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Cullman, AL
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The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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We woof you a meowy Christmas!



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right: Publix Manager Brad Boshell, Sgt. Chris Westmoreland and Cullman County Animal Shelter volunteer Donna Ruttkay

» PAGE 8

2nd annual Help Us Help Animals Pet Supply Drive happening now!

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman Tribune is happy to announce its second annual Help Us Help Animals Pet Supply Drive for the Cullman County Animal Shelter and the Cullman Area Animal Welfare Association (CAAWA). Donations are being accepted at The Tribune office, 219 Second Ave. SE, from now through Dec. 31. The goal is to fill up the front of the office around the Christmas tree (see photo).

Help us help animals!

CAAWA Wish List

- Tractor Supply 4Heath Grain-Free dry dog foods
- Tractor Supply pine shavings
- Purina Puppy Chow
- Kong dog toys
- Medium/large-sized dog crates
- Kong crate mats- medium/large-sized
- PetSmart's Authority dry cat and kitten foods
- Purina Tidy Cats clumping cat litter
- Gift cards (PetSmart, Tractor Supply, Wal-Mart, etc.)

Cullman County Animal Shelter Wish List

- Bleach
- Powdered laundry detergent
- Cleaning supplies
- Paper towels
- Clorox wipes
- Hand soap and sanitizer
- Flea medication (Please no Hartz or Sergeant's due to frequent recalls.)
- Quality shampoo
- Coconut oil
- Vinegar
- Toys (cats and dogs)
- Collars
- 6-foot rope leashes
- Tennis balls
- Gift cards (PetSmart, Tractor Supply, Wal-Mart, etc.)

Cullman's Pilot Light Home in need of house parents

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Pilot Light Home, a program of Pilot Club of Cullman, a local chapter of Pilot International, has for three decades offered shelter to children in crisis. Today, though, the home faces a crisis of its own: it is temporarily closed due to a lack of house parents to care for the children brought there by the Cullman County Department of Human Resources (DHR) and law enforcement agencies. Pilot Light, Inc., the board that oversees the home, is asking for someone in the community to step up and help.

The Pilot Light Home is described by the board as "a 24/7 hour foster home and emergency care facility licensed by the department of human resources and governed by an all-volunteer board of directors. The home provides care for six foster children by two house parents, one salaried. These children are abused and/or neglected, abandoned, or whose parents are incapacitated with no relatives to provide care."

The last house parents left the home in June. The Pilot Club has taken the opportunity to renovate and refurnish the house, but now it is ready for business and needs help.

What is the Pilot Light Home?

Board Chairperson Peggy Harris provided information on the history of the Pilot Light Home.

Prior to 1982, when law enforcement and DHR case workers would find Cullman area children in crisis (often in the middle of the night) who had no readily available family to take them, those kids could end up at homes in Bremen or Brushy Pond if space was available. In some cases, with no space available in designated homes, children would even be temporarily housed at the county jail.

Local DHR staff wanted a home or shelter in Cullman where children could be taken in emergency situations or when other homes were full.

Callie Smith, with Cullman DHR, told The Tribune, "We search until we find a placement. I will say that we like to place in close proximity to where our county base is, which is here (in Cullman). We do have quite a few of our children that are not placed in the county that they're from."



PEGGY HARRIS

Cullman's Pilot Light Home

DHR's Amanda Buchanan told The Tribune earlier this year that anywhere from five to 20 new kids will enter the local foster system each month, balanced by typically comparable numbers leaving. The most common reason kids enter the system is drug use by their parents. At that time, Cullman County had 194 children in foster care, but a shortage of homes meant that 67 of them were being housed in other counties.

Said Buchanan, "Whenever kids have to come into care, we'd rather them be in a home that's close to where they were already living, ideally continuing to go to their same school, you know, change their environment as little as possible. But if the resource is not available, sometimes it's not possible."

The importance of local placement to the foster children was explained to The Tribune earlier this year by "Skye," a Cullman area foster child herself, who spent time in another county before being placed in this county. Read her story at www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2018/08/20/cullman-dhr-foster-care-expo-draws-prospective-parents.

Chartered in 1981, the newly-formed Cullman Pilot Club became interested in helping establish a children's home/shelter, so it be-

» PAGE 3



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Bob

Pet of the Week: Bob proves pet adoption is in fashion

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman County Animal Shelter needs your help! Volunteer Donna Ruttkay shared, "We have so many sweet souls, without behavioral issues! The shelter is quite full: full of the most amazing, wonderful companions for all families. We are praying for one of our loyal rescue groups to swoop in."

Ruttkay also introduced The Cullman Tribune's Pet of the Week, and shared a little about what one of the shelter's volunteers is doing:

Bob, like his name, is short and to the point: nothing fancy, just a good dog. He's a true Heinz-57, labeled by the shelter staff just as a "short-legged mix of some sort."

He's close to 2 years old, a laid-back, low- to medium-energy pet. He's a quiet guy who likes his people, but without being clingy. Bob has the potential to be a good com-

» PAGE 8

Bill Smith BUICK GMC
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Annual Audubon Cullman Christmas Bird Count set for Dec. 16

Vince Meleski
Contributor

At a glance:

- National Audubon Society Annual Cullman Christmas Bird Count
- Sunday, Dec. 16, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Meet at Culpepper Real Estate, 601 Seventh Ave. SW at 6:30 a.m. and noon
- Finish at Karma's Coffee House, 103 First Ave. NE at 5 p.m.
- Bring binoculars, spotting scope and camera if available, lunch if desired
- For more information or to sign up, contact event coordinator Vince Meleski at 256-739-4589, or email vmeleski@charter.net.

The National Audubon Society invites birdwatchers and nature lovers to participate in the longest-running citizen science survey, the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

On Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018 The Cullman Christmas Bird Count will take place in a 15-mile radius centered at the intersection of Interstate 65 and U.S. Highway 278.

Volunteers will break up into small groups and cover parts of the circle, recording the birds seen or heard.

Each year, the Audubon CBC mobilizes more than 72,000 volunteer bird counters in more than 2,400 locations across the Western Hemisphere.

The CBC utilizes the power of volunteers to track the health of bird populations at a scale scientists could never accomplish alone.

Data compiled in Cullman will record every individual bird and bird species seen in the specified area and then be submitted to the National Audubon Society, contributing to a tradition stretching back more than 100 years.

Birders of all ages are welcome to contribute to this nationwide citizen science project that provides scientists with a crucial snapshot of our native bird populations during the winter months.

Each individual count is performed in a count circle with a diameter of 15 miles. The volunteers break up into small parties and follow assigned routes, counting every bird they see. In most count circles, some people also watch feeders and record their sightings instead of following routes.

To sign up for the Cullman count, please contact Vince Meleski at vmeleski@charter.net or 256-739- 4589 if you are interested in participating.

The Audubon CBC began in 1900 when Dr. Frank Chapman, founder of Bird-Lore - which evolved into Audubon Magazine - suggested an alternative to the holiday "side hunt," in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds.

One-hundred-eighteen years of counting birds is a long time, but the program somehow brings out the best in people and contributes to our understanding of birds.

There is no fee to participate and a report will be available online to view all the count circle results. The count is open to birders of all skill levels.

The count will begin with a meeting at 6:30 a.m. at Culpepper Real Estate, located at 601 Seventh Ave. SW in Cullman and wrap up with a compilation at 5 p.m. at Karma's Coffee House at 103 First Ave. NE in Cullman.

At noon the group will meet at Culpepper Real Estate to compare the morning's results and plan to look for any missing species. Volunteers are welcome to participate in the morning or afternoon session if they do not want to participate all day.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
ROCK CHRISTOPHER TURNER, * **CASE NO.:PC2018-394**
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is hereby given that a verified Petition for Summary Distribution of a Small Estate has been filed by MICHELLE MCCLINTON, petitioner, on the 15th day November, 2018, and that thirty (30) days after the notice of publication hereof and pursuant to the law of the State of Alabama, the Court shall be requested to enter an order directing summary distribution of the estate of said decedent.

DONE this the 3rd day of December, 2018.

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

To: PUBLISHER OF *The Cullman Tribune*:

Please publish the above notice one time in said newspaper, and thereafter file with the Court a copy of the notice so published and an affidavit of publication.

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

Jenny Rutledge Greene
Attorney for Petitioner
P.O. Box 286
Shannon, Alabama 35142
(205) 382-4479

Alert: Portion of Denson Ave. NW closed

Leanne West
City of Cullman

CULLMAN – Denson Avenue Northwest, between Dripping Springs Road Northwest and St. Joseph Street Northwest, is closed.

It will remain closed to all traffic through Friday, Dec. 7, possibly longer, for storm drain line repairs.

Please plan to take an alternate route and share with anyone who may be affected by this street closing.

City of Cullman
Building Inspection Department

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

City of Cullman
Zoning Board of Adjustments

On Monday, December 17, 2018 at Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M, at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Zoning Board, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. 608 2nd Ave. SE – Variance request for front porch

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

CITY OF CULLMAN

NOTICE OF EXAMINATION FOR FIREFIGHTER

The ***City of Cullman*** is accepting applications for the ***Firefighter*** exam. Employees in this class are responsible for protection of life and property through firefighting, rescue, hazardous materials and emergency medical activities usually performed under close supervision. Work requires performance of hazardous tasks under emergency conditions involving strenuous exertion under such obstacles as smoke and cramped surroundings. A large part of time is spent in supervised training, fire prevention pre-plan inspections, maintenance of equipment and apparatus, and maintenance of quarters. Work is normally performed under close supervision in accordance with well-defined procedures and assignments are received from departmental superiors in fire suppression, rescue, hazardous materials responses, emergency medical situations, and at stations. Employees are required to attend mandatory training and safety classes. Applications must be received in the **City of Cullman Personnel Office** by ***4:00 P.M. on December 15, 2018.***

Requirements to take the ***Firefighter*** exam are as follows:

- 18 years of age or older.
- High school diploma or GED.
- Valid Alabama driver's license.
- Ability to pass the physical requirements of the **Alabama Firefighter's Personnel Standards & Education Commission.**

*Note: Candidates will be responsible for arranging and testing at an **Alabama Fire College** approved CPAT facility* http://www.alabamafirecollege.org/vertical-menu/forms-and-resources/cpat/cpat-locations.

Upon successful completion of the ***Firefighter*** written exam with a passing score of **70%**, confirmation of successful completion of ***Alabama Fire College*** approved CPAT or State of Alabama Firefighter I/II Certification, eligible applicants may be called for a panel interview. **PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO CERTIFIED FIREFIGHTER I/II & EMT, ADVANCED EMT, OR PARAMEDIC.** Upon recommendation by the Fire Chief, applicants must pass a pre-employment drug and alcohol screening, pass an NFPA 1582 physical exam, and submit an employment background screening.

Employee/Firefighter benefits include, but are not limited to:

- Paid individual health, dental, and life insurance.
- Paid Kelly days.
- 9 paid holidays
- Annual physical fitness benefit.
- Uniform allowance.
- Retirement.
- Educational incentive: Associates degree or Military service 5%, Bachelor's degree 10%.
- Advanced Medical incentive: **Advanced EMT-$2000 annually**, **Paramedic-$5000 annually.**
- Accrual of vacation and sick time based on years of employment.

Starting pay range possibilities depending upon incentives:

$38,461.78 to $47,807.96 Annually

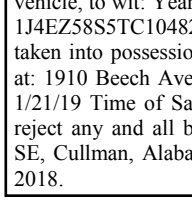
Employees will serve a probationary period of one (1) year. To continue employment, during the probationary period employees must successfully complete training certification in:

- *State of Alabama Firefighter I/II.*
- *State of Alabama EMT.*
- *State of Alabama Hazardous Materials Technician.*

The City of Cullman is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80:

1996 Pontiac Bonneville, Vin. #1G2HX52K4T4235318
2004 Chevy Cavalier, Vin. #1G1JH14F447170756

These vehicles will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Johnson's Auto Tire and Tow, LLC, 178 County Road 1332, Vinemont, Alabama 35179, on Monday, January 7, 2019, at 8:00 a.m.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE Pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, Section 32-13-1, Code of Alabama, 1975, notice is hereby given to the owners, lienholders and other interested parties, the following described vehicle, to wit: Year: 1996 Make: Jeep Model: Grand Cherokee VIN: 1J4EZ58S5TC104821 Tag: n/a Abandoned Date: 11/28/2018 Was taken into possession and will be sold to the highest bidder for case at: 1910 Beech Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Date of Sale: 1/21/19 Time of Sale: 10:00 a.m. The seller shall have the right to reject any and all bids. Contact Alan Phelps, 1910 Beech Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055, (256) 735-2723 December 4 and 11, 2018.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE MATTER OF *
*
DORIS SMOTHERS, * **CASE NO.: PC-2013-360**
An incapacitated person. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR TERMINATING GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP

TO: JEFF SMOTHERS, CYNTHIA KAYE SMOTHERS AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT OF KIM OR DORIS SMOTHERS OR INTERESTED PARTIES

A Petition for Terminating Guardianship and Conservatorship, filed by Michael R. Burleson, Guardian and Conservator, has been set for hearing on the 21st day of February, 2019, at 9:00 (a.m.) at the Cullman County Courthouse, Room 101, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055 before the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

DONE this 3rd day of December, 2018.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN PROBATE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Michael R. Burleson
Burleson Law Firm, LLC
Guardian and Conservator
PO Box 1214
Cullman, Alabama 35056

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
SHIRLEY CARRUTH,) **CASE NO.: PC2018-308**
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION

Letters Testamentary having been granted to **Mark Lee Johnson,** as Personal Representative of the Estate of **Shirley Carruth**, deceased, on the 16th day of November, 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 16th day of November, 2018.

Mark Lee Johnson
Personal Representative

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for the Estate of
Shirley Carruth, deceased
200 1st Avenue SE
Cullman, AL 35055
256-739-3970

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
TAMMY BROWN JUDGE OF PROBATE

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Bill Piper - Photojournalist
Howard Cole - Photojournalist
RobinWinton-NewsroomManager

Arrests reported on Dec. 3

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported on Dec. 3, 2018. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Thursday, Nov. 29

Cloud, Jason Lynn, 40
- display obscene material minor
- failure to provide registration information SORNA
- failure to register/ establish SORNA
- sexual offender failure to register termination SORNA
- first-degree theft of property
- travel permits information SORNA

Duke, Donna Marie, 35
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Kirby, Bryan Jay, 28
- FTA- driving while suspended

Knight, Brandon Sr., 36
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Pope, Rebecca Ann, 29
- third-degree domestic violence- harassing communication
- harassment

Friday, Nov. 30 through Sunday, Dec. 2

Allen, Jason Michael, 30
- attempting to elude
- driving while revoked
- failure to signal turn
- running a stop sign

Bentley, Sara Jacqueline, 27
- 2 headlights required
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Boone, Timothy Aaron, 24
- FTA- attempting to elude
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- probation violation- unlawful distribution of a controlled substance (2 counts)
- probation violation- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Brady, Forrest Scott Thomas, 53
- public intoxication

Crawford, Cody Brian, 21
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Eason, Gary J. Shawn, 24
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Farr, Justin Wayne, 27
- third-degree assault

Gilbert, Richard Lee, 43
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Harris, Keith Dewayne, 50
- probation violation- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Harris, Matthew Kemp, 21
- public intoxication

Harris, Timothy Eli, 25
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Hightower, Joel Keith, 56
- second-degree assault

Hutchison, Jessica Lyn, 37
- FTA- third-degree harassing communication

Lemaster, Amanda Michelle, 32
- unauthorized use of a vehicle

Lynn, Donald Joe Sr., 58
- FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Martin, Justin Bradley, 30
- FTA- second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument
- FTA- third-degree forgery

Morrow, Daniel Tyson, 38
- third-degree assault

Pennington, Brandy Nicole, 36
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Ramsey, Byron Christopher, 37
- probation violation- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Shirley, Jason Earl, 35
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Stevens, Leroy Cletus, 36
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Stodgel, Patrick Steven, 41
- GJ- first-degree sodomy

Swindoll, Sammi Lee, 24
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Veal, Joshua Shane, 34
- FTA- harassment

Vinzant, Jody Alan, 41
- carrying a pistol without a license
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Weldon, Samantha Halee, 18
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- illegal possession of prescription medicine
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Friday, Nov. 30 through Sunday, Dec. 2

Vest, Bruce A., 48
- FTA- public intoxication
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Freeman, Logan L., 29
- third-degree theft of lost property

Turner, Justin D., 36
- reckless endangerment
- unlawful distribution of a controlled substance

Floyd, Justin T., 28
- third-degree criminal trespassing

Williams, Joseph D., 48
- FTA- public intoxication
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

McNeal, David E., 52
- DUI
- open container in vehicle
- driving while revoked

Edwards, Cheryl M., 52
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment
- disorderly conduct

Durhan, Michael D. Jr., 46
- DUI

Garrison, Treasa L., 39
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Hutchinson, Roxanne S., 40
- FTA- third-degree criminal trespassing
- FTA- third-degree theft of property

Cooper, Helen, 67
- fourth-degree theft of property

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests reported.

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

Home (from Front)

came the primary sponsor of what would become the Pilot Light Home. Under the leadership of Lorene Scott, the Pilot Club was joined by other local civic clubs, churches, industries, businesses and concerned citizens to open a home in Cullman. This home was supported by DHR child welfare payments, Pilot Club and Cullman community donations from civic clubs, churches, businesses, bank and individuals, and later the United Way.

Visits to Operations Home, a community-supported facility in Decatur, created the model for such a place locally. The home was DHR-approved like a foster family home and had house parents.

When Pilot Light, Inc. was incorporated, and its board of directors was named, provisions in its bylaws placed the director of Cullman DHR, the director of Juvenile Probation, the immediate past president of the Pilot Club of Cullman and the Cullman County sheriff or designated Cullman County Sheriff's Office representative on the board. House parents were hired after completing a home study, medical evaluation, criminal background check and reference checks. The first Pilot Light Home opened in April 1982.

The first home was located in a small house owned by the Cullman City Board of Education between 1982 until 1985. During that span, five sets of house parents lived in the house and cared for approximately 250 children. In 1985, the shelter moved to a larger house provided by the (then-named) Cullman Medical Center, where it operated under four sets of house parents until 1995. When the hospital moved to Alabama Highway 157 in 1995, the house was sold. The board began looking for property on which to build its own home.

A special donation made possible the purchase of property in east Cullman. Dennis Gutherie and the Cullman Homebuilders Association volunteered their services in construction, and materials were purchased through extensive and often creative fundraising efforts. A permanent debt-free home, complete with donated furnishings and appliances, was completed in early 1996.

The permanent home has five bedrooms and a nursery for children, three bathrooms plus one half bath, a great room with kitchen and dining areas, an office/visiting room, a suite for the house parents, a covered porch and an attached double garage with lots of storage space.

Becoming a house parent

Harris explained, "Although the house parent is paid a salary, furnished a vehicle, gas, food and a home, it has been difficult to recruit foster parents for the home and it has been closed a few times when there were no house parents. It takes a special person to take care of other people's children and follow all of the rules imposed by DHR. It is truly stressful.

"Many of the children in care have behavioral problems and need therapy or medication. Children are required to visit with their parents unless there is a safety issue and court has prevented (it). The rights and privacy of the children and parents have to be respected. All identifying information about the families must be kept confidential."

Becoming a house parent is not a simple process. Smith explained that prospective house parents are required to complete an 11-week training program called Trauma Informed Parenting Solutions (TIPS). Each applicant must also pass a state and federal criminal background check, along with clearance through Alabama's DHR central registry and that of any other state in which the applicant has lived.

Harris noted that the prospective house parents' own children 14 and older who may live with them at the house must also undergo background checks. Anyone 19 or older must be fingerprinted.

House parent/foster parent applications are available from:
- Alabama Department of Human Resources, 1220 St. Joseph St. NW, Cullman, AL 35055. Contact Callie Smith at 256-737-5300, or email callie.smith@dhr.alabama.gov
- United Way of Cullman County 256-739-2948, located in the Old Depot at 304 First Ave. NE, Cullman, AL 35055
- Pilot Light, Inc. Board of Directors Chairman Peggy Harris - gooderharris@gmail.com, 245-531-2525

Community support a crucial resource

Harris shared, "The Pilot Light Home is funded by the State Department of Human Resources child welfare payments, United Way of Cullman County, the Pilot Club of Cullman, with one-third of the budget, about $30,000, provided through donations from civic organizations, churches, businesses and individuals, as well as fund-raising projects.

"These funds are used to maintain the home inside and out, provide for the monthly cost of operation – house parent salary, utilities, food, household supplies, clothing, medicine, insurance, gas as well as upkeep for the home and van.

"The ability to continue funding the Pilot Light Home is dependent on financial support from the Cullman community.

"With competition from newer charities which help many, many people, it is more difficult to receive the donations needed to maintain the funds to support the Pilot Light Home. Donations are always put to good use and very much appreciated.

"This home continues to be a wonderful resource for children who need a safe, family-like setting until the plan for returning to their own family is accomplished. The house parents and children are encouraged to become involved in church activities, sports, community service by providing care and doing projects for those in need. Some, in the past, have worked at fast food businesses and volunteered at the Cullman library. All children are encouraged to help with yard work and house cleaning, basically learning to take care of themselves and develop job skills and service to others."

Board member Renee Wright

Renee Wright is a member of the Pilot Light Board, and she is also the daughter of Pilot Light Home founder Lorene Scott, so she has watched the project grow from the very beginning. She talked to The Tribune about what it takes to be a house parent:

"It's a hard job. It takes a special person; it takes someone with a mighty big heart and a care for children that are abused, that are born with a drug addiction. I mean, you know, all this comes into play; it's hard to just say, 'Hey, this is a wonderful place to work.'

"It is a wonderful place to work, and I'll use one thing that my mom always said through the years: 'The pay's great. You may not put it in your pocket, but you'll carry it in your heart forever.'

"Which, the pay is good, when you realize that you're going in and all your insurance, you have a vehicle, your home, your electricity, your heat, you know, everything is furnished. It's not so good if you have a home of your own and you have to leave it. So, you know, there's pros and cons to this; it takes that special person to come in there, that really wants to, that has the heart for that.

"But we have a good board. The board always works with the house parents; we see that they get all that they need. And Cullman, being the community that it is, has always helped tremendously meeting those needs.

"And if I was a little younger, I'd probably just go do it myself! I mean, you've got to have a love for children. You've got to have a love for children; it can't just be a job. This is something that's got to be in your heart to do. And that's why, sometimes, we have a hard time finding house parents. And it is hard. It's hard."

Any child, no questions asked

Wright noted that the Pilot Light Home is an inclusive program. Where foster parents have the option to accept or not accept the placement of a particular child, the Pilots have a history of taking any children sent to them by DHR.

Said Wright "It's something that we definitely need in Cullman. For instance, if I'm looking as a house parent for a child, and they offer me this child and I don't want to take him or her, they're left in the system.

"We take them, no matter what. You know, a house parent has a choice, but as a board we never turn these children down. They come to us, so we get the leftovers that most people don't want. And those kids, you know, they're just as important as the others.

"And that's one thing that I think we have always given them: they have a nice clean home to live in, we make sure that the house parents are good parents. They're brought up in the best way possible, where they would just be out on the mercy of the world. So it is a much, much needed place. And it is, like I say, we don't pick and choose. We're there to help all children and do everything we possibly can.

"This was my mother's heart. You know, Mom was so instrumental in so many things here in Cullman, and this was one of the things. She'd seen it first-hand, and that's what opened her heart up to find a place for these kids. When you see it and you know it's happening to them--and we don't really realize that today, that there's children that's a year old or months old that are being raped and abused. You know, it tears your heart up.

"So that was her thought, that we've got to do something for these children. And she did, and we have now, for 20-something years. It's a blessing."

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WSCC

Miss Wallace State 2019 Emma Wright, left, Miss Alabama Callie Walker, Miss North Alabama Outstanding Teen 2019 Isabella Allred



WSCC

Miss Wallace State Beautiful Heart Scholarship winner Candra Cornelius, left, 1st alternate and talent winner Caroline Grimes, Miss Wallace State 2019 Emma Wright, 2nd alternate Anna Kaitlyn Shea, swimsuit winner Audrey McMickens



WSCC

Miss North Alabama Outstanding Teen 1st alternate and talent winner Kyla Briscoe, left, Miss North Alabama Outstanding Teen 2018 Isabella Allred, 2nd alternate Tatum Monroe

Emma Wright crowned Miss Wallace State 2019 Isabella Allred crowned Miss North Alabama Outstanding Teen 2019

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Emma Wright of Blountsville was crowned Miss Wallace State 2019 on Sunday, Dec. 2, Wallace State Community College.

Wright, 18, is the daughter of Rob and Veronica Wright of Blountsville. She is a Dual Enrollment student from J.B. Pennington High school, with plans to become a doctor.

"I am absolutely shocked," Wright said after the pageant. "This is first time that I've competed in a Miss America preliminary, and I'm blown away. It's such an amazing organization and I'm happy to be a part of it. I hope I do really well at Miss Alabama and I'm really excited to get to represent Wallace State."

Wright's platform for the Miss Wallace State pageant focused on "Supporting Music in Education – Music Changes Lives."

"I'm a six-year band member and three-year drum major; I really think music should be advocated and really pushed in public schools," Wright said.

She performed "She Used to Be Mine" from the Broadway musical "Waitress."

As winner of the Miss Wallace State 2019 title, Wright will advance to the 2019 Miss Alabama pageant in June at Samford University. She was also awarded a one-year scholarship to Wallace State valued at $3,500 plus $1,300 more in scholarships and prizes.

Caroline Grimes, 18, of Orange Beach, was named first-alternate and talent winner, earning $350 in scholarship funds. Anna Kaitlyn Shea, 19, of Oneonta, was named second alternate, with and award of $150 in scholarships. The winner of the fitness/swimsuit portion was Audrey McMickens, 19, of Bremen, earning a $100 scholarship.

Also crowned Sunday was the winner of the Miss North Alabama Outstanding Teen pageant, who will go on to compete in the Miss Alabama Outstanding Teen pageant in March.

Isabella Allred, of Cullman earned a full one-year scholarship to Wallace State as Miss North Alabama Outstanding Teen, as well as $1,000 more in scholarships and prizes. She sang "Million Years Ago" as her talent.

Kyla Briscoe of Bagley earned a $200 scholarship as first alternate and $100 as the talent winner. She sang "Never Enough" as her talent. Tatum Monroe of Arab earned a $100 scholarship as second alternate.

EDUCATION

West Point Middle School 6th-grade scholars' bowl team wins East Lawrence Invitational

W.C. Mann
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West Point Middle School champions (L-R) John Davis Yovino, Eli Taylor and Brodie Henry were the first-place team in the sixth-grade division at the East Lawrence Middle School Invitational Scholars' Bowl Tournament.



LEE HENRY











OPINION

Even as an Auburn fan, it's impossible to root against Jalen Hurts

Nick Griffin
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ROLLTIDE.COM

Jalen Hurts

"He'd be the biggest free agent in college football history." That's what Jalen Hurts' father, Averion, said in April when asked what would happen if his son wasn't the starting quarterback at Alabama. Seven months later, Jalen isn't the starter, but he has secured a spot among the most popular players to ever wear a Crimson Tide jersey.

By now everyone knows what happened at halftime of last season's national championship game. Nick Saban made a decision that would not only help Alabama win its fifth national championship of his tenure, but also introduced the college football world to Tua Tagovailoa. Tua has become a household name ever since his second-half performance against Georgia, but Jalen has been experiencing something else, something Saban called "unprecedented" in his press conference after Saturday's SEC Championship Game.

"I've probably never been more proud of a player than Jalen," Saban said. "It's unprecedented to have a guy that won as many games as he won over a two-year period, to start as a freshman and only lose a couple games his whole time as the starter and then all of a sudden, he's not the quarterback. How do you manage that? How do you handle that? You have to have a tremendous amount of character and class to put the team first knowing that your situation is not what it used to be."

The changes for Jalen really began toward the back end of the 2017 season. Alabama's passing game sputtered in its loss at Auburn, its Sugar Bowl win over Clemson and in the first half of the national championship game against Georgia. With a generational talent behind him in Tagovailoa, the margin for error was too slim for Jalen to hold onto the job, even after leading Alabama to 26 wins two seasons.

For most people, the logical move for Jalen was to find another opportunity to play somewhere else, and I don't think that would've been a bad decision. College players have a limited window to do what they love, and we shouldn't begrudge any of them who are looking for a chance to play as much as they can. At the same time, Hurts' decision to stick it out with his teammates, prepare every day for his next opportunity and get his degree is undeniably admirable. Jalen may leave after graduation to find a starting quarterback job, but his maturity, patience, humility and the remarkable comeback he led in the SEC Championship Game have made him arguably the most beloved Alabama player in recent history.

As a lifelong Auburn fan, I'm pulling for Alabama to lose every single week. When Georgia and Alabama are playing for a title, there are no winners for me, but I have to admit that when Jalen came into the game, I was rooting for him to get it done. To live in this state and hear the criticism that comes from the Tide fan base, regardless of how many games he won or how many points the team won by, it made it hard not to smile when Jalen ran in the go-ahead touchdown Saturday night to remind everyone he can still play.

Alabama football fans struggle to appreciate what they have most of the time, but it's encouraging to see them and the rest of the college football world rally around a player and a person who truly deserves praise.









EDUCATION

22 Cullman County Schools receive Blue Ribbon awards at national conference

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

ORLANDO, Fla. – This past week, Cullman County Board of Education (CCBOE) Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette and representatives of multiple county schools traveled to Orlando to attend the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence National Conference and an awards ceremony where 22 area schools were recognized for achievements in the Blue Ribbon program.

In a statement, Barnette shared, "Over the past two years, the majority of our Cullman County Schools have gone through the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Assessment. After each school was assessed, most of them received various levels of recognition and all of them were given action plans for improvement. This past week, many of our schools received national recognition for their accomplishments.

"Along with the Awards Ceremony, Blue Ribbon Schools holds a national conference in which different schools share with attendees 'Best Practices' from their individual schools. CCBOE had educators and administrators from Good Hope Primary, Fairview Middle School and Parkside School to present during five different sessions. This week we had a total of 22 schools recognized at the conference. It is unprecedented for one district to have this many schools assessed and recognized for this achievement.

"I am so proud of all of our Cullman County Schools! I have said for a while now that there are great things happening in Cullman County Schools. This week's recognition serves as affirmation of those great things. Our students, families, employees, and communities have a lot to be proud of. Despite the adversities that our high poverty, rural schools face, our students and teachers are achieving greatness. I could not be more proud of everyone connected to Cullman County Schools and the support that our board members have given through this improvement process."

Schools recognized

Level One, Points of Light

- Hanceville Elementary School
- Harmony School
- Holly Pond High School
- Vinemont Elementary School
- West Point Middle School

Level Two, Beacon

- Fairview High School
- Good Hope Elementary School
- Good Hope High School
- Hanceville Middle School
- Holly Pond Elementary School
- Vinemont High School
- Vinemont Middle School
- West Point High School

Top Level, Lighthouse Blue Ribbon

- Cold Springs Elementary School
- Fairview Elementary School
- Good Hope Primary School
- Good Hope Middle School
- Holly Pond Middle School
- Parkside School
- Welti Elementary School
- West Point Elementary School
- West Point Intermediate School



SHANE BARNETTE

Good Hope Primary School Reading Specialist Cindy Bailey, Principal Tonya Cupp and Math Coach Kristi Barnette are interviewed about their achievements at the school at the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence National Conference in Orlando.

According to the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence (BRSE) website, "The BRSE Blueprint for Excellence is designed to be a positive school improvement process that covers nine major categories of critical performance elements found in excellent schools." Those nine categories are: Student Focus and Support; School Organization and Culture; Challenging Standards and Curriculum; Active Teaching and Learning; Technology Integration; Professional Community; Leadership and Educational Vitality; School, Family, and Community Partnerships; and Indicators of Success."

According to the BRSE: "The Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School Award is a recognition program for schools of excellence and is not designed as a typical application process. Schools are identified and selected for this award based on achievement of excellent performance in all nine major categories of the Blueprint for Excellence assessment. Schools achieving excellence in less than nine categories could be eligible for the 'Points of Light' Award or recognition as an Aspiring School. Schools will be notified of their status soon after completion of the assessment process and honored in an awards ceremony at the annual Blue Ribbon Schools Blueprint for Excellence Conference in December. These awards are given at the sole discretion of the BRSE.

"An assessment does not imply or guarantee award eligibility. In fact, a school often implements improvement strategies to move from Aspiring School, to Points of Light School, Blue Ribbon Beacon School and then to Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School."

In order to receive a Lighthouse Award, a school must exceed the established standard in all nine of the listed categories.

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 4 - 8

Mrs. Jackie Thompson, 81, of Hanceville, passed away on Saturday, December 1, 2018. She was born August 14, 1937, to Jack and Lula Woodward Gay. Services for Mrs. Thompson will be Tuesday, December 4, 2018 with Visitation beginning at 11 a.m., and her service beginning at 2 p.m. in the chapel. She was preceded in death by her parents; her Husband, J.W. Thompson, son Timothy Thompson, and daughter-in-law Bess, son Joey Thompson, three Grandchildren, and a brother Randy Gamble. Survivors include; daughters, Karen (Don) Garner, Gwen (Rick) Headrick, a son Rick Thompson, fourteen Grandchildren, seven Great Grandchildren, and a sister, Jerry Talley.

Mary Ellen Cagle, 79, of Lepanto, Arkansas, formerly of Haleyville, Alabama, entered into rest on November 29, 2018 at St. Bernard's Medical Center in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Mrs. Cagle was born on June 12, 1939, in Lepanto, Arkansas and was a retired teacher's aide. A graveside service will be held on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 11 a.m. in New Oak Grove Baptist Church Cemetery in Nauvoo, Alabama. Mary is survived by her sons, Gary Cagle of Odenton, Maryland, Terry Cagle of San Antonio, Texas, and Barry Cagle of Baltimore, Maryland; daughters, Lora Harper of Nixa, Maryland, and Leslie Ainsworth of Joiner, Arkansas; brother, Buddy Cook of Marmaduke, Arkansas; sister, Betty Jones of Southaven, Mississippi; 17 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Lowell Cagle; grandchild, Addison Ainsworth; parents, William Charles Cook and Lola Stevens; and 7 brothers.

Virlyn Thomas Hart, loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, December 2, 2018 surrounded by his family. He was preceded in his death by his parents, Reuben Ragsdale Hart and Alma Jean Thomas Hart. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Carol Sue Kelley Hart, daughter Suzanne Hart Adams and her husband Terry Adams, daughter Leighanne Hart Soden and her husband Jack Soden, grandson Alex Adams, and granddaughter Morganne Adams Robinson and her husband Drew Robinson. He was a proud veteran of the United States Air Force having served from 1951 – 1955. He received National Defense Service and Good Conduct Medals. Upon honorable discharge, he went to work with his father at Hart & Son Construction and owned the business for the next 50 years. In addition, he was a flight instructor having taught hundreds of students to fly. A visitation will be held on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. followed by a celebration of life at 11 a.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. The family will receive guests at a reception immediately following the service. A private burial will be held at Etha Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made to The West Institute for Cancer Research, www.westcancercenter.org/philanthropy , or mail to The West Institute, 7945 Wolf River Boulevard, Germantown, Tennessee, 38138.

Carlis Bennefield, 66, of Holly Pond, passed away on Sunday, December 2, 2018. He was born December 13, 1951, to Vester V. and Leenolar Martin Bennefield. Mr. Bennefield owned and operated an auto parts store for many years. He was an Alabama fan through and through. He was also a loving son, brother, fiancé, father, and grandfather. His passing is felt by many. Carlis is preceded in death by his parents, Vester and Leenolar Bennefield; and sisters, Virginia Sweatmon and Patricia Newman. Survivors include his fiancé, Vickey Pike; son, Cameron Bennefield; daughters, Kristie (Lavohn) Winn, Stephanie (Jason) Glasscock, Kayla Bennefield (fiancé Robert Pitts); brother Jerry Bennefield, sisters, Judy Bright, Carolyn Newman; and eight grandchildren. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 5, 2018, in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel, Jesse Winn officiating. Burial will follow in Holly Pond Cemetery. Johnny Albright, Jason Glasscock, Lavohn Winn, Tony Cox, Jackie Bright, and Taylor Bennefield will serve as pallbearers. Friends may visit with the family on Tuesday, December 4, 2018, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. in the funeral home chapel. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Shepherd's Cove Hospice Facility (408 Martling Road, Albertville, AL 35951) or to the American Cancer Society (P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.) Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Bennefield family.

Mr. Buell Roy Brown of Bremen Alabama passed away December 1, 2018 at the age of 86. He was born on March 28, 1932 to Brock and Maude Wilma Parker Brown. Mr. Brown was the owner of A-1 Moving and Storage and also a veteran of The United States Army. Funeral services are Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at Moss Funeral Home Chapel in Cullman Alabama at 12 p.m. with Rev. Wayne Williams officiating. Interment will be in Cold Springs Baptist Cemetery following services. Survivors are his wife: Freda Harris Brown, sons: Farris (Nancy) Brown, Jeffery R. Brown, Roger (Kim) Brown, sisters: Jimmie Nell (Sam) Yates, Shelbie Jean (Byran) Davis, Mattie V. Campbell, brother: Joel Brown, grandchildren: Jennifer (Philip) Potts, Christopher (Anna) Brown, great grandchildren: Madee Potts, Gabi Potts, Cayden Brown and Jackson Brown. Visitation will be Wednesday at Moss Funeral Home from 11 AM until service time.

Funeral Service for Willadean Gentry Turner, age 93, of Vinemont, will be at 1 p.m. on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Darryl Bailey officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Turner passed away on Monday, December 3, 2018, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. She was born Thursday, May 28, 1925 to Cleveland and Octavia Gentry. She is preceded in death by her grandson, Dathan Turner; parents, Cleveland and Octavia Gentry; and six brothers and sisters. Survivors include her sons, Robert (Pat) Turner and Wayne (Leslie) Turner; daughter, Culline (Steve) Adamson; grandchildren, Keith Turner, Chad Turner, Eric (Rachel) Turner, Craig (Asley) Adamson, Amanda Adamson (Mike) Vest, and Catlin (Klint) Adams; great-grandchildren, Brittany (Tucker) Lee, Halie Turner, Abbi Turner, Bree Turner, Ben Turner, Lilly Adamson, Madelyn Vest, and Xander Adamson; great great-grandchildren Brodi Lee, Braden Lee, Haddy Lee, Ava McDougal, and Aiden McDougal. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5, 2018, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Calvin C. Key of Cullman passed away on December 1, 2018 at Woodland Village. He was born March 29, 1931 to parents McKinley and Pearlie Fuller Key. He was a loving, caring husband, father and friend. He grew up in Arley (Winston County) and went to Meek High School. After high school, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After coming home from service, he worked at Cullman Lingerie for a few years. There he met his future wife, Gail Latta. After their son, Tim was born they moved to Birmingham where he worked at Piggly Wiggly Warehouse and later at Associated Grocers of Alabama. He worked there for 28 years but was forced to retire because of health reasons. He was a former member of Hilldale Baptist Church in Center Point. He loved working in the church with the ushers, men of Hilldale and Security. In 1998 the family moved back to Cullman and joined North Side Baptist Church where they were faithful until their health prevented them from attending. Mr. Key was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Samuel and Marvin Key; two sisters, Helen and Judy. His survivors include his wife, Gail Key; son, Timothy Key; two sisters, Vetra Campbell and Marie (David) Stephenson; sister-in-law, Maudra Key; brother, Avery (Iva Nell) Key; several special nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and Dale and Kathy Williams Family from Hoover. Visitation with the family will be on Thursday, December 6, 2018 at Moss Service Funeral Home from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. The Funeral Service for Mr. Calvin C. Key will follow in the Chapel of the funeral home at 12 p.m. with Rev. Jack Collins officiating. Burial will be held at Cullman Memory Gardens.

Funeral Service for James Ambrouse Nail, 90, of Vinemont, will be 12 p.m. Saturday, December 8, 2018, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Chapel, with interment in Cullman Heritage Cemetery. Visitation will be at the funeral home one hour prior to service. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Nail passed away Sunday, December 2, at his residence. He was born June 8, 1928, to his mother, Amanda Sylvania Nail Ramey. He was preceded in death by two daughters, Deborah Diane Mackey and Shelia Lynn Martin. Survivors include his daughter, Lawana Danielle; sons-in-law, Bo Kennedy, Fred Mackey; grandchildren, Chad Johnson, Jackie Phillips, Krisha Muirheid, Jamie Segler, Michelle Long, Delane Martin; sisters, Mary Ruth Gusich, Doris Ramey; brother, Wallace "Boot" Ramey; and a host of great-grandchildren and friends.

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Community with Carol: Josh Swindall of Cullman Christian School

Carol Berry
Tribune Columnist

I was impressed with my guest this week on "Community with Carol," Josh Swindall, the new principal at Cullman Christian School. Cullman Christian School began as a nonprofit protestant school in 2007 and accommodates children of all ages from 3 (pre-Kindergarten) through 12th grade.

Swindall was hired as the school's principal in 2018 and began on Aug. 1. He is full of excitement and ideas for his new school, describing his move from public education to this position as a calling from God.

Cullman Christian School recently held its annual fundraiser and it was a great success, thanks to the parents' hard work and dedication. Swindall is also looking forward to another fundraiser this spring in which the students will participate. The school will be partnering with "Feed the Need," a program that provides food for those in need locally and across the world.

When I asked Swindall, "What is your greatest need?" his reply was, "Donations; we are looking for corporate sponsors and those with end-of-year funds that need to be dispersed to a nonprofit."

Funding is a necessity for the school's continued growth.

Cullman Christian has a "Join our Team" program, where individuals can either give a one-time monetary gift or give on a monthly basis. The school could also use volunteers from the community.

Individuals who are willing to be guest readers or to tutor students would be of great service to the school. There are many opportunities for people in the community to get involved with Cullman Christian School. Those interested in donating and/or volunteering should go by the school at 708 Seventh St. SW or call 256-734-0734 to speak with Swindall or a member of the administrative staff.

The children of our community are our future; you could have an impact by becoming involved at Cullman Christian School.

Find my video interview with Swindall on Tuesday at www.Facebook.com/CullmanTribune.

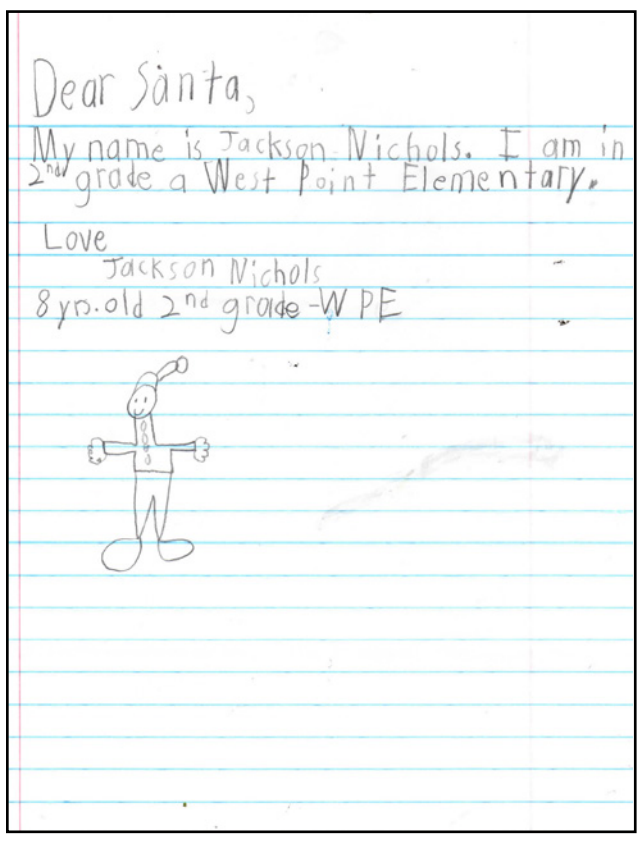


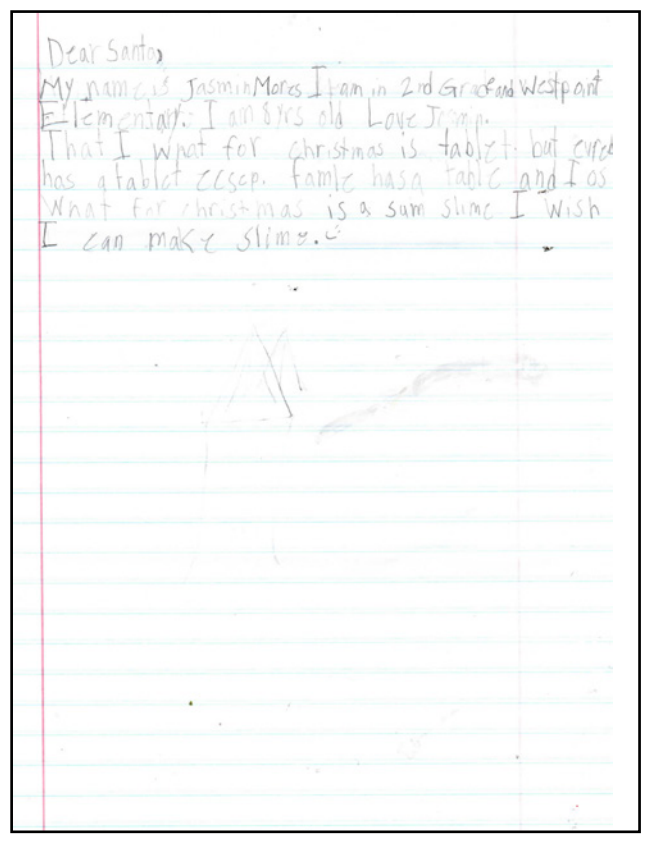
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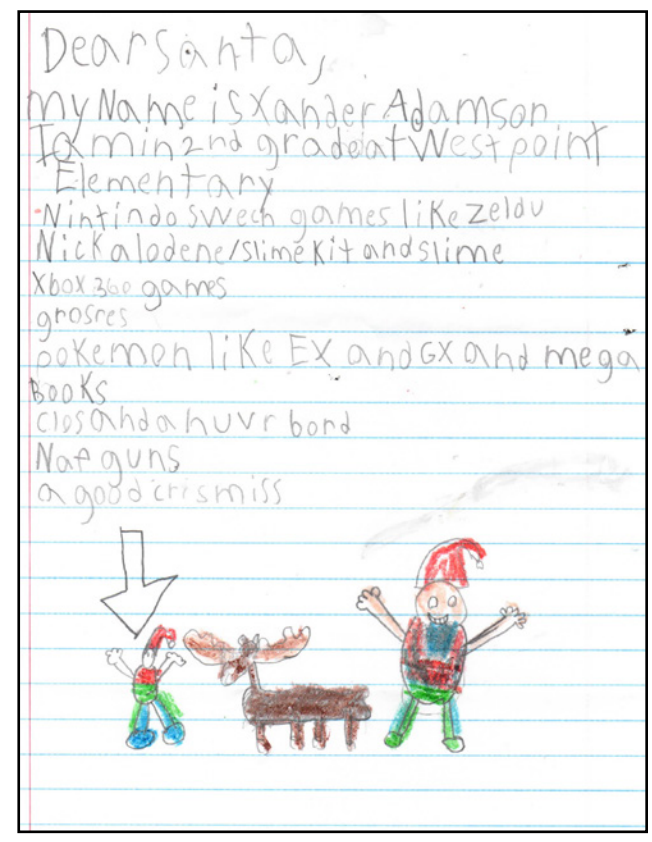
Josh Swindall with his wife and children

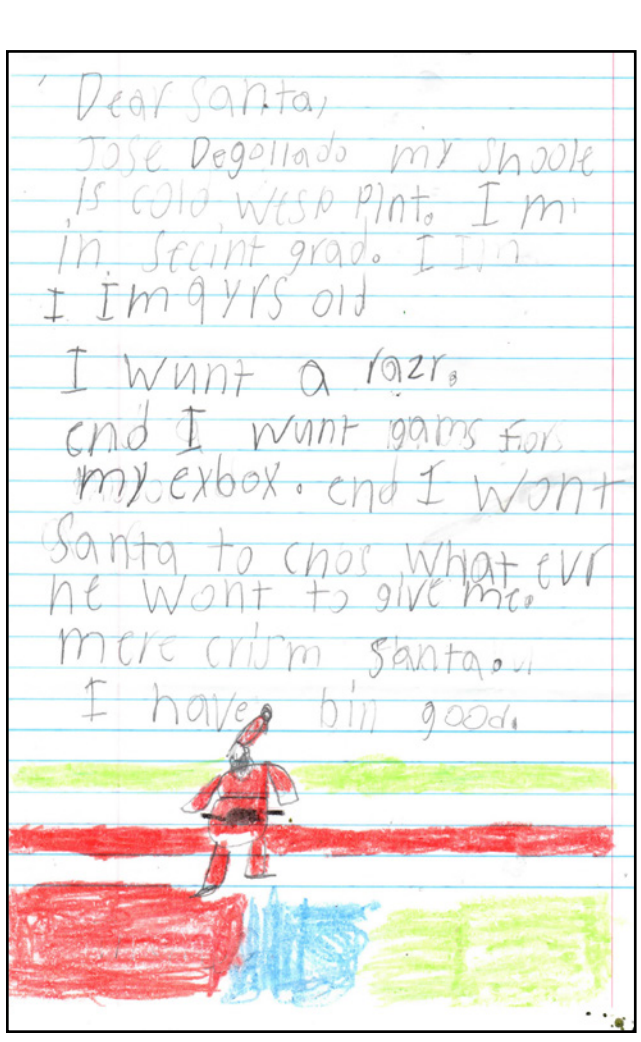
Letters to Santa

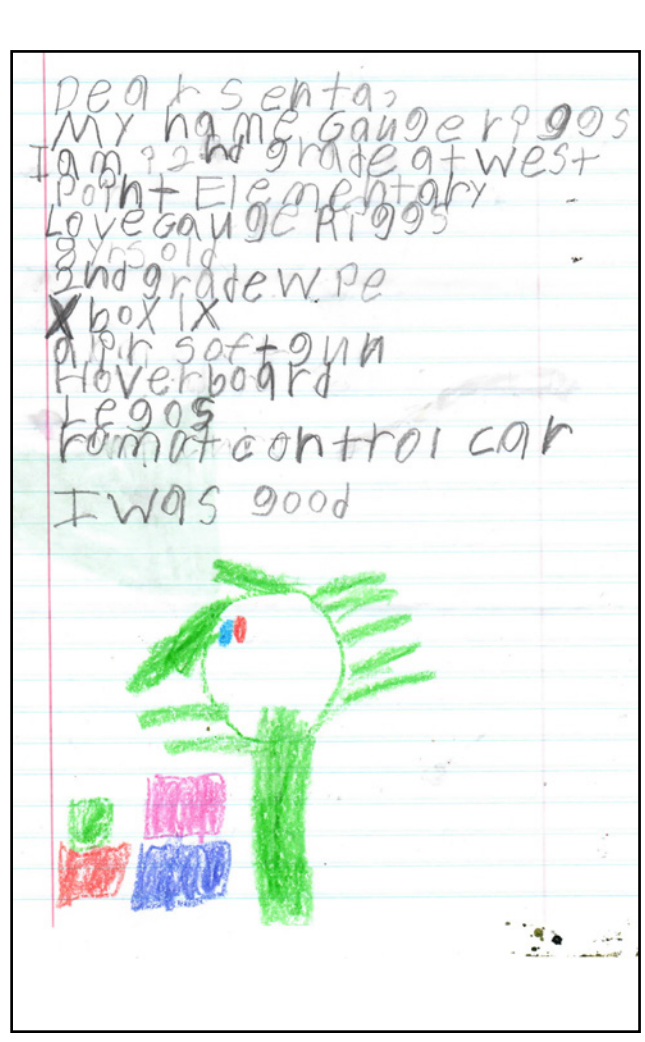
Mrs. Campbell's 2nd grade, West Point Elementary

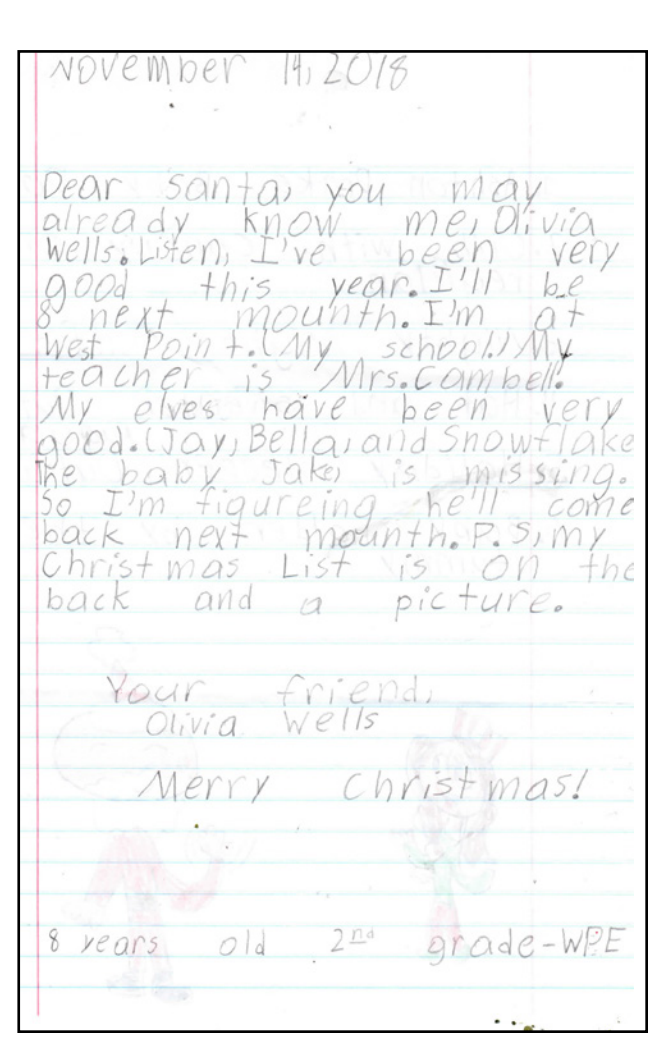












Christmas (from Front)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – The dogs and cats at the Cullman County Animal Shelter received an early Christmas gift Monday thanks to Publix and an anonymous donor, who gave the shelter six cases of the staff's and volunteers' preferred treats for the animals. Six more cases will be delivered to the shelter later.

The donor, who did not want to be identified, said she approached Publix to see if the store would be interested in donating a case of treats. The store did more than that. It matched her donation.

The donor said, "I just knew I wanted to do something to help our local shelter.

"I found out that the staff and volunteers often used their own money to buy the treats they use when working with the dogs.

"I saved as much as I could to buy some.

"I went to see if (Publix Manager) Brad (Boshell) might want to help; he said yes before I could even finish telling him what I wanted to do."

Boshell smiled, "I love animals! My wife and I adopted a cat here 29 years ago named Max. We called him Maxie Poo Poo.

"He was a bit of a ladies' man. We were living in an apartment that was supposed to be no pets. Well, Max loved sitting in the window. Our landlord told us that either the cat goes, or we do. So, we moved!"

Max was with the Boshells for 13 years.

Boshell added, "Publix is proud to be a part of the Cullman community. When I was approached about the shelter, we were happy to help."

The shelter and the animals can use the community's help this Christmas. They are in need of bleach, powdered laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, paper towels, Clorox wipes, hand soap and sanitizer, flea medication, quality shampoo, coconut oil, vinegar, toys (cats and dogs), collars, 6-foot rope leashes and tennis balls. Gift cards are also helpful as needs arise. (Please no Hartz or Sergeants due to frequent recalls.)

Sgt. Chris Westmoreland also told The Tribune that gift certificates are available for Christmas and people can donate by sponsoring an adoption fee.

The Cullman Tribune is hosting its second annual donation drive now for the Cullman County Animal Shelter, as well as the Cullman Area Animal Welfare Association (CAAWA). Donations can be dropped off at our office at 219 Second Ave. SE in Cullman.

Bob (from Front)

fort, companion or therapy dog.

Ruttkay talked about Bob's stylish appearance

"We have a dedicated volunteer who is a canine couturiere. Bob is wearing her latest design. This versatile finery can be worn while going on walk-about, or just lounging ... it's what all the finest canines are wearing this season!"

Animal shelter staff and volunteers work with their dogs to make sure they are accustomed to being around people, walking on a leash and practicing good behavior.

Several of the shelter's dogs have even been "hired" to work as special needs service dogs.

Bob's adoption fee is $90 which includes: DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet, neutering, microchip, free 30-day health insurance policy issued by 24Pet-Watch (with valid email only) and a free bag of food from Cullman Pet Depot (you must pay sales tax).

Please consider adopting to give a rescued pet a chance at a happy and healthy life.

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

