The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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Vinemont Elementary students get extra dose of history



HEATHER MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Dr. William Mann and Dr. Jane Teeter led the history presentations.

Heather Mann
Tribune Correspondent

VINEMONT – On Thursday morning, fifth-grade students at Vinemont Elementary School got an extra serving of history on their plates as retired VES Principal Dr. Jane Teeter spoke about the history of Vinemont. She began with a classroom presentation, complete with original period maps showing the ambitious plans land speculators and developers had for the Alabama Vineyard and Winery Company (which helped give Vinemont its name), and then led students and teachers on a bus tour around town.

According to Teeter, "Once known as Holmes' Gap, Pinnacle (because the town marked the highest point on the railroad line for hundreds of miles), and then Vinemont, the area has a rich history with colorful stories."

Among Teeter's favorite tales she enjoys relating to the kids is the documented stranger-than-fiction tale of the one-room Vinemont jail built close to the railroad tracks, until a few mischievous boys decided to tie the building to a passing train.

Fifth-grade teacher Jacqueline Hill reported, "As the school bus traveled its historic route she pointed out where the stagecoach used to make its stop, the hotel with mineral springs, a theme park and a jail. One of the fifth-grade students, Joseph Gardner, said, 'My favorite part of the tour was learning that at one time there was a hotel at Vinemont, and it is unbelievable that Vinemont used to have a jail.' Several of the fifth graders were not enthused about taking a historic trip around Vinemont when the teachers first started talking about it, but afterwards many of the fifth graders said, 'It was neat that all that stuff used to be here.'"



JACQUELINE HILL

Dr. Teeter shows students a map of the planned community of Vinemont.

The special history class, which is in its seventh year, usually includes a craft project in » PAGE 8

Giving back to our 4-legged friends

Tribune teams up with Cullman County Animal Shelter, CAAWA to help animals



WENDY SACK/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The goal is to fill up the front of the office around the Christmas tree with donations for the Cullman County Animal Shelter and the Cullman Area Animal Welfare Association.

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman Tribune has kicked of the first of what it hopes will be an annual Christmastime drive for the Cullman County Animal Shelter and the Cullman Area Animal Welfare Association (CAAWA). Donations are being accepted at The Tribune office, 219 Second Ave. SE, through Dec. 31. Help us help animals!

Cullman County Animal Shelter wish list

- paper towels
- cat litter (non-scented, the cheaper the better, in great need)
- bleach

» PAGE 8

Seeds of hope: community garden planned for Wallace State

W.C. Mann
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HANCEVILLE – On Thursday evening, the Hanceville City Council received a briefing on an upcoming project at Wallace State Community College (WSCC) that could benefit the school's students, residents of the Hanceville and Cullman County communities, and even people from surrounding counties who suffer from food shortages due to financial issues. The WSCC Planting Seeds Community Garden will allow people to cultivate their own gardens with direct assistance from school and Americorps VISTA staff, to put food that they raised from seeds on their own tables, and to gather for instruction and simple socializing in an attractive outdoor setting.

Almost 14 percent of Cullman County's population, including nearly 24 percent of its children, suffer from what program leaders term "food insecurity": going without meals, wondering where the next load of groceries will come from, and having to settle for cheaper non-nutritious foods due to financial insecurity.

One of the incidents that prompted the project was a conversation between a WSCC student and faculty member over concerns about the student's health. When the conversation came around to his diet, the student pointed out that he could buy a week's worth of ramen noodles and mac & cheese for the cost of a single bag of apples.

Americorps VISTA staffer Hannah Kren, one of the project's coordinators, told The Tribune, "The project started because we realized there is a problem with food security, not only with Wallace's students, but also with the larger community. So we wanted to have something that allowed people to supplement and make their budget go farther, and we thought a community garden would be a great addition. It not only acts as a way for people to have access to growing their own food, especially if they're renters or lack ability to do it at their own property. » PAGE 6



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right: Wallace State Community College Americorps VISTA staffer Heather McAfee, WSCC Grant Specialist Kristi Barnett and WSCC Americorps VISTA staffer Hannah Kren addressed the Hanceville City Council Thursday evening.

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Birmingham man gets 20 years for selling heroin that killed Cullman man

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

BIRMINGHAM – A federal judge on Wednesday sentenced a Birmingham man to 20 years in prison for selling heroin last year that caused the death of a Cullman man and seriously injured another, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Michael Dewayne "Big Boi" Johnson, 32, pled guilty in August to one count of distributing heroin in Jefferson County on July 28, 2016, and that a 35-year-old Cullman man died as a result of using that heroin.

Johnson also pled guilty to distributing heroin the same day that caused serious bodily injury to a then 18-year-old Cullman man who overdosed from using the drug.

On Friday, the U.S. Attorney's Office provided a copy of the unsealed plea agreement to The Tribune, identifying the victim as Jacob Kirby.

According to the plea

On July 28,2016, Jacob Kirby and N.B. travelled from Cullman, Alabama, to Birmingham, Alabama, to purchase "two points" of heroin from a distributor named "Big Boi." N.B. watched Kirby exit onto Arkadelphia Road. During the drug transaction, N.B. heard the voice of"Big Boi" state, "Be careful, this shit will kill you." N.B. shot up with Kirby at a gas station, and next remembers waking up in a hospital after being treated for a heroin overdose.

Kirby called K.H. the morning of July 28th and told her he was going to see "Big Boi" and was going to bring some heroin back for her.

On the evening of the 28th, Kirby called K.H. and told her that he had just dropped N.B. off at the hospital and that he was coming to see her. She got into his truck once he arrived at her house, and they travelled a short distance down the road and parked. K.H. stated that Kirby "drew up" "one point" (one full syringe) of heroin for them to share.

Kirby told K.H. that it was the new grey heroin from "Big Boi," that it was strong, and that it made N.B. overdose.

On August 1, 2016, a confidential source (CS) called a number used by "Big Boi" and arranged for the purchase of .3 grams of heroin. This and subsequent calls were recorded. The CS's vehicle was equipped with an audio/video recording device that allowed for the recording of the drug transaction. Undercover Investigator Steven Ziaja drove the CS to the transaction location.

Via phone call "Big Boi" directed the CS to go to the dumpster located behind the apartments at 117 11th Court West in Birmingham.

The transaction occurred in that location and afterwards, Investigator Ziaja drove to the designated meeting location where he relinquished custody of the suspected heroin. The CS stated the person who had delivered the heroin was not "Big Boi," but that person stated he had been sent by "Big Boi."

On August 3,2016, Investigator Ziaja called "Big Boi" and arranged for the purchase of.3 grams of heroin. Investigator Ziaja's vehicle was equipped with an audio/video recording device that allowed for the recording ofthe drug transaction.

"Big Boi" directed Investigator Ziaja to a car wash at 1511 3rd Street West in Birmingham. "Big Boi" arrived in a car and approached the passenger side of Investigator Ziaja's vehicle, conducted the transaction, and then returned to his car.

Investigator Ziaja then travelled to the designated meeting location, where agents took custody of the suspected heroin. At the same time, a walled-off stop was conducted on the vehicle driven by "Big Boi." At that time, BPD identified the driver as Michael Dewayne JOHNSON. The substances from both transactions were later tested by the DEA drug laboratory and confirmed to be heroin.

After the transaction, a walled-off stop was conducted on the vehicle driven by "Big Boi." At that time, BPD identified the driver as Michael Dewayne JOHNSON.

Johnson also pled guilty to one count of distributing heroin in Jefferson County on Aug. 3, 2016. U.S. District Court Judge Madeline Hughes Haikala sentenced Johnson to 20 years in prison on all the charges, in accordance with the binding plea agreement he reached with the government.

"This strong sentence cannot remove the victims' suffering," U.S. Attorney Jay E. Town said, "but it sends a strong message to every drug dealer that they will be severely punished for the lethal harm their drugs do to others."

"The abuse of heroin is a serious problem in our communities. All too often, this abuse leads to addiction, shattered lives and even death," Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Assistant Special Agent in Charge Bret Hamilton said.

"The lengthy sentencing for this individual is a message to criminals that we take drug trafficking very seriously in the Northern District of Alabama. The DEA will continue working with our law enforcement partners and pursue those who threaten our communities with the distribution of heroin and other illegal and dangerous drugs."

DEA investigated the case, which the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Alabama prosecuted.



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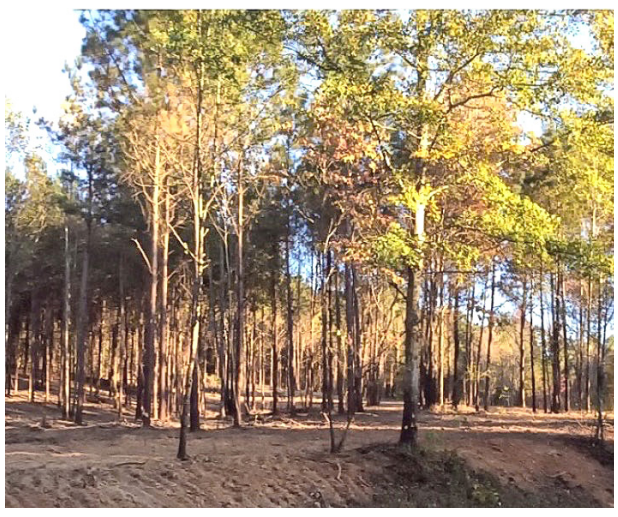








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Business spotlight: Greencraft Mowers

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – Greencraft Mowers has been a fixture among local businesses in Cullman for years. It's a family-owned business that has grown from a repair shop to a store offering products, advice, repairs and much more. Owner Ross Harrison has been around the business since he was young and has kept up the family business for 17 years.

"This was first started by my dad and my uncle in 1986. I got involved in 1999 or 2000 as a job to get through college," Harrison said. "I could be very flexible with my schedule going through college and I really got to start learning the business. I enjoyed the type of business it was, so I stayed here after I graduated college and then I bought my uncle out of it in 2013 so its now owned by myself and my dad."

The business was originally called Greencraft Mower Corporation.

"When I bought my uncle out we decided to change our corporate name to Harrison Outdoors as a DBA (doing business as) of Greencraft Mowers because that's what people knew.

"The reason we transitioned that name into Harrison Outdoors was that we didn't want to be established as just a lawnmower shop. We want to eventually branch out and carry products that goes along with lawn equipment."

Harrison shared some of the ways the business has changed since it was first opened and the roles he has played in it throughout the years.

"It started out originally as nothing but a repair center and then as I started working into more of a management role, we took on zero-turn mowers and things like that and transitioned it into more of a dealership than just a repair center," he said.

"I did a little bit of everything starting out. Really started out just answering the phone, taking notes and looking up parts for customers. Then I really got into the mechanics of it and working back and forth between the parts counter, the shop and sales so I've done a little bit of it all."

Harrison has also seen his business maintain its place in the community despite some other competitors moving in as Cullman continues to grow.

"We went through a timeframe, especially when we got into selling equipment like handheld Stihl equipment, where mass merchants started coming into Cullman; some of our clientele went to mass merchants then honestly realized that was not the right answer for buying lawn equipment.

"They want equipment from a dealership where they can be serviced, whether it be warranty or just general service. We offer delivery on new units as well as pick up and delivery for service work and that's just one of the things that we provide."

Harris said the business has grown because customers appreciate service.

"That's what's grown our business is customers coming to us because of the service we can provide them. The trust is the key. As Cullman has grown, I obviously don't know every customer that comes in now. I knew a lot 15 years ago and still know a lot, but I don't know everybody, but customers come to us because they want our professional opinion of what product suits their needs best. Anyone can go to a big box store and pick it up and take it home, but that doesn't mean you're getting the right tool for the job."



ROSS HARRISON

Harrison said he's seen the business continue to grow and is excited about some changes that may be coming to Greencraft Mowers soon.

"In the products we sell, we have definitely grown our customer base since I've been here over the last 17 years. The business has slowly grown each year so we're making some changes in the near future that will improve our efficiency on repairs for customers and will also improve our sales to customers. We will be able to provide a better sales and service facility and we hope to be able to make some changes very soon. We're not announcing anything yet, but it will be coming in the near future."

Greencraft Mowers is located at 1414 Sportsman Lake Road. It is open 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. during the week and from 7:30 a.m.-noon on Saturdays year-round. Contact the store at greencraftmowers@bellsouth.net or 256-737-0735.

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1959
Walter News
By: Clarence Nuss

Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Stewart and Mrs. Bill Counts and daughter, of Cleveland, Ohio, spent a week here with Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Stewart and Glenda.

Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Long, of Hanceville, were the Saturday night supper guests of Mrs. B.T. Burnham and Clarence Nuss.

Reverend and Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Reeves and Mr. and Mrs. Edmonds, of Blount County, spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sutton and Rex.

Mr. and Mrs. Kilmer Giles, Ronda Jean, Mrs. Cordie Burrow, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Gable and Mr. and Mrs. Cortez Gable spent Sunday in Birmingham.

Mrs. Hercel House, of East Point, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sutton and Rex.

Mrs. H.H. Segler and Mrs. W.R. Gable, of Cullman, spent Sunday afternoon in this community.

Mr. and Mrs. George Clapp, of Hanceville and Andrew Whitaker, of Center Hill, spent Sunday afternoon with Mrs. B.T. Burnham and Clarence Nuss.

From The Files Of 1951
Bearcat Banter

Bill Baggett and Pete Taylor, who opened the season sitting on the bench are now Cullman's only offensive fullback and quarterback. Adam and Brandon are both out for the most, if not all, of the remaining games, due to injuries. Pete plays on defense too, but sophomore Billy Cox replaces Baggett when the opponents get the ball.

One remarkable item in the statistics of last week's game was the yards penalized column. Only ten yards in penalties stepped off in a game that is traditionally the roughest of the year! Only one personal foul was called, but Decatur refused a 15-yard penalty in order to take the play, when they recovered Martin's fumble, to give them their scoring chance. Although it was a pass that gave Decatur its tie, Cullman fans had no cause to complain about the Bearcat's defense. The Raiders record of only two completions and two interceptions in 12 attempts was a vast improvement over the poorest defense the Cats showed in their loss to Coffee three weeks ago.

Cullman's tie with Decatur not only averted what looked like sure defeat, but also greatly improved Cullman's chances of going through the rest of the season without another defeat. Their stiffest opposition will be the Athens Golden Eagles, who are their homecoming foes this week. The Eagles are another team the Bearcats haven't beaten since the war and will be just as tough this year. Decatur has defeated Athens, 12 to 0, but Athens only lost to Coffee last week by a score of 7 to 0, which was considerably better than the Bearcats could do.

Hanceville Happenings

The Hanceville Graduating Class of 1937 will hold a reunion on November 14th at the All Steak Café, in Cullman, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Please notify Mrs. Melvin Ponder or Guyles Combs by November 13th if you can attend.

Miss Joyce McNutt has returned, after spending a week in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she attended a Home Demonstration Convention. H.B. Sparks, of Birmingham, was the guest, on Sunday, of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J. Boyd and family.

Visiting Mrs. Rubye Armstrong last weekend were Mr. and Mrs. George Armstrong, Annie Marie, Johnny Mac and George Randell, of Mount Olive and Mr. and Mrs. Benny Armstrong, of Birmingham.

Gray Meadows left on Monday for Fort Lewis, in Washington, where he will be stationed until he receives a re- assignment.

Mrs. Frances Braswell, of Oneonta, is the guest this week of her sister, Mrs. Mittie Scott.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Griffin, of Birmingham, were the guests last weekend of Mrs. Griffin's mother, Mrs. Ed Ashwander.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

The little lady who made a huge difference

Bill King
Tribune Contributor



She stood only a little over five feet tall; five feet three, to be exact. In spite of her short stature and small frame, she became a giant in the eyes of the people where she lived and ministered. She was born two weeks before Christmas and died on Christmas Eve, seventy two years later. She was Charlotte Diggs Moon, but for most of her life she was called "Lottie."

Although she was born into a wealthy Virginia family, her life was not an easy one. Her father died when she was only twelve years old. When she was twenty- one, the Civil War broke out. She and her mother held down the family plantation during the war. When Lottie heard that Union troops were approaching, she buried the family silver in a field behind their house. When she went back to retrieve it, she could not find it. Not only did she lose the silver, her family lost their wealth during the war as well.

In 1873, at the age of thirty-three, she was appointed as a missionary to China. Hers was an unusual appointment, not only because she was a woman, but she was also the first unmarried missionary appointed by the Southern Baptist Convention. For the next thirty-nine years she lived and tirelessly served as a missionary in China. Toward the end of her life, she found herself in the middle of a war once again.

A major dispute between Russia and Japan over control of northern China led to war in 1904. They fought over China, in China. Lottie had recently returned from America when the war broke out, but even though many missionaries fled China, she refused to leave. The war was brutal. Russians thought China was sympathetic toward Japan because they were both Asian. Even though China remained neutral during the war, Russia accused many of spying for the enemy. They looted and burned their homes and towns. Sadly, the Japanese soldiers treated them about the same. By the time the war ended, northern China was ravaged and its people were starving.

During and after the war, Miss Moon fed the hungry, took in orphans and even rescued dogs. She pleaded for more funds from the Baptist Foreign Mission Board but they were struggling financially themselves. Eventually, she withdrew all her savings from a bank in Shanghai and donated it to a famine fund.

Out of sympathy for those who were starving, she resolved that she would no longer eat. She became malnourished and lost down to a gauntly fifty pounds. Concerned for her health, her colleagues decided she needed to be sent home. They placed her on a ship that left China on December 20, 1912.

She never made it home. Four days after she left, on Christmas Eve, at the age of seventy-two, Lottie Moon died in Kobe Harbor, Japan. Her body was cremated and her ashes sent back to Virginia. She was buried in Crewe, about eighty miles south of her native Charlottesville. An inscription at the top of her tombstone says, "Faithful unto Death."

In China, in 1915, Denqzhous Baptist Church erected a monument in the church yard bearing Lottie Moon's name, a brief explanation that she was an American missionary, and an inscription that reads, "How She Loved Us." She loved them so much that she gave everything she had, including herself. During this Christmas season of giving, may we follow the unselfish example of Lottie Moon, and certainly, the one whose birth we're celebrating? Thank you, Jesus and Miss Moon. Merry Christmas!

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

Poet's Corner



In The Bleak Midwinter

By: Christina Rossetti 1830-1894
Poem submitted and Picture by Randy C. Hale

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain; Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day, Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay; Enough for Him, whom angels fall before, The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there, Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; But His mother only, in her maiden bliss, Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 16, 2017

Hanceville mulls city pool, Hopewell annexations

W.C. Mann
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HANCEVILLE – At its regular meeting Thursday evening, the Hanceville City Council had a full slate, from annexation to zoning and many topics in between.

A major topic was the city pool, which was found to be infested with black algae at the end of its 2017 operating season despite having received extensive (and expensive) treatment for that very condition before the start of the season.

According to information received by the council, pool water seeping through the inner pool liner and settling between the liner and underlying structural layers in the approximately 40-year old pool was causing the condition to recur. The use of strong chemicals to treat previous occurrences has caused the liner to degrade. Estimates for repair and relining of the pool ran around $70,000.

The council is currently considering the possibility of filling in the pool and replacing it with a splash pad that would allow children to play in water, but with lower maintenance and liability costs.

Of the pool, Mayor Kenneth Nail said, "If we went with a splash pad and done away with the pool, you wouldn't have to have lifeguards, so you'd save quite a bit of money. And to be honest with you, that pool every year has been nothing but a money pit, every year. We never break even.

"And I hate that, because there's a lot of poor children in this area that can't afford to go to the (Cullman) Aquatic Center. So I think the council's really struggling with trying to figure out what to do about that."

As the council considered what to do, a proposal was brought to the mayor to apply for a $300,000 50/50 grant, requiring $150,000 from the City, to fund the construction of a splash pad.

Council members agreed that they did not want to invest that much money, as initial construction estimates for what the council is wanting have been much lower than even the 50 percent that the City would have to put up. The proposal received no action.

In other business, the council voted to participate in the state's severe weather preparedness sales tax holiday Feb. 23-25, 2018 by relinquishing its half-cent sales tax on certain items related to emergency preparation, including flashlights, lanterns, battery-powered or hand-crank radios, batteries, first-aid kits, cell phone chargers, two-way radios, manual can openers, tarps and plastic



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Mayor Kenneth Nail introduced Halee Pitts (left, with Councilwoman Sharon Porter), a civil engineer employed at Redstone Arsenal, as the newest member of Hanceville's Planning Commission.

sheeting, duct tape, fire extinguishers, tie-down kits, bungee cords or rope, coolers, ice packs, plywood, window film, smoke/fire/carbon monoxide detectors, portable generators and power cords.

The council gave its first reading to proposed ordinances to annex Hopewell Baptist Church and Hopewell Cemetery into the city. As these were first readings only, no action was taken. Council members did set a public hearing for 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 11, 2018 to consider zoning ordinances about the two locations that had also received their first readings at this meeting.

During the work session prior to the council meeting, Wallace State Americorps staffers Hannah Kren and Heather McAfee introduced the council to the plan for the college's proposed community garden that will serve the food needs of needy students and area residents. (Look for a separate story on this.)

Hanceville Civitan Club President Rick Cason came forward to thank the council, and to commend the city police and fire departments for their service during the recent Cullman County Christmas Parade.

Nail reported that the recent audit of the City showed no issues.

Councilman Charles Wilson reported that the Hanceville Quarterback Club will, for the next two Saturdays, continue its turkey shoots, which were highly successful fundraisers leading up to and including Thanksgiving Day. Events will begin at 8 a.m. each Saturday in the field just south of Domino's near Johnson's Crossing.

Due to the Christmas/New Year's holiday, the Hanceville council's second December meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m., with work session at 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

County votes to join legal fight against opioid manufacturers, distributors

Nick Griffin, Wendy Sack
Tribune Correspondents

CULLMAN – The Cullman County Commission on Thursday morning approved a resolution authorizing a Florida law firm to represent the County in a multi-party class action lawsuit against the five largest manufacturers and three largest distributors of opioids.

The commission unanimously approved Resolution no. 2018-12, which will allow the firm of Levin Papantonio Thomas Mitchell Rafferty & Proctor, P.A. out of Pensacola to represent Cullman County in the suit. The firm is already representing 13 government entity clients in Alabama, and 161 nationwide, according to Cullman County Attorney Chad Floyd.

"It's becoming fairly evident to everyone that there is, and of course the buzzword here in the last year has been opioid crisis or opioid epidemic, there's been an emerging problem with opioid overdoses and perhaps what we would consider opioid over-prescription," said Floyd.

"The obvious goal (of joining the lawsuit) would be to regain some of the cost that the County is currently bearing because of this opioid over-prescription, a couple being the fact that inmates once they're taken in, if they have overdosed with opioids, the County winds up picking up that cost at the hospital for them," said Floyd.

"Obviously, there's additional cost to our sheriff's office and an additional cost to our detention center that's all linked to this. I'd like us to partner with this law firm and allow them to represent us in this action."

According to Floyd, there are no up-front expenses to the County.

"We will be working under what's called a contingency fee agreement, meaning the firm only recovers their expenses and a fee if they collect for the County," he said.

The County's vote is in line with the City of Cullman, which, in its council meeting on Dec. 4, voted to allow City Attorney Roy Williams to retain additional outside legal counsel for the City's claim in the same action.

In old business, the commission:

• Voted not to pass Resolution 2018-04- to vacate the entirety of County Road 121

• Approved time and attendance annual software agreement with Gorrie-Regan for courthouse and road personnel for $8,078.20

• Approved bid no. 1275 for a current model compact SUV

In new business, the commission:

• Authorized the signing of a State Homeland Security Strategic Technology Reserve Grant in the amount of $8,000

• Authorized the signing of the State Mortuary Operations Team (SMORT) Grant in the amount of $11,000

• Authorized Chairman Kenneth Walker to submit a release request for the Federal Aviation Administration for the release of 1.23 acres of land at Cullman Regional Airport, purchased with FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant 3-01-0022-018-2011, at fair market value. Cullman Regional Airport General Manager Ben Harrison addressed the commission, saying that the acreage would never be able to be used for aviation purposes. He requested the land be released so that it might be the future hope of a fire station for the Vinemont-Providence Volunteer Fire Department.

• Authorized Walker to sign an agreement with the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for the construction of a bathhouse and multiple by wash station at Stony Lonesome OHV Park. Grant monies have already been awarded.

• Approved the application for a fiscal year 2018 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant in conjunction with the City of Cullman. "This is an application that was started with the City of Cullman. They are looking to complete a streetscape project of about four blocks over here just east of the railroad," said Floyd. "The way a TAP grant works, the reason that we're a part of this is we're the county in which the city of Cullman is situated so we have to be a partner for purposes of filing the grant application; however, we're not a financial partner in this project. This is entirely funded by the City of Cullman and will not cost us anything. We have no financial obligation in this project."

• Authorized Floyd to sign a complaint for declaratory judgment against certain companies collecting solid waste from within Cullman County.

• Awarded a bid for the Owen Ridge and County Line water tank recoat to Robinson & Sons Construction Services, Inc.

• Authorized payment to the ACCA Liability Self-Insurance Fund for renewal of liability insurance from Jan. 1, 2018 to Jan. 1, 2019. The premium is $396,615.

• Appointed Josiah Daily deputy coroner following the resignation of Samuel Tucker

• Approved the purchase of six printers ($5,994) and a print service agreement ($507.50 per month) from Ameritek for the revenue office

• Approved a service contract between volunteer fire department and Sharp Communications for 23 various pieces of equipment for $1,519.02 per month

• Authorized repairs to a compac roller for the road department by Thompson Tractor for $13,450

• Approved Resolution no. 2018-08 to resurface County Road 813 from County Road 437 to County Road 222

• Approved Resolution no. 2018-09 to resurface County Road 1545 from County Road 1422 to the intersection of County Road 1527

• Approved Resolution no. 2018-11 to set the speed limit on County Road 1668 at 35 mph

• Approved bid no. 1276 for herbicide

• Agreed to close County offices on Dec. 26 for an extended Christmas holiday. County offices will be closed Dec. 25-26 for the Christmas holiday and Jan. 1, 2018 for New Year's Day. The sanitation department WILL NOT collect garbage on Christmas Day. Monday garbage collection will be Tuesday; Tuesday will be on Wednesday; Wednesday collection Thursday; Thursday collection Friday; and Friday collection on Saturday. Sanitation will run its normal routes on Monday, Jan. 1.

Announcements

• Santa Claus will be at the courthouse on Wednesday, Dec. 20 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the main lobby.

• The next Cullman County Commission meeting will be on Thursday, Dec. 28 at 10 a.m. in the commission meeting room. The public is welcome to attend.



Cullman Regional releases new look for Cullman EMS

Mary Beth Sellers
Cullman Regional

CULLMAN – Cullman Regional's Cullman Emergency Medical Services (EMS) now displays a new look, linking it to affiliate Cullman Regional. The two organizations have been a part of the same team since 1984, when the Healthcare Authority of Cullman County purchased the ambulance service, yet the imagery has remained the same since inception.

"Our EMS services has always provided wonderful front-line medical response to our community, and their response vehicles are visual reminders of the importance of advanced life-saving care and quality in our community," said Lindsey Dossey, executive director of marketing & community outreach. "We want our ambulances to be visual reminders that we are one team working together in order to provide the best healthcare outcomes possible for our community members."

According to EMS Director James Curtis, the design was a collaborative effort. "We combined state ambulance guidelines with both the hospital and Cullman EMS imagery in order to come up with a complimentary design that meets all of our goals."

Cullman Regional launched a new branding and marketing campaign in 2016 to help the community better understand the numerous resources and services available through Cullman Regional and its numerous departments.

"Literally, rolling out the ambulance design, is just another way to showcase our services to the community we serve," Dossey said. "We're proud of the excellent job Cullman EMS team provides our community members in an emergency, and we simply want our community to know that we are proud to have them on our team. Their diligence in the field in an emergency is critically important in helping us provide care once they arrive at the hospital."

Cullman EMS has been providing 24-hour ambulance services to the community since 1970. As Cullman County's 911 emergency medical provider, the department employs 75 full and part-time EMTs and paramedics and is one of three ambulance providers in the state of Alabama to provide advanced critical care skills for airway management. The service offers a fleet of 12 advanced life-support capable ambulances, four quick-response SUV support units, two ATVs for rugged terrain rescue and a Rescue Response Unit with the "jaws of life."



CULLMAN REGIONAL

The new look for Cullman EMS is meant to be a visual reminder that the organization and Cullman Regional are one team.

"The first few minutes of an emergency are critical to good outcomes," Curtis stated. "That is why we have set the licensing and training standards for our dispatchers and EMS staff higher than the state requirements. Our investment in the continual training of our staff is an investment in the community that we are proud to serve."

For more on Cullman EMS or services provided by Cullman Regional, visit CullmanRegional.com.

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News from the Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation

Judy Watts
Contributor

From the board: We thank each and every one that has supported the Foundation and made it possible for the Foundation to help many of our neighbors.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!

Sponsor recognition
2017 Biker Against Cancer Sponsors

Corporate Sponsors
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- Cullman Tribune

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- Southern Biker Magazine

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- Gloria Williams
- Mr. & Mrs. Rufus Speakman
- Dunn Right Taxes & Bookkeeping Ser., Inc.
- LifeFirst Oncology
- In Honor of Perry Payne
- In Memory of Tara Clowers

Special thanks to Freddie Day Catering and everyone who ordered his delicious smoked turkeys, hams and ribs for Thanksgiving. The Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

A letter received by the Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation in November 2017

Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation,

My name is Janet Barnett. I was diagnosed with breast cancer in January 2017.

I have been on disability since my first cancer diagnosis in December 2005. I was very concerned on how I would manage to pay bills. After my surgery a beautiful angel walked into my hospital room from Bosom Buddies. She encouraged me to call with any concerns that I might have. They heard that I was in need of assistance with part of my bills. Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation was able to help me out.

I am so thankful for all they have done for me. It helps to ease the burden so that I can concentrate on getting better.

I am thankful that they are here to help local patients in their time of need. They are a very caring, supportive group of people that are there for financial and emotional support.

God Bless all the angels he has sent my way.

Love,
Janet Barnett

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

LOUIS EDWIN HUTTON, deceased CASE NO. PC2017-337

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF LOUIS EDWIN HUTTON, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Frayne Hutton on the 27th 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.

Frayne Hutton, 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 Frayne Hutton
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721

PB ADT BK 47 PG 733 - 11/30/2017 09:08 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY

STATE OF ALABAMA
CULLMAN COUNTY **CASE NO: AD-2017-081**

IN RE: THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF T.A.Y., A MINOR CHILD.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: ANY KNOWN, UNKNOWN, OR UNDISCLOSED PERSONS, WHO MIGHT BE THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER

A PETITION FOR ADOPTION WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY TAMMY MICHELLE WILBANKS, PETITIONER, BIOLOGICAL MOTHER BRIANNA MICHELLE WILBANKS, IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE LAST PUBLICATION. THE RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS ARE SHOWN BELOW, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, 500 2ND AVENUE SW, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055.

DONE THIS 30th DAY OF November, 2017.

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

ANDRIA RICHTER
Attorney for Petitioner
300 1ST Avenue SE
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 775-7757

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE GUARDIANSHIP of)
DONALD QUICK,) CASE NO: PC2017-334
An Incapacitated Adult.)

NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP

TO: BARBARA POLIQUIN, TAMMY BRADFORD, DEWAYNE QUICK, DONNIE QUICK OR ANY OTHER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN HEIRS.

Please take notice that a hearing on the Petition for Letters of Guardianship filed by Treva Quick to appoint a guardian for DONALD QUICK, an incapacitated adult has been set for the 22nd **day of** February, **2018, at** 9:00 **a.m.** before TAMMY BROWN, Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama, Room 101, at this time you may appear or if you have an objection to the Petition for Letters of Guardianship you must make your objection known in writing and file said objection with this Court before the day and time of said hearing.

DONE this 28th day of November, 2017.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice for Three successive weeks in said publication and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Done this 28th day of November, 2017.

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

Garden (from Front)

But it also provides another green space for the public to enjoy."

The project will begin with 15 or 16 raised garden beds and some flat beds, but leaders hope to see 40 beds at the site in the future. The garden will become a sort of park with benches, tables and a pavilion that can host gardening classes and even serve as a social gathering spot for students, faculty, and local residents.

And the value of the community garden could extend far beyond the boundaries of the garden park. WSCC hopes to offer educational programming that both project members and home gardeners would find helpful.

"This is definitely a Wallace project," said WSCC Grant Specialist Kristi Barnett, who accompanied the Americorps staffers.

"We will be incorporating some programs into the project, and they'll be offering educational lessons every month to the gardeners, and to any community members who wish to come. The lessons will cover everything from how to grow your vegetables to the Culinary Department coming in and teaching you how to cook them. We'll be looking at how to package your produce if you wanted to sell at a farmers' market. We'll teach everything that we can, within monthly meetings of one hour at a time.

"We're doing our fundraising through the Future Foundation at the college. We have been applying for grants. The Americorps VISTAs have worked very hard in their fundraising efforts, and continue to do so. We have raised a little more than $3,500 thus far, and our goal is $40,000 within the year."

A family that joins the project can work two 4x8-foot garden plots. Those 64 square feet, according to information provided by the Americorps staff, will produce around $80 worth of food in a season.

Membership in the project will cost $10 per month, but that cost can be offset through community service. Every two hours of service, either in the project's "give back garden" that provides food to the needy, or through service in other areas around the community, will reduce the monthly fee by five dollars.

That means four hours of service per month equals free membership. WSCC students and staff get free membership, but are required to give four hours service per month to participate.

According to VISTA staffer Heather McAfee, the garden will open on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018, with a community work day the week before, on Feb. 17. On Jan. 20, workers will begin excavating the site for the garden beds and walkways.

McAfee put out a special request for the excavation work day in January: "People who have heavy equipment who would like to come help, that would be awesome!"

WSCC is looking to hire one more Americorps VISTA staffer to work with this project in the Future Foundation office. According to Barnett, "For this particular position, we are looking for somebody who has a minimum of 10 hours of college credit, has strong writing skills, and social media optimization skills.

Americorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) is a federal program designed to battle poverty by encouraging community service and providing workers to agencies serving low income communities.

Volunteers serve for one year, receive a modest stipend and basic health care plan, and qualify for financial awards to help the further their education. For more information on Americorps VISTA, visit www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps/americorpsvista.

For more information on the Planting Seeds Community Garden, visit www.facebook.com/plantingseeds.wallacestate or email heather.mcafee@wallacestate.edu or hannah.kren@wallacestate.edu.

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 16-18

Orvin Whited, 93, of Cullman died Tuesday, December 12, 2017. Orvin was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army, where he served in Germany and France. Orvin along with his wife, Virginia, he owned and operated Mayhew Shoes and Kullman Men's Shop in Cullman and Village Bootery in Decatur. He was preceded in death by his wife, Charius Virginia Whited; brother, Sherel Whited, and son-in-law, Robert Morrow. Mr. Whited is survived by his daughters, Janice Thompson (Ted) and Carolyn Morrow; grandchildren, Wendy Thompson, Chris Thompson (JoAnn), Kenny Thompson (Karen) and Joni Quattlebaum (Eric); 10 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren. The family will receive friends from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, December 16, at First Presbyterian Church, Cullman. A celebration of Mr. Whited's life will begin at 2 p.m. Interment will follow in Cullman City Cemetery. The family requests in lieu of flowers, donations be made to First Presbyterian Church in Cullman.

Margarett Alice Speegle, 75 of Cullman, died Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017. She is survived by her daughters, Lynn Tait (David) and LaJo Hawthorne; sisters, Kay Parker and Delona Allen; five grandchildren; multiple great-grandchildren; and great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews and other family members. The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Saturday, December 16, at Moss Service Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 11:30 a.m. at Brushy Creek Cemetery. The family and friends will gather at Trimble Fire Station following the service.

Funeral services for Danny Morris Sears, 60 of Cullman, will be 6 p.m. Sunday, December 17, 2017, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home Chapel, with Charles Dixon and Jason Pilot officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Sears passed away Thursday, December 14, 2017, at his residence. He was born June 29, 1957 to parents Blaine and Naomi Sears. He was preceded in death by his father, Blaine Sears. Survivors include his wife, Sherry Sears; sons, William Sears, Patrick (MaeLee) Sears, Timothy Sears, Anthony (Michelle) Brown; daughter, Stephanie (Scott) Hallmark; grandchildren, Kayla Sears, Ethan Sears, Karlee Dears, Audrey Sears, Collin Sears, Noah Sears, Elizabeth Hallmark, Andrew Hallmark, Gage Brown, Caden Brown; mother, Naomi Sears; brothers, Martin (Karen) Sears, Chris Sears; sisters, Debbie (Danny) Hollis, Trisha Tanner; and a host of family and friends. Visitation will be 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorial service for Mr. Bill Schmidt, 67 of Cullman, will be at 12 p.m. on Monday, December 18, 2017 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Schmidt passed away on Friday, December 15, 2017. He was born January 22, 1950 to his parents, Alvin and Marie Schmidt. He is preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Deborah Schmidt, daughter, Lindsey (Brandon) Schmidt Harbison, sister, Cathy (Steve) Pesnell, niece, April (Jon) Ray, great niece, Emma Ray, sister-in-law, Tammy (Gary) Watson and a host of family and friends. Visitation will be from 11 until 12 p.m. on Monday, December 18, 2017 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

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CULLMAN CO. MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

West Point, Parkside, Hanceville headed to finals

Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE – Thursday was a day full of semi-final action inside Lane Horton Gymnasium on the campus of Hanceville High School. Two girls' and two boys' semi-final games were on tap as everyone settled in for some Cullman County Middle School Basketball Tournament hoops action. In the end, the West Point girls and boys, Parkside girls and Hanceville boys earned their way into the finals, set for Saturday.

West Point 37, Holly Pond 20 (Girls)

It was a lot closer in the second meeting of the West Point Lady Warriors and the Holly Pond Lady Broncos. After falling to West Point by 38 in the first meeting, Holly Pond showed it was ready to play, trailing by just a single point at the half.

However, West Point held Holly Pond to just one point in the third and turned up the pressure in the fourth, pushing the lead into double digits and winning the game 37-20.

STATS

West Point

- Kristine Shadix 12
- Nikki Tyree 10
- Summer Mendoza 8
- Bethany Minck 4
- Alexis Kimbril 2
- Alexus Wells 1

Holly Pond

- Madyson Rickman 11
- Paris Pannell 3
- Samantha Giles 3
- Raeleigh Olinger 3

Parkside 35, Cold Springs 21 (Girls)

It was a low-scoring first half when Parkside and Cold Springs locked horns Thursday night. Parkside jumped out to an early 6-2 lead after one, but Cold Springs turned it around in the second, scoring nine. Parkside countered with 12 points to take an 18-11 lead to the half.

The Lady Panthers kept the advantage in the third, extending their lead by one heading to the fourth. From there they held the Lady Eagles to just three points and claimed the victory, 35-21.

STATS

Parkside

- Morgan Lindsay 17
- Kaitlyn Benson 6
- McKayla Latham 4
- Allie Scott 4
- Abby Davis 2
- Emma Garcia 2

Cold Springs

- Haley Williams 6
- Ella Stephenson 4
- Heidi Nichols 4
- Mia Light 3
- Reba McCarn 2
- Erin Bailey 1
- Madison Perdue 1

West Point 33, Vinemont 14 (Boys)

Two quick threes from the Warriors started the contest between West Point and Vinemont. The Eagles scored two points in the quarter and trailed 8-2 after one.

The Warrior press got the best of the Eagles in the second, forcing turnovers that led to easy baskets for the Warriors. This allowed West Point to push its lead to 17-5 at the break.

The Warriors were on fire to start the second half, opening the third quarter on an 11-0 run. The early run led to a 28-8 advantage going to the fourth. In the final frame, West Point cruised to the 33-14 win.

STATS

West Point

- Sam Wheeler 9
- Isaac Hoffpauir 6
- Jayden Laney 6
- Matthew Hawley 3
- Noah Barnette 3
- Ashton Rodgers 2
- Eli Folds 2
- Ethan Gammon 2



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Vinemont

- Kix Johnson 6
- Colby Miller 5
- Keith Sleton 3

Hanceville 48, Cold Springs 34 (Boys)

Hanceville started on a deep three and a short jumper against Cold Springs. The hot start led to a 10-2 run that put the Eagles in a hole early. After the dust settled, the Bulldogs found themselves on top 20-10. The second quarter played dead even with Hanceville taking a 29-19 lead at the half.

The Eagles came out determined in the second half, putting the Bulldogs on their heels. But Hanceville survived and surged late in the quarter to push the lead to 16. Cold Springs looked to make a comeback in the fourth, but the deficit was too great, as Hanceville took the game, 48-34.

STATS

Hanceville

- Zach Campbell 16
- Adam Cooper 10
- Taeja Jones 6
- Brayden Harris 6
- Ben Johnson 6

Cold Springs

- Seth Williams 10
- Tanner Kelley 9
- Brodee Barnett 9
- Hunter Calvert 3
- Brody Peppers 2
- Zeke White 1

The championship games are now set for Saturday, Dec. 16

- Girls: West Point vs. Parkside at 1 p.m.
- Boys: West Point vs. Hanceville at 2:30 p.m.

Austin Monk to lead Wallace State Workforce Development

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Austin Monk joined Wallace State Community College this month as director of Workforce Development.

In Monk's new role, he will oversee training for business and industry, short-term non-credit training and continuing education.

"Wallace State strives always to meet the ever-changing talent development needs of our business and industry community," said Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics. "Cullman and Blount counties are strategically positioned for expansive economic growth and development, and we will continue to sharpen our focus of creating and improving the talent pipeline to assure their success."

"I look forward to returning to Wallace State and will strive to provide strategic leadership in the role," Monk said. "My goal is to create as many training opportunities as possible that match high demand, high wage employment trends and, most importantly, the workforce development needs of regional business and industry. It is vital to provide the community with valuable skills, industry certifications, and essential skills necessary to be successful in today's job market."

Monk is an alumnus of Wallace State, where he served as president of the WSCC Student Government Association from 2008 to 2009. While a student at Wallace State, he was named New Century Scholar for Alabama, and a Coca-Cola Gold Scholar, prestigious awards presented by Phi Theta Kappa and the Coca-Coca Foundation.

After earning a bachelor's and master's degrees in public administration with a minor in economic and community development from Auburn University in 2011 and 2012, respectively. Monk served several years as manager of Washington County Workforce Development and later become director of Workforce Development at Bishop State Community College. For most of his time at Auburn, he worked as a research assistant at the University's Government and Economic Development Institute.

"The specific effort of workforce development is a quick, yet thorough production of skilled labor, supported by industry recognized credentials," Monk said. "Wallace State is well positioned to provide these efforts and I am excited to lead them."

He was named a Promising Young Alumni by both the Wallace State Alumni Association and the Cullman City Schools Foundation in 2013. Also in 2013, he was recognized as a "Mover and Shaper" by Business Alabama. In 2014, he completed leadership studies from Harvard University, and post-graduate studies at The University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute.

For more information about workforce development at Wallace State or to schedule training, call 256-352-7874 or email austin.monk@wallacestate.edu

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



WSCC

Austin Monk is Wallace State's new director of Workforce Development.

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Giving (from Front)

- disinfectant wipes
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CAAWA wish list

- collars, medium to large
- leashes
- Kong toys, or any durable toys
- Purina Puppy Chow
- Hay or pine shavings from Tractor Supply
- dog crates, medium to Large
- Any gift cards to either Tractor Supply or PetSmart

Donations may be dropped off Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. and on Fridays from 8 a.m. until noon. The office will be closed on Christmas Day.

History (from Front)

addition to the tour, but this year's program featured Dr. William Mann of Dr. Bill's Mountain Music talking about and demonstrating two historical American musical instruments: the banjo and Appalachian dulcimer.

Hill described the students' reactions.

"As Dr. Mann began to work his magic and the beautiful music serenaded the students, Gage Duncan turned around to one of the teachers and mouthed, 'He is so good,' while one of the girls said, 'That is so beautiful.' When asked which instrument was their favorite they couldn't remember the name of the instrument, but would use their hands to show the shape of the instrument, which was the dulcimer.

They thought the music was lively, and they also liked knowing that it was an easy instrument to play. Some of the students mentioned they would like to learn to play the dulcimer."

Of the day's events as a whole, Hill added, "The fifth-grade teachers felt like this was one of the best Christmas events because members from the Cullman County community shared their knowledge of the past to make a present-day activity not only educational, but also unforgettable for the students."

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