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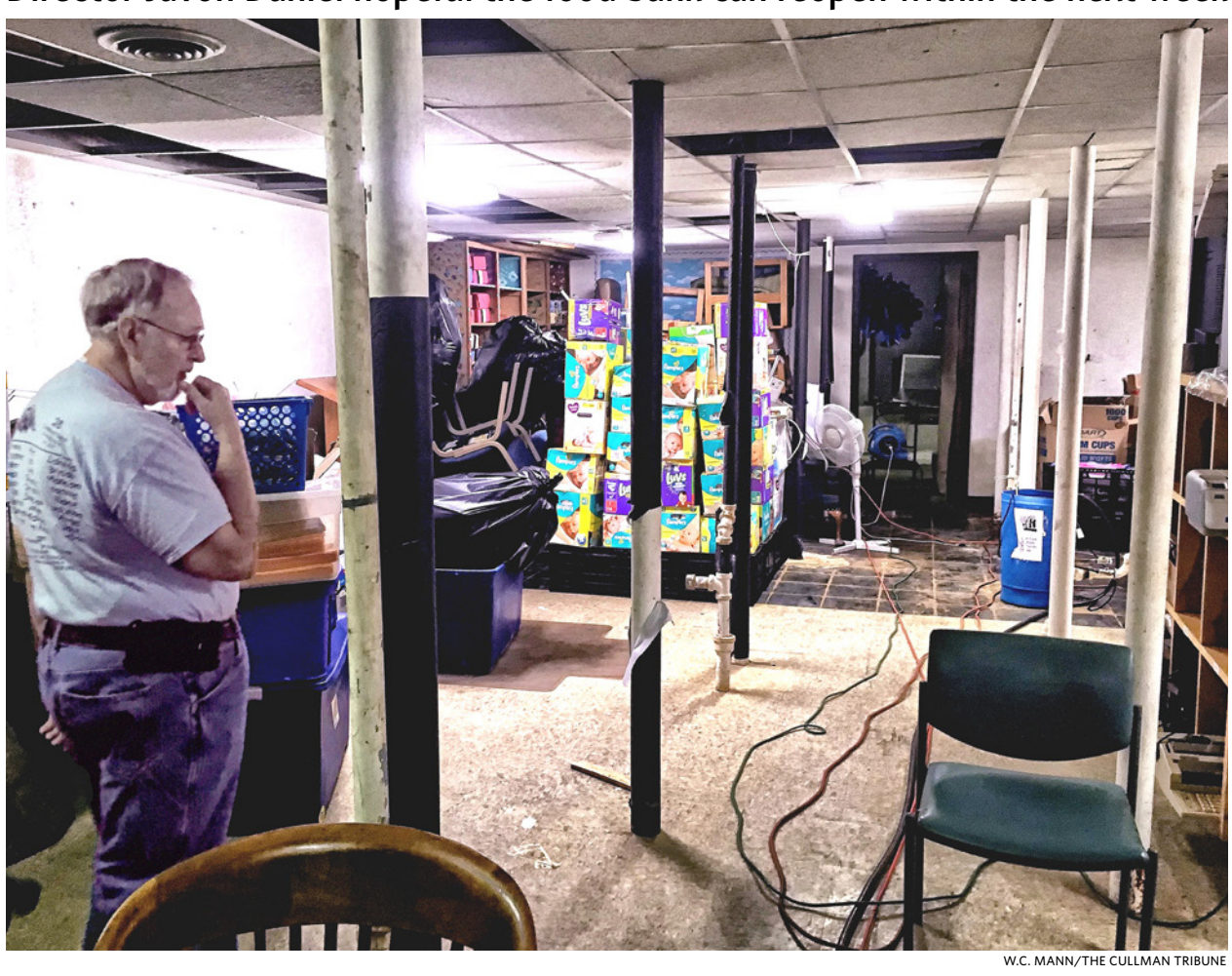
The Cullman Tribune

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VOL. 146 • 50¢ PER COPY | JANUARY 3, 2019 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 2

Cullman Caring for Kids recovering from flooding

Director Javon Daniel hopeful the food bank can reopen within the next week



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Caring for Kids Director Javon Daniel took media on a tour of the organization's water-damaged basement Wednesday afternoon.

» PAGE 6



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force Chairperson Kathy Wilson in her office on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2018

Alabama enters Human Trafficking Awareness Month with high marks

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – At the beginning of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force Chairperson Kathy Wilson pointed happily to a new study showing that Alabama has made dramatic improvements in its response to the crime of modern slavery. Shared Hope International (SHI), a faith-based organization that fights trafficking and works to help victims recover, is celebrating the results of its annual Protected Innocence Challenge "report card" for states' responses to child sex trafficking, and its findings give Alabama a top score.

According to the SHI report, "The Protected Innocence Challenge is based on the Protected Innocence Challenge Legislative Framework, which was informed by research performed by Shared Hope International and compiled in 'The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking.' Domestic minor sex trafficking is the commercial sexual exploitation of American children under the age of 18 within U.S. borders for the purposes of prostitution, pornography, or sexual performance.

"Recognizing that most of the gaps in responding to domestic minor sex trafficking must be addressed at the state level, the Protected Innocence Challenge Legislative Framework sets out the basic policy principles required to create a safer environment for children.

"The steps necessary to create this safer environment include the following: preventing domestic minor sex trafficking through reducing demand, rescuing and restoring victims through improved training on identification, establishing protocols and facilities for victim placement, mandating appropriate services and shelter, and incorporating trauma-reducing mechanisms into the justice system.

"Broken systems of criminal justice and child welfare responses to victims must also be fixed to ensure that commercially sexually exploited children are treated as victims and receive access to justice."

At the outset of the program in 2011, Alabama scored a troubling D. After improving to a B over six years, the state was one of 10 to earn an A on the 2018 national report card. Out of 51 entries including the District of Columbia, Alabama was ranked fourth overall.

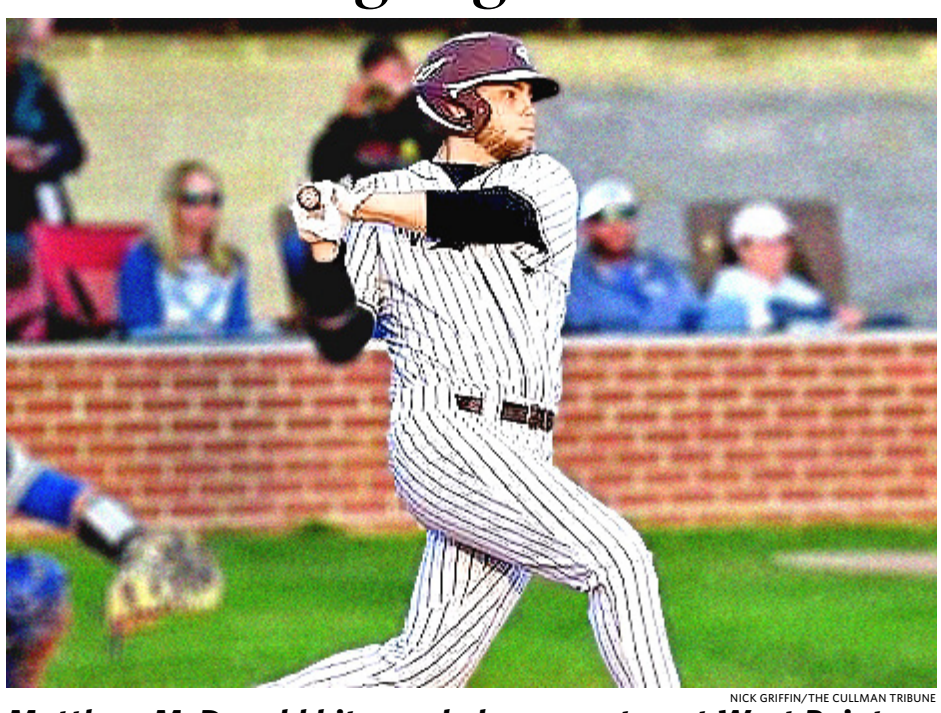
At the local level, Wilson recently met with the Cullman County Mayors and Commissioners Association, asking all the county's mayors to issue proclamations recognizing January as Human Trafficking Awareness

» PAGE 3

PREP SPORTS

A look back at some highlights from 2018

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Matthew McDonald hits a solo homerun to put West Point up 8-0 in its game one win over Mortimer Jordan in round two of the 2018 AHSAA Baseball 5A State Playoffs.

CULLMAN – For area teams, 2018 provided some big seasons and a lot of great moments. From Good Hope's historic football season to Hanceville's incredible run in basketball, 2018 provided that and a whole lot more. Let's take a look back at some of the great seasons and moments from 2018.

Addison's volleyball team finished 53-11 on the season and added yet another state championship to its trophy case after defeating Winston County 3-2. The Bulldog football team also had a big year, making it to the quarterfinals of the state playoffs before falling to Aliceville, 38-22, to finish with a 10-3 mark.

The Cold Springs Lady Eagles didn't finish out 2017 strong, falling in all three games of their respective Christmas tournament to fall to 8-8 on the season, but 2018 was a different story as they started out 5-2 in the new year. Despite falling just short in the Cullman County championship game against Fairview, Cold Springs stayed focused and wound up capturing the Class 2A, Area 13 volleyball championship. The Lady Eagles defeated Tanner in the sub-regional game and took down Lamar County in the regionals before falling to Phil Campbell, just one game away from advancing to Birmingham; they finished the season with a 21-13 record.

Cullman's baseball team looked to add another state championship to its trophy case, last winning one in 2015. After coming up short in the championship game the next two seasons, the Bearcats, behind a senior-laden squad, were determined to make it back to the championship game and win their second title in the past four seasons. They steamrolled through the

» PAGE 6



Bill Smith BUICK GMC

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STATE

What is the Industrial Hemp Program?

Ala. Dept. of Agriculture and Industries

MONTGOMERY – On Dec. 12, Congress passed the 2018 Agriculture and Nutrition Act, better known as the Farm Bill. The important legislation amends the classification of hemp as a Schedule I narcotic. This legislation defines hemp as all parts of the plant less than 0.3 percent THC, including derivatives, extracts and cannabinoids.

Hemp is now deemed an agricultural commodity and is no longer classified as a controlled substance. It is important for the public to understand that hemp is not legal to grow or process in Alabama until a plan is developed and approved by the United States Secretary of Agriculture.

USDA will require participating states to include information on applicants, testing procedures, inspection of growing/processing facilities and disposal procedures.

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) will work in consultation with the governor's office, the attorney general's office and law enforcement agencies to create a plan of action regarding statewide regulation. Upon approval from USDA, ADAI will administer permits for growing and processing.

"I am happy that hemp production was addressed at the federal level," said ADAI Commissioner John McMillan. "In 2016 we were tasked with administering the Alabama Industrial Hemp Research Program Act by the state legislature. The process has been complicated, but with the Farm Bill amendment we can move forward with a more unified plan."

The previously approved Alabama Industrial Hemp Research Program Act rules will be reviewed and amended to comply with the requirements of the new Federal legislation.

STATE

Be smart about flood preparedness

Jennifer Bowen
Alabama Dept. of Insurance

MONTGOMERY – Alabama saw a soggy end to 2018 and showers helped ring in the New Year, with more precipitation falling this week. In many parts of the state, the ground is saturated and soft from days of rain.

The Alabama Department of Insurance offers these safety tips for rain-soaked areas.

It's important to remain vigilant and stay tuned to local media for weather updates for your area. A flood or flash flood watch means a flood is possible. A flood or flash flood warning means flooding is already happenings or will soon.

Never drive through a flooded road. It's impossible to tell how deep the water is or whether the road itself may have washed away. Just six inches of water can cause drivers to lose control of a vehicle. When you see a flooded road, turn around, don't drown.

If you live in a flood-prone area, move anything you want to protect, like photos, electronics and family valuables, to a higher floor.

Store your insurance information and your agent's contact information in a safe place. If you do sustain damage, take pictures and notify your agent as soon as it is safe to do so.

If you don't have flood insurance, it's a good time to consider whether you need coverage. Flooding is not typically covered by homeowners or renter's insurance and even a small amount of water can do thousands of dollars in damage. According to the National Flood Insurance program, more than 20 percent of flood claims come from outside high-risk flood zones.

Policies usually have a waiting period before they take effect. If your insurance agent doesn't sell flood insurance, call the National Flood Insurance Program's Help Center at 1-800-427-4661.

Here are some social media accounts to follow to stay up-to-date on the weather:

- The Alabama Emergency Management Agency - https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaEMA/.
- The National Weather Service of Huntsville - https://www.facebook.com/NWSHuntsville/.
- The National Weather Service of Birmingham - https://www.facebook.com/NWSBirmingham/.

Arrests reported on Jan. 2

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported on Jan. 2, 2019. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
No arrests reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ragsdale, Glenda J., 71
- fourth-degree theft of property

Trammell, Donald W., 43
- reckless endangerment
- attempting to elude
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- no tag light
- failure to signal
- speeding
- driving while revoked
- insurance violation
- switched tag

Dorton, Eric P., 25
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Pennington, Tommy C., 56
- first-degree criminal trespassing
- resisting arrest
- FTA- third-degree criminal trespassing
- FTA- public intoxication (3 counts)

Evans, Miranda M., 34
- third-degree criminal trespassing (2 counts)

Absher, Mitchell A., 50
- FTA- third-degree criminal trespassing

Durante, Devon P., 23
- brass knuckles
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Lopez, Diane F., 33
- unlawful distribution of a controlled substance

Goodman, Eric D., 49
- unlawful distribution of a controlled substance

Shirley, Jason E., 35
- third-degree criminal trespassing

Elliott, Joshua D., 34
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance

Sherry, Amanda R., 34
- FTA- running a red light
- FTA- insurance violation

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No arrests reported.

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



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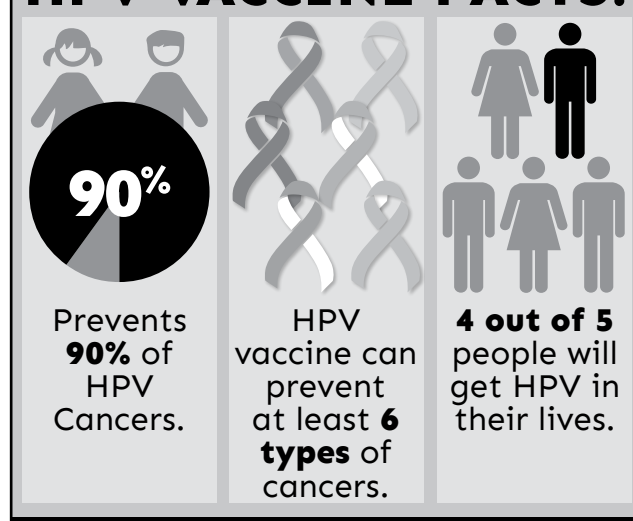
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"This project was supported by Subgrant #16-VA-VS-076 awarded by the Law Enforcement/Traffic Safety Division of ADECA and the U.S. Department of Justice." The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice or grant-making component."

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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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STATE

Ivey awards grant to better serve domestic violence victims

Mike Presley
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Gov. Kay Ivey has awarded a $59,403 grant to help educate court officials in ways to better serve victims of domestic violence.

The grant to the Alabama Administrative Office of Courts will help continue a program that trains judicial system employees and stakeholders on the causes and consequences of domestic violence and how victims can benefit from protection from abuse laws, including the Elder Abuse Protection Order and Enforcement Act.

"The judicial system can seem daunting and complex, especially when it relates to domestic violence cases," Ivey said.

"I commend the Administrative Office of Courts for ensuring that judicial employees are given the tools to continue serving the needs of domestic violence victims effectively."

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is administering the grant from funds made available to the state by the U.S. Department of Justice.

"Gov. Ivey understands that domestic violence cases require special knowledge, and ADECA is pleased to stand with her and the Administrative Office of Courts in ensuring that these victims are served in the utmost professional way," ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell said.

Ivey notified Randy Helms, AOC's administrative director, that the grant had been approved.

ADECA manages a wide range of programs that support law enforcement, economic development, water resource management, energy conservation and recreation development.

Marks (from Front)

Month and Jan. 11 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

She told The Tribune that all mayors showed willingness to participate in the effort, which has previously included only Cullman's mayor and Cullman County commissioners.

The Department of Homeland Security's Scott Santorum has been to Cullman previously to provide training for law enforcement, judicial and victim support personnel.

Wilson hopes to bring him back in 2019 for more training events, though he will have to wait until after the current government shutdown ends. Task force partnerships with federal authorities have succeeded in bringing national drug enforcement personnel to the area to address students in local schools about the opioid crisis. Wilson herself has been asked by the state task force to sit on a community awareness panel at this year's Alabama Human Trafficking Summit in Montgomery on Feb. 8.

Find out more

Wilson and the task force will have an information table set up at Karma's Coffee House, 103 First Ave. NE in the Warehouse District, on Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Jan. 11.

Residents can drop by and find out a little more about who the task force is and what they do, and about what members of the community can do to combat human slavery.

"We're still here," said Wilson. "I just wanted to raise the light back that, hey, we're here. You know, we haven't gone anywhere."

For more information visit www.facebook.com/Cullman-County-Human-Trafficking-Task-Force-870585096352748/.

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AARP FOUNDATION

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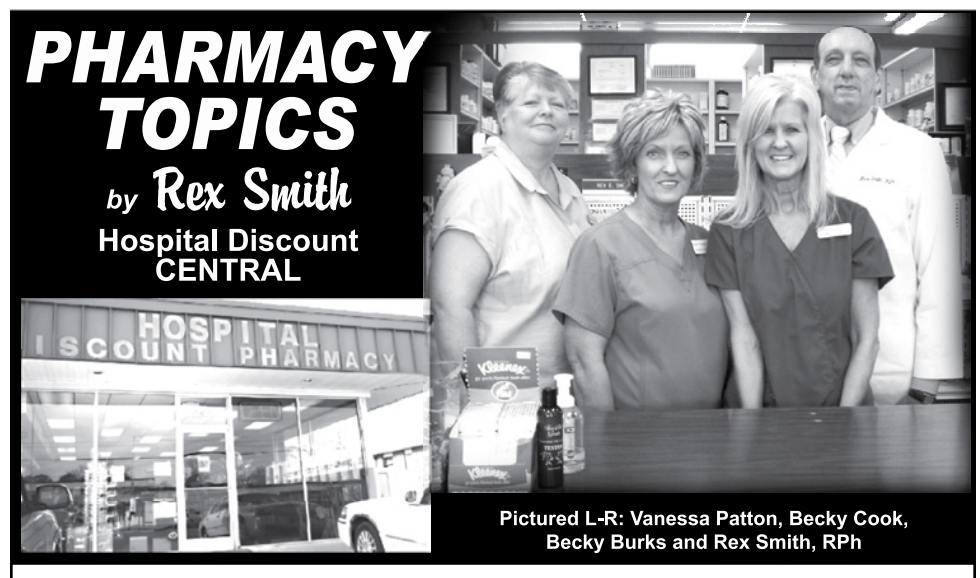
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PHARMACY TOPICS
by Rex Smith
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Pictured L-R: Vanessa Patton, Becky Cook, Becky Burks and Rex Smith, RPh

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the first drug in the United States with a digital ingestion tracking system. Abilify MyCite (aripiprazole tablets with sensor) has an ingestible sensor embedded in the pill that records that the medication was taken. The product is approved for the treatment of schizophrenia, acute treatment of manic and mixed episodes associated with bipolar 1 disorder and for use as an add-on treatment for depression in adults. Schizophrenia is a chronic, severe and disabling brain disorder. About one percent of Americans have this illness. Typically, symptoms are first seen in adults younger than 30 years of age. Symptoms of those with schizophrenia include hearing voices, believing other people are reading their minds or controlling their thoughts and being suspicious or withdrawn. Bipolar disorder, also known as manic-depressive illness, is another brain disorder that causes unusual shifts in mood, energy, activity levels and the ability to carry out day-to-day tasks. The symptoms of bipolar disorder include alternating periods of depression and high or irritable mood, increased activity and restlessness, racing thoughts, talking fast, impulsive behavior and a decreased need for sleep.

***

Despite recommendations, less than 45 percent of adults younger than 40 years with an elevated low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) level of 190 mg/dL or greater receive a prescription for a statin, according to a study published online by *JAMA Cardiology*. Cardiovascular disease affects one in three patients and remains the leading cause of death in the United States. Severe elevation of LDL-C levels is a modifiable risk factor for developing premature cardiovascular disease. Treatment with statins is recommended for all adults 21 years or older with an LDL-C of 190 mg/dL or greater, with treatment appearing to reduce the risk of death and result in cost savings for health systems.

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As equipment on the brew floor quietly did its thing, crowds packed the Goat Island Tap Room as Round 2 supplied live entertainment on New Year's Eve.

BUSINESS

New Year's Eve at Goat Island; Round 2 onstage, new plans on deck

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – On New Year's Eve, Goat Island Brewing was a hot ticket location on Cullman's south side. As local band Round 2 played, a large crowd packed the Tap Room. Revelers came and went, but co-owner Brad Glenn estimated the capacity crowd to be from 175 to 200 at almost any time from 7 p.m. until well past 10, and a good number of hardy partiers stayed around to ring in the new year at midnight.

During a break in the music, Glenn talked to The Tribune about the brewery's experiences in 2018:

"We just are blessed to be, and fortunate to be, in a position in Cullman where we can provide a fun, safe place where people can come out and listen to music, have a few extremely high-quality craft beers, in an environment that's conducive to relaxing, and have a good time. We are very fortunate with the clientele that we have, this tends to be a really fun, safe place.

"We consistently hear from people that stop in from out of state--I mean from all over: Oregon, California, South Carolina, Michigan, Illinois, all over--that craft beer enthusiasts drop in, just because we happen to be in their path. Occasionally they'll seek us out; you know, they've heard about us."

Goat Island has grown from a hometown favorite to a brand known across the region, thanks to a list of competitive awards and an aggressive, in-person marketing strategy. A silver medal finish for brewmaster Paul White's Duck River Dunkel in a European-style lager category at the Great American Beer Festival earlier this year even garnered the brewery some national attention.

"It's brought some interest," said Glenn. "It brought some people that probably wouldn't have tried the Duck River Dunkel. And it's coming along."

With flavors like Duck River Dunkel and the heritage brew Richter's Pils, made from an original 19th century Cullman recipe, along with several other brews, the team was caught a little off guard by the booming success enjoyed by the spring to summer seasonal Blood Orange Berliner Weisse. There's no jealousy between labels, though; Goat Island appreciates that people find something they like from the selection offered.

Said Glenn, "That was our goal: we want to make something that anybody who likes beer can appreciate."

Glenn talked about the rapid increase in demand:

"We really just couldn't produce enough beer this year. We have several that sell really well in the Alabama market, and beginning in the Florida market, but the Blood Orange has just exploded. That really came about in late spring this year, and we found ourselves in a situation from about May through September into October, where we just couldn't make enough beer. There were several brands that we just couldn't continue to produce, simply because there was such demand for the Blood Orange. I mean, we could have sold a lot more beer, had we been able to provide it."

In 2019, Goat Island hopes to remedy at least some of that problem with an expansion of its brewfloor that will increase production almost another two-thirds beyond the current capacity.

Still a hometown business

Despite its growing reputation abroad, Goat Island still wants to be the hometown brewery that opened its doors almost three years ago.

Said Glenn, "We're community-minded. We have fundraisers here often; anytime somebody wants to, if we can accommodate them, then we provide a venue for fundraisers. We like to do that. We supported the sheriff's rodeo this year with a donation. I don't even know what the list is, but quite a few other of the 501(c)(3) charities that we participate in. Anything like that, if we can help, we do. We like to do that."

What should folks look for from Goat Island in 2019?

Glenn shared, "We're going to, in our expansion, we're going to see where the Blood Orange takes us. We're going to make a lot more Blood Orange. We're also in the planning stages of some other sours similar to the Blood Orange; that's coming in 2019."

Glenn said the team hopes to expand on the success of a cooperative experiment conducted in 2018, of aging beer in used whiskey casks from Opelika distillery John Emerald, then sending the beer-tinged barrels back to the distiller, who will put fresh whiskey in them for beer seasoning.

The small batch of "special edition" Thrill Hill Vanilla produced in 2018 was another of those flavors whose popularity meant rapid extinction, at least until the next round of barrels arrives this coming year.

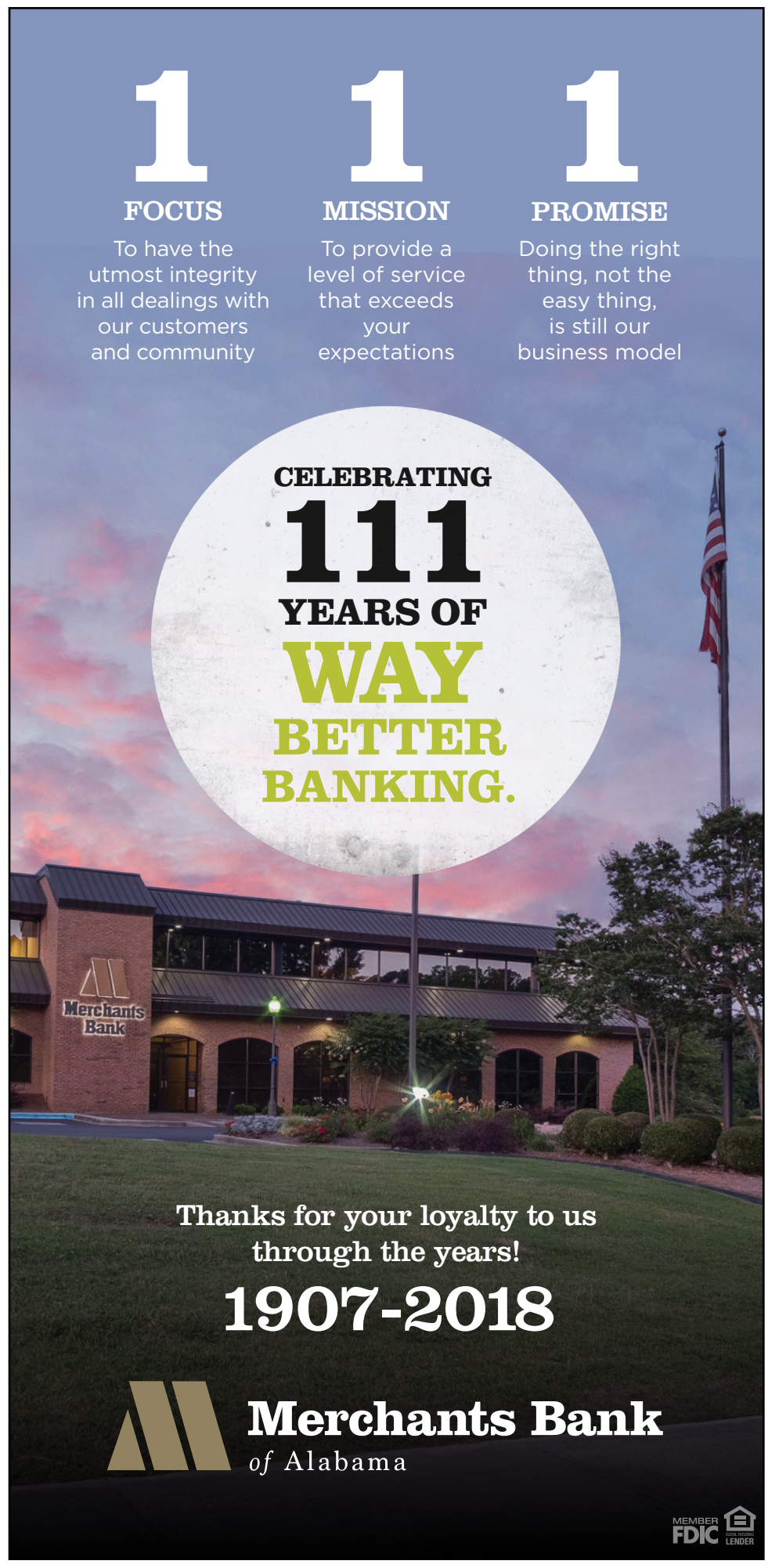
2018's final word from Goat Island

Said Glenn, "One of the greatest things about being part of the Goat Island Brewing is that the owners and their families and employees are a lot like family. You know when you get into a partnership, it's kind of like being married to three more people. So, it's been a great experience; it's been a growing, a learning experience. But it's also one of the most rewarding of my life. I'm very glad to be part of it."













CONTRIBUTED

Heather Lawrence and Lesley Ann, the Southern Ghost Girls

Southern Ghost Girls tour coming to Rumor's Deli Jan. 12

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – The Southern Ghost Girls will kick off their 2019 tours on Jan. 12 at Rumor's Deli in Cullman. The tours will include an interactive investigation that allows guests to operate the different types of equipment they often see used on popular television paranormal shows. The tours are at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets are $20 and can be purchased online on the group's website. The 6 p.mm. tour is quite full, but the 8 p.m. tour still has places available.

Southern Ghost Girls founder and paranormal investigator Lesley Ann is excited for people to join her in this experience.

She said, "We have a great time. We are different than many ghost tours where you walk around with flashlights to different locations and just hear the stories. With us, you get to participate in a real investigation and we have caught some amazing activity. Those on the tours will get to use our equipment and ask questions. I feel when we have a big tour, the energy all the people bring into the location enhances the experience."

Michael Sapp with Alabama Sweet TV will also be on hand at the Rumor's investigation live-streaming the event.

Wednesday night, Lesley Ann and her team filmed their third episode of their Southern Ghost Girls program on Alabama Sweet TV. They were on location at the Civil War Museum in West Point.

Lesley Ann and fellow investigator Heather Lawrence dress in period appropriate attire when conducting an investigation. Wednesday, they dressed in Civil War era dresses in hopes of attracting more responses from the ghosts and spirits they say are at the location.

Lesley Ann has a vast arsenal of equipment she uses when investigating, including voice recorders, spirit boxes, SLS camera, EMF detectors, KII meters, thermal cameras and a Boo Bear equipped with EMF detectors used as a trigger object.

Stressed Lesley Ann, "We don't do anything dark or deal with any demonic-type situations like you may see others do on television.

"We consider ourselves to be a family-friendly event, although parents may want to use discretion. We do have children come on our tours."

The reaction to the Southern Ghost Girls has surprised Lesley Ann, who was worried about what people might think about the paranormal.

"Most people have been enthusiastic and supportive, and I think the popularity of shows like 'Ghost Adventures' has helped people be more open on the topic and helped people to talk about their own experiences.

"I have had the most exciting time doing this and have been so happy. I have met and been around so many people with the same interests."

The hope for 2019 is to offer two tours per month to allow people to join in on an investigation. Locations are still being looked into and booked throughout Cullman and surrounding areas. For more information on the ghost tours or to purchase tickets for the upcoming investigation at Rumor's Deli, visit the Southern Ghost Girls Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/southernghostgirls or visit their website at www.southernghostgirls.com.





Janet Chandler

Marketing Specialist
at
The Cullman Tribune



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The Cullman Tribune
SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

Flooding (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – On Wednesday afternoon, Cullman Caring for Kids (CCK) Director Javon Daniel met with The Tribune and two Birmingham news teams for a media briefing on the recent temporary closure of the office and food bank due to flooding.

According to Daniel, the water damage was confined to the basement and affected furniture, paper goods and other items stored there. CCK's food bank is located on the main floor, and no food items were affected by water that Cullman County maintenance workers believe leached into the facility through the floor. Numerous shelving units, all made of wood, were subjected to 3 1/2 inches of water; the units and the concrete floor are now showing signs of mold.

Daniel told reporters, "We're certain that there's no bad situation in the food bank.

"We do have some mold that's forming in the basement so, for that reason, we know we're going to have to clean the place out completely.

While CCK's food supply is safe, Daniel and the County were concerned that exposure to mold in the air could cause or exacerbate health problems for food bank clients, many of whom are elderly or in poor health.

Daniel explained, "I don't want anybody to be exposed to something here that might cause them to be sick, especially--we have some ladies and some men that are cancer patients; I don't want them to be exposed to anything that might make them sick, or anyone else, for that matter. So what we're doing is, we're doing that for the protection of our clients and the protection of our staff."

Not only is CCK concerned about cleaning up and getting back to work as soon as possible, but the organization also hopes to find a means of preventing a repeat of the issue in the future.

"And we're working with the (Cullman) County commissioners in order to try and get that done," said Daniel. "It's just one of those things where we just have to be all on the same page."

According to Daniel, CCK has previously approached the County about finding a better location for the facility, that could include office space and a warehouse. He expressed hope that the current situation would bring enough County and community attention to the agency's needs to bring about a positive change.

CCK was supposed to reopen from its Christmas/New Year's break on Thursday, Jan. 3, and according to Daniel, the office would normally serve up to 120 families in that first day back.

"An average of 30 or more families visit the food bank on a typical day. Daniel spoke with confidence in a positive response as he called on other area charitable groups to help fill the temporary gap caused by the CCK shutdown.

Said Daniel, "I know there's several churches and church organizations that have food banks, and I'm sure that they will step up. They always have."

Daniel told reporters that he hopes to see CCK reopen within the next week, saying, "I hope that we can get back in operation soon, because this is--to be honest with you--it's breaking my heart."

Fighting back tears after being asked how the closure affected him, Daniel shared, "I've been here 17 years. I've worked with the public all my life, and I can really tell you that this hurts . . . We provide a very, very vital service to this community, and we want to do that.

"But I'm not going to jeopardize the health of people who come in here, just so we can hand out a few groceries."

See the entire press briefing at www.facebook.com/CullmanTribune/videos/747183432321468/.

Get involved!

Daniel said that CCK does not currently need food, since the pantry was unaffected by water damage, but cleanup and repairs are likely to be costly. The director requested that those who wish to help should visit CCK's website or Facebook page to donate online or call the office.

www.cullmancaringforkids.com

www.facebook.com/CullmanCaringForKids/

Office phone: 256-739-1111

Highlights (from Front)

season and finished with a 27-8 mark. Then in the playoffs, Cullman swept Hartselle, Pell City and Homewood 2-0 to move on to the semifinal round against Hazel Green. The Bearcats took game one, 5-2, then the Trojans tied the series at one with a 2-1 win in game two. With a chance to advance to the championship, Cullman gave it all they had but fell just short, 6-1, to finish with a 32-9 record.

Fairview's girls had another great basketball season in Mary Lauren Hartline's final season coaching the Lady Aggies.

After winning the Class 5A, Area 12 tournament in 2017 and coming up just one game short of making it to Birmingham for the first time ever, the Lady Aggies looked to make yet another deep postseason run in 2018. They made it back-to-back 20-win seasons and added yet another area championship trophy. Fairview won its sub-regional game over Mae Jemison before falling to Wenonah at Wallace State.

Fairview's boys also had a memorable season in Branch Whitlock's first and only season as head coach; they won the area championship and their sub-regional match-up before falling to Wenonah in the regionals. The Aggies finished the year with a 15-15 record.

Good Hope had a pair of teams have some very memorable seasons in 2018. Good Hope's varsity girls' 2017 volleyball season had some memorable moments as the Lady Raiders not only won the area championship, but also their sub-regional game at home against Winfield as they finished that year 10-17. In 2018, it was more of the same for the Lady Raiders as they won back-to-back area championships. They took their sub-regional game against Wilson before falling to Danville, to finish the season 10-18.

The last time Good Hope's football team finished with more than 11 wins in a season was in 1997, when the Raiders finished 13-1 and made it to the semifinals; 21 years later, the Raiders had a season that no one will ever forget as they rolled to a 9-1 regular season and were 5-0 at home.

They took down St. John Paul II on the road, 62-28, in the opening round of the playoffs, and defeated no. 2 Jacksonville at home, 27-12, before falling on the road at Oneonta, 29-8, to finish the season with an 11-2 record. Voted on by all Cullman County football coaches, Matt Dixon, Isaiah Green and Bailey Quick got overall, defensive and the offensive players of the year, respectively. Coach Alan Scott got the Coach of the Year, while several other players got awards and first-team, second-team and honorable mention honors as well.

Hanceville's boys basketball team had a memorable season after finishing the past season strong. After starting out 3-3, they won 10 of their next 13 games to improve their record to 13-6 overall. The Bulldogs hosted the area tournament and wound up winning the area championship. They squeaked past East Lawrence in the sub-regional game and pulled off a huge upset of no. 5 Holly Pond, 65-59, at Wallace before falling just short against Lauderdale County in the state playoffs, to finish with a 19-10 record.

After coming up just one game short of making it to the championship game last season, Holly Pond looked to make it back to Birmingham and looked determined to do it again as they rolled through the regular basketball season. The Broncos won the county championship and added yet another area championship. They took down Colbert Heights in their sub-regional match-up but got stunned at Wallace in the regionals against Hanceville to finish with a 28-4 record. The Broncos added another playoff berth to their football resume as they clinched their third straight trip to the postseason in 2018, finishing 6-5 on the season after their first-round loss to Geraldine.

Meek's varsity boys' basketball team had a huge turnaround from its previous season, going from 13 to 25 wins in the 2017-2018 season. The Tigers won their second area championship in the past three seasons and won their sub-regional game against Tharptown before falling to South Lamar at Wallace in the regionals.

West Point's baseball team had a very good 2018 season; the Warriors started out 8-2 and made some noise in the playoffs, defeating Pleasant Grove 2-0. Their next opponent was Mortimer Jordan in round two. A record crowd turned out to witness the first baseball playoff game to ever take place at West Point. The Warriors took game one, 8-1, but fell in the next two games, 12-0 and 13-5, to finish with a 20-14 record.

Obituary Announcements: Jan. 3 - 4

Betty Jane (Neal) Allbright, 80, of Holly Pond, passed away Monday, December 31, 2018. She was born March 23, 1938, to Raymond and Orene Scott Neal. Betty was a devoted wife and mother. She enjoyed caring for her family and making home a warm and inviting place for them all. She adored her grandchildren! Betty loved watching the grandchildren play ball, rarely missing a game. She also loved to travel, shop, and cook. She was always going, often times outdoing her children and grandchildren with her energy. Betty was a special lady and her absence will be felt by many. Mrs. Allbright is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Harvey Neal; son, Tommy Allbright; and beloved husband, Festus Allbright. Betty is survived by daughters, Phyllis (David) Thomas, Terri (Kevin) Caldwell; grandchildren, Chad Allbright, Chris Allred, Jessica Allred, Jason Thomas, Heath (Breann) Allbright; great-grandchildren, Cade Allbright, Lily Allbright, Olivia Allbright, Uriah Allbright, and Arri Allbright. Funeral services are 1 p.m., Thursday, January 3, 2019, at Pleasant View Baptist Church, Pastor Randy Burtram officiating. Mrs. Allbright will lie in state from noon until services begin at 1 p.m. Burial will follow in Holly Pond Cemetery. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Allbright family.

John Gilbert Norris, age 85 of Eva, AL., passed away Sunday, December 30, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Betty H. Norris; daughters: Vanessa Norris Patton (Raymond M.) and Tammie Norris Beck (Theodore); son, John Gilbert Norris Jr. (Candie Fortenberry Norris); sisters; Novella Pye and Frances Ryan; 8 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. The celebration of John Norris' life will be Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Eva Baptist Church with burial to follow in Vinemont Baptist Cemetery. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Funeral for Debra Smith Collum, 66 of Center Hill will be 11 a.m. Thursday, January 3, 2019 at Center Hill Baptist Church. Her family will receive friends Wednesday evening beginning at 6 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Center Hill Cemetery. The daughter of Hue and Mary Smith passed away Monday, December 31, 2018 in Cullman. She is survived by her parents; husband, Ernest Collum; Children, David (Kim) Kelso, Tamy (Wayne) Kelso and Daniel Kelso. Also a sister, Becky Smith; six Grandchildren, Cody Kelso, Courtney Kelso, Marionna McDonald, Deborah Taylor Black, Cole Kelso and Peyton Kelso and 5 Great Grandchildren, Riley Grace McDonald, Destiny Faith McDonald, Michael Kelso, Jeremiah Frazier and Elijah Frazier.

Funeral service for Mrs. Doris Lynn Cason, 59 of Hanceville, will be held Friday, January 4, 2019 at 11 a.m. in the Hanceville Funeral Home chapel with Leon Mauldin and Jim Deason officiating. Her family will receive friends Thursday evening beginning at 6 p.m. at the funeral home. Doris, a U.S. Navy veteran and homemaker was the daughter of Richard C. and Erma L. Wamsley. She is survived by her mother; Husband, Rick Cason; Son, Rick Cason, Jr. and fiancé Lacey Lynch, Daughters; Krystal Cason and Michelle (Lynn) Talley. Grandchildren; Abigail Marie Holt and Zaius Byrd. Also surviving is a brother, Richard Wamsley, Jr. She was preceded in death by her father and a sister, Beverly Ritchie.

Funeral service for Marie "Tig" Bennefield, 92 of Hanceville, will be held 2 p.m. Friday, January 4, 2019 at the Hanceville Funeral Home chapel, Reverend Johnny Bennefield officiating. Interment will follow at Hopewell Cemetery. Her family will receive friends at the funeral home Thursday evening beginning at 6 p.m. She is survived by children; Ricky (Karen) Bennefield, Randall (Gina) Bennefield, Rodney (Jamie) Bennefield, Linda (James Baker, Betty Duncan and Debbie (Randy) Leopard. She has 29 grandchildren, 59 great grandchildren and 9 great-great grandchildren and a brother, Estele Johnson. Preceding her in death were her parents, Hurl and Alma Johnson. Her husband, W.C. Bennefield; sons, Ron, Robin, Randy and Kenneth and daughter, Barbara.

Mr. Arlin H. "Smitty" Smith of Cullman passed away on December 30, 2018 at the age of 92. He was born on February 23, 1926 to Raymond and Vollie Butts Smith. Mr. Smith was a decorated veteran of World War II and he was a carpenter and he helped build the children's home in Jacksonville Florida and he also had a large part in the building of Temple Baptist Church in Cullman. Funeral services are Friday, January 4, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Temple Baptist Church with Rev.'s Malcolm Carter and Wilford McCormick officiating. Interment will follow in South Cemetery in Blount County. Survivors are: wife Edna Smith, sons Andy Joe Smith, Gary Smith, step-son Jeff Burks, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Visitation is Friday at Temple Baptist Church from 9 a.m. until service time.

Memorial Service for James Michael Story, age 73, of Cullman will be at 1 p.m. on Friday, January 4, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Warren Ruland officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Story passed away on December 31, 2018, at Cullman Regional. He was born December 28, 1945, to Walter and Evelyn Story. He is preceded in death by his parents and brother, John Isom Story. Survivors include his wife, Barbara Story; daughters, Lisa (Adalberto) Guerrero, Jami (Todd) Kuykendall, and Brandi (Brian) Evans; grandchildren, Lianna Cooper, Jamin (Brittney) Cooper, Chad (Alissa) Giddings, Jacob Carden, and Haley (Andy) Ball; great-grandchildren, Dalton, Evan, Bella, Whitleigh, Cooper, and Piper; sister, Lavanna Brazil; and brother, Gordon (Rose) Story. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Friday, January 4, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Amanda Smith Gibson, 38, of Cullman, formerly of Decatur, passed away on Monday, December 31, 2018 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. Amanda was a loving wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend. She loved couponing and spent time watching you tube videos. She was known as a wheeler and dealer; she loved online buying and selling. She was preceded in death by her grandparents: Lloyd and Annie Sullivan of Decatur, and Alvin and Wanda Griffin of Harstelle. She leaves to cherish her memories her husband, Jerry Lee Gibson; sons: Casey (Ashley) Smith, Cameron Smith and Jacob Smith; mother, Martha Laney; father, Bruce Griffin; sisters: Nikki (Cary) Walker and Jenny Griffin; brothers: Robert (Renea) Sullivan and Jonathan Griffin. Her family will receive friends on Friday, January 4, 2019 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. The Celebration of Life for Mrs. Amanda Smith Gibson will be held in the chapel of Moss Service Funeral Home on Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 2 p.m.

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TRIBUNE COLUMN

Always Reforming

Tom Fillinger
Tribune Columnist

Editor's note: *This column normally runs every Tuesday.*

I titled this column Always Reforming. The reason? The church is always in need of Reformation and Renewal. Frequent assessment produces an honest and beneficial portrait of the true condition of the church. It answers the question, 'Is the church fulfilling the purpose for which it exists?' This column will focus on that question. Apply what you read to the church that you worship in.

Happy New Year! It is Jan. 3, 2019. We are wise to begin a new year with focus and purpose. This is true personally and it is also true for the Church. That being the case, a realistic assessment of the future of the Church is a prudent and beneficial exercise to launch a new year of ministry.

So, what is the future of the Evangelical Church in America? To answer that question, we must examine the level of fidelity with which the church embraces the purpose of the Church. That purpose is found in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV) And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

There is one imperative in this passage. That command is to make disciples. Nearly every church will claim that it is making disciples. However, if you inquire as to what a disciple is, they have no definitive response.

It is reasonable to conclude if a given church does not know with biblical precision what a disciple is, they are not capable of producing disciples of Jesus Christ.

The precipitous and unrelenting decline of the Evangelical Church is exhibit 'A' that this failure is widespread and growing. It is estimated that the Southern Baptist Convention will close 17,000 – 20,000 churches in the USA by the year 2030.

Why is this the case? Churches have contented themselves with measuring ministry effectiveness by activity. They will wear you out.

There is some 'activity' nearly every night of the week. But, those activities are not producing transformation. People are not becoming more like Christ in Character and Conduct. This is known as Transformation. The evidence of Regeneration is Transformation. No Transformation is a valid indication that there has been no Regeneration.

In future articles we will examine this issue in greater detail. The New Year presents a fresh opportunity to correct ministry disfunctions. I invite all those who profess to be Christ followers to discover what the text of scripture requires for a person to be an obedient disciple of Christ. Then, covenant with the LORD to be a true disciple in calendar year 2019. The rewards are infinite and eternal.

City of Cullman

Building Inspection Department

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

City of Cullman
Planning Commission

On Monday January 7, 2019 Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M, at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Planning Commission, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. Subdivision – Oak Meadows – final plat
2. Short-form subdivision – Augusta Trail NW – combine two lots into one lot
3. Short-form subdivision – 7th Street SW & 3rd Ave. SW

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



IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF *
M.J.H., * **CASE NO.: AD2018-112**
A Minor Child, DOB 11/5/2003. *

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: **STEVEN GLEN HELTON, ANY KNOWN, UNKNOWN, OR UNDISCLOSED PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER.**

A Petition for Adoption of M.J.H., a minor child, born on the 5th day of November, 2003, in Morristown, Tennessee, to biological mother, Chariot Anne Collins Young, was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by WILLIAM KEVIN HUGHES, Petitioner. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days from the date of the last publication. The response must be filed with the counsel for said Petitioner, whose name is listed below, and with the clerk of the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

DONE THIS THE 11th DAY OF December, 2018.

WILLIAM KEVIN HUGHES
PETITIONER

SARA BAKER
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER
100 FIFTH STREET SE
CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055
(256) 737-7181

To the Publisher of **The Cullman Tribune**:

Please publish the above notice once a week for four (4) successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
TONY CLIFFORD MELCHER, * CASE NO PC-2018-417
DECEASED. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Administration having been granted to DEBRA ANNETTE SPRADLIN, as Personal Representative of the Estate of TONY CLIFFORD MELCHER, Deceased, on the 21st day of December, 2018, by the Honorable Tammy Brown. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claim against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Debra Annette Spradlin
Personal Representative

J. Bradley Wilson
Attorney for Personal Representative
206 Ninth Street Southwest, Suite 102
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 737-0740

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

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

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

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE:)
A.W.,)
A Minor Child, 12/24/2017)
CASE NO. JU 2018-005.02

NOTICE

The Petitioner having made a Motion for Service by Publication in the above styled action, it is

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Father of P.M. born on or about 12/24/2017. to Stephanie Walden, respond to the Petition by the 24th day of January, 2019, or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioner.

Contact may be made: Attorney for Petitioner: Michael J. Baggett, P.O. Box 561, Cullman, AL 35056-0561, (256) 737-0740 or Clerk of Court: Lisa McSwain, 500 2nd Ave SW Cullman, AL 35055.

DONE this the 13th day of December, 2018.

WELLS R. TURNER, III
JUVENILE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA, CULLMAN COUNTY
I, Lisa McSwain, Clerk of Circuit Court in and for said County and State, hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy as the same appears of record in this office.
Witness my hand and official seal, this 13 day of Dec., 2018.
Lisa McSwain (CW)
Clerk of Circuit Court

AlaFile E-Notice

25-JU-2018-000005.02
Judge: WELLS R. TURNER III

To: BAGGETT MICHAEL JOSEPH
michael@bwfirm.com

NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

IN THE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF WALDEN ARIEANNA
25-JU-2018-000005.02

The following matter was FILED on 12/13/2018 11:59:58 AM

Notice Date: 12/13/2018 11:59:58 AM

LISA MCSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
500 2ND AVENUE SW, ROOM 303
CULLMAN, AL, 35055

256-775-4654

DOCUMENT 12

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12/13/2018 11:59 AM
25-JU-2018-000005.02
CIRCUIT COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
LISA MCSWAIN, CLERK

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
) Case No.: JU-2018-000005.02
)
WALDEN ARIEANNA)
)

ORDER

Case is set January 31, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

DONE this 13th day of December, 2018.

/s/ WELLS R. TURNER III
JUVENILE JUDGE

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HELP WANTED

THE UNIVERSITY of Alabama, College of Continuing Studies seeks a qualified Safety Consultant - 507913 for UA SafeState, Alabama's 21(d) OSHA Consultation Program to provide independent, routine safety consultation services, including onsite visits to businesses and industries in Alabama. Job close date 01/11/2019. Visit UA's employment website at staffjobs.ua.edu for more information and to apply. The University of Alabama is an equal-opportunity employer (EOE) including an EOE of protected vets and individuals with disabilities.

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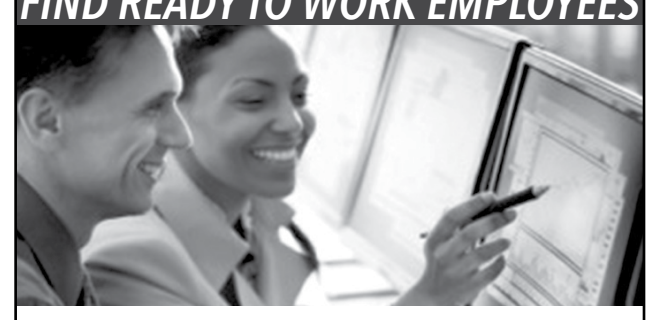
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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 3, 2019

Bringing in 2019 in style at Mae's Food Hall

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right: Ezra Sosa, Lynn Davis, Janna Duckett and Tommy Duckett ring in the new year at Mae's Food Hall in Cullman.

CULLMAN – The new year was ushered in by the many partygoers at the Mae's Food Hall New Year's Eve Masquerade Party Monday night. The masquerade theme did not disappoint. The guests took advantage of the opportunity to wear their sequins, suits, and, of course, masks. Strings of lights, balloons and other decor were added to create the perfect New Year's Eve party mood.

The party appealed to people of all ages, with families enjoying the arcade and free games while a live DJ played everyone's favorite dance mixes.

Ruckus Bar manager Matt Burns was excited about the enthusiastic turnout. "We worked hard to get ready for tonight. It's great to see so many people enjoying themselves," he said. "Mae's wants everyone to feel welcome here. We have the free games and a safe fun place for people to meet and hang out with their friends."

One sentiment that was constant throughout the evening was an appreciation of having a fun place to celebrate in Cullman. Several noted that it was not only fun, but also safer than perhaps Birmingham or Huntsville. Several people opted to meet up with friends in Cullman.

Partygoer Verlandez Jones from Birmingham added, "I want to thank Cullman for welcoming me!"

A contest for the best costume was held with the crowd picking the winners. There were many great costumes, but in the end Ezra Sosa and Lynn Davis were declared to be the best dressed couple.

"They dazzled in their masquerade attire with Lynn declaring, "You gotta go big or go home!"

As midnight inched closer, the crowd had become fast friends, and everyone was genuinely optimistic for 2019. Ruckus offered drink specials throughout the night and a complimentary champagne toast for the adults as the crowd counted down to midnight; 2019 was welcomed with cheers, hugs and kisses as confetti and streamers rained down.

Burns spoke about some things coming for Mae's in 2019, sharing, "We have a couple of new food choices coming in soon that I think people will love. We've added some new games, which are free. We are always trying to add new things. We have our trivia and karaoke nights. We have had some dart tournaments and of course live music. I hope we can have more special events like this. I love this place and I love working here. I hope everyone will come out and enjoy Mae's in 2019."

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