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The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cullman City Council passes zoning ordinance modification, hears more about Rock the South



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

For a second week, Rock the South producers Shane Quick and Nathan Baugh, third and second from left, met informally with local residents after the Cullman City Council meeting Monday night.

» PAGE 8

Cullman woman killed in wreck on Hwy. 31

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – One person died following a wreck in the city of Cullman Monday morning. Cullman County Coroner Jeremy L. Kilpatrick identified the victim as Charlotte June Nelson, 79, of Cullman.

Kilpatrick said Nelson was transported to Cullman Regional, where she succumbed to her injuries.

The two-vehicle crash happened on U.S. Highway 31 at the entrance to Sportsman Lake Road at approximately 8:05 a.m.

Cullman Police Lt. Jeff Warnke said the cause of the wreck is still under investigation.

The driver of the other vehicle was transported to Cullman Regional with non-life-threatening injuries.

Read the latest at www.CullmanTribune.com.

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

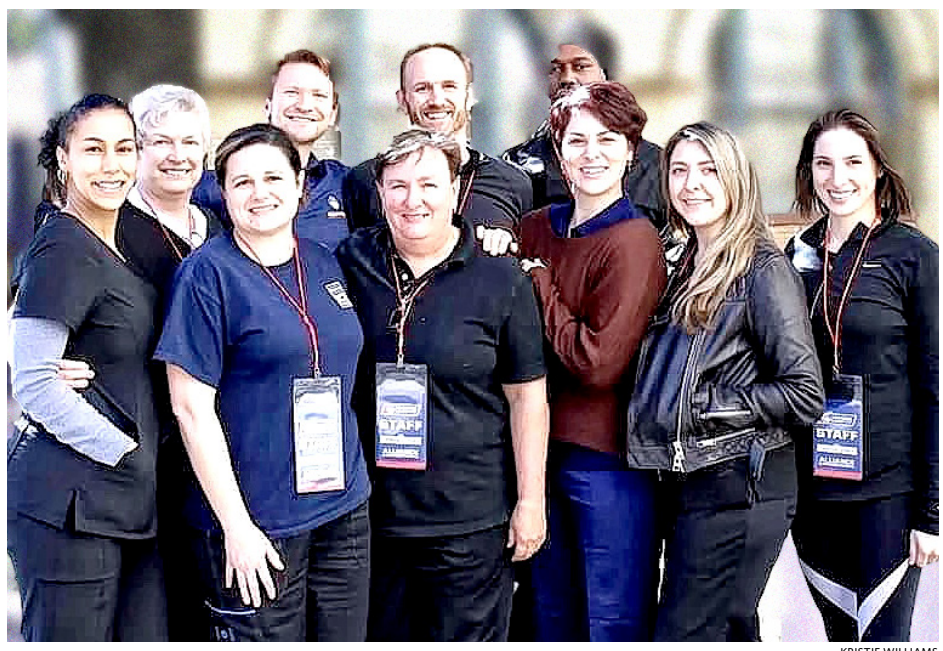
Birmingham Iron chooses local woman as massage coordinator

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – With the Alliance of American Football (AAF) league coming to Birmingham this year, there are exciting new opportunities for people across the state to get involved with the franchise. One of those opportunities will involve several people from the Cullman area. Kristie Williams, a Meek High School graduate and current Arley resident has been selected as massage coordinator for the Birmingham Iron and has staffed her department with several local massage therapists.

Williams spoke about the process of being selected and just how exclusive this team of coordinators is.

"The league hired eight coordinators for the eight different cities, and I was chosen as the coordinator for Birmingham's team. I own Alabama Therapeutic Massage in Cullman and they are using my therapists as well as a few in Birmingham and Florence," Williams said. "Troy Polamalu's personal massage therapist, Sandy Fritz, personally chose me and she created this. She created this wellness program along with them and hand-picked eight » PAGE 8



KRISTIE WILLIAMS

Kristie Williams (front, second from left) with her fellow Alliance of American Football league massage coordinators, program Director Sandy Fritz and Assistant Director Luke Fritz in San Antonio last week

PET OF THE WEEK

Laid-back Fauna's looking for her forever home

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Cullman County Animal Shelter volunteer Donna Ruttkay introduces The Cullman Tribune's Pet of the Week, whom she described as "my new best friend."

Fauna's a 4-year-old Golden Retriever/Anatolian Shepherd mix who arrived at the shelter badly malnourished, but she's made a healthy recovery. She has a good appetite now, and Ruttkay is confident that "she will be thin no more."



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Fauna

Fauna's a seriously laid-back, low-energy pet who could have a good future as a companion, comfort or therapy dog. She's great on a leash, enjoys the outdoors and cherishes the attention and approval of her human.

Animal shelter staff and volunteers work with their dogs to make sure they are accustomed to being around people, walking on a leash and practicing good behavior. Several of the shelter's dogs have even been "hired" to work as special needs service dogs.

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

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

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



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

West Point gives $15K to fire department for life-saving equipment

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com



(CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

West Point Fire and Rescue Chief Tim Martin on Monday night demonstrated the use of the LUCAS Power 3 Chest Compression System at the West Point Town Council meeting.

WEST POINT – The West Point Town Council on Monday night presented West Point Fire and Rescue with a $15,000 check for the purchase of a second LUCAS Power 3 system, which administers CPR chest compressions.

Councilman Gerald Schafer said, "We really appreciate all our fire department does. We thank them for their dedication."

Fire Chief Tim Martin brought a LUCAS Power 3 to demonstrate its use to the council.

Said Martin, "We as the fire department want to thank the council for helping us out with this. This is the second unit we were awarded in the last month or so. Now we have one at Station 1 and one at Station 2. The council has stepped up and took public safety and the well-being of the community in their hands by helping us do this."

The LUCAS Power 3 is a portable and compact chest compression unit that provides a consistent rhythm and allows the first responder to tend to bagging and ventilating.

Martin added, "Many may be aware of the current personnel shortages fire departments are facing and with this, one person can provide good CPR with the machine while tending to other issues."

The LUCAS can provide an hour of compressions per battery, and each unit is equipped with a second back-up battery.

The machine also has a back plate that can be placed under the patient. The top can then be placed over the patient and attached to the back plate. The plate provides a firm surface, which allows CPR to be performed in bed, in a chair or other places. Traditional CPR requires that the patient be moved to a floor or other hard flat service in order for the compression to be effective.

Martin spoke of the many benefits of the new equipment but emphasized, "Not only will these units help our community, we run calls with neighboring communities that might now this equipment.

"This will let us keep one in our community while assisting with (a medical) arrest call in a neighboring community."

The department's first LUCAS Power 3 was paid for by a grant from the Cullman County Community Development Commission (CCCDC).

In other business, the council voted to table the discussion for a splash pad for the town's park. With plans to apply for a CCCDC grant later in the year to help fund the project, the council said it will revisit the plans for the splash pad in the fall.

The West Point Parks and Recreation Department is currently creating a contingency plan for the park to have in place prior to the start of baseball season in April. Director Wesley Laney explained that the plan will include training coaches on concussion and safety. The council also discussed the possibility of purchasing a defibrillator for the park and having an off-duty deputy present at games. Nothing was voted on, but the council said it will likely decide at next month's meeting.

Schafer then took a moment to address what he said is the misinformation he continues to hear regarding the Dale's Market, saying, "The Town did not give money to Dale's Market. The Town did pay for the new turn lane, and that's it."

The West Point Town Council meets on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at West Point Town Hall.

LIFESTYLE

Cullman TOPS celebrates 50 years

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman chapter of Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) is celebrating 50 years of being part of the community. TOPS described itself as "a support group of women and men during the journey to lose weight and maintain a healthy lifestyle." The national TOPS organization was founded 70 years ago by Esther Manz and has been changing lives ever since.

The Cullman chapter meets every Tuesday from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Donald E. Green Senior Center. Leader Candy Wachter and co-leader Linda Elsmore welcome everyone to join them.

Wachter smiled, "(It's) a great support group. We support people in their journey to become healthy and stay healthy and try not to preach to them.

"Nobody is exactly the same, but everyone's been in that struggle to try to lose weight, so somebody always has some advice to give, support to give or how to stay away from those Magnum Bars."

Elsmore added, "You don't have points to count. You have to lose weight within your household on your own but with support."

The group points out smarter food choices and common mistakes people make when preparing food or ordering out. It emphasizes the value of eating more fruits and vegetables and discusses which foods to avoid.

Said Elsmore, "People look for diets that don't involve eating healthier and exercise, and those don't exist. You have to move."

New members get help from a new member coach who helps with setting goals. An informative "Day 1" book comes with answers to frequently asked questions, a guide to good food choices and recommended portions, how to read nutrition labels and other information.

Members are encouraged to keep up with their measurements in inches as well as pounds.

Elsmore explained, "Sometimes the scale doesn't reflect your progress. You might weigh the same even though you've lost several inches. People often replace fat with muscles, and that's great, too."

Members are encouraged to reimagine some of their eating choices by incorporating a new vegetable or fruit into their diets. Wachter said she recently began adding avocado into her diet and looking up different ways to prepare avocados.

Elsmore asked her, "Oh, did you like it?"

Wachter laughed, "Well, I didn't throw it up!"

She said she has since found several ways to enjoy avocados and hopes to continue trying new foods.

The group also has access to the gym at the senior center. It allows members a place to exercise without the awkwardness many experience at other gyms and fitness centers. One of the main hopes is to get people up off the couch and moving.

Said Wachter, "You'd be surprised how much just walking can do. We have a group that just walks. I remember how much better I felt just by losing the first 5 pounds. It really helped reduce the stress on my knees."

TOPS has many incentives for its members. Each year a king and queen are selected who become eligible on the state level. State winners compete for the national title with this year's pageant being held in Portland, Oregon. Along with Scale Back Alabama, a state-funded weight loss initiative, cash prizes are awarded for different accomplishments.

The group also gives back locally by helping provide Bingo prizes at senior events and donating food to local charities and food pantries. Members donate a pound of food for each pound lost.

TOPS welcomes new members of all ages, but only members older than 55 (with physician's permission) can utilize the exercise equipment at the senior center. National monthly membership dues are $32 and an additional $2 a month for the local chapter.

For more information on TOPS Cullman, visit www.facebook.com/TOPSCullman/.

At a glance

- TOPS - Take Off Pounds Sensibly- meets every Tuesday at the Donald E. Green Senior Center, 1625 Cleveland Ave. SW Cullman
- Weigh-in 3-3:30 p.m.
- Meeting 3:30-4:30
- Contact- Candy Wachter 256-338-1272
- Facebook- TOPS AI0073 Cullman

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Jan. 22-23

Lunch at VFW Post 2214
Everyone come to Tuesday's lunch at the VFW Post in Cullman. Starts at 11:30, $5 per plate. We have carryout if you can't stay and eat with us. We always have a great time. Love to see new folks and enjoy the usual group. See you on Tuesday!
112 Veterans Dr. SW

Colony Town Council Meeting
The Colony Town Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m. at Colony Town Hall, 65 Byars Rd, Hanceville, AL 35077.

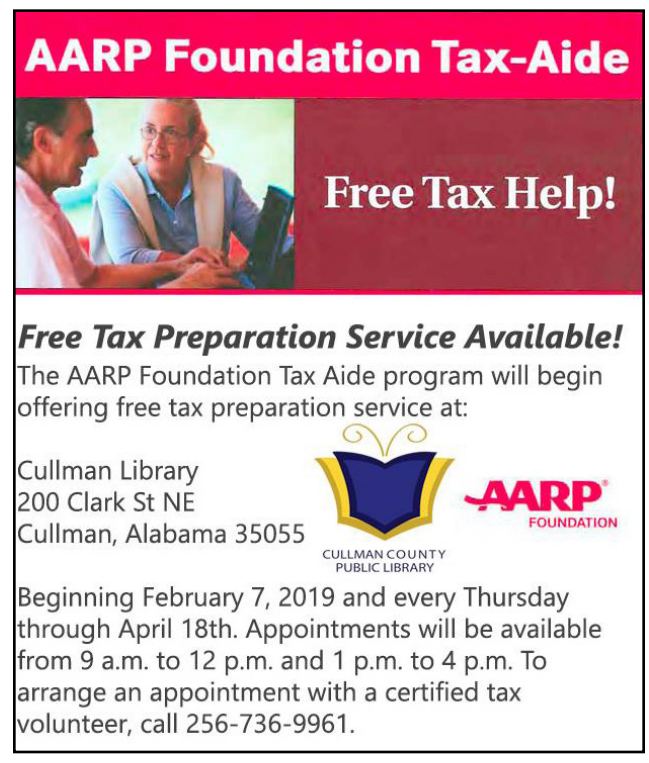
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Weigh-in 3-3:30 p.m.
Meeting 3:30-4:30
Contact- Candy Wachter 256-338-1272
Facebook- TOPS AI0073 Cullman

Cullman County Commission Meeting
The Cullman County Commission will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 10 a.m. in the Commission office conference room, first floor, Cullman County Courthouse.

New cancer support group- Victory Support Group
Victory Support Group is for all cancer survivors and co-survivors. The first meeting is Monday, Feb. 4 at 6 p.m. at Cullman Regional, Professional Office Building II. Victory Support Group is supported by Cullman Regional and Clearview Cancer Institute, works closely with Nurse Navigators Ronda Neal and Jessica Nicholson, and is assisted by the guidance of Delbert Freeman, chaplain, Cullman Regional. Victory Support Group recognizes that each survivor has a personal journey of recovery, and that survivors feel more comfortable consulting other survivors for information and resources. Survivor: Any man or woman who has been diagnosed with cancer. Co-Survivor: Anyone who walks alongside a survivor on his or her journey. This person may be an adult or child, caregiver, family member or a beloved friend. For more information, contact Judy W. Grissom at 256-347-5993. Find more events at www.CullmanTribune.com/Calendar.

Compiled by The Cullman Tribune Staff





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RobinWinton-NewsroomManager

Catching up with Saving Forgotten Warriors

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – On Saturday evening, Goat Island Brewing hosted a fundraiser for veterans' charity Saving Forgotten Warriors (SFW), sponsored by Weichert, Realtors Carter & Company. Entertainment was provided by Mississippi-based Alan Sibley and the Magnolia Ramblers, three-time Magnolia State Bluegrass Association Band of the Year. The Ramblers are well known for their RFD-TV series "The Bluegrass Trail."

The Tribune dropped by to catch the show, to catch up with SFW director Jeremy Hogan and to find out how 2018 went, as well as what's in store for the group in 2019.

Hogan shared, "2018 was probably our most roller coaster of a year. We had a bunch of ups and a bunch of downs. We were able to do, I think, four different major projects. We still did our transportation, but if everybody was paying attention, our van got totaled like right in the middle of summer, so we ended up losing our transportation vehicle. So, we've been fighting that for the rest of 2018.

"Other than that, it's been just as well as all the other years. We've had a plethora of folks come out to see us, and started getting more sponsors, started getting more people behind what we're doing; we're actually able to help a little bit more than what we have been.

"We've actually started doing meals--not necessarily like Meals on Wheels--but we're taking elderly veteran couples here in the community. We have a couple that are in need of daily food because they can't cook for themselves, but they don't quite meet the requirements for Meals on Wheels. So we take them food and stuff like that, daily.

"2018 was really a learning year for me, so I'm hoping 2019's better than what it was. Every year it gets better, and it's gotten to that point where, right now, it's more of a concern of being able to keep up with the role of the resources and the needs, and getting everybody still behind it.

"The newness has worn off of SFW. You know, we're three years into it, so everybody's starting to hear about what we're doing. That's great on one end, but I don't want them to think that we're still moving and we've gotten to that point where we're on autopilot, because we're not.

"We have a lot of work to do. We have a lot of growth to go and still a lot of things that we want to do for our veterans, not just in Cullman County, but in the surrounding area. I mean, I'd love to be able to help all the veterans in the state of Alabama, if it came down to it.

"I'm looking forward to 2019. I'm praying that we can get some more active participants in the community to help us out with SFW and the things we're doing daily; and that'll help project us through 2019 anyway. I see 2019 being a really good year for us, in the sense of that, since we've gotten so many people behind us. I mean, now we have people doing fundraisers and stuff for us, instead of us having to do the fundraisers, so it's been great!"

SFW provides many free services to Cullman area veterans in need, including:

- Transportation to VA and medical appointments as far as Birmingham, Decatur and Huntsville
- Utility bill assistance
- Food assistance
- Homelessness assistance
- Certain home repairs and improvements, such as ramps for disabled veterans

Said Hogan, "Pretty much, if you need it and it's something you can't facilitate yourself, give us a call. And if we can facilitate it, we'll go from there. If we can't, we'll look for other resources. I mean, we try to go all the way out. We don't stop till we get some good answers."



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Alan Sibley and the Magnolia Ramblers cranked up the crowd during Saturday evening's fundraiser for Saving Forgotten Warriors at Goat Island Brewing.

Over the last three years, SFW has provided free services to more than 580 area veterans, including multiple services to many of those.

Hogan concluded, "I really do appreciate the way Cullman County has been. For the last three years, they've came up behind us and really supported what we're doing, and they believe in what we're doing. And I believe, as patriotic as this community is, and as God-fearing as this community is, it's what made this so great. And I've really enjoyed it."

Get involved!

Hogan reported that SFW is well-stocked with clothing. The group could use non-perishable foods, as well as gift cards for food purchases; tax-deductible financial support for the nonprofit is always welcome. When he encounters needs that require extra resources, Hogan posts notices on the group's Facebook page.

To help out, visit www.facebook.com/Savingforgottenwarriors.org/.

Cullman Regional to host National Wear Red Day luncheon Feb. 1

Mary Beth Sellers
Cullman Regional

CULLMAN – Heart disease and stroke cause 1 in 3 deaths among women each year, killing approximately one woman every 80 seconds. Fortunately, we can change that because 80 percent of cardiac and stroke events may be prevented with education and action.

Join Cullman Regional for its second annual National Wear Red Day luncheon on Friday, Feb. 1 at Top of the Town for a gourmet luncheon, inspiring survivor story and interactive physician discussion.

Wear red and encourage others to do the same while taking the time to "know your numbers."

Five numbers all women should know to take control of their heart health are: total cholesterol, HDL (good) cholesterol, blood pressure, blood sugar and body mass index (BMI).

Knowing these numbers can help women and their healthcare providers determine their risk for developing cardiovascular disease.

The National Wear Red Day luncheon will be held on Friday, February 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Top of the Town (316 Second Ave. SW, Cullman).

Tickets are $20 per person or $150 for a table of eight.

To purchase tickets, call 256-735-5600 or register online at www.cullmanregional.com.

For more information about upcoming events at Cullman Regional, visit www.cullmanregional.com.

Arrests and incidents reported on Jan. 21

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests and incidents reported on Jan. 21, 2019. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS
None reported

ARRESTS
None reported

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Jan.18

- third-degree domestic violence, criminal mischief; person; Dialsdale Dr. SW
- harassing communications; person
- theft of property; person; Olive St. SW; wallet and contents

Jan. 19

- duty upon striking an unattended vehicle; person; Cherokee Ave. SW; damage to '12 Dodge Ram; $450
- duty upon striking an unattended vehicle; person; Cherokee Ave. SW; damage to '09 Chevy Malibu; $250
- unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; person; unknown; wallet and contents

Jan. 20

- leaving the scene of an accident; person; Hwy. 157/ I-65; damage to '18 Honda Accord; $1,000

ARRESTS

Jan. 18-20

Burbage, George R., 44
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence

Richter, Quintin W., 24
- DUI

Lee, Ellesha C., 36
- FTA- third-degree criminal mischief

Haynes, Tracy L., 45
- DUI

Teasley, Troy R., 44
- fourth-degree theft of property
- GJ- third-degree burglary

Murray, Tevin O., 22
- FTA- driving with learner's permit only
- FTA- running a stop sign
- FTA- driving while suspended
- FTA- insurance violation

Jones, Johnathan C., 34
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- insurance violation
- FTA- improper lane usage

Washington, Jeremiah J., 23
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana (2 counts)
- FTA- public intoxication
- FTA- third-degree criminal trespassing

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

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

Notice Of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice IN-N-OUT Self Storage located at 106 13th St., Cullman, AL 35055 intends to hold a sale to sell the property stored at the facility by the below occupants who are in default at an auction. The sale will occur or otherwise disposed as an online auction via www.storageauctions.com on 2/5/2019 at 10:00am. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings.

Elizabeth Oliver, **unit #510,** 1209 Logan Street Southwest, Apartment B, Cullman, AL 35055.

This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

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 February 4, 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. Short-form subdivision on Veigl Ave. SW
2. Rezoning request on Main Ave. SW & Morningside Drive SW R-2 to R-4/B-1

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

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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ELOISE ABBOTT, Deceased. * CASE NO PC-2019-018

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Administration having been granted to Christopher Abbott, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Eloise Abbott, Deceased, on the 17th day of January, 2019, 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.

Christopher Abbott
Personal Representative

William P. Traylor, III
Attorney for Personal Representative
Yearout & Traylor, PC
3300 Cahaba Road, Ste. 300
Birmingham, AL 35223
(205) 414-8160

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



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The performance by Eagle's Wings was a highlight for many fans.

FAITH

Crowds pack Temple Baptist for North Alabama Quartet Convention

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Planners and promoters didn't know what to expect from the very first North Alabama Quartet Convention in Cullman, but two hours before it even started, they already had their answer. At 4 p.m. Friday, gospel music fans were already lining up at the doors of Temple Baptist Church to get into the free event, and all 322 VIP tickets available for purchase had been sold. An hour in, at 7 p.m., it was standing room only inside the large church sanctuary.

Fans were treated to an entire evening of performances by 20 Southern Gospel acts, capped off by a concert by multi-award winning Triumphant Quartet, whose bassist Eric Bennett is a Battle Ground native, and who served as the "house band" for many years at the Louise Mandrell Theater in Pigeon Forge.

Late Friday evening, event host and Living Faith Quartet bassist Mark Byrd told The Tribune, "I'll tell you what, it's been a blessing tonight.

"You know, we've had such a great turnout. You never know what kind of turnout you're going to have, and it's been a great, great evening.

"The people that came have enjoyed it, and they really reacted greatly to the singing and the spirit that's felt here, and we're excited!

Obviously at the end of one night, Byrd wasn't ready to announce plans for a second annual North Alabama Quartet Convention, but he seemed ready to work on one.

Said Byrd, "We've had so many great sponsors already, and we kind of started late in the game, but everybody in this community has been a great support, even the ones that couldn't--wasn't in their budget because the fiscal year had run out.

"So I think we're going to get a lot more sponsors next year, and that'll help us just build a whole lot better program- if you can get better.

"I don't know if you can get better, but it's good!"

The convention continued Saturday afternoon.







Tony Serra Nissan

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TRUCK SPECIALIST



Come by and see me because I'm positive we can help get you in the right vehicle for you or your family. I am available at any time, so please feel free to call or text me at 256-595-0169.
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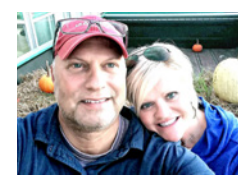
DJ has worked in the automotive industry for almost two decades and has been with Tony Serra Nissan since 2012 serving as a Sales Consultant / Truck Specialist. "Working with other sales consultants, we are able to provide the best service, whether it's a new car or a pre-owned from our new Used Car Super Center, at Tony Serra Nissan we are making for a pleasant experience with friends."



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Tony Serra Nissan 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018 Tony Serra Nissan

DJ, left, with his wife Christa, enjoying some down time during the recent holiday season

Come by, meet DJ and let him help you find the right fit for you!



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Gene and his chiweenie, Abby

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Baileyton's Gene Sumner

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

Baileyton Town Council member Gene Sumner recently celebrated his 90th birthday. He sat down with The Tribune to talk about his life and how he came to be a beloved member of the Baileyton community.

Sumner was born in Marion County, Alabama and went to Phillips High School in Bear Creek, where he was on the basketball team. His father passed away when Gene was just 6 months old. He and his mother moved into his grandparent's home and his mom never remarried.

He said, "That might be the only thing I held against my mom. I think if you lose a mate it's OK to find someone else, but she never did."

When Sumner finished school, he went to Birmingham for work but was drafted into the Army in 1950. He trained at Ft. Benning, Georgia and was a member of the 4th Infantry Division.

Sumner spent 17 months in Germany throughout the Korean War. With the Soviet Union supporting North Korea and the United States supporting South Korea, Sumner was placed on border patrol in Germany to protect against possible Russian aggression.

When Sumner returned to the United States, he went back to work in Birmingham for a short time before taking a job with General Motors in Pontiac, Michigan. He met his wife Becky, who is originally from Ardmore, Alabama, while working in Michigan.

The Sumners lived in Michigan until Gene's retirement from GM after 35 1/2 years. They raised three children in Pontiac: Debbie Jean, Dewayne and Michelle.

The Sumners enjoyed their life in Michigan. For fun, they loved to go snowmobiling.

Gene recalled, "There was a gang of us, other couples, who would ride snow mobiles together. We could ride on land owned by Chrysler and we'd go out there. We would build bonfires and sit around it."

Sumner was offered retirement when he turned 62.

He said, "GM was good to me until I turned 62, but they wanted to buy me out. I wouldn't take the buyout and took retirement instead."



CONTRIBUTED

Gene Sumner in 1950

Shortly after, Gene and Becky moved back to Alabama. Initially, they went to Marion County, but Gene didn't want to be there.

He explained, "I said to my wife, why don't we go to the Fairview area down in Cullman. I used to vacation here growing up. My aunt and uncle lived here. I don't know why, I guess it was the city of Cullman and the wide streets, but I just fell in love with Cullman."

They looked for a house to buy, and after getting a list from a realtor, they found a home behind Baileyton Mayor Johnny Dyar's house that had a "for sale by owner" sign. The Sumners loved it and bought the home from the Jones family.

Said Gene, "I don't know another place that I could have retired and been as happy as me and my wife are than here."

Sumner began attending the Baileyton Town Council meeting's regularly. Gene, who is described by Baileyton Town Clerk Patricia Gilbert as "too nice to say no," admits that he also likes everybody.

He said, "If you have a little problem with somebody, just put them on the back burner. They'll come around and you'll get used to them."

This positive attitude and love for the Baileyton community motivated him to help whomever and however he could.

These attributes didn't go unnoticed when the town needed to fill the council seat left vacant after the passing of Walter Mead.

Sumner said, "Johnny Dyar had mentioned the vacancy and I thought that it would be best for Mead's son to take it. His job wouldn't allow him the time off for meetings. Next thing I know, the council voted and put me on the council."

Sumner was sworn in on April 6, 2017 and said he will serve until the term ends. He then plans to retire yet again.

Gene and Becky love living in Baileyton. Their children Dewayne and Michelle live nearby. Their older daughter, Debbie Jean, passed away in July 2017 after a battle with Multiple Sclerosis. The Sumners give back to the town they now call home in many ways. Most recently they bought all the drinks and bags of fruit for the town's Christmas party. Each person who attended took home bags of apples and oranges. They opted to do this for their friends and neighbors rather than exchanging gifts at home.

Gene likes to laugh and enjoys being at the town's senior center with friends.

When asked about regrets or advice, he joked, "I married too young! I got married at 26!"

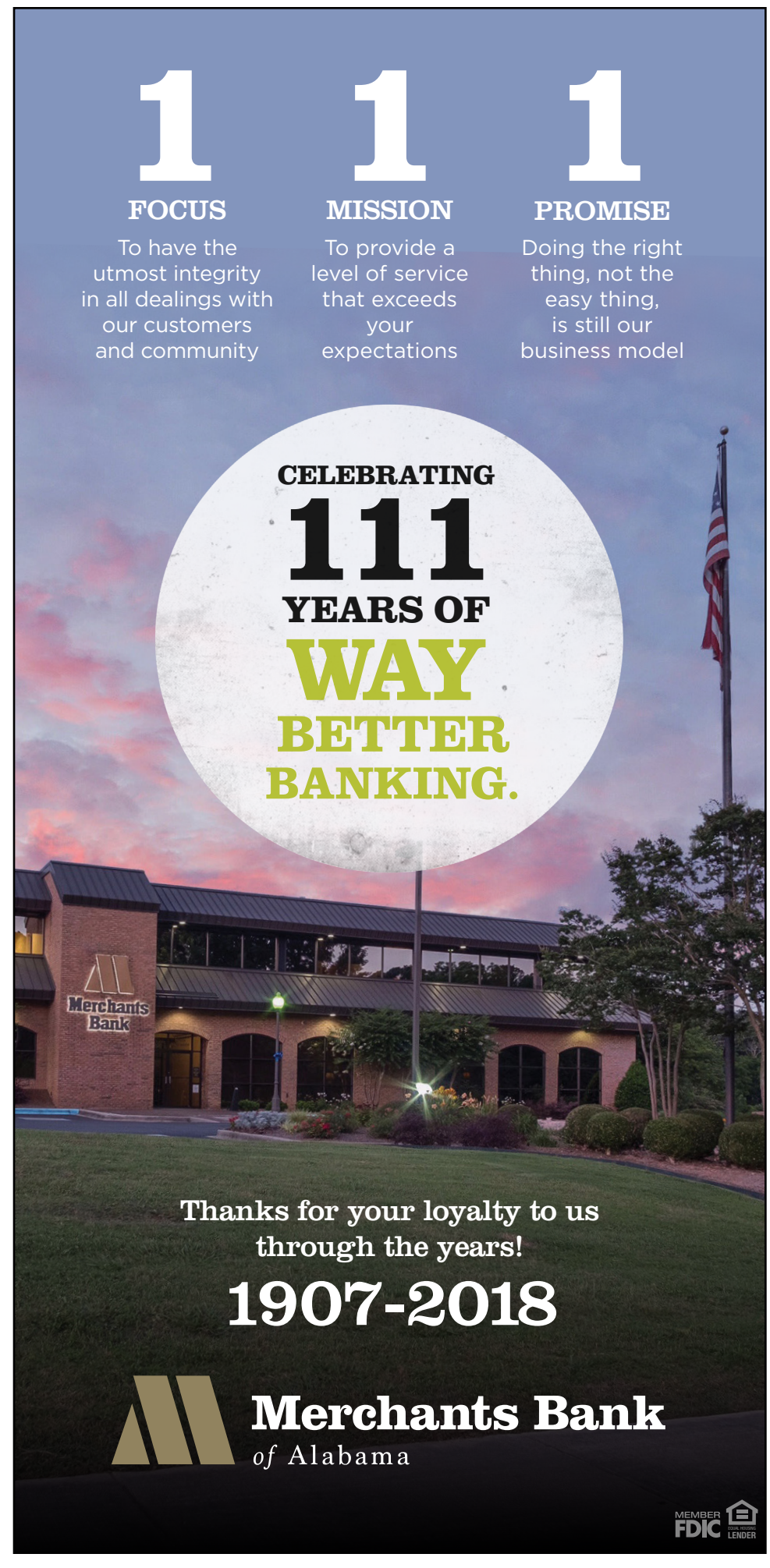
As for advice, still laughing, he said, "Well, those fellows in the service would get tattoos of their girlfriends' names on their arm and then it wouldn't work out. I always thought people probably ought not do that."

After a good laugh, Gene smiled, "I love Baileyton. I do anything I can to help because the people here have done the same for me and my family."









THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 22, 2019

PREP BASKETBALL

Vinemont knocks off top-seeded Aggies to advance to JV boys' title game

Nick Griffin
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MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Teague Whatley (14) lead all scorers with 22 points in Vinemont's win over Fairview Saturday night.

HANCEVILLE – This year's Cullman County Basketball Tournament resumed Monday night with three more matchups at Tom Drake Coliseum, starting with a junior varsity boys' showdown between (1) Fairview and (5) Vinemont. The fifth-seeded Eagles knocked off the top-seeded Aggies to advance to Saturday's JV boys' championship game Saturday at 4 p.m.

The lead swapped hands several times in the opening quarter. Vinemont moved ahead 6-5 midway through the period on a Teague Whatley layup, but two free throws from Peyton Bailey just before the end of the first quarter put the Aggies on top 11-8 going into the second.

The second quarter was scoreless for four minutes of game time before Bailey got a floater to fall through the net and extend the Fairview lead to 13-8. The Eagles found their rhythm on the offensive end after Whatley tied the game at 15 with a 3-pointer with less than a minute to play in the half. Whatley put Vinemont in front on the Eagles' next possession by knocking in a mid-range jumper at the halftime buzzer to make it 17-15 Vinemont at the break.

Whatley continued to damage in the second half, knocking down another three to stretch the Eagles' lead to 25-17 early in the third quarter. Tanner Brown added to the lead later in the third by converting an and-one play to go ahead 28-19. Austin Riddle then capped off a dominant third quarter for Vinemont with a wide-open layup that made it a 32-22 game going into the fourth quarter.

The Aggies scored the first two baskets of the fourth, but the Eagles answered with baskets of their own to stay in front and Whatley added another three with just under three minutes to play to put the Eagles ahead 39-30. Turnovers made it difficult for the Aggies to consistently chip away at the Vinemont lead and the Eagles pulled away to win it 43-34.

Whatley led Vinemont with 22 points, followed by Tanner Brown with 13. For the Aggies, Jack Brown led the way with eight points, followed by Peyton Bailey with seven and Ryan Preston and Owen Yarbrough with six.

Vinemont will face the winner of West Point and Hanceville's matchup Tuesday night in the junior varsity boys' title game Saturday at 4.

PREP BASKETBALL

Cullman County Basketball Tournament: Day 1 wrap-up

Nick Griffin
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HANCEVILLE – The 2019 Cullman County Basketball Tournament officially tipped off Saturday afternoon with four junior varsity matchups and the opening day saw both thrillers and upsets. Holly Pond advanced to the semi-finals of the junior varsity girls' bracket while Vinemont, West Point and Hanceville advanced in the junior varsity boys' tournament.

(5) Holly Pond 35 – (4) Good Hope 33 (junior varsity girls)

The Lady Raiders were able to the lead to 8-5 by the end of the first quarter and kept it tight for the rest of the half. A jumper from Addie Stripling gave Good Hope a 12-9 lead midway through the second and a three-pointer from Kyndall Seal gave the Lady Raiders a 16-14 advantage at the half.

Both teams found themselves locked at 28 early in the fourth until Stallings knocked down two free throws with just over three minutes to play to put Holly Pond ahead 30-28. The Lady Raiders got back in front 33-32 on a layup from Madison Speegle with less than two minutes to play but Olinger knotted the score at 33 with a free throw on the Lady Broncos' next possession. After coming up with a stop on the defensive end, Seal hit a fall away jumper to put Holly Pond back in front 35-33 with 14 seconds to play. Good Hope's final shot fell just short and the Lady Broncos held on to win in a thriller, 35-33.

Stallings led all scorers with 17 points in the win. Kennedy Twilley and Raeleigh Olinger finished behind her with six and five points respectively. For the Lady Raiders, Seal led the way with 10 points, followed by Rene McLeod with seven and Stripling and Aaliyah Smith who both finished with five.

Holly Pond advanced to take on the top-seeded West Point Lady Warriors in the semi-final round Thursday at 5 p.m.

(5) Vinemont 44 – (4) Cold Springs 29 (junior varsity boys)

In Saturday's second helping of County Tournament action, the junior varsity boys opened up their bracket with a matchup between (4) Cold Springs and (5) Vinemont. After a tight first half, Vinemont was able to create some separation in the second half and defeated Cold Springs 44-29 to advance to the semi-final round.

Neither team was able to create much separation in the opening period but a layup from Teague Whatley just before the buzzer gave Vinemont an early 14-10 at the end of the first quarter. The Eagles were able to create a little separation early in the second when a three from Caleb Sharpe moved them ahead 17-11. Vinemont maintained their lead throughout the rest of the half and took a 23-16 lead into the break.

Early fourth quarter turnovers from Cold Springs led to some easy baskets in transition for Vinemont and they found themselves on top 37-26 midway through the final period. Vinemont pulled away to win it 44-29.

Sharpe led Vinemont with 13 points, followed by Whatley with 10 points, Bryce Perkins with seven and Dalton Whitehead with six. On the Cold Springs side, Lawson Burgess led the way with 14, followed by Ayden Alexander and Tanner Kilgo who each posted five.

Vinemont advanced to take on the top-seeded Fairview Aggies Monday at 5:30 p.m. (See www.CullmanTribune.com)

(3) West Point 47 – (6) Holly Pond 32 (junior varsity boys)

In our second junior varsity boys' matchup of the day, (3) West Point handled (6) Holly Pond to advance to the semi-final round.

The Broncos kept things tight in the first quarter, trailing just 9-8 at the end of the period. The Warriors were able to create some separation in the second, stretching out to a 27-16 advantage by the end of the half.

West Point continued to build their lead in the third quarter, including a layup from Jonathan Fell late in the third quarter that put the Warriors ahead 39-22. They added another basket to make it 41-22 going into the fourth quarter.

The fourth featured more of the same. West Point continued to hold the Broncos in check defensively and pulled away to a 47-32 win.

Jonathan Fell led the way for the Warriors with 13 points, followed by Logan Selby with nine points and Brannon Bright and Carter Thornton who each finished with eight.

For the Broncos, Casey Brown finished as the leading scorer with 14 points, followed by Jayden Perkins with six.

The Warriors will be back in action when they take on (7) Hanceville in the semi-final round Tuesday night at 5.

(7) Hanceville 47 – (2) Good Hope 40 (junior varsity boys)

In Saturday night's third and final JV boys' contest, (2) Good Hope faced (7) Hanceville and the Bulldogs were not only able to pull off the upset, they did it in convincing fashion.

Good Hope's Zach Watson nailed three straight shots from behind the arc to start the game, but the Bulldogs still led for most of the period. Ben Johnson knocked down a jumper at the first quarter buzzer to give Hanceville a 17-12 lead at the start of the second quarter.

The Bulldogs continued to shoot it well and put points on the board in the second quarter. They were also able to hold the Raiders to just eight points in the frame and stretched their lead 33-20 by halftime.

Watson began the fourth the same way he started the first for Good Hope, knocking down a three-pointer and chipping into the Bulldogs lead. Eli Pugh later added a three of his own that cut the Hanceville lead down to 42-33 midway through the fourth quarter. On the next Raiders possession Watson knocked down another trey from well behind the line and made it a 42-36 with just under three minutes to play. Despite Good Hope's efforts to make things interesting, the Bulldogs held onto their lead and pulled away to win it 47-40

Ethan Roberts and Brodie Malcolm each posted 12 points in the win for the Bulldogs, followed by Ben Johnson with seven point and Izayah Glenon with six. For the Raiders, Zach Watson led the way with 18 points, followed by Michael Owens with seven and Colton Williams with five



MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Good Hope's Zach Watson goes up between two defenders in the Raiders' loss to Hanceville Saturday night.

Hanceville will face (3) West Point in the semi-final round of the junior varsity boys' tournament Tuesday night at 5.

Day 2: All of Monday night's Cullman County Tournament matchups were not completed by press time. Make sure and visit www.cullmantribune.com for full stories on Monday night's tournament action.

PREP BASKETBALL

West Point collects 73-66 win over Deshler in MLK Classic

Nick Griffin
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HANCEVILLE – The West Point Lady Warriors hit the floor at Wallace State Monday to participate in the 2019 MLK Classic and came away with a 73-66 win over the Lady Tigers of Deshler.

The Lady Warriors got off to a hot start in the first quarter, knocking down three straight shots from behind the arc.

Deshler cut the lead to 13-7 midway through the first quarter, but West Point maintained a 22-16 advantage at the end of the opening period.

Molly Pendley hit back to back threes midway through the second quarter to put the Lady Warriors ahead 32-22 and added another three just before the half to make it 39-27 going into the break.

Pendley was five of five from three-point range in the first half and led West Point with 15 points.

Miriam Oldacre threw in another three-pointer midway through the third to stretch the lead to 52-36 and Mackenzie Carter added a free throw in the final seconds of the quarter to make it 55-41 West Point going into the fourth.

Three-point shooting for the Lady Tigers kept the Lady Warriors from pulling away and Deshler even cut the lead to seven with just over a minute to play.

Both Miriam Oldacre and Carter knocked down a pair of free throws in the final 30 seconds to secure the victory for the Lady Warriors.

Several players finished in double figures for West Point, led by Oldacre with 27.

Carter and Pendley finished behind her with 15 points each.

The Lady Warriors are now 20-4 on the season and will be back on the floor for the Cullman County Tournament this Thursday at 6:15 p.m. to take on the winner of the Cold Springs and Holly Pond matchup Wednesday night.

Community with Carol: Kathy Wilson with the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force

Carol Berry
Tribune Columnist

What is human trafficking? That is what Kathy Wilson explained this week on Community with Carol. Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.

Every year, millions of men, women and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including the United States.

It is estimated that human trafficking generates many billions of dollars of profit per year, second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of transnational crime.

It was a pleasure to sit down with Kathy, the chairperson of the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force.

Kathy told me the task force was the vision of Cullman County District Attorney Wilson Blaylock and Cullman County District Judge Kim Chaney. The task force was formed in April 2015.

Kathy is a juvenile probation officer for Cullman County and was asked to take on this assignment. She has worked diligently to educate herself. Kathy was part of the Huntsville/Madison County task force prior to becoming our current chairperson.

She worked side by side with Pat McKay, who is now the state chairperson for Alabama. Kathy has not only educated herself, but also the law enforcement officers in our community and 400 others across the state.

Her goal is to educate others and end trafficking. She has more training to do in April. The district attorney's office will also receive training from the United States Department of Homeland Security. I hope you will watch our interview this week as Kathy shared lots of information and her vision for the future of the task force. Her main priority is to educate and raise awareness to end human trafficking. In February the task force will be involved in additional training and will be training more officers.

Amber Heaton, with James R. Smith Trucking, has partnered with the task force and together Kathy believes they can educate many more.

She is hoping more businesses will follow Amber's lead and join the fight. Education is the heart of this task force, so if you have a need for a speaker please contact Kathy Wilson. I have personally seen her presentation and it is very informative. You can reach Kathy at endtrafficking25@gmail.com or 256-775-4920.

See my interview with Kathy Tuesday at www.Facebook.com/CullmanTribune.



BRITTANY HOWELL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Kathy Wilson, left, and Carol Berry, right

OPINION

Letter to the Editor: A bowl of red stew and Rock the South

Tom Fillinger
Tribune Columnist

The thesis of this article is recorded in Scripture.

Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.) Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me now."

So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright. **(Genesis 25:29-34)**

A majority of the citizens of Cullman and Cullman County would claim to be Christians. Just a few short years ago Cullman was "dry."

Then Cullman heard the siren song of tax revenue generated by the sale of alcoholic beverages. Very quickly Rock the South was conceived and the first event was deemed a success.

In 2017, we endured yet another Rock the South, which brought 60,000 people to Cullman. The conduct of some, not all, attending may only be described as reprehensible.

Reporting sought to put the best face possible on this event. Only printed were letters from people affirming this event.

I suggest those giddy in celebratory jubilation of this weekend of revelry speak with the employees of Lowe's. Hoards of Rock the South attendees invaded this place of business when the rains came.

The reports they give are of vulgar language, inappropriate attire, people "flipping the bird" to employees when they addressed this aberrant conduct, and theft.

The founder of this event, Mr. Shane Quick, stated at a Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Morning Blend meeting that, "If we did not sell beer, we could not do Rock the South."

The bottom line of that rationale is this – RTS may feature some musicians, and provide what some deem "entertainment," but, the fundamental issue is selling beer! It is the sale of alcoholic beverages that provides the primary funding for RTS.

It appears that those who invaded Lowe's consumed more than their fair share of this beverage.

Bunyan describes this kind of revelry in "Pilgrims Progress." He labels such alluring activity "vanity fair."

Those who engage such are NOT on the way to the Celestial City. Quite the contrary. It is anything but moral and virtually destructive of true spirituality that honors the God of the Ages.

So I pose this question to the citizens of Cullman. Is the soul of our city for sale for a few hundred thousand dollars? Do we want our national image to be shaped by a gathering that diminishes the moral fiber of our community?

Are we better served by tax revenue than a moral posture that honors the dignity of mankind created in the image of God? Should we sell the soul of our community for the proverbial bowl of red stew?

This question merits serious and honest reflection.

Obituary Announcements: Jan. 22 - 23

presented by



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James "Jim" Howard Cooke, 83, was born March 24, 1935 and passed away January 21, 2019. Complete arrangements and obituary information will be announced Tuesday afternoon. Nichols Funeral Home directing.

Funeral service for Mary Sue Smith, age 72, of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; interment in Fellowship Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Ms. Smith passed away on Thursday, January 17, 2019, at Cullman Health Care Center. She was born September 29, 1946, to Vertis L. and Cleo Smith. She is preceded in death by her parents, Vertis L. and Cleo Smith; son, Shannon Quick. Survivors include her sons, Starlon Quick and Shane Quick; daughter, Shawonna Watts; 10 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; brother, Billy Smith; and sister, Carol Smith. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Arthur A. Smith, 94, of Houston, entered into rest on Friday, January 18, 2019 at his home surrounded by his loving family. Art was born on August 18, 1924 in East Alton, IL. His life was defined by a humble beginning, a love of family and country, a thirst for knowledge, a quest for the unknown, application of his skills and abilities to the complexities of ballistics, rocketry and missile technology, and a passion to raise his children to be responsible, productive citizens. Art enjoyed a number of activities and hobbies, including hunting, fishing, boating, building, and raising his kids with his beautiful wife of 67 years, Marge. Art graduated from Wood River High School in 1942 and went on to serve his country in the United States Navy for three years during WWII. He then went on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Missouri - Rolla in 1950. Art worked in Research and Development first at Rock Island Arsenal in Rock Island, Illinois, before settling in at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. He received numerous awards during his lifetime, including Professional Engineer, State of Alabama; Department of the Army Outstanding Performance Commendation in 1964; Department of the Army Sustained Superior Performance Award 1961; The De Anza Trail Society of the Children of the American Revolution Certificate of Appreciation; Who's Who in the South and Southwest. He was also a member of The Order Of The Founders And Patriots Of America. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Addison, where services will be held at 5 p.m. Reverend Mr. Kevin Kanter will officiate. A graveside service will be held on Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville. Art is survived by sons, Mark A. Smith and his wife Rebecca, Keith W. Smith and his wife Elaine, Scott A. Smith and his wife Donna. He is also survived by daughters, Karen S. Howard-Nordan and her husband Harry "Duke", and Shelley Curtiss Rogers and her husband Steven; brother, Otis H. Smith and his wife Mary Jo. He was grandfather to 9 grandchildren, Heath A. Curtiss, Amber R. Perkowski, Dana P. Howard, Anna M. Teal, Robert A. Smith, Patricia A. Eicholtz, Jennifer L. Newcome, Ashley H. White, and William C. Hodge; and 5 great grandchildren, Christopher Logan White, Annalise S. Curtiss, Harper A. Curtiss, Raechel Anne Lester, and Oliver A. Howard. He was preceded in death by his wife Margaret Smith; parents, Harry and Anna Smith; brothers, Hile S. Smith, Robert D. Smith and Harry Smith, Jr. Donations may be made in Art's honor to Southeast Hospice, Walker County.

Funeral services for Mrs. Sandra Marie "Sandy" Paschal, 75, of Cullman are Tuesday, January 22, 2018 at 12 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home, Bro. Gary Sartin and Bro. Roger James officiating. Visitation on Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home directing. A funeral service and burial will be held in Michigan on Friday, January 25, 2019 at 12 p.m. at Janowiak Funeral Home, 320 North Washington Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Burial in Pinckney Cemetery in Pinckney, Michigan. Mrs. Paschal passed away on Saturday, January 19, 2019. She was born in Ypsilanti, Michigan on February 4, 1943. She is survived by her husband, Donald; sons, Robert, Dewayne and Rodney; daughter, Mary; brother, David; sisters, Tina and Debbie; nine grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Gideon's International or Comfort Care Hospice.

Clovis "Tom" Thomas Chambers, 87, of Haleyville, entered into rest on January 20, 2019 at his home surrounded by his loving family. Tom was born on August 20, 1931, in Haleyville, Alabama. He was affectionately known as "Tom Cat". Tom enjoyed fishing, shooting guns, working on cars and boats. Tom loved family get togethers. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville, where services will be held at 2 p.m. Brother Greg Chappell and Brother Tommy Setliff will officiate. Burial will follow in Ireland Cemetery. Tom is survived by his wife of 64 years, Jennie "Tootsie" Chambers; sons, Tommy (Linda) Chambers, J.W. (Debbie) Chambers, Robert (Tiffany) Smith; daughters, Rosie (Tim) Jackson, Becky (Jackie) Hall, T.J. (Clayton) Scott, Bennetta Chambers (Kyle) Crowley; brothers, Floyd (Faye) Chambers; and sister, Vada Brown. He was "Paw Paw" to 9 grandchildren, Connie Batchelor, Brandie Jenkins, Angela Smith, Jacklyn Carruth, Sarah Scott, Haley Scott, Greg Myrick, Shane Myrick, Steven Myrick and 9 great grandchildren, Trent Brannon, Thomas Smith, Jocelyn Smith, Chloe Sanders, Jaelyn Kay, Ryleigh Carruth, Kendyl Carruth, AnnaLeigh Brannon, and Parker Brannon. He was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred and Nettie Chambers; brother, Lloyd Chambers; and sister, Carloyn Kirtpatrick.

Frances Juanita Goggans passed away January 18, 2019, at the age of 82, in Hueytown, Alabama. She was born December 23, 1936 to Leonard and Essie Viola Staton Bannister. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband Cecil Wren Goggans, daughter Ann Deason Goggans, son David Ray Goggans. Funeral services are Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 2 p.m. at Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church. Mrs. Goggans will lie in state for one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will follow services in the adjoining cemetery. Survivors are: daughters Donna Foust, Sara Boothman, Cathy Shaner, son Edward Goggans, 9 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. Visitation is Tuesday, January 22, 2019 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Moss Funeral Home in Cullman Alabama.

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Council (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – On Monday evening, the Cullman City Council passed a modification of the City's zoning ordinance, allowing apartments as a permitted use of properties zoned as R-4 residential districts. The new wording of chapter 62, section 193 reads:

PERMITTED USES.
(1) Single-family detached dwellings;

(2) Townhouse-type single-family attached dwellings, in accordance with section 62-711;

(3) Duplex attached units;

(4) Condominiums, in accordance with the permitted uses for condos as mentioned in section 62-712;

(5) Accessory structures such as, but not limited to:
a. Private detached garages;
b. Private barbecue pits;
c. Private swimming pools;
d. Private storage buildings;
e. Play areas; and
f. Play equipment;

(6) Public utility structures, such as electrical substations, natural gas metering stations, sewer pumping stations, and fire stations;

(7) Similar items so designated by the planning commission which come within the spirit or intent of the zoning district; and

(8) Multi-family dwellings of four or more units.

A large group of Cullman residents came out for the second week to argue against the modification to the ordinance, but the council limited the number of those who could speak, shortening the debate.

Protesters this week and last expressed concern over property values, crime, neighborhood atmosphere and the impact of increased numbers of residents on the city's school system.

After hearing residents' concerns, the council passed the modification unanimously.

Afterward, Council President Jenny Folsom told The Tribune that apartments have been allowed under R-4 zoning before, but under "Conditional Uses" instead of "Permitted Uses."

Apartment complexes could already be built in R-4 zones, but the modification of the wording from "conditional" to "permitted" will shorten the approval process for developers.

Folsom said, "It's been in our ordinance for quite some time, numbers and numbers of years, 30 or 40 years probably.

"And it mentions multi-family housing in R-4 under Conditional Uses. That condition refers them to the planning commission, and then if they approve it they can come back to the city council.

"It's just one step that's taken out of it for multi-family."

Rock the South debated
Local residents, mostly from the Deer Trace neighborhood, also returned to protest the announcement that Rock the South is relocating to a site near their subdivision, and event producers Shane Quick and Nathan Baugh came back to address the council again and to meet informally with residents afterward to talk about the move.

Rock the South has not submitted a request for an event permit yet, and Quick said that 46 Entertainment would not do so until studies on traffic flow and other issues have been completed.

The Tribune live streamed the event, and you can view the entire council meeting at www.facebook.com/CullmanTribune/videos/589516564826393/.

Coordinator (from Front)

people and I was fortunate enough to be chosen as one of the eight."

Williams is excited to get started not only because it's what she loves to do, but also because she and her team will be trying new things. Her goal is to see their new wellness program successfully implemented and providing athletes care that they haven't received before.

"This plan is completely different from any other sports model that's ever been created. There will be 52 players at the start of the season; they're in training camp right now and making cuts and the goal is for them to get a one-hour, restorative massage every week. Our team will be the first team ever to implement this," said Williams. "There have been massage therapists work with professional athletes before, but it's usually just a few per week, maybe 15 at the most but definitely not 52. So, we'll go to Legion Field on off-time and the wellness team will work them and perform these restorative massages that are research-based. The way we do it, we're only allowed to perform things that have been informed by research and I'm wanting to create a wellness education model off of this."

Outside of this exciting new opportunity with the Birmingham Iron and the AAF, Williams is very passionate about education in her field. She hopes this new position will help her better provide an outline for massage education that can help others even after she is gone.

"I also serve as chair over the education committee for the state of Alabama Board of Massage Therapy and I intend to somehow implement this education model into the outline of massage education for our state," Williams said.

"I stood in front of the sunsetting committee this past year and helped protect our professional licensing board from being shut down. We have an amazing executive director for our state board and he supports change as well as growth! We plan to change the game. It will be my goal and my priority until I am long gone and even at that point, I'm hoping to carry on the legacy of this career through education."

As the owner of Alabama Therapeutic Massage, Williams has had success in her business, but her goals are not based on personal success. Williams is hoping to spread the philosophy that massage therapists should work together in an effort to provide better treatment rather than being competitive.

"We all have a common goal. My business has been named the best for the last three consecutive years, but you know what that means? Absolutely nothing; it simply means we received more votes than another place. We do not consider ourselves in competition with other massage locations," Williams said. "We all have a different technique, different education and unique skill set, not better, not worse, just different.

"Therapists need to realize this and begin the merge into complete wellness, rather than competitive care. When I contract therapists to work with my team, my goal is to create consistency and improve our skills. I want them to achieve great things and become greater than I could have ever imagined for myself!"

Williams spent a few days in San Antonio last week with the other teams' massage coordinators, learning from the AAF's Massage Wellness Program Director Sandy Fritz and her son and assistant director Luke Fritz. This training session was invaluable for Williams and she was thrilled to learn from one of the best in the business.

"They invited the eight coordinators that were selected to San Antonio for training camp with Sandy Fritz, the director, along with her son Luke Fritz who is the assistant director. Sandy has been a massage therapist for 40 years and she was with the NFL for over 20 and like I said she was Troy Polamalu's personal massage therapist. She writes all the massage textbooks for all of the programs, so in my world she's the guru, you know," Williams joked. "We learned a broad base of protocols that will be implemented during the season and went over scheduling and those kinds of things and learned how to implement this new model realistically along with the athletic trainers and strength and conditioning coaches."

The most exciting thing about this new gig for Williams is the chance to change things up in professional athletics when it comes to massage therapy. She's also excited for her home town, which is quickly becoming a hub for massage therapy in the state.

"Normally, professional athletic programs do not supply massages for their players. So, normally they have to go out and purchase it on their own. Ms. Fritz and league's wellness team created this wellness program so that all 52 players receive a one-hour restorative massage every week paid for by the league. Since the league owns this, they took a unique approach to letting Sandy select people who would run the state-by-state operations. There are about 2,500 massage therapists in Alabama alone so to be hand-picked for this is an absolute honor," she said. "It's a very rare opportunity and this program is a game-changer for the industry. I just want it to be known that people from small-town Cullman and small-town Arley, we're doing big things in the massage world."

Alabama Therapeutic Massage LLC staff chosen to be seasonal massage therapists for the Birmingham Iron:
- Ashley Wilson - Cullman
- Destini Williamson - Arley and Cullman
- Levi Meigs - Arley and Cullman
- Crystal Alexander - Hartselle

Massage therapists from around the state chosen to be seasonal massage therapists for the Birmingham Iron:
- Jessica Lyons - Florence
- Edward McDonald - Florence
- Douglas Beard - Birmingham
- Shaye Wingo – Birmingham
- Kelley Franklin – Tuscaloosa

Learn more about the AAF at https://aaf.com.

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