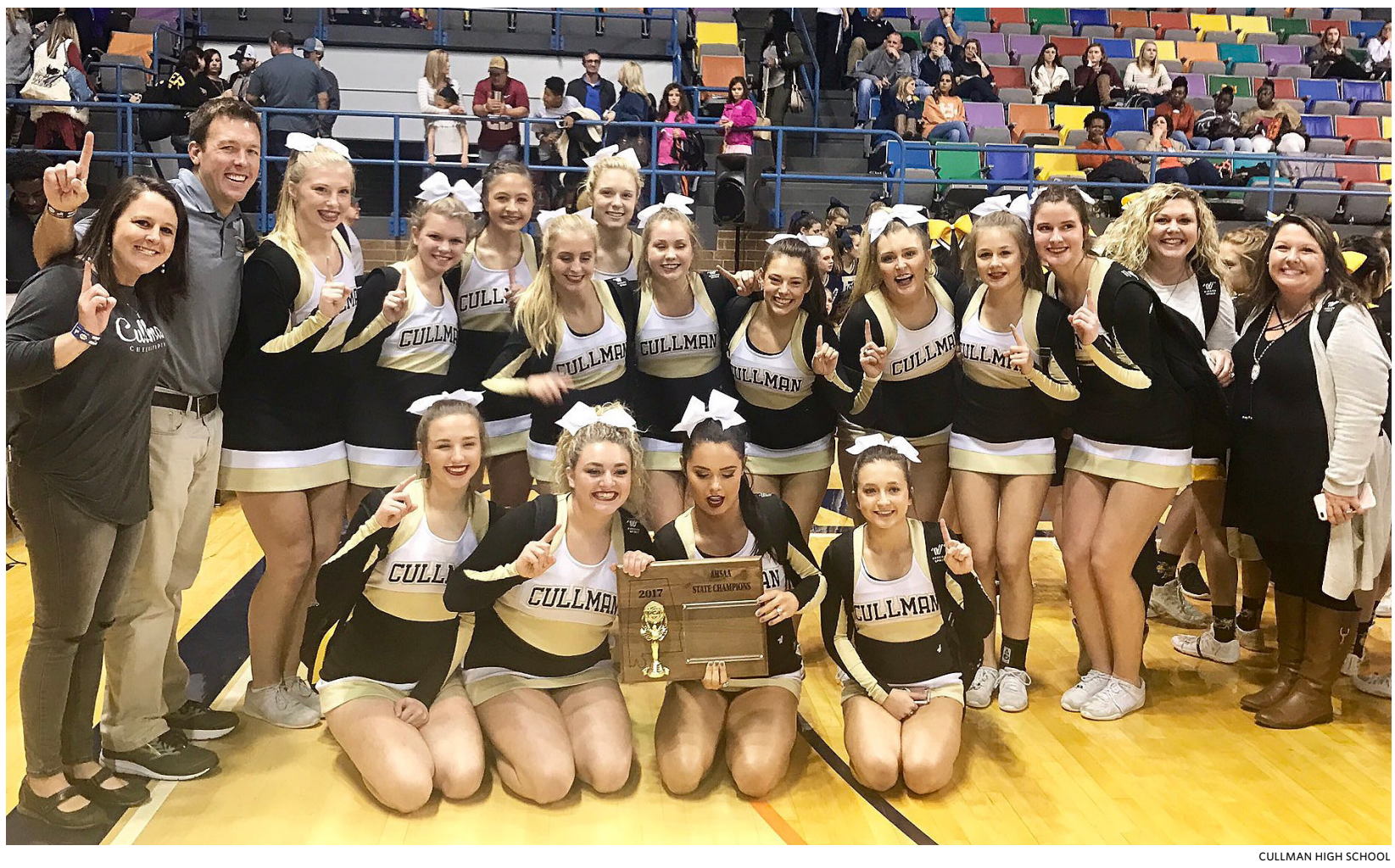
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PREP SPORTS

Give me a C! CHS cheerleaders win state title for 2nd year in a row

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent



CULLMAN HIGH SCHOOL

The Cullman High School Competition Cheer Squad won the AHSAA 6A title at this month's State Cheer Competition.

CULLMAN – The Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) State Cheer Competition was held at Wallace State on Nov. 18 and saw dozens of teams fill up the gym, but only a handful went home as state champions. (A state champion was named in each of the seven classifications of the AHSAA, and one champion was selected in the Co-Ed competition.) One of those teams was the Cullman Bearcats' Competition Cheer Squad who finished in first place in class 6A. The Bearcats have taken the crown for class 6A two years in a row now and 12 times in the program's history.

The 2017 competition team is made up of Savanna Ball, Emily Klair Brown, Megan Flynt, Elizabeth Baughn, Kacie Griffith, Ellie Jones, Sophie Harrison, Kate Davis Heatherly, Tavie Owen, Katelyn Kress, Karli Mcgehee, Sydney Ratliff, Ashton Story and Lauren Sumrall. Erica Ball is the varsity head coach, Stacie Owen coaches the junior varsity team and Lacy and Josh Stancil are the team's community coaches.

Ball is very proud of the way her team performed, especially considering the age of her competition squad. "We have a fairly young team here this year. We have 14 girls and 11 of them are freshmen or sophomores. I have a junior and two seniors and outside of them we really have a young group," Ball said. "The older girls have really done a great job of helping the younger girls understand what's at stake in the competitions and showing them that all the hard work we put in culminates during the competitions. They've also done a great job of communicating and teaching the younger girls how important that constant communication and encouragement is."

Ball also gave a lot of credit to her team's support from the community, particularly the involvement of Victory Cheer Academy and its staff.

"I really want to pay tribute to Josh and Lacy Stancil and Victory Cheer Academy. Their gym is our home gym and we practice their every single day. Josh and Lacy work as our community coaches and they have been a tremendous help for us," said Ball.

Ball's team has qualified for this year's national competition and she's excited to go out and do something that Cullman hasn't been able to accomplish on the big stage before.

"We have received a bid to participate in this year's national competition in February and we are going to add some more difficulty to the routine. We had the most difficult routine at the state competition and the girls really put on a great routine and we're going to try and build on that confidence going into nationals. We've won back-to-back state championships now, and Cullman has won state 12 times, but we've never finished higher than fifth in the national competition, so we're excited to get a chance to go and beat that this year."

Cullman's cheer squad will be back in action trying to claim another title at the National High School Cheerleading Championship Feb. 10-11 at the Walt Disney Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Also in The Tribune's coverage area, the Meek High School cheerleading squad took the 1A state title. Look for a feature story soon.

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>Ornate Antique Heirloom Furniture pieces to include ornate dressing bench, Carved cabinet, Sofa with decorative trim, French fireside chairs, Needle point stool, Bow front china cabinet, Brass bed (Heavy), Oak china/hutch, Out of this world oak Lead glass Armoire, 3 drawer Oak chest, Marble top tables, Ornate shelf with mirror, 2 matching 3 drawer Mahogany chest, Mule ear chair, Assortment of dining chairs, Oak Tables, Oak top table with outstanding rod iron metal base, Very nice display cabinet (approx. 12'Deep x 36" height x 24" wide), old Wicker set, Very nice table with turned edges, Oriental kneehole desk, Maple bookshelf, Pegged foyer table, Vintage sofa, Sofa with matching chairs, nice bed, Wardrobe, Dresser, chest of drawers..Assortment of Sterling Silver jewelry as well as coins. Diamond rings, Gold rings, Pearl earrings, clasp, Necklaces and much more
>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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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
NOVEMBER 28, 2017

Cullman enjoys peaceful start to Christmas shopping season

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com



WENDY SACK/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CULLMAN – As the nation entered into the heart of Christmas shopping season on Black Friday (and at many stores, Black Friday Eve) last week, it didn't take long for television news and social media to begin displaying how commercial Christmas can bring out the worst in people: pushing, shoving and outright fighting over hot ticket items and doorbuster specials. As close as Birmingham, the Galleria had to close early one evening because of what local news outlets termed a "brawl" between shoppers.

Not so in Cullman. The Cullman Police Department (CPD) reported to The Tribune Monday that Black Friday and the weekend came off peacefully.

There were stories of minor confrontations between shoppers at one area store, but none of what the police termed "major incidents."

CPD Assistant Chief Craig Montgomery explained, "We don't have any of the traditional built-up mall areas like Huntsville and Birmingham have always had, and so, overall, we don't have as many people clustered--like hundreds or even thousands in the Galleria--at any one time. In Cullman, over the years, we have not experienced the issues and problems that they've had in other areas."

Cullman has a history of peace and quiet during the shopping season, with a traditional small-town atmosphere and an enhanced police presence in retail areas to reassure shoppers and head off trouble at the pass.

Several area stores also hired off-duty police officers to work as a visible security presence inside their businesses.

"We have guys actually get out on foot patrol," said Montgomery, "traditional beat-type officers that get out and just stroll down the sidewalks to be seen, to be visible.

"I guess you'd say it inspires confidence in citizens, seeing their officers out and about, outside their patrol cars. We've always done that, and we've always had retailers pay for additional security at specific retail businesses here in town."

Advice for shoppers

To those who are out and about shopping, Montgomery offered, "We'll take the opportunity also to remind people, when they're out shopping-they're buying gifts, they're buying presents-sometimes they'll go put them in their car, and then walk to an adjacent store. Oftentimes, they'll leave the gifts in plain view.

"I would encourage them to put their gifts and presents out of view, if possible: in the trunk area if you have a car. In an SUV, maybe put them in the back area, where hopefully the windows are darker; or put a blanket over the item."

From the National Crime Prevention Council

The National Crime Prevention Council offers the following advice to keep holiday shopping experiences safe:

Shopping in stores

- Do not buy more than you can carry. Plan ahead by taking a friend with you or ask a store employee to help you carry your packages to the car.
- Save all receipts. Print and save all confirmations from your online purchases. Start a file folder to keep all receipts together and to help you verify credit card or bank statements as they come in.
- Consider alternate options to pay for your merchandise, such as one-time or multi-use disposable credit cards or money orders, at online stores and auction sites.
- Wait until asked before taking out your credit card or checkbook. An enterprising thief would love to shoulder surf to get your account information.
- Tell a security guard or store employee if you see an unattended bag or package. The same applies if you are using mass transit.

Walking to and from your car

- Deter pickpockets. Carry your purse close to your body or your wallet inside a coat or front trouser pocket.
- Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle. Check the back seat and around the car before getting in.
- Do not leave packages visible in your car windows. Lock them in the trunk or, if possible, take them directly home.

Shopping with small children

If you are shopping with children, make a plan in case you are separated from each other. Select a central meeting place, and teach them to know they can ask mall personnel or store security employees if they need help.

Shopping online

- Before surfing the internet, secure your personal computers by updating your security software. Everyone's computer should have anti-virus, anti-spyware and anti-spam software, as well as a good firewall installed. Visit www.bytecrime.org for free software downloads.
- Keep your personal information private and your passwords secure. Do not respond to requests to "verify" your passwords or credit card information unless you initiated the contact. Legitimate businesses will not contact you in this manner.
- Beware of "bargains" from companies with whom you are unfamiliar—if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!
- Use secure websites for purchases. Look for the icon of a locked padlock at the bottom of the screen or "https" in the URL address.
- Shop with companies you know and trust. Check for background information if you plan to buy from a new or unfamiliar company.

Obituary Announcements: Nov. 25-29

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 held Sunday, November 26, 2017 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.

Zachary Pierce, of Cullman, passed away on November 22, 2017 at Decatur Morgan Hospital at the age of 29. He was born in Birmingham on February 21, 1988. Funeral services held Sunday at Moss Funeral Home Chapel. Survivors are: Wife: Melisa Butler, Daughter: Akira Pierce, Sons: Kayden Pierce, Jimmy Pierce, Mother: Jenny Franklin Pierce, Father: Ray Pierce, Sister: Cami (Keith) Lyell, Brother: Rayoul Steven Pierce II, a host of aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Graveside service for Thomas "Tommy" Wood, age 73 of Cullman, will be at 12 p.m. on Monday, November 27, 2017 at Cullman City Cemetery with Dudley Brock officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Wood passed away on Thursday, November 23, 2017 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. He was born November 15, 1944, to Emmett and Bessie Wood. He is preceded in death by his parents, and his brothers; Jack Wood and Kenneth Wood. Survivors include his wife; Connie Wood, son; Clark (Ashley) Wood, grandchildren; Sutherland and Savannah Wood, sister; Zoie Perkins, brother; Chyron Wood, sister; Fleta Wideman, and a Host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

Theresa Lynn Tyree, 47 of Addison, entered into rest on Sunday, November 26, 2017 at Princeton Baptist Medical Center. Complete obituary and arrangement information will be announced at a later time by Nichols Funeral Home.

Funeral service for Barbara Absher, 75, of Hanceville are Tuesday, November 28 at 2 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home; interment in Center Hill Cemetery. Mrs. Absher passed away on Sunday, November 26, 2017. She was preceded in death by her parents, Luke B. Green and Una Fullerton Green and brothers, J.M. Green, Felcie Hansard and Steve Green. She is survived by her husband, Albert Absher; children, Mitchell Absher, Traci (Jeff) Johnson and Bart (Janna) Absher; grandchildren, Chris Landis, Sherry Absher, Isaiah Absher, Summer Absher, Payton Johnson, Luke Johnson, Ella Absher and Brady Absher; sisters, Faye Tucker and Imogene (Jerry) Thompson; brother, Cleve (Marci) Green and a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

Funeral services for Becky Kilgore, 62 of Bangor will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 11 a.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel, Bros. Stanley Kilgore and Keith Banks officiating; with interment to follow at Elvester Cemetery. Mrs. Kilgore passed away on Friday, November 24, 2017 at Select Specialty Hospital in Birmingham. She was born on September 25, 1955 in Cullman to Billy Ray & Faynell Hamm Banks and is preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Sherry Williams. She is survived by her husband, Carl Kilgore; a daughter, Stacey (Jeff) Spahn; a son, Steven Mustgrove; six grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; and a brother, Keith (Missy) Banks.

Graveside service for Louie Crawford, 86 of Hanceville, will be Wednesday, November 29 at 11 a.m. at Mt. Grove Baptist Cemetery. Mr. Crawford passed away on Sunday, November 26, 2017. Hanceville Funeral Home directing. He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Lula Crawford; daughter, Linda Stancil and son, Wayne Crawford. He is survived by his wife, Georgia Crawford; daughter, Rita Crawford; son, Michael Crawford; sister, Dovie Pope and grandchildren, Nathan McCluskey and Jacinda Wood.

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WSCC SPORTS

Wallace State's basketball teams split tournament games over weekend

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State's women's basketball team split a pair of games in Americus, Ga., over the holiday weekend.

The Lady Lions defeated Central Georgia Technical College, 59-47, and fell to South Georgia Technical College, 78-68.

In the win over Central Georgia, Wallace State's DeMaurea Moore, a freshman from Tuscaloosa, finished with a team-high 14 points and eight rounds.

Joy Sadler added 12 points and eight rebounds for the Wallace State Lady Lions (4-2), Jada Golden poured in 12 points off the bench, Gabby Hill scored seven points and Sydney Powell added five.

Wallace State overcame a 25-19 halftime deficit with an impressive third quarter, putting together a decisive 21-14 spurt.

The Lady Lions lost to South Georgia Technical College by 10 points despite four players finishing with double figures.

Sadler, a sophomore from Gardendale, led the way with 14 points, Powell had 11 and Moore and Hill each scored 10 points. Golden pitched in with seven off the bench.

Wallace State's women travel to Northeast Mississippi on Tuesday before playing five consecutive home games at Tom Drake Coliseum, beginning with a matinee vs. Chattahoochee Valley Community College on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Meanwhile, Wallace State's men split a pair of games in the 2017 Hampton Inn Thanksgiving Bash at Tom Drake Coliseum over the weekend.

Wallace State opened the two-day event with a convincing 85-55 win over Coastal Alabama-East.

Jonathan Andre led the Lions with a game-high 21 points, while Geordan Walker posted a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Kevin Wharton-Price scored 13 points for Wallace State, Max Clark added seven points and 10 rebounds and Deequan Fleming and John Payne pitched in with six points apiece off the bench.

Wallace State charged out to a 48-25 cushion at the break.

The Lions dropped their tournament finale to North American University, losing 78-71.

Once again, Andre led the charge for the Lions with 19 points and five rebounds.

Chris Rollins finished with 14 points and eight rebounds, Fleming had 10 points and six rebounds, Max Clark finished with seven points and eight rebounds and Payne and Jalen Hodges scored six points each.

Wallace State led 39-30 at intermission.

The Lions host Tennessee Wesleyan's JV on Friday at 5 p.m.

For more information about Wallace State athletics, visit http://athletics.wallacestate.edu.

Closing (from Front)

long, successful operation in the community," said Dale Greer, director of the Cullman Economic Development Agency (CEDA).

Piggly Wiggly has been a staple in the Cullman community for many years, in different capacities and franchises.

Many locals remember the Piggly Wiggly that was located at 106 Second Ave. NE, the current home of the Cullman Power Board.

That store closed down. The current Piggly Wiggly was formerly Jerry's Giant Foods, which was also located on Second Avenue (where Desperation Church now resides), and became a Piggly Wiggly after Jerry's owner Jerry Loegler sold his store. The current owners are Jerold and Melanie Russell.

CEDA Retail Development Manager Susan Eller said, "We hate to see them close their doors.

"Many people have shopped there for years and will miss the experience. There are locals who think this is the only place to shop and will be so disappointed to hear this news.

"With the current job market, the employees should be able to quickly find other job opportunities."

Williams told the Tribune that Piggly Wiggly is attempting to transfer as many of the store's approximately 30 employees as possible to one of the company's other stores in Warrior or the Clay/Trussville area.

Williams did not release a reason for the closure, saying simply that it was a "decision of the owners."

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
NOVEMBER 28, 2017

Statewide, Troopers investigate 6 traffic deaths, 10 fewer than 2016, during Thanksgiving weekend

ALEA
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – In the days leading up to and during this year's Thanksgiving holiday travel period, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) promoted #ArriveAliveAlabama – and it seems the motoring public took note. Alabama State Troopers investigated 6 traffic deaths – 10 fewer than during the same holiday period the previous year.

There even were two zero-fatality days during the five-day weekend, which began at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22, and ended at midnight Sunday, Nov. 26. Still, six individuals lost their lives in traffic crashes in Bibb, Sumter, Butler and Autauga counties.

Mostly single-vehicle crashes, there was one that involved a passenger vehicle and train, which resulted in two fatalities. During the extended holiday, five of those killed were passengers, and one was a driver. Only one of the six individuals was using a seat belt.

During the same period the previous year (Nov. 23-27, 2016), Troopers investigated 16 traffic fatalities.

ALEA originally reported 14 deaths, but two of the injured individuals died a short time later, bringing the total to 16. Statewide numbers for this year are not available at this time.

Although Thanksgiving 2017 is over, Troopers do encourage everyone to continue to make safety a priority when driving. Always buckle up – no matter how short the trip; avoid drinking and driving; avoid texting and other distractions while driving; and obey all laws.

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