3 TUESDAY • THURSDAY • SATURDAY 3
3 DAYS PER WEEK

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 145 • 50¢ PER COPY | SEPTEMBER 18, 2018 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 112

LEGEND ON THE FIELD

Crimson Tide star, former NFL player Trent Richardson will be in Vinemont Friday



THE INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Trent Richardson

» PAGE 3

CRIME

Arab man indicted for 2017 murder in Baileyton

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – An Arab, Alabama man has been indicted by a Cullman County grand jury for murder in the April 2017 death of a Blountsville man.

Robert Lee Kimbrough, Jr., 29, was indicted for murder (AL Code 13A-6-2 (a3)) and two counts of first-degree burglary stemming from the April 4, 2017 incident in Baileyton.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Robert Lee Kimbrough, Jr.

Johnathan Andrew Smith, 34, of Blountsville was shot when he and Kimbrough allegedly entered the home of Mike Sweaton on County Road 1759 in Baileyton sometime after 8 a.m. Tuesday, April 4, 2017. Sweaton shot Smith.

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry said at that time that an altercation ensued at the residence. "We believe this was an isolated incident. The individuals knew each other, and the individual in the house was targeted by the two suspects. It was not random."

After the shooting, Smith and Kimbrough fled the home in a vehicle. Authorities located the vehicle in the 5800 block of Highway 67 a short time later. Smith's body was inside. Kimbrough fled on foot.

A K-9 deputy with the CCSO was brought in, along with a helicopter from the Cullman City Police Department (CPD), to search for Kimbrough; however, he eluded authorities until Thursday, April 6.

Kimbrough is currently being held in the Cullman County Detention Center on a $50,000 cash bond.

AL Code 13A-6-2 (a3) states:
A person commits the crime of murder if he or she commits or attempts to commit arson in the first degree, burglary in the first or second degree, escape in the first degree, kidnapping in the first degree, rape in the first degree, robbery in any degree, sodomy in the first degree, any other felony clearly dangerous to human life and, in the course of and in furtherance of the crime that he or she is committing or attempting to commit, or in immediate flight therefrom, he or she, or another participant if there be any, causes the death of any person.

Cullman Elks collecting donations for Hurricane Florence victims

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Cullman Elks Lodge #1609 is reaching out to help those in the Carolinas in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence. The Elks Travel Squad will head out when other Elks in the affected areas are able to return to their communities. The Elks team will travel in a motor home and trailer packed with grills and food. The members will prepare meals for storm victims while delivering needed items.



CULLMAN ELKS LODGE #1609

Elks members will be at the Cullman Elks Lodge (1609 Brantley Ave. NW) accepting donations daily from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. until the truck departs. The Elks are also accepting donations in Garden City at a warehouse at 205 10th Street daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Find out more at www.facebook.com/CullmanElksLodge1609.

The Elks are asking for the community's help and support. They are accepting the following donations:

- Water
- Diapers, wipes, formula
- Adult incontinence products
- Toilet paper and paper towels
- Toiletries including feminine products
- Cleaners, bleach, liquid soap, hand sanitizer
- Garbage bags and Ziploc bags
- Towels and wash clothes
- Pillows, blankets, bed linens
- Charcoal
- Flashlights, batteries, lanterns
- Manual can-openers
- Paper plates, napkins, plasticware
- Coloring books, crayons, cards, Uno or other children's activities
- Comfort toys (stuffed toys or dolls)
- Dog food, cat food, litter, blankets, bowls, pet necessities
- The Elks are not accepting clothes at this time.

Monetary donations can be made at Peoples Bank to the Cullman Hurricane Florence Relief Fund. Donations and gift cards will also be accepted at the Elks Lodge with receipts available upon request. Donations are tax-deductible.

Karri Willis Ridgeway, a member of the Elks Travel Squad, said, "We really need the truck loaded ASAP. The people in North Carolina and South Carolina need our help. We traveled to Texas after Hurricane Harvey last year and the experience was incredibly humbling."

Cullman Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler Dale Ball, added, "Part of our mission is to do what we can to help our Elks families and the needs of their communities.

"We learned a lot after last year's trip, and the Cullman community really helped us. Unfortunately, we have another storm this year, but we are ready when they tell us it's ok to come."

The Cullman Elks hope to leave Cullman Thursday for the Carolinas although they have not been told a specific destination. Elks members will be at the lodge accepting donations daily from 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

The Cullman Elks Lodge is located at 1609 Brantley Ave. NW, Cullman, AL 35055. It can be reached at 256-734-9943.

The Elks are also accepting donations in Garden City at a warehouse at 205 10th Street daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Find out more at www.facebook.com/CullmanElksLodge1609.

Smith Lake Country Music Festival set for Sept. 29

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – The inaugural Smith Lake Country Music Festival will take place Saturday, Sept. 29 at Smith Lake Park. Tickets for the event, which organizers say is for the whole family to enjoy, are $15. Children five and younger are free. Gates open at noon.

The festival has eight country music acts confirmed including:

- Ally Knight (Good Hope)
- Jesse Priest (Holly Pond)
- Elijah Borders
- Abby Hufnagle

Featured acts include:

- Leah Starlight ("Redneck Housewives of Alabama")
- Smithfield (Nashville)
- Brandon Elders ("American Idol" alum from Arab)
- Adam Doleac (Nashville)

The first artist will go on stage at 2 p.m. with the final act performing at 10. The entire cast of the television show "Redneck Housewives of Alabama" will be at the event to meet and greet fans.

The festival will have a kids' zone area with inflatables and a rock-climbing wall. A cornhole tournament will also take place to benefit Cullman nonprofit Saving Forgotten Warriors.

Event Coordinator William Peek said, "This is an event for the whole family. We will have activities for the young kids, food, drinks and good music. This is a no-alcohol event as we want entire families to come out and enjoy the festival."

Food will be available from LawLers Barbeque, Brix & Embers Pizza, Devil Dawgs, Marble Slab, Dippin' Dots ice cream and more.

13 grams of meth seized at Cullman County checkpoint, Pinson woman arrested

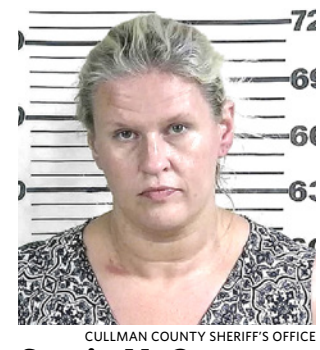
Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN – A Pinson woman was arrested at a traffic safety checkpoint in Cullman County Saturday when approximately 13 grams of methamphetamine were allegedly found in her vehicle.

Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) deputies, along with agents with the Cullman Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET), arrested Stacie Rene McCay, 41, for possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

According to a media release from the CCSO, deputies and CNET agents were conducting a traffic safety checkpoint at the intersection of County Road 222 and County Road 109 in Bremen during the early morning hours of Saturday, Sept. 15, when. McCay came through the safety checkpoint around 1 a.m.

"I am glad we were able to arrest this subject and seize the meth before it made it into our community. We randomly do crime suppression in certain areas of the county to target thieves, drug dealers, etc. as a tool in our arsenal against criminals," said Sheriff Matt Gentry. "I would also like to thank the deputies and agents for their long hours to get this meth off the streets."


CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Stacie McCay

McCay has made bond.

Arrest reports: Sept. 13-16

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported for Sept. 13-16, 2018. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; **FTA** = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018

Clark, Jamie Ray, 42
• FTA- first-degree assault

Farr, Justin Wayne, 27
• unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle

Jackson, Timothy Ray, 39
• third-degree elder abuse or neglect

Stancil, Patricia Ann, 51
• FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Wilson, Nikolas Lee, 39
• first-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 14-16, 2018

Adams, Samuel Theodore, 27
• second-degree theft of property

Cooper, Richard Adam, 38
• GJ- first-degree receiving stolen property

Cornelius, James Gregory, 27
• probation violation- first-degree receiving stolen property

Crowe, Steven Lee, 41
• third-degree criminal trespassing
• violation of a domestic violence protection order

Cunningham, Christopher Arnold, 47
• judge's order- DUI- .08 BAC or greater

Frederick, David Ryan, 22
• second-degree theft of property

Graham, Asia Ryan, 27
• second-degree promoting prison contraband
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Haws, Carma Lane, 34
• FTA- driving while suspended

Kimbrough, Robert Lee Jr., 29
• GJ- first-degree burglary (2 counts)
• GJ- murder

McCay, Stacie Rene, 41
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Morrow, Maranda Diane, 39
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Myrick, Brandi Michelle, 41
• probation violation- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Nava-Gomez, Mario Jesus, 22
• DUI- .08 BAC or greater
• driving while suspended
• illegal possession of alcohol
• speeding- reasonable and prudent

Pecina, Leslie, 21
• harassment
• second-degree unlawful imprisonment

Tanner, Denise Ann, 24
• FTA- illegal possession or use of a credit or debit card

Williams, Bob Howard, 39
• FTA- driving while revoked

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Friday-Sunday, Sept. 14-16, 2018

Tanner, Denise A., 24
• obstruction- using false ID

Campbell, James E., 55
• second-degree receiving stolen property

Stover, Tevin O., 25
• FTA- violation of family protection order

Mordecai, Phillip D., 58
• DUI- controlled substance

Riggs, Britany H., 26
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Hayes, Joshua J., 22
• FTA- following too close
• FTA- insurance violation
• FTA- improper lane usage

Pierce, Katrina M., 30
• disorderly conduct

Ramsey, Cooper R., 22
• DUI
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Monkles, Pas R., 51
• DUI

Henderson, Colton C., 25
• FTA- public intoxication

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No report provided.

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

AL Secretary of State website offers new information for voters

Office of Alabama Sec. of State John Merrill

MONTGOMERY – Midterm elections, set for Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018, are less than two months away, and the Alabama Secretary of State website, www.alabamavotes.gov, now contains new information linked in the banner at the top of the page – an "Election Toolkit" – to help citizens be prepared to participate in the electoral process.

The website now allows voters to access sample ballots for the elections, a new infographic showing how elections work and what responsibilities fall to different state officials, a PDF version of the Alabama Voter Guide, and information regarding the statewide amendments that will be voted on.

"We want Alabama voters to have convenient access to all the material necessary so they can make informed decisions on Election Day," Sec. of State John Merrill said.

"We are pleased to be able to offer this information on our website for all the 3.4 million registered voters in the state."

In addition, the Secretary of State's office wants to remind Alabama citizens there is still time to register to vote.

National Voter Registration Day, observed on September 25, is set aside to emphasize the importance of registering to vote so citizens can be a part of our democratic republic.

The last day to register to vote for this election is Monday, October 22. Citizens can register to vote by downloading the "Vote for Alabama" app on their smart phone or visiting www.alabamavotes.com.

"We want every eligible U.S. citizen in Alabama to be registered to vote and have a photo ID," Merrill said.

"This represents a continuation of our work to make it easy to vote and hard to cheat."

For access to all this information, please visit the Secretary of State website at www.alabamavotes.gov.


OFFICE OF ALA. SEC. OF STATE JOHN MERRILL
John Merrill

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

SHIRLEY KAY DUCKWORTH, deceased CASE NO. PC2018-269

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF SHIRLEY KAY DUCKWORTH, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to SHONDA DUCKWORTH LACKEY on the 31st day of August, 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.

SHONDA DUCKWORTH LACKEY, Personal Representative

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Sherry H. Barrett
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Shonda Duckworth Lackey
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721

EARL'S BODY SHOP
2251 Decatur Ave., N.W.
734-2406

THE BARN
Portable Storage Buildings
Hanceville, AL
352-2737


A-1 Battery Supply
AUTO – TRUCK – TRACTOR
Quality Batteries For Every Need
Since 1979
2172 Co. Rd. 1169 • Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: (Office): 256-734-9438

FES
FORESTRY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
General Contractors
Now Hiring Heavy Equipment Operators and CDL Drivers. Competitive pay and benefits. Pre-employment drug test required. Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Call 205-298-6799 or email us at jtate@forestryenv.com

AUTO INSURANCE
Senior Driver Discounts Age 60 & Above
Virgil B. Fowler Insurance Agency
"Quality Since 1935"
256-734-3821
www.vbfowlerinsurance.com

DO YOU KNOW?
FOR EACH EXHIBIT YOU ENTER IN THE
2018 CULLMAN COUNTY FAIR
YOUR NAME WILL BE ENTERED IN A DRAWING ON OCT. 13th, FOR A MONEY PRIZE.
THE FIRST NAME DRAWN WILL RECEIVE A GRAND PRIZE OF $500.00 !!
AFTER THE GRAND PRIZE DRAWING, 20 MORE NAMES WILL BE DRAWN FOR $100.00 EACH.
THERE IS NO CHARGE TO ENTER EXHIBITS.
EXHIBITORS MAY WIN ONE TIME ONLY PER FAIR YEAR, PRESENCE TO WIN NOT REQUIRED.
THE 2018 CULLMAN COUNTY FAIR OPENS ON OCTOBER 4th.
* The Cullman County Fair is a fund raising project of the Cullman Lions Club *
www.cullmanfair.com



The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874
Publication Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422

Humble Roots, LLC
Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: robin@cullmansense.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES
Cullman.....$75.00
Outside Cullman.....$85.00

NoahGalilee–Publisher
DustinIsom–Editor
Wendy Sack – Newsroom Editor
Loretta Gillespie–Lifestyle/Religion
Christy Perry - General Reporter
Hayden Hyatt – Reporter/Photographer
W.C. Mann– General Reporter
Sammy Confer - Youth/JV Sports Editor
Nick Griffin - Varsity Sports Editor
Joe McElroy - Photographer
Bill Piper - Photojournalist
Howard Cole - Photojournalist
RobinWinton–NewsroomManager

PREP FOOTBALL

PREP FOOTBALL WRAP-UP: week 4

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN COUNTY – Another week of football is in the books and the results from local squads were split evenly, five wins and five losses. Cold Springs and Good Hope picked up wins to stay undefeated while Holly Pond scraped out a win at Hanceville in the only local matchup of the week. Everyone is starting to work out their lineups and play style as the meat of the fall schedule approaches.

(1-2) Vinemont 20 – (3-0) Midfield 40
After a dramatic win at home over Westbrook Christian last week, the Eagles traveled to Midfield for their first regional matchup of the season and couldn't keep pace with the Patriots offense. After a 56-yard touchdown run from running back Dustin Moore just a few minutes into the game, the Eagles were held scoreless until Moore scored again midway through the third quarter. By that time the Patriots had built a two-possession lead that Vinemont couldn't catch up with.

The Eagles didn't quit playing and got into the end zone one more time on a pass from quarterback Jack Hill to Moore with less than a minute to play, making the final score 40-20, Patriots. Vinemont will have another big game this week when the Eagles return to their home field for a regional matchup with the Hanceville Bulldogs.

(3-1) Holly Pond 22 – (1-3) Hanceville 6
The Broncos and the Bulldogs duked it out last week in a gritty and at times sloppy contest, but all that matters is the final score and it was Holly Pond that managed to escape Hanceville with the regional victory. After a scoreless first quarter, the first points of the night came on a safety that put the Broncos up 2-0. Following the safety, Holly Pond was able to find the end zone twice in the second quarter to take a 16-0 lead.

The Bulldogs managed to cut into the lead with a touchdown just before the half to make it 16-6. Both teams traded turnovers throughout a scoreless third quarter, but Holly Pond was able to put the game away 22-6 with a touchdown midway through the fourth. Holly Pond and Hanceville will both be on the road this week as the Broncos prepare for a big matchup with Fultondale that could have playoff implications and the Bulldogs travel for a rivalry game with the Vinemont Eagles.

(2-2) West Point 7 – (2-1) Lawrence County 43
Last week's trip to Moulton was a tough one for the West Point Warriors. Lawrence County scored early and often in this one and carried a 28-0 lead into the locker room at halftime. The Red Devils continued to add to their lead in the second half and kept the Warriors off the board until the fourth quarter.

Senior running back Hunter Persall ran one in from 24-yards out, but it was too little too late for West Point and Lawrence County pulled away with a 43-7 region win. The Warriors have another important regional matchup this week as they gear up to host the Russellville Golden Tigers.

(2-2) Cullman 48 – (0-4) Columbia 8
The Bearcats put together a convincing homecoming win last week as they rolled over the Columbia Eagles 48-8. Running back Jayden Sullins gave Cullman an early 7-0 lead with a 1-yard touchdown and Ezra Burks followed him just a few series later with a rushing touchdown of his own.

Sullins burst through the line for a 33-yard touchdown later in the half and quarterback Max Dueland kept the ball rolling with a 3-yard rushing touchdown that gave the 'Cats a 28-0 lead. The Eagles were able to get on the board once before the half to make it 28-8 at the break, but Cullman's offense wasn't finished scoring. Dueland tacked on a passing touchdown in the third quarter and sophomore running back Alex Sheppard ran in two more scores in the fourth to bring the final score to 48-8. Cullman will hit the road this week for a big matchup with the Albertville Aggies.

(1-3) Fairview 13 – (4-0) St. John Paul II 28
The Aggies hit the road last week for a regional matchup with the Falcons of St. John Paul II and after a tight first half, the Falcons pulled away in the final two quarters.

Quarterback Dayne Black put Fairview up 7-0 early in the first quarter with a 52-yard touchdown run but the Falcons tied it up with just a few minutes remaining in the opening half. With the score tied to start the third quarter, Black scored with his legs again to put the Aggies up 13-7 midway through the third. The Falcons responded quickly with a go-ahead touchdown that made it 14-13 and continued stretching their lead with another touchdown early in the fourth quarter. Two turnovers from the Aggies in the fourth made it hard for them to find the end zone again and they ultimately fell 28-13 on the road. Fairview will return home this weekend for another regional showdown with the Priceville Bulldogs.

(4-0) Cold Springs 33 – (0-4) Sumiton Christian 14
The Cold Springs Eagles jumped out to a fast start against Sumiton Christian and let their running game carry them through to another win and a 4-0 start to the season. Running back Mason Harris struck first for Cold Springs with a 62-yard touchdown that set the tone for the night.

Ayden Alexander punched one in next from 10-yards out to put the Eagles up 13-0 at the end of the opening quarter. Harris found the end zone again in the second quarter to go up 20-0, but Sumiton Christian was finally able to get some points on the board before halftime, making it 20-7, Cold Springs. Houston McCarn was the next one to score for Cold Springs and his 29-yard touchdown run made it 26-7 in the third quarter.

Alexander found the end zone again at the start of the fourth quarter to put Cold Springs up 33-7 and that would officially put the game away. Sumiton Christian managed to hit a long touchdown pass late in the quarter, but it was too late and Cold Springs took the game, 33-14. The Cold Springs Eagles will look to stay unbeaten this week when they travel to face Aliceville.

(1-3) Meek 28 – (3-0) Hubbertville 47
The Hubbertville Lions got out in front of the Tigers early last week, and the big early lead proved to be too much for Meek to come back from. Quarterback Payton Key connected with Caleb Aaron for a touchdown early in the game and running back Gabe Jones added a score on the ground just before the break, but the Tigers still trailed 34-12 going into the half. The Lions continued to pull away in the second half, but Meek was able to find the end zone two more times in the fourth quarter on two touchdown passes from Key, one to Aaron and one to Bryson Hudson; the Hubbertville lead was just too big for the Tigers to chip away. Meek will look to get back in the win column this week when they travel to Berry for a regional matchup.

(4-0) Good Hope 32 – (0-4) Tanner 0
Homecoming night was a fun one for the Raiders and their fans as they trounced the Tanner Rattlers 32-0 in a game where Good Hope could've named their final score. Running back Matt Dixon scored on the ground and quarterback Bailey Quick added a touchdown through the air in the first quarter and another on the ground in the second. Dixon was able to find the end zone in the second quarter as well and the Raiders took a 26-0 lead into the break. The Good Hope defense smothered the Rattlers in the first half and actually forced them backward for a total of minus-2 yards in the first quarter. Dixon ran in his third touchdown of the night to start the third quarter and the Raiders took the air out of the ball to drain the rest of the clock and complete the 32-0 shutout. The Raiders will look to stay undefeated this week when they host Oak Grove in a regional matchup.

(3-1) Addison 39 – (3-1) Red Bay 12
The Bulldogs opened up region play at home last week and got off to a 1-0 start thanks to a big second half on the ground. Red Bay went up 6-0 in the first quarter, but the Bulldogs answered with two touchdowns to take 14-6 lead into the half. Quarterback Zayne Guthrie hit Luke Chambers running over the middle for a touchdown to go ahead 8-6 and running back Grant Rice punched one in from 2-yards out later in the second quarter. The second half was all Bulldogs and the Addison running game was next to unstoppable. Guthrie took one 80-yards to the house to start the second half to go up 20-6 but the Tigers responded with a long touchdown through the air that cut the lead to 20-12.

Rice burst through the middle of the line later in the third quarter for 72 yards that put the Bulldogs up 26-12 and that was the score that put the game out of reach for Red Bay. Chambers and Caleb Crider each scored on the ground in the fourth quarter to help Addison pull away, 39-12. The Bulldogs will have a big road trip this week as they travel to take on Sheffield in a regional matchup.

Legend (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT – With a little help from a Cullman area church, the Vinemont Eagles will have a boost on the sidelines for their homecoming game this Friday, when former Alabama Crimson Tide star and pro running back Trent Richardson comes to spend part of his day at the school.

Pastor Chris Harrison of Church 212 set up the event and will host Richardson. "I'm the pastor at Church 212 in Cullman, but I am also a Vinemont graduate, and I wanted to do something to help their quarterback club. And the door opened through an old college friend who now owns a jersey company that signed Trent, and I asked him for a favor for my alma mater. Trent was nice enough to talk with me and do everything that I asked him."

Richardson, who played in the NFL for the Indianapolis Colts and Cleveland Browns (Richardson was the first-round, third overall pick in 2012), and who just signed with Alliance Birmingham in the new Alliance of American Football league, will get up close and personal with Vinemont's students and student athletes.

Harrison continued, "He's going to be at their pep rally, speaking to their football team, letting fans get pictures and signing autographs, selling some of his items and donating some proceeds from every sale to the QB club at Vinemont. Then he's going to hang on the sideline with the coaches and the team for the whole game to cheer the Eagles on."

According to Harrison, Richardson's schedule at Vinemont includes:

- 2 p.m. - Pep rally
- 3 p.m. - Meeting the football team to share his testimony and talk football
- 4-6 p.m. - Meeting fans and signing autographs at the Vinemont fieldhouse
- 6:30 p.m. - Meeting with the team once more to fire up the Eagles!
- 7 p.m. - With the team on the sideline during the first half
- Halftime - Richardson will be recognized as a guest during homecoming festivities and will be available from that time through the third quarter for pictures and autographs.

If his schedule allows, Richardson may return to the sideline to finish the game with the Eagles. The Eagles will welcome the Hanceville Bulldogs for the game Friday. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

HEALTH

CPAP support group meeting Sept. 20 at Cullman Regional

Mary Beth Sellers
Cullman Regional

CULLMAN – Do you or a loved one currently use a CPAP? If you are new to CPAP or have been using it for years, you're invited to join us at Cullman Regional for a Cullman A.W.A.K.E. (Alert, Well, And Keeping Energetic) support group meeting.

We will have sleep professionals present to answer questions and provide information, as well as other people who have used CPAP and have had the same experiences.

We hope to provide the support and encouragement you need to make your CPAP therapy as successful as possible and remind you that you are not alone. Everyone is welcome to attend, but space is limited. Refreshments will be provided, and attendance is free.

The Cullman A.W.A.K.E. Support Group will be held on Thursday, Sept. 20 from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Colonel Cullmann Room, located in Professional Office Building 2 on the Cullman Regional Campus (1912 Alabama Highway 157, Cullman, AL 35058).

For more information, or to reserve your seat, call the Cullman Regional CPAP Care Center at 256-737-2753.

HEALTH

Cullman Regional offering free prostate cancer screenings Sept. 26, Oct. 17 and Nov. 14

Mary Beth Sellers
Cullman Regional

CULLMAN – In recognition of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Cullman Regional is offering free prostate cancer screenings in the Cullman Regional Urology Clinic on Sept. 26, Oct. 17 and Nov. 14. While the screenings are free, an appointment is required. Schedule an appointment by calling the Cullman Regional Urology Clinic at 256-737-2177.

The screenings offer opportunities to check your risk for prostate cancer through a PSA test and a digital prostate exam. The screenings are available for men ages 50-69 or men older than 40 who have a family history of prostate cancer.

African-American men have a higher risk for prostate cancer and should start getting screened at age 40.

According to the Prostate Cancer Foundation, 1 in 9 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime. The greatest risk factors for developing prostate cancer are family history, race and age.

Prostate cancer is the second-most common cancer in U.S. men and is highly treatable if detected early.

"Unfortunately, there usually aren't any early warning signs for prostate cancer," said Urologist Lars Erik Wallin III, MD, Cullman Regional Urology Clinic. "In some cases, prostate cancer can cause symptoms, such as trouble urinating, painful or burning urination, weak urine flow and chronic pain in the back, hips or pelvis."

Continued Wallin, "Prostate cancer is usually treatable in cases where it is detected early. That's why it is important to know your risk factors and start getting screened regularly."

For more information about the Cullman Regional Urology Clinic or services provided at Cullman Regional, visit www.cullmanregional.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIE REVIEW: 'The Predator' falls flat, 5/10

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

Hardcore "Predator" fans will not be impressed with the franchise's latest installment, "The Predator," which long on the comedy and short on the substance that endeared moviegoers to the original movies.

"The Predator" is written and directed by Shane Black and stars Boyd Holbrook, Olivia Munn, Jacob Tremblay, Trevante Rhodes and Sterling K. Brown. This is a sequel to the original Predator films, "Predator" and "Predator 2", not a reboot, so the events of those films are referenced and factor into some of the character's motivations.

Holbrook's Quinn McKenna is our main protagonist in the film and we spend most of the time following him and his son Rory, played by Tremblay. The film begins with one predator being pursued by another and crash landing on Earth. The events following the crash lead to the predator's gear being sent to different places, which forces the creature to hunt down what it needs and kill anything that stands in its way.

The positives: the classic predator creature design is one of the most iconic and intimidating creatures in the sci-fi genre. The galactic hunter looks outstanding in his latest on-screen appearance and every scene involving him is satisfying. The predator takes people apart in familiar ways that we all want to see while also utilizing new tech to show us some new kills. The predator technology is also one of the more enjoyable things in the movie. We see humans and aliens alike utilizing the advanced tech in a variety of ways that we haven't gotten before, and it makes for some good moments. The cast also does a fine job with what they are given and puts together solid performances.

The negatives: The special effects are pretty inconsistent in terms of quality and Black also introduces us to a new type of predator, but the biggest issue by far is the writing. Black actually had a supporting role in the first Predator film and earned a writing credit for some of his script input, particularly comedy. "The Predator" is more of a comedy than it is an action, sci-fi or suspenseful movie. Every character in the film with the exception of Tremblay's Rory McKenna could be considered "the funny one."

Comedian Keegan Michal-Key plays one of the main members of the team and obviously you expect him to make jokes and provide comic relief. The problem is that it feels like everyone is there for comic relief. Black's script pounds you over the head with quips and one-liners to the point where there is no suspense and there is no fear of the Predator because everyone just seems like they're having fun. In the original 1987 film, Arnold Schwarzenegger and his military unit are confused and terrified by the invisible monster in the trees picking them off one at a time, but in this film, Holbrook and his team joke about the idea of aliens hunting humans and don't seem to fear the creature very much either, so why should we fear it?

Another one of the negatives for me personally, without getting into spoiler territory, is the introduction of a new breed of predator. These versions are bigger, stronger, faster and entirely CGI. If you're a hardcore Predator fan, you're in the theater to see the predator you know and love tear people apart in the woods, and you get some of that, but not enough. I'm not sure why Black and/or the studio felt the need to replace the classic predator with an "upgraded" version, but the new creature just isn't as fun to watch as the one we're familiar with.



20TH CENTURY FOX

Overall, "The Predator" has some cool action in the first half of the film but as the jokes continue to pile up and the plot starts to fall apart, it becomes a fairly mediocre and forgettable entry to the franchise.

Griffin's score: 5/10



YOUTH FOOTBALL

Week 4 scoring roundup

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Here's how games played out in week four of the Cullman County youth football season.

Cullman Bearcats 20, Cold Springs 16 (Fireplug)
After a closely contested first half, Cullman stretched its lead to 20-8 a little bit into the second half, but the Eagles cut it to 20-16, getting the ball back looking to win the game. The Bearcat defense forced a turnover on downs to hang on to the win.

Cold Springs 8, Cullman Bearcats 0 (Wee-Wee)
The Eagles' Wee-Wee squad put up the only touchdown of the game with a little more than a minute left to go in the contest as Cold Springs went on to take the game in a very low-scoring affair.

Cullman Bearcats 44, Cold Springs 0 (Pee-Wee)
The Bearcats' Pee-Wee team dominated the Eagles from start to finish in its shutout victory.

Holly Pond 20, West Point 14 (Fireplug)
The Broncos hung on to defeat West Point in the first game of the series.

West Point 34, Holly Pond 6 (Wee-Wee)
The Warriors' Wee-Wee squad dominated in game two, winning handily over Holly Pond.

West Point 46, Holly Pond 14 (Pee-Wee)
West Point dominated Holly Pond from start to finish in the Pee-Wee game.

Vinemont 12, Good Hope Outlaws 0 (Fireplug)
Vinemont's Fireplug squad took home the shutout victory over the Outlaws.

Good Hope Outlaws 20, Vinemont 6 (Wee-Wee)
Good Hope took game two of the series, winning by two touchdowns over the Eagles.

Vinemont 12, Good Hope Outlaws 0 (Pee-Wee)
The Eagles went on to shut out the Outlaws in the final game of the series.

Good Hope Raiders 36, Fairview 0 (Fireplug)
The Raiders' Fireplug squad dominated the Aggies in its shutout victory.

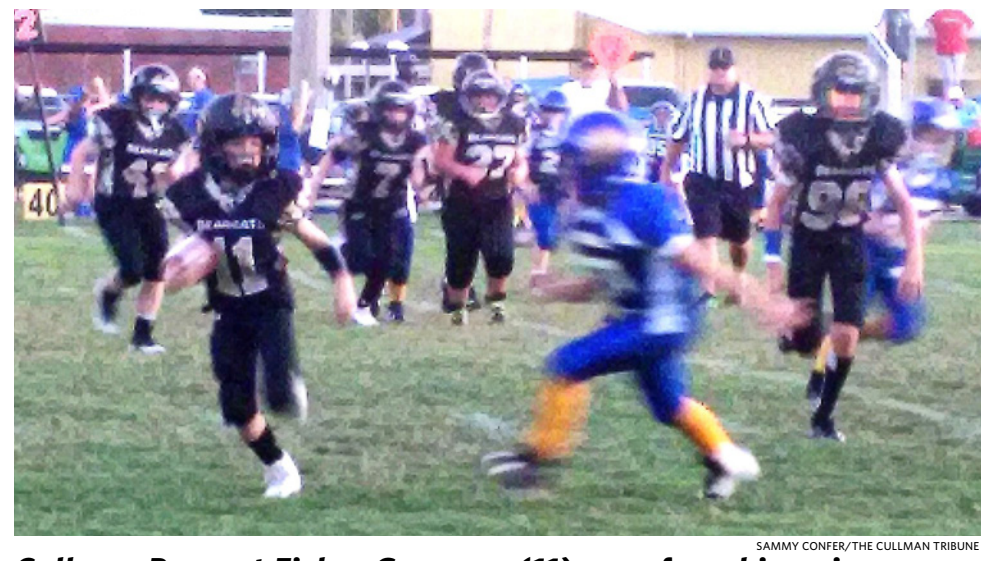
Fairview 14, Good Hope Raiders 0 (Wee-Wee)
Fairview shut out the Raiders in the Wee-Wee game in a low-scoring affair.

Good Hope Raiders 20, Fairview 0 (Pee-Wee)
Good Hope won the final game of the series, shutting out the Aggies.

Hanceville 22, Cullman Cyclones 0 (Fireplug)
Hanceville's Fireplug team shut out the Cyclones in the first game of the series.

Cullman Cyclones 24, Hanceville 0 (Wee-Wee)
Cullman took game two as the Cyclones shut out the Bulldogs.

Cullman Cyclones 28, Hanceville 8 (Pee-Wee)
The Cyclones finished 2-1 on the day as they defeated Hanceville.



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Bearcat Fisher Gammon (11) goes for a big gain in Saturday's Fireplug game against Cold Springs.



EDUCATION

Saint Bernard Prep School's Emma Pierce named National Merit Semifinalist

Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Prep

CULLMAN – Emma Pierce, a senior at St. Bernard Prep School, has been named Cullman County's only National Merit Semifinalist in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Pierce joined with approximately 16,000 semifinalists in the 64th annual National Merit Scholarship Program where talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than $31 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition. More than 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and about half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

To become a finalist, Pierce must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which she will provide information about her academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received.

Pierce super-scored a 36 on the ACT and secured a 1520 SAT score. Her leadership skills are endless as she has served as cheer captain of the cheerleading squad, class president during her 10-11th grade years and secretary of the senior class this year. She was secretary of student council during her sophomore year and has served as a school ambassador since she came to St. Bernard as a freshman. Last year she was selected to take part in the Cullman County Youth Leadership program through the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce. She volunteers on a monthly basis to work at her church food pantry in addition to working as a volunteer at vacation bible school and at the local library. She has also provided over 600 hours of volunteer work with local physicians over the summer months.

From the approximately 16,000 semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the finalist level, and in February they will notified of this designation. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin or religious preference.

St. Bernard Guidance Counselor Mary Mayo said while most all students at St. Bernard try to be their best, Pierce is one of those who looks forward to the next challenge. "Emma is an excellent student who knows how to think and process information. We look forward to good things from her."

Pierce is the daughter of Kristopher and Stephanie Pierce of Holly Pond.



ST. BERNARD PREP

Emma Pierce

EDUCATION

Dean's, President's Lists students named for UA summer 2018 term

Richard LeComte
Contributor

TUSCALOOSA – A total of 493 students enrolled during the 2018 summer term at The University of Alabama were named to the Dean's List with an academic record of 3.5 or above or the President's List with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's).

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.

Cullman-area students named to the lists are:

• Jordan Van Gundy of Cullman, President's List

• Jeremy Hurst of Hanceville, Dean'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.

COMMUNITY NOTE

Berlin Sunshine Club Rummage Sale Sept. 29

Jill Bishop-Hollis
Contributor

BERLIN – The Berlin Sunshine Club will host a rummage sale fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 29 starting at 7 a.m. at the Berlin Community Center (3309 U.S. Highway 278 E) to benefit local community projects.

For more information, contact Patti Martin at 256-708-9437 with questions or to learn how you can donate your items to the rummage sale.

Obituary Announcements: Sep. 18 - 30

Funeral service for Barbara Lee Hines, 78, of Good Hope, will be 11 a.m. Tuesday, September 18, 2018, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Chapel, with Mark Long officiating. Interment will be in Good Hope Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Hines passed away Saturday, September 15, 2018, at her residence. She was born February 24, 1940, to parents John and Mildred Brown. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Frank Hines; daughter, Belinda Reeves; and brother, Jimmy Brown. Survivors include her sister, Sandra (Tommy) Wallace; son-in-law, Joseph Reeves; granddaughter, Mandi Reeves (Brian Gorff); grandson, Johnathan (Dezirai) Reeves; and a host of nieces, nephews, and great-grandchildren.

Memorial services for Ms. Melinda Denise Bryant will be on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, at 1 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. She is survived by three children and one aunt, and many friends.

Donald Dean Gilbert, 57, of Haleyville, entered into rest on September 14, 2018. Mr. Gilbert was born on July 31, 1961 in Wayne County, Michigan. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville, where services will be held on Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 2 p.m. Brother Venlon Bradford will officiate. Donald is survived by his son, Jared Gilbert and his wife Heather; daughter, Ashley Orellano and her husband Joe; grandson, Oliver Gilbert; brothers, Ronald Gilbert and wife Sharon, Douglas Gilbert and wife Debbie, Michael Gilbert and wife Karen; and sister, Charlene Warner. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Sally Gilbert.

Mr. Donnie Wayne Witcher, 73, of Cullman passed away on Monday, September 17, 2018. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Cullman Funeral Home directing.

Funeral services for Vicky Massey, 65, will be at Christ Lutheran on Tuesday, September 18, at 2 p.m. with Pauline Farrington officiating. Visitation will be from 12 noon until 2 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Massey passed away on Sunday, September 16, 2018, at Grandview Medical Center. She was born to the late Doyle and Mary Owen. She is preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her husband, Phillip Massey, daughter Janice (Richard) Sulyma, and two sons Steven (Jennifer) Massey and David (Tiffany Billings) Massey, and sister, Leason Deason. She has seven grandchildren: Kennedie, Reece, and Chase Sulyma, Gabe and Ashlynn Massey, Kolbe Billings, and Lacey Nave. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Christ Lutheran, St. Jude's, or a charity of your choice.

Funeral services for Ruth Helton Wright, 93, of Cullman will be at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at Moss Service Funeral Home, with interment to follow at Ryan Baptist Church Cemetery. Moss Service is in charge of arrangements. Ruth passed away in her sleep Sunday, September 16, 2018. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Cullman. She was born December 16, 1924 in Akron, Ohio to Leonard and Lydia Helton. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Bill Helton of San Francisco, CA. She is survived by sons Ronald (Putzie) Wright Sr. of St. Cloud, FL, Larry (Nancy) Wright of Cullman; grandchildren, Tamatha Ruth Wright of Melbourne, FL, Ronald (Kazuryo) Wright Jr. of Maple Valley, WA, Clinton (Allison) Wright of Trinity, AL, Wesley (Kayce) Wright of Wetumpka, AL; great-grandchildren Marina (Joey) Norman and Risa Wright of Maple Valley, WA, Molly Wicker of Melbourne, FL and Mac Wicker of Vero Beach, FL, Presley and Nora Wright of Trinity, AL and Maime Wright of Wetumpka, AL. Memorial contributions can be made to First Baptist Church of Cullman. Visitation will be Tuesday September 18, 2018 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Moss Service. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Donald Dean Gilbert, 57, of Haleyville, entered into rest on September 14, 2018. Mr. Gilbert was born on July 31, 1961 in Wayne County, Michigan. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville, where services will be held on Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 2pm. Brother Venlon Bradford will officiate. Donald is survived by his son, Jared Gilbert and his wife Heather; daughter, Ashley Orellano and her husband Joe; grandson, Oliver Gilbert; brothers, Ronald Gilbert and wife Sharon, Douglas Gilbert and wife Debbie, Michael Gilbert and wife Karen; and sister, Charlene Warner. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Sally Gilbert.

Ilene Julian, 83, of Cullman passed away on Saturday, September 15, 2018 at Woodland Village Healthcare. Ms. Julian was a member of Westside Baptist Church in Eva, Alabama and the Cullman VFW. She enjoyed quilting, gardening, cooking and dancing. She was preceded in death by her husband, Millard H. Cook; parents: Leonard and Lettie Thompson Byrd and daughter, Judy Kay Clarkson. She leaves to cherish her memory her daughter, Teresa A. (Mike) Pritchard; grandson, Dustin (Erika) Eddleman; great grandchildren: Analise Eddleman, Kylie Eddleman and Camden Marion; sisters: Mary V. (Dean) Estes and Jean (David) Bagdasarian and brothers: Alvin (Edna) Byrd and Jerold Byrd. The family will receive friends on Wednesday, September 19, 2018 from 12 noon until 2 p.m. with the Celebration of Life for Ilene Julian beginning at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Moss Service Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Etha Baptist Cemetery. Family and friends will be serving as pallbearers. Moss Service Funeral Home is directing.

Violet Hannah Marie Hood, 28 of Haleyville, entered into rest on Friday, September 14, 2018 at Lakeland Community Hospital. She was born on March 29, 1990 in Cadillac, Michigan. Visitation will be held on Sunday, September 30, 2018 from 12 noon until 2 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville, where services will be at 2 p.m. Brother Kirk Cagle will officiate.

Free Obituary Listings

HAVE YOUR FUNERAL HOME CONTACT US

Email: robin@cullmansense.com • Fax: 256-739-4422

Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanTribune.com/obituaries.

THE TOMBSTONE COMPANY

Custom Granite Headstones and Monuments
Date of Death Engraving in Cemeteries
Locally Made and Locally Owned
Low Cost, High Quality
30-Day Delivery, Guaranteed
We Use Only American Granite

2117 US Hwy 278 West
Cullman, AL 35057
(2 miles West of I-65)
256-734-2005
Saturdays by Appointment
www.thetombstonecompany.com

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Meet Edna Calvert Graves, 103 years young

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

It was winter of 1919 in the new log house. So new, the house had not been sealed. Edna Calvert Graves was only 3 years old that winter when the snowstorm came and the snow began blowing into the house. Edna's older sister, Onie Belle, and their papa carried her upstairs to put quilts in the loft to protect her momma and her new baby sister, Vedma, from the snow falling into their bed.

Edna and her 10 siblings grew up in Brushy Pond in southwest Cullman County. Edna celebrated her 103rd birthday on Sept. 12. She recently sat down with The Tribune and several nieces in her home down the road from where she was born and raised. Her memories and stories span more than 100 years of life in Brushy Pond and Bremen-knowledge that you can't get from any Google search.

Edna had one sister, Carrie, whom she would never know. Carrie passed away as a child of scarlet fever. Scarlet fever was common then with frequent outbreaks. Edna recalled, "The doctor would say to get queen of the meadow and make a tea with it. It grew in the lower areas of the holler." She gave examples of people drinking queen of the meadow tea and getting better.

As a child and throughout her life, Edna and her baby sister Vedma had many great adventures.

"We didn't have toys growing up. They were very expensive. We had to entertain ourselves, but we had so much fun! We made playhouses. We would take a board, stack two cans and add another board, and more cans. That would be our stove! We made mud pies, made corn husk dolls and even made a slide board off the cliff. We had to walk back up, but it was worth it."

Edna's Grandma Calvert, Eliza Jane Hunter, had a medical adviser which told what could be done for illnesses. The medical advisers were popular and at one time, Edna's grandma loaned it to the local physician, Dr. Moon. Edna still has her grandma's medical adviser. According to Edna, "Sassafras tea would help with many things and it tastes really good."

In the winter, the girls would collect ice and, using an empty Padlock Coffee Bucket, make ice cream.

Edna said, "We raised everything we had. We didn't buy nothing! We raised chickens and hogs; we grew all of our own vegetables. On Sunday, momma would cook for everyone. We had a table that would sit eight people and that table would turn over three groups. Then momma's family from Good Hope would show up. They'd all eat and there was still food left over for the hogs!"

Edna explained how they kept potatoes in a pit to keep them protected during the winter, in a knee-deep hole covered with cornstalks, dirt, and grass to keep them from freezing. These pits could double as a tornado shelter. Milk would be kept in the well bucket or in the spring nearby to keep it cold in the summer. Her Uncle Houston had rows of honey bees and Edna's momma would also tend to the bees. Not everyone liked the bees, swarms of which were a frequent encounter.

Edna went to school through the eighth grade at Brushy Pond School.

She said, "The school was south of Brushy Pond near Coon Creek." She went to Cold Springs School for a short time but left her ninth-grade year when her momma became ill.

Edna recalled, "I learned to sew and quilt. I learned to help turn the ground and plant it. We would plow with our cultivator. By the way, the cultivator was a mule."

What few things the family did buy, such as coffee, sugar, fertilizer and feed, were all repurposed. The coffee came in large red buckets that had many uses. The other items came in large cloth sacks that were used to make clothes.

"We would get fertilizer at Stricklin's store. The guano (a fertilizer) sacks were made of the softest white cotton. Those were wonderful." Many companies during this time began using floral or other pretty bags for their products knowing that customers were making clothes out of the sacks.

Christmas was a fun time for Edna and her siblings: "We were poor, and toys were so expensive. Santa always came and brought us candy and fruit. One year Santa brought Vedma and me a beaded bag and a red rubber ball. We were so proud and when we told a friend at school what Santa had brought us, she told us who really brought it. I was devastated but loved the gifts regardless."

The 4th of July was Edna's favorite holiday. "Everyone came home for the 4th. All the kids would play and down in the hollers in one place were these giant oak trees. The trees made a giant rainbow over the path and Vedma and I just had to cross over those trees. It was dangerous, and momma would say, 'You girls better not go to that old tree!' but we did. We couldn't help it!"

As teenagers Edna and Vedma would go to the "singins." These were the social events at the time. Edna went to a singin' in Cullman one night in 1937 with some friends. She and another friend accepted an invitation to ride around with some other kids including a young Ronmon Graves from Cold Springs.

The following Sunday, Ronmon asked Edna for a date. She agreed, and in 1928, 11 months later, they were married.

She laughed, "We didn't have big weddings back then. We didn't have big white dresses. I wore my blue dress. It was Ronmon's 21st birthday and he picked me up. He forgot the marriage license, so we had to turn around and go get it before we set out to find the preacher. We did find the preacher. He was sitting at Prospect Mountain on the side of the road. We pulled up and told him we needed him to marry us to which the preacher said, 'Here's just as a good a place as any!' So he did! Right there on the side of the road! We never even got out of the car. He married us, and we drove home."

Ronmon and Edna were married for 65 years. Edna's advice: "We had a happy life together. I had two rules: I told Ronmon, I won't live with a drunk and (two) I won't live in a fuss. He agreed. He never was a drunk and we never had a fuss in our 65 years together."

Ronmon and Edna had two sons. Donald was born in 1940 and Blair in 1943. This was during World War II in a time when many products were in high demand and many items were being rationed.

Edna said of the time, "People wanted to get ahead but there was nothing to get ahead with."



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Edna Calvert Graves

Peanuts were on a government list of crops that farmers could provide in exchange for going overseas. It was considered service, so the Graves family planted 3-4 acres of peanuts for the government. This allowed Ronmon to stay home with Edna and their two young boys.

She added, "I checked on those old oaks Vedma and I played in and was relieved that they had rotted. I played in them, but just like my momma, I didn't want my boys up in those trees."

When Donald was a baby, Edna did get a job outside of the home. She was hired to work at the King Phar pepper plant. She worked one day, but although her work ethic garnered praise, the guilt of being away from the baby and her duties at home led her to quit. Eventually Ronmon would find a good job in strip mining which allowed the family to purchase land and build its own home where Edna lives today. Her son Donald lives on the property in a separate home.

Ronmon passed away in 2002. Edna's sister Vedma Calvert Swann passed away in 1995. Edna still lives in the home she and Ronmon worked so hard to build. Her son Blair makes and brings her sausage and Donald is also nearby. Old pictures are displayed throughout her home.

She said, "I just love these old pictures. I walk around and look at all of them and I'm just filled with so many wonderful memories."

Edna loves gospel music. She is a sacred harp singer. She and Vedma were both talented fasola singers and sang throughout the area. She loves the old style of singing that served as a backdrop for her life. The traditional style of gospel music was at the center of social gatherings, and traveling from church to church brought so much joy to Edna and her family. She isn't a fan of all the new type of gospel music today. "It lacks the spirituality of the old book singing. The new stuff is a big racket," she said.

Edna is a member of New Hope Primitive Baptist but is no longer able to attend the services. She said, "I am a Primitive Baptist but believe in all churches. There is God in all of them."

Edna loves sewing, and her 60-plus-year-old Singer machine sits threaded up and ready. She proudly showed everyone a photo album of the many quilts and afghans she created for friends and family. She took out a gorgeous crocheted shawl that she hasn't finished. "I love to crochet, but for the past year it's gotten harder. It's harder for me to see what I'm doing."

Edna stays busy and sharp doing word puzzles. She also keeps up with "the stories."

She likes "The Young and the Restless," "Days of Our Lives" and "General Hospital." She also enjoys cooking shows and classic television shows.

Besides her sons Donald and Blair, Edna has three grandchildren, five great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. She couldn't say how many nieces and nephews she had but she only has four living nieces and nephews today. She said she was expecting many visitors for her birthday including her great-nephew Joe, who has recently undergone a heart transplant. He will be able to travel from Ohio to visit.

Edna Calvert Graves' advice on a long happy life is simple: "Clean living and hard work. Be decent and treat people right. Treat everyone with respect. There are people I might not have cared for, but we are all human and equal. We can be friends with people we don't always agree with and there's no good that comes from fussin'!"

City of Cullman

Building Inspection Department

201 SECOND AVENUE, NORTHEAST
P. O. BOX 278
CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35056-0278
(256) 775-7203

City of Cullman
Planning Commission

On Monday October 1, 2018, at Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M, at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Planning Commission, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. Short-form Subdivision – Divide two lots into three lots – Highway 278 West (4th Street SW) between Cleveland Ave. SW & Hickory Ave. SW
2. Short-form Subdivision – two lots – between Highway 157 NE & County Road 1402
3. Rezoning request Main Ave. SW& Morningside Drive SW – R-2 to B-1

For further information contact Rick Fulmer or Amber Duke at the City of Cullman Building Department at 256-775-7203.

Subscribe to The Cullman Tribune today and have it delivered to your door!

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS
- In County - $75
- Out of County - $85

EXCLUSIVE
The Culman Tribune
Name
Address
E-mail
Send checks to
219 2nd Ave. SE
Cullman, AL 35055
256-739-1351

BUSINESS

Spotlight: Valhalla Comics and Collectibles

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Valhalla Comics and Collectibles, located at U.S. Highway 278 and Main Street (1108 Fourth St. SW), hopes to give all gamers a place to meet and have a fun time. It is much more than a comic book store.

One of the three owners, Derek Nilsen, spoke with The Tribune about the store and his future goals. Nilsen along with two friends, Thomas Bonds and Casey Lewis, bought the store on March 1 after the previous owner passed away.

Nilsen explained, "The three of us worked together and we all enjoyed playing games, so we bought it. Thomas and Casey work full-time at other jobs while I run the store."

Nilsen was first introduced to the Japanese series Yu-Gi-Oh! while in his early teens. He recalled, "(We) didn't have much to do growing up. We started playing Yu-Gi-Oh! We spent a lot of time playing. I stopped for a while but started playing again at a more competitive level."

While the name is Valhalla Comics and Collectibles, games are the main focus of the business, and while the store offers many fantasy-based games, Yu-Gi-Oh!, Pokémon and Magic the Gathering remain the most popular. Players of these three games can compete in weekly tournaments held at the store.

Nilsen said, "Players of all games are welcome to come play. We have several groups that meet here for a good place to hang out with friends. They mostly play Magic, Yu-Gi-Oh! or Pokémon but we also have D&D (Dungeons & Dragons) groups that come."

Valhalla is next door to Shell Station/Subway and Rumors Deli is across the street. Nilsen points out, "This is a great centralized location and players can easily walk for a snack and a drink to have while they play. We have a very safe location that has a regular police presence so it's an ideal location and place for friends to gather."

The store can seat up to 56 players at several tables set up for game play. They have packs of cards and accessories available. Special cards are also available.

Valhalla carries many specialty Japanese snacks including Pocky and Hello Panda cookies. It's a great place to find gifts for lovers of anime, comics, custom canvas art and games. An extensive variety of strategic tabletop games are available including the Munchkin series.

On Saturday mornings, all ages can participate in tournaments from 10 a.m. - noon. "Pokémon Professors" are on hand to help teach the game to new players. If you don't have cards, don't worry.

Nilsen said, "We want to build the games and we want everyone who wants to play to be able to participate. We have already built decks for players to use."



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Guests play Magic the Gathering at Valhalla Comics and Collectibles in Cullman.

Friday nights feature tournaments for Magic the Gathering and Saturday nights feature the Masters Pokémon League for players 15 years and older and Yu-Gi-Oh!

The business is transitioning its focus to expand gaming.

Nilsen explained, "The comic industry is still huge, but it is all digitized now so the demand for printed comics has decreased.

"We will likely phase out the comics and add more games. We have a big screen with gaming systems in hopes of having tournaments. We also have arcade games. We would love to begin hosting larger regional tournaments of the main games. Those events can bring in lots of people and revenue for the city. The games we play are fun, competitive, strategic and little bit of luck."

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/valhallacullman7654.





