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VOL. 145 • 50¢ PER COPY | *DECEMBER 29, 2018* | USPS 139-700 • NO. 154

2 of Cullman's longest serving police officers retire



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Officer Jack Springer, left, Capt. Bobby Kelley, right. Springer is retiring from the Cullman Police Department with 50 years of service. Kelley is retiring from the Cullman Police Department with 35 years of service.

» PAGE 4

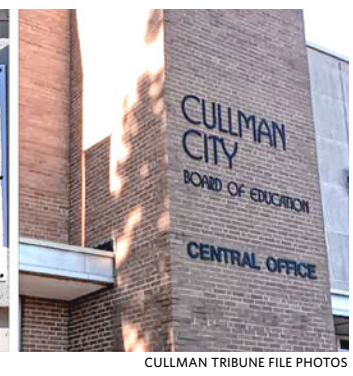
MOTHER NATURE'S BEAUTY



NOAH GALILEE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Water rushes over Larkwood Falls Friday, following several hours of heavy rainfall. According to the National Weather Service in Huntsville, some locations in Cullman County received almost 5 inches of rain Thursday into Friday. Flooding was reported in several areas including around Lake George, Lacon, Garden City and other locations in southeast Cullman County.





CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTOS

Cullman County Schools received a B and Cullman City Schools received an A for the 2017-2018 school year, according to the preliminary report card released by the Alabama State Department of Education on Friday.

EDUCATION

State report card: Cullman City Schools receive A; Cullman County Schools receive B

Big boost in school scores

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

MONTGOMERY – On Friday morning, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) released its preliminary report card for public schools statewide, for the 2017-18 school year.

The early report only gives number and letter grades, without any breakdown of contributing factors which, in the final report card due Dec. 31 according to ALSDE, will include:

- Academic Achievement - 20 percent
- Academic Growth - 25 percent
- Graduation Rates - 30 percent
- College and Career Ready Data - 10 percent
- Chronic Absenteeism - 10 percent
- Enrollment by Student Subgroup - 5 percent

In a press release, State Superintendent of Education Dr. Eric Mackey said, "Overall, we are pleased with the academic growth that we see across the state. It is a testament to the dedication of our teachers, principals, and all those who support their work that student performance continues to rise. As state superintendent, I am grateful for these hardworking individuals in our local schools who improve the trajectory of children's lives every day. We believe that our best days and highest levels of achievement lie ahead of us, not behind, and we look forward to working with our state policymakers and lawmakers in 2019 to make sure that we are providing ever better resources and supports for our schools.

"The 2018 State Accountability report tells us something valuable about a school or school system, but it does not tell us everything about that school or system. Based primarily on a particular assessment, it is a snapshot in time. When stacked together year after year, similar to snapshots of your family, these pictures of school academic performance can certainly can be used to monitor academic progress and growth. But when we describe our children, we use more than snapshots; we talk about their personalities, struggles, challenges, aspirations, successes."

The overall score for Alabama improved from C to B.

Cullman City Schools' overall system score slipped one point from 92 to 91, still within the range to make the city system one of 15 districts in the state to earn an A. Cullman Middle and High improved, while West Elementary's number score fell slightly. East Elementary matched last year's score.

Cullman County Schools retained its B letter grade from last year, but improved five points from last year to score an 85. The scores by school showed a marked improvement: last year's report card included 13 Cs and a D, while this year only three Cs appeared in the report, along with 19 Bs and four As. Twelve schools improved by a letter grade, while Holly Pond Elementary and Fairview High improved two letter grades.

» PAGE 2

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Hanceville City Hall gets a facelift

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE – The Hanceville City Council met for the final time in 2018 Thursday evening. The meeting's agenda was routine, but there were some noticeable changes throughout Hanceville City Hall.

The council had previously budgeted $5,000 for improvements.

In the courtroom, the ceiling was raised several feet, new tile was added, and the walls received new paint. The desk for the city clerk and city attorney was also elevated to allow for easier communication during meetings. The improvements were done by City employees and with inmate labor.

Mayor Kenneth Nail was proud of the improvements saying, "If you recall, the ceiling was so low in here (the courtroom) that we could touch the ceiling when we stood up. We felt so enclosed. We added the tile to the back wall and around the front. It looks and feels much better in here." Nail laughed as he pointed out that the tiles are not real marble tiles.



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Hanceville City Councilman Jimmie Nuss, City Attorney Dan Willingham and City Clerk Tania Wilcox at Thursday's Hanceville City Council meeting

City Clerk Tania Wilcox's office is much improved. The old green and gold "casino carpet" is gone and replaced with tile, and the once bare cinder block walls are now covered with a stucco finish that she did herself. The outdated pink countertops were thrown away and updated.

Wilcox said, "I did lots of this myself. I stained the furniture on weekends and during the holidays. The walls were inexpensive and easier to do than I thought. I've been spending a lot of time on Pinterest getting ideas that I could do myself."

The next scheduled council meeting is Jan. 10, 2019 at 6 p.m.

Arrests reported on Dec. 27-28

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported on Dec. 27-28, 2018. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

REPORTED ON THURSDAY, DEC. 27
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
No arrests reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Parker, Byron B., 56
• public intoxication

Anderson, John D., 44
• FTA- DUI
• FTA- driving while revoked
• FTA- insurance violation
• FTA- switched tag

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No arrests reported.

REPORTED ON FRIDAY, DEC. 28
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
No arrests reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Weimer, Isaac T., 18
• DUI

Hill, Harley W., 21
• first-degree receiving stolen property

Hill, Ray A. 26
• obstruction/using false ID

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No arrests reported.

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

Report (from Front)

Grades below, shown by: School, Number Grade (2018 v.2017), Letter Grade (2018 v. 2017)

City system

All Cullman City 91 / 92 A / A
• Cullman Middle School 96 / 93 A / A
• Cullman High School 89 / 88 B / B
• East Elementary School 95 / 95 A / A
• West Elementary School 91 / 94 A / A
• Cullman City Primary School 91 / n/a A / n/a

County system

All Cullman County 85 / 80 B / B
• Parkside Elementary School 86 / 81 B / B
• Cold Springs High School 77 / 79 C / C
• Cold Springs Elementary School 90 / 85 A / B
• Cullman Child Development Center 38 / n/a ID (The CDC, a special needs education facility, did not have enough criteria to be assigned a letter grade.)
• Fairview High School 88 / 68 B / D
• Fairview Elementary School 86 / 81 B / B
• Fairview Middle School 89 / 86 B / B
• Good Hope High School 84 / 73 B / C
• Good Hope Elementary School 87 / 77 B / C
• Good Hope Middle School 88 / 81 B / B
• Good Hope Primary School 88 / n/a B / n/a
• Harmony School 87 / 78 B / C
• Hanceville High School 80 / 79 B / C
• Hanceville Elementary School 84 / 72 B / C
• Hanceville Middle School 86 / 83 B / B
• Holly Pond High School 84 / 75 B / C
• Holly Pond Elementary School 92 / 79 A / C
• Holly Pond Middle 85 / 85 B / B
• Vinemont High School 79 / 73 C / C
• Vinemont Elementary School 81 / 73 B / C
• Vinemont Middle School 87 / 89 B / B
• Welti Elementary School 91 / 80 A / B
• West Point High School 79 / 77 C / C
• West Point Elementary School 90 / 83 A / B
• West Point Middle School 85 / 76 B / C
• West Point Intermediate School 89 / 74 B / C

The Tribune did not reach the city school system for comment, but Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette shared:

"I'm really excited about it. We had 23 out of 26 schools that improved.

"Two slid back slightly, by just a couple of points, and one stayed on the same level.

"I guess one thing I'd like to point out: like I've said, that one score--this report card--doesn't identify our schools.

"I mean we're a whole lot more than one score, but we are excited that our scores came up. But there's a whole lot more that goes into whether a school's successful or not.

"Overall, our system came up five points; you know, we were at 80 last year and moved up to 85. And I'm extremely excited about that.

"It really shows the work and dedication our faculty and staff have put into educating the kids of Cullman County.

"And our students have really stepped up to the challenge and accomplished some great things, and we're expecting even more, going into the future."

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Cullman, Alabama 35055

CULLMAN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

AARP FOUNDATION

Beginning February 7, 2019 and every Thursday through April 18th. Appointments will be available from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. To arrange an appointment with a certified tax volunteer, call 256-736-9961.

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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
THOMAS ALLEN ALLRED) CASE NO PC 2016-259
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: ANGELA MARIE FRASIER, AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT OF KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

The Petition of Evelyn Allred to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Thomas Allen Allred, deceased, has been set for hearing on the 4th day of April, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

All persons in interest residing or being without the state are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Done this the 21st day of December, 2018.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper

Lana K. Hawkins
The Hawkins Law Firm
400 Gunter Avenue
PO Box 899
Guntersville, AL 35976
(256)571-2829

STATE OF ALABAMA • IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN • CASE NO. AD2018-111

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF DUSTIN LEWAYNE GREATHOUSE and KENDALL MICHELL GREATHOUSE TO ADOPT Z.A.F., a minor child.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: JAMES ALLEN FORD

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of Z.A.F., a minor child (born March 25, 2015, to Jessica Danielle Whitehead Ford), was filed on the 6th day of December, 2018, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners Dustin Lewayne Greathouse and Kendall Michell Greathouse. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with counsel for said Petitioner, whose name and address are as shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

DONE this 13th day of December, 2018.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

To: *CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.

Sherry H. Barrett
SMITH & SMITH, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioners
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
256-734-4721 (telephone)

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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

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BUSINESS

2 Cullman business owners named to Alabama Retail Association board of directors

Melissa Warnke
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Two Cullman business owners have been named to the Alabama Retail Association board of directors: Lynsey Todd of Monograms Plus and Dustin Beaty of Lavish Boutique.

Lynsey Todd named to Alabama Retail Association board of directors

Lynsey Todd, co-owner and operator of Monograms Plus of Cullman, has been elected to the Alabama Retail Association's board of directors. Her two-year term begins Jan. 1.

Monograms Plus, a 9,000-square-foot jewelry, gift and apparel shop that offers onsite monogramming, opened in 1999. The store in the Warehouse District of Cullman has been an Alabama Retail member since its opening 19 years ago. It employs 14.

Todd, a former jewelry vendor and customer of Monograms Plus, was handpicked to lead the business by its former owner/operator and past Alabama Retail Association board member, Margaret Hamm. In June of this year, Todd and her husband, Tommy, became the store's owners. Todd worked as the store's manager for one year prior to becoming the co-owner. The 35- year-old's previous retail experience includes nine years as store manager and part of the new store opening team for Cracker Barrel and eight years as a store manager and regional trainer for Pier 1.

Upon joining the ARA board, the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Wallace State Community College graduate said, "I'm excited to network with other business owners and advocate for shopping local."

Todd, her husband and their 4-year-old daughter, Lucy, reside in her native Cullman.

Dustin Beaty named to Alabama Retail Association board of directors

Dustin Beaty, owner of Hospital Discount Pharmacy and co-owner of Lavish Boutique and Lavish Coffee Bar, has been elected to the Alabama Retail Association's board of directors. His two-year term begins Jan. 1.

In 2005, the Auburn University School of Pharmacy graduate founded Hospital Discount Pharmacy in Jasper, a Good Neighbor Pharmacy specializing in competitive prices and superior customer service. His wife, Shannon, began a corner boutique in the pharmacy in the summer of 2012. It has grown into two free-standing boutiques, one with an 800-square-foot coffee bar inside. Lavish Boutique opened in 2013 and Lavish Coffee Bar in 2016.



ALABAMA RETAIL ASSOCIATION

Lynsey Todd, Dustin Beaty

All three of the Beatys' businesses occupy almost two city blocks in downtown Jasper. The couple opened a second Lavish Boutique in August of this year in the Cullman Warehouse District.

Lavish Boutique and Coffee Bar earned the title of Alabama's 2018 Silver Retailer of the Year Award in the Annual Sales $1 Million to $5 Million category. It also was recognized as the Alabama Retailer of the Year Customers' Choice Award winner for 2018. "How can you top retail therapy with a coffee fix?" asked one customer. "I know, you can't!"

In 2017, Alabama Main Street recognized Lavish Boutique and Coffee Bar for Excellence in Architectural Design. Beaty, 45, served as president of the Jasper Main Street program for two years.

The Beatys live in Jasper with their twins, Jon Bryant and Maci, and their son, Hunter Poe.

Find a full list of ARA directors at alabamaretail.org/association/directors.

Cullman's USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office remains open during government shutdown

Johnny Grantham
Contributor

CULLMAN – Cullman's United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office will remain open during the government shutdown to aid local farmers with Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications.

For producers, the signup deadline for this batching date is Jan. 25, 2019 for 2019 funding for EQIP, which includes energy retrofits, wildlife, forestry, cropland erosion, grazing land and water quality concerns. Applications are accepted on a continual basis; however, selecting applications for funding is completed periodically through batching periods with specific cut-off dates.

In the EQIP programs, eligible producers may receive a payment based on the statewide average cost of the installation of the conservation practice.

The first step for producers should be to contact their Cullman County NRCS office at 734-6471 ext. 3 or come to the NRCS office at 501-B Fourth St. SW, Cullman for specific information on how to apply.

Individuals are not eligible until they have completed the Farm Bill eligibility requirements.

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD 2018-110

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF AUSTIN BRETT SMITH and TAYLOR ROWELL SMITH TO ADOPT I.K.M.A.F.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: JAMES ALLEN FORD

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of I.K.M.A.F., a minor child (born April 29, 2013, to Jessica Danielle Whitehead Ford), was filed on the 10th day of December, 2018, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners Austin Brett Smith and Taylor Rowell Smith. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with counsel for said Petitioner, whose name and address are as shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

DONE this 13th day of December, 2018.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

To: *CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.

Sherry H. Barrett
SMITH & SMITH, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioners
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
256-734-4721 (telephone)

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on January 30, 2008 by Sylvia a. Lackey, a widowed woman, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1553, Page 139 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on January 7, 2019:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter; thence West a distance of 400 feet to the point of beginning; thence South 610 feet to the center line of a creek; thence West 145 feet; thence North 610 feet; thence East 145 feet to the point of beginning. The above described property situated, lying and being in the Northeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter, Section 22 Township 9, Range 2 West.

Source of Title/Description: Deed Book 346, Page 935.

Robert N. Lackey and wife, Sylvia A. Lackey received title, for and during their joint lives and upon the death of either of them, then to the survivor of them, in that deed recorded April 28, 1979 in Book 346 Page 935. Robert N. Lackey died on or about June 9, 2007.

The following manufactured home to be auctioned separately and together with the real estate: 1999 Freestate, VIN# FS101405MS.

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

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Dewayne N. Morris
Attorney for Mortgagee
2131 Third Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
The Cullman Tribune-December 15, 22, 29, 2018

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * CASE NO. PC 2018-425
JAMES DAVID SEYMORE, DECEASED *

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary of said decedent having been granted to the undersigned on the 20th day of December, 2018, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

All claims must be filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County.

Sarah Claire Seymore
SARAH CLAIRE SEYMORE
Personal Representative

BLAND, HARRIS & McCLELLAN, P.C.
Nancy F. McClellan
Attorney for Personal Representative
401 Second Avenue, SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256) 734-4040

TO: Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
Probate Judge
Cullman County, Alabama

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
JOHNNY LEE HOWARD, * CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
deceased. * CASE NO. PC2018-427

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Ola M. Howard, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Johnny Lee Howard, deceased, on the 20th day of December, 2018, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

DONE this the 20th day of December, 2018.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

TO: Publisher
The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for 3 consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Attorney for Personal Representative:
Michael J. Baggett
Baggett & Wilson, LLC
206 Ninth Street Southwest
Cullman, AL 35055
256/737-0740

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on December 27, 2005 by Christopher Jackson Coots and Pamela K. Coots, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1457, Page 104 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on January 7, 2019:

A part of the Northeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 33 T10S R3W, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a found Railroad Spike located. North 89 degrees 28 minutes 01 seconds East, 1,331.74 feet from the Northwest corner of said Section, said spike being the accepted Northwest corner of the above described forty: thence North 89 degrees 28 minutes 01 second East along the accepted North line of said forty a distance of 104.13 feet to a set Railroad Spike and the true point of beginning of the property herein described: thence from said true point of beginning continue North 89 degrees 28 minutes 01 seconds East a distance of 146.85 feet to a set Railroad Spike; thence South 00 degrees 29 minutes 09 seconds East a distance of 82.72 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence South 03 degrees 34 minutes 18 seconds West a distance of 39.94 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence South 67 degrees 52 minutes 54 seconds West a distance of 40.06 feet to a set 5/8 Inch rebar iron; thence South 14 degrees 26 minutes 44 seconds West a distance of 48.13 feet to a set 5/8 Inch rebar Iron; thence South 02 degrees 43 minutes 22 seconds East a distance of 26.07 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence South 89 degrees 28 minutes 01 seconds West a distance of 102.69 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence North 07 degrees 35 minutes 12 seconds East a distance of 27.82 feet to a set 5/8 Inch rebar iron; thence North 06 degrees 59 minutes 35 seconds West a distance of 34.02 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence North 00 degrees 17 minutes 19 seconds West a distance of 55.66 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar Iron; thence North 03 degrees 58 minutes 46 seconds East a distance of 93.12 feet to the true point of beginning and containing 0.65 acres more or less.

Said property subject to a right of way for Mize Road along the North side and all other right of ways and/or easements of record.

Description according to survey of H. D. Harris Ala Rag. No. 5742 dated September 21, 2005.

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

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

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Dewayne N. Morris
Attorney for Mortgagee
2131 Third Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
The Cullman Tribune-December 15, 2, 29, 2018

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 29, 2018

CCSO, Harmony School mourn passing of Sgt. Arvel Allison

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), Harmony School and the community are mourning the loss of Sgt. Arvel Allison. Allison, most recently the school resource officer at Harmony, passed away Thursday, Dec. 27, according to a spokesman for the CCSO.

"The Cullman County Sheriff's Office would ask that you pray for Sergeant Arvel Allison's family and his law enforcement family during this difficult time. During the last few months he has been fighting an illness," said a statement from the department.

During his career, Allison, in law enforcement for 49 years, served as a patrol deputy and narcotics deputy before becoming a school resource officer.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sgt. Arvel Allison

"Most recently he has been the school resource deputy at Harmony School in Crane Hill, where he was beloved by the children, teachers and all those who knew him," said the CCSO.

Service arrangements were not available as of press time.

Retire (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – On Friday, the Cullman Police Department (CPD) held a luncheon to honor Officer Jack Springer and Capt. Bobby Kelley on their retirement from the force. Kelley celebrated 35 years with the department in October, and in June, Springer received a one-of-a-kind custom 50-year service pin.

After receiving his 50-year pin, Springer was featured in The Tribune. See www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2018/07/07/half-century-service-meet-cullman-police-officer-jack-springer.

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs presented both officers certificates of service, saying to Springer, "Thank you for the years. Thank you for the service. And all of Cullman appreciates it."

The mayor described Kelley as an officer "who exemplifies dedicated service in all the different things you did over the years."

Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview was on hand to present resolutions to the officers from the county's legislative delegation.

Shedd also presented a resolution honoring 40-year veteran Terry Heaton.

For more on Heaton, the CPD's only remaining Vietnam veteran, see www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2018/07/03/40-years-meet-cpd-s-only-remaining-vietnam-veteran-terry-heaton.

Following that, the two officers received plaques from Services Officer Nick Harbison on behalf of Dispatch and were presented with plaques and the cases for their duty pistols by Chief Kenny Culpepper. By department policy and tradition, both officers will retain their service weapons and badges in retirement.

After the ceremony, Culpepper told The Tribune, "Jack's just been here the whole time I've been here; just--I walked in the door and he was here.

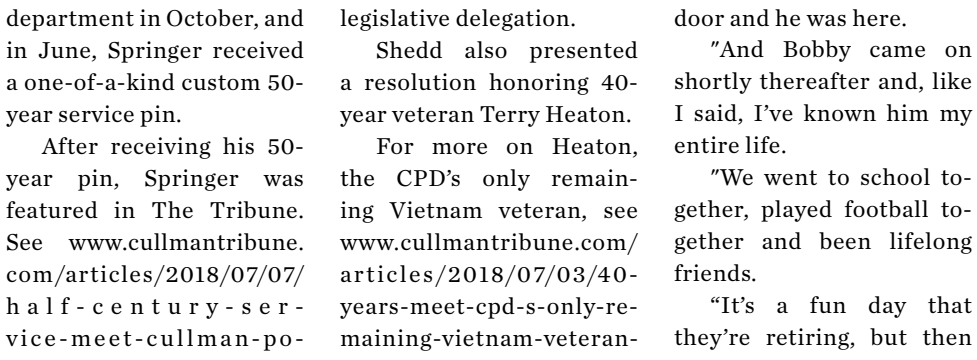
"And Bobby came on shortly thereafter and, like I said, I've known him my entire life.

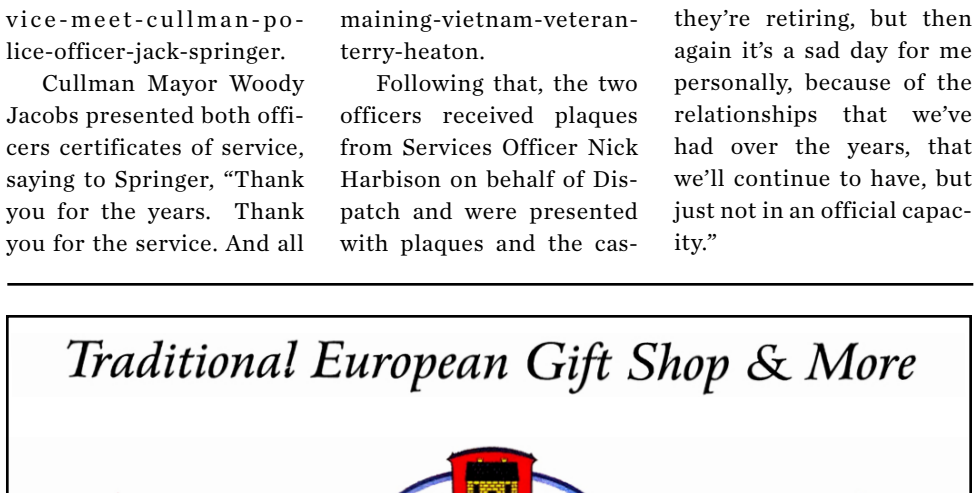
"We went to school together, played football together and been lifelong friends.

"It's a fun day that they're retiring, but then again it's a sad day for me personally, because of the relationships that we've had over the years, that we'll continue to have, but just not in an official capacity."

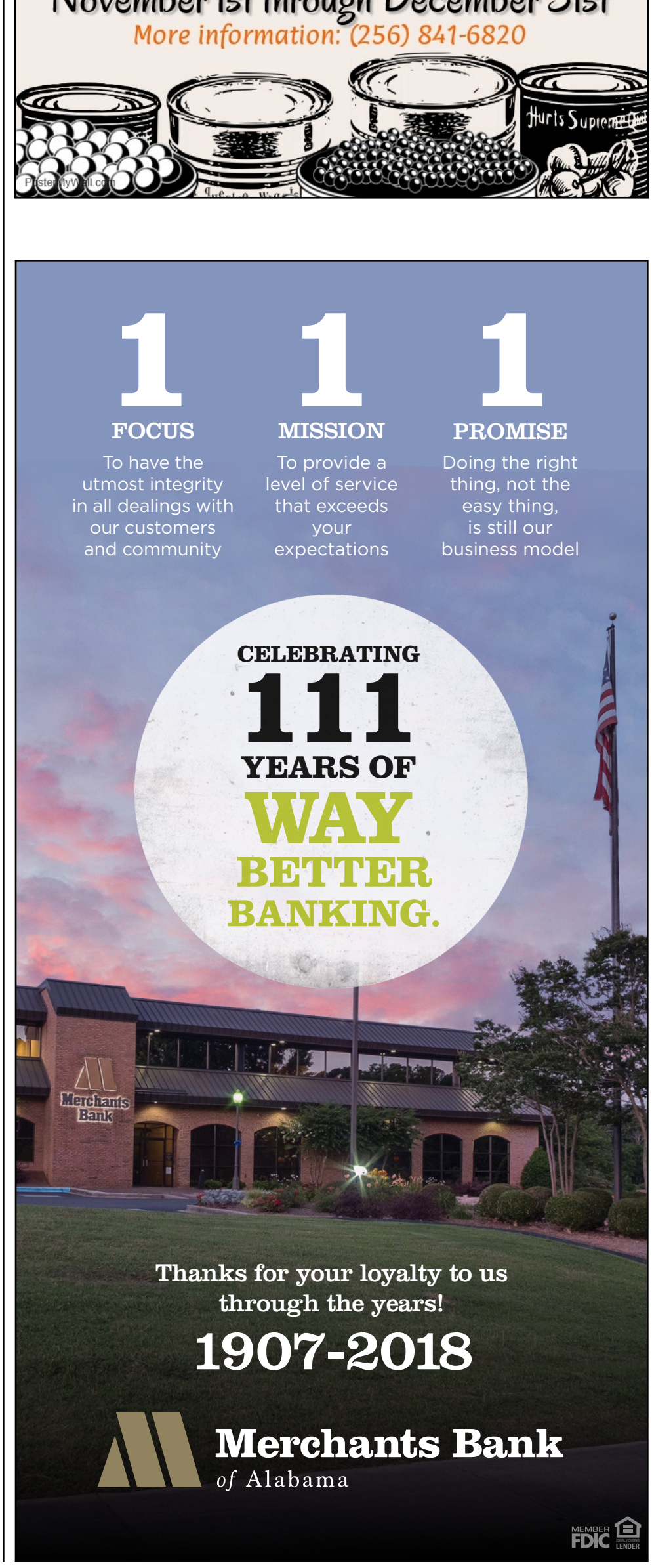














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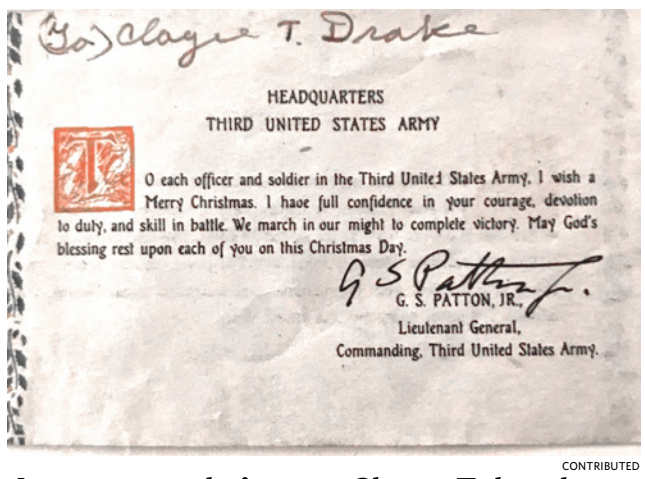
Drake at the Brandin' Iron Thanksgiving lunch with Josh Speakman

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Meet Cloyce Talmadge Drake (part 3)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

Find parts one and two at www.cullmantribune.com/keyword/cloyce-talmadge-drake



CONTRIBUTED

A prayer card given to Cloyce Talmadge Drake by Gen. George S. Patton

On Dec. 18, 1944, the day after Cloyce Talmadge Drake's 21st birthday, he and his fellow soldiers followed an old washed out road. It was approaching dark as they headed into a city in France. This was just days before they would be at Bastogne.

"The staff sergeant above me had me go back up the road that I'd never been to the company headquarters. It was about 4-5 miles up the road. I picked a guy to go with me and we led the first sergeant and everyone back down to this town. Planes were hitting this town and it had been set on fire," Drake said.

Drake was in awe of how the planes could maneuver and aim the guns.

He continued, "The town was on fire and it was getting night. An old lady was there with all this happening and she was after a rooster. She was trying to catch that rooster for it wouldn't get killed!" Drake laughed as he told the story, "She was running that rooster all over that town. Big ol' rooster!! I will never forget that.

"We went to the edge of this town and stayed in a nice brick home with a machine gun in the window. I had a boy who liked to shoot that machine gun.

"Those Germans were running over this town to the mountain to get away. We had that .30 caliber machine gun and this boy shot at Germans all day.

"They were about half-mile away. They'd lay down like he'd killed them. Then, a little while later, they would get up and keep trying up that mountain."

As Drake and the 35th Infantry made their way through France, they often captured German soldiers. One time he remembers capturing 50-100 Germans hiding in one house.

The German soldiers would fly white flags outside to indicate their surrender.

Drake explained, "Hitler told them German soldiers all kind of big stories that wasn't so. I remember talking to a German soldier that we captured who could speak English.

"They had told them that Germany had captured a whole bunch of stuff in New York. When we captured them, they'd tell us what Hitler had told them or had his officers tell them. Hitler's SS officers were all fighting for Hitler and SS (The Schutzstaffel) troops would fight to the death. The SS troops has been indoctrinated. The other German troops, they were afraid not to fight."

Drake recalled one German soldier they had captured in France.

"He had a black loaf of bread. We carried him to the kitchen and he gathered our bread in his hands. He held his hands up and yelled 'white bread!' He loved having that white bread. The Germans had butter and bread and I remember we had dark chocolate. Lots of the guys didn't like it because it was bitter, but I had pockets full of it. Walking from place to place, I'd gnaw on those chocolate bars."

Christmas Eve

"We were down in southern France, on the front line down there. We were on this mountain on a peak. In front of us was a big valley and we had our guns set up on that. On Christmas Eve though, the ground was froze, and they come up there and pulled us.

"Left nothing out there to defend the Germans from coming. They withdrawed our whole division and we went to some town for Christmas dinner.

"Next day, we rode all day on trucks. We had freezing weather and our feet sitting on that steel floor. You talk about getting cold!! No heat in that truck. Just a tarp over it.

"Anyway, we rode all the way back up to where some troops were penned off from the Americans.

"We went up there and fought and released them. We fired at people and shot and killed Germans.

"We met the paratroopers. They had dropped down out there and couldn't get any food up to them. We met them and took their place. This was at Mortain."

General Patton and the Battle of the Bulge

One of Drake's most valued possessions is a prayer card signed and given to him by Gen. George S. Patton. The cards were given to those on the front lines after Patton prayed for the weather to clear during the Battle of the Bulge.

Drake recalled, "I was in Bastogne. We were completely surrounded. It was cold, and the snow was deep. I guess we stayed in that place for about a month it seems.

"Gen. Patton had come up there and issued a prayer card for every one of us. It was rainy, cloudy, foggy-you couldn't see nowhere hardly.

"He brought those cards down and asked everyone to pray. I don't know who all prayed. I prayed myself and the next morning, it was clear. All the fog was gone, and the airplanes came down.

"There were three or four of them. Right above us was the town in the valley. The planes bombed the town all day. We got out of our foxholes just waving at them."

After the Battle of Bulge, Company I left Belgium and went into Holland as it made its way toward Berlin. In less than a year, Drake had been from Omaha Beach to Holland.

He recalled, "By now, I could tell where they would be shelling us with artillery tanks shooting them 88s so fast you would hit before you could hear the sound. I'd been there so long, I'd know where to get. I could find a pretty safe place.

"I remember one place there in Holland, I had three or four replacements come and put in my squad. I found a house that had been bombed but still had good dry rooms in it and some beds.

"I got in one of them beds and them guys who came to replace that day, you know where they slept?? Under the bed!! Three or four guys from Tennessee.

"You know, that war, I've had soldiers that fought like I did say that they have dreams at night. They have nightmares.

"I never did have it, but I know there wasn't nobody that went to more war than I went to."

To be continued.... (Berlin and coming home)





New Year's wit and wisdom from 2018's Tribune Tastemakers

Ben Johnson South
Tribune Contributor

In his creative weekly series, "10 Things from a Tribune Tastemaker," local author, artist and all-around entertaining and eccentric (not to mention classy!) Southern gentleman Ben Johnson South introduced Cullman Tribune readers to some creative thinkers and doers in the Cullman community.

This week, just in time for New Year's, we hear from those Tastemakers again.

In 2018, it was my great pleasure to interview a dozen of the most interesting and influential people in our part of Alabama. These fun, fully engaged folks shared what inspired them in their work and life. My New Year's gift to them and to you, dear Tribune reader, is a quote I associate with each TASTEMAKER:

JOCK LEONARD, starchitect with Jock Leonard Designs, "Whatever good things we build end up building us." (Jim Rohn)

CHRISTINE CHAMBLEE NISHIMURA, head bartender 412 Public House, "Why limit happy to an hour?"

JENNA NELSON CULPEPPER, hair/beauty expert at Salon Luxe, "Life is an endless struggle of frustrations and challenges, but eventually you find a hair stylist you like." (author unknown)

CONCETTA LOVOY KREPS, textile guru, "I'm cut from a different cloth and they don't make the fabric anymore."

JARROD SMITHERMAN, wood-turning artisan, "The woods are lovely, dark and deep, but I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep." (Robert Frost)

MARIA RICHTER SCHULTZ, "The Countess Of Cullman Colors," "Colors are the smiles of nature." Also, "Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud." (Maya Angelou)

ADRIAN SCOTT, Wallace State graphic arts instructor and fine artist, "The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls." (Pablo Picasso)



CONTRIBUTED

2018 Tribune Tastemakers: top row, left to right: Jock Leonard, Christine Chamblee Nishimura, Jenna Nelson Culpepper and Will Justice Drake; middle row, left to right: Concetta Lovoy Kreps, Jarrod Smitherman, Maria Richter Schultz and Adrian Scott; bottom row, left to right: Cindy Phillips, Laci Schuman and Kathryn Callaway Jones

CINDY PHILLIPS, yotter, potter and certified yoga instructor, Gentle Rain Yoga, "Yoga is not about touching your toes, it is what you learn on the way down."

LACI SCHUMAN, cook/owner Southern Eats, "Life is short—lick the bowl!"

KATHRYN CALLAWAY JONES, professional home organizer/owner Simplified Spaces, "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication." (Leonardo da Vinci)

PAT SHARPTON, 2019 president, Cullman County Master Gardeners, "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." (Audrey Hepburn)

One of our most thought-provoking TASTEMAKERS of the last year was Alabama poet laureate-to-be and current instructor at St. Bernard Prep, **WILL JUSTICE DRAKE**. Encouraging us all to be more aware and thoughtful, Will Justice shared this quote from Julian of Norwich: "And he showed me more, a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, on the palm of my hand, round like a ball. I looked at it thoughtfully and wondered, 'What is this?' And the answer came, 'It is all that is made.' I marveled that it continued to exist and did not disintegrate; it was so small. And again, my mind supplied the answer, 'It exists, both now and forever, because God loves it.' In short, everything owes its existence to the love of God."

Lots to ponder and ready us to thrive in 2019. Thank you to each of the wonderful TASTEMAKERS of 2018. And, HAPPY NEW YEAR to all!

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 29 - 30

Anna Stockton Mize, 86 of Double Springs passed away on December 27, 2018. Complete arrangements will be announced at a later time by Nichols Funeral Home.

Patricia "Starr" Needham, 70, of Blountsville, passed away on Saturday, December 22, 2018. She was born April 30, 1948, to Charles Fleming and Ethal Lee Bullock in Hogansville, Georgia. Starr worked in the restaurant industry in multiple positions. She was a member of Zion Grove Baptist Church. Her family was an important part of her life. Her love for her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren was evident. Her family will miss her greatly. She is preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Charlie Henry Bullock, Arthur Lee; and sister, Elnora Bullock Green. Survivors include her husband, Jackie Needham; son, Ronald (Sylvia) Reaves; daughters, Belinda Johnson, Alicia (Mike) Davis, Janice (Gary) Wharton; sister, Linda Kay Bullock; sister-in-law, Ruth Lee; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Memorial services for Mrs. Needham will be announced at a later time. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Needham family.

Patsy Faye Ford of Cullman passed away on December 24, 2018 at the age of 72. She was born on June 28, 1946 to Sylnanus "Jack" and Perrine Whitten Jackson. She is preceded in death by a son: Timothy Ford, sister: Margaret Jackson. Funeral service is Saturday, December 29, 2018 at 11 a.m. at Moss Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Center Hill Cemetery. Survivors are: daughters: Cynthia Wood, Teresa Ford Cobbs, sons: David Ford, Tony (Myra) Ford, Brad (Lindsay) Ford, sisters: Peggy Jean Chamblee, Brenda Stone, Lynn Jackson, 13 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Visitation is Saturday, December 29, 2018 at Moss Funeral Home from 9:30 a.m. until service time at 11 a.m.

Mervin "Merv" Elehiu Amick, 70 of Crane Hill, entered into rest on Saturday, December 22, 2018 at Hanceville Nursing & Rehab. Merv was born on November 21, 1948 in Cullman County. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy for four years. He attended Jefferson State Jr. College and Montevallo College. Merv began his work career in the late sixties with Bellsouth and continued in telecommunications until he retired. He had such an infectious laugh. He loved life and lived each day to the fullest. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, December 29, 2018 at 12 p.m. at Houston Baptist Church. Brothers Kenny Sudduth and Samuel Tucker will officiate. Merv is survived by his sons, Edward Christian Amick and his wife Samantha, and Kevin Bartley Amick; mother, Doris Amick; brothers, Gregary Lacy Amick and his wife Kelly, and Kevin Lacy Amick and his wife Debbie; sisters, Phyllis Amick Kent, and Monica Amick Kugler and her husband Keith; and two grandchildren, Molly and Addison Amick. He was preceded in death by his father, Lacy E. Amick, and mother, Evelyn Capps. Special thanks to Woody Everett and Patty Nail for the tender care given during their months with him, and also to his nurse, Jeremy. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in his memory to Kindred Hospice.

Funeral service for Lee Roy Henderson, of Walter, will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, December 29, 2018 at Duck River Baptist Church. Mr. Henderson passed away Wednesday at his residence.

Dennis George Morgan, 64 of Cullman, passed away on Monday, December 24, 2018. Dennis was born in Cullman to George and Ruth Morgan. He attended Cullman High School where he was drum major, Mr. CHS, voted Best Looking and a beloved classmate. After high school, Dennis made his career in the automobile industry working as a service manager and ultimately retiring as district supervisor. He could tell you anything you needed to know about vehicles. Dennis loved to hunt and fish, and that's how he spent much of his time. There is definitely one thing everyone could tell you about Dennis, he loved Alabama football. One of his most favorite things was to kick back with friends and enjoy the game. Roll Tide!! He was preceded in death by his grandparents: Emory and Brennis Floyd and George and Sena Morgan; parents: George and Ruth Morgan; niece, Kelly Ratliff and nephew, John David Ratliff. Mr. Morgan is survived by his wife, Debbie Hudson Morgan; son, Clint (Sara) Morgan; daughter, Cassie Morgan (Adam) Lamar; mother of his children, Martha Marie Morgan; step-daughters: Jenna Hudson and Emily (Zach) Holmes. "Pops" leaves behind eight grandchildren: Frankie Beth, Evie, Lucie, Owen, Donovan, Noah, Dalyn and Everett; his sisters: Ruth Nell, Carol (Larry) Elliott, and twin Denise (Buch) Morton; numerous nieces and nephews and many dear friends made along his journey here. The family will receive friends on Saturday, December 29, 2018 from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. The Celebration of Life for Mr. Dennis George Morgan will be held in the chapel of Moss Service Funeral Home beginning at 2 p.m. following the visitation. Burial will be held at Fellowship Cemetery at Spring Hill. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made for a memorial monument in Dennis' honor. Make checks payable to Cullman Marble and Granite or Debbie Morgan.

Funeral services for Artha Vern "Shorty" Peek, 78, of Cullman are Saturday, December 29, 2018 at 2 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home, with interment in Simcoe Methodist Cemetery. Visitation will be on Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home directing. Mr. Peek passed away on Wednesday, December 26, 2018. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe Peek and Millie Brown Peek; his wife, Brenda Peek and brother, Gartha Peek. He is survived by his sons, Jeffery (Cindy) Peek and Timothy (Marie) Peek; daughters, Delena Isbell and Lorie (Jamie) Pendergrass; Joseph Lavon "Peanut" (Mary) Peek; sisters, Earlene (Odie) Curvin, Barbara Walker, Evelyn (Ronald) Brooks; 14 grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren and a host of other family and friends. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made toward the funeral expenses.

Patsy Faye Ford of Cullman passed away on December 24, 2018 at the age of 72. She was born on June 28, 1946 to Sylnanus "Jack" and Perrine Whitten Jackson. She is preceded in death by a son: Timothy Ford, sister: Margaret Jackson. Funeral services are Saturday, December 29, 2018 at 11 a.m. at Moss Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Center Hill Cemetery. Survivors are: daughters: Cynthia Wood, Teresa Ford Cobbs, sons: David Ford, Tony (Myra) Ford, Brad (Lindsay) Ford, sisters: Peggy Jean Chamblee, Brenda Stone, Lynn Jackson, 13 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Visitation is Saturday, December 29, 2018 at Moss Funeral Home from 9:30 a.m. until service time at 11 a.m.

Kimberly Ann Hutcheson, 39, of Double Springs, entered into rest on September 13, 2018. She was born on November 10, 1978, in Chicago, Illinois, and known to family as "Kimmy". She graduated from Haleyville High School. Kimberly was the proud mother and stay at home mom to her children, who she loved spending time with. She enjoyed eating out, watching movies, tanning, social media, ice cream, and winning arguments with her siblings. Her favorite colors were blue and black. Kimberly will be remembered for her spontaneous laugh, her kind heart, and her loving spirit. I Corinthians 13. A graveside service will be held on Saturday, December 29, 2018 at 12 p.m., at Union Grove Cemetery, in Haleyville. Brother Ronnie Robinson will officiate. Kimberly is survived by her husband, James Dotson; son, Antonio Martinez; daughter, Rebecca Hutcheson; brother, Erick Hutcheson; sisters, Sherry (Daniel) Pyles; Bertha (Donald) Brown; nephews, Joshua Pyles, Kenny, Jimmy and Jessie Brown; nieces, Felicia Vargas, Amanda Pyles and Mona Mendoza. She was known as "Granny Hutcheson" to her grandson, Jeremy Abott Jr. She was preceded in death by her father, Tomas Rodriquez, mother, Belva Hutcheson and sister Nona Hutcheson.

Jeffery "Jeff" Wade Thornton, 56, of Logan, Alabama entered into rest on Wednesday, December 26, 2018 at home. Mr. Thornton was born on May 4, 1962 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Jeff drove an 18 wheeler for most of his life, both locally and on the road. He enjoyed working on his pond at home. Jeff was a loving and caring husband, son, brother and was known as Paw-Paw to his 2 grandchildren. Visitation will be held Saturday, December 29, 2018 at New Mt. Zion Baptist Church, in Logan, Alabama from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. with services at 2 p.m. Brother Macky Watts will officiate. Burial will be in New Mt. Zion Baptist Church Cemetery. Jeff is survived by his wife of 7 years, Donna Crane; sons, Weston Thornton, and Brad Thornton and his wife Breanna; daughter, Marissa K. Hillburn and her husband Manly; mother, Fay Thornton; brother, Douglas Thornton; sister, Vicki Allcorn and her husband Dean; grandchildren, Connor Thornton, and Orson Hillburn; good friend and employer, Tony Baker; and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, R.D. Thornton; and grandson, Easton Hillburn.

Willodean Hale of Vinemont passed away on December 26, 2018 at the age of 84. She was born in Cullman July 4, 1934 to Silas Riley and Ethel Powell Wilhite. She is preceded in death by her parents, daughter-in-law Karen Joy Hale, sisters Zula Elam, Christeen Blevins, brothers Athel and Glen Wilhite. A Celebration of Life Service will be on Sunday, December 30, 2018 at 2 p.m. at Moss Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Tim Aris officiating. Interment will follow in Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery. Survivors are: husband Jackie D. Hale, daughters Donna (Roy) Aaron, Melinda (Billy) James, son Ronnie Hale, sister Patsy Farley, grandchildren Haley Aaron, Kayla Aaron, Kevin Aaron and Brooke James. The Celebration of Life visitation is Saturday, December 29, 2018 at Moss Funeral Home from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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STATE

Ivey awards grants to support sexual assault, domestic violence victims

Russell Sellers
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Gov. Kay Ivey has awarded grants totaling $208,282 to help ensure victims of sexual assault and domestic violence have access to professional assistance through a network of local agencies.

The Alabama Coalition Against Rape, with a grant of $102,670, and the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence, with a grant of $105,612, are using funds to train the staffs of local law enforcement agencies, health care organizations, courts and domestic violence shelters to recognize the signs of abuse and respond more effectively to domestic and dating violence as well as stalking.

"Professionals who respond to sexual assault and domestic violence calls should be capable of providing the most up-to-date care and services possible to those in need," Ivey said. "I commend the work being done by the coalitions and the local agencies to ensure victims get the professional help they need during such awful times."

Services offered by the organizations include advocates to accompany victims to hospitals and legal proceedings as well as counseling and 24-hour crisis lines. Both organizations also conduct training programs to help investigators and health care professionals understand and meet the special needs of elderly and disabled victims.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is administering the grants from funds made available by the U.S. Department of Justice. ADECA administers a wide range of programs that support law enforcement, economic development, infrastructure upgrades, recreation, energy conservation, water resources management, job training and career development.

"Gov. Ivey and I fully support these organizations and the network agencies they work with throughout the state to provide vital help to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence," ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell said. "ADECA's partnership with the coalitions ensures that this level of assistance will continue to be available throughout the state."

Ivey notified Chandra Brown, Alabama Coalition Against Rape board president, and Charles Whisenant, Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence board president, that the grants had been approved.

Funny Things from Yesterday: My nephew Jud

Robert N. Tidwell, Sr.
Tribune
Contributor



I have known Jud since the day he was born and have watched him grow into a fine young man. He had a birthday the 28th of December, and if I am not mistaken he is one-half of a century old. Happy Birthday, Jud.

I have two stories about him and I will share both of them today.

ME CAN'T HELP IT

When Jud was about 3 years old, he was as sweet and loving little fellow as you would ever meet, but along with it, he was right mischievous.

This particular afternoon, he was staying with his daddy at our place of business and had talked him into buying him a 12 oz. cold drink.

Jud was sitting in a chair in my office and had his cold drink (which was almost as big as he was) in the chair beside him. Where Jud was sitting, his dad could not see him but could hear all that was going on.

Jud would take a sip of his cold drink and then strain himself for all he was worth to burp.

His daddy, not being able to see what he was doing, would fuss at him and say, "Jud, stop that."

Then Jud, in his sweet little innocent 3-year-old voice would say, "Me can't help it." Then the whole process would start over again and each time Jud would say, "Me can't help it."

Finally, he finished his cold drink with several "Me can't help its."

SKOAL'S NOT WHAT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE

Our family, from our daddy down to his great, great grandson, Crosby (C.J.) has attended Auburn football games. This story happened at a football game at Auburn.

Jim and his family were in Auburn at a bookstore. Jud began to feel sick and needed to go to the bathroom.

An employee of the store was showing him the way, when suddenly Jud vomited on the floor.

The employee helped Jud find Jim. Then Jim had to mop the floor.

Robert Jr. had a trailer and they came over to have lunch with us. Jud was still puny, and all were concerned about him.

No one seemed to know what was wrong with him. By game time he was better and went to the game.

When Christmas came, and the children were exchanging gifts, we found out what made Jud sick at the ballgame.

One of the children gave Jud a can of Skoal tobacco, but I believe Jud had already decided it was not what he thought it would be.

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1930

Larkin Yates has left for schoo at Jacksonville.

Lee Holmes was killed in an automobile accident. He was buried in Enon Cemetery. Lee is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Holmes. Many friends extended their sympathy.

Miss Tsianina Speegle, of Trimble, spent Sunday afternoon with Miss Magdaline Reid.

Mr. and Mrs. Loyal Phillips were the guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Phillips, of Good Hope, this weekend.

W.O. Cooper and other good singers attended the singing at Good Hope, on Sunday.

Miss Lieen Miller was thrown from a truck, on Saturday, while enroute to attend a ballgame, at White City, but we are glad to say she was not badly hurt. She suffered a bruised shoulder and head. She is improving nicely.

Dennie Perdue called on Miss Mildred Phillips, on Sunday.

Craton Graham and Miss Alice Head attended B.Y.P.U. at Good Hope, on Sunday night.

Lester Teem has returned home from Lincoln, Nebraska.

The party at Bob Mize's was enjoyed by a large crowd.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Miller were in Birmingham, last week, on business.

The singing at L.P. Miller's on Wednesday night was enjoyed by a large crowd.

Mr. E.M. Mitcham is principal at Logan School and Mr. Ray Brown is assistant.

Miss Edna Graham, who is teaching school at Mount Zion, spent the weekend with the E.D. Graham's.

Dalton Guthery and Noel Tidwell called on Misses I.V. and Goldie McAfee, on Sunday.

The Cullman High School girls have formed a "C" club for this year. All these girls have earned letters in basketball. Cyril Edwards was elected president, Mavis Gammon, vice-president, Conradine Speegle, secretary and Dorothy Tingle, treasurer. Other members are: Julia Warner, Madeline Wooten and Edith Peinhardt.

Cullman County students at Florence College this fall are: Lela Bailey, Lillie Mae Barker, Princie Burleson, Gertrude Dickenson, Bessie Gilley, Lela Howell, Claudia Hulsey, Wynelle Jones, Icie Lambert, Nellie Livingston, Dorothy McGwier, Myrtle Rainwater, Pauline Ray, Olivia Schlosser, Thelma Smith, Lessie Tanner, Ethel Teem, Nellie Teem, Lorena Thompson and Verna Wilhite.

We should have saved the, held them fast: The memories of a childhood past.

Two hundred dollars worth of cigarettes and tobacco were stolen from the A.Z. Bailey Wholesale Grocery and Warehouse, on Monday night, according to a report by Mr. Alvis Trimble.

At Walker School, Eunice Whitlock, J.B. Grigg and William Copeland are back in school, after an absence with the chicken pox.

At the close of the revival at Beulah, Brother P.E. Hinton, of Oneonta, baptized nine members.

Miss Ruby Hinkle was the Friday night guest of Miss Lula Griffin.

Floyd Griffin was the Sunday evening guest of Euel Hudson.

Miss Marie Schlichting spent Sunday evening with Miss Lena Woodall.

Joe Knight escorted Miss Donna Speegle home, on Thursday night.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

A Christmas gift that changed my life

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



We didn't get a truck load of Christmas presents, but we always got something. The good thing about that was we didn't have any problem deciding which one to play with. Occasionally, we got something big. One year I got a wagon, one year a bicycle, and one year a Daisy BB gun. Most years it was a toy truck or a holster set with cap pistols. I usually got the boring stuff too, like underwear, socks, and clothes. I don't mean to sound unappreciative, but those were must have items, because Mama didn't permit running around naked!

It was too big to wrap, so it sat in front of the tree. If I remember correctly, I was ten.

It wasn't the electric one I had asked for, but I was thrilled, none-the-less. It came with strings attached – six of them, to be exact. It was a red Truetone acoustic guitar. It probably cost less than thirty dollars and isn't worth much today. All those toy Tonka trucks I got back then are long gone, with the exception of a couple that are in a box somewhere up in our attic, but I still have that first guitar. It stayed in a closet for years, and at one time, was even in the loft of an unheated pool house. I spotted it a couple of years ago and rescued it. I chipped off numerous dirt-dauber condos.

With lots of scrubbing, some neck straightening, a new bridge, and a set of strings, it sounded like it new – not so great! Even though it's not a great guitar, I kept it because it was my first one and it really did change my life.

I told someone once that I never took lessons, to which he replied, "I can tell!" Actually, I had some second hand lessons. My friend David took lessons, so he passed on some of what he learned each week. I bought a Mel Bay chord book and in hardly no time at all, I was playing terribly.

A few years later, I bought myself a used 1963 Fender Duo Sonic electric, with a Fender tube amp. Mama loved for me to play it unplugged. Her two favorite requests were, "Would you turn that thing down?" and "Would you please quit banging on that guitar?"

As far back as junior high, I played in a band. We weren't a garage band; we were a basement band. I'm sure some of you heard us play – or then maybe not! We didn't play much outside of my friend and bandmate David's basement. The first money we earned as a band was when David's Dad paid us to stop playing!

With the exception of a few years when I thought I was too busy to play, I have continued to play guitar. It was Mom who said would you please stop banging on that guitar, who later said, "Would you please start playing and singing again?"

Along the way I've added the harmonica, banjo, mandolin, ukulele, and eight-track tape player. I even have an electric guitar made from a commode seat, and a ukulele that looks like a watermelon, that I use in my Billy Bob Bohannon programs. All those years ago, I could have never imagined where that cheap red guitar, and the ones that came after it, would take me.

I am thankful for that gift of a guitar, as well as the gift of music, but there is one gift that has changed my life, as well as millions of others, far more than those. That gift was placed in a manger.

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Poet's Corner

Dark Dreadful December

By: Harry Moritz
Pell City Alabama

It was a cool and bright blue December day,
air crisp in anticipation for upcoming holidays.
When the telephone rang, I answered: "Hello?"
And listened as the measured
voice detailed the news.

News I heard on the phone that day
was devastating.
It was my sister reporting a family fatality.
I made reservations to fly to the old
homestead.

Snow fell from a leaden sky,
great drifts of sadness everywhere.
They were not as deep or cold as my despair.
Snow was icy cold and the whitest white.
My mood was black as the darkest night.

The family never got along too well,
but we did that day... get along, that is.
Maybe it was the silent arms of our brother,
reaching out to hold us together in our misery.

After suffocating in teary sorrow
for so many hours,
Outside, I was finally able to breathe...
Sucking in great gulps of frozen,
frosty air, chilling my lungs while eye
lashes were frozen with tears.

Returning to the airport for my flight that
night, my mind played and replayed the
captured vignettes. Scenes still too terrible
to grasp, even with all my might.

Some several years later, those
scenes still replay as I pray.
Still too terrible to comprehend,
but as time slowly passes,
they loom not so large as on that dark
and dreadful December day.

(THURSDAY NIGHT) PREP BASKETBALL: Raiders, Warriors, Bearcats collect wins on day 1 of West Point Christmas Tournament

Sammy Confer
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Friday night scores were not available at press time. Look for them at www.CullmanTribune.com.

WEST POINT – Day one of the 2018 West Point Christmas Tournament is in the books and it featured close games full of big plays and clutch performances. Good Hope defeated Brewer in the first game of the evening thanks in large part to a go-ahead three from Drew Maddox in the final seconds, Hayden edged past Danville 77-75, West Point knocked off Priceville 57-53 and Cullman ran past Cold Springs 75-62.

(10-3) Good Hope 69 - Brewer 67

The first game was a dandy that was decided in the final seconds. Early on, Good Hope struggled to score against Brewer, held to just five points in the first quarter and down 18-5 after one.

The second quarter saw the Raiders slowly chip into the Patriot lead, cutting a 29-15 lead to nine after five straight points by Cole Maddox. After Brewer made it 32-20 on an and-one, Good Hope finished the first half strong, outscoring the Patriots 16-6 the rest of the way to cut the double-digit deficit to just two at 38-36. The Raiders put up 31 points in the period.

Both teams went back and forth for most of the third until a late 6-1 Raider run to end the quarter made it a 53-52 score.

A 9-4 Good Hope run to start out the final period gave the Raiders a 61-57 lead, but Brewer retook it by scoring five in a row and later held a 64-63 lead. The Patriots went 3-4 from the line to make it 67-63, but Good Hope's Noah Fendley nailed a huge trey from the top of the key to make it a 67-66 contest. The Raiders forced a bad pass, getting the ball back with a chance to win the game.

They melted the clock down until Dawson Turner found Drew Maddox in the left corner and he nailed the biggest shot of the game to give the Raiders the 69-67 victory.

Cole Maddox finished the game with 29 points, five rebounds and a pair of steals for Good Hope. Fendley added nine points, five rebounds a pair of steals, and a block. Drew Maddox ended up with nine points, four rebounds and three steals. Matt Dixon added eight points and four rebounds. Michael Lowe finished with six points, six rebounds, three steals and three blocks. Tanner Malin added five points. Turner chipped in with three points and a pair of rebounds. Eli Phares added two points and three steals.

Good Hope moves on to take on Hayden, who defeated Danville 77-75, Friday night at 7:45 p.m.

(7-9) West Point 57 - Priceville 53

West Point got off to a slow start in this one and quickly fell behind to Priceville 12-0, but the Warriors made a little run to end the quarter, going into the second period down 21-9.

After the Bulldogs made the score 28-12, West Point finished the quarter strong, picking up the intensity on both sides of the court and going on a quarter-ending 13-5 run to make it a 33-25 game going into the half.

Priceville pushed its lead back to double-digits at 39-26, but the Warriors made another comeback behind the hot shooting of Will Cochran and Kobe Bowers, who scored 11 of the team's final 18 points in the period. Kolton Sapp and Aubrey Cleghorn each added a shot as well and West Point went into the final period trailing by just two at 46-44.

A Bowers three, later followed by a Sapp dunk after a great hustle play, gave the Warriors a 52-50 lead. Bowers later added another one from long range to help stretch the lead to four at 55-51. Priceville hit a shot to make it 55-53, but Rylan Jones sealed the 57-53 Warrior victory by hitting a pair from the free-throw line.

Bowers led the way for West Point with 15 points, three rebounds, a steal and a block. Will Cochran added 10 points, three rebounds and a steal. Levi Farley added seven points, as did Sapp. Jones ended up with six points, 11 rebounds and three steals. Whitt Laney chipped in with five points, a steal and a block.

The Warriors will face off against Cullman on Friday night at 6:30 p.m.

(12-3) Cullman 75 - (10-6) Cold Springs 62

The beginning of the game started out with both Cullman and Cold Springs feeling each other out. The Bearcats held an 8-6 lead early, but a quick 9-1 run pushed their lead to 10 at 17-7 and the 'Cats wound up leading after one, 26-13.

Cullman continued to put extreme pressure on the Eagles in the second period, turning numerous Cold Springs turnovers into easy baskets and pushing its lead to 43-24 at the half.

The Bearcats held a 57-33 lead at one point in the third period, but the Eagles slowly started to chip away at the deficit and finished the quarter on a 10-3 run to make it a 60-43 game going into the final period.

Both teams traded baskets to start off the fourth quarter, but after Cullman's Cooper Beck made it 65-49 on a layup, Cold Springs looked for one final run to get back in the ball game, going on a 9-3 run to make it a 68-58 contest. Cullman, though, scored the next seven points in the game to erase any hopes of an Eagle comeback. The Bearcats wound up winning 75-62 and will meet up with West Point on Friday night at 6:30 p.m.

Mason Herron finished the game with 14 points and two steals for Cullman, who ended up having 11 players in the scoring column tonight. Beck ended up with 11 points and a pair of steals. Jayden Sullins added 10 points, five rebounds and a steal. J.D. Parrish ended up with nine points and two steals. J.T. White added eight points, four rebounds, two steals and a block. Tucker Gambrill chipped in with eight points and a pair of steals.

Cold Springs was led by Brody Peppers (four rebounds and a steal) and Landyn Freeman (six rebounds), who each finished with 14 points in the game. Mason Harris added 10 points and six rebounds. Adam Hill ended up with eight points, a block and a steal. Seth Williams added seven points, three rebounds and three steals.

The Eagles will play Priceville in the loser's bracket game on Friday at 4 p.m.

Other Thursday scores:

- Austin 62 – Cullman 50 (varsity girls)
- Cullman 65 – Homewood 26 (varsity girls)
- Spain Park 50 – Fairview 22 (varsity girls)
- Fairview 39 – Brewer 35 (varsity girls)
- Piedmont 65 – Holly Pond 53 (varsity boys)
- Oneonta 51 – Holly Pond 41 (varsity boys)
- Danville 59 – Cold Springs 50 (varsity girls)
- Cold Springs 42 – Red Bay 25 (varsity girls)
- Belgreen 76 – Addison 65 (varsity girls)
- East Lawrence 36 – Vinemont 25 (varsity girls)
- West Point 72 – Ider 50 (varsity girls)

Friday night scores were not available at press time. Look for them at www.CullmanTribune.com.

