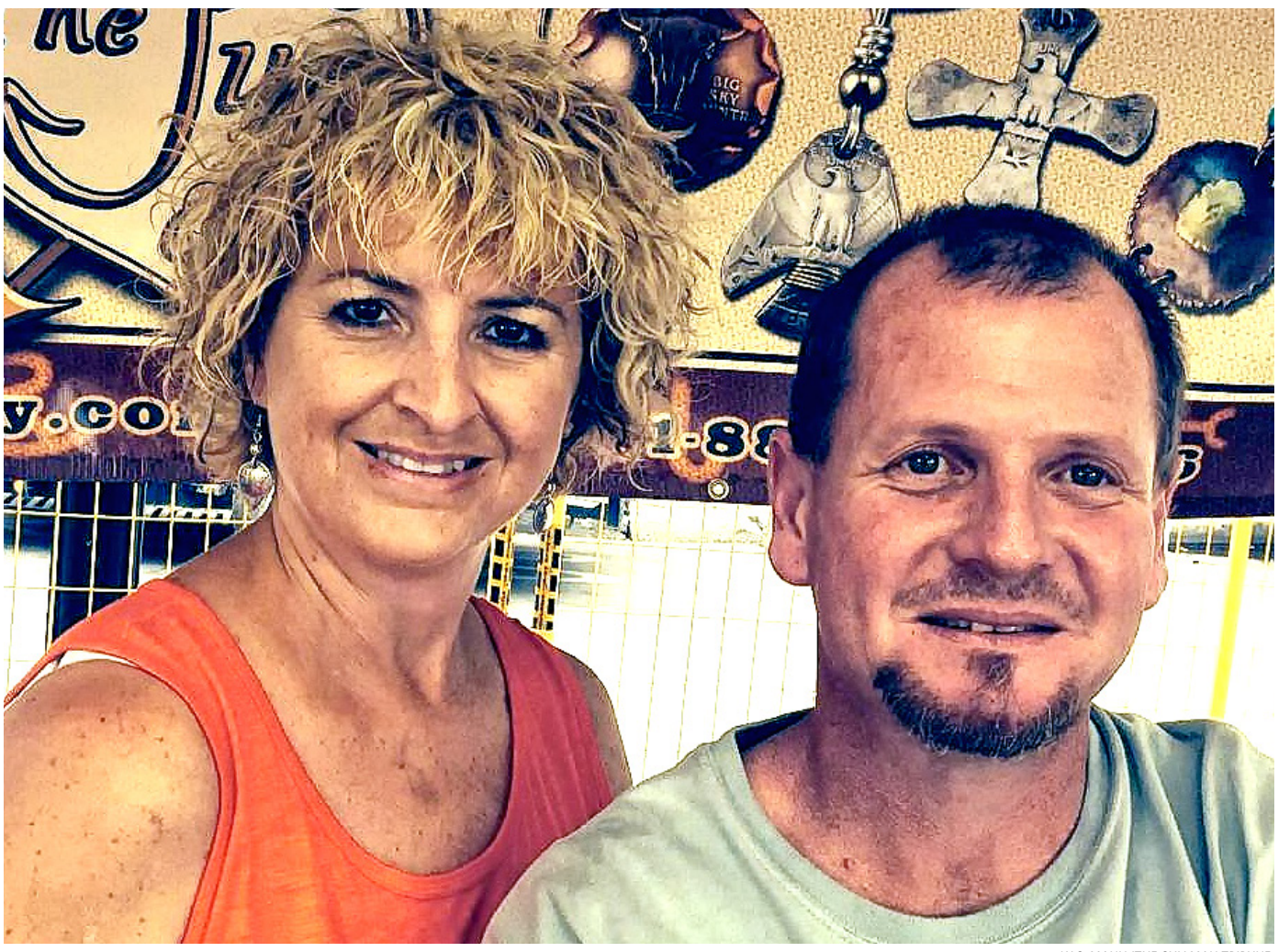
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The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 145 • 50¢ PER COPY | FEBRUARY 3, 2018 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 15

Crafty Falkville couple with Cullman roots gains national attention



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Paige and Brian Greer set up The Fun Company tent every year at Cullman's Bloomin' Festival.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

FALKVILLE – Cullman natives Brian and Paige Greer enjoy life on the road from their current home in Falkville, spending months at a time traveling to shows around the country to sell their line of custom jewelry made from recycled coins, silverware and other materials. Now, thanks to the Friends of NRA (National Rifle Association), "The Fun Company" can enjoy a little more national recognition without having to hit the highway- not that they have any plans to stay home and take it easy.

Early last year, The Fun Company had a booth at the National Wild Turkey Convention in Nashville. The Greers were hard at work when representatives from the Friends of NRA stopped by and took an interest in their arrowhead-shaped "Freedom Flyer" earrings, made from vintage quarters and featuring an eagle image.

Paige Greer related, "They walked into our booth at the Wild Turkey Convention, which is a huge hunting expo in Nashville, at the Opryland Convention Center.

"And they walked up to our booth and walked in, and said, 'Hey, can you make 1,130 pairs of those earrings?'"

As one might imagine, it took a little time to check numbers and schedules, but the Greers determined that they could handle the order, and called the number on the card the representative had given them. Now, they're in the Friends of NRA catalog. Their earrings, along with other items, will be given to members and donors as promotions, and will be auctioned at fundraising events.

» PAGE 5

STATE REPORT CARD: Cullman County Schools receive a 'B'; City Schools an 'A'

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansenes.com

CULLMAN – The Alabama State Department of Education (ASDE) on Thursday released the 2016-2017 State Report Card, part of 2012's Alabama Accountability Act, which required the ASDE to come up with a report card to assign an overall letter grade for each public school system and each public school in Alabama.

Overall, Cullman County Schools received a B. The grades by school were as follows:

- Cold Springs Elementary - B
- Cold Springs High - C
- Fairview Elementary - B
- Fairview Middle - B
- Fairview High - D
- Good Hope Elementary - C
- Good Hope Middle - B
- Good Hope High - C
- Hanceville Elementary - C
- Hanceville Middle - B
- Hanceville High - C
- Harmony - C
- Holly Pond Elementary - C
- Holly Pond Middle - B
- Holly Pond High - C
- Parkside - B
- Welti - B
- West Point Elementary - B
- West Point Intermediate - C
- West Point Middle - C
- West Point High - C
- Vinemont Elementary - C
- Vinemont Middle - B
- Vinemont High - C

Overall, Cullman City Schools received an A. The grades by school were as follows:

- Cullman High- B
- Cullman Middle School- A
- East Elementary- A
- West Elementary- A

FULL BREAKDOWN OF DATA AND RESPONSES FROM SUPERINTENDENTS

Glossary

The Report Card Technical Guide offered the following definitions of terms used in the Report Card and on the dashboard:

- **Academic Achievement** – A report card indicator determined based on the percentage of proficient students in the areas of reading and math utilizing assessments in tested grades 3-8 and 10.
- **Academic Growth** – A report card indicator determined based on individual students who demonstrate improvement in reading and math from one year to the next using multiple years of data.
- **Letter Grade** – The alphabetic letter assigned to a school, district or the state that correlates to a grading scale in order to give a summative indication of the school, district or the state.
- **Alabama Act No. 2012-402** – Alabama law (commonly referred to as the "Alabama's Report Card Law) that requires the state superintendent of education to develop a school grading system reflective of school and district performance.
- **Chronic Absenteeism** – Percent of students who missed a total of 15 or more days (excused or unexcused) of the school year. Points are based on students present.
- **College and Career Readiness (CCR)** – A report card indicator determined based on the percentage of students in the 4-year Cohort who met at least one of the CCR indicators.
- **Full Academic Year (FAY) Students** – Those students who are used in the calculation of Academic Achievement and Academic Growth.
- **Graduation Rate** – A report card indicator determined based on the percentage of high school students who graduated within 4 or 5 years of first entering the 9th grade.

The ACT Aspire test

The Academic Achievement and Academic Growth scores in the Report Card are based on ACT Aspire scores from tests administered as follows:

- reading proficiency, grades 3-8, 10
- mathematics, grades 3-8, 10
- science, grades 5, 7, 10

State contract canceled

The 2016-17 school year was the last in which the ACT Aspire assessment was planned to be used. For years, Alabama students across the board scored lower than expected on the test, and lower on average than they did on the previous state assessment, leading to concerns that Aspire might not be properly aligned with Alabama's curriculum content. After the results of the spring 2017 Aspire test returned to Alabama by ACT were found to contain bad data, the ASDE voted to cancel its contract with ACT for the Aspire. According to Cullman County Schools Superintendent Shane Barnette, that bad data was not corrected and was used in the scoring for the grade. The state will continue to use the 11th-grade college readiness assessment and 12th-grade work readiness assessment from ACT.

How the grade was calculated

According to the Report Card Technical Guide, the letter grades were calculated as follows:

SCHOOLS WITHOUT A GRADE 12

- Academic Achievement (Weighted) 40%
- Academic Growth (Weighted) 50%
- Chronic Absenteeism 10%

SCHOOLS WITH A GRADE 12, SCHOOL SYSTEMS, AND STATE

- Academic Achievement (Weighted) 20%
- Academic Growth (Weighted) 30%
- Graduation Rate 30%
- College and Career Readiness 10%
- Chronic Absenteeism 10%

Each Indicator Score will be multiplied by the indicated "Percent of Score." The products will then be summed in order to obtain a numerical score. The numerical score will be matched to a grading scale and the resulting letter grade will be displayed on the Alabama Report Card.

Grading Scale:

- 90 – 100. . . . . A
- 80 – 89 .. . . . . B
- 70 – 79 C
- 60 – 69. . . . . D
- 0 – 59 .. . . . . F

Student Engagement indicators on the Report Card could include extracurricular and cocurricular activities such as student government, sports, the arts, community volunteerism and others.

College and Career Readiness Indicators on the Report Card could be the benchmark on any ACT subtest, the qualifying score on an AP or IB exam, military enlistment, approved transcript college or postsecondary credit while in high school, Silver Level or higher on the ACT WorkKeys, or approved industry credentials.

Results

STATE OF ALABAMA

- Grade - C
- Academic Achievement - 60.27
- Academic Growth - 87.86
- Graduation Rate - 87.0
- College and Career Readiness - 66.0
- Chronic Absenteeism - 17.68

CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

- Grade - A (92 points)
- Academic Achievement - 85.03
- Academic Growth - 100
- Graduation Rate - 93.0
- College and Career Readiness - 86.0
- Chronic Absenteeism - 12.97
- Student Engagement - 100%
- Expenditure Per Student - $8,643

Cullman Primary School - not included

East Elementary School

- Grade - A (95)
- Academic Achievement - 90.33
- Academic Growth - 100
- Chronic Absenteeism - 10.83
- Student Engagement - 100%

West Elementary School

- Grade - A (94)
- Academic Achievement - 88.04
- Academic Growth - 100
- Chronic Absenteeism - 10.83
- Student Engagement - 100%

Cullman Middle School

- Grade - A (93)
- Academic Achievement - 84.95
- Academic Growth - 100
- Chronic Absenteeism - 10.75
- Student Engagement - 100%

Cullman High School

- Grade - B (88)
- Academic Achievement - 67.83
- Academic Growth - 97.94
- Graduation Rate - 93.0
- College and Career Readiness -

» PAGE 8

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Cullman recognized as a 'Tree City USA' for 30th consecutive year

Leanne West
Office of Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs

CULLMAN – For the 30th consecutive year, the city of Cullman has earned recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

"Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community first hand," said Dan Lambe, president of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Additionally, recognition brings residents together and creates a sense of community pride, whether it's through volunteer engagement or public education."

Trees provide multiple benefits to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants, and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

"Trees are very important to cities," said Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs. "Trees improve air quality and reduce air pollution, provide shade which reduces temperatures, slow soil erosion and storm water runoff, and help absorb sound which reduces noise pollution. The planned Greenway project and the almost-completed Connected Park project will create more tree-lined parks and trails throughout Cullman's downtown area, which will provide even greater benefits to the City and will also create a more peaceful, aesthetically-pleasing environment."

Cullman achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements:

1. A tree board or department. Cullman's Tree Commission is comprised of seven (7) members and meets at 10 a.m. on the third Tuesday of every even-numbered month at city hall. Cullman also has a part-time city arborist, Darrell Johns. The city arborist and the Tree Commission work together to develop an orderly process for identifying public tree needs including maintenance, removal, planting, replacement and public education.

2. A tree care ordinance. The City of Cullman's Urban Forestry Ordinance is Ordinance #1343.

3. An annual community forestry budget of at least $2 per capita. Cullman's per capita expense for community forestry is $96.50 per person.

4. An Arbor Day observance and proclamation. Each year in February, the mayor issues an Arbor Day proclamation. The Tree Commission, Cullman County Extension Office, and the Alabama Forestry Service also conduct related events in Cullman including a tree sale, Arbor Day Poster Contest for area fifth-grade students, and a Tree City flag-raising ceremony.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs with St. Paul's Lutheran School's Gracie Moody, who won first place in her school's Arbor Day poster contest in February 2017

This year's annual Arbor Day Tree Sale is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018, from 8 a.m. until noon (or until all trees are gone) at the Cullman County Extension Office, 402 Arnold St. NE (across from the Folsom Center). Small ornamental trees and flowering shrubs will be available for $2 each. All proceeds will go toward the Forestry Awareness Week Now (FAWN) school program for all sixth graders, and the FFA forestry judging contest.

The Tree City flag raising ceremony is also scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018, at 10 a.m. on the front lawn of Cullman City Hall. At this ceremony, the Arbor Day Poster Contest winners from each school will be recognized.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a million-member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. For more information on the Arbor Day Foundation, visit www.arborday.org. For more information on the Tree City USA program, visit www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

Arrest reports: Jan. 31-Feb. 1

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported for Jan. 31-Feb. 1. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Culver, John Wayne Jr., 45
- third-degree criminal trespassing
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Harbison, Vicky Pratt, 54
- third-degree burglary

Haynes, Joshua Aaron, 26
- failure to appear- third-degree burglary

Kelley, Shane Wesley, 31
- attempting to elude
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- reckless endangerment resisting arrest
- failure to appear- fourth-degree theft of property

McLeod, Randy Isaiah, 35
- probation violation- unlawful possession of a controlled substance (2 counts)

Millwood, Joshua E., 27
- attempting to elude
- harassing communications
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- tampering with physical evidence
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance
- unauthorized use of a vehicle

Smith, Billy Everett Jr., 46
- failure to appear- third-degree burglary

Swack, James Scott, 47
- judge's order- first-degree assault
- judge's order- second-degree robbery

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jones, John C., 26
- failure to appear- possession of drug paraphernalia
- failure to appear- driver's license not in possession
- failure to appear- improper lights

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests reported.

THURSDAY, FEB. 1
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Baird, Brandon Lee, 27
- third-degree domestic violence- third-degree criminal mischief

Coleman, Kenneth Wesley, 38
- attempting to elude

Gilland, Ciara Danielle, 25
- parole violation/ revocation- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

James, Angela Pugh, 40
- nonsupport

Pannell, Tyler Austin, 23
- failure to appear- criminal littering

Sims, Matthew Jonah, 48
- parole violation/ revocation- second-degree theft of property

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Bevington, Brian A., 50
- failure to appear- carrying brass knuckles
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Pannell, Tyler A., 23
- failure to appear- carrying a pistol without a license
- failure to appear- fourth-degree receiving stolen property
- failure to appear- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- failure to appear- possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests reported.

Find arrest reports online Monday-Friday at www.CullmanTribune.com.



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www.vbfowlerinsurance.com

WRECKER/TOW TRUCK Driver
Clean driving record, clean criminal record, able to pass DOT physical, able to pass pre-employment drug and alcohol screening, must have CDL's, must be 21 years of age or older, good positive work ethics.
NO PHONE CALLS
Stop in office to fill out application
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Mullins Body Shop, LLC
11042 US Hwy 31 South, Cullman, AL 35055



MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on January 8, 2003 by Kenneth R. Layfield, a married man, and wife Carol Layfield, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book 1289, Page 96 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on February 19, 2018:

Lot No. 35 in the Lakeview Road Subdivision, as recorded in the Judge of Probate Office, Map Book 5, Pages 187 and 188 in Cullman County Courthouse, Cullman, Alabama.

Said sale is made for the purpose of paying the mortgage debt and cost of foreclosure.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as part of the foreclosure process.

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Dewayne N. Morris
Attorney for Mortgagee
2131 Third Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
The Cullman Tribune-January 27, February 3, 10, 2018

Bethsadia Volunteer Fire Department

454 County Road 804
Cullman, Alabama 35057

Date: January 25,2018

INVITATION TO BID
COMMUNITY SAFE ROOM

Sealed Bids shall be received for one (1) or more Community Safe Room(s) by the Bethsadia Volunteer Fire Department, until noon on local time by February 20, 2018. The bids will be opened on February 21, 2018 at 10 a.m. at Cullman County Economic Development, Cullman, Alabama. At this time bids will be opened and publicly read for an above-ground, pre-engineered, pre-manufactured, 114" steel plate safe room, with bathrooms, generator and generator cover that complies with FEMA 361 (2015) and ICC 500 Community Shelter Design Criteria. The contract, if a bid is chosen, will be awarded at the regular Bethsadia Volunteer Fire Department meeting after the February 21, 2018 opening.

The Community Safe Room shall meet the specifications in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Publication 361. Each bid must certify that the bid meets or exceeds FEMA 361 specifications. The successful bidder will also be required to provide a notarized Contractor/Installer form certifying this upon completion of the job, as well as an engineering peer review.

The Bethsadia Volunteer Fire Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities in awarding this bid to the best responsive bidder. The bid award will not be based solely on price. Quality, conformity with the specifications, purpose for which required, terms of delivery, and past service and experience are among the factors that will be considered in determining the best responsive bidder. Other factors such as compliance with Qualifications for Safe Room Design Acceptance, value, conditions and past performance will be considered in determining the best bid. Bidders must show proof of a minimum of five (5) years' experience in successfully completing community safe room projects of this size and type. Provide at least three (3) references from previous community safe room projects, with photos.

Bids submitted are firm and no claims for errors will be considered after bids are opened and subsequent thereof.

The bidder shall use domestic products and labor and if domestic products are not used, there shall be a downward adjustment in the contract price equal to any realized savings or benefits to the contractor/installer.

All bidders must use the attached form for submitting their bid. All bids must be sealed and marked - in the lower left-hand envelope **"BID #1139- Community Safe Room", with opening date and time. Late bids will not be opened. All Bids must be submitted to Bethsadia Volunteer Fire Department at 325 2nd Street SE, Cullman, AL 35055. The proposal package includes specifications, a copy which is available for examination from, Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:30pm at the Cullman County Economic Development Office, 325 Second Street SE, Cullman, AL 35055. For questions regarding this invitation to bid, please email, Ashley Graves, Project Coordinator at ashley@cullmancondev.org or call at 256-775-6258 or contact Chief Keith Bates at bethsadiafire@yahoo.com.**

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Ivey awards City of Cullman $450K for completion of Brunner Street project

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

MONTGOMERY – Gov. Kay Ivey on Thursday awarded more than $10.5 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to 28 Alabama towns and cities. The City of Cullman received $450,000 for sewer and water systems rehabilitation, drainage and street improvements.

According to the Cullman Economic Development Agency's Jamie Troutman, "This award is for the second phase of the Brunner Street Neighborhood Revitalization Project. It extends for two blocks along Brunner Street – from Denson Avenue (where Phase I stopped) to St. Joseph Drive. This project will consist of the same improvements as Phase I: Replacing water and sewer lines, storm water drainage, road repaving and sidewalks. Construction is anticipated to begin sometime this summer.

Ivey said the CDBG program enables communities to address needed projects that affect the health and welfare of residents.

"Lives will be improved thanks to these projects funded through the Community Development Block Grant program," Ivey said. "People who have been subject to impure water will get clean water to drink, bathe and wash. People who have been maneuvering unsafe roads will soon be traveling smooth streets, and the list goes on. I am so thankful for this program and the assistance it provides to communities who may be unable to afford these needed improvements on their own."

Thursday's was one of two award ceremonies representing almost $17 million in CDBG funds awarded for improvements in municipalities and counties.

Most CDBG funds are awarded annually in several categories through a competitive process based on many factors including the number of low-and moderate-income families affected, community need and cost efficiency of projects.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) is administering the grants from funds made available by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

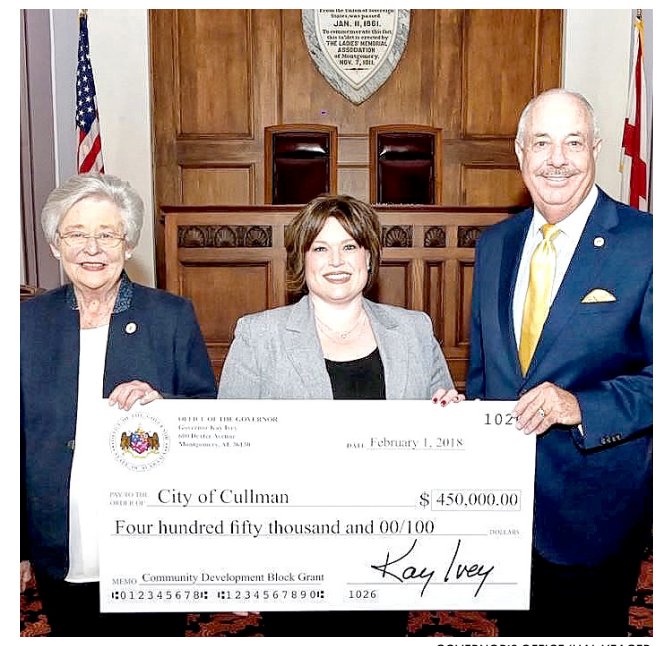
Other CDBG funds awarded Thursday include:

Small City

- Town of Brantley - $350,000 for sewer improvements
- City of Bridgeport - $346,001 for drainage improvements
- Town of Brilliant- $350,000 for sewer improvements
- City of East Brewton - $350,000 for sewer improvements
- Town of Elmore - $350,000 for sewer system extension
- City of Florala - $350,000 for sewer improvements
- City of Hartford- $350,000 for sewer improvements
- City of Jemison - $350,000 for sewer system extension.
- Town of McKenzie - $350,000 for water line rehabilitation
- Town of Mentone- $335,322 for water system improvements
- Town of Napier Field- $238,770 for sewer system improvements
- Town of Notasulga - $250,000 for sewer system extension
- Town of Oakman - $350,000 for sewer system improvement
- Town of Reece City - $256,000 for drainage improvements
- Town of Rockford - $349,911 for demolition and rehabilitation
- City of Vernon - $350,000 for sewer and street improvements
- Town of Yellow Bluff - $350,000 for street improvements

Large City

- City of Albertville - $450,000 for sewer rehabilitation
- City of Arab - $450,000 for sewer rehabilitation
- City of Athens - $450,000 for drainage improvements/flooding prevention



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE/HAL YEAGER

Gov. Kay Ivey, Cullman Economic Development Agency's Jamie Troutman and ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell in Montgomery

- City of Attalla - $450,000 for sewer rehabilitation
- City of Brewton - $450,000 for sewer rehabilitation
- City of Daleville - $450,000 for water line rehabilitation and street improvement
- City of Hartselle - $450,000 for sewer and water system rehabilitation and drainage improvements
- City of Jackson - $450,000 for sewer and water line rehabilitation and street and drainage improvements
- City of Livingston - $450,000 for sewer rehabilitation
- City of Troy - $450,000 for water system, drainage and street improvements

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1940

Willingham News

Miss Louise Harris spent a few snowy days with Flora Edna Law last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Rowell are the proud parents of a baby boy, born on January 19th.

Everyone awoke last Tuesday morning, surprised to see such a large snow. It was 10 or 12 inches deep – the largest snow most young people had ever seen.

On last Wednesday, Junior Graham had a nice, long hike in the snow, carrying the mail on foot.

Miss Mary Law, who has been staying at Vinemont, has returned home.

Mr. and Mrs. Preston Kilgore have moved to Logan to make their future home.

Misses Flora Edna Law and Louise Harris visited Misses Carolyn and Virginia Caudell on Monday evening.

Winfred McManus, who has been in a Birmingham hospital, has returned home.

J.D. Law spent Monday night with his son, S.L., near Nebo.

Reverend Pace and his two small sons were the Sunday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Law.

Anon News

Anon has been wrapped up this past week with about nine inches of snow.

Mail has been slowed up because they couldn't plow through the snow, but everyone has had fun making snowmen and throwing snowballs.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Curtis recently visited this community.

Their visit was enjoyed very much.

Miss Marie Wilhite is visiting relatives at Cullman.

Barbara Reeder was the Sunday guest of Freda Margaret Wilhite.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Burks visited Mrs. J.T. Linton, who is very ill.

Artis Lee Jones, the small son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jones, formerly of Cullman and now of Miami, Florida, died there last Wednesday, the remains being brought to Cullman last Thursday.

Funeral services were held last Friday at Fellowship Church, at 2:00 p.m., with Reverend J.H. Brown officiating and Moss-Scheuing in charge.

He is survived by his parents and one sister, Doris.

Hugh P. Brindley, formerly of Columbia, Tennessee and who is well-known to many about Cullman, has just opened a new grocery and meat market in the same location on the Stiefelmeyer block, as was formerly occupied by the Bright's Meat Market.

The building has been remodeled, repainted and installed with new fixtures, counters and equipment. Mr. Brindley will have charge of the meat market, Jack Speegle will work in the grocery department and Joe Speakman will serve as the delivery boy (and a prompt one, he says).

Mr. Brindley, who has worked for the A and P Tea Company for the past eleven years, has already moved his family to Cullman and lives next door to Mr. Lee Lassetter on First Street East.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Playing a friendly family game of sorry

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



I grew up playing games like Monopoly, checkers, and Crazy Eights. While Mama looked with suspicion on games that used cards or dice, she allowed us to play as long as no real money was on the table. Once while playing rummy, a nickel fell out of my pants' pocket and hit the floor and she made us put our cards away for six months! In this age of computerized games, I have feared these old games might fade away, but I am glad we still have them. Families and friends gathering around to play can create lasting memories.

Around fifty years ago, one Christmas, my dear cousin Joyce gave me a board game called "Sorry." We played that game until the box fell apart and the cards were frayed. This past Christmas, we gave Drew a new one.

Last Friday, he turned off his Nintendo Switch and we played his first game of Sorry. We put the game board on the floor and Drew, Gigi, Ginger (sixty-five), Cocoa (fifteen), and I gathered around.

Actually Ginger and Cocoa had not been invited but they didn't care, so they crashed the party.

They also crashed the board several times before the evening ended. Both dogs were confused as to the purpose of our being on the floor.

They thought it involved petting. I don't know where they get such silly notions. Ginger had lain down at the one unoccupied corner and then clumsily placed her big paw on the board. She pawed the pawns several times, much to our chagrin, but thankfully she never ate one. I finally used her for a pillow. She and I both liked that arrangement but not for long.

I discovered, like most things from fifty years ago, Sorry has made several changes. The box is half the size it used to be and, much like football, many of the rules have changed. The object of Sorry is to get all three of your pawns out of the start circle, around the board, and inside the home circle. The old game had four pawns. You draw cards that tell you how many spaces you may move. (No mama, there isn't any money involved). If you draw an eleven, you may swap the location of one of your pawns with one of your opponents. Sometimes this benefits both of you, sometimes definitely not. If you draw a "Sorry" card, you may take one of your pawns out of the start circle and place it where an opponent's pawn is and send your opponent back to their start circle. Of course, you say "Sorry" when you do this. According to the temperament of your opponents, you could truly become sorry!

Now, there are two different ways to play this game. You may play nice and simply move your pawns forward, never "doing your opponents wrong," or you may take full advantage of every opportunity to advance your pawns at any expense to your opponent. If you choose the latter, the game might be better called "Revenge." In fact, when you say, "Sorry," your opponent may say things like "Sure you are!" or "That's okay, I'll remember that!" They may remember moves from as far back as, oh, say, 1975!

We really did have a wonderful time and everyone had fun, except maybe Cocoa. This game does remind me of how some people act in real life. They wrong someone, say "I'm sorry," and then turn right around and do the same thing over and over. Were they sincerely sorry? I doubt it. The board game is loads of fun but acting that way in real life is anything but.

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

Poet's Corner

I'm Just A Vapor

By April McCay

The days
Have become more precious
as life goes on its way.
Memories more valuable
than any priceless treasure
in my heart on instant replay.

Lord,
You opened my eyes
and I now see,
as I arise in the morning
Joy is there
waiting for me.

I'm just a vapor
just here a little while.
Empower me to seize the day.
With glimpses of hope
give me a new vision,
a new way.

Thank you Lord for each new day.
With my friends and family
my spirit will dance,
to this treasure,
creating beautiful memories
to stay.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
FEBRUARY 3, 2018

Area band students qualify for All State and District honor bands

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN COUNTY – Five area high school band students have been selected for this year's All State Band. Cullman High School french horn player Branson Danecker, percussionist Connor Gurley, clarinet player Tessa Adkins, and contra alto clarinet player Ashlyn Teeling, along with Hanceville High School tenor saxophone player Xander Williamsen, all qualified for the honor.

Williamsen, who plans to pursue a career in music education, said, "I feel like I'm one step closer to where I want to be."

Hanceville High School Band Director Stephen Porter, in an email to County Schools Superintendent Shane Barnette, described the All State audition process:

"The All State audition for wind instruments consists of 12 major scales, two minor scales and chromatic, all from memory.

"Two etudes, a technical and lyrical, and sight reading. Sight reading is having one minute to look at a piece of music for the first time, then perform it, with correct rhythms, dynamics, and melodic lines.

"Percussion audition is three times as long, as they audition on snare, mallets, AND timpani."

Both school's band directors shared opinions with The Tribune on the All State Band program.

Cullman's Christopher Smith wrote, "Being selected for the All State Band is the highest honor bestowed on individual students by the Alabama Bandmasters Association.

"Our band members auditioned with hundreds of other students throughout Alabama for the very limited positions in the All State Band.

"The selected students will travel to Montgomery in April to rehearse with world-renowned conductors and perform with the finest student musicians in our state."

Porter wrote, "All State Band is one of the greatest events for students in Jr/Sr high school band. It specifically highlights individual student achievement.

"It is not up to the group for the audition, it isn't up to the director. The responsibility is solely on the student's self-discipline and determination to put in the time required to achieve success."

Additionally, Hanceville High School percussionist Taylor Gable, Vinemont Middle School trombone player Lydia Baker and Cullman High School flute player Sara Reeves, along with the five students who made All State, qualified for District Honor Band.

Gable said, "I'm excited about District Honor Band. It's cool to meet other players across our great district."

Vinemont Band Director Skylar King said of Baker, "As a band program we are very proud of Lydia's accomplishment and the amount of extra time and energy that she put forth on her audition.

"Also, to my knowledge, this is the first junior high student we have had represent our school at this event in over a decade."

District Honor Band will take place at Russellville High School on Feb. 16. The All State Band Festival will be in Montgomery, Apr. 19-21.



STEPHEN PORTER

Hanceville High School's Taylor Gable made District Honor Band, and Xander Williamsen qualified for All State Band.



CHRISTOPHER SMITH

Cullman High School's Branson Danecker, Connor Gurley, Tessa Adkins and Ashlyn Teeling all qualified for All State Band.

Potter named VFW Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Bradley Williams
CCSO

CULLMAN – On Thursday night, Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Capt. Ed Potter received the VFW Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award. Potter was joined by his family and several members of the CCSO, including Sheriff Matt Gentry.

Potter joined the CCSO in 2004, and during that time he has worked in patrol, been warden of the Cullman County Detention Center and is currently the victim services deputy.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Capt. Ed Potter, left, with Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry

Cullman Regional Employees 'Go Red' on National Wear Red Day

Mary Beth Sellers
Cullman Regional

CULLMAN – February is National Heart Month, and Cullman Regional employees recently joined together to raise awareness and support the fight against heart disease by wearing red on National Wear Red Day, Feb. 2, 2018.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), heart disease is the number one killer of women, causing 1 in 3 deaths each year.

Heart disease causes more deaths than all forms of cancer combined. It is often a "silent killer" with no symptoms.

The American Heart Association and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute began National Wear Red Day in 2003 and encourage everyone to wear red on the first Friday of every February.

This is meant to increase awareness and promote healthy lifestyle changes, specifically for women.

They have also been raising awareness of heart disease through their Go Red for Women program since 2004.

You can "Go Red" by eating healthy, exercising, knowing the signs of a heart attack, knowing your heart score, wearing red and spreading the word about heart disease.

For more information about National Wear Red Day and Go Red for Women, visit http://www.goredforwomen.org.

For more information about Cardiovascular Services at Cullman Regional, visit http://www.cullmanregional.com.



CULLMAN REGIONAL

Cullman Regional employees show their support in the fight against heart disease on National Wear Red Day.





Couple (from Front)

The entry in the catalog for the Greers' earrings reads:

Don your patriotism by wearing a piece of American history. Silver Standing Liberty quarters were only minted from 1916 to 1930 but became very popular in the early 20th Century. These silver coins have been cut in the shape of an arrowhead to highlight the eagle in the design and handcrafted into southwestern-style earrings with hypoallergenic surgical steel ear wire. Ten karat gold wire and a turquoise-colored bead accent the shape and style. Made exclusively for Friends of NRA by The Fun Company and limited to 1,130 units. Made in the USA.

The Greers have deep roots in Cullman County. Brian Greer is a 1984 graduate of Vinemont High School, and Paige Greer graduated from Cullman High School in 1988. Her parents Ed and Barbara Burrow owned the well-known Globe Restaurant and Barbara Burrow Realty, and the Performing and Fine Arts Center at Wallace State is named for Paige Greer's aunt, Evelyn Burrow.

According to Paige Greer, "The Fun Company Jewelry was started 37 years ago by Brian's father Jack Greer, a.k.a. Happy Jack. As a true artisan, Happy Jack was a full-time jewelry maker and creator. He traveled the US doing many art shows and making many friends who still remember his fun way to make people laugh either by a joke or a trick. Jack Greer also worked for the City of Cullman for 18 years reading meters before his dream of The Fun Company.

"He chose the name The Fun Company as his motto was love, laughter, fun and play. Happy Jack had a young apprentice, his son Brian Greer, who worked under him creating one of a kind jewelry designs."

After Happy Jack passed away in 2002, Brian and Paige Greer decided to keep the tradition going as full-time artisans.

Today, The Fun Company attends around 30 shows and festivals per year, spends summers doing 10 of those shows in Maine, and maintains an online Etsy shop. Its shop description reads:

"The Fun Company is a full time home based business owned by Brian and Paige Greer specializing in unique hand-crafted coin jewelry and gift items. From a long held tradition of fine custom-handcrafted coin jewelry we use our collection of old American silver and copper coins. Hand crafted quality and customer satisfaction are the foundations of our business."

Even with a growing online presence and merchandise in other people's catalogs, The Fun Company has no intention of giving up the craft show circuit. The Greers plan to be back at the Bloomin' Festival at St. Bernard Abbey, an event they've enjoyed for years. Things like a little national attention won't change that, but they do make life more interesting.

"It's a big honor for us," said Paige Greer, "'cause we're just small-town folks trying to make a living from day to day."

Visit The Fun Company on Etsy at https://www.etsy.com/Shop/TheFunCompany.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
FEBRUARY 3, 2018

Cullman-area students named to Dean's, President's Lists at UA

Richard LeComte
Contributor

TUSCALOOSA – A number of Cullman-area students at The University of Alabama were named to the Dean's List with an academic record of 3.5 or higher or the President's List with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's) for the Fall 2017 semester.

The UA Dean's and President's Lists recognize full-time undergraduate students.

The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

Students include:

- Ryan Harris, of Addison, Dean's List
- Alyssa Price, of Addison, President's List
- Morgan Smothers, of Addison, Dean's List
- Curtis Bockemehl, of Altoona, President's List
- Tyler Hamp, of Altoona, President's List
- Autumn Anderson, of Arab, Dean's List
- Annaleigh Baggett, of Arab, Dean's List
- Kaitlin Cochran, of Arab, President's List
- Shayla Cross, of Arab, Dean's List
- Joseph Crowder, of Arab, Dean's List
- Thomas Gibbs, of Arab, President's List
- Laura Green, of Arab, President's List
- Noah Lueker, of Arab, President's List
- Tabetha Marsh, of Arab, President's List
- Brittany Morgan, of Arab, President's List
- Sarah Onks, of Arab, Dean's List
- Anna Rodgers, of Arab, President's List
- Jeremy West, of Arab, President's List
- Olivia Smith, of Arley, Dean's List
- Charlsie Burden, of Baileyton, President's List
- Summer Walker, of Baileyton, Dean's List
- Darby Hamm, of Blountsville, Dean's List
- Tshenina Brown, of Bremen, Dean's List
- Gregory Foster, of Cleveland, Dean's List
- Caylin Glass, of Cleveland, Dean's List
- Peyton Hazelrig, of Cleveland, Dean's List
- Brooke Edwards, of Crane Hill, Dean's List
- Audrey Valenti, of Crane Hill, Dean's List
- Katherine Wright, of Crane Hill, President's List
- Peyton Blair, of Cullman, President's List
- Isom Carden, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Andrew Cofer, of Cullman, President's List
- Garrett Crider, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Bryeleigh Davis, of Cullman, President's List
- Joshua Ellard, of Cullman, Dean's List
- William Franey, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Spencer Green, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Josey Hardman, of Cullman, Dean's List
- William Hicks, of Cullman, President's List
- Kera Hunter, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Jeffrey Krout, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Judson Krout, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Jalen Lee, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Bryan Leiter, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Samuel McGuire, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Myles McLeroy, of Cullman, President's List
- Katie Noriega, of Cullman, President's List
- Bethany Pappas, of Cullman, President's List
- Sally Ann Pappas, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Jessica Patterson, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Laura Powers, of Cullman, President's List
- Benjamin Pruitt, of Cullman, President's List
- Anit Rama, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Wilson Raney, of Cullman, President's List
- Tatum Robertson, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Andrew Robinson, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Shelbi Shabel, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Logan Shugarts, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Madeline Taylor, of Cullman, President's List
- Cassandra Thomason, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Matthew Thompson, of Cullman, Dean's List
- David Turner, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Eric Voce, of Cullman, Dean's List
- Aaron Estes, of Falkville, Dean's List
- Hunter Brannon, of Hanceville, Dean's List
- Jeremy Hurst, of Hanceville, Dean's List
- Olivia Kontogeorge, of Hanceville, Dean's List
- Hope Mason, of Hanceville, Dean's List
- Jason McAfee, of Hanceville, Dean's List
- Julie Newton, of Hanceville, President's List
- Kayla Scott, of Hanceville, Dean's List
- Amber Skinner, of Hanceville, Dean's List
- Anna Gilchrist, of Hayden, President's List
- Emily Morgan, of Hayden, President's List
- Clint Reid, of Hayden, Dean's List
- Anastasiya Sinyavina, of Hayden, Dean's Lis
- Emily Sloan, of Hayden, Dean's List
- Javier Figueroa, of Holly Pond, Dean's List
- Samuel Pannell, of Horton, Dean's List
- Garrett Peppers, of Horton, President's List
- Emily Amin, of Locust Fork, Dean's List
- Chase Turner, of Locust Fork, Dean's List,
- Jamie Beasley, of Logan, Dean's List
- Bailey Anderton, of Oneonta, Dean's List
- Kristen Cox, of Oneonta, Dean's List
- Tyler Harvey, of Oneonta, Dean's List
- Caitlin Love, of Oneonta, Dean's List
- Hayden Shirley, of Oneonta, President's List
- Clay Smith, of Oneonta, Dean's Lis,
- McRae Smith, of Oneonta, President's List
- Anne Wester, of Oneonta, President's List
- Kyle Hornbuckle, of Remlap, President's List
- McKensi Burks, of Vinemont, Dean's List
- Keaton Dean, of Vinemont, President's List
- Christopher Eastman, of Vinemont, President's List

The University of Alabama, the state's oldest and largest public institution of higher education, is a student-centered research university that draws the best and brightest to an academic community committed to providing a premier undergraduate and graduate education. UA is dedicated to achieving excellence in scholarship, collaboration and intellectual engagement; providing public outreach and service to the state of Alabama and the nation; and nurturing a campus environment that fosters collegiality, respect and inclusivity.

Obituary Announcements: Feb. 3-4

Funeral Service for Jimmy Dale Panter, age 58 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at Etha Baptist Church with Dr. Tim Lipsey officiating. Burial will be at Etha Baptist Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Panter passed away on Thursday, February 1, 2018. He was born October 25, 1959 in Cullman, AL to Coy Winford Panter and Ruth Hanvey Willingham. He is preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his sons; Ryan Dale Panter, Ronnie Shedd, sister, Patricia Panter (Todd) Ergle, brothers; Timothy Coy (Lois) Panter and Blake (Allyson) Panter. The apple of his eyes were his son, Ryan and his niece, Teala. Jimmy leaves behind a loving family, friends, church, and community. A special thank you to Leroy and Lance Paris for their love and care for so many years. He was a frequent at Shaddix's Country Mall, Pizza Done Right, and Hutch in the Fairview community. He loved to sit around with his buddies and talk and laugh about life. He loved with a limitless, unconditional, carefree love that many could only hope to have. He never stopped giving even with his unfortunate death. His love continues in that he was able to give the gift of life with by donating his organs. He will live forever in our hearts and the many lives he has touched with this unselfish gift of love. We love you Jimmy Dale, till we meet again at Heaven's gate. Visitation for family will be from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. and friends from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at Etha Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Refuge Church Life Center Children's Center.

Willie Harold Rodgers of Vinemont passed away at his residence on January 31, 2018 at the age of 85. He was born on July 16, 1932 in Cullman to William H. and Ida Bell McSwain Rodgers. Mr. Rodgers is a veteran of The United States Army and worked for CSX Railroad. Funeral services are Saturday February 3, 2018 at 2 p.m. at Moss Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Cullman City Cemetery. He is survived by his wife Shirley Rodgers, daughters Pam Rodgers, Becky Cruce, sons Willie Harold Rodgers Jr., Barry Rodgers, step-daughters Geneva Rodgers, Anna Staton, Louise Carrillo, Aver Brown, Jackie Demonia and 2 grandchildren. Visitation is Saturday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Funeral services for Bessie Jane Baker, 95 of Dodge City, are Sunday, February 4, 2018 at 2 p.m. at New Prospect Baptist Church, Ray Ponder and Kenneth Shelton officiating, with interment in the church cemetery. Visitation on Saturday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the church. Mrs. Baker passed away on Friday, February 2, 2018. She was preceded in death by her parents, Claude and Leola Murray; her husband, Harold J. Baker; brothers, Jess Murray and Bernard Murray and sisters, Beulah Abbott, Frances Abbott and Faye Hollis. She is survived by her son, Hugh C. (Wanda) Shelton Sr.; daughters, Judy (Ray) Ponder and Sherry (Kenneth) Shelton; grandchildren, Marlene (Bruce) Parker, Hugh (Amy) Shelton Jr., Angela (Derrick) Woodall, Brian (Devan) Ponder, Tiffany (Justin) McClendon, Kayla Shelton and Kenny Shelton; seven great grandchildren; two great great grandchildren; sister, Jean Polston and a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

Funeral service for Velera Kinney will be Sunday, February 4, 2018 at 3 p.m. at Enon Baptist Church. Tim Kinney and David Stancil officiating. Interment will be in the adjoining cemetery. Mrs. Kinney passed away Monday, January 29. She was born November 7, 1923 to Luther and Bessie Wilkinson. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Hershel Kinney, her parents, and her children Phil Kinney, Carrol Kinney, James Kinney and Phillis Bovey. She is survived by her grandchildren Katrina Bovey and Patricia Bovey, a brother Marlon Wilkinson, and a host of nieces and nephews. Visitation will be from 1:30 p.m. until 3 p.m. on Sunday at Enon Baptist Church. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

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WSCC

The 2017-2018 Leadership Wallace State group recently visited Montgomery, where they met with Chancellor Jimmy Baker and attended a board meeting. They also toured the state Capitol.

Leadership Wallace State group visits Montgomery, meets with Chancellor Jimmy Baker

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State's 2017-2018 Leadership Wallace State group recently toured the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) office in Montgomery, where they met with Chancellor Jimmy Baker and were recognized at a board meeting.

They also toured the ACCS System Office, attended a budget hearing and toured the state Capitol building.

The 2017-2018 Leadership Wallace State group consists of employees Brian Allen, Jamie Blackmon, Susan Brewer, Stephanie Eisner, Tina Jones, Erika Lee, Amy Moore, Mark Neal, Anna Parrish, John Richey, Steven Smith, Amanda Tillman, Susan Wadkins and Daniel Young.

Wallace State began the Leadership WSCC initiative 12 years ago with the goal of cultivating leaders in programs and departments all across campus.

Beginning with the fall semester each year, the group meets monthly.

Since last September, the 2017-2018 group has participated in the following activities: touring Wallace State's campus and learning more about the college's initiatives and each individual in the group; attending a "Professional Etiquette" session and attending the John Maxwell Live event at the Highlands Church in Birmingham. Maxwell's "The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership: Follow Them and People Will Follow You," is a common read among the annual Leadership groups at Wallace State.

An Economic Development trip is planned for the group in February, when they'll attend the Cullman Chamber of Commerce luncheon, and a number of teams among the group will present ways to better enhance the student experience to the Wallace State Cabinet in April.

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

Application process opens soon for WSCC Future Foundation Scholarships

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Current and future students of Wallace State Community College can begin applying for 2018-2019 scholarships through the Wallace State Future Foundation on Thursday, Feb. 15. The online application process will continue through March 23, with dozens of scholarship opportunities available to students.

"The Future Foundation was established to help fill the gaps often found in the financial aid process," said Suzanne Harbin, Director of Advancement at Wallace State. "There are a good number of students who may fall between the cracks, where their family may make too much to receive traditional financial aid, but still not enough to pay for college expenses without putting a burden on their finances."

Future Foundation scholarships run the gamut from small gifts that could help a student pay for books or that last class needed to graduate, up to a full year's tuition and fees. There are dozens of scholarships available, some geared toward specific programs of study or student demographics.

Students applying for Future Foundation scholarships need to have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and have the FAFSA Confirmation Page with EFC (Expected Family Contribution) to upload to the application. They will also need to thoroughly answer application questions, according to guidelines provided, regarding career choice, future plans and financial need. Students will need to supply current transcripts and any other documents required by the specific scholarship for which the student is applying.

The Future Foundation website, www.wsccfuturefoundation.org, has a list of the scholarships, as well as documents outlining things to know to apply and frequently asked questions. When the student registers, the information they provide will help narrow the scholarships for which they will be qualified to apply.

For more information about the Future Foundation, contact Suzanne Harbin at 256-352-8144, or Suzanne.harbin@wallacestate.edu.

CHS teacher chosen to review proposals for upcoming foreign language conference

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Cullman High School foreign language teacher Sara McCutcheon has been chosen from among a nationwide group of nominees to review proposals for presentations to be made at the 2018 conference of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) in New Orleans, the ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo. McCutcheon was nominated for the position of both responsibility and honor by Dr. Sheri Saine Long, executive director designate of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP).

The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) promotes the study and teaching of the Spanish and Portuguese languages. Per its website, the ACTFL is dedicated to the improvement and expansion of the teaching and learning of all languages at all levels of instruction. ACTFL is an individual membership organization of more than 12,500 language educators, students and administrators.

McCutcheon explained a little about what she will be doing. "There are four types of proposals to be reviewed: 45-minute standalone sessions, 15-minute research papers, electronic posters and all roundtable presentations of various languages and levels. This means I will be reviewing and selecting, with a committee, the sessions and talks offered at the 2018 ACTFL Conference."

McCutcheon has been a teacher at Cullman High School for 11 years, teaching all levels of Spanish, Bible as Literature, public speaking and the CHS Student Leadership Academy. She talked about the language program within which her efforts have brought her this national attention:

"The World Language program at Cullman High School likely does not look like the high school courses most adults took during their high school careers. The World Language program has been revamped over the years from a grammar-based approach to proficiency.

"Proficiency is what a student can do with the language. Not often is someone asked to conjugate a verb in Mexico, but one may need to order in a restaurant, to describe characteristics of a person, or to serve others on a missions trip.

"Recently in Spanish level one, students studied DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), learned why the government shut down during this time, and were able to form an educated opinion on the topic.

"This information will help students across the curriculum, and often these controversial topics are brought up in pageant questions, college interviews, etc. When students leave the Cullman High School World Language program, we want them to have a firm foundation for college or a career, or to simply make their lives richer through another culture."



CULLMAN HIGH SCHOOL

Cullman High School's Sara McCutcheon has been chosen to review proposals for presentations at the 2018 ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo in New Orleans.

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STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC-2017-300

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RILEY J. SAVAGE, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Jamie Coffman on the 30th day of January, 2018, 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.

Jamie Coffman
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, Judge of Probate

Sherry H. Barrett
Attorneys for the Personal Representative
Smith & Smith, LLP
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
256-734-4721

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JOHNNIE DALENE GAMBLE, Deceased.) **CASE NO.: PC2017-292**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION

Letters of Administration with Will Annex having been granted to **CHARLOTTE CHANEY and CHERRIE HANEY,** Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of **JOHNNIE DALENE GAMBLE**, deceased, on the 30th day of January, 2018, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge of said County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law, or the same will be barred.

DONE this 30th day of January, 2018.

CHARLOTTE CHANEY and CHERRIE HANEY
Co-Personal Representatives

ANETTE IRONS-PARKER
Attorney for Petitioners
215 Main Avenue, SW
Cullman, AL 35055
256-775-4444

TO THE PUBLISHER OF: THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Please publish the above notice for three (3) consecutive weeks and provide a proof of publication affidavit to the Probate Judge of Cullman County, Alabama.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA
CULLMAN COUNTY **CASE NO.: AD2017-080**

IN RE: THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF M.B.C
A MINOR CHILD.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

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

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of M.B.C, a minor child born on the 14th day of November, 2016, in Cullman, Alabama, to Felicia Renae Hollinger, was filed on the 13th day of November, 2017, in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Michael Raper and Tina Raper, petitioners. Please be advised should you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama, 35055.

DONE THIS 18th DAY OF January, 2018.

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

Andria Richter
Attorney for Petitioners
300 First Avenue, SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256)-775-7757

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF BLOUNT COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ADOPTION OF:
Z.M-R.H.,
a minor. CASE NO. 2018-003

NOTICE OF ADOPTIONS PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: Kennith Michael Hudson, natural father

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of Z.M-R.H., a minor born on July 8, 2013, in Cullman County, Alabama to Summer Blakley Mullins Hudson, was filed on the 4th day of January, 2018, in Blount County, Alabama, by Dallas Kretzschmar, the petitioner.

Please be advised, should you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of being served this notice, upon counsel of record for said Petitioner, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Blount County, Alabama located at 220 2nd Avenue East, Room 101, Oneonta, Alabama 35121.

Done this the 4th day of January, 2018.

Chris Green
Chris Green
Blount County Probate Judge

Attorney: Nathan A. Brock
223 2nd Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055
Telephone: (256) 841-4331

To: The Editor of _____

Please publish the above notice in your newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks, and after having done so, file with the Court an affidavit showing the fact of publication together with a copy of the notice of publication.

FILED
BLOUNT COUNTY, AL
01/04/2018
CHRIS GREEN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

Report (from Front)

86.0
• Chronic Absenteeism - 17.13
• Student Engagement - 100%

CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS
• Grade - B (80 points)
• Academic Achievement - 62.47
• Academic Growth - 89.55
• Graduation Rate - 85.20
• College and Career Readiness - 72.0
• Chronic Absenteeism - 17.69
• Student Engagement - 100%
• Expenditure Per Student - $9,109

Cold Springs Elementary School
• Grade - B (85)
• Academic Achievement - 71.92
• Academic Growth - 95.85
• Chronic Absenteeism - 17.81
• Student Engagement - 100%

Cold Springs High School
• Grade - C (79)
• Academic Achievement - 39.64
• Academic Growth - 96.88
• Graduation Rate - 88.8
• College and Career Readiness - 72.0
• Chronic Absenteeism - 17.42
• Student Engagement - 100%

Cullman County Child Development Center - not included

Fairview Elementary School
• Grade - B (81)
• Academic Achievement - 62.71
• Academic Growth - 94.83
• Chronic Absenteeism - 12.28
• Student Engagement - 100%

Fairview Middle School
• Grade - B (86)
• Academic Achievement - 72.83
• Academic Growth - 96.30
• Chronic Absenteeism - 14.42
• Student Engagement - 100%

Fairview High School
• Grade - D (68)
• Academic Achievement - 34.39
• Academic Growth - 78.79
• Graduation Rate - 81.80
• College and Career Readiness - 66.0
• Chronic Absenteeism - 37.21
• Student Engagement - 100%

Good Hope Elementary School
• Grade - C (77)
• Academic Achievement - 66.40
• Academic Growth - 83.19
• Chronic Absenteeism - 16.23
• Student Engagement - 100%

Good Hope Primary School - not included

Good Hope Middle School
• Grade - B (81)
• Academic Achievement - 67.52
• Academic Growth - 93.11
• Chronic Absenteeism - 22.76
• Student Engagement - 100%

Good Hope High School
• Grade - C (73)
• Academic Achievement - 33.20
• Academic Growth - 84.40
• Graduation Rate - 85.40
• College and Career Readiness - 81.0
• Chronic Absenteeism - 24.27
• Student Engagement - 100%

Hanceville Elementary School
• Grade - C (72)
• Academic Achievement - 55.73
• Academic Growth - 80.99
• Chronic Absenteeism - 11.66
• Student Engagement - 100%

Hanceville Middle School
• Grade - B (83)
• Academic Achievement - 66.09
• Academic Growth - 95.55
• Chronic Absenteeism - 13.59
• Student Engagement - 100%

Hanceville High School
• Grade - C (79)
• Academic Achievement - 41.54
• Academic Growth - 98.61
• Graduation Rate - 85.60
• College and Career Readiness - 70.0
• Chronic Absenteeism - 19.72
• Student Engagement - 100%

Harmony School
• Grade - C (78)
• Academic Achievement - 64.86
• Academic Growth - 86.82
• Chronic Absenteeism - 11.82
• Student Engagement - 100%

Holly Pond Elementary School
• Grade - C (79)
• Academic Achievement - 75.78
• Academic Growth - 80.41
• Chronic Absenteeism - 17.90
• Student Engagement - 100%

Holly Pond Middle School
• Grade - B (85)
• Academic Achievement - 69.26
• Academic Growth - 95.66
• Chronic Absenteeism - 7.14
• Student Engagement - 100%

Holly Pond High School
• Grade - C (75)
• Academic Achievement - 34.33
• Academic Growth - 91.91
• Graduation Rate - 87.0
• College and Career Readiness - 73.0
• Chronic Absenteeism - 25.14
• Student Engagement - 100%

Parkside Elementary
• Grade - B (81)
• Academic Achievement - 71.95
• Academic Growth - 88.01
• Chronic Absenteeism - 20.52
• Student Engagement - 100%

Vinemont Elementary School
• Grade - C (73)
• Academic Achievement - 66.67
• Academic Growth - 74.66
• Chronic Absenteeism - 9.84
• Student Engagement - 100%

Vinemont Middle School
• Grade - B (89)
• Academic Achievement - 76.87
• Academic Growth - 100
• Chronic Absenteeism - 13.13
• Student Engagement - 100%

Vinemont High School
• Grade - C (73)
• Academic Achievement - 37.81
• Academic Growth - 84.19
• Graduation Rate - 84.80
• College and Career Readiness - 70.0
• Chronic Absenteeism - 22.13
• Student Engagement - 100%

Welti Elementary School
• Grade - B (80)
• Academic Achievement - 71.77
• Academic Growth - 84.56
• Chronic Absenteeism - 11.11
• Student Engagement - 100%

West Point Elementary School
• Grade - B (83)
• Academic Achievement - 82.57
• Academic Growth - not available
• Chronic Absenteeism - 12.30
• Student Engagement - 100%

West Point Intermediate School
• Grade - C (74)
• Academic Achievement - 63.75
• Academic Growth - 79.56
• Chronic Absenteeism - 10.31
• Student Engagement - 100%

West Point Middle School
• Grade - C (76)
• Academic Achievement - 61.06
• Academic Growth - 85.73
• Chronic Absenteeism - 15.96
• Student Engagement - 100%

West Point High School
• Grade - C (77)
• Academic Achievement - 35.96
• Academic Growth - 91.06
• Graduation Rate - 91.80
• College and Career Readiness - 75.0
• Chronic Absenteeism - 21.87
• Student Engagement - 100%

Statistics
Certain statistics about schools and systems appeared on the initial ASDE dashboard.

In the Cullman County school system:
• 62.4 percent of students qualify for free or reduced meals. Economically disadvantaged students in the county system averaged seven to eight points below the system average on the Aspire.
• 13.9 percent of students have physical or mental disabilities. Special needs students in the county system averaged 30 to 36 points below the system average on the Aspire.
• 53.5 percent of teachers/staff have master's degrees
• 6.1 percent of teachers/staff have post-graduate credentials

In the Cullman City school system:
• 32.1 percent of students qualify for free or reduced meals. Economically disadvantaged students in the city system averaged 14 to 15 points below the system average on the Aspire.
• 8.0 percent of students have physical or mental disabilities. Special needs students in the city system averaged 33 to 44 points below the system average on the Aspire.
• 52.7 percent of teachers/staff have master's degrees
• 4.9 percent of teachers/staff have post-graduate credentials

Superintendents' responses
On Thursday morning, County Superintendent Shane Barnette held a press briefing before the State Report Card data on the dashboard went live. His message stated in part:

"The Alabama Department of Education released the Alabama State Report Card today, containing a letter grade for schools and school systems across the state, including all the schools in Cullman County. This year's State Report Card is simply a prototype, with expected changes to come in the future.

"The majority of the report card is based on the Aspire Test, which is important to point out that the State Department has since ruled ineffective and discontinued its use already. But the results that we'll be talking about today are based on that test, that we no longer use.

"The State of Alabama introduced the Alabama State Report Card so students, parents, taxpayers and others could easily understand how their schools are performing; and just as report cards help parents understand how their children are performing, these report cards help the parents understand how the schools are performing.

"Alabama as a state received a letter grade of a 'C,' and Cullman County Schools has received a 'B,' which reflects several different factors including academic achievement, academic growth, chronic absenteeism, as well as graduation rates and college and career readiness for high schools. Every student in our system is included in the data regardless of exceptionalities or challenges. We take a lot of pride in educating all of our students regardless of these individual challenges.

"Schools within our school system received a wide range of scores. Due to various grade level makeups of schools in Cullman County, many of their scores were determined by only a few indicators or maybe even didn't even have a score, much like Good Hope Primary. They had none of those indicators in their school, so they were not even assigned a grade. I am confident that Good Hope Primary would have helped our overall score in our district if they had have gotten a grade. And that's one reason that (this version of the Report Card is) a prototype, and they're looking at changes, and they're welcoming changes from the public and from educators about things they can do to help this Report Card mean more than it currently does.

"Someone may ask, 'Does a low grade mean that my school is bad?' There are many factors that influence the quality of a school. The letter grade is simply a snapshot of how a school or school system performed during the previous year. The grades will be used to identify areas that are performing strongly and areas that need improvement.

"Absenteeism is an area that hurt many of our schools, and this is an area that parents can definitely help us in. Unfortunately, excused and unexcused absences count negatively toward our absentee rate. For instance, this is flu season right now, and we have several students out with the flu as of today. We have several teachers out with the flu today. And then, this situation: students that are out with the flu, even with doctors' excuses, currently count against us in our absenteeism rate, and affect us negatively on this State Report Card."

After listing the letter grades for each school, Barnette continued:

"Yes, when you see these grades--I mean they're painful for me to look at, especially knowing the great things that are going on in the schools when I go out there and visit every day. At the same time, I take it personal because these scores are a reflection of our leadership; and that starts with me, and secondly starts with our Principals. Over the last couple of weeks, the schools have been holding data meetings to discuss the areas of need and ways that we can improve those, and ways that we can target those areas.

"The letter grade is a snapshot of the school and a conversation starter for communities. It's not about pointing fingers. It is intended to be a catalyst for discussion and improvement. Together, we will continue to identify ways that we can provide our students with the best educational experience possible.

"The graduation rate for this report card is based on the graduation rate for the 2015-2016 school year. As a district that year, our graduation rate was 85 percent, fairly high when you compare it to several of the other graduation rates in Alabama. I'm proud to say that, as of last year--for the 2016-2017 year, our graduation rate was the highest ever: it was at 92 percent. So as you can see, even though this Report Card comes out today, we've already improved in a lot of areas from this data. Once again, this data is based on an 85 percent graduation rate, and last year we had 92 percent. Every one of our high schools last year was in the 90's. We had anywhere from a 91 percent graduation rate at one school, to a 95 percent at other schools. So I'm really proud about what we're doing in that area.

"While we are not satisfied with our scores, we accept them. We have many exciting things happening in Cullman County that are not measured on this Report Card. Almost daily we have students and teachers, and schools earning awards or recognitions for their accomplishments. We have a really good school system and it's getting better every day. Just this week, we had a school recognized as a School of Excellence again, for all the AP exams that they have students taking and passing, and we're really excited about that.

"Some of the things that we have going on, that are not measured on this Report Card: we have athletic teams that are winning state championships, we have academic teams that are consistently winning state championships and competing at the National Level, band students earning state level awards, multiple Blue Ribbon Schools, a Leader In Me Lighthouse School for Leadership. We have a US News-rated Top School in our school system. We have an A+ School of Excellence school, based on their AP exams that I mentioned earlier. We have an INSPIRESS Team that will be going up at the end of this school year to Washington D.C. to be presenting to NASA about some projects that they've done, because they won a state competition. We're real excited about that. We have FFA quartets that are ranked third in the nation. We have CATA teams that are winning state and national competitions. We have Certified Outdoor Classrooms, and we have students that are being recognized as National Merit Semifinalists. We have partnerships with businesses and industries, and Wallace State Community College, and the list goes on.

"We also have many students that face a list of challenges from homelessness, poverty, mental and physical disabilities; we have broken families, victims of drug abuse, and early parenthood. While these may be challenges, they are not crutches for the students of Cullman County. If the student is willing to try, our educators will try multiple strategies to help them become successful and overcome any obstacle. We have faculty and staff that have stood in the gap for children that range in age from Pre-K to 12th grade, to give them a fighting chance to break that cycle of poverty. This may include providing food or clothes, many times providing money, school supplies, a warm home, and many times just a shoulder to cry on. And none of those things will show up on a State Report Card, but we're going to continue to do them, because that is what makes Cullman County great.

"Our students become the backbone of our society. Our past students include homemakers, farmers, mechanics, plumbers, builders, doctors, sheriffs, state representatives, judges, reporters, engineers, lawyers. We even have a Fortune 500 executive that's graduated from a Cullman County school. We have many teachers and principals, and we even have a superintendent that attended a Cullman County school. And the list continues to go on. We have people that are going to our schools and becoming successful contributors to our society, and we're excited about that.

"It's an exciting time to be a part of the Cullman County School System! Of course we have room for improvement, and we have a strategic plan to help us do that. And we continue to believe that the future is very bright for the students in Cullman County!"

On Thursday afternoon, Cullman City Schools Superintendent Dr. Susan Patterson commented to The Tribune via email:

"The A-F Report Card was designed by the Alabama State Department of Education to meet the requirements of Alabama law. As with any measure, our focus is on how we can provide continuous improvement for our students and schools. Just as no one single measure can accurately report everything about a student, there are multiple ways to assess the successes of a school or school system. We are very proud of the many different accomplishments our students and teachers make on a daily basis, in academics, arts, and athletics.

"Along with these areas we also value the support of our community and parents, it is the collective efforts of everyone that will ensure the future success of our students.

"An additional area measured by the A-F Report Card is chronic absenteeism. Attendance is an area where the supports around our students impact their performance. Daily presence is critical to success in learning, and this is an area we have taken a renewed focus on, by working with parents and others. Our school board approved our upcoming school calendar last month so that families could make plans for family events based on when students would have breaks in the school year. The intent of approving this as early as possible was to provide everyone plenty of time to make their family plans in a way that would least require students to miss scheduled school days.

"The majority of the report card scores came from our student performance on the ACT Aspire, which is no longer being used by the Alabama State Department of Education. This is why our focus is always on teaching and learning that continually improves because the standardized assessments and instructional standards change every few years.

Patterson ended, "Cullman City Schools are committed to rigorous instruction and student success. It is our goal to ensure that each child increases their achievement as they progress through our system. We continually focus on the performance of students, so that when they graduate from Cullman High, we know they have the foundation for life-long success."

The ASDE Report Card dashboard can be viewed at http://ap.alsde.edu/accountability/EducationReportCard/selectschool.

View Barnette's press conference at www.facebook.com/CullmanTribune/videos/1628957897165899/.