The Cullman Tribune

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The Warrior: unmasked



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Sam Roberts, the face behind The Warrior, covering the 2017 West Point Christmas Tournament on Thursday, Dec. 28.

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

WEST POINT – It's fair to say that most of the schools in the area have an active presence on social media. Some are more active than others, but West Point High School has a unique element in its coverage: The Warrior.

The Warrior pumps out up-to-the-minute scores and play-by-play coverage of West Point athletics, and also produces graphics, videos, schedules and sports and general news about what's happening at the school.

And who's the mastermind behind it all? Senior Sam Roberts.

Roberts runs the dedicated Twitter account, The Warrior (@WP_WarriorNews). Fans can also find The Warrior on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WPWarriorNews.

Roberts is one of West Point's most involved students, both athletically and academically. He is the senior class president, vice president of the Student Government Association, and a member of FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America), Beta Club, National Honor Society, Spanish Club and FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) to name a few. Roberts also announces all the Warriors' baseball games and operates the music for basketball games while live-tweeting score updates.

Roberts drives himself to all of these club commitments along with all sports events. He hasn't missed a basketball game in his four years at West Point and is a fixture at all football and baseball games as well. Roberts has been running the Twitter account for two years, but it didn't start with him. He inherited the account from another student and has worked to try and improve it ever since.

"A senior had started the account a few months before he graduated and after that he gave it to me. That's kind of when I started working with graphics and stuff trying to get better and learning every day," Roberts said. "Back when I started I was just learning basic media and graphics stuff, but after just working with it constantly I've been able to teach myself and figure it out."

Roberts has a plan ready for what he wants to do after graduation in May; he intends to build off the



success of his high school media career going forward.

"I'm going to be launching a freelancing business in May after I graduate, and I'll be doing videography and graphic design and that kind of stuff," he shared.

"I made the Snapchat filters for Birmingham, Arab, Tuscaloosa, Athens, Decatur, Hartselle, Cullman, West Point and Smith Lake. I'll be able to sell those graphics on apparel like hats, visors and all that kind of stuff.

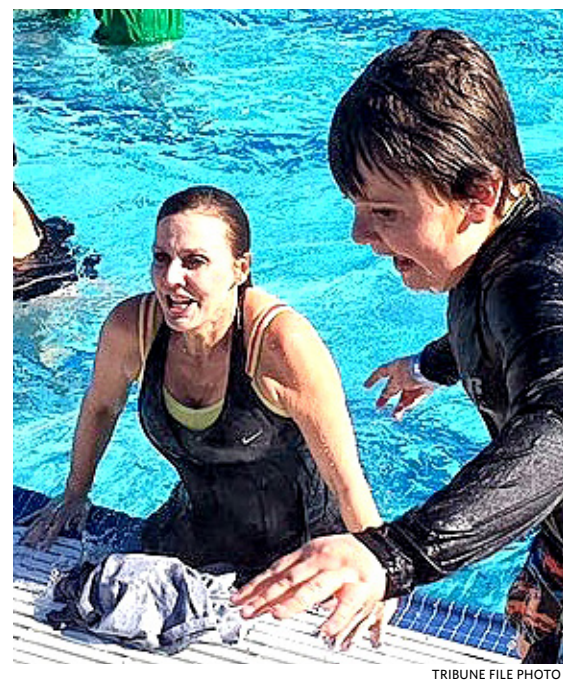
"I'm holding off on starting that right now just because I don't want to load myself down too much. I have started doing a little more professional stuff like weddings and had some ads run in the Senate campaign last year."

Roberts also has some interest in a career in politics after school. His ads that he designed during the campaign were some of his most-watched videos during the year.

"Politics is definitely something I would want to do eventually," Roberts said. "I plan on starting in business and maybe law. I've thought about going into law school and then moving into politics later."

Few schools have students who are as committed as Roberts is to covering as many school activities. In a growing digital age, Roberts is one step ahead of most students his age and has set himself up well to use his skills professionally in the near future.

CP&R's Community Wellness Week set for Jan. 1-6; Polar Bear Plunge Jan. 6



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Dameon Jackson reacts to the cold air as Christy Turner exits the pool after last year's Polar Bear Plunge.

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – Cullman Parks and Recreation (CP&R) is gearing up to start the new year with a week full of promotions and activities at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center (CWAC). Starting Monday, Jan. 1, Community Wellness Week will be in full swing. This year, CP&R expanded the event from just one day to an entire week, with added features.

Waid Harbison, director of marketing, programs and events for CP&R, is excited to see the event grow.

"Basically, in the past we have done a Community Wellness Day on the first Saturday in January and we just wanted to expand it to a full week this year," Harbison said. "Jan. 6 will kind of be our big day; we'll have the Polar Bear Plunge that day where people jump into the pool and have a chance to win a free membership. We'll have free admission for the whole day and giveaways and that sort of stuff and of course memberships will be $50 off that whole week."

Harbison has been involved in the Polar Bear Plunge for a few years now and has seen crowds of people come out to dive into those frigid waters in hopes of taking home a free year-long family membership to CWAC.

"The Polar Bear Plunge will be at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, the 6th and that's always an awesome, fun time where people get to jump in and get a chance to win a free membership. If you jump in, we will enter you into a drawing and it's pretty good odds if there's only 40 or 50 people that day," Harbison said. "We normally have somewhere between 40 and 70 people show up, but it just de-

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ADPH issues alert of increased flu activity across Alabama

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) on Friday issued an alert of increased influenza (flu) activity across the state.

A media release from the ADPH reminds the public that the flu is a very contagious respiratory illness, with symptoms including fever, cough, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, headache, muscle aches and extreme fatigue.

"This increased rate of flu activity is concerning because influenza can be a serious disease for anyone, including children, pregnant women, and previously healthy young adults," said Dr. Burnestine Taylor, medical officer for Disease Control and Prevention for the ADPH.

The ADPH suggests that everyone 6 months and older receive the "quadrivalent vaccine," the flu vaccine that protects against four influenza strains, because one of the strains in circulation in Alabama (Type B/Yamagata) is only included in the quadrivalent vaccine.

In addition to taking the flu vaccine, it says, other measures can reduce or prevent the spread of influenza.

These include staying at home when sick, covering the mouth and nose with a tissue/cloth when coughing or sneezing, and washing hands or using hand sanitizer frequently.

"It's not too late to get a flu shot to protect against this serious disease.

People become protected about two weeks after receiving the vaccine," said Taylor. The ADPH will be conducting a statewide flu vaccine awareness campaign "Start 2018 Off on the Right Foot" beginning in January to educate the public and remind everyone it is not too late to get the flu vaccine.

For more information contact the Immunization Division of the Alabama Department of Public Health at 334-206-5023 or toll free at 800-469-4599, and visit www.alabamapublichealth.gov/immunization for updated influenza activity information.

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Hanceville man arrested for allegedly molesting multiple children

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE – A Hanceville man was arrested on Dec. 26, following an investigation by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) in which it was discovered that he allegedly molested multiple children under the age of 12, according to the department.

Wade Allen Waldrop, 40, has been charged with first-degree rape, two counts of sexual abuse of a child under the age of 12 and enticing a minor.

All the charges are felonies.

A statement from the CCSO said investigators worked with the Cullman County District Attorney's Office to issue arrest warrants for the suspect.

Due to the graphic nature of this crimes, no further details are being released by the CCSO.

"I am glad we were able to arrest and put this suspect behind bars," said Sheriff Matt Gentry.

"I would like to thank our investigators for doing a great job on this case. The Cullman County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Children's Advocacy Center, Cullman DHR and the Cullman County District Attorney's Office for their assistance."

Waldrop is currently being held in the Cullman County Detention Center on a $90,000 bond.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Wade Allen Waldrop

Traffic stop nets almost 22 grams of meth

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – A traffic stop in Cullman led to the discovery of 21.9 grams of methamphetamine and the arrest of a Decatur man, according to the Cullman Police Department. Micky Dwayne Teague, 49, was arrested and charged with possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

The CPD said that on Dec. 23, Officer Kyle Foshee conducted a traffic stop at Fourth Street Southwest and Hickory Avenue Southwest. While conducting his roadside interview, Foshee allegedly found drug paraphernalia and approximately 21.9 grams of meth in the suspect's vehicle.

Following his arrest, Teague was transported to the Cullman County Detention Center and has since made bond.

"Due to Officer Foshee's proactive approach and investigation he was able to seize a significant amount of methamphetamine, and put the suspect in jail," said Sgt. Intae Suh in an email.



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Micky Dwayne Teague

County Commission meeting notes: Dec. 28

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – The Cullman County Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, with only three items on its agenda.

All three passed unanimously.

• Approved a three-year participation agreement with the ACCA Liability Fund of the period of Jan. 1, 2018 through Jan. 1, 2021

• Authorized payment to the City of Hanceville for Mud Creek cleanup in the amount of $15,000. County Administrator Gary Teichmiller advised that this is an annual contribution to Hanceville for the cleanup of the creek, and commission members said the cleanup helps prevent flooding in the area. The City of Hanceville coordinates the actual cleanup.

• Approved the renewal of a three-year contract with Pitney Bowes for mail processing equipment at a monthly cost of $568.53

The next Cullman County Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 10 a.m. in the commission meeting room at the Cullman County Courthouse. A work session will precede the meeting at 8:30.

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STATE

AL AG Marshall joins legal fight to support Trump's order against sanctuary cities

Joy Patterson
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall has joined a coalition of 11 state attorneys general in an amicus brief to support President Donald Trump's executive order regarding sanctuary cities.

The attorneys general filed a friend-of-the-court brief on Dec. 22 urging the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to overturn a lower court ruling and to enforce President Trump's executive order opposing sanctuary cities. The brief argues the establishment of sanctuary cities would undermine the President's immigration enforcement authority, an area where the Constitution gives him and Congress considerable power. The brief supports President Trump's position in an appeal of the cases City and County of San Francisco v. Donald Trump and County of Santa Clara v. Donald Trump.

"This is fundamentally a matter of public safety, in which we are asking the Court to uphold the right of Alabama and other states to fight practices that defy the rule of law and hinder the ability of law enforcement to effectively protect the public," said Marshall. "If local entities are allowed to interfere with the enforcement of federal immigration laws, then criminal illegal immigrants may take refuge and endanger the surrounding communities. The State of Alabama supports the President's executive order because we believe that individual states should have the right to prohibit sanctuary cities and effectively protect our citizens."

Sanctuary jurisdictions — cities and localities that prohibit or otherwise obstruct cooperation between federal and local officials on immigration enforcement — defy the rule of law and deprive law enforcement of the tools necessary for effective civil and criminal enforcement, the attorneys general assert. Upholding federal immigration laws will provide law enforcement in Alabama and other states with additional and necessary tools to identify drug offenders who enter the country unlawfully.

The executive order directs the U.S. Attorney General and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that sanctuary cities, to the extent permitted by law, may not receive grant dollars from specific federal programs. The order encourages states to comply with existing federal law that promotes voluntary cooperation between federal and state officials.

Alabama joined the West Virginia and Louisiana-led brief with Arkansas, Florida, Kansas, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas. Access a copy of the brief through this link. (http://www.ago.state.al.us/Documents/news/Sanctuary%20Cities%20Amicus%20Brief%2012-17.pdf)

Bill Smith Buick GMC donates $1.8K to Bosom Buddies

Cullman County Bosom Buddies

CULLMAN – The Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation received a check for $1,833 from Bill Smith Buick GMC, Inc.

For support during the month of October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Bill Smith held a fundraiser.

For each test drive taken, they donated $25 to the Foundation.

The CCBBF was honored to receive this donation.

"We truly thank Bill Smith Buick GMC for their generous donation. This will help a lot of our Cullman neighbors that are struggling with personal financial needs, while in treatment for cancer.

Your donations are always welcome," said CCBBF board member Judy Grissom.

To donate to Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation- mail to:
CCBBF
P.O. Box 123
Vinemont, Alabama 35179.



JUDY GRISSOM

Judy Grissom, CCBBF board member, receives a check from Andy Cole, Bill Smith Buick GMC general manager.

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1959

Mount Hermon News

J.H. Hemrick, N.G. Hyatt and Harvey Hemrick made a trip to Cullman on Wednesday.

W.D. Solley, Joyce, Ray and Travis and Janet Hyatt attended the King Brothers Circus in Cullman, last week.

Doris Solley was at home for the weekend. On Saturday night, Doris and Joyce visited their grandmother, Mrs. Harper and attended the singing at Ruth.

W.D. Solley and Joyce and Shirley Harris went to Huntsville, on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hemrick went to Florida for the weekend. Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Cook went also to see their son, Troy, who is in service in Tampa.

Betty Brooks visited Janet Hyatt on Sunday evening.

G.D. Brooks has been very sick this week.

Gilbert Hemrick, of Alabama City, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Hemrick, on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Cook and family visited relatives in this community, on Friday.

David Hemrick spent Friday night in Gadsden.

Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Head, from Gadsden, spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Euel Screws.

Shaddix Rites Held

Funeral services were held today, at Bethel, for Dillman Shaddix, 77, who died on October 16th.

Reverend P.U. Green and Reverend Ray Palmer conducted the services and Moss Service directed interment.

Surviving are one son, Reverend John D. Shaddix and two daughters, Mrs. Susie Fowler and Mrs. Rosa Hyatt.

From The Files Of 1919

Eleven students at API were expelled this week for hazing of freshmen.

Miss Lucile Sparks entertained a group of young friends at a Halloween party. Present were Gladys Kilpatrick, Mattie Lea Rollo, Helen Buchmann, Esther Wood, Nannie Mae Burrows, Bessie Metz, Alberta Ziegler, Birdie Brown, Foster Coe, Evon Buchanan, Percy Nuss, Clarence Patillo, Alton Miller, Oscar Upshaw, Harry Wise, Emmett Harris, Escal Roden and Frank Sparks.

James Entrekin was fatally injured at the O.I. Walker Cotton Gin, at Berlin, on Friday.

He had been caught in a line shaft, when found unconscious.

Robert Elrod, 47, of Baileyton, was found dead in bed at the home of his brother-in-law, Millard Ford, on Wednesday morning. Examination showed death was caused by congestion of the brain.

Mrs. Ella Fleming arrived in Cullman on Thursday to make her home, after several years absence.

Misses Edna Herrin and Annie Lola Price were home from Athens College for the weekend.

Willie Griffin attended the Alabama- Sewanee football game, in Birmingham, on Saturday.

Found – Best place to buy outing. Fisher and Sandlins. Adv. B.F. Hembree is a clerk at the Cullman Post Office.

Miss Maybelle Thompson will be "at home" on Saturday, from 4 to 5 o'clock honoring Miss Wynelle Saint John, bride- elect and Miss Christine Rogers, of Athens.

J.M. Chambers and little daughter, Jazabelle, of Route Nine, Cullman, were in the city on Tuesday.

Mrs. W.E. Barclift and children have returned to Vicksburg, Mississippi, after a visit with Mrs. Katherine Barclift.

Doctor D.J. Parker, of Arkadelphia, was in the city on Monday.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

It all came a tumbling down



Bill King
Tribune
Contributor

Christmas was only a few weeks away and Bill and Sandra's new house was almost complete. It was shaping up to be a beautiful two story home in the Sherwood Knolls subdivision of Rainbow City, Alabama.

The framing had been completed, the windows fastened in place, and the doors hung. Upstairs were three bedrooms, a couple of bathrooms, the kitchen, and a great room complete with a nice fireplace and hearth. Downstairs was a drive in two car garage and room on the other end for a future mother-in-law suite.

The house neared its completion when Bill's father died. He was buried on a Sunday afternoon. Work resumed on the house the next week.

On Tuesday, the building supply store delivered the sheetrock. The hanging of sheetrock is a sign that move in day is getting close but that was not the case for this family.

Rather than evenly distributing the sheetrock throughout the house, and on both floors, the delivery men placed eighty-five pieces all in one stack, in the middle of the floor, in the second floor great room.

Somewhere around 8:30 that Tuesday evening, Bill received a phone call from one of their soon to be next door neighbors.

She reported that that she had heard a loud noise and looked out to see that their new house had collapsed. It had fallen in upon itself like a house of cards.

That stack of sheetrock had fallen through the floor. When the floor collapsed it pulled down the walls, windows, doors, and roof with it.

Within the next few days a bulldozer was brought in and what was left of the house was pushed down and cleared away.

Eventually, the builders started all over and they rebuilt the house.

Why would someone who should have known better place that much weight in one spot of a second- story floor?

One standard piece of four by eight feet, one- half inch thick, sheetrock weighs around fifty four pounds. Eighty five of them weigh a total of 4,590 pounds.

That was more than two tons on weight in one spot in an upstairs room.

The floor simply could not stand up under that much weight concentrated in one spot.

Now the truth is that this was not too much sheetrock.

It was the exact amount needed to finish the house. The problem was that it was too much sheetrock in one spot.

Had it been spread throughout the house, there wouldn't have been any problem.

After the house was rebuilt, exactly the same amount of sheetrock was hung on the walls and the house didn't collapse.

Have you ever heard the expression "The straw that broke the camel's back?"

Sometimes it only takes one more straw or one more sheet of drywall. Have you ever felt like the weight of the world was on top of you?

Have you ever thought if one more thing, one more problem, one more worry, one more demand, or one more whatever it may be, is put on you that you will surely crumble?

We all have things in life that weight us down but often they are distributed over a period of time, maybe even years. When they are concentrated and pile up, we may feel like we can't possibly take anymore. As I look back on 2017, it has been one of those "piled up" years for my family and me, but I am thankful that with God's help we made it through. I'm praying that the new-year will be a good one for us all. Happy New Year!

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

Poet's Corner



The Latch

By Randy C. Hale

Inspired by "The Little Match Girl"
By Hans Christian Anderson 1845; illustration by Natalia Demidova

She asked God for bread. Something to
eat was never a sure or settled thing.

Her mother instructed her
to stay inside and keep the door fastened tight.

She rubbed her hands by a warming plate.

Her mother didn't always return with empty
hands and her hope was never dead.

Then on one cold night she fell asleep near
the source of her heat and dreamed.

The angels came lifting her toward a glorious
light, to a place of plenty and every delight.

There was laughter, such beautiful songs.
And the angels said, "this is now your home."

Behind the door latched shut her small
body lay beneath the ash and soot.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Cullman County Commissioner Kerry Watson



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Rep. Randall Shedd



WSCC

Dr. Vicki Karolewics

NEW YEAR'S 2018

Remembering 2017

Anticipating 2018

part 2

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN COUNTY – In this installment of The Tribune's New Year's series, we hear from Cullman County Commissioner Kerry Watson, Rep. Randall Shedd and Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics.

Cullman County Commissioner Kerry Watson

What is your fondest memory of 2017?

"I do not have just one thing that would stand out as my fondest memory of 2017. I enjoyed the whole year."

Is there anything about 2017 you'd rather forget?

"I do not want to forget anything about 2017. I believe every experience you have is meant to be a learning or teaching experience that you can use as a building block for the future."

What are you most looking forward to in 2018?

"My expectation for 2018 is that I look forward to serving the people of Cullman County and seeing what God has in store for me."

Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview

What is your fondest memory of 2017?

"I have a number of personal fond memories, but legislatively my fondest memory is being appointed to chair the House Committee on Urban and Rural Development. This puts my district at the table in Montgomery, when decisions are made. That puts me on the leadership team and gives my district some clout, and I intend to use it for my district."

Is there anything about 2017 you'd rather forget?

"What I'd like to forget is all the political corruption we saw in 2017 from the former governor, former speaker, the U.S. Senate appointment, and then the nasty U.S. Senate election. Let's put all that behind us and move on."

What are you most looking forward to in 2018?

"I look forward to 2018, seeing our state's leaders articulate a vision and plan that the public can buy into to move our state forward. I look forward to being vocal about the choice the State Board of Education makes for state superintendent. It's time we have the Nick Saban/Gus Malzahn of education. I'm calling on our state school board to search the nation over and find that person, and whatever takes bring them to Alabama."

Wallace State Community College President Dr. Vicki Karolewics

What is your fondest memory of 2017?

"There are so many, it is difficult to choose! On a personal level, it has certainly been watching my first granddaughter Madison Grace grow into the little 18-month-old she is today. On a professional level, it has been to witness the accolades Wallace State has accumulated this year – Achieving the Dream Leader College, Aspen Institute Designation as a top community college in the nation, and a National League of Nursing Center of Excellence."

Is there anything about 2017 you'd rather forget?

"I would like to pretend that the political divisiveness that has consumed our nation had not occurred. We have much more in common than that which divides people along political lines."

What are you most looking forward to in 2018?

"I am looking forward to many things because I am an eternal optimist. Most of all, however, I look forward to my son being well again."

Bill Smith
BUICK GMC



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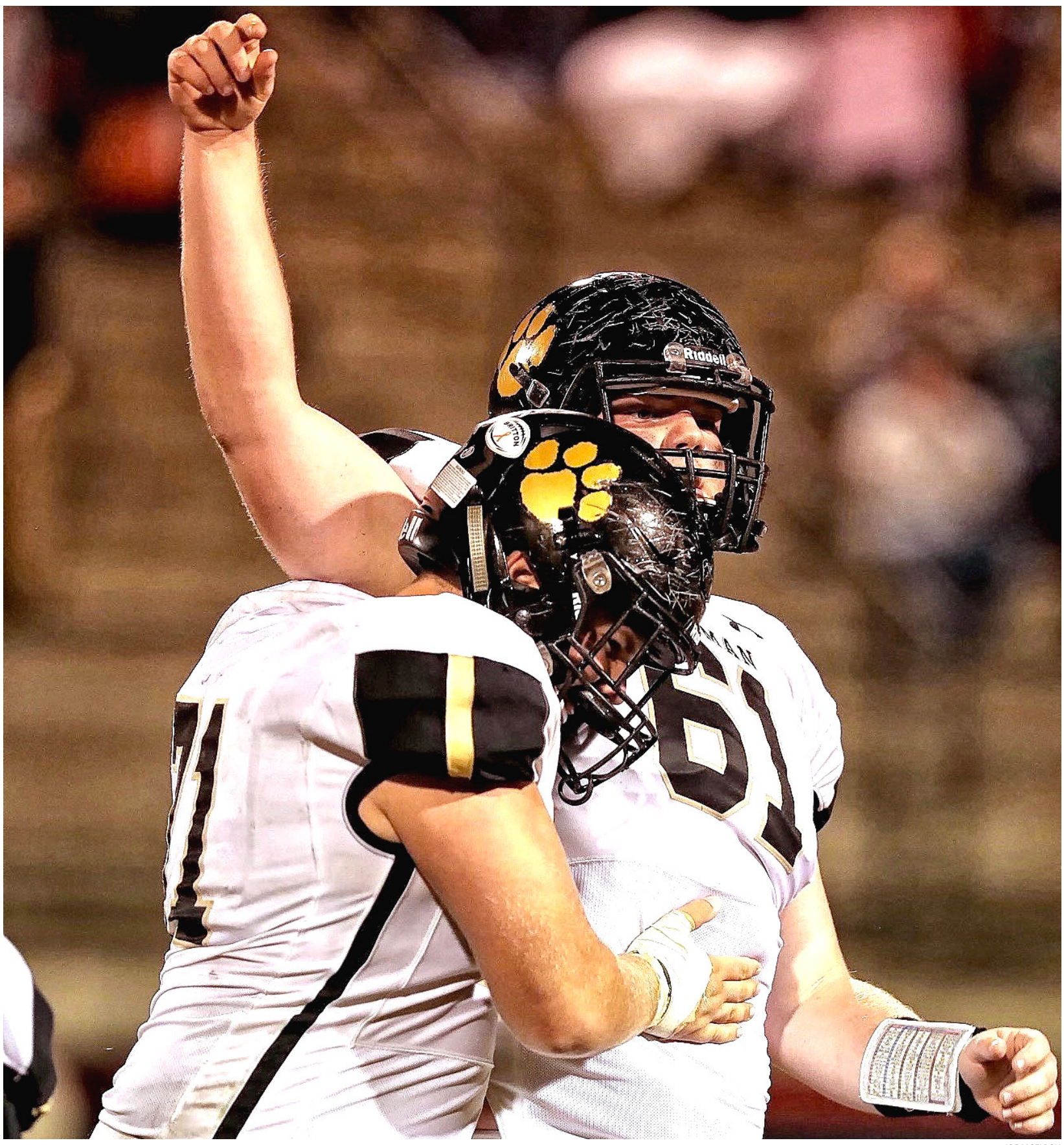
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Cullman's Tyler Nunnelly on being a Bearcat, heading to EKU

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent



JOE MCELROY

Tyler Nunnelley (61) has signed with Eastern Kentucky University.

CULLMAN – The Cullman Bearcats have developed a tradition for elite offensive linemen and senior Tyler Nunnelley is the latest product. Nunnelley was a four-year starter on the offensive front for Cullman and capped off his high school career by signing a scholarship to play for Eastern Kentucky next fall.

Nunnelley said he's been working to earn a spot amongst past Bearcat greats for as long as he can remember.

"That's been my goal since I was 6 years old," he shared. "I've been working out at ASPT with Coach Steve Johnson since I was 6 and he's really helped me. My parents really pushed me to the limit and I thank them for it because there were some days I just didn't want to go but they told me it would pay off in the end and it's starting to now. It's very special to get mentioned with those names of offensive linemen like Daniel Hunter last year. He really made me better; we went after it at practice and it's just great to be mentioned with those guys who have played here."

Nunnelley attributes a lot of his success and development to his coaches he worked with at Cullman. He feels that his coaches did a lot to prepare him both physically and mentally for Friday nights as well as the next level.

"We watched a lot of game film together, that's really what we did and worked a lot on footwork," Nunnelley said.

"Coach Brandon Dingler has really helped me and we also had another coach, Coach Jonlee Sasser has been working with us for two years. Coach Dingler has been there for all four of my years and it was hard as a freshman.

"Everyone was so much bigger than me, and he just kind of kept my head on straight and has been a huge help to me over the years. I love Coach Britton too, he's helped me a lot in my recruiting and really just teaching me to be a better person. We have a great relationship and even when I was really young I knew Coach Britton. He hunted and everything, so I've known him for a while and I really appreciate everything that he's done for me."

Nunnelley is confident that his transition to Eastern Kentucky will go smoothly from a schematic standpoint. The offensive style is very similar to what he has been playing for four years as a Bearcat, so he's excited to start competing for a spot up front after graduation.

"I think I should be able to translate pretty well. Our offense is a good bit like Eastern's. I think they go under center a little bit but not a lot and they do a lot of wide zone which is what we run at Cullman. I've been watching some of their film and when I went up for my visit my offensive line coach put together some clips of our plays and their plays and they come together a lot.

"It's going to be a huge jump for me and I'm going to have to get a lot better, but it helps that we already do some of the stuff that I'll have to do in college. After I committed I went up to their camp because I hadn't been to one and I just wanted to move around and do some drills and I got to meet a lot of people, so it was really good. I went on my official visit a few weeks ago, and I was going to play there anyway, but that visit really sealed the deal because I got to meet a lot of players and all the coaches so I'm excited."

Nunnelley reflected on how his time at Cullman prepared him to play at the collegiate level and talked about some of his favorite memories on the field.

"The coaching staff really stayed on me to keep working and polish my game and stuff like that. We also watched a lot of game film and this year we lost Daniel Hunter and some other guys, so they asked me to step up and be a leader and I appreciated that and thought it was a good thing for me," he smiled. "We had fun, it was a good senior year and I wish we'd made it a little further, but we had a good year. The difference between freshman and senior year is huge so the coaches did a lot to help me mentally. My sophomore year we beat Austin and that year they actually went to the semi-finals and got beat by Clay-Chalkville I think. They were beating us at halftime by a couple touchdowns and we came back and won it and that was awesome, that was a good memory. Another memory was this year when we beat Fort Payne after Coach Britton announced his retirement; that was really big because we wanted to win it for him. This was also our best year since we've been in 6A so that felt good."

Nunnelley's Bearcat football days may be wrapped up, but he's still got some playing time left at Cullman. He's getting ready to join up with Coach Brent Patterson and the Cullman baseball team this spring, so the All-State lineman will get to swing the bat a little before starting his career as a Colonel next fall.

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CULTURE

Celebrate New Year's Eve with Elks, New Year's Eve-Eve at Goat Island

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Goat Island Brewing Pre-New Year's Eve Party

• Saturday, Dec. 30, from 7 p.m. to midnight at Goat Island Brewing, 1646 John H Cooper Drive SE A, Cullman.

• From Goat Island: Celebrate New Year's Eve early with us at Goat Island Brewing! Starting at 7 p.m., Dec. 30, feast on an amazing meal by Freddie Day Catering. Then at 8 p.m., enjoy live music from Round 2! Your meal will include: prime rib, mashed potatoes, green beans and dessert.

• Cost for the meal is $25 per person but space is limited so you must make a reservation. Please email your name and phone number to hillary.brewer@goatislandbrewing to save a spot. RESERVATION IS FOR MEAL ONLY. You do not need to make one to just come for the music and beer.

Elks Lodge New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball

• Sunday, Dec. 31, from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Cullman Elks Lodge 1609, 1525 Brantley Ave. NW, Cullman.

• From the Cullman Elks Lodge: Join us Sunday Dec. 31 at the Cullman Elks Lodge for Cullman's biggest and best countdown experience! Dress to impress and don't forget your favorite mask. Doors open at 6 p.m. Hutch Edwards Project will be performing from 8 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. Cost will be $25 per person, which will include entrance, party favors, champagne at midnight and heavy hors d' oeuvres. Must be 21 or older. All guests must be signed in by a valid Elk member.



ELKS LODGE

The Elks Lodge New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball will be held Dec. 31, from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 30 - Jan. 6

Funeral services for Roy Gene Leonard, 73 of Cullman, will be 2 p.m. Saturday, December 30, 2017, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home Chapel, with Dr. David Chambers officiating. Interment will be in Center Grove Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Leonard passed away Friday, December 22, 2017, at his residence. He was born January 2, 1944, to parents, James Leonard and Jennie Turney Leonard. He was preceded in death by his parents. Mr. Leonard is survived by a daughter, Bobbie Jean Leonard of Gadsden, AL. Visitation will be 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, December 30, 2017, at the funeral home. A special thanks to Kay Burks, Southern Beacon Hospice, and a host of caregivers.

Funeral service for Linda Mae Armstrong, age 68 of Cullman, will be at 12 p.m. on Saturday, December 30, 2017 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Eugene Lewis officiating; burial at Valley Springs Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Armstrong passed away on Thursday, December 28, 2017 at her residence. She was born, December 29, 1948 to Carl and Christine Weeks. She is preceded in death by her, parents. Survivors include her, husband, Danny Armstrong, sons, Daniel (Tammy) Armstrong and Mathew (Rita) Armstrong, daughters, Ann (Joey) Brock, Laura Armstrong, and Betty Keller, 15 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Logan Wayne Trammell, age 22 of Cullman, passed away Monday, December 25, 2017. Logan's passion was music and writing songs. He was an accomplished musician and songwriter. Logan also worked in construction. He is survived by his parents: Wayne and Tonya Trammell; sister, Natalie Trammell; grandparents: John and Geneva Sellers; and Donald and Carolyn Trammell; aunts and uncles: John Sellers Jr. (Flor), Keith Sellers, Brent Sellers (Julie), Tammy Jacobs (Tommy), and Stacey Tankersley (Kyle); a multitude of cousins and extended family members and a great host of friends. The family will receive friends at Missionary Grove Church on Saturday, December 30, 2017 from 10 a.m. until the Celebration of Logan's life which will begin at 2 p.m. Burial will follow in Missionary Grove Cemetery.

Paul E Williams, 76 of Double Springs, entered into rest on December 28, 2017 at Walker Baptist Medical Center. Mr. Williams was born on July 4, 1941, in Lawrence County, Alabama. He deeply loved his family and spending time with his grandchildren. He also enjoyed working on cars and doing small engine repair. Visitation will be held on Sunday, December 31, 2017 from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Double Springs, where services will be held at 2 p.m. Brother Russ McDonald will officiate. Burial will follow in Williams Cemetery. Paul is survived by his wife of 51 years, Kathy Williams; sons, Jerry Williams, Timmy Williams, and Robby Williams and wife Denise; daughters, Paula Lyons and husband Derrick, Shelia Moore and husband Tommy; brothers, Jimmy Williams and wife Pat, Billy Williams and wife Gina; sister, Barbara Hogan; He was "Pawpaw' to 6 grandchildren, Kali Gilbert and husband Dylan, Tucker Speer, Damien Maze, Lashae Moore, Jaxxon Williams, and Colton Williams. He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Lillian Williams; brothers, Odie Williams, Bud Williams, Dois Williams, G.W. Williams, and Dalton Williams; sisters, Ruth Wilburn, and Betty Ann Estes; and infant sons, Paul E Williams J.R., Terry Williams.

Funeral service for Glenn Edward Beck, age 67, will be at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with; burial at Good Hope Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Beck passed away on Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. He was born, January 15, 1950 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota to Harold and Geraldine Beck. Mr. Beck was an avid gun collector and pet lover. He served as a policeman for 39 years. During that time is served as police chief in Nichols, Iowa before moving to Cullman where he ended his career in law enforcement. He was a great friend to all who knew him and will be missed by so many. From his wife God speed, there are so many people waiting for you, so take God's hand and be at peace. He is preceded in death by his, parents, daughter, Tessa Beck, brother, Gerold Beck. Survivors include his, wife, Christine Beck, daughters, Alicia (Bill) Bright, Brianna (Jeff) Sytsma, Brooke (Jeff) Hammons, and Blake Ervin, grandchildren, Logan and Jase Bright, Greyson and Haley Sytsma, Rowan Hammons, Mackenzie and Braxton Ervin, and brother, Joel (Kathryn) Beck. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until 12 noon on Tuesday, January 02, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Graveside services for Mrs. Martha Ann Andrews, 75 of Cullman, will be at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at East Point Cumberland Presbyterian cemetery, with a Celebration of Life service immediately following at St. John's Church in the Ruehl Building. Cullman Funeral Home is directing. Mrs. Andrews was born on May 1, 1942; and passed away on Friday, December 22, 2017 at Woodland Village Health Care Center. Survivors include two – Sons – Jim R. Andrews & Scot (Lisa) Andrews; one Granddaughter – Bailie Andrews; one Brother – Robert Zinsmeister; and a Host of Loving Nieces & Nephews. The family request in Lieu of Flowers, donations be made to the Scleroderma Foundation or the United Way in her memory.

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WHAT'S ON DECK FOR UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Harbison, Shedd talk CHIP, taxes and the duties of a representative

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN COUNTY – Before the 2018 legislative session kicks off in Montgomery on Jan. 9, The Tribune caught up with area Representatives Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope and Randall Shedd, R-Fairview to talk about what citizens might expect to see coming out of Montgomery this year.

What's coming up in this session?

Harbison responded, "I think this is going to be a short legislative session. I think that, from what I understand, we're going to get in, we're going to pass a few bills, and try to get our budgets finished, and get out early. We go in Jan. 9, which is fairly early for us to go in. We've got up to 30 legislative days to do the State's business and adjourn, but I don't think we'll go 30 days. I think we're going to have a short session. I don't see much legislation coming.

"I think that everybody's just wanting to get down and get out, and I think the state will appreciate that. You know, I've always said we probably do more damage when we're in session than when we're out of session. In my four years in the Legislature, I haven't really introduced much legislation.

"We're at a point where it's just as important to stop legislation as it is to introduce and push legislation, because there's a lot of bad bills that get introduced and pushed in Montgomery.

"I think our job is to go to Montgomery and do the business for the people that's going to improve the life of Alabamians. And I think a lot of times we get caught up in going down and passing bills to make a statement or to pander, and I don't think that is our job. We've got to look out for the well-being of the state, and I think that a lot of people get fed up because of the pandering and waste of time."

Said Shedd, "Most legislators want this to be a quick and smooth session, but I'm not sure it will turn out that way.

"I expect the minority party will be doing everything (it) can to cause the majority party to take bad votes and make us look bad, delay and filibuster, but we'll have to work through it and make sure the state functions. Priority will be on passing budgets as soon as possible and addressing pressing issues like prison court-orders, mental health, and I think broadband infrastructure will be addressed."

What does the daily life of a representative look like during the session?

According to Shedd, "It depends on committee meeting schedules. Typically, we arrive on Tuesdays for legislative voting, have committee meetings on Wednesday and voting sessions again on Thursday. Caucus meetings, receptions etc. usually take the day into the night. Last session, we actually were in session until 3 a.m. one time, but that is rare. Several times we've been in session until 10-11 p.m. When we are in session, we have to stay close to the floor in case a quick vote happens. We really have to watch for trickery."

Said Harbison, "What we typically do is we go in on a Tuesday morning; we'll have session that day and we'll stay in pretty late. And then Wednesday is committee day, so we have committee bills on Wednesday. Any bill that's introduced, it goes to a certain committee, and then the committee either approves it or kills it. If they approve it, it goes to the full House or Senate, depending on which house it starts in first. Then Thursday is a session day again. It's three days a week, most of the time."

There are exceptions, though. Harbison related an incident from last year, in which a single bill took three days to process due to stalling tactics used in an effort to change the bill before voting.

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) / ALL Kids

The national health insurance program for children has been threatened recently with cutbacks or even suspension due to issues in the federal government, including the recent near shutdown during inter-party conflict in Congress. For now, ALL Kids is safe, though its long-term stability remains uncertain.

The Alabama Department of Public Health recently posted in its website:

"Important Update: With the continuing resolution passed by Congress on December 21, 2017, ALL Kids will not freeze enrollment on January 1, 2018 nor terminate coverage on February 1, 2018. Further updates to come as Congress needs to pass full, long term funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)."

Does Alabama have a contingency plan, should the federal government fail to preserve funding for CHIP?

"I believe Congress will come up with a permanent solution, but I know we absolutely do not want this important service to end in our state," commented Shedd. "Last year, the House insisted on saving $90 million to carry over for this year and one thing we discussed is we may have to spend it on children's health if Congress does not come through. That would make it tough on other state services if we had to."

Harbison shared, "I don't know where the State could step up and do anything, because the State's broke at this point. Unless there's an additional funding source that comes in, the State can't pick up the slack at this point, unless there's a tax increase or an additional funding source from the federal government.

"And it's very important," Harbison continued. "A lot of kids need it. You hate to see kids punished who can't help the situation they were brought into in this world. I think we have an obligation as humans to help take care of them. The kids, they're helpless, but it's going to be hard for the State to do anything."

Cullman County gasoline and diesel fuel taxes

For a legislator to use the word "tax" in a sentence without the word "cut" immediately following it is a dangerous thing, but there could be a bill before the State Legislature in 2018 that would add 3 cents to Cullman County's current 1-cent gasoline tax, and create a 4-cent tax on diesel fuel, contingent upon a countywide vote in the November general election. According to the proposal submitted to the Cullman County Mayors and Commissioners Association in December, the revenue generated by the taxes would be earmarked specifically for materials to be used in the repair and reconstruction of roads and bridges inside Cullman County.

About the bill, Shedd was brief. "The local gas tax is strictly up to the voters. We've had a lot of people tell us they want roads fixed and (are) willing to pay more, but that is up to the people to decide that."

Harbison stated, "If anything is passed for a local fuel tax, what the mayors and the commissioners agreed on--the first key thing--is that the citizens of Cullman will get a vote on it. I think what they want to do is they want to get a plan together and say, 'This is how much revenue we're currently getting, this is where it goes, this is how much it takes to pave a mile of road, this is how much it costs to repair a bridge, this is how much it costs to replace a bridge;' put all this information out to the citizens of the county, and then let the people vote whether they're willing to pay a little more for better roads, or they're happy like they are. Leave it in the hands of the citizens."

The final word

The Tribune gave each representative an unprompted opportunity to share his own thoughts about the Legislature and his role in it with his constituents before he heads to Montgomery.

Shedd told us, "I am really proud of the way the House of Representatives responded to the corruption problems in our state. We addressed it. We made sure we didn't weaken the ethics laws just because some of our colleagues got caught up in them, and we elected a new speaker of the house that is a breath of fresh air in Montgomery. We've got a new speaker of the house, a new governor, and I think we have a new mindset. I feel good about the future, even though the recent past has not been good. We've changed Montgomery, in my opinion."

Harbison shared, "This was my first four years in the Legislature. I just appreciate the people of Cullman giving me the opportunity to serve them in this capacity. I hope that I've represented the people well, and I always try to think, when I cast my vote, it's not what does Corey Harbison want; It's what do the people of Cullman want, and that's the way I try to look at things.

"Anybody can look at one certain bill and criticize, and not be happy with it, but I hope that the people of Cullman, when they judge and rate me as a legislator, that they look at me as a whole in all of my bills and say, 'Overall, Corey's done a fair job representing us,' because we do know it's election time rolling around, so that's always important. But, either way, it's been a pleasure to work for the people, and I try to make myself available online, on Facebook. I put my phone number out, I interact, and I'm just proud to work for the people."

City Parks and Rec hosting ski trip Jan. 26-28

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Cullman Parks and Recreation announced this morning it will host a ski trip Jan. 26-28.

The event, the department's first-ever ski trip, will take place at Winterplace Ski Resort in West Virginia.

The ski trip is limited to the first 12 people who register. Only those 18 or older can attend.

The cost, including lodging, transportation, all ski equipment/lift tickets and a ski lesson for beginners, if needed, is $325 per person if staying with a roommate or $400 per person if lodging alone. Transportation will be provided from Cullman on CP&R's 15-passenger bus.

Find a full schedule for the trip and register online at http://qrne.ws/skitrip.

For more information, contact Waid Harbison at CP&R at 256-734-9157 or wharbison@cullmanrecreation.org.

Plunge (from Front)

pends on the weather. Last year we had a lower turnout, the pool temperature was cold; it was about (46) degrees, but the temperature on the pool deck was about (21) degrees, so it was one of the coldest days of the year. Right now, the pool temperature is about 39 degrees so it's not too, bad but it's getting really cold this week, so it could be lower by next Saturday. Some people have done it regularly every year since we've done it, and we've actually done it every year since the facility opened and it's been as low as 21 degrees in the pool and as high as 50 degrees."

In the week leading up to the Polar Bear Plunge, the Aquatic Center will have several activities and promotions going on from free classes to health vendors and more.

"What we're going to be doing during the week is first of all we will have the $50 off memberships going for the whole week. That was so popular in the past that we thought we would expand upon that this year," Harbison said. "We're going to do some giveaways for our members which is something new we haven't done before.

"We have some cool water bottles, pedometers, T-shirts, just fitness-oriented stuff like that. We'll have some people like Alpha Nutrition and GNC come in and have some giveaways and free tastings so it's going to be kind of a member-oriented week."

Harbison continued, "On Saturday we'll have basically the same setup that we've used in the past. We'll have free admission for anyone who wants to come that day, some free fitness classes that we have so that people coming in for free that day can try one out if they want to and we'll also have a health fair going up and down the hallway. A lot of different people will be there, we'll have the hospital there doing health screenings, we'll have a massage therapist there, GNC and Weight Watchers will be there, so anything related to health and wellness we'll have there for the health fair."

At a glance

Community Wellness Week Jan. 1-6 at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center

$50 off memberships all week
Member giveaways

Saturday, Jan. 6

Polar Bear Plunge at 10:30 a.m.
Free Health Fair
Free admission all day
More info: http://cullmanrecreation.org/

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2017-356

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF Faye NELL SWINDOLL, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Patrick Gene Swindoll on the 15th day of December, 2017, by the Hon. 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.

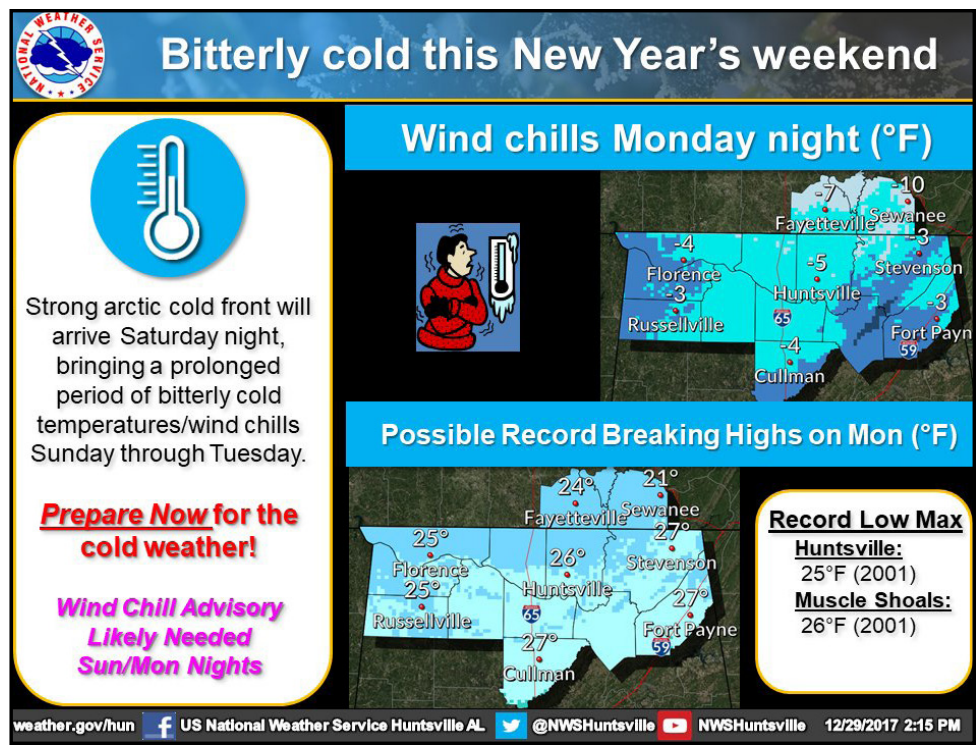
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Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

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Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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