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The Cullman Tribune

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VOL. 146 • 50¢ PER COPY | *FEBRUARY 9, 2019* | USPS 139-700 • NO. 19

NIGHT TO SHINE



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Alivia Bencze and her date William Lowery hit the dance floor Friday night at the Night to Shine Prom at Fairview: The Grace Place in Falkville. Night to Shine, sponsored by The Tim Tebow Foundation, is for people with special needs ages 14 and older. Guests are given the star treatment, complete with limousines, red carpets, paparazzi and cheering fans. Look for the full story and more photos at www.CullmanTribune.com.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

For a ticket price of $10, guests will receive hot, homemade chili, a grilled cheese sandwich and a drink, along with a handmade pottery bowl, like one of these, to take home. **» PAGE 8**

16th annual Empty Bowls Chili Dinner coming Feb. 18

Cullman's Kathy Wilson reports from 2019 Alabama State Human Trafficking Summit

Kathy Wilson, W.C. Mann

MONTGOMERY – Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force Chairperson Kathy Wilson represented the Cullman area, sitting on a panel and discussing developing community awareness at the 2019 Alabama State Human Trafficking Summit in Montgomery on Friday. She sent The Tribune this report:

The fifth annual Alabama Human Trafficking Summit was held today in Montgomery, Alabama, with record attendance of 296-plus participants. Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall addressed the group with words of encouragement and praise for the efforts Alabama has made to combat human trafficking.

This year's summit focused on labor trafficking. Polaris Project provides the following information for labor trafficking:

Labor traffickers – including recruiters, contractors, employers, and others – use violence, threats, lies, debt bondage, or other forms of coercion to force people to work against their will in many different industries.

Labor traffickers often make false promises of a high-paying job or exciting education or travel opportunities to lure people into horrendous working conditions. Yet, victims find that the reality of their jobs proves to be far different than promised and must frequently work long hours for little to no pay.

Their employers exert such physical or psychological control – including physical abuse, debt bondage, confiscation of passports or money – that the victim believes they have no other choice but to continue working for that employer.

U.S. citizens, foreign nationals, women, men, children, and LGBTQ individuals can be victims of labor trafficking. Vulnerable populations are frequently targeted by traffickers.

Immigration status, recruitment debt, isolation, poverty, and a lack of strong labor protections are just some of the vulnerabilities that can lead to labor trafficking.

Labor trafficking occurs in numerous industries in the U.S. and globally. In the United States, common types of labor trafficking include people forced to work in homes as domestic servants, farmworkers coerced through violence as they harvest crops, or factory workers held in inhumane conditions. Labor trafficking has also been reported in door-to-door sales crews, restaurants, construction work, carnivals, and even health and beauty services.

Key Statistics

• Globally, the International Labor Organization estimates that there are 20.1 million people trapped in forced labor in industries including agriculture, construction, domestic work and manufacturing.

• The U.S. Department of Labor has identified 148 goods from 76 countries made by forced and child labor.

• Since 2007, the National Human Trafficking Hotline, operated by Polaris, received reports of more than 7,800 labor trafficking cases inside the United States.

For more on the Polaris Project, visit www.polarisproject.org.

For more on human trafficking in Alabama, including how to recognize and respond to the problem, visit www.enditalabama.org.

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

COURTS

Judge Kim Chaney on relationship between drugs and human trafficking

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – In many cases of human trafficking and illegal sex trade across the country, alcohol and drugs have become the currency, both to recruit victims and to pay for services, leading to increasing connection of the two issues in the law and in court systems.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County District Judge Kim Chaney

Cullman County District Judge Kim Chaney explained, "The human trafficking statute now encompasses the swapping of drugs for sex, which is what we see now. It happens a lot; we have a lot of situations where boyfriends pimp out their girlfriends or significant others in exchange for drugs. We have girls who are trading sex for drugs. There are cases where parents are selling their children for drugs. So, anything of any value they swap to access drugs.

"It's all connected to the opioid and methamphetamine addictions that we have in this county. So the sex trade is involved as a collateral issue with the drug usage."

According to the Denver, Colorado-based Human Trafficking Center, drugs are also commonly used to recruit victims into trafficking, by giving victims addictive drugs to get them hooked and then subjecting them to the sex trade or forced labor in exchange for a continuing supply.

In one of Cullman County's three current human trafficking cases, defendant Kenneth Loyd Woods was alleged to have supplied alcohol and drugs to underage students at Fairview High School, then demanded payment from them in the form of sex acts. **» PAGE 8**



Arrests and incidents reported on Feb. 7-8

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests and incidents reported on Feb. 7-8, 2019. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

REPORTED ON FEB. 7
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INCIDENTS
Feb. 4
- theft of property; County Road 219
- menacing, domestic violence; County Road 1490
- theft of property; County Road 291
- domestic violence; County Road 1422
- theft of property; Hwy. 278 E
- domestic violence; County Road 1332
- domestic violence; County Road 536
- theft of property; County Road 437
- theft of property; County Road 508
- theft of property; Lovers Lane
- theft of property; I-65 mile marker 295
- harassment, trespassing; County Road 747
- burglary; 2nd Ave. SW Garden City
- attempting to elude law enforcement officer; Beech Grove Rd.
- unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle; Tally Ho Dr.
- unlawful possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia; I-65 mile marker 308

Feb. 5
- burglary; County Road 1728
- harassment; County Road 1845
- domestic violence; County Road 623
- domestic violence; Arkadelphia Rd. NE
- violation of protection order; Commerce St. NW
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance, attempting to elude law enforcement officer, resisting arrest; Hwy. 69 N / County Road 1807
- harassment; 1st Ave. SE
- criminal mischief; County Road 437
- violation of protection order; County Road 35
- trespassing; Hwy. 31

Feb. 6
- permitting dogs to run at large; County Road 641
- harassment, trespassing; County Road 1763
- burglary; County Road 1805
- stalking; Calvert Rd.

ARRESTS
Feb. 4
Brown, Andrea Nicole, 36
- second-degree bail jumping- illegal possession or use of a credit or debit card
- FTA- illegal possession or use of a credit or debit card

Duke, William Jeffery, 40
- probation violation- unlawful possession of a controlled substance (3 counts)

Long, Thomas Micheal, 31
- probation violation- certain person forbidden to possess pistol

Lowe, Joyce Ann, 50
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

McClendon, Lisa Marie, 29
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

McFadden, Tammy Leigh, 28
- FTA- driving while revoked
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- switched tag
- FTA- unauthorized use of a vehicle

Moore, Ronald Gene, 67
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Rollo, Jessica Diane, 27
- harassment

Ryan, Esther Mary, 67
- FTA- permitting dogs to run at large

Walker, Laklee Skye Lashea, 25
- judge's order- unlawful possession of a controlled system

Feb. 5
Bryant, Steven Wayne, 28
- first-degree theft of property

Cantrell, Jerimiah Ross, 22
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Deen, Dena Solana, 43
- judge's order- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Duke, Donna Marie, 35
- FTA- unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle

Gorman, Candy Kay, 32
- FTA- first-degree receiving stolen property

Handley, David Shannon, 23
- judge's order- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Jones, Jonathan Bryan, 34
- second-degree criminal tampering
- fourth-degree theft of services

Jones, Patrick Eric, 32
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Payne, Jeffery Gene, 53
- FTA- driving while suspended

Smith, Michael McPherson, 28
- attempting to elude (2 counts)
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- reckless endangerment
- resisting arrest
- running a stop sign
- speeding-reasonable and prudent
- tampering with physical evidence
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Smith, Pamela Dawn, 29
- FTA- brass knuckles
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Stallings, Alyssa Mercedez, 20
- public intoxication

Stallings, Brandi Elizabeth, 36
- public intoxication

Feb. 6
Carr, Steven Wayne, 32
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Doss, James Edward, 73
- FTA- unlawful distribution of a controlled substance
- judge's order- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Knowles, Chandler Reece, 26
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance
- probation violation- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Mashburn, Nicholas Dylan, 19
- third-degree domestic violence

Norton, Kenneth James, 58
- FTA- DUI- .08 BAC or greater

Snider, Sandra Dean, 59
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Stiefel, Brittany Lashaye, 29
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENTS
Feb. 4
- third-degree domestic violence, fourth-degree theft of property; person; 16th St. SE; phone; $100

Feb. 5
- third-degree domestic violence; person; 2nd Ave. NW
- second-degree forgery; person; forged check
- duty upon striking and unattended vehicle; person; Olive St. SW; damage to '12 Dodge Journey; $500
- second-degree theft of property; Belk; Cullman Shopping Center; necklace; $2,200

Feb. 6
- fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; drill; $87
- assault; person; Schneider Rd. SE

ARRESTS
Feb. 6
Johnson, Christopher I., 26
- FTA- expired driver's license

Burns, Kie J., 19
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- attempting to elude

Jenkins, Jessica L., 18
- contempt of court

Stallings, Alyssa M., 20
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No incidents or arrests reported.

REPORTED ON FEB. 8
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INCIDENTS
None reported

ARRESTS
None reported

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENTS
Feb. 7
- first-degree theft by deception; person; cash; $7,500

ARRESTS
Feb. 7
Ward, Wesley S., 40
- DUI- controlled substance

Barnes, Desiree J., 20
- disorderly conduct

Smith, Zackery D., 32
- menacing

Baird, Brandon L., 28
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- expired tag

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ARRESTS
Jan. 16-31
May, Shawna S.
- possession of drug paraphernalia

McCay, Paul E.
- FTA- speeding

Terry, Kielynn B.
- FTA- driving while suspended

Tanner, Heather N.
- FTA- dogs running at large

Nichols, Tucker G.
- FTA- driving while suspended

Lugo, Emily E.
- first-degree criminal trespassing
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Duncan, Devin S.
- first-degree criminal trespassing
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Brown, Brenton C.
- FTA- open container
- FTA- speeding

Holley, James M.
- FTA- speeding

Moore, William A.
- FTA- expired tag
- FTA- failure to display insurance

Mitchell, Gary D.
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Watson, Jeremy S.
- FTA- no tag registration

Spivey, Bradley D.
- FTA- attempting to elude

Watson, Jeremy S.
- FTA- no vehicle registration

Adams, Cameron S.
- public intoxication
- resisting arrest

Monroe, Ashley C.
- FTA- public intoxication

Steele, James T.
- FTA- no proof of insurance

Alexander, Kimberly F.
- FTA- speeding

Fowler, James W.
- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

Champion, Jennifer L.
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence

Pendergraft, James E.
- FTA- driving while revoked

Royals, Kayla M.
- FTA- driving while suspended
- no vehicle registration

Doss, Crystal G.
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Batemon, Dusty C.
- FTA- operating a vehicle without insurance
- no vehicle registration

Smith, Michael H.
- FTA- switched tag

Bates, Skyler R.
- FTA- expired tag

Still, Jennifer A.
- FTA- reasonable and prudent speed

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



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR
Feb. 9-11

Senior Appreciation Reception- Saturday, Feb. 9
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Alabama Sec. of State John Merrill will attend from 11 a.m.-noon.
Brushy Pond Community Center
2729 County Road 143
Bremen, AL 35033
Light refreshments and door prizes
Community meeting at 3 p.m.

Book Signing & Special Event- Saturday, Feb. 9
11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Ave Maria Grotto
1600 St. Bernard Drive, Cullman
Featuring:Br. Benedict Dyar, OSB, Benedictine Monk, St. Bernard Abbey
Signing: "The Flame of Telbyrin: A Tale of Heroism & Faith"
Anthony Maranise, religion professor, University of Memphis & Oblate of Saint Benedict
Signing: "Cross of a Different Kind: Cancer & Christian Spirituality"
Michael Waters, partner, Jones-Walker (Birmingham) & Rhodes Scholar
Signing: "Departure Points: Essays from Youth on Oxford..."

Senior Outreach Organization Dinner and Entertainment- Saturday, Feb. 9
The Senior Outreach Organization meets on the first, second and third Saturday of each month at The Link of Cullman County. (It is not affiliated with The Link of Cullman County, it is only renting the building.) The meal begins at 5 p.m. and the entertainment starts at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 8:30 p.m. The Link of Cullman County, 708 9th St SE, Cullman

Family Bingo Night- Saturday, Feb. 9
Join the Sacred Heart Church Knights of Columbus Council 1484 for Valentine Bingo, a family Bingo night, on Saturday, Feb. 9 in the church's Family Life Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and games start at 7.
--$5 per card (one $5 card is good all night)
--$1 extra for the jackpot drawing at the end of the night's games
--Coverall bingo is $1 extra per card (There will be four coverall games.)
Menu: Hamburger, chips and drink $5; Hotdog, chips and drink $5; Drinks $.50

Flourish of Cullman Fundraiser- Saturday, Feb. 9
Please join us Saturday, Feb. 9 from 6-9 p.m. for a wonderful fundraiser at Goat Island Brewing: L'amore Fiorisce, A Night of Love. There will be a delicious Italian dinner at $25/plate, Bingo and a silent auction. For tickets for the dinner or additional info about the evening, call 245-339-3078. All proceeds go to Flourish of Cullman.
1646-A John H Cooper Dr SE, Cullman

Bingo at the American Legion- Saturday, Feb. 9
Everyone is invited to Bingo every Saturday night at 6 at American Legion Post 4.
181 Reid Road, Good Hope

Gospel Singing- Saturday, Feb. 9
A gospel singing will be held on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cullman County Commission on Aging building, 1539 Sportsman Lake Road, Cullman. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 256-796-6072.

2019 Bownes Memorial For Kids' Sake Variety Show- Sunday, Feb. 10
The 2019 Bownes Memorial For Kids' Sake Variety Show will take place on Sunday, Feb. 10 at 4 p.m. in the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre at Wallace State. Doors open at 3 p.m. Tickets are $15 at the door. The program celebrates the variety of talent among the youth in our area. The variety show will feature musical and theatrical performances from more than 80 children.

Good Hope City Council Meeting- Monday, Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Cullman City Council Meeting- Monday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

Find more events at www.CullmanTribune.com/Calendar.

Compiled by the Cullman Tribune Staff

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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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Obituary Announcements: Feb. 9 - 13

presented by



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Herman Edward Ray, 68, of Cullman, passed away on Sunday, February 3, 2019 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. Mr. Ray loved Auburn football and working on the farm. He is survived by his sons: Johnny Ray and Nathan Ray (Kelsie Jacobs); brothers: Phillip (Brenda) Ray and Danny (Lucinda) Ray; sister, Shirley Bishop and a host of nieces, nephews and friends. A Celebration of Life Memorial Service for Mr. Herman Edward Ray will be on Saturday, February 9, 2019 beginning at 1 p.m. in the chapel of Moss Service Funeral Home. His family will receive friends from 12 p.m. until service time. In lieu of flowers, the family will be setting up a fund on behalf of Herman's son, Nathan.

Graveside services for Gleniel DeWitt Gandy will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, February 9, 2019 at Cullman City Cemetery with Andrew Smith officiating. Hanceville Funeral Home directing. Mr. Gandy, born May 15, 1927 in Cullman County died Tuesday at his residence in Gardendale. The son of the late B.U. and Elmira Parker Gandy is survived by his wife, Tera Gandy. Two sons, Jeff Gandy of Gardendale and Phillip (Stacy) Gandy of Houston, Tx. One granddaughter, Kylie Lauren Gandy and two step grandchildren Avery and Lilly Wager.

Memorial services for Colleen Alice Garner, age 66, of Cullman, will be at 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 9, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Garner passed away on Wednesday, January 30, 2019, at her residence. She was born June 1, 1952, in Esterville, Iowa, to Harold and Bertha Mustard. She is preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her husband, Danny Garner; daughter, Jennifer (Mike) Vasquez; sons, John (Tracy) Griffin and Buddy (Kayla) Garner; grandchildren, Kayla Vasquez, Brian Vasquez, Tyler Griffin, and Johnny Vasquez; sister, Connie Reed; and a host of extended family.

Funeral services for Harold Watson Jones, 71, of Cullman are 2 p.m. Sunday, February 10, 2019 at Springhill Baptist Church, Rev. Tim Aris officiating, interment with military honors in the adjoining cemetery. Visitation is Saturday from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home and Sunday 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. at the church. Mr. Jones passed away Tuesday, February 5, 2019. He was born December 13, 1947 to Alvin Verlie "A.V." Jones and Ila Mae Stallings Jones. He is survived by his wife, Myra Jones; daughters, Tina (Tony) Jones and Teresa (Dwayne) Wooten; sister, Rhonda (Larry) James; grandchildren, Mikayla Ryan, Camryn Ryan, Aaiden Jones, Isabella Jones and Sadie Wooten and great grandchild, Asher Sellers.

Clara Nell Cole, of Crane Hill, Alabama, passed away February 5, 2019 at the age of 82. She was born in Birmingham Alabama November 23, 1936 to William Howard and Leslie Othella Cockrell Morrow. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband Steve L. Cole, daughter Kay Nanette Alexander, grandson Chris Cole, sister Rilla Greer, brother James Rice. Funeral services are Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Moss Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Gary Waddell officiating. Interment will be in Cullman Memory Gardens. Survivors are: sons Steve Michael (Sheila) Cole, William Darryl (Donna D.) Cole, sister Mattie O'Hare, grandchildren Leslie Cole, Ashley Cole, Lyndsay (Josh) Gill, Nikki (David) Walden, Emily (Tommy) Murray, Hannah (Paulo) Peres, great grandchild Sienna Walden. Pallbearers are Mike Poe, Tommy Murray, Patrick Dahling, Josh Gill, David Walden and Paulo Peres. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Tressie Elizabeth Ray Monk, passed away on Tuesday, February 5, 2019. Tressie was a hard working woman that enjoyed working in her yard and making her flower gardens look beautiful. She is preceded in death by her husband, James Herman Monk; parents: Ernest and Lutie VanPelt Ray; brother, Elvis Ray and sisters: Nell Meadows, Pearl Reid and Edith Stull. She leaves to cherish her memory her daughter, Wanda (Keith) Sanders of Vinemont; son, Damon (Vicki) Monk of Cullman; and grandchildren: Amanda Sanders, Dustin Monk, Jonathan (Brandi) Shiflett and Austin (Heather) Shiflett. The family will receive friends on Sunday, February 10, 2019 at Moss Service Funeral Home from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. The Celebration of Life for Tressie Elizabeth Ray Monk will begin at 1 p.m. in the chapel of Moss Service Funeral Home following the visitation, with Bro. Tony Wood officiating. Burial will immediately follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Decatur, AL.

Celebration of Life Service for George Alfred Baker, age 77, of Vinemont, will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 10, 2019, at the Church at the Atrium. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Mr. Baker passed away on Wednesday, February 6, 2019, at his residence. He was born March 5, 1941, to Arlie and Essie Baker. He is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Eugene Baker; and sister, Betty Jean Bennett. Survivors include his sister, Wanda Feagans; brother, Glenn Baker; stepdaughter, Debra Heflin; stepson, Ralph Mills; stepdaughter, Diana (Mike) Kuykendall; step-grandchildren, Gary Heflin, Jr., Tyler (Chloe) Heflin, Troy Heflin, Amber Kuykendall, and Caitlin (Tyler) Boland; and great-great-granddaughter, Hailey Long.

Funeral services for Jackie "Jack" Theron Gibbs, age 82, of Hanceville, will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 10, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Howard Wolfe, Jr. officiating; interment in Logan Baptist Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Gibbs passed away on Thursday, February 7, 2019, at his residence. He was born May 13, 1936, to Henry Bertis Gibbs and Mammie Lucille Crumbley Gibbs Dover. He is preceded in death by his parents, Henry Bertis Gibbs and Mammie Lucille Crumbley Gibbs Dover; son, Jackie "Jack" Keith Gibbs Moore; brothers, Alton Gene Gibbs, Ralph Strong Gibbs, Jerry Wayne Gibbs, and Gilbert Ray Gibbs; half-brothers, Lemial Gibbs, Albert Gibbs, Douglas Gibbs, and Randy Gibbs. Survivors include his wife, RosaLee White; sister, Carolyn Reba Gibbs Vaughn; half-sister, Ezell Gibbs; brother, Kenneth Hurshel Gibbs; half-brother, Clifford Clenton Gibbs; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces, and great-great-nephews. Visitation will be from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 10, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Funeral services for Mrs. Jewell Audrey Phillips, 95, of Cullman are Sunday, February 10, 2019 at 2 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home, with interment in Sulphur Springs Cemetery in Crane Hill. Visitation on Sunday from noon to 2 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home directing. Mrs. Phillips passed away on Friday, February 8, 2019.

Funeral services for Harold Watson Jones, 71, of Cullman, are 2 p.m. Sunday, February 10, at Springhill Baptist Church, Rev. Tim Aris officiating, interment with military honors in the adjoining cemetery. Visitation is Saturday, January, 9 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home and Sunday 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. at the church. Mr. Jones passed away Tuesday, February 5, 2019. He was born December 13, 1947 to Alvin Verlie "A.V." Jones and Ila Mae Stallings Jones. He is survived by his wife, Myra Jones; daughters, Tina (Tony) Jones and Teresa (Dwayne) Wooten; sister, Rhonda (Larry) James; grandchildren, Mikayla Ryan, Camryn Ryan, Aaiden Jones, Isabella Jones and Sadie Wooten and great grandchild, Asher Sellers.

Helen Marie Hines, of Cullman, passed away February 7, 2019 at the age of 90. She was born February 14, 1928 to Elbert and Bessie Speegle Sillavan. She is preceded in death by her parents and husband James Luther Hines. Graveside services are Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 2 p.m. at Valley Springs Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the graveside at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13, 2018. Moss Service Funeral directing.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

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

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LEGALS

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2019-003

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF LESLIE NORMAN LOVETT III and LATASHA NICOLE LOVETT TO ADOPT M.G.F., a minor child.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: JAMES ALLEN FORD

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of M.G.F., a minor child (born July 6, 2016, to Jessica Danielle Whitehead Ford), was filed on the 14th day of January, 2019, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners Leslie Norman Lovett III and Latasha Nicole Lovett. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with counsel for said Petitioner, whose name and address are as shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

DONE this 17th day of January, 2019.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

To: *CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.

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

Legal Notice

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

2006 Volvo S60, Vin. #YV1RS592362521725.

This vehicle will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Ponder's Wrecker Service, 2600 Alabama Highway 157, Cullman, Alabama 35058, on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 8:00 a.m.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMA COUNTY, ALABAMA

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * **
RUFUS HORACE CULPEPPER, * CASE NO.: PC2019-020
**Deceased. * **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to NEAL HORACE CULPEPPER and TIMOTHY PERRY CULPEPPER, as Personal Representative of the Estate of RUFUS HORACE CULPEPPER, deceased, on the 31st day of January, 2019, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

DONE this the 31st day of January, 2019.

Personal Representative:
NEAL HORACE CULPEPPER
TIMOTHY PERRY CULPEPPER

Attorney for Personal Representative:
TIMOTHY CULPEPPER
1767 Morning Dr. NE
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 737-3239

TO: Publisher
The Cullman Tribune

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

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2019-040

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF MYRNA COLLEEN STINEDURF, DECEASED

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is hereby given that a verified Petition for Summary Distribution has been filed by David Michael Stinedurf on January 22, 2019.

Thirty (30) days after the notice of publication hereof and pursuant to the law of the Alabama, the Court shall be requested to enter an order directing summary distribution of the estate of said decedent.

Dated this the 17th day of February, 2019.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Probate Judge

TO: PUBLISHER OF *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for Petitioner
Smith & Smith, LLP
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

NOTICE

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPLICATION TO VACATE A PORTION OF CULLMAN COUNTY ROAD 1614.

WHEREAS, Amy McGriff Cordar, desires to vacate a portion of a county road within the County limits of Cullman, pursuant to Ala. Code § 23-4-20 (1975), more particularly described as follows:

A proposed vacation of a portion of Cullman County Road No. 1614, that runs through the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter and a part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter, all in Section 9, Township 10 South, Range 2 West, Cullman County, Alabama. It being the intent of this description to vacate the entire portion of said County Road No. 1614 from the point of beginning to the ending point, the centerline of said proposed vacation being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at a found capped corner (LS-11845) marking the Southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 9, having an Alabama State Plane, West Zone, NAD 83 coordinate value of N. 1522525.14', E. 2196290.90' and run North 00 degrees 24 minutes 39 seconds East (Bearing based on AL. State Plane, West Zone, NAD 83, Grid) and run along the West line, a distance of 363.06 feet to a point in the center of Cullman County Road No. 1614, same being the point of beginning; thence run along the center of said County Road the following courses:

North 59 degrees 51 minutes 49 seconds East, a distance of 244.53 feet to the point of curvature of a curve to the left, having a central angle of 42 degrees 59 minutes 57 seconds, a radius of 335.00 feet, a chord bearing of North 38 degrees 21 minutes 51 seconds East, and a chord length of 245.55 feet; thence run along the arc of said curve an arc distance of 251.41 feet to the point of tangency; thence North 16 degrees 51 minutes 52 seconds East, a distance of 517.54 feet to the point of curvature of a curve to the left, having a central angle of 09 degrees 33 minutes 20 seconds, a radius of 1,360.00 feet, a chord bearing of North 12 degrees 05 minutes 12 seconds East and a chord length of 226.55 feet; thence run along the arc of said curve an arc distance of 226.81 feet to the point of tangency; thence North 07 degrees 18 minutes 33 seconds East, a distance of 238.19 feet to the point of curvature of a curve to the right, having a central angle of 38 degrees 08 minutes 01 seconds, a radius of 280.00 feet, a chord bearing of North 26 degrees 22 minutes 33 seconds East and a chord length of 182.94 feet; thence run along the arc of said curve an arc distance of 186.36 feet to the point of tangency; thence North 45 degrees 26 minutes 33 seconds East, a distance of 327.48 feet to the ending point.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ala. Code § 23-4-2 (1975), the Cullman County Commission is required to hold a public hearing, prior to taking final action;

WHEREAS, notice of which is required by statute, shall occur once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks;

WHEREAS, a public hearing will take place on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the Cullman County Commission Meeting Room; First Floor; Cullman County Courthouse; 500 2nd Avenue, S.W. Cullman, Alabama 35055;

WHEREAS, applicant, Amy McGriff Cordar, is requesting vacation of the above-described portion of Cullman County Road 1614.

WHEREAS, an action is requested for an adoption and approval of a Resolution vacating the above-described portion of Cullman County Road 1614.

WHEREAS, said notice is posted in accordance with Title 23-4-2, et.seq. Code of Alabama, 1975. All persons who desire shall have an opportunity of being heard in opposition to or in favor of such resolution. This public notice is posted a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the date of the public hearing at: Cullman County Courthouse Entrance Bulletin Board.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the provision of the Resolution vacating a portion of Cullman County Road 1614, will be considered by the Cullman County Commission at a Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at the Cullman County Commission Meeting Room at 10:00 a.m. at which time and place all persons who desire shall have an opportunity of being heard in opposition to or in favor of such Resolution or any provision thereof.

Dated this the 24th day of January, 2019.

BY: s/ J. Chad Floyd
J. Chad Floyd
Attorney for Cullman County
500 Second Avenue, S.W., Room 110
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Telephone: (256) 775-4893

Legal Ad

The Alcohol Review Committee of the City of Cullman will hold a public hearing on Friday, February 7th, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the administrative conference room at City Hall located at 204 Second Avenue NE. The Committee will receive public comments for and against the alcohol license applicant listed below:

Moran Foods, LLC dba Save-A-Lot – 1734 Second Avenue SW – Beer and Wine Off-Premises

PUBLIC NOTICE TO SELL LAND
NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC OR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES

The City of Cullman approved to vacant and surplus 3.97 acres, more or less, of property, which is no longer needed for public or municipal purposes, located at County Road 473, Cullman, AL 35057 (PPIN: 9443 and PARCEL#17-04-19-0-000-010.000), more particularly described as: All that part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 19, Township 10 South, Range 3 West, more particularly described as: commencing at the northeast corner of said Section 19; thence South 0°29'12" East a distance of 1599.24 feet to an existing ½ inch pipe and the true point of beginning of the property herein described; thence from said true point of beginning run South 0°20'00" East a distance of 398.05 feet to an existing ½ inch pipe; thence North 88°22'02" West a distance of 434.74 feet to an existing ½ inch pipe; thence North 0°20'49" West a distance of 398.26 feet to an existing ½ inch pipe; thence South 88°20'24"East a distance of 434.84 feet to the true point of beginning and containing 3.97 acres, more or less. Description from survey of H.D. Harris, AL. Reg. No. 5742, dated August 27, 2003. Subject to the Oil and Gas Lease to H. D. Easton, Jr. as filed for record in Book 112, Page 179 and also subject to the ROW for the gravel road along the East side of subject property as shown by the survey of H.D. Harris, AL. Reg. No. 5742, dated August 27, 2003. Zoning and all other matters of record. Property is being purchased in "as is" condition. The City of Cullman is requesting bids for the property to include purchase price (the minimum bid is $40,650), the intended use of the property, and the estimated start construction date. Bids can be hand delivered to the Cullman City Clerk Wesley Moore or mailed to the Post Office Box 278, Cullman, AL 35056. Bidding Period will close at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 15th, 2019 at which time no additional bids will be accepted. The successful bidder will be required to follow and comply with all local, state, and federal laws and/or regulations. The winning bidder will be required to deposit a $5,000.00 non-refundable payment (earnest money) on the day of the bid opening with the City Clerk. Closing shall occur within 30 day of bid award. Any cost of financing, title insurance, and title search shall be at the cost of purchaser. Property to be conveyed by Statutory Warranty Deed. The City of Cullman reserves the right to reject any and all bids without cause.

BUSINESS

Annual reception celebrates Cullman industries

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Industry Appreciation Reception Thursday night at Terri Pines Country Club, giving industry, business and community leaders the opportunity to give progress updates as well as discuss new programs and ideas for 2019. The reception is also a way for the Chamber to thank local industries for their contributions to the community.

Ted Clem, director of business development for the Alabama Department of Commerce, gave a state workforce update. He said this year the state hopes to focus on workforce development needs.

The state recognizes and hopes to resolve the disconnect that exists between industry needs and K-12 schools, Clem said. He praised Cullman, saying, "Cullman is often the shining example of how you do it right."

Chamber President and CEO Leah Bolin gave updates on what the Chamber has been working on and programs it has planned for 2019, touching on Community Development (Housing needs assessment to identify how ways to attract and retain people; Rehabilitation and development of housing), Community Tours, Quality of Life (Grant for upcoming design feasibility study; enhancing arts and entertainment sector; creating a walkable and living core), National Marketing Campaign and Business Development (STEP -Student to Employee Pipeline: four-step plan beginning in eighth grade designed to expose students to local career opportunities while determining each student's interests; specific training programs for students).

Dean of Applied Technologies at Wallace State Community College, Jimmy Hodges spoke about the many programs the college has available to help with workplace needs and specific training programs and opportunities available to students.

Wallace State offers a variety of technical programs including machine tooling, welding, industrial maintenance and engineering technology among many others.

Hodges said, "We are about to start a brand new welding building this fall. It's going to be the classiest and best equipped welding building in the South."

Industries also benefit from the specific certification programs offered by Wallace State.

Many of these certification classes can be taught on location. Career Services also helps place students and fill local industry workforce needs.

Cullman Economic Development Agency (CEDA) Director Dale Greer spoke about the many accomplishments in 2018 of local business and industry.

He described the partnership between the city and county economic development agencies as "unique" and "the envy of other communities."

He added, "Seventeen of the top 20 property tax payers in Cullman are industries contributing $1.4 million to our schools."

Accomplishments for the Cullman area and its industries, noted by Greer, included:

- No. 1 in total number of expansions in Alabama for the fourth straight year
- 90 percent of capital investments and 80 percent of announced jobs in the last 10 years have been from existing industry.
- While the numbers have not been made official, an estimated $180 million in capital investment for 2018 would be a record.
- Site Selection Magazine ranked Cullman as the no. 5 micropolitan in the country for 2017.



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Ted Clem, director of business development for the Alabama Department of Commerce, speaks at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's 2019 Industry Appreciation Reception this week at Terri Pines Country Club.

- Cullman was ranked 82nd out of 551 in POLICOM Corporation's 2019 Economic Strength Rankings - Micropolitans, up from No. 229 in 2018.
- Gold Award for Educators in Industry
- Silver Award for AGCOR Steel expansion /retention project
- Topre America AAMA Large Supplier of the Year
- Birmingham Fastener BCA/ATN Medium Manufacturer of the Year
- REHAU Automotive Runner up for BCA Alabama Manufacturer of the Year

In conclusion Greer said, "Other communities are jealous of the accomplishments that are here. I think that reflects on our workforce and your businesses themselves."

STATE

Alabama Women's Hall of Fame to induct Harper Lee and Milly Francis

Mary Amelia Taylor
Contributor

MARION, Ala. – Harper Lee and Milly Francis will be inducted into the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame on March 7, 2019. The induction ceremony will take place at 10:30 a.m. in Alumnae Auditorium on the Judson College campus in Marion, Alabama and will be open to the public at no charge. A luncheon will follow the induction ceremony. Wayne Flynt, Alabama historian and professor emeritus at Auburn University, will give the keynote address at the luncheon. Reservations are required for the luncheon (tickets are $50) and must be made by March 1 by calling 334-683-5109.

Harper Lee

Best known as the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird," Nelle Harper Lee was born in Monroeville, Alabama, on April 28, 1926. She attended Huntingdon College in 1944-45 and transferred to The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa in 1945. Pursuing her interest in writing, Lee contributed articles to the University's campus newspaper, The Crimson White, and its humor magazine, the Rammer-Jammer, of which she eventually became editor.

During her junior year, she was admitted into The University of Alabama School of Law, which at the time allowed undergraduate students to begin their law degrees early.

Six months before earning her law degree, Lee made the pivotal decision to move to New York City to pursue her dream of becoming a writer.

She published "To Kill a Mockingbird" in 1960. The novel has remained continuously in print and is a staple of schoolroom reading lists in the United States and abroad.

By the 50th anniversary of its publication, "To Kill a Mockingbird" had been translated into more than 40 languages and had sold more than 40 million copies worldwide. In 2015, Lee published another novel, "Go Set a Watchman," which became an immediate No. 1 New York Times bestseller.

In addition to the Pulitzer Prize, the numerous awards, recognitions and honors received by Lee during her lifetime for her contributions to literature include the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2007), the National Medal of Arts (2010) and six honorary doctorates from colleges and universities.

Lee was a generous benefactor to her church and to many charitable, educational and nonprofit organizations, and privately, to many individuals. She died in Monroeville on Feb. 19, 2016.

Lee will be inducted by personal friend Joy Williams Brown.

Milly Francis

Milly Francis was born in 1802 or 1803 in east central Alabama, just below the juncture of the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers. Her parents were Josiah and Polly Francis, Creek Indians of both European and American Indian descent. In 1812, a traditionalist Creek faction whose members became known as "Red Sticks" called for an end to accommodation with the United States, a movement that would lead to the Creek War (1813-1814).

Milly's father Josiah joined the Red Stick movement as a prophet and began a traditionalist settlement known as Econochaca, or Holy Ground, between what is now Selma and Montgomery.

Holy Ground would become the war capital for the Red Sticks and the site of a pivotal Creek defeat during war. After the defeat at Holy Ground, Francis joined his family, who had evacuated to west Florida.

In 1818, Milly saved the life of Duncan McKrimmon, a U.S. soldier stationed near her home of present-day St. Marks, Florida. McKrimmon, lost in the forest after a fishing trip, was captured by Creek warriors.

As the warriors prepared to execute him, Milly interceded on McKrimmon's behalf, and the warriors spared his life.

The incident was widely publicized and romanticized throughout the region. In 1819, she settled at Tuckabatchee (a Creek town on the Tallapoosa River near Montgomery) and married an Indian warrior, Cochan Hoboithley, with whom she had eight children.

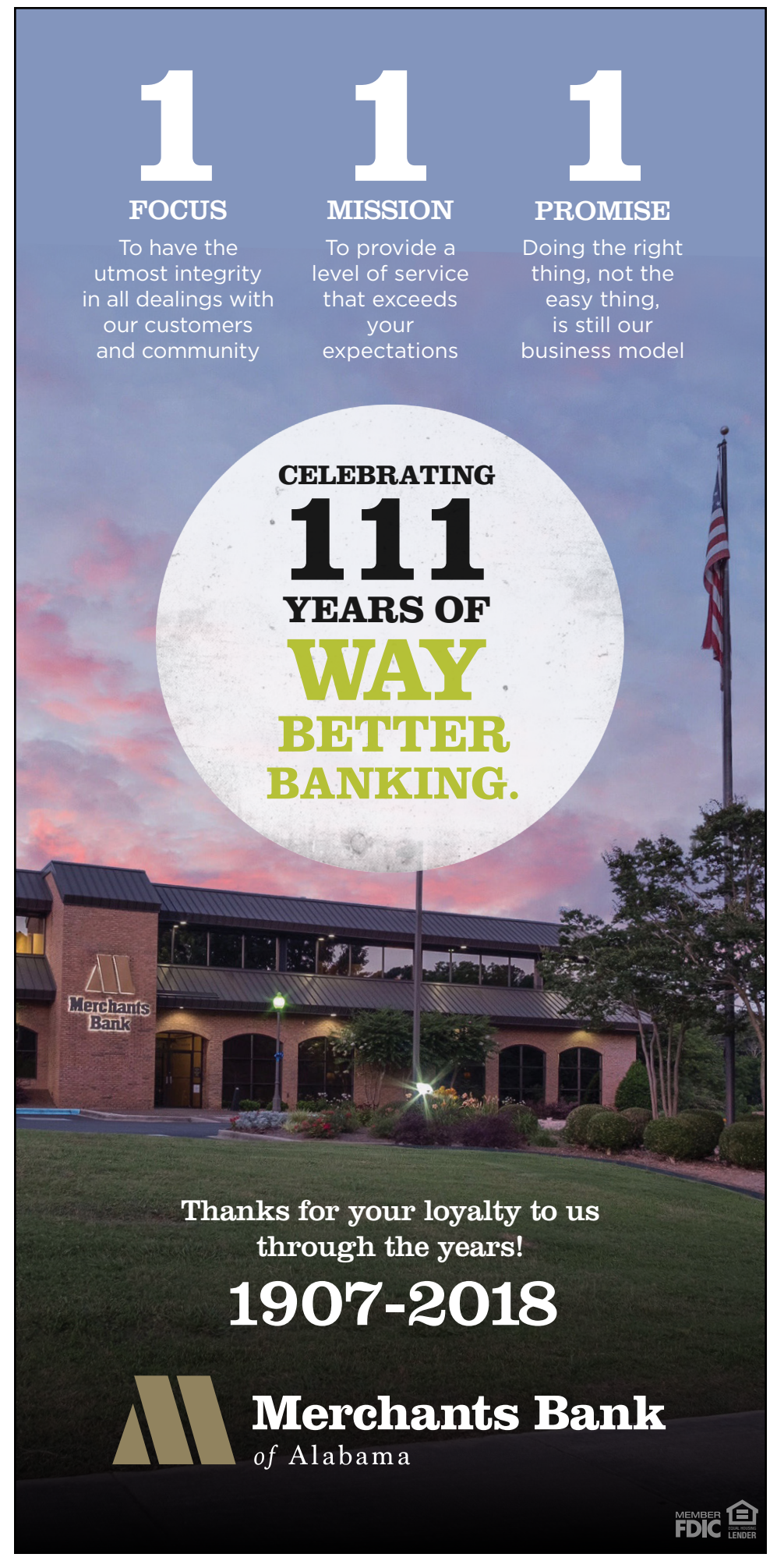
In 1836, she and her children were among the Creeks relocated on the Trail of Tears to Oklahoma. Her husband died in 1837 on his way to join them after fulfilling military obligations in Florida. Years later, while investigating frauds committed against the Indians, Colonel Ethan Allen Hitchcock visited Milly to hear the story of McKrimmon's rescue from her own lips. Moved by her story, and seeing her impoverished circumstances, he petitioned Congress to approve a small pension for her.

In 1844, Congress passed a bill and approved a pension of $96 per year and the awarding of a medal. Milly died of tuberculosis in 1848 without receiving the pension or medal.

Milly Francis will be inducted by Kathryn Braund, professor of history at Auburn University.

For more information about the induction ceremony, luncheon or the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame, contact Beth Poole, executive secretary, at bpoole1@judson.edu or 334-683-5109.

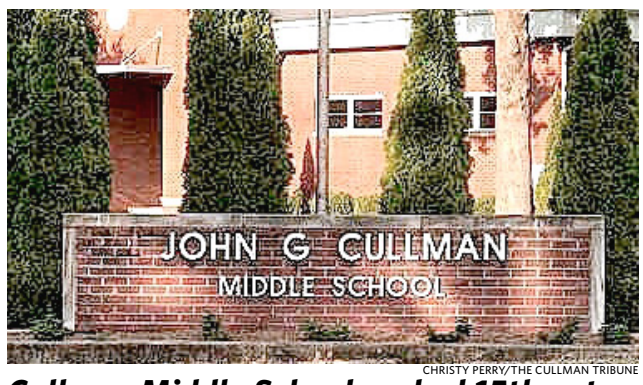
The Alabama Women's Hall of Fame is located in Marion, Alabama, on the campus of Judson College in A. Howard Bean Hall. The Hall of Fame was established in 1970 to provide a permanent place of honor for Alabama's most outstanding women and a place for visitors to learn about the significant contributions these women have made to the state and nation. Inductees must be deceased for two years and be from or affiliated with Alabama. Women to be inducted are selected by unanimous vote of the board of directors of the AWHF.



EDUCATION

Cullman-area schools ranked highly in newest Niche lists

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Middle School ranked 15th out of 400 public middle school's in Niche's 2019 Best Schools in Alabama report.

CULLMAN – Niche.com, an online rating group described by Forbes Magazine as a kind of "Yelp" for education, has included several Cullman area schools in its 2019 "Best Schools in Alabama" and "Best Teachers in Alabama" rankings.

Niche describes itself as "a website that helps you discover the schools, companies, and neighborhoods that are right for you. We rigorously analyze dozens of public data sets and millions of reviews to produce comprehensive rankings, report cards, and profiles for K-12 Schools, Colleges, Places to Live, and Places to Work."

According to information on the organization's website, Niche compiled its "Best Schools" rankings based on factors including state assessment proficiency, teacher salaries, teacher absenteeism, state test results, analysis of academic and student life data, racial and economic diversity, as well as student and parent reviews and surveys in multiple categories. Its "Best Teachers in Alabama" rankings were based on factors including state assessment proficiency, parent/student surveys, teacher absenteeism, average teacher salary in the district and salary v. area median income, the length of time teachers have been teaching and ratio of teachers to students.

Rankings among schools in Alabama

Breaking the results down into elementary, middle and high school categories yields the following statewide rankings for several Cullman area schools. Only those in the top 50 in each category are listed.

Elementary schools (out of 770 schools)

- East Elementary School ranked number 46
- West Elementary School ranked number 47

Middle schools (out of 400 public schools)

- Cullman Middle School ranked number 15
- Arab Junior High School ranked number 32

High schools (out of 376 public schools, 184 private schools)

- Cullman High School ranked number 13
- Arab High School ranked number 32
- St. Bernard ranked number 13 among private schools

Best teacher rankings

High schools

- West Point High School ranked number 17
- Cullman High School ranked number 23
- Cold Springs High School ranked number 25
- Holly Pond High School ranked number 28
- Vinemont High School ranked number 33
- Arab High School ranked number 44
- Cullman Christian School ranked number 11 among private schools
- St. Bernard Prep School ranked number 17 among private schools

Middle schools

- Fairview Middle School ranked number 4
- Cullman Middle School ranked number 9
- Parkside Elementary School (K-8) ranked number 11
- West Point Middle School ranked number 19
- Arab Junior High School ranked number 22
- Cold Springs Elementary School (K-8) ranked number 23
- Vinemont Middle School ranked number 25
- Hanceville Middle School ranked number 39
- Cullman Christian School ranked number 10 among private schools

Elementary schools

- Welti Elementary School ranked number 18
- Parkside Elementary School ranked number 34
- West Point Elementary School ranked number 44
- Cullman Christian School ranked number 9 among private schools

Other Niche overall statewide "best" rankings

Cullman City Schools ranked:

- Districts with the best teachers - 5
- Best places to teach - 6
- Best school districts - 10
- Safest school districts - 10

Cullman County Schools ranked:

- Safest school districts - 20
- Districts with the best teachers - 28
- Best places to teach - 44

By the way, in Niche's most recent (2018) municipal rankings, the city of Cullman ranked number 43 out of 194 listings of "Best Places to Live," number 34 among "Best Places to Raise a Family," number 35 among "Safest," and number 47 among "Best Places for Millennials," but number 103 among "Best Places to Buy a House" and number 114 among "Places with the Lowest Cost of Living." For more on Niche rankings, visit www.niche.com.

















•1874• **Alabama Tribune** •2019•

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE • ALABAMA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

"THE 67-COUNTY, ALABAMA GARDEN PARTY"

CLARKE COUNTY

The Cullman Tribune is celebrating the Alabama Bicentennial (1819-2019) with statewide field reporting by Alabama Master Gardener/ Botanical Artist Ben Johnson South. This year-long feature, "The 67-County Alabama Garden Party," will spotlight different counties each week. Each county will get its own "quilt block," along with a historical profile, and we'll share a recipe specific to the area. At the end of the year, all 67 counties will be put in a book to commemorate the Bicentennial.

If you want to hit the reset button and reconnect with your real self, immerse in real, natural beauty, Clarke County, Alabama, about an hour's drive north from metropolitan Mobile, is a real, good destination. Clarke County is "authentic Alabama" deep in timber country. True to any long-established place, there is sophistication here, but even the more cultured folks are comfortable with keeping the local vibe real and regularly a bit rough-hewn.

Clarke County was admitted to the Alabama Territory by the Legislature in 1812, seven years before statehood. The dense forests and twisting, two-lane roads have helped this part of Alabama remain mostly rural, and the relative remoteness resists the mind-numbing blur and blandness of freeway travel, city living and suburban sameness. When you're in the middle of 21st century Clarke County, even in the picturesque towns and crossroads, it's easy to imagine an Alabama of 200 years ago, vital with farming and logging.

What I most intensely recall from my visits to Clarke County are the fragrances like cedar and pine which connect PLANTS + PEOPLE even more than the green, green pastures and wooded landscapes. You can close your eyes and be transported back in time. The pines in this part of Alabama are more likely to be long leaf, loblolly or slash, but like fancypants wine judges who sniff corks, you could blindfold some locals and simply by smell they could discern whether a tree is white pine or red pine, and some can even identify the type of soil the plant grew in and in what part of the county.

The logging camps only ended during my lifetime. Until the 1960s, hard-working Clarke County loggers would leave their families before dawn on Monday morning and return around dusk the following Friday. During the work week, they harvested the bountiful trees by sawing or using a mule, by skidding. ("Alexa, what is tree skidding?") Some of the trees were processed on-site, but today, almost all are hauled by truck from the stump to a sawmill or lumber yard.

In early times, giant trees were taken to the banks of the Tombigbee River and rafted to Mobile for processing. Clarke County lumber is still treasured today, hardwoods for furniture-making and high-grade flooring and softwood conifers like pine for structural building.

"TIMBER!" is a cry that has been heard thousands of times through the 200-plus years of Clarke County history. It's a warning alert to fellow workers that a tree is being felled. Logging is not for the faint of heart; people in this naturally treacherous part of Alabama have learned how to take care of themselves and look after their neighbors. These are folks you'd like to run the river with.

Clarke County has a rich legacy of storytellers and fabulists, a posh term for fable-makers that should you use it in these parts could get you a funny look where even world-class, prize-winning authors are celebrated simply as real good tall tale spinners. The storytelling gift evolved from long stretches without outside entertainment or news. Folks here are primed for a good story and have a log truck full to return the pleasure.

One of the Alabama's, indeed America's, finest fabulistas was Thomasville's Kathryn Tucker Windham. Miz Kathryn, as many of us fondly remember her, was best known for her "haint" tales compiled in the bestseller, "13 Alabama Ghosts and Jeffrey." When the author was laid to rest in an Alabama pine box the summer of 2011, a photograph she took of Jeffrey, her household ghost, was placed next to the casket.

One of many beloved Alabama storytellers, Donald Davis, spoke at her memorial and shared that when Miz Kathryn asked him to deliver the eulogy he demurred, "I told her I might cry if I get up there." Like a typical, no nonsense Clarke Countian, Mrs. Windham told him, "Have you ever seen a ghost?" Then, she paused and with classic, comic timing, she shook a finger at him and added, "Well, honey if you cry, you're gonna see mine."

While writing this piece on Clarke County, I chatted with Kathryn Tucker Windham's close friend, Linda Vice, a longtime Alabama tourism agent and KTW's Thomasville neighbor. Ms. Vice reminded me there are many fun and "possibly, even part-true" tales by Kathryn Tucker Windham about PLANTS + PEOPLE. A favorite for Ms. Vice is Windham's "Christmas Narcissus" inspired by the mischievous, young, Windham children, Ben and Dilcy, digging up all the early-blooming narcissi in a neighbor's yard to surprise their mother on Christmas Day.

Kathryn Tucker Windham's tales are a colorful bouquet of Alabama folklore, Clarke County memories and homegrown recipes. Her cherished part of the state comes bountifully alive on the pages in "The Grapevine Swing," "Cornbread" and "Aunt Bet's Trees." Go add the books to your home library and also hear her unabashed, south Alabama drawl saved for the ages on YouTube.

Here are some other pleasurable examples of how PLANTS + PEOPLE come together in Clarke County, including a, gird yourself this is not an oxymoron like "jumbo shrimp," real recipe for HEALTHY, SAWMILL GRAVY:

• **THE BEST PLACE IN CLARKE COUNTY TO TAKE A LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHER/ARTIST**—The local, Alabama Cooperative Extension System Coordinator, Kevan Tucker, an ardent ambassador for PLANTS + PEOPLE agritourism in this part of Alabama, immediately recommended a vantage point at Silver Creek Park on the Alabama River with a "breathtaking vista of the river, rolling hills, lowland plants and forests as far as the eye can see."

• **PLANT-RELATED BUSINESS**—Clarke County has some good-sized employers that are regularly hiring in forest and lumber jobs; Scotch Plywood, Boise Paper, Alabama Pole and Pile, Thomasville Lumber, Cantor Lumber, Gulf Lumber, Louisiana Pacific

• **CLARKE COUNTY GARDENING STAR**—If you're a plant tourist adventuring in this part of Alabama, the "go to" home garden legend I kept hearing about is John Hall; apparently, he understands the soil and climate from years of trial-and-error-and-trial-again experience and he's successfully grown and cooked just about everything under the sun. Contact this generous-spirited, fellow plant enthusiast through the Alabama Cooperative Extension System or just ask anybody you see in this friendly, everybody-knows-everybody part of the state.

• **CLARKE COUNTY CULINARY ORIGINS**—This is down-home, Alabama farm cooking, but sauces are a bit more refined possibly because this area was once a trading post between the native Creek and Choctaw tribes with early French settlers. Clarke County was known for salt production during the American Civil War, and cooks here seem to have an innate understanding of flavoring.

• **PLANTS LURE DEER, FOX, QUAIL and RABBITS**—Plan for hours to hike and explore the 5,500 protected acres of the Fred T. Stimpson Special Opportunity Area (SOA).

• **GAINESVILLE METHODIST CHURCH and CEMETERY**—Historic, wooden sanctuary built in 1819, celebrating their own Bicentennial with Alabama this year

• **FORT SINQUEFIELD**— This wooden stockade built to protect white settlers from indigenous people, was attacked in Sept. 1813 by Red Stick warriors, and 12 women and children were killed and scalped; other confrontations resonate with PLANTS + PEOPLE encounters: a skirmish in canoes between Red Sticks and Sam Dale's militia men, a dramatic conflict at the Battle of Burnt Corn.

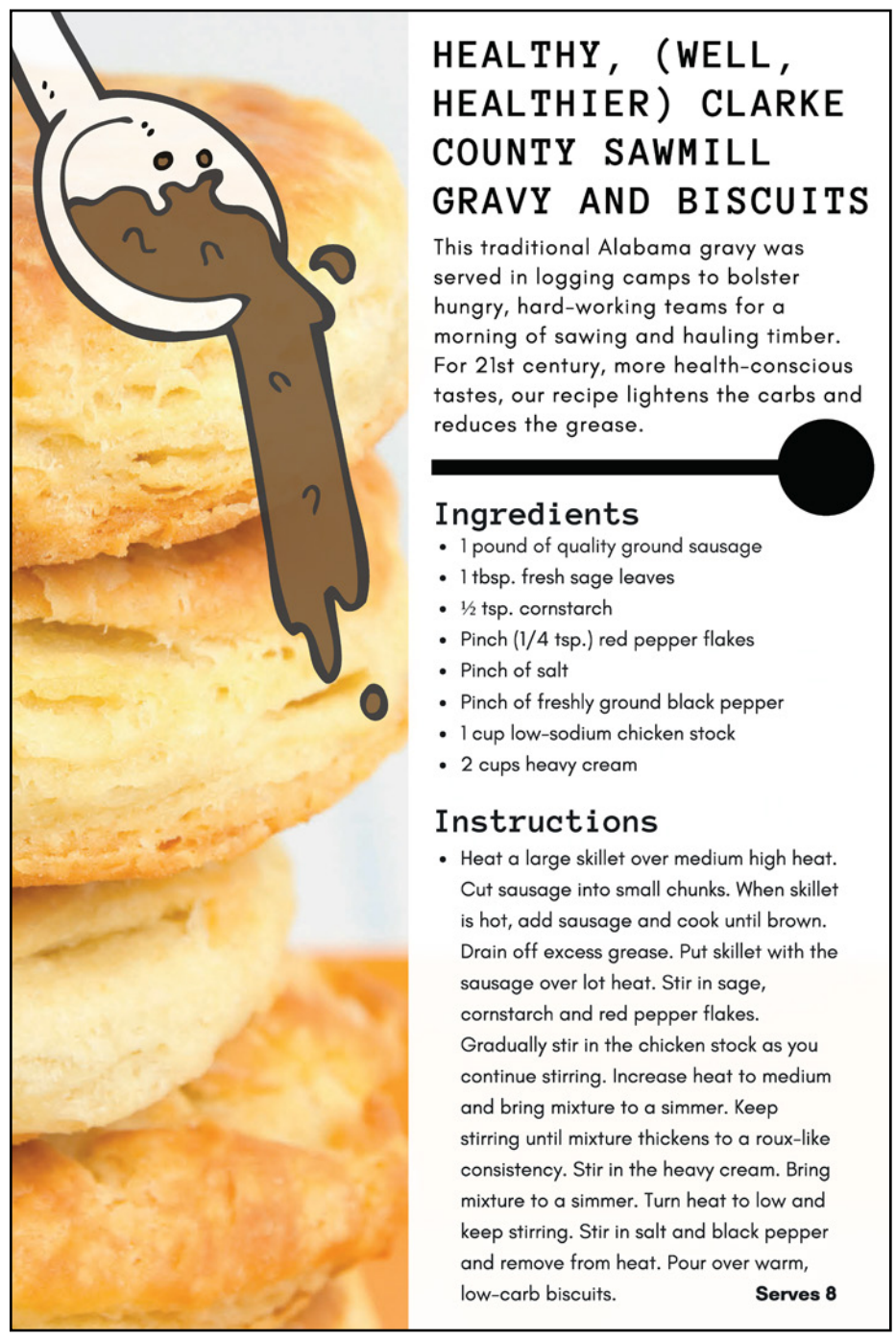
• **GAINESVILLE ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE**—Wooden structure built in 1913 and expanded to two rooms in 1930, now on the National Register of Historic Places

• **PLANTING AN IDEA**—How about creating an ALABAMA GHOST GARDEN in Thomasville near the Kathryn Tucker Windham Museum? This could be something like the Scottish legend of "Brigadoon," which mysteriously appears and disappears year-to-year on a certain day. It could be a chalk or stone outline of one of many homestead gardens in Clarke County that have become lost in time over the past 200 years. However it might be conjured, please invite us avid plant tourists. And, pretty please with Clarke County sugarcane syrup on it, there must be magical, local storytellers.

Many thanks to Kevan Tucker, Alabama Cooperative Extension System. The website is http://offices.aces.edu/Clarke. For up-to-date info on events and workshops check their Facebook page at Clarke County-Alabama Extension. And, a giant, "thank you" bouquet of Christmas narcissi to Thomasville treasure, Linda Vice, for sharing her memories of Kathryn Tucker Windham.



The Alabama honeysuckle border was inspired by an 18th century, Southern applique quilt.



FUNNY THINGS FROM YESTERDAY

No, this is not a hot dog

Robert N. Tidwell, Sr.
Tribune Contributor



Note: Some of the longtime subscribers of The Cullman Tribune will notice that some of my stories are repeats, but I hope you may enjoy them again and hopefully new subscribers will enjoy them.

R.N.T.

All grandparents can probably identify with my story this week. Rudene and I are the proud grandparents of a precious little granddaughter. Don't think I'm prejudiced, I'm not; all grandparents are this way.

Anyway, our granddaughter, Leanna Noelle, is 15 months old now, and she is really making some changes in her life, as well as in the lives of everyone around her. She is walking and beginning to say a few words. She can say, "ball," "dog," "no no" and a few other words.

If you ask her how the dog goes, she will say, "woof, woof." I have been trying to teach her to say, "Granny," but she hasn't mastered that yet.

She was at our house the other night for a visit. Since she has begun to travel on her own two little feet, she likes to explore. She waddled into the downstairs bathroom where we have a shower stall.

This shower has a plastic accordion-type door that snaps on each end at the top and bottom.

Leanna could just barely push the door back enough to put her little face into the shower stall to see what was inside. She did this three times until her curiosity was settled and then she went on to something else.

That evening, Leanna had already eaten supper before she came to our house, but she wanted to eat again.

I had a couple of hot dogs, so Rudene peeled the skin off part of one of my hot dogs, and cut it up for Leanna. I asked her how she liked that hot dog and she said, "woof woof."

I explained to her that was the wrong kind of dog- this is a hot dog, the kind you eat.

I'm sure she understood my explanation completely, for grandchildren are just unusually smart. Any grandparents with their first young grandchild knows that.

Now that Leanna is grown up, she has four dogs in her house. Not the hot-dog type, these are the kind that say, "woof, woof."

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Just Be Kind

Bill King
Tribune Contributor



I was driving up I-65, south of Montgomery, when I saw one for the first time. I had seen more billboards than fire- ant mounds by the sides of the highway. Most read, "Call me Alabama," but others said, "You know who to call," or "One call, that's all."

This particular billboard was different. It wasn't calling for me to call anyone, or to sue anyone either, for that matter. It wasn't trying to persuade me to buy anything. It didn't have a picture of a lawyer or a new car on it. In fact, it didn't have any pictures at all. It was simply black and white and had only three words on it.

They were big, bold letters that read, "Just Be Kind." I was immediately struck by the simplicity of the billboard, but even more so by its message. It's a message that is greatly needed in our society. I've noticed more of them since then.

They remind me of the "Just Do It" Nike slogan, except with no swoosh. Maybe Nike could loan their slogan to whoever owns these new signs.

They could read, "Just be Kind," followed by "Just Do It," because we desperately need to do it! These giant billboards caused me to ask myself if we have forgotten how to be kind?

After a little research, I learned that there is somewhat of a kindness campaign taking place across the country. Billboards and signs have popped up in many places. The small town of Plainfield, in central Indiana, claims to have started the movement back in 2015.

The "Just Be Kind" group there began with a group of kids as an after school club. They made signs, t-shirts, and key chains with the slogan on them.

Part of the reason for the plea was the modern day problem of bullying. Soon after that humble beginning, the movement which has become known as the JBK movement began to spread to other cities and states. JBK signs and apparel have popped up across the nation and even in different parts of the world.

Almost every day we are appalled by the horrific acts of meanness that are played out all around us. Certainly, we stand in need of a revival of kindness.

If we would "Just Be Kind," modern problems like bullying, road rage, mass shootings, hatefulness, and simple rudeness might be held a little more in check.

Jesus told a story about some mean men, two apathetic men, and one kind man. The mean men robbed a lone traveler, stripped him, beat him, and left by the side of the road to die.

The first man to pass that way was a priest. The injured man may have thought help had arrived, but the priest went out of his way to avoid him.

The second person to pass was a Levite; an assistant to the priest. He actually came close enough to take a look at the injured man, but then he too went to the other side and left without helping.

Finally, a man whom we know as the "Good Samaritan," was moved with compassion and provided acts of kindness. He bandaged the man's wounds, poured oil and wine on them, put him on his own animal (which meant he walked), took him to an inn, and took care of him.

When he left, he even paid the innkeeper to take care of the stranger and promised to come back and pay anything else that was owed.

While the first two men went out of their way to not show kindness, the Samaritan went out of his way to be Kind. May we follow his example, and the admonition of modern sign-makers, and "Just be Kind."

Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com or 334-745-0588 (office) or 334-728-5514 (cell).

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1918:

On September 22nd, Mr. and Mrs. Asa B. Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. S.J. Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Herzig, Miss Mae Hauk and Doctor G.W. Bledsoe assisted the Welti Community in organizing a Red Cross Auxiliary.

G.D. Elmore is chairman and Jesse Smith secretary-treasurer of the Fairview Red Cross Auxiliary.

The government is calling for peach seeds and nut shells to be used in making gas masks.

A two-day singing will be held at Shelton Grove on October 5th and 6th.

The total income of the Cullman County government is about $55,000 annually.

Of this, $12,400 has to be paid in interest on the road bond debt and the courthouse debt.

A.J. Wenzel, president of the Cullman County Farmers and Shippers Association, has called a meeting of that group for October 5th at the Cullman Quartette Club.

Enoch Ruehl has written his sister, Dovie that the boys in his "outfit" in France, are so sunburnt that they look like pumpkins.

From The Files Of 1938:

The Vinemont Post Office was robbed on Saturday night of about $8.50 in stamps.

According to Postmaster Maurice Holmes, the thieves gained entrance by forcing a window in the rear of the building.

Marriage licenses were issued this week to Tom Gilley and Irene Hathcock and Ozell Twilley and Alva McFadden.

Elizabeth Dickerman and Ellen Klein have returned from a motor trip through Canada.

The Ferris Patricks have almost completed their new house.

The "F's" are taking the day. Everything in the news now is fairs, football, fall clothes and "Fuehrer."

Virginia Grob is recuperating from a serious operation, in Baptist Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

Evelyn Grey McAdory, Beverly Green and D.O. McKoy spent Sunday in Huntsville.

Al Richter was speaker at the Garden Club meeting, on Friday, at First Christian Church. His subject was "Bulbs."

A Cullman reared man, Doctor J.A. Keller will be inaugurated president of Florence State Teacher's College on October 1st.

Heart disease caused four deaths in Cullman County, last month.

Attending a W.M.S. convention of United Lutheran Church in America, in Birmingham, this week were Reverend

C.C. Helmby, Mrs. L.B. Keller, Mrs. J.F. Schaffer, Mrs. Raymond Graf, Mrs. J.J. Fricke, Miss Jennie Bolte, Mrs. Lillie Hampl, Mrs. L. Kreitlein and Mrs. O.W. McMinn.

J.N. McNutt and O.P. Jackson were in Atlanta, Georgia, on business for a couple of days this week.

The Cullman Lions Club will hold its charter night on September 29th at Saint John's Church basement.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CCCDC presents grant checks to area organizations

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN - The Cullman County Community Development Commission (CCCDC) awarded several grants at its January meeting.

This week, grant checks were presented to recipients.

The Cullman County Child Development Center received its check on Wednesday. Cold Springs High School was scheduled to receive its check at Friday night's basketball game.

Other recipients were given their checks Friday afternoon at the Cullman County Economic Development office.

Here's the full list of grants awarded for January:

- Cold Springs High School, library furniture and covered awning, $50,000
- Vinemont High School, HVAC system for school gymnasium, $50,000
- City of Good Hope, sewer upgrade matching grant, $12,000
- Cullman PALS, boom trailer- solid waste officer, $12,000
- Life Long Learning, youth and adult literacy, $6,000
- Hanceville Middle School, 30 Dell Chromebooks, charging station cart and headphones, $11,247.07
- Harmony School, Recipe for Reading trade books, $12,000
- Holly Pond Elementary School, cart of Chromebooks for library, $8,000
- Joppa Volunteer Fire Department, five units of turn-out gear, $12,000
- Good Hope Middle School, three iPad Pros, keyboards and Apple pencils, $3,651
- Cullman County Child Development Center, playground renovation, $12,000

CCCDC board members are appointed by the Cullman area's state legislative delegation.

CCCDC members are:

- Cherrie Haney - appointed by Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman
- Joe Golden - appointed by Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview
- Bradley Williams - appointed by Rep. Corey Harbison, R- Good Hope
- Josh Speakman - appointed by Rep. Scott Stadthagen, R-Hartselle
- Champ Crocker, chairman - appointed by the legislative delegation



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cherrelle Fancher, third from left, accepts a grant for $6,000 for youth and adult literacy programming through Life Long Learning from the Cullman County Community Development Commission (CCCDC) Friday. From left are CCCDC members Cherrie Haney, Josh Speakman, Champ Crocker and Bradley Williams. Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope is on the far right.

Funding for CCCDC grants comes from taxes- Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in lieu of taxes and beer taxes.

Grants are capped at $12,000 and are not issued for more than that amount except under extraordinary circumstances, which must be approved by the legislators.

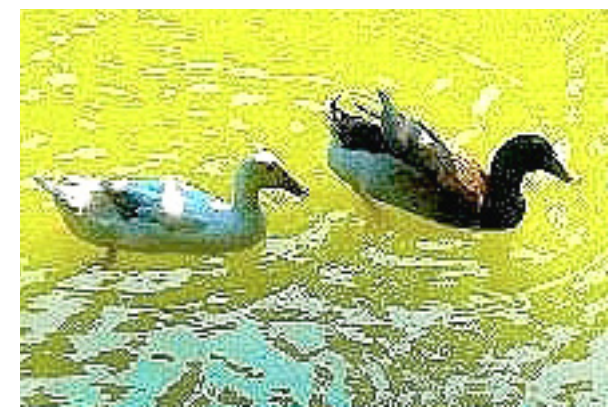
The $50,000 grant awarded tonight to Cold Springs High School falls under that category.

The CCCDC strives to maintain a $100,000 reserve fund, as advised by the legislators. To learn more or to submit a grant application, visit http://co.cullman.al.us/cccdc/cccdc.html.

Poet's Corner

Side By Side

By: Randy C. Hale



The old pond, moss covered,

is dark and lime green.

Two ducks feed on sur-

face, sometimes upend

into a brief dive, gliding as touring.

A bass flips near,

circles

radiate the tranquil quiet. As dark sneaks

in, they hide in tall grass days, weeks

or a sprinkling of years, side by side.

Cullman Regional names Nesha Donaldson COO

Lindsey P. Dossey
Cullman Regional

CULLMAN – Nesha Donaldson, FACHE, on Thursday was officially appointed chief operations officer (COO) of Cullman Regional; Donaldson has filled the role in conjunction with her chief financial officer (CFO) position at the hospital for more than a year.

"Nesha's experience and background make her the best candidate for this position," CEO James Clements said. "We are pleased that she has accepted the position permanently."

Donaldson has served as Cullman Regional's CFO since 2011 and served as the organization's controller for seven years prior to becoming the CFO. Prior to that, she worked as an accounting executive for Cullman Electric Cooperative (1995 to 2004) and Drummond Company (1984 to 1995). Donaldson earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) from Auburn University and her Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of North Alabama. In 2017, she became a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), an achievement of the highest standard of professional development for a health care executive.

In her new role, Donaldson will oversee all day-to-day operations of the hospital and work with both clinical and business operators to improve the overall quality and efficiency of services provided. "I'm excited about this new challenge, and I look forward to having the opportunity to get out and work directly with our staff around the hospital," Donaldson said.

Kimberly Albright has been named interim CFO following Donaldson's promotion. Albright has served as the organization's controller since 2013.

For more information on Cullman Regional or the services provided, visit www.cullmanregional.com.



CULLMAN REGIONAL

Nesha Donaldson, FACHE

Chaney (from Front)

Cullman's drug court

Chaney, who has previously served as president of the Alabama Drug Court Association, will be attending a state conference at Orange Beach next week to represent Cullman County's drug court, whose deferral program has a 65 percent success rate with convicted non-violent felony drug offenders. "We've been running a successful drug court here in Cullman County for many years, where people come who are charged with drugs to stay sober, work through their program for a year, and if they're successful, their case is dismissed. They're subjected to random drug screens seven days a week. They have to work. They have to pay for their program."

Cullman County has a family court for youthful drug offenders, and an adult drug court for those of age. Under the leadership of Circuit Court Judge Gregory Nicholas and District Court Judge Rusty Turner, a new veterans' court is set to begin in April 2019.

Each one is designed to help people in specific circumstances and with specific backgrounds, where a one-size-fits-all program may not work.

Drug court officials learn to spot trafficking

As Cullman County's court officials deal with drug offenders, they are learning how to spot the signs of human trafficking and respond accordingly.

Said Chaney, "On the adult side, the drug court side, we've been trained now through the human trafficking part, to make sure that there's not any exploitation of women for the acquisition of drug use.

"And I think the more we learn about this side of it, the human trafficking side, it bleeds over into the drug use side. Drug court judges now are being trained to make sure to ask the appropriate questions and to make appropriate observations, to make sure that we understand the dynamics of everything that's going on in the court."

Dinner (from Front)

W.C. Mann
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CULLMAN – On Monday, Feb. 18, Cullman First United Methodist Church, at 320 Third Ave. SE, will host the 16th annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner in Hearin Hall.

The event, begun by Tanya Shearer in 2003, raises funds for the food pantry at United Way agency Cullman Caring for Kids (CCK). For a ticket price of $10, guests receive hot, homemade chili, a grilled cheese sandwich and a drink, along with a handmade pottery bowl to take home.

The bowls are crafted by local potters throughout the year.

Southern gospel entertainment will be provided by returning acts Enell Baker, Shannon Green and The Potentials.

The annual event typically raises at least $12,000, and in 2017 raised more than $15,000.

Through its partnership with the North Alabama Food Bank, CCK can purchase food for the local pantry for around 14 cents per pound; partnerships with local grocers help keep prices low, as well, on items the organization cannot get from the food bank.

The 84,000 pounds that the average $12,000 would buy could supply four months of food to CCK, which currently distributes 10 to 12 tons of food to up to 650 families each month.

"We buy a lot of food," said CCK Director Javon Daniel, "and we have a lot of food that is donated. But the big thing to me is, it involves the whole community doing something to help those that are in need of food. It's just awesome!"

Daniel looks forward, not only to the funds that Empty Bowls will raise, but to being part of the event itself.

He told The Tribune, "It's become a family tradition. It's become a community get-together. We have a lot of people that have asked already, 'When's Empty Bowls?', all this kind of stuff."

For example, Daniel shared that the Cullman Lions Club, of which he is a member, usually meets on Monday evenings but will be bringing its folks over to the church instead for the event.

Said Daniel, "They've done that for several, several years. It's just a way of putting back into the community.

"You have so much fun, you meet people, you see people you haven't seen in a while. Sometimes you only see them that one time a year."

"Empty Bowls is really vital. It's one of the things that we depend on each year. We just looked up yesterday, that in the 15 years, they have raised over $100,000, I think it's $111,000, for Cullman Caring for Kids over that period of time. And for each of those dollars, we're buying the food at the food bank in Huntsville, we could buy 7 pounds of food for each dollar. So yes, Empty Bowls is a very, very vital part of our operation.

"We love it: not just for that reason. That's great, but we love it because we get to see people and talk to them, and they get the sense of giving back. And it's just, I don't know, there's an excitement in the air, to me, when we're there and people start coming in, and everything's going good. I don't know; it's just fun!"

At a glance

- 2019 16th annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County, benefiting the Cullman Caring for Kids food bank
- Monday, Feb. 18, 4-6:30 p.m.
- First United Methodist Church, 320 Third. Ave. SE, Cullman, in Hearin Hall at the intersection of Third Avenue and U.S. Highway 278.

Tickets are available for $10 from

- Cullman Caring for Kids, 402 Arnold St. NE # W1, 256-739-1111
- First United Methodist Church, 320 Third Ave. SE, 256-734-6690

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MASTER TECHNICIAN



"We are here to help maintain your car, truck or SUV and it is something we take very seriously at Tony Serra Nissan. ***From oil changes to engine repair, and everything in the middle, it can be done here."***

Cory has been servicing vehicles at Tony Serra Nissan since the doors opened in 2011. He said that the group of mechanics and service technicians he works side-by-side with every day have become his extended family.

"We have a lot of fun together. It doesn't matter if we are working or at home after work playing video games because we are family and we just enjoy being around one another. We're just one big family here at Nissan!"

Cory inspects the finished work following a complete engine replacement. When asked about the time consuming task, Cory stated, "It goes a lot smoother when you've guys you can trust to do the job properly the first time. That's what we have here at Nissan!"





Next time you're in need of an oil change or would just like to ask questions drop by Tony Serra Nissan and meet Cory Reeves, Master Technician!

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