Tony Serra Nissan

GET THE RIGHT TRACTION
NAVIGATING THROUGH 2019



1724 Cherokee Ave SW
Cullman, AL
256-676-2435
TonySerraNissanCullman.com

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 146 • 50¢ PER COPY | *MARCH 19, 2019* | USPS 139-700 • NO. 35

COMMUNITY MATTERS - SPECIAL EDITION

MARCH 19, 2018 HAILSTORM

1 year later



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

"Walter," the hailstone preserved by Cullman Tribune reporter W.C. Mann, is the largest recorded stone in Alabama history, and the second largest ever officially recorded east of the Mississippi River.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN COUNTY, Ala. - On March 19, 2018, Cullman County was struck by a hailstorm of historic proportions. While no lives were lost to the system that produced the hailstorm, versus two lives lost to the April 27, 2011 tornado in Cullman County alone, the economic impact of the hailstorm rivals and may ultimately exceed that of the tornado.

In the early evening of March 19, a line of supercell thunderstorms was moving east by southeast across Lawrence, Morgan, Winston and Cullman Counties when a new storm developed immediately ahead of these storms, moving on a slower northeasterly track. Merging of the new storm with the line of supercells created strong updrafts which allowed hailstones to remain aloft for extended periods of time and continue to grow. When they began to fall, because they had become too heavy for the updrafts to carry them, they were, according to the National Weather Service, "the size of baseballs to as big as grapefruits."

Starting around 7:10 p.m. on March 19, the pathway of the hailstorm began around Good Hope and included the Deer Trace subdivision north of that city, across the interstate from Cullman's south side. Sweeping eastward into Cullman, the storm affected almost every business along the Cherokee Avenue retail corridor, as well as residential areas to the north and south of the thoroughfare. Hail hit the Fox Meadow, Carroll Acres and Arbor East subdivisions before the storm followed Bolte Road out of town on its way toward Welti. The last concentration of large hailstones fell around the Walter community, where Alabama's current state record hailstone was recovered. Cullman County's storm warnings expired at 9 p.m.

Cullman County's storm was part of a large system that spawned more than 20 tornadoes in Alabama, including an EF-3 that struck Jacksonville State University, and produced damaging hail in a path all the way from Texas to Florida. The total cost of the system's effects is estimated to be $1.5 billion. Thanks in part to warnings issued by meteorologists beginning days in advance, there were no fatalities in Alabama.

Cullman Industrial Parks I, II and III, along with the city's Industrial Complex (home to REHAU and others) and industrial developments along Old Hanceville Highway suffered extensive damage to roofs and roof-mounted equipment. Multiple industrial sites, while not releasing official numbers, reported building repair costs of more than $1 million each.

Cullman Economic Development Agency Director Dale Greer told The Tribune, "We went months where you drove around and you still saw those blue tarps up on houses and industries. I think most all of the industries in those five areas had roof damage, and some of them really, really extensive. Several of them were saying it was the biggest insurance claim they'd ever had."

He continued, "It was just ex- » PAGE 7

EDUCATION

Voters will decide today on continuation of property tax allocation for schools

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - Cullman County voters will head to the polls today, Tuesday, March 19, from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. to vote on the continuation and renewal of an existing property tax allocation for schools. The tax is not new or an increase. State law requires the allocation be renewed through a referendum every 30 years.

News of the referendum has been met with stiff resistance from many of The Cullman Tribune's online readers because of the timing. Last Tuesday, the Cullman County Commission voted to approve a new half-cent sales tax to benefit Cullman County Schools. That same day, Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed legislation that will raise the state's fuel tax rate for the first time since the early 1990s. The state will see a 10-cent gas tax increase phased in over three years to support infrastructure and the Port of Mobile.

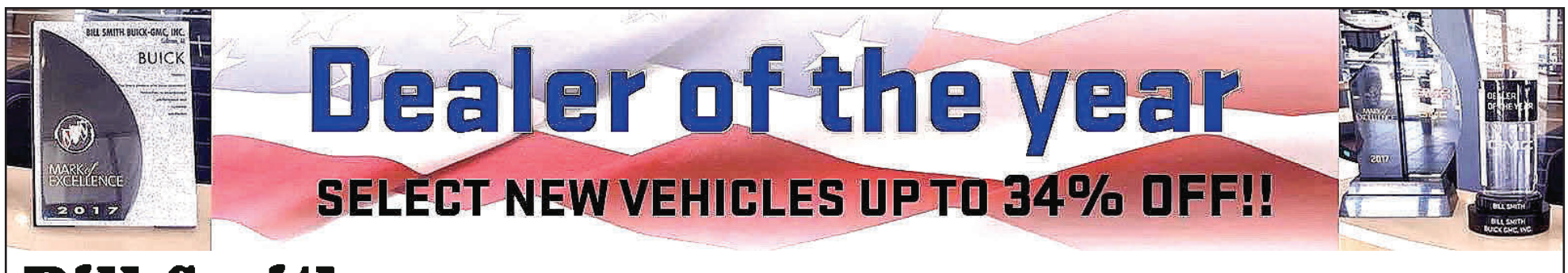
In an online poll conducted by The Tribune last Monday, an overwhelming majority of participants said they were not in favor of the 10-cent statewide fuel tax increase (Approximately 1,600 said they did not support the tax, while 197 said they did support it); however, half of the Cullman-area's state legislative delegation voted yes on the bill. Public reaction to those votes was swift and overwhelmingly negative.

Property tax allocation not a new tax

Area educators and business leaders have been vocal in their support of the property tax allocation, fearing that the general public might vote "no" because of the bitter taste left from the approval of the statewide gas tax.

Cullman City Schools Superintendent Dr. Susan Patterson shared, "On March 19, the residents of Cullman will have a renewal vote to continue the current funding for our school system. This ad valorem renewal is a continuation of what was passed in 1920. This has to be renewed every 30 years by a vote of the people. The funds provided through this allow us to provide teachers, nurses, resource officers, aides and opportunities for our students. The renewal will not raise property tax for anyone but will provide the much-needed funds to continue meeting our community expectations. Please support our students by voting for the proposals on March 19."

Cullman High School sent out a message to parents, saying, "Cullman City Schools requests that you vote to maintain the funding allowed to CCS through the property » PAGE 6



Bill Smith BUICK GMC

DON'T MAKE A $3,000 MISTAKE

*Notates all rebates applied, must have '99 or newer qualifying trade in. Prices are plus tax, title, & fee. Colors may vary.

BILLSMITHBUICKGMC.COM • 1940 SECOND AVE NW • CULLMAN, AL 35055 • 256-734-4472

Arrests and incidents reported on March 18

Maggie Darnell
maggie@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported on March 18, 2019. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

March 14

- unlawful possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of marijuana, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, trafficking drugs; CR 1435, CR 1355
- domestic violence; CR 62
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1655, CR 1660
- unlawful possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1447, CR 1448

March 15

- harassment; CR 1101
- harassment; Hwy. 31
- theft of property; CR 1223
- trespassing; CR 1437
- theft of property; CR 468
- theft of property; CR 222
- harassment; Hwy. 91
- burglary; Hwy. 157
- burglary; Hwy. 91

March 16

- domestic violence; CR 1625
- domestic violence; CR 219
- theft of property; CR 1736
- unlawful possession of marijuana; Hwy. 69N, CR 1807
- theft of property; CR 1668
- harassment; CR 1607
- domestic violence; CR 1485

March 17

- unlawful possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 818, CR 831
- domestic violence, menacing; CR 1447
- domestic violence, criminal mischief; CR 1718
- theft of property; Shaver Ave.
- theft of property; CR 1375
- unlawful possession of marijuana; CR 222, CR 438
- burglary; Red Hill Road
- theft of property; CR 1592
- domestic violence; Hwy. 69 N, CR 1807

ARRESTS

March 14

Barnett, Richard Shane, 19
- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

Barrett, Charity Joy, 25
- public intoxication

Elliott, Joshua Dustin Donnie, 34
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Gean, Clifford Wayne Jr., 22
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Green, Willie Jack, 35
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Johnson, Johnny Wayne, 34
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- trafficking illegal drugs
- trafficking in methamphetamine
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Moore, Alexander Kenyon, 18
- discharging firearm in occupied/unoccupied building/vehicle

Nickelson, Loyd Berton, 33
- third-degree criminal trespassing

Parker, Morgan Nichole, 24
- FTA- second-degree theft of property
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Snyder, Jeremy Robert, 44
- DUI- influence of alcohol

Weldon, Tracy Michelle, 44
- third-degree burglary (2 counts)
- unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle

March 15-17

Allred, Terry Dewayne, 41
- probation violation

Anders, Kevin Russell, 34
- FTA- liability insurance required

Banister, Nikki Virginia, 31
- probation violation-first-degree theft of property

Foshee, Jennifer Joy, 43
- probation violation-second-degree promoting prison contraband

Foster, Raphael Maurice, 35
- FTA- open container in vehicle

Francis, Shane Michael, 25
- third-degree criminal trespassing
- public intoxication

Franklin, Cristy Linn, 43
- FTA- second-degree theft of property

Grier, Starla Danielle, 38
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Kilpatrick, Justin Todd, 55
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Lively, Timothy Lee, 37
- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Lucas, Gregory Ryan, 35
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Mewbourn, Ricky Charles, 53
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Moore, Christina Johnson, 41
- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property
- FTA- unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle

Peoples, Melissa Gail, 37
- FTA- public intoxication

Sanford, Christopher Lee, 34
- probation violation

Scott, Kilee Jade, 21
- third-degree domestic violence- third-degree criminal mischief

Sherrell, Cameron Daniel, 21
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Smith, Justin William, 30
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)

Swann, Brandon Lee, 27
- FTA- third degree domestic violence- harassment

Thompson, Joshua Andrew, 38
- FTA- driving while suspended

Wagner, Tonya Lynn, 38
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Whitehead, Nicolas Aren, 37
- unauthorized use, unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle

Williams, Sarah Elizabeth, 28
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Wise, April Nichole, 31
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

March 15

- fourth-degree theft of property; person; 4th St. SW; drill and socket set; $149
- third-degree theft of property; Manning Construction, LLC; Cherokee Ave. SW; saw; $1,450
- harassment, harassing communications; person
- fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; miscellaneous; $63
- fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; camera; $99
- identify-theft; person

March 16

- fourth-degree theft of property; person; 8th Ct. NE; air compressor; $150
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment; person

March 17

- third-degree domestic violence- harassment; person; 5th St. SW

ARRESTS

March 15-17

Anders, Kevin R., 34
- FTA- disorderly conduct

Ford, Brandon L., 45
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Cummings, Madyson B., 21
- fourth-degree theft of property

Brasher, Ronald A., 35
- DUI

Oliver, Samuel K., 24
- FTA- public intoxication

Tolbert, Barry K., 54
- disorderly conduct

Rodgers, Joshua A., 34
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- third-degree criminal trespassing (2 counts)
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Parson, Derek C., 35
- DUI

Mendez, Jamie R., 35
- DUI

Thompson, Joshua A., 38
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Hawkins, Paul F., 45
- second-degree theft of property

Williams, Sarah E., 28
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Griffin, Kristopher L., 33
- FTA- DUI
- FTA- driving without a license
- FTA- insurance violation

Kelso, James G., 26
- GJ- third degree forgery (2 counts)
- GJ- third-degree possession of a forged instrument (2 counts)

Foshee, Jennifer J., 43
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Strickland, Trey M., 18
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Oneal, Jason L., 37
- DUI

Cornett, Randall C., 29
- FTA- driving while suspended
- FTA- insurance violation
- FTA- running a red light

Whittle, Jacob E., 34
- DUI

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

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

EARL'S BODY SHOP
2251 Decatur Ave., N.W.
734-2406

THE BARN
Portable Storage Buildings
Hanceville, AL
352-2737

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
March 19 - 21

Lunch at VFW Post 2214- Tuesday, March 19
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

TOPS Meeting- Tuesday, March 19
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

Yoga at the Library- Wednesday, March 20
- Every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Cullman County Public Library
- 200 Clark St. NE
- Cullman, AL 35055
- Bring your own mat, strap and block. These items are optional.

Dodge City Town Council Meeting- Wednesday, March 20
RESCHEDULED FROM LAST WEEK- 6 p.m. at Dodge City Town Hall

Kidney Stone Seminar- Thursday, March 21
Join Urologist, Erik Wallin, MD, of the Cullman Regional Urology Clinic as he discusses how kidney stones develop, risk factors, symptoms, diagnosis and modern treatment. The kidney stone seminar will be held on Thursday, March 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Colonel Cullmann Room, located in Professional Office Building 2 on the Cullman Regional Campus (1912 AL Hwy 157, Cullman, AL 35058). Cost of this lunch and learn program is $5 for Healthy Life members and $8 for others. To reserve your spot, register online at www.cullmanregional.com or call 256-735-5600.

Hanceville City Council Meeting- Thursday, March 21
RESCHEDULED FROM LAST WEEK- 6 p.m. at Hanceville City Hall

Upcoming....

2020 Distinguished Young Woman Informational Meeting- Sunday, March 24
An informational meeting for the 2020 Distinguished Young Woman of Cullman County Scholarship Program (formerly Cullman County Junior Miss) will be held on Sunday, March 24 at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Cullman. High school girls in their junior year who are residents of Cullman County are invited to attend this meeting with a parent. We will go over the program details and give out applications for the June 29, 2019 program. If you have any questions or if you are interested but unable to attend the March 24 meeting, please contact Felicia Carden at 256-385-5287 or at cullman@distunguishedyw.org.

Smith Lake Park Spring Yard Sale- Saturday, March 30
Join us on Saturday, March 30 for our Smith Lake Park Spring Yard Sale! It's free to the public! Set up begins at 6 a.m. and sale begins at 7 a.m. Vendor grass spots are $10 and pavilions are $35 and $55. Vendors will pay at the gate on the day of the sale. Reservations only needed for pavilions. For more info, call 256-739-2916.

Relay For Life March Madness Golf Tournament- Saturday, March 30
The Wallace State Relay For Life team will hold a March Madness Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 30, at Cross Creek Golf Course. Check in will begin at 11 a.m., with a 12 p.m. shotgun start. The two-player scramble is flighted and includes a couple's division. Entry is $120 per team, and includes green fees and cart with GPS and club cover, team range balls, tournament gift, one attempt for longest drive, one attempt for closest pin, one attempt for closest second shot, dinner, prizes/photo. Team options include skins game, chipping and putting contest and mulligans. Cash prizes will be awarded. Register by March 23 at www.wsccalumni.org/marchmadness19 or contact Debra Young at 256-352-8334 or debra.young@wallacestate.edu. Facebook event: www.facebook.com/events/473493976509964/

Holly Pond Band 21st Annual Golf Classic- Saturday, April 6
Holly Pond Band's 21st Annual Golf Classic at Chesley Oaks will take place on April 6. For more information, visit the band's Facebook page, call 256-339-9677 or email hollypondband@gmail.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Ground flowers at the Cullman City Cemetery need to be removed by April 15 to prepare for Decoration Day on May 12.



A-1 Battery Supply
AUTO – TRUCK – TRACTOR
Quality Batteries For Every Need
Since 1979
2172 Co. Rd. 1169 • Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: (Office): 256-734-9438

The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874
Publication Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422
Humble Roots, LLC
Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: robin@cullmansense.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES
Cullman.....$75.00
Outside Cullman.....$85.00

NoahGalilee–Publisher
DustinIsom–Editor
Wendy Sack – Newsroom Editor
Loretta Gillespie Lifestyle/Religion
Christy Perry - General Reporter
Maggie Darnell– GeneralReporter
W.C. Mann - General Reporter
Sammy Confer-Youth/JVSports Editor
Nick Griffin -Varsity Sports Editor
Joe McElroy - Photographer
Bill Piper - Photojournalist
Howard Cole - Photojournalist
Robin Winton - Newsroom Manager
Christy Kimbril - Multi Media Consultant

LEGALS

PB ADT BK 51 PG 670 - 03/01/2019 02:54 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY

STATE OF ALABAMA
CULLMAN COUNTY **CASE NO: AD-2019-008**

IN RE: THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF N.D.G.
D.O.B. 05-19-2015
A MINOR CHILD.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: **GERRI LYNN PATE AND ROBERTO GUERRA, ANY KNOWN, UNKNOWN, OR DISCLOSED PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE THE BIOLOGICAL MOTHER AND FATHER**

A PETITION FOR ADOPTION WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY LEONARD HARRY TATRO AND EMILY JANE TATRO, PETITIONERS. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE LAST PUBLICATION. THE RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONERS, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS ARE SHOWN BELOW, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, 500 2ND AVENUE SW, ROOM 101, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055.

DONE THIS 1st DAY OF March, 2019.

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

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Petitioners
P.O. Box 834
Hanceville, AL 35077

****

To the Publisher of **The Cullman Tribune**

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

PB ADT BK 51 PG 669 - 03/01/2019 02:47 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY

STATE OF ALABAMA
CULLMAN COUNTY **CASE NO: AD-2019-007**

IN RE: THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF M.C.G.
D.O.B. 08/03/2009
A MINOR CHILD.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: **GERRI LYNN PATE AND ROBERTO GUERRA, ANY KNOWN, UNKNOWN, OR DISCLOSED PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE THE BIOLOGICAL MOTHER AND FATHER**

A PETITION FOR ADOPTION WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY LEONARD HARRY TATRO AND EMILY JANE TATRO, PETITIONERS. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE LAST PUBLICATION. THE RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONERS, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS ARE SHOWN BELOW, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, 500 2ND AVENUE SW, ROOM 101, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055.

DONE THIS 1st DAY OF March, 2019.

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

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Petitioners
P.O. Box 834
Hanceville, AL 35077

PB WIL BK 89 PG 608 - 03/01/2019 04:22 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO: PC2019-072

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF CLIFFORD A. HANDLEY, SR, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE
PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the estate of said deceased have been granted to Thomas K. Handley on the 1st day of March, 2019, by Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Thomas K. Handley

1926 3rd Ave SE, Cullman, AL 35055

Personal Representative

To the publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80.

2013 Kia Forte, Vin.# KNAFU4A23D5694615
2004 Nissan Sentra, Vin.#3N1CB51DX4L884997
2002 Ford Ranger, Vin.#1FTZR45E22TA60047
2006 Chevy HHR, Vin.#3GNDA23P56S622220
2006 Mercedes Benz, Vin.#4JGBB86E16A003525
1998 Mitsubishi Montero Sport, Vin.#JA4LS31P4WP022517
2009 GMC Envoy, Vin.#1GKDT43S192106542
2003 Honda Odyssey, Vin.#5FNRL18603B135465
1997 Isuzu Rodeo, Vin.#4S2CK58V5V4326739
2004 Hyundai Sante Fe, Vin.#KM8SC13D04U735849
2003 Chevy Impala, Vin.#2G1WH52K439446752
1990 Nissan D21, Vin.#1N6SD11S1LC392358

These vehicles will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Smith's Body Shop and Wrecker Service, LLC, 11597 US Highway 278 East, Holly Pond, Alabama, 35083, on Friday, April 12, 2019, at 8:00 a.m.

PB MIN BK 177 PG 713 - 03/01/2019 02:09 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
MARY CARSON GLASSCOCK, deceased CASE NO. PC2019-056

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF MARY CARSON GLASSCOCK, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to William Carson Glasscock on the 1st day of March, 2019, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

William Carson Glasscock, Personal Representative

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Sherry H. Barrett
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721

PB WIL BK 89 PG 584 - 03/01/2019 02:16 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
CHARLOTTE C. BARNETT) CASE NO.: PC-2018-183
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: JASON K. BOERSCHINGER OR ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT OF KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

On the 1st day of June, 2018, Petitioner, JASON K. BOERSCHINGER, filed a Petition to have a document purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of CHARLOTTE C. BARNETT, deceased, admitted to record in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama. Upon consideration thereof, it is hereby;

ORDERED that a hearing on this matter is set on the 15th day of April, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. before the Honorable TAMMY BROWN, Judge of Probate, of Cullman County, Alabama. Said hearing will be heard in the Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, Alabama.

DATED this 1st day of March, 2019.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

Dan J. Willingham
Attorney for Petitioner
413 1st Ave SW
P.O. Box 1213
Cullman, Alabama 35056

PB WIL BK 89 PG 585 - 03/01/2019 02:20 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of

ROY L. MCDOWELL,

Deceased. CASE NO. PC-2018-398

NOTICE OF HEARING OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: DON EARL MCDOWELL AND EVAN MCDOWELL, ANY KNOWN, UNKNOWN, OR INTERESTED PARTY.

CANDACE R PALMER, as Petitioner, has filed a Petition to have a document purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of ROY L. MCDOWELL, deceased, admitted to probate. The 4th day of April, 2019, at 9:00 o'clock A .M. has been appointed as the day and time for the hearing of said petition, at which time you may appear and contest the same if you deem it proper to do so.

DONE this the 1st day of March 2019.

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

Petitioner's Attorney:
Stephen N. Pritchett, Jr.
441 Highway 31 South, Suite 205
Warrior, Alabama 35180
(205) 427-9991

****

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

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 April 1, 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 – Whispering Pines Drive NW & Rocky Waters Drive NW – Divide one parcel in to 3 parcels

2. Heritage Village Subdivision – Phase V & revised utility plan

3. Short-form Subdivision – County Road 473 – Divide one lot into two lots

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

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MARCH 19, 2019

Hanceville enjoys 2nd annual Irish Festival



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Event organizer Tim Burney and Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail pose for a photo at Saturday's Hanceville Irish Heritage Festival.

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. - The second annual Hanceville Irish Heritage Festival was held Saturday. Organized by Hanceville Friends of the Festival, the event featured a packed lineup of entertainment, including Black Market Haggis, A Shamrock in Kudzu, Chuck Carpenter and Tommy Chapman. Dancers from The O'Faoláin Academy of Irish Dance also performed.

The clouds and cool weather gave way to sunshine and warmer temperatures by the afternoon, and the crowds began to pick up. By 1 p.m., the festival had lots of folks doing a jig and having a great time. Downtown merchants welcomed shoppers and Bulldog Country Cook'N had a packed house for its special Irish menu.

The Hanceville Drug Company offered green milkshakes as a St. Patrick's Day special. Vendors were set up on Commercial Street, while Bangor Avenue offered carnival games, a kids' area, food vendors and the main stage.

Irish folk group A Shamrock in Kudzu took the stage and attracted a nice crowd as they sang traditional Irish folk songs like "Waxies Dargle."

"Waxies Dargle" is a traditional Irish drinking song, but despite the great effort, no alcohol was served at this year's festival. Although the Hanceville City Council approved the special permit, the state did not.

Event organizer Tim Burney explained, "The state kept asking for more paperwork and more background checks.

"This went on for two months before we gave up and decided to just try again next year."

Burney was otherwise pleased with the Saturday turnout, saying early in the day, "It's better than last year despite the cooler temperatures.

"People are having fun and we have great acts coming up later. We have lots more coming up this year in Hanceville. We are really trying to bring more back to the community."



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Shawn and Tracy Burgess were two of the colorful attendees at Saturday's Hanceville Irish Heritage Festival.



With the Citizens Mobile App,
On-the-go banking is at your fingertips.

CITIZENS
BANK & TRUST

223 2nd Ave SE | Cullman
256-941-4600
citizensbanktrust.com

Member FDIC *Third party fees for data, messaging, Internet may apply.

Download on the App Store
Download from Google Play



Give your money a raise

Make your money work harder by earning higher interest rates.
Talk to a banker for more details. Offer expires March 22, 2019.

Platinum Savings Account

2.10%

Annual Percentage Yield for 12 months[1]

Enjoy a special interest rate for 12 months with new money deposits of at least $25,000 and a minimum daily account balance of $25,000 or more.

Fixed Rate CD

2.60%

Annual Percentage Yield for 11 months[2]

Guaranteed fixed rate with new money deposits of at least $25,000 for an 11-month term.

Both accounts are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable limit. Platinum Savings offer available in AL and PA. Fixed Rate CD offer available in AL, AZ, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, MD, NJ, NM, NV, NY, PA, SC and VA.
***Portfolio by Wells Fargo*® customers are eligible to receive an additional interest rate bonus on these accounts.[3]**

1. To qualify for this offer, you must have a new or existing Platinum Savings account and enroll the account in this offer between 01/21/2019 and 03/22/2019. This offer is subject to change at any time, without notice. This offer is available only to Platinum Savings customers in the following states: AL and PA. In order to earn the Special Interest Rate of 2.08% (Special Rate), you must deposit $25,000 in new money (from sources outside of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., or its affiliates) to the enrolled savings account and maintain a minimum daily account balance of $25,000 throughout the term of this offer. The corresponding Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for this offer is 2.10%. The Special Rate will be applied to the enrolled savings account for a period of 12 months, starting on the date the account is enrolled in the offer. However, for any day during that 12 month period that the daily account balance is less than the $25,000 minimum, the Special Rate will not apply and the interest rate will revert to the standard interest rate applicable to your Platinum Savings account. As of 12/10/2018, the standard interest rate and APY for a Platinum Savings account in AL with an account balance of $0.01 to $24,999.99 is 0.03% (0.03% APY), $25,000 to $49,999.99 is 0.10% (0.10% APY), $50,000 to $99,999.99 is 0.15% (0.15% APY) and with an account balance of $100,000 and above is 0.20% (0.20% APY); and for Platinum Savings account in PA with an account balance of $0.01 to $49,999.99 is 0.03% (0.03% APY), $50,000 to $99,999.99 is 0.05% (0.05% APY) and with an account balance of $100,000 and above is 0.10% (0.10% APY). Each tier shown reflects the current minimum daily collected balance required to obtain the applicable APY. Interest is compounded daily and paid monthly. The amount of interest earned is based on the daily collected balances in the account. Upon the expiration of the 12 month promotional period, standard interest rates apply. Minimum to open a Platinum Savings account is $25. A monthly service fee of $12 applies in any month the account falls below a $3,500 minimum daily balance. Fees may reduce earnings. Interest rates are variable and subject to change without notice. Wells Fargo may limit the amount you deposit to a Platinum Savings account to an aggregate of $1 million. Offer not available to Private Banking, Wealth, Business Banking or Wholesale customers. **2.** Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective for accounts opened between 01/21/2019 and 03/22/2019. The 11-month New Dollar CD special requires a minimum of $25,000 brought to Wells Fargo from sources outside of Wells Fargo Bank N.A., or its affiliates to earn the advertised APY. Public Funds and Wholesale accounts are not eligible for this offer. APY assumes interest remains on deposit until maturity. Interest is compounded daily. Payment of interest on CDs is based on term: For terms less than 12 months (365 days), interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or at maturity (the end of the term). For terms of 12 months or more, interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. A fee for early withdrawal will be imposed and could reduce earnings on this account. Special Rates are applicable to the initial term of the CD only. At maturity, the Special Rate CD will automatically renew for a term of 6 months, at the interest rate and APY in effect for CDs on renewal date not subject to a Special Rate, unless the Bank has notified you otherwise. Due to the new money requirement, accounts may only be opened at your local branch. Wells Fargo reserves the right to modify or discontinue the offer at any time without notice. Offer cannot be combined with any other consumer deposit offer. Minimum new money deposit requirement of at least $25,000 is for this offer **only** and cannot be transferred to another account to qualify for any other consumer deposit offer. If you wish to take advantage of another consumer deposit offer requiring a minimum new money deposit, you will be required to do so with another new money deposit as stated in the offer requirements and qualifications. Offer cannot be reproduced, purchased, sold, transferred, or traded. **3.** The *Portfolio by Wells Fargo* program has a $30 monthly service fee, which can be avoided when you have one of the following qualifying balances: $25,000 or more in qualifying linked bank deposit accounts (checking, savings, CDs, FDIC-insured IRAs) or $50,000 or more in any combination of qualifying linked banking, brokerage (available through Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC), and credit balances (including 10% of mortgage balances, certain mortgages not eligible). If the *Portfolio by Wells Fargo* relationship is terminated, the bonus interest rate on all eligible savings accounts, and discounts or fee waivers on other products and services, will discontinue and revert to the Bank's then-current applicable rate or fee. For bonus interest rates on time accounts, this change will occur upon renewal. If the *Portfolio by Wells Fargo* relationship is terminated, the remaining unlinked Wells Fargo Portfolio Checking or Wells Fargo Prime Checking account will be converted to another checking product or closed.

Investment and Insurance Products:		
Are not Insured by FDIC or any Federal Government Agency	May Lose Value	Are not a Deposits of or Guaranteed by a Bank

© 2019 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved.
Deposit products offered by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Member FDIC.
NMLSR ID 399801



DEALER OF THE YEAR



Bill Smith

BUICK GMC



NEW YEAR, NEW SAVINGS, ONLY AT BILL SMITH!

2019 GMC ACADIA
FWD Denali



STK#97027

LIST ~~$50,280~~
SALE $35,995

2019 GMC SIERRA 1500
Crew Cab Short Box 4-Wheel Drive Denali



STK#97458

LIST ~~$69,570~~
SALE $58,983

2018 BUICK REGAL TOURX
Preferred AWD



STK#84246

LIST ~~$37,100~~
SALE $24,995

2019 GMC TERRAIN
FWD SLE



STK#97230

LIST ~~$32,765~~
SALE $20,995

2019 GMC SIERRA 2500HD
Crew Cab Standard Box 4-Wheel Drive Denali



STK#97419

LIST ~~$72,775~~
SALE $60,995

2019 GMC ACADIA
FWD SLE-1



STK#97017

LIST ~~$33,795~~
SALE $21,995

2019 BUICK ENCORE
Preferred FWD



STK#94026

LIST ~~$25,990~~
SALE $14,995
OR 72 MO. 0% FOR $17,689 • UP TO 42% OFF!

2018 GMC SIERRA 1500
Crew Cab Short Box 4-Wheel Drive SLT Premium Package



STK#88910

LIST ~~$ 53,035~~
SALE $36,994

2018 GMC SIERRA 1500
Crew Cab Short Box 4-Wheel Drive SLT Premium Plus Package



STK#88735

LIST ~~$56,945~~
SALE $39,945
OVER $17,000 OFF!

Bill Smith BUICK GMC

DON'T MAKE A $3,000 MISTAKE

*Notates all rebates applied, must have '99 or newer qualifying trade in. Prices are plus tax, title, & fee. Colors may vary.

BILLSMITHBUICKGMC.COM • 1940 SECOND AVE NW • CULLMAN, AL 35055 • 256-734-4472

Tax (from Front)

tax. This is NOT a new tax."

Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Leah Bolin shared the following message with Chamber members: "On behalf of the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee, I wanted to ensure our membership was aware of tomorrow's special election on the renewal and continuation of countywide and district school taxes. This is an extremely important election that greatly impacts our area school systems. This is not a new tax, and voting in favor to renew means our schools will be able to continue providing a high level of education throughout Cullman County. See the attached one-pager for more information. A sample ballot is also attached. (See below)

"Please spread the word about this special election, and please remember to exercise your right to vote tomorrow. Polls will be open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. If you're not sure of your polling location, call the Cullman County Board of Registrars at 256-775-4750."

Said East Elementary School Principal David Wiggins in a tweet, "Our children need your support on Tuesday, March 19. Your vote in support of the tax RENEWAL will ensure that our children continue to receive the opportunities that they deserve."

For more information on today's referendum, visit https://bit.ly/2ubzmdb or see to the side.

CULLMAN COUNTY
COUNTYWIDE AND DISTRICT SCHOOL TAXES
RENEWAL AND CONTINUATION ELECTION
MARCH 19, 2019

WHAT'S THIS ELECTION ABOUT? The renewal and continuation of property taxes levied by the Cullman County Commission for public school purposes in Cullman County.

WHAT TAXES ARE UP FOR RENEWAL? There are three taxes that voters living in the City of Cullman will be asked to renew: a 1 mill countywide tax and a 3 mill countywide tax as well as a 3 mill district tax. The Board received $1,821,769 from these taxes in the 2018 fiscal year and this tax support constituted a **significant** part of the Board's local revenue base. Voters living in the County but outside the corporate limits of the City of Cullman will be asked to renew the 2 countywide taxes as well as a 3 mill district tax currently being levied in their school district.

WHEN IS THE ELECTION? Tuesday, March 19, 2019, and the polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

WHERE DO I VOTE? You will vote at the polling place you regularly vote at for state and county elections. If you're not certain where to go, call the Cullman County Board of Registrars, 256.775.4750.

WHY DO WE NEED TO VOTE TO RENEW AND CONTINUE THESE TAXES? Alabama law provides that county-levied school taxes may not be voted for collection periods that exceed 30 years. These taxes were last voted in 1989 -- almost 30 years ago – and it is time to renew and continue them.

ARE THESE NEW TAXES? No, these taxes have been levied in Cullman County for public school support for many years, probably dating back to the 1920s.

HEADS UP – SPECIAL CONCERN. One of the taxes up for renewal is the 1 mill countywide tax; the Constitution of Alabama requires that this tax be approved by 3/5s of those voting at the election. This super-majority is a high bar.

MAY I VOTE IF I WILL BE OUT OF TOWN ON ELECTION DAY? To apply for an absentee ballot, a voter must contact the Absentee Election Manager, Circuit Clerk Lisa McSwain, 256.775.4654, not less than 5 days prior to the election (that would be 5 days before March 19, 2019).

WHAT IF I AM NOT A REGISTERED VOTER? Any person who is qualified to vote may register to vote with the Board of Registrars (256.775.4750) not later than 14 days prior to the election date.

WHAT DO I NEED TO REMEMBER WHEN I MARK MY BALLOT? To continue the fundamental level of local revenue support for schools in the City and in the County, remember to mark **"For proposed taxation"** following all three propositions on the ballot.

SAMPLE BALLOT

OFFICIAL BALLOT

SPECIAL ELECTION
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

A | SPECIAL ELECTION | B | CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA | C | MARCH 19, 2019

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER

TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL (⬬) COMPLETELY! DO NOT MAKE AN X OR ✓.
IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.

CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR RENEWAL AND CONTINUATION OF LEVY OF THE 1 MILL COUNTYWIDE SCHOOL TAX

(Section 269, Constitution of Alabama of 1901)

Shall the governing body of Cullman County, Alabama, be authorized to levy annually, for a period of thirty (30) successive years, commencing with the levy for the tax year that will begin on October 1, 2019 (for which tax year taxes will become due and payable on October 1, 2020), for public school purposes in said county, a special property tax at the rate of ten cents on each one hundred dollars (equal to one mill on each dollar) of the assessed value of the taxable property in said county, which special tax shall be in renewal and continuation of the special tax at the same rate and for the same purpose that is now being levied in the said county?

✓ FOR proposed taxation
⬭ AGAINST proposed taxation

CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR RENEWAL AND CONTINUATION OF LEVY OF THE 3 MILL COUNTYWIDE SCHOOL TAX

(Amendment No. 3, Section 1, Constitution of Alabama of 1901)

Shall the governing body of Cullman County, Alabama, be authorized to levy annually, for a period of thirty (30) successive years, commencing with the levy for the tax year that will begin on October 1, 2019 (for which tax year taxes will become due and payable on October 1, 2020), for public school purposes in said county, a special property tax at the rate of thirty cents on each one hundred dollars (equal to three mills on each dollar) of the assessed value of the taxable property in said county, which special tax shall be in renewal and continuation of the special tax at the same rate and for the same purpose that is now being levied in the said county?

✓ FOR proposed taxation
⬭ AGAINST proposed taxation

SCHOOL DISTRICT
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR RENEWAL AND CONTINUATION OF THE LEVY OF THE 3 MILL SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX

END OF BALLOT

A | B | C

THESE QUESTIONS RUN BY DISTRICT

SCHOOL DISTRICT 1
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR RENEWAL AND CONTINUATION OF THE LEVY OF THE 3 MILL SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX

(Amendment No. 3, Section 2, Constitution of Alabama of 1901)

Shall the governing body of Cullman County, Alabama, be authorized to levy a special district tax of thirty cents on each one hundred dollars (equal to 3 mills on each dollar) of the assessed value of the taxable property located within School District 1 in said county, the area comprising the said district being all the area lying within the boundaries of the county less and except the area lying within the corporate limits of the Cities of Cullman and Arab, for public school purposes for a period of thirty (30) consecutive years commencing with the tax year that will begin on October 1, 2019 (for which tax year the tax will become due and payable on October 1, 2020), which levy shall be in renewal and continuation of the 3 mill school district tax now being levied in the said school district?

✓ FOR proposed taxation
⬭ AGAINST proposed taxation

SCHOOL DISTRICT 2
(CULLMAN CITY)
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR RENEWAL AND CONTINUATION OF THE LEVY OF THE 3 MILL SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX

(Amendment No. 3, Section 2, Constitution of Alabama of 1901)

Shall the governing body of Cullman County, Alabama, be authorized to levy a special district tax of thirty cents on each one hundred dollars (equal to 3 mills on each dollar) of the assessed value of the taxable property located within School District 2 in said county, the area comprising the said district being all the area lying within the corporate limits of the City of Cullman in Cullman County, for public school purposes for a period of thirty (30) consecutive years commencing with the tax year that will begin on October 1, 2019 (for which tax year the tax will become due and payable on October 1, 2020), which levy shall be in renewal and continuation of the 3 mill school district tax now being levied in the said school district?

✓ FOR proposed taxation
⬭ AGAINST proposed taxation

SCHOOL DISTRICT 8
(ARAB CITY)
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR RENEWAL AND CONTINUATION OF THE LEVY OF THE 3 MILL SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX

(Amendment No. 3, Section 2, Constitution of Alabama of 1901)

Shall the governing body of Cullman County, Alabama, be authorized to levy a special district tax of thirty cents on each one hundred dollars (equal to 3 mills on each dollar) of the assessed value of the taxable property located within School District 8 in said county, the area comprising the said district being all the area lying within the corporate limits of the City of Arab in Cullman County, for public school purposes for a period of thirty (30) consecutive years commencing with the tax year that will begin on October 1, 2019 (for which tax year the tax will become due and payable on October 1, 2020), which levy shall be in renewal and continuation of the 3 mill school district tax now being levied in the said school district?

✓ FOR proposed taxation
⬭ AGAINST proposed taxation

Always Reforming: How to listen to a sermon (4)

Tom Fillinger
Tribune Columnist

Today in our series on **How to Listen to a Sermon** we address **The Proposition.**

A Sermon Proposition informs the congregation concerning the focus and direction of the message. It provides information that equips them to listen with focus and purpose. They understand what the passage deals with; promises for the believer, commands to be honored and obeyed, warnings to be heeded, etc.

The speaker MUST tell you what he is going to tell you. He must make clear what the passage says and then faithfully declare that with the utmost clarity.

The proposition equips the listener with knowledge of what is coming. For example, the proposition for Psalm 19 verses 7-8 which says

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; may be stated as - - Today we will discover for application in our faith four (4) benefits of the word of God that transforms and encourages the believer. These benefits are:

• The word of God revives the soul v.7
• The word of God makes wise the simple v.7
• The word of God rejoices the heart v.8
• The word of God enlightens the eyes v.8

When a speaker is able to state such a proposition it is a signal to the listener that he has given thoughtful preparation to the message. When the proposition is a faithful declaration of what the text says it encourage the listener to engage in active listening. It informs the listener that there is something of value that is worth hearing, obeying and applying in their daily walk with the LORD.

The following quote is some wise counsel for those who faithfully participate in worship services and hear the word of God proclaimed. Few things are more discouraging or dishonoring to faithful pastors than a congregation inattentive to the word of God. Faithful men flourish at the fertile reception of the preached word.

They're made all the bolder when their people give ear to the Lord's voice and give evidence of being shaped by it. As church members, we can care for our pastors and teachers and help to prevent unnecessary discouragement and fatigue by cultivating the habit of active and attentive listening.

So, what kind of listener are you? Are you learning 'How to Listen to a Sermon? Do you identify the Proposition as you listen to a sermon. Are you an active attentive listener prepared to apply what you hear to life and ministry? You are the beneficiary when you apply this skill.

Hailstorm (from Front)

tremely destructive. Most people were not aware of the extent of the damage, because it was on top of the roofs, so you couldn't see that like you can when a tornado comes through."

The cost of damage at Cullman's industrial sites was not confined to the industries themselves, either, as Greer explained:

"You just think about everybody working at those plants at the time that storm came through; their cars were sitting out there. None of them had garages or covers or those areas. So it got the cars there just like it did those at Mitch Smith (Chevrolet). Something you don't even think about until you get to looking.

"I would talk to some of the industries, and they were telling me about damage, and they'd go, 'Every car in the parking lot, and every employee working here.' And some of them have pretty significant second and third shifts."

Cullman City Risk Manager Tom Charney shared that Cullman suffered slightly less than $6 million in damage to City buildings, properties and vehicles. Particularly affected were Fire Station II on Main Avenue, Heritage Park, Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center, the Donald E. Green Senior Center and the Cullman Civic Center. Additionally, 32 city vehicles were damaged.

Cullman County Commissioner Garry Marchman reported that construction and contractor costs for repairs to County facilities like the sheriff's office and Cullman County Detention Center have reached $7,988,672.

The County has also spent an additional $2,031,848 on other recovery expenses, including engineering and architect fees, among others.

Businesses and homes from Good Hope to the Walter community were affected, but, thanks to the sharing of eyewitness and security camera videos via social media, the Marktplatz Center (a Drinkard Development property) and Mitch Smith Chevrolet became icons of the storm's destructiveness.

Jason Grimmett of Drinkard Development said a total of 10 of the company's properties around the city were affected, and that the cost of repairs is "still climbing, but it's in excess of $10 million."

Continuing recovery projects focus on completing the replacement of approximately 500,000 square feet of damaged roofing and the replacement of roof-mounted HVAC units that have been in short supply due to the number of businesses and industries across the region ordering them.

Mitch Smith General Manager Paul Schaffer said that vehicle damage on the dealer's lot totaled $4.9 million. Hail struck approximately 370 vehicles, with 120 declared totaled. The damage averaged $14,000 per vehicle.

Another $800,000 in damage occurred to the building, which is still undergoing final repairs.

State record hailstone

"Walter," the 5.38-inch hailstone recovered in the north Walter community, was declared the official Alabama state record and is the second-largest hailstone officially recorded east of the Mississippi River, behind a 5.7-inch stone that fell on Wassau, Wisconsin in 1921. The largest in U.S. history fell on Vivian, South Dakota in 2010, and was measured at 8 inches.

The now-famous photograph of W.C. Mann holding the hailstone was originally posted to social media for local view, but, within 30 minutes, appeared on a television news broadcast in Atlanta, a little while later in Boston. The photo has now circled the globe, appearing on weather pages in Asia and Europe.

Initial reactions to the photo were skeptical, especially after a hailstone image that appeared in other local media was shown to have been doctored. Examinations of the stone by the National Weather Service Huntsville office, though, confirmed its authenticity and approximate size.

Subsequent laser scans by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) showed that it had a maximum diameter of 5.38 inches along its longest axis, weighed more than half a pound, and had a total volume of 19.8 cubic inches.

According to the IIBHS, a baseball has a volume of about 13.4 cubic inches.

Today, Walter and four other hailstones reside in a generator-protected freezer at the NWS Huntsville office pending transfer to the state climatology office at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where they will be preserved for study and could even become part of a future museum-style display on Alabama weather history.

The final word

In a message to The Tribune on Monday afternoon, Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs said, "It's been a year since Cullman sustained severe property damage from the record-breaking hailstorm of March 19, 2018.

Many residents and business owners suffered tremendous losses, and government facilities were also affected.

Many are still dealing with the effects of the storm. But just as we have proven time and time again in the aftermath of other natural disasters, our community is resilient and strong. In times of trouble we unite, rebuild and look toward the future together."

Obituary Announcements: March 14 - 18

presented by



Cullman Funeral Home
"Sincere Compassionate Care"

100% Locally Owned & Operated by the Steve Rodgers Family
(256) 734-3144
461 U.S. Highway 278 East
Cullman, Alabama 35055
www.cullmanfuneralhome.com

Helen South Stephens of Cullman Alabama passed away March 14, 2019 at the age of 77. She was born December 1, 1941 in Cullman to Paul B. and Myrtle Louise McCravey South. Graveside services are Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 11 p.m. at Friendship Cemetery in Vinemont Alabama. Survivors are her son: Gregory (Roslyn) Stephens, grandchild Liza Harrison and a host of nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends at the graveside Tuesday.

Mary Roberts Wise Lambert, 80, of Albertville, passed away on Friday, March 15, 2019. She was born November 21, 1938, to Earnest and Arvella Lemons Roberts. Mary was a housekeeper by trade. She was employed by a local nursing home and spent many years cleaning for the residents. Mrs. Lambert was also a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Her passing brings sorrow for many. Mary is preceded in death by her parents; and a son, Monty Wise. Survivors include her husband, Ronald Lambert; son, Ronnie (Mary) Wise; daughters, Mary Jean (Don) Shirey, Cindy (Mark) Lang, Fritz Ann (Scotty) Lang; sisters, Sharon Riveria, Evonda Roberts, Wanda Frigga; 13 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and 6 great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services for Mrs. Lambert are 2 p.m., Sunday, March 17, 2019, in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel, Shannon Chadwick officiating. Burial will follow in Duck River Cemetery. Timmy Wise, Thomas Chadwick, Cory Lang, Brandon Lang, Matthew Lang, Billy Wise, and Vince Wise will serve as pallbearers for their grandmother. Friends may visit with the family two hours prior to services, from noon until 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Harold Junior Harris was born on Aug. 10, 1955 and passed away on March 15, 2019 at the age of 63. Visitation will be March 23 at Moss Service Funeral Home from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Graveside service will follow at 2 p.m. at Union Grove Methodist Cemetery, 3349 Union Hill Road, in Arab.

Harold Stancil Cooper, 79 of Houston, entered into rest on Sunday, March 17, 2019 at his home. He was born on May 26, 1939 in Double Springs, Alabama. Harold leaves behind two daughters, Patricia and Janet Cooper; 2 brothers, and 3 sisters. He was preceded in death by his parents, William Earlie and Ruby Cooper. In accordance with Harold's last wishes, no services will be held.

Ima Lee Cook was born on February 20, 1938 and passed away on March 18, 2019. Visitation will be Thursday, March 21, from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. A celebration of life will take place on Friday, March 22 at 2 p.m. at Etha Baptist Church where burial will follow in Etha Cemetery.

Roberta Gladys Venturella was born on July 22, 1924 and passed away on March 17, 2019. Visitation will take place at Moss Service Funeral Home on March 20, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Funeral service will be at Valley Springs Baptist Church at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 21. Burial will follow after the service in Valley Springs Cemetery.

Free Obituary Listings

HAVE YOUR FUNERAL HOME CONTACT US

Email: robin@cullmansense.com • Fax: 256-739-4422

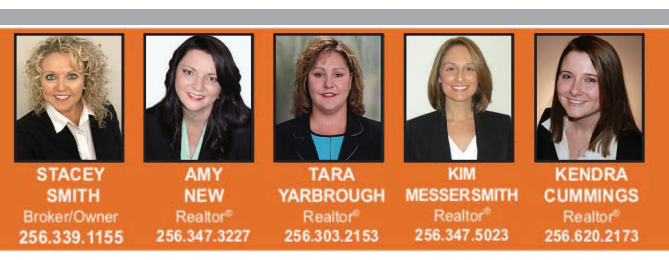
Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanTribune.com/obituaries.

THE TOMBSTONE COMPANY

Custom Granite Headstones and Monuments
Date of Death Engraving in Cemeteries
Locally Made and Locally Owned
Low Cost, High Quality
30-Day Delivery, Guaranteed
We Use Only American Granite

2117 US Hwy 278 West
Cullman, AL 35057
(2 miles West of I-65)
256-734-2005
Saturdays by Appointment
www.thetombstonecompany.com

NextHome
LIMITLESS REALTY



STACEY SMITH
Broker/Owner
256.339.1155

AMY NEW
Realtor®
256.347.3227

TARA YARBROUGH
Realtor®
256.303.2153

KIM MESSERSMITH
Realtor®
256.347.5023

KENDRA CUMMINGS
Realtor®
256.620.2173

204 9th Street, SW, Cullman, AL 35055
Office: 256.841.6767
www.NextHomeLimitlessRealty.com
Each office is Independently Owned and Operated

Serving Cullman, Valley—North Alabama,
Greater Alabama—Birmingham & Walker—Smith Lake MLS

Traditional European Gift Shop & More

A TOUCH OF GERMAN
~EST. 1979~

und das ist gut

218 1st Ave SE Cullman, AL 35055 | 256-747-5737

Options

Chemo Caps
Wigs & More!



Over 150 Wigs
In Stock!
Judy Watts Grissom
options5993@gmail.com
Cell: 256-347-5993

2201 2nd Ave NW Cullman, AL 35058
256-734-7730

Younique Boutique
sophistication
LLC

105 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055
256.735.4074

Located Across From Sacred Heart Front Entrance
Tues. & Thurs. Noon – 6 p.m., Wed. & Fri. – 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat. – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Closed Sunday and Monday
youniquesophistication@gmail.com www.facebook.com/youniquesophistication

Women's Clothing – sizes small-3X, Jewelry and Accessories





CALL
RICHARD NEESE
WITH
WEICHERT REALTORS
THE SPACE PLACE
256-708-1511

OVER 2600 Sq. Ft.

GORGEOUS HARDWOOD FLOORS AND QUARTZ COUNTER TOPS

LOCATION CONVENIENT TO DOWNTOWN CULLMAN

1407 WISTERIA ST SE,
CULLMAN, AL 35055

CWAC
CULLMAN WELLNESS & AQUATIC CENTER

24/7 FITNESS
NOW AVAILABLE

CULLMANWELLNESS.COM

Tony Serra Nissan

MEET DANIEL COOMBS
USED CAR MANAGER



Daniel Coombs served as the New Car Manager at Tony Serra Nissan of Cullman before being named Used Car Manager of the Used Car Supercenter lot this past February. Daniel says this Used Car Supercenter is something that is new to Cullman and that he is glad that Tony Serra Nissan is able to help customers find the perfect car, whether new or used.

"In the past we have carried an inventory of 40 to 50 pre-owned cars on the lot. We have spent the past year moving earth and paving a new parking lot just south of our main store. The new lot is located at 301 Broadway Drive SW.

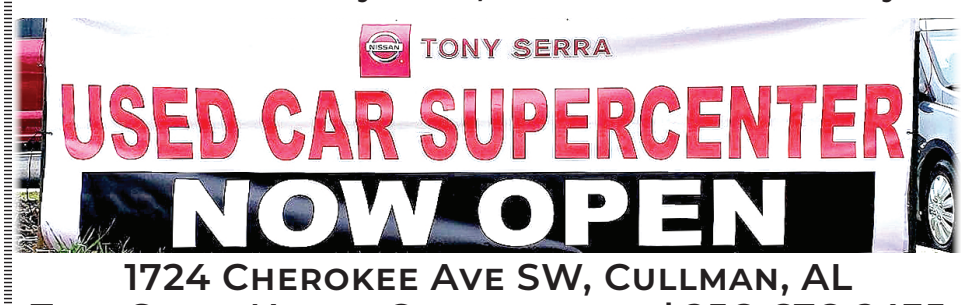
This lot will allow us to stock over 100 pre-owned vehicles in addition to the 300 new vehicles we keep in stock.

We will have a bigger selection of trucks, SUV's and cars."

Daniel said they do their research to ensure they are giving their customers the best deals possible

"We try to set a fair price and eliminate the need for customers to feel like they have to be a good negotiator to get a good deal."

Come meet Daniel Coombs at the Used Car Supercenter, located at 301 Broadway ST. SW, and see what he can do for you!



1724 Cherokee Ave SW, Cullman, AL
TonySerraNissanCullman.com | 256-676-2435

1 FOCUS
To have the utmost integrity in all dealings with our customers and community

1 MISSION
To provide a level of service that exceeds your expectations

1 PROMISE
Doing the right thing, not the easy thing, is still our business model

CELEBRATING
111
YEARS OF
WAY
BETTER
BANKING.



Thanks for your loyalty to us through the years!
1907-2018

Merchants Bank
of Alabama

MEMBER FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

INDUSTRY

Business, industrial growth rank Cullman high among small cities

CULLMAN, Ala. - POLICOM ranks cities across the U.S. based on economic growth including retail, government, construction, medical and agriculture. Scores come not just from the number of businesses and industries, but from their impact on the quality of life of a municipality's residents.

Among "micropolitans" (cities with populations between 10,000 and 50,000), Cullman has demonstrated remarkable growth in a short amount of time. In 2016, the city ranked number 229 among 551 micropolitans, number 116 in 2017. In 2018, Cullman came in at number 82, a 147-place rise in just two years.
Site Selection Magazine, which looks more specifically at industrial projects, ranks Cullman even higher. Looking for projects that create 20 or more new jobs, and create or add 20,000 square feet of facilities with a minimum $1,000,000 capital investment, the magazine has ranked Cullman in its top five for the last four years. In 2018, despite submitting 16 projects, the city dropped slightly to seventh place, but Cullman Economic Development Agency (CEDA) officials remained happy with a fifth straight top 10 ranking.

Industrial expansion drives recent economic growth
In 2018, Cullman county enjoyed a huge year for capital investment, with 41 projects totaling $146,732,455. Of that total, only $8,952,176 was in new industry. Expansions to existing area industries accounted for $137,780,279 in investments and 584 new jobs.
CEDA Economic Development & Incentives Manager Stanley Kennedy said 2018 was a fantastic year to be in Cullman, sharing, "I mean one of the best years ever . . . And most of that was expansions. Most people don't realize new projects get a little better press than expansions, but expansions over the past decade have been 90 percent of our growth here, and 81 percent of the new jobs. We're very lucky to be here in Cullman where our companies are able to grow, and have the confidence to grow here in Cullman, versus other communities our size who aren't as lucky as we are."

Topre America was the biggest expansion investor of the year. In Feb. 2018, the tier-one Japanese auto part supplier announced an $82,121,349 project that will add 98 new jobs. The expansion came just on the heels of the construction of a separate $3 million facility completed in Dec. 2017. Expansion has not only been at the major industry level; multiple small manufacturers have grown as well, and each one has contributed its own piece to the big money puzzle.

Expanding industries in 2018
- Alabama Brick Delivery, Inc. - brick sales and distribution
- American Classic, Inc. - T-shirts and apparel
- Apel Steel Corp. - structural steel fabrication
- Clay Machining - precision machining
- Concours Mold Alabama - plastic injection mold manufacturing
- Creative Designs Screen Printing - screen printing on shirts
- DCA Ready Mix Co./ReadyMix USA - concrete
- Design Technologies LLC - wiring harnesses and power sources
- Flotation Systems, Inc. - fertilizer blending and mixing
- Goat Island Brewing - craft beer brewery
- Golden Rod, Inc. - poultry processing
- HH Technologies - poultry and livestock house
- I-Core Composites LLC - balsa wood core material
- Isonova Technologies - animal feed processing
- JH Wright - industrial pump assemblies and repair
- Kennedy Galvanizing - hot dip galvanizing
- Live Haul Products, Inc. - poultry transportation equipment
- Mach III, Inc. - aftermarket firearm parts
- Metrology South - machine and tool shop for auto suppliers
- Morton Buildings - timber column buildings
- North Alabama Fabricating Company, Inc. - metal fabrication
- Pennington Seed - lawn and garden product distribution
- Pilgrim's Pride, Inc. - commercial poultry hatchery
- REHAU Automotive - auto exterior moldings
- Reliance Worldwide - pressure regulating valves
- Royal Technologies - plastic injection and foam molding
- Rusken Packaging - corrugated boxes
- Sequence Health - medical contact center
- The Robson Company - plastic injection molding, mold design
- Topre America - automotive metal stamping
- Vinemont Welding and Fabrication - metal fabrication
- Wallace State Community College - entrepreneurship and incubation center
- Walmart Distribution Center - retail distribution
- Webb Wheel Products, Inc. - hubs, wheels, drums
- WestRock Packaging - corrugated packaging

CEDA Existing Industry Manager Luke Satterfield couldn't talk about upcoming projects but hinted that big things are in the works, saying, "There are some really strong industries in Cullman that are going to expand. And expansion may be infrastructure or it may be jobs, but the main thing is they're going to take their money, dump it into our economy and expand here in Cullman."

International Economic Development Council Awards in 2018
In 2018, the Cullman area brought home three awards from the International Economic Development Council, indicating that the city and county are increasingly prepared to be noticed and to compete on the world's stage.

Gold Award - Educators in Industry
The Educators in Industry program, sponsored by Cullman Area Workforce Solutions, gives middle and high school teachers from across the county an opportunity to see the kinds of job opportunities that their students could have close to home, as well as technical programs available at Wallace State Community College. Business and industrial site visits have included:
- Advanced Heat Treat
- REHAU
- Louisiana Pacific
- Sequence Health
- Yutaka
- Cash Acme/Reliance Worldwide (Manufacturing & Distribution)
- Royal Technologies
- Cullman Cabinet
- Webb Wheel
- Topre America Corporation
- Cullman Regional Medical Center
- Perfection Chain
- WestRock
- Inland Buildings

IEDC described the program: "CEDA partnered alongside local industry and education to establish Educators in Industry. This program takes over 300 secondary-education students and educators on 14 tours of the local industrial parks, the hospital, and technical programs at Wallace State Community College (WSCC) with the hope to enlighten and expose each of the benefits these businesses and opportunities bring to the community.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The AGCOR Steel expansion/retention project brought together the Cullman County Commission, Cullman and Good Hope city governments, and ADECA, as well as Cullman city and county economic development agencies.

"This program has numerous volunteers who help from registration to clean up. It became our understanding that those in education can be our greatest asset to grow local workforce; however, they must first be informed and knowledgeable of the opportunities around."

Silver Award - AGCOR Steel expansion/retention project
Despite aggressive recruiting from outside the county, AGCOR Steel made the decision to expand close to home rather than move to another part of the state, thanks to an even more aggressive sales pitch made by multiple agencies and local governments within the county.

In 2018, then Vinemont-based AGCOR Steel broke ground on a new facility to be located on 22 acres along Industrial Park Road in Good Hope. The company relocated via a joint effort between the City of Good Hope, City of Cullman and Cullman County. The company spent $400,000 for the land, with the three local governments each providing $133,333 in tax incentives.

In addition to the cost of the land, the project represents an overall capital investment of $6.3 million in the new 128,000 square foot facility. The new building will allow the addition of a steel truss production line and a near doubling of AGCOR's workforce, adding up to 25 new jobs to the existing 28-member staff; it is expected to generate annual tax revenues for the County and two municipalities of more than $500,000.

AGCOR, a manufacturer of metal building components, was heavily recruited by the city of Gadsden before this deal was put into place. According to Cullman Economic Development Agency Director Dale Greer, the company reported having been offered a sales tax rebate for the cost of the land elsewhere. He said that such an incentive had never previously been offered here, but city and county leaders found the idea to be a reasonable move to promote local industry and keep an existing business in the area.

As the company broke ground, Good Hope Mayor Jerry Bartlett said, "This is a good example of how, working together, we can make great things happen here in Cullman County. Dale and Zac (Smith) had the foresight to put this package together and keep AGCOR here instead of going to another county. Mayor Jacobs and his city council saw the benefits of this project, even when AGCOR wasn't bringing their plant to their city limits, and that's just unheard of, and we thank y'all for that. The County Commission--Chairman Kenneth Walker, along with his Commissioners Garry Marchman and Kerry Watson--saw the benefits of pulling together, and they jumped on board. The Good Hope City Council saw the benefits as well, and I thank all of them."

Additionally, three area industries have won their own state and national awards:
- Topre America was named the Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association 2018 Large Supplier of the Year.
- Birmingham-based Birmingham Fastener, which operates a distribution center in Hanceville, was named the Business Council of Alabama/Alabama Technology Network Medium Manufacturer of the Year.
- Cullman's Ornametals Manufacturing, which makes gutters and ornamental architectural components in copper and zinc, won its sixth North American Copper in Architecture Award in seven years.

What makes Cullman and Cullman County so attractive?
According to Kennedy and Satterfield, several factors contribute to Cullman's popularity as a business and industrial location:
- Leaders at the county and municipal levels are consistently pro-business.
- Location along the interstate midway between Birmingham and Huntsville. Even projects like the Toyota/Mazda plant in Huntsville is expected to benefit Cullman.
- Education system - great city and county schools encourage workers and executives to come here and bring their families, and technical programs at CATA get students ready to pursue industrial careers.
- Wallace State Community College technical programs provide a ready-made industrial workforce.

Of the rankings from POLICOM, Site Selection Magazine, and others, Satterfield said, "We're always going to be up there in the rankings, I mean that's just the way it is. That's why Cullman's been so successful. But, ultimately, they can take the rankings and they can throw them out the window--do whatever they want to do with them--this magazine, this one. We have some of the best people and the best workforce in the state of Alabama, and that's why companies call, and that's why companies say, 'Hey, we're considering Cullman as a potential site,' and that's why companies like Topre say, 'We can drop 80 million dollars and expand in Cullman, Alabama:' because we have great people."

By: W.C. Mann

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MARCH 19, 2019

85 years in, Bennett family still a staple of Cullman business

CULLMAN, Ala. - This month, Bennett Tire Service will celebrate 50 years in its U.S. Highway 31 location in Cullman. Owner Doug Bennett stressed that the Bennett family and selling tires go back much further than 50 years. He is proud of the family business, started by his parents Guy and Viola Bennett. Much has changed over the years, and Doug Bennett sat down with The Tribune to tell about it all.



BENNETT FAMILY

In 1962, the businesses next to Bennett Auto Supply caught fire and burned down. The fire began in what was once the theater and destroyed the block, including the original All Steak Cafe. The alley, which still exists on the south side of Bennett, kept the fire from spreading. This photo shows a young Doug Bennett on the roof of the building working to prevent the fire from spreading as the fire department fought the blaze.

Bennett Auto Supply first opened in 1934 and is known as Bennett still today. It was a B.F. Goodrich franchise and offered tires and other auto parts. This was in the Great Depression and prior to World War II. Guy Bennett was drafted for the war and, according to Doug, as his father was getting ready to leave he said to Viola, "Honey, sell the business. Give it away! Throw it away! I probably won't be returning from the war." Viola was having none of it and said, "I will keep the business going and it will be here when you get back."

That's exactly what Viola did. She successfully ran the tire store while Guy was overseas. Doug Bennett is very proud of his parents for the successful business they worked hard to grow. He is especially proud of his mother, who fearlessly took over a business few women would dare attempt to do at the time. She was a pioneer.

Guy Bennett did return from the war and rejoined Viola. Not too long after that, the business changed.

Doug Bennett explained, "After the war was a time of great innovation in America. More and more appliances were coming out, and B.F. Goodrich began carrying items for homes. The store was known as an A & H center which stood for automotive and home."

Although B.F. Goodrich did not manufacture appliances and other home products, it did sell them in its retails stores. The home products expanded into toys and all types of home goods.

"My parents offered financing and sometimes it was on crop terms. They had an accounts receivable department and customers would come in to make payments. My mom, she had a ledger sheet for them. She'd ask, 'What else are you going to need?' They might say 'I'm going to need a food freezer next.' Well, on top of that ledger, she'd dictate food freezer. So next time they came to make a payment she'd ask, 'You ready for that freezer?' They were offering people credit and business was great." Guy and Viola Bennett's willingness to help customers finance with them led the Bennetts to be named B.F. Goodrich's retailer of the year more than once.

"Back then, a man's word was pretty good. Business was done on a handshake," Doug Bennett said.

At Christmastime, the Bennetts' store became known as "The house of Santa Claus."

Said Doug Bennett, "That was mostly due to all the toys they carried. My daddy was a good merchandiser. He'd set up the floor. He had the personality, the salesmanship and the flair. Mom had the brains to manage the money."

A scrapbook kept by the family shows several photos from those early years. The store carried a huge variety of toys such as trains, games, rocking horses, bikes, wagons and more, as well as the latest in appliances.

In 1962 the businesses next to Bennett caught fire and burned down. The fire began in what was once the theater and destroyed the block, including the original All Steak Cafe. The alley, which still exists on the south side of Bennett, kept the fire from spreading. A picture in the scrapbook shows a young Doug Bennett on the roof of the building working to prevent the fire from spreading as the fire department fought the blaze.

Doug Bennett graduated college from St. Bernard in 1969, and soon after, B.F. Goodrich sought a return to selling just tire and automotive parts. The tire company wanted to leave the appliance business. Guy and Viola Bennett weren't ready to leave the appliances behind and they lacked the space to adequately service cars. Wanting to remain as a B.F. Goodrich franchise, they decided to open the tire center a few blocks south on U.S. Highway 31. Having just finished college, Doug Bennett was asked to run the tire center.

He did, and now, 50 years later, he still does.

He shared, "We are the oldest family selling tires in Cullman."

He has many great memories working at the business but admits it's getting harder, not easier, explaining, "It's getting harder for us little independents to survive because of online shopping. It's not just us, it's affecting anything retail. First there were mom and pops. Then came department stores. Then came chain stores. Now it's online shopping, and every step of the way-the service is losing. We are losing personal service."

Doug Bennett gets emotional when he talks about the struggles facing not just himself, but all local businesses today.

He paused to gather this thoughts and asked, "You know how the cuckoo flies backwards? He don't care where he's going. He just wants to see where he's been. People now don't know where they are going because they don't know where they've been."

He continued, "Years ago, when we could make money on tires, then the service- they got along. Now, we can't make the same money on mounting tires people wanna bring in here unless I slivery slap them with what I'm going to charge them to put the tires on."

The pressure on small business from giant online retailers affects more than just the business owners, said Bennett.

"The customer has the best of both worlds if he can buy them for nothing and I'll put them on for nothing. Where's that leave me? People want good service. To give good service, I gotta pay my guys a good salary for the hard work they are willing to do. If I don't charge for good service, I'm helping Amazon put me out of business."

Besides great service and decades of experience, Bennett Tire still does truck and tractor work.

Bennett laughed, "Changing one of those big tractor tires-that's what separates the men from the boys."

Tire service can also be dangerous and tough on a person's body. Bennett's has his fair share of injuries through the years but also insists, "It keeps you fit."

In 2011, Bennett Tire Service was severely damaged by in the tornado of April 27 that hit downtown Cullman.

He recalled the events of the day, "We heard there was a possible tornado coming. We were all going to stay here, but my wife Carol called and said, 'No, you're going home.' We all did what she said. We closed and left. A few minutes later, I'm not sure how long, the store was hit."

The area in which Doug Bennett and his staff would normally seek shelter was the old pit in the back used to work on big trucks. The pit took a direct hit. A front end loader was pushed into the pit, collapsing the walls. The main building and its front were spared, but the roof was ripped off the building.

Of course, it has a new roof now, and if you haven't been by the center, you might consider stopping by to see the "newly themed waiting area."

Doug Bennett has begun combining his love the tire business with his other passions in life. He loves going to thrift shops and antique stores. He loves all things patriotic or religious in theme. Several years ago, he began collecting items with those themes, in particular, all things done with needle point, and has begun hanging the items.

He laughed, "Probably not what people would expect in a tire center. Kid walked in the other day and asked, 'Is this a tire store?'" The items he collects are meaningful. He shared, "Each has a message. I'd guess most of them were done by women and they were done with love. It's a passion with a message."

Besides the many pieces of framed cross-stitched works are flags and salutes to veterans.

"Our freedoms come from the sacrifices of veterans. Not the preachers or newspapers or politicians. We are free because of our veterans," he shared.

Many of Doug Bennett's loves are represented through the artwork. His love of God, country, family, community, Alabama football and animals are proudly displayed on the walls and throughout the tire center. A picture of a gorgeous orange cat with white paws is carefully displayed in the corner. The cat he referred to as "Socks" called Bennett Tire home for 17 years.

He smiled and said, "I loved that cat." A gray cat named "Momma Kitty" and a lab named "Callie" have also lived their lives at Bennett Tire as beloved members of the family. He added, "I love animals. I can't stand anybody that would abuse an animal."

Doug Bennett is a Cullman man through and through. He was a member of the 1962 state champion Cullman High School football team but admits he didn't play, saying, "I wasn't even a good blocking dummy to those guys."

He enjoys the history of the city and often helps his good friend Bill McCartney at the Red Door Cafe find old pictures for his restaurant.

He shared, "I wish I could find an old picture of the original Globe Drive-In. It was just like the movie 'American Graffiti' back then."

Doug's wife Carol still runs the original Bennett location. They no longer sell appliances but still have toys, unique gifts, gourmet cookware, Lionel trains and other fun home items.

As for retirement, Doug said, "It's kind of my life and I don't want to give it up yet. I feel like you gotta keep going."

By: Christy Perry

"Since May 1, 2013"

And Has Grown Each Year

Options **256-347 5993**

2201 2nd Ave. NW, Cullman, AL 35058

Chemo Caps, Wigs & More and Over 150 Wigs In Stock!

Judy Watts Grissom Options5993@gmail.com

"Started In 1936"

Cullman Electric Cooperative
providing energy with care
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

256-737-3200 1749 Eva Rd. NE, Cullman

www.cullmanec.com

Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. - 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MARCH 19, 2019

A link to the 'Old Country'

CULLMAN, Ala. - New owners of A Touch of German, Judith and John Caples, say the store is a link to the 'Old Country.'

"My heart was calling me to be here," said Judith Caples, who was born in Germany and raised by her German mother. "She was very involved in the German club in Birmingham, so I grew up immersed in the German culture."

John Caples's family has lived in Cullman since the early 70s; his wife moved here from Birmingham in 2000.

"Since I moved here I had shopped with Peggy Grobe for different items," said Judith Caples. "When she closed the store, it made me sad. I told my husband that I thought this would be wonderful to have."

She continued, "Last May I came by again and Peggy was here just selling about the last of the inventory. I told her I really wanted to buy her store. I know she tried to sell it for six years but it never worked out."

Smiling, she said, "We officially signed in August on my mother's birthday and opened the store in November."

Since they've taken ownership of A Touch of German, the Capleses have renovated the store and expanded its offerings.

"It does look different," said Caples, "We took down the wall and added lots of light. I am increasing the food items. One of the most exciting things is that we will be carrying bread from Germany. It is made in Hamburg, prebaked, frozen and sent here. We finish baking so you get it fresh made! The wonderful thing about this bread is that they told me that even people with celiac (disease) can enjoy it."

She continued, "We have also spoken with a German butcher out of state so that we can carry some bratwurst and other meats."

A Touch of German also repairs cuckoo clocks, said Caples, "We have already repaired some from out of state."

Smiling, Caples shared, "We are working on ways to bring back some of the German culture to Cullman. Anyone with stories to share, please come by. If you are looking for something that brings back a memory just let us know. We want this to be a fun stop for all ages. I have really enjoyed the response from everyone."

A Touch of German is located at 218 First Ave. SE, Cullman, AL 35055. Find the store on Facebook at www.facebook.com/A-Touch-of-German-Cullman-1979471902352809.

By: Maggie Darnell



MAGGIE DARNELL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Judith Caples stands in her store, A Touch of German. She and her husband John are the new owners.



MAGGIE DARNELL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A wall of cuckoo clocks at A Touch of German

"Established in 1951"
CULLMAN POWER BOARD
Serving our Customers over 60 years
energyright solutions TVA
The Electric Department of the Utilities Board of the City of Cullman
106 2nd Ave. NE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: (256) 734-2343 Fax: (256) 734-0540



BRANDIN' IRON
BI
STEAKHOUSE

87 CO RD 1242
CULLMAN, AL 35057
256-739-1112

430 WELCOME ROAD
FAIRVIEW, AL 35058
256-796-9118

JOHNNY'S
since 1949
We'll Serve No Swine Before Its Time
BAR-B-Q

AWARDED "BEST OF THE BEST BBQ IN AMERICA" BY NATIONAL BARBECUE NEWS



Open Tuesday - Saturday
10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Call-In / Family Dining / Pick-Up Window
1401 4th St. SW Cullman, AL 35055 • 256-734-8539 • johnnysbarbq.com

CULPEPPER REAL ESTATE
EST. 1970

FAMILY OWNED FOR 48 YEARS



RESIDENTIAL • FARM • LAKE
LAND • COMMERCIAL

Neal Culpepper, Broker | 256-739-1389
Tammy Roden | 256-338-6612
Tyson Campbell | 256-734-7989
Becky Flack | 256-385-5764
Clay Culpepper | 256-338-5378
Mike Sims | 256-620-5432
Jessi Eidson | 314-607-3472
Nancy Wright | 256-339-0258

BRC
BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER
A SERVICE OF THE CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CULLMAN AREA COC
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

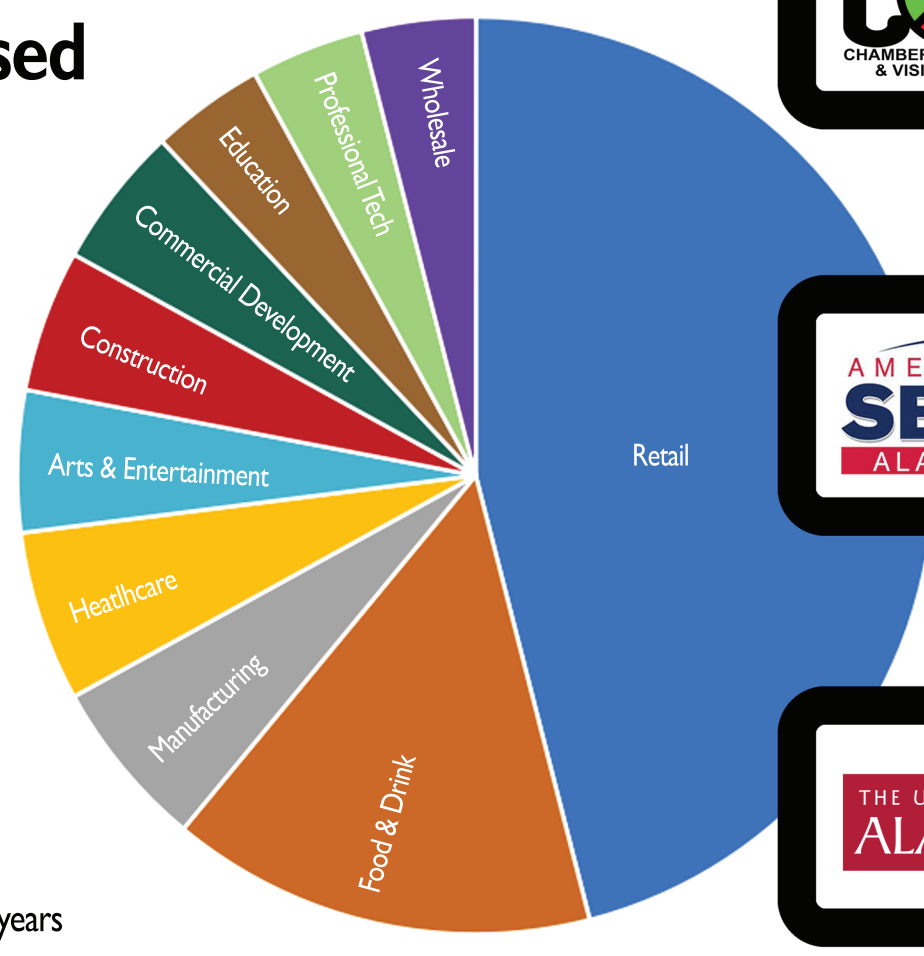
AMERICA'S SBDC ALABAMA

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

$79 Million Loans Closed

223 Jobs Created

425+ Jobs Retained



Just SOME of the services available for new and existing businesses - at no cost:

* Pre-counseling
* Business plan creation
* Professional business counseling
* Financial borrowing and lending assistance
* Location services
* Market research plan development
* Healthcare benefit guidance
* Disaster recovery awareness programs
* Importing and exporting support
* Localized business connections
* Continued follow-up for new businesses for two years

For more information on the BRC or to utilize its services, contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or info@cullmanchamber.org.

Providing What Business Needs

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MARCH 19, 2019

Turning passion into a successful 'side gig'

Shana Jochum Hice loves jewelry. So much so, that in 2015, she took it on as a side job. Now, she has a thriving small business.



SHANA HICE

Shana Jochum Hice models Plunder Design Jewelry.

Hice, who began selling Plunder Design Jewelry in September 2015, shared how she got into it: "I actually struck up a conversation with a fellow mom who had a child in preschool at St. John's Little Lamb School. She was wearing a gorgeous bright colored vintage statement necklace that looked like something my grandmother would have had in her jewelry box. When I complimented her, she mentioned her friend had a catalog party and she had ordered it and it was very reasonably priced. She happened to have a catalog in her car that she passed to me and I started 'googling' everything I could find about this jewelry company."

Said Hice, "I found out that it was a newer company looking for stylists and there were just a handful of stylists in the state of Alabama. So, I decided to join up and grab the kit especially because there wasn't a catch. There were no requirements of selling a minimum amount per month. Pretty much, whatever you sell, you got a certain percentage of electronically deposited in your checking account."

Hice pondered the challenge of what she does, sharing, "I think the biggest challenge with any small business, specifically a direct sales business, is to break that stereotype of the 'pyramid scheme.'

Obviously, you sign up under someone whose job is to mentor you into a 'leader,' and you, in turn, look for likeminded individuals who want to build a business and you mold them into leaders and so on down the line."

She continued, "Really, the direct sales business model is no different than corporate America in that there is a 'leader' who hires other leaders and equips them with the knowledge to bring in more and more qualified workers."
It's about more than that to Hice.

"What I want to point out about direct sales is that it's so much more than just selling a product and building a team. It's about relationships," she said, "building relationships with all the ladies or men who join the team and also your customers, and cultivating strong friendships with those people.

"Everyone in business knows that people don't buy products.... they buy into WHO is selling those products. Think about it, there are tons of different vendors who sell jewelry. You buy jewelry from who you can relate to, who makes you feel beautiful and who is 'real.' The experience you walk away with is what brings you back. I mean having a great quality, inexpensive, trendy product is just icing on the cake."

Hice spoke about interactions with her customers, saying, "I love being a personal shopper. Have an outfit you don't know what you should wear with it? Text me a picture and I'll style it for you. I keep lots of jewelry stock on hand so I can accommodate last-minute shoppers, but even when you go online for that hassle-free shopping, everything ships within a day or so and you are enjoying your new jewelry within the week! So many pieces that are available can be mixed and matched with things you already have in your jewelry box, and the pricing is so reasonable for the quality of product offered."

Hice said with a smile, "I say, 'If your dreams don't scare you, they aren't big enough.' I know people are afraid to fail, but sometimes not taking that chance is the scariest thing of all. I also say have the mindset of 'I can do this,' and if for some reason it doesn't pan out, 'I sure got some great jewelry and made some life-long friends.'"

Of her day job, Hice said, "I have a great day job at Cullman Primary Care and I want to retire there. This side jewelry business just kind of happened. I actually never thought I could 'sell' anything, and when I signed up to be a Plunder Stylist, I told the lady who I signed under that I didn't even want to hear about the compensation plan and what steps I needed to achieve to hit leadership levels."

She continued, "I only intended to grab that kit for $99, take the jewelry and enjoy the discount and that was it. Surprisingly, just wearing the jewelry and getting compliments from strangers opened up a TON of opportunities for me. I became more confident, I built so many new relationships, I gained a fabulous supplemental income that affords me to save for both of my daughters' college educations."



SHANA HICE

Travel experiences are a bonus.

"I've been able to travel with little expense. I've been to Utah, Tennessee, Nevada, Florida and will be traveling to a conference in Georgia this fall," she said. "What I've learned so far is that my favorite thing about this business is watching the girls who sign up under me reach goals, get big paychecks and jump straight up into leadership and watching confidence glow from my customers when they style that perfect outfit."

Said Hice, "In days like today, where the cost of living keeps going up, it's more and more necessary to have a 'side hustle.' You just never know when your side gig could turn into a real business and what skills it could help you develop that would benefit your day job. And in some cases, this side hustle just might become your full-time job, allowing you to become a stay at home mom."

Find Hice on Facebook (Deep South Style with Shana Hice) or at www.teamdeepsouth.com.

By: Maggie Darnell

Hanceville Drug Company still hopping after all these years



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Hanceville Drug Company, the oldest pharmacy in Cullman County, is home to a 1950s-style soda fountain.

HANCEVILLE, Ala. - Stepping inside the Hanceville Drug Company is much like stepping into the past. The more than 100-year-old business offers modern day services but also takes you back in time with its old-fashioned soda fountain and vintage memorabilia.

The pharmacy was opened in 1916 by the Veal brothers. Soon after Mr. C.T. Burkart took it over. Burkart built the building the pharmacy is in now in the 1930s. His grandson, Ben Burkart, now owns the family business, Like his father and grandfather, he attended Auburn University to become a pharmacist.

Said Burkart, "Actually, grandpa went to Alabama and Auburn. He'd always say, 'I went to Alabama to play football. I went to Auburn to get my education.'"

Burkart took over the pharmacy in 2017.

He explained, "Grandpa had it for 50 years, dad had it for 40 years. We'll see how long I have it."

Burkart and his wife are expecting their first child, a daughter, in May. Burkart smiled, "Who knows? Maybe she'll carry on the family tradition or maybe she'll do something else."

A recent remodel of the pharmacy to accommodate a drive-thru window required clearing out storage rooms at the pharmacy. Antiques and treasured memories collected over the past 100 years were found and needed a new place.

Ben made the decision to display the items throughout the store to share with visitors.

Sports memorabilia from Hanceville High School and more are featured in a cabinet near the front of the store. A person can stop in for a variety of things at Hanceville Drug Company, including a history lesson.

Enlarged articles from The Hanceville Hustler are hung for a fascinating trip through Hanceville's rich past.

The old-fashioned soda fountain still draws in kids after school to hang with friends while enjoying hand dipped ice cream or a cherry ice.

"Apparently, the story goes, my grandpa was ending up throwing away a lot of the cherry juice that he had and he wanted to come up with something to use that for. That's when he created the cherry ice. It's shaved ice, a scoop of ice cream on top of that, then cherry juice and cherries. It's kind of unique, the ice and ice cream together. This is the only place to get it as far as I know."

The Hanceville Drug Company also has a full-service pharmacy including drive thru and delivery to homebound clients. It also offers medication synchronization, health screenings and vaccinations.

The Hanceville Drug Company is located at 101 Commercial St. SE, Hanceville, AL 35077. Find it online at www.hancevilledrug.com.

By: Christy Perry

Work Local

Save money and time by thinking local first.

Quick facts:

-The average commuter spends approximately **$13K annually** on fuel and maintenance

-An individual would have to earn approximately **$7 more an hour** to cover commuting costs

-Working local gives you more time to enjoy what matters most

CULLMAN AREA COC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

cullmanchamber.org

CULLMAN COUNTY think Local first! YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR FUTURE.



Cullman, Alabama
#7 Micropolitan
Area in the United States

Our Industry partners and their continued investment in our community keeps Cullman and Cullman County at the top.

Thank you, again!

EST. 1873
CULLMAN
Economic Development Agency
Cullman Alabama
Economic Development Agency

P.O.Box 1009
200 First Ave, N.E.
Cullman, Alabama 35056-1009
256-739-1891
cullmaneda@cullmaneda.org
www.cullmaneda.org

CULLMAN REGIONAL AIRPORT

Cullman Regional Airpot KCMD
231 County Road 1360
Vinemont, AL 35179
256-775-1011
7 days - 7am-5pm

CULLMAN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Cullman County
Industrial Development Authority

325 Second Street, S.E.
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-775-4696
www.co.cullman.al.us
facebook.com/cullmancounty
@cullmancountyal

SENIOR CITIZENS

A morning with Ophelia and James Fields

On most mornings, Ophelia Fields, 86, can be found at the Colony Senior Center playing dominoes with her many dear friends. They enjoy their morning coffee while keeping up with each other's families and friends. On a recent morning, she was happy to be joined by her son, James Fields, to reminisce.



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Ophelia Fields and her son, James, pose for a photo at the Colony Senior Center.

Ophelia was born in 1932. She said proudly, "I've been here my whole life- born and raised here."

She grew up on a farm with her three brothers and went to Colony School through the ninth grade. For fun, Ophelia liked playing ball. She played basketball and baseball when she wasn't at school or working on the farm.

She said, "I loved to work on the farm-especially picking cotton."

James added, "She was a good cotton picker. That's for sure."

When asked, Ophelia laughed at the idea of adding rocks to her bag for extra weight. She laughed, "No, no. I never cheated."

James recalled, "She'd be pulling that sack while one of us would be laying on the sack and the other would be walking beside her. We used to go to the blackberry patch. We'd pick them and can them. I'd eat about as many as I'd pick. I remember the last time I picked, I just happened to look down in my bucket. There was a big green snake. I dropped everything. It startled me."

Ophelia had 11 children. Four of her children died at birth and one son, Matthew, died when he was just a few weeks old.

James explained, "No one knew about crib death back then."

Ophelia also had a daughter who passed away at the age of 24.

She smiled and nodded as she listened to James tell about his childhood. Their shared recollection of the simple things from their lives was special.

James continued, "Back then, blackberries were everywhere. They were plentiful. Plums were wild and grew everywhere. It was a commodity to find yellow plums. Oh yeah! Yellow plums were big and juicy. Right before you got to our house was the house of a gentleman named Mr. Hubbard. He had a bunch of pear trees and plums. They had yellow plums when everywhere else had red plums. I remember eating so many of those things I'd get sick. I couldn't wait until they got red. I'd eat em' green."

The main road in Colony wasn't paved until the 60s, and a trip to Hanceville or Arkadelphia wasn't easy. The residents would get together at church or meet at "platter parties."

James explained, "Platter parties was basically a guy spinning records and everyone would dance. They'd sell chicken and fish sandwiches. DJs would come up from Birmingham."

Back then, Boyd Grocery was the main store and it had a barbershop. Later Mr. Lurie Johnson would open a store with a party place called "The Dew Drop In." He also cut hair in his barbershop.

"Every week a salesman from Ratliff Wholesale, Mr. Fisher, would come and Mr. Matthew (Boyd) would place their order for milk, flour, sugar, salt and other things he needed. The thing I remember about Johnson's Dew Drop In is they had Greg's Cookies in a giant canister with a red lid and lettering."

The Fields did not venture to Cullman often because of the distance. The main road in Colony was a dirt road and Ophelia said, "Years ago we either walked everywhere or took the wagon."

James remembered a story about the sons of midwife Kizzie Montgomery Leeth.

James said, "Kizzie married William Leeth. Supposedly, he was a relative to the Leeths from Leeth National Bank in Cullman. That was the story I was told. They had six boys, three of them were very light-skinned and three were very dark-skinned. They used to tell the story about how they'd go to Cullman and the light-skinned brothers could go and sit at the counter at Kuhn's five-and-dime. The other brothers would be in the corner laughing. I never knew there was a theater around from Vincent Furniture next to the Briscoe Shoe Shop. There used to be a theater right there, but because we couldn't go to the theater, I never knew."

Many changes would come to Colony in the late 60s due to the end of segregation. James was a student at Colony School in 1967 and he explained, "Integration came about and the first year they selected a group to go to Hanceville. The next year, 1968, everyone went to Hanceville. The first year was sort of like a trial. The children that were chosen, from my perspective, were the children that they felt could easily assimilate- clean, parents had a little more than we did. My first formative years, up until I was like 6 or 7, my father worked in the mines, earned a lot of money and always drove brand new cars. I was in sixth grade when I got to Hanceville."

Some of James's cousins were selected to attend Hanceville the first year and they helped the following year by introducing him to some of the kids they knew. The teachers and staff from Colony School were also placed at schools throughout Cullman County.

James recalled, "Mrs. Earline Johnson went to the Cullman County Board of Education, Ms. Lily Mae Boyd became a librarian at Hanceville, Dorothy Twitty went to Fairview and Walter Brown taught at Good Hope and went on to teach biology at Wallace State. Oscar Watts went to West Point."

Ophelia was a hard-working stay-at-home mom until the late 60s. She went to work at Goldenrod Broiler. Many of the women from Colony worked at Goldenrod. It was tough work, but Ophelia said with a smile, "I loved it.

Meanwhile, James was now attending school in Hanceville and it wasn't always easy.

He laughed, "When I got there, I got in a fight with Donald Whatley, but we wound up being best friends. I bought a car from him-a '57 Chevy. We traded a '66 Chevelle that didn't run for the '57 Chevrolet. Our class gelled though. We played sports together and we would compete with Holly Pond."

James grimaced as he thought of Hanceville's football rivalry with Holly Pond.

James recalled hearing the "n word" often after the schools were integrated, saying, "I would hear it in casual conversations and sometimes when I got tackled in football, the other team would call me that."

Although James and his new Hanceville classmates bonded, he said, "We thought we'd go to Good Hope or Cold Springs. We sharecropped alongside those families and thought it would be easier because we knew those guys. Our parents worked with them, drank with them, moonshined with them, but it was determined that Hanceville was the safer route."

After graduating from Hanceville in 1973, James attended Gadsden State and Jacksonville State where he earned degrees in criminology and sociology. He retired from law enforcement as a fraud investigator and worked in Governor Don Siegelman's cabinet.

Ophelia left Goldenrod and went to work for Americold Compressor. She retired from Americold. James would eventually serve in the Alabama House of Representatives from 2008-2010.

He was open about the topic of racism and Cullman County's reputation. He told a story from before he became a legislator.

"I was at Wal-Mart in Cullman several years ago, at least 10 years ago. There were several young black ladies there I had stopped and talked to. As I was leaving, a lady in a van full of children came up beside me. The lady went ballistic. I said to her, 'Do you think I'm a child predator or something? Let me introduce myself to you.' She said, word for word, 'Just because you're black doesn't mean they are from The Colony!' I said, 'Ma'am, I said look, I didn't mean any harm. Let me apologize to you. Have a nice day.'"

He continued, "Ya know, that caught me off guard so and I just said there's something wrong with that lady. Here she is providing a service for kids who have been mistreated or thrown out.

She was from Childhaven and there's no way she is still there. You run into pockets of that. Sometimes you expect it and sometimes it catches you off guard. I don't think a lot of times we take the time to get to know one another and we know these things exist."

James would not win his bid for re-election in 2010 after facing his good friend Mac Buttram in a tough campaign. Buttram was James' mentor as he became a pastor in the United Methodist Church. Buttram conducted the funeral service of James's wife, Willie Mae, and officiated his wedding when he remarried four years later.

James is now pastor of St. James United Methodist Church in Irondale. Ophelia gushes with pride about her son and his accomplishments. She has been retired for many years and spends her days at the Colony Senior Center. She likes spending time with friends and doing word puzzles.

By: Christy Perry

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Meet Edna Calvert Graves, 103 years young

It was winter of 1919 in the new log house. So new, the house had not been sealed. Edna Calvert Graves was only 3 years old that winter when the snowstorm came and the snow began blowing into the house. Edna's older sister, Onie Belle, and their papa carried her upstairs to put quilts in the loft to protect her momma and her new baby sister, Vedma, from the snow falling into their bed.

Edna and her 10 siblings grew up in Brushy Pond in southwest Cullman County. Edna celebrated her 103rd birthday on Sept. 12. She recently sat down with The Tribune and several nieces in her home down the road from where she was born and raised. Her memories and stories span more than 100 years of life in Brushy Pond and Bremen- knowledge that you can't get from any Google search.

Edna had one sister, Carrie, whom she would never know. Carrie passed away as a child of scarlet fever. Scarlet fever was common then with frequent outbreaks.

Edna recalled, "The doctor would say to get queen of the meadow and make a tea with it. It grew in the lower areas of the holler." She gave examples of people drinking queen of the meadow tea and getting better.

As a child and throughout her life, Edna and her baby sister Vedma had many great adventures.

"We didn't have toys growing up. They were very expensive. We had to entertain ourselves, but we had so much fun! We made playhouses. We would take a board, stack two cans and add another board, and more cans. That would be our stove! We made mud pies, made corn husk dolls and even made a slide board off the cliff. We had to walk back up, but it was worth it."

Edna's Grandma Calvert, Eliza Jane Hunter, had a medical adviser which told what could be done for illnesses. The medical advisers were popular and at one time, Edna's grandma loaned it to the local physician, Dr. Moon. Edna still has her grandma's medical adviser. According to Edna, "Sassafras tea would help with many things and it tastes really good."

In the winter, the girls would collect ice and, using an empty Padlock Coffee Bucket, make ice cream.

Edna said, "We raised everything we had. We didn't buy nothing! We raised chickens and hogs; we grew all of our own vegetables. On Sunday, momma would cook for everyone. We had a table that would sit eight people and that table would turn over three groups. Then momma's family from Good Hope would show up. They'd all eat and there was still food left over for the hogs!"

Edna explained how they kept potatoes in a pit to keep them protected during the winter, in a knee-deep hole covered with cornstalks, dirt, and grass to keep them from freezing. These pits could double as a tornado shelter. Milk would be kept in the well bucket or in the spring nearby to keep it cold in the summer. Her Uncle Houston had rows of honey bees and Edna's momma would also tend to the bees. Not everyone liked the bees, swarms of which were a frequent encounter.

Edna went to school through the eighth grade at Brushy Pond School.

She said, "The school was south of Brushy Pond near Coon Creek." She went to Cold Springs School for a short time but left her ninth-grade year when her momma became ill.

Edna recalled, "I learned to sew and quilt. I learned to help turn the ground and plant it. We would plow with our cultivator. By the way, the cultivator was a mule."

What few things the family did buy, such as coffee, sugar, fertilizer and feed, were all repurposed. The coffee came in large red buckets that had many uses. The other items came in large cloth sacks that were used to make clothes.

"We would get fertilizer at Stricklin's store. The guano (a fertilizer) sacks were made of the softest white cotton. Those were wonderful." Many companies during this time began using floral or other pretty bags for their products knowing that customers were making clothes out of the sacks.

Christmas was a fun time for Edna and her siblings: "We were poor, and toys were so expensive. Santa always came and brought us candy and fruit. One year Santa brought Vedma and me a beaded bag and a red rubber ball. We were so proud and when we told a friend at school what Santa had brought us, she told us who really brought it. I was devastated but loved the gifts regardless."

The 4th of July was Edna's favorite holiday. "Everyone came home for the 4th. All the kids would play and down in the hollers in one place were these giant oak trees. The trees made a giant rainbow over the path and Vedma and I just had to cross over those trees. It was dangerous, and momma would say, 'You girls better not go to that old tree!' but we did. We couldn't help it!"

As teenagers Edna and Vedma would go to the "singins." These were the social events at the time. Edna went to a singin' in Cullman one night in 1937 with some friends. She and another friend accepted an invitation to ride around with some other kids including a young Ronmon Graves from Cold Springs.

The following Sunday, Ronmon asked Edna for a date. She agreed, and in 1928, 11 months later, they were married.

She laughed, "We didn't have big weddings back then. We didn't have big white dresses. I wore my blue dress. It was Ronmon's 21st birthday and he picked me up. He forgot the marriage license, so we had to turn around and go get it before we set out to find the preacher.

"We did find the preacher. He was sitting at Prospect Mountain on the side of the road. We pulled up and told him we needed him to marry us to which the preacher said, 'Here's just as a good a place as any!' So he did! Right there on the side of the road! We never even got out of the car. He married us, and we drove home."

Ronmon and Edna were married for 65 years. Edna's advice: "We had a happy life together. I had two rules: I told Ronmon, I won't live with a drunk and (two) I won't live in a fuss. He agreed. He never was a drunk and we never had a fuss in our 65 years together."

Ronmon and Edna had two sons. Donald was born in 1940 and Blair in 1943. This was during World War II in a time when many products were in high demand and many items were being rationed.



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Edna Calvert Graves

Edna said of the time, "People wanted to get ahead but there was nothing to get ahead with."

Peanuts were on a government list of crops that farmers could provide in exchange for going overseas. It was considered service, so the Graves family planted 3-4 acres of peanuts for the government. This allowed Ronmon to stay home with Edna and their two young boys.

She added, "I checked on those old oaks Vedma and I played in and was relieved that they had rotted. I played in them, but just like my momma, I didn't want my boys up in those trees."

When Donald was a baby, Edna did get a job outside of the home. She was hired to work at the King Phar pepper plant. She worked one day, but although her work ethic garnered praise, the guilt of being away from the baby and her duties at home led her to quit. Eventually Ronmon would find a good job in strip mining which allowed the family to purchase land and build its own home where Edna lives today. Her son Donald lives on the property in a separate home.

Ronmon passed away in 2002. Edna's sister Vedma Calvert Swann passed away in 1995. Edna still lives in the home she and Ronmon worked so hard to build. Her son Blair makes and brings her sausage and Donald is also nearby. Old pictures are displayed throughout her home.

She said, "I just love these old pictures. I walk around and look at all of them and I'm just filled with so many wonderful memories."

Edna loves gospel music. She is a sacred harp singer. She and Vedma were both talented fasola singers and sang throughout the area. She loves the old style of singing that served as a backdrop for her life. The traditional style of gospel music was at the center of social gatherings, and traveling from church to church brought so much joy to Edna and her family. She isn't a fan of all the new type of gospel music today. "It lacks the spirituality of the old book singing. The new stuff is a big racket," she said.

Edna is a member of New Hope Primitive Baptist but is no longer able to attend the services. She said, "I am a Primitive Baptist but believe in all churches. There is God in all of them."

Edna loves sewing, and her 60-plus-year-old Singer machine sits threaded up and ready. She proudly showed everyone a photo album of the many quilts and afghans she created for friends and family. She took out a gorgeous crocheted shawl that she hasn't finished. "I love to crochet, but for the past year it's gotten harder. It's harder for me to see what I'm doing."

Edna stays busy and sharp doing word puzzles. She also keeps up with "the stories."

She likes "The Young and the Restless," "Days of Our Lives" and "General Hospital." She also enjoys cooking shows and classic television shows.

Besides her sons Donald and Blair, Edna has three grandchildren, five great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. She couldn't say how many nieces and nephews she had but she only has four living nieces and nephews today. She said she was expecting many visitors for her birthday including her great-nephew Joe, who has recently undergone a heart transplant. He will be able to travel from Ohio to visit.

Edna Calvert Graves' advice on a long happy life is simple: "Clean living and hard work. Be decent and treat people right. Treat everyone with respect. There are people I might not have cared for, but we are all human and equal. We can be friends with people we don't always agree with and there's no good that comes from fussin'!"

By: Christy Perry

Roll into some fun with the Cullman Senior Bowling League



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CULLMAN, Ala. - With just a few weeks left in its winter bowling season, the Cullman Senior Bowling League welcomes anyone older than 50 to register for the upcoming season beginning in early May. Seniors of all skill levels are welcome to join in on the Thursday afternoon fun at the Cullman Bowling Center.

Babe Koorndyk, 94, recently moved to Double Springs from southern California. Babe is still scoring strikes and making tons of new friends.

Koorndyk has been bowling all her life and said, “I was with my bowling group in California, but I’m having a great time with my new league. Everybody in Alabama is friendly.”

Neil Campbell has been an important part of the league and served as its president for many years. Having just lost his wife Clara less than a week ago, Campbell said he was at the bowling center to be with those he and Clara spent much of their lives with.

Said Campbell, “Clara was a star bowler-a great bowler. She won some events on the national level.”

The Campbells and bowling friends Harold and Bertha Jones began bowling in Cullman 22 years ago. They bowled together at Pine Bowl in Fultondale for many years, but chose to join Cullman when Pine Bowl was closed. Campbell appeared to enjoy being with his bowling family although he was just there to watch.

He shared, “I stopped bowling two years ago when Clara could no longer bowl. Now that she has passed, I might give it a try again.”



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Siblings Marcia Tillman, “High Pockets” Drummond and Janet Jean enjoy a laugh Thursday at the Cullman Bowling Center.

The Joneses we’re joined by their daughter, Sharron Camp.

While many participate in the team bowling, several just come for the laughs and fellowship. “High Pockets” Drummond was cracking jokes and having a great time as his sisters, Marcia Tillman and Janet Jean, competed with their friends. They take the bowling seriously, but say having a great time is the priority.

Senior League President Zelda Turner hopes more people will join in on the league, saying, “We have such a good time. We are competitive, but we welcome everyone. Some average in the 90s while others are in the 200s, and that’s fine. We have three-person teams with all combos and we make the teams fair.”

Turner said some have been bowling for years, some haven’t bowled in years, adding “It’s great exercise and it’s important for us to stay active. It’s great physically, mentally and socially.”

The Cullman Senior Bowling League is a sanctioned league. The league is Thursday afternoons at 1 p.m. at the Cullman Bowling Center. For more information, email Turner at turner.accounting.1040@gmail.com or contact the Cullman Bowling Center at 256-734-2600 or www.facebook.com/CullmanBowlingCenter.

By: Christy Perry

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MARCH 19, 2019

COMMUNITY PROFILE

‘My one great accomplishment in life was marrying her’

101-year-old Jimmy Davis talks about his life





CONTRIBUTED, CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left: Jimmy Davis and his wife, Jean, on their wedding day; Right: Jimmy Davis

On Jan. 22, 2017, an EF3 tornado ripped through Albany, Georgia toppling a large tree onto attorney Jimmy Davis’ home. Davis had a tough decision to make. Move to Cullman with his daughter, Carol, or rebuild. He chose to retire at the age of 99 and make the move to Cullman. Davis recently celebrated his 101st birthday with family and friends.

Davis was born Oct. 8, 1917 in Lexington, North Carolina. His father worked for a power company although his family had primarily been fisherman off the North Carolina coast. When Davis was quite young, his father was transferred to work in Albany, Georgia. Davis and his two younger brothers and one little sister had a happy childhood and learned at a young age that if you wanted something, you had to work for it.

Davis recalled, “Roller skating was a big thing back in those days. We roller skated until we were old enough to work for bicycles.”

Davis was 13 when he got his first job at S.H. Kress Co. Kress was a five and dime store that hired young men during the holiday season.

“I was a stock boy during the holidays,” said Davis. “We would bring merchandise from upstairs and fill the shelves. The first season I worked, I made $13. That was good money back then.”

He continued, “My brother and I both wanted bikes, and our boss, Iva Johnson, didn’t tell us he already planned on making sure we both had bikes. My brother and I were close in age and it wouldn’t do for just one of us to get a bike. Christmas morning, my brother came in and saw his bike sitting by the tree. He got so excited he ran and went right into the tree!”

The family did own a car. They had a Model T Ford that only his father and mother were allowed to drive.

Davis said, “A Model T had to be hand cranked and my mother couldn’t do it. The problem is if you let go of that crank before the car started, it would whip back around and get you. It could break your arm!”

Davis was happy to report that he never broke his arm.

When Davis was just 15, he graduated from Columbus High School in Georgia. He laughed, “They told me I was smart and let me skip the seventh grade. I think that was a huge mistake. I’ve had a problem with fractions my whole life.”

After graduation, Davis went to work. His family couldn’t afford to send all four children to college. Davis learned typing and shorthand which helped him find a job with the Georgia Power Company. He hand delivered light bills. This gave him the opportunity to attend Young Harris Junior College in Northeast Georgia.

After two years of junior college Davis was working for a mercantile selling dishwashers and other appliances. His boss urged him to apply for law school at Emory University.

Davis remembered, “I was accepted early into Emory due to always making good grades and good references.”

He passed the Georgia bar exam in 1941.

The same time Davis was graduating and passing the bar, his friends were leaving for World War II. This was a difficult time for Davis.

He said, “I went to sign up to go to the war but didn’t qualify. The man wrote on my paper “4f” and said I couldn’t go.”

Davis is 4’ 9 1/2” and his height was disqualifying.

Despite his height, Davis was the Georgia state champion in wrestling for three years. He only weighed 105 pounds, so he wrestled in the lowest weight class.

He said, “I might have been too short for the Army, but I knew I was tough.”

Davis missed his friends who were overseas and began attending dances in the area. Soon he would meet Jean at a dance and they eventually married.

“I met Jean at a high school dance. I liked the dances and I am a good dancer. She was several years younger than me, but I am 4’9” and we were a great fit,” he laughed.

Davis practiced law for more than 70 years in Georgia.

He explained, “Back then, all of those accused of a crime had to have a lawyer. Most of them had no money and the state didn’t pay us either. It was at least five years before I made any money as an attorney.”

He continued, “I ran into some interesting criminals and they all had the same story about ‘being off with Joe.’ They were obviously telling tales. When I was starting out, the sheriff and judge had taken a liking to me. The superior court met two times a year in Albany. On the first Monday in March when court convened, and I actually had a paying client. I was 15 minutes late getting to court. The judge said he was going to have to fine me $15. That was a whole lot of money back then and I had no money. I told the judge I couldn’t pay so he instructed the deputy to take me into custody.

"The sheriff was about 6’6” and 250 pounds. He had this big booming voice and said, ‘Your honor, I’ll pay Mr. Davis’ fine.’ Of course, it was just a big joke between them, but I learned my lesson about being late.”

Davis was elected as a representative to the Georgia General Assembly in 1949. After two years, he decided he didn’t like it or the governor at the time. He chose to remain in Albany where he was elected as mayor for two terms. During his second term, the Albany city attorney died, and Davis resigned as mayor to become the city’s attorney.

Davis and Jean were married five years before having their daughter Carol. Soon after, Jean was stricken with polio.

Davis said, “There was a bad epidemic. My mother helped take care of the baby until I could get on my feet. Jean went to Warm Springs, Georgia for six months of treatment and rehab at Vanderbilt. Despite all of the treatment, Jean was permanently confined to a wheelchair.”

Davis said of wife Jean, “My one great accomplishment in life was marrying her. Our daughter is just like her.”

Davis laughed as he told about their dog Tar, “He was terrified of thunder and lightning and would hide under Jean’s wheelchair. Tar was a white spitz. We had a cat briefly. Jean made me a caramel cake for my birthday and we turned our back for just a few minutes. When we came back, the cat had gotten into my cake! The cat had to go.”

Jean, Davis’ wife of 64 years, passed away in 2011. He continued to work as an attorney until the age of 99. He also published two books of poetry.

Davis currently resides at Westminster Assisted Living in Cullman.

He said, “I’d rather be working!”

He enjoys his daily visits with his daughter. He loves the Georgia Bulldogs and the Atlanta Braves. He recalled watching the great Hank Aaron years ago and remains a loyal fan today.

Davis says the secret to a long life is “Mind your mother.”

By: Christy Perry

CULLMAN COUNTY FAIR 2018

'ALL THESE YEARS LATER'

Crane Hill couple who met at the fair 58 years ago enjoys Senior Day



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

John and Geneva Sellers, who first met at the Cullman County Fair Ferris wheel in 1960, take a ride around memory lane at the fair's Senior Day.

CULLMAN - Last Senior Day at the Cullman County Fair, John and Geneva Sellers of Crane Hill, was especially enjoying the day's festivities. The couple first met on Oct. 1, 1960 at the fair's Ferris wheel. John was 19 and Geneva was 17.

John smiled, "I was there with a few buddies and I saw her from the Ferris wheel. I told my friends that the girl in the leopard print pants is mine!"

Recalled Geneva, "My girlfriends convinced me to buy those pants and wear them to the fair. All these years later and he remembers those leopard print pants!"

Geneva admits that she and her girlfriends were hoping to meet some boys. As for John, he was looking for the right girl.

Geneva said, "He introduces himself and I thought he was cute. Something just sparked."

John had wanted to drive Geneva home that night, but she wouldn't let him. She had driven her own car to the fair. She agreed to meet him again the next day. John went the next day and picked up Geneva in his black convertible Chevy with red interior.

John laughed, "She had her own car, so at least I knew she didn't just agree because of my car." After picking her up, John took Geneva to meet his parents.

The couple would eventually marry in 1962. They have been to the fair almost every year since the "love at first sight" meeting at the fair 58 years ago.

They recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a six-week trip to Venezuela. John and Geneva also deliver meals for Meals on Wheels in Crane Hill.

The couple has four children, 11 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Their grandchildren have won many awards at the fair in the past few years for singing and art. The Cullman County Fair continues to be a special place and time for their family.

More on Senior Day

A huge crowd came out to enjoy music, exhibits and fellowship. Comfort Care Home Health was on hand giving fair goers T-shirts and tote bags, which were great for the seniors as they picked up swag from the many vendors at this year's fair.

Admission to the fair was free and the Lion's Club concessions were available with hamburgers, hotdogs and fried pies. All of the fair buildings were open for people to browse the contest entries.

A variety of vendors were also busy passing out information. Some had special drawings for the seniors to enter. Wallace State offered free health screenings

Seniors filled the Coca-Cola Theatre to enjoy gospel singing and other crowd favorites. Volunteers with Comfort Care danced with a handful of seniors while many clapped along.

Jim and Tammy Melton were at the fair laughing and enjoying time with their friends, Mike and Doris Vinson, Calvin Wright and Linda Murray. They were a little disappointed that the rides and games weren't open.

Doris Vinson joked, "We've been sitting here wanting to play this water balloon game."

Calvin Wright, added, "I'm more interested in that fresh lemonade booth."

The friends were very lighthearted in their critiques.

Mike Vinson said, "We are having a great time. We love a chance to get together to joke around. Several had hoped to ride the carousel, but they did enjoy the Ferris wheel."

By: Christy Perry

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MARCH 19, 2019

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Mary Ellen Jones

It was the early 1930s when the Dust Bowl devastated Oklahoma and caused once hopeful farmers to seek new opportunities for their families. Mary Ellen McAfee was just 5 years old when her parents moved to Cullman County with her three older brothers.

Now she is Mrs. Mary Ellen Jones and a resident at Westminster Assisted Living in Cullman. The Tribune visited Mary Ellen and went with her on an impromptu stroll down memory lane.

Mary Ellen doesn't remember much from her years in Oklahoma but recalled, "When the winds would come, mama would shut all the doors and windows to keep the sand out. It still managed to seep into everything."

With her family unable to farm, they moved to Cullman County where her father was from originally.

They family settled in Logan. Mary Ellen recalled a neighbor with a mule. She said, "We didn't have anything to play with really, but the neighbor had a mule we liked to ride. My brothers and I went over one day, and I wanted to ride the mule again. Well, this angered the neighbor after my brothers sat me back on the mule. The neighbor clapped loudly, spooked the mule, and the mule kicked me off of there. I broke my arm. My daddy had to take me to the doctor in Trimble. He put me in the wagon pulled by mules and took me. I got a sling for it."

Mary Ellen went to school at Logan Junior High until the school burned. "The school burned down, so we had classes in the church buildings until the school could be rebuilt."

She finished ninth grade at Logan. Students would ride buses to Cullman High School to complete 10th-12th grades. She explained, "We had dirt roads way back then and we got stuck often. We would be late to school or some days when the weather was bad; the bus couldn't bring us at all. I had friends in Cullman, so I would stay with them for a few days until the roads were clear. I didn't want to miss school."

After graduating from Cullman, Mary Ellen enrolled at the University of Alabama to become a teacher. There was only one small problem. She had no car and no way to get there. Finally, she learned that her principal from Logan was attending Alabama to earn his master's degree. He offered her a ride and she settled into a small dorm.

Mary Ellen said, "This was just after World War II, and finding teachers was very difficult because most of the people were working factory jobs. I was hired to teach fourth grade at Dowling School in Crane Hill after just one semester of college classes." This was in 1949 and she was still without a car. Mary Ellen said, "A friend and I found a two-room shack to rent in Crane Hill, so we were able to walk back and forth to work."

Every summer she continued taking college classes. Now, she was attending classes at St. Bernard College. She laughed, "I had to go to college so I could teach and teach so I could go to college."

In 1949, Mary Ellen began teaching fourth grade at Trimble School where she taught five years.

When asked about transportation she laughed, "Oh! I left something



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Mary Ellen Jones

out. When at Dowling, I met this guy. He became my first husband and he had a car." Millard Freeman and Mary Ellen married in 1950.

The couple welcomed a baby girl named Betty. Mary Ellen stayed home with the baby for three years before returning to teaching. When she returned, it was to Logan Junior High where she taught English for 24 years. During this time, she took another three-year break from teaching in 1960 after the birth of her son, Delbert.

Millard Freeman made a living as a timber hauler and sold timber to Buettner Brothers Lumber in Cullman.

In 1981, he passed away from congestive heart failure. Mary Ellen lived alone for six years but continued to teach English at Logan. She retired in 1985 after 24 years at Logan and 30 years of teaching.

In 1988, she remarried. She married John Paul Jones, a principal at Logan. John Jones passed away in 2010. Both of Mary Ellen Freeman Jones' children live in Cullman. Betty Freeman Kinney is retired from the post office and Delbert Freeman is the chaplain at Cullman Regional.

Mary Ellen laughed, "I have five grandchildren. I have 10-12 great grandchildren. I'd have to count." It was time for lunch, so the counting would have to wait for another time.

Mary Ellen is now legally blind due to glaucoma that runs in her family. "I am still able to get around fine, but I can't see well. I make it a point to walk 2 miles every day to keep in shape," she smiled, pointing to her step counter on her ankle.

Westminster is an assisted living and memory care facility in Cullman. Wanda Raines, executive director, spoke of the stories the residents have to tell: "They give me more than I can ever give them. I hope more people will want to volunteer or visit the seniors in their communities. The residents enjoy the visits, and what a person can gain from them is priceless."

By: Christy Perry

The Gold Dixie Chicks focus on love



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Valerie Cagle, Jeanie McCombs, Becky Hudson and Helen Cary

The Golden Dixie Chicks got together Thursday night despite the storms to welcome a new friend to the growing social group. The party was held at the home of Helen Cary, who recently returned from a fun trip to Mardi Gras. The spunky 77 year old wore her "good girls go to heaven, bad girls go to Mardi Gras" T-shirt and showed off her light purple hair.

The Mardi Gras/St. Paddy's Day party welcomed Cullman newcomer Jeanie McCombs.

McCombs, a retired accountant from Washington State, said "I left Washington and traveled the world for two years and ended up here in June."

McCombs and the ladies discussed history, travel, family and future plans over a king cake and drinks while sifting through the baskets of beads Helen brought back from Mardi Gras.

What the ladies didn't discuss were politics or anything that facilitates negativity. This group is just a gathering of women determined to embrace our similarities. The Golden Dixie Chicks promote love, laughter and friendship between women: a chance to be a little silly and a chance to tune out the stresses in life.

McCombs told the group about hiking trails in Hawaii that she experienced with her children years ago. She described "the beautiful orchids and the fragrance of plumeria" that filled the air before finding cliffs with waterfalls.

Valerie Cagle told of her kayaking adventures in New Zealand. Both ladies spoke of the value in planning adventures around the advice of locals rather than relying on over-hyped tourist traps.

Cary announced that she will soon travel to Europe with her sister, saying, "I'll be cruising on the Blue Danube!" Helen recently underwent surgery on both hips and is now back to having fun. "We'll be there for 11 days and I'm excited!"

The Golden Dixie Chicks hope to keep making new friends and planning future parties and activities. Many of the ladies spend their time giving back through nonprofit and charitable work. They are all remarkable in their own way, and perhaps the magic of the Golden Dixie Chicks is they realize that we all can be when we focus on what binds us and leave our troubles at the door.

By: Christy Perry

HEALTHY EATS
JUST FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

Healthy Eats

Fresh * Never Frozen * Locally Made & Convenient Pick Up

HEALTHYEATS

256.962.4468 or 256.655.7750

CELEBRATE
America's #1 Selling Lift Chair

AMERICAN MADE

MED-LIFT
Quality Lift Chairs Made in the USA



The Med-Lift Difference. . .

- Lifetime Warranty
- Superior Construction
- All Steel Mechanism
- Reinforced Hardwood Frame
- 8 Gauge No Sag Springs
- Acella Flex Seat Foam
- Wider Base for Stability

MADE IN THE USA

VINCENT FURNITURE
116 3rd Street SE, Cullman • 256-739-2612
Making your house a home since 1968

Thank you for supporting

The Cullman Tribune

Cullman Podiatry

Foot Care for the Entire Family

Lynn, Michelle, Skye, & Dr. Giammanco

256-739-1912



"No representation is made about the quality the podiatric services to be performed or the podiatrist performing such services"

Estate Planning for Regular People

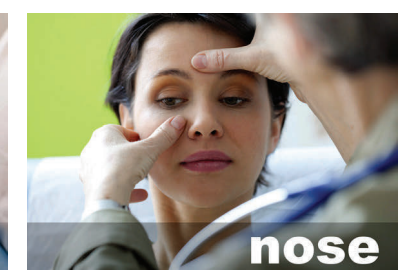
Free Seminar
5:30 PM Thursday, March 21
Technology Village Cullman
105 Clark St NE Cullman, AL

Seating is limited. Free Admission.
Reservations are required.

256-734-0026 or
cblakewest@gmail.com
www.cblakewestlaw.com

Sneezing... Headache... Cough...
Could Be Allergies









When It Comes To Your Health
Experience Matters

Call us for an appointment if you're having these symptoms. ENT Associates of Alabama, P.C. is the largest ear, nose and throat practice in Alabama with 8 locations, 14 physicians, and over 600 years of combined staff and physician experience.

Our practice includes general ear, nose, and throat, head and neck diseases and surgeries, cosmetic surgery, robotic procedures, in-office balloon sinuplasty, allergy treatment, and hearing solutions. We concentrate our training and experience in these areas to provide the best possible medical care for our patients.

Call us for an appointmentwith one of our doctors serving the Cullman area.


Dr. Alice H Morgan


Dr. Bruce Morgan


Dr. Sheldon Black


Dr. L. Clark Simpson


Dr. Howard Goldberg

Call toll free
888-368-5020

ent associates of alabama, pc

Birmingham - Hoover - Cullman - Gardendale - Alabaster - Jasper - Pell City - Trussville
www.entalabama.com



HELPING FAMILIES AND FRIENDS HONOR THEIR LOVED ONE

CULLMAN HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME

ASK ABOUT OUR SIMPLICITY FUNERAL SERVICES

OWNERS: DOUG AND ANN WILLIAMS

255 COUNTY ROAD 1435 • CULLMAN, AL 35058 • 256-734-0208

MUNICIPALITIES

Garden City: 'We're all friends, everybody knows each other'

GARDEN CITY, Ala. - Garden City has an interesting history for such a small town in Cullman County: it is the second city founded by Col. John G Cullmann. Cullmann bought land about 13 miles south of Cullman, which bordered a line of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad; he named the new settlement Garden City for its lush vegetation.

The town was incorporated in 1878, with parts of the town being in Blount County as well. In 1892, a covered bridge was built over the Mulberry River for travelers to have easier access to the rest of the county (at that time, the town was still entirely in Blount County).

Garden City was annexed into Cullman County in 1901 when the county lines changed. U.S. Highway 31 was built through the center of town in 1939, which further connected it with Cullman. The Mulberry Fork of the Black Warrior River forms the southeastern border of the town. Since the original incorporation had lapsed, Garden City was reincorporated into Cullman County in 1950.

Today, Garden City's mayor is Tim Eskew, who, when asked what he loves about his town, simply smiled and laughed, "Everything."

He elaborated, "I was born and raised here. I love everything about it, it's a close-knit community. We're all friends, everybody knows each other. Everybody goes out of their way to help each other, that's the main thing."



MAGGIE DARNELL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Recently, the Town of Garden City installed a new welcome sign with the slogan, "Find adventure here."

Eskew shared what he feels makes Garden City special: "It's home. I've traveled the United States before. I have not seen anywhere out of Cullman County where I would want to live."

Recently, the Town of Garden City installed a new welcome sign with the slogan, "Find adventure here."

For recreational visits, consider spending time at Garden Trail Park or Garden City River Park, located along the Mulberry Fork of the Black Warrior River. The former boats a 1/5 mile walking trail, kids' play area, picnic area and a covered pavilion. The latter boasts a canoe launch.

By: Maggie Darnell

Vinemont: Not just home to the big red water tower

VINEMONT, Ala. - The town of South Vinemont was established in 1961 but has a rich history going back to the arrival of the Germans. The Germans determined that the area was not suitable for farming but would be great for growing grapes. Known then for its vineyards and hot springs , the community became known as Vinemont.

Radginal Dodson is the mayor of South Vinemont and his family has been in Vinemont for several generations, including his uncle Herrin Holmes.

Holmes had permission from the bank to endorse checks with a shortened "He Ho." He was known as "He-Ho" by everyone in the community.

Dodson said, "South Vinemont is special because our folks really care about each other."

His thoughts were echoed by resident Tumika Noblett, who said said, "Everybody knows each other and we all look out for the best interests of each other's children."

Noblett describes herself as a "baseball and softball mom" and works maintenance in the town. She enjoys her time watching her children play ball at the town's sports complex, saying, "The complex is a big deal. We get people who had never heard of Vinemont come from all over. They come from all over the state and surrounding states."

There are many longtime local businesses in South Vinemont including Monk's Carpet, D&H Cycles and the V & W Pure Station. The V & W is a popular stop for breakfast and lunch.

David Lipsey, who has been in Vinemont since 1949, was enjoying chatting with friends at the V&W and jokingly warned, "Watch out for the liars club. You can't trust a word they say!" The "liars club" is the nickname given to a group of men who meet each morning for coffee and breakfast.

The V&W is across U.S. Highway 31 from the Home of the Vinemont Eagles making it a popular stop before and after school.

The town is proud of its high school, middle school and elementary school. This year the Vinemont schools are celebrating their 50th anniversary. Vinemont Elementary was also selected as an Alabama Bicentennial School.

The Cullman County Child Development Center and Cullman Area Technology Academy are also located in South Vinemont.

"You know what everyone knows, weirdly enough, is the old red water tower," Noblett laughed.

"It's always in the background of every picture. In the aerial view, there's the tower. Everyone knows when they see that water tower they are in Vinemont."



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

"Everyone knows when they see that water tower they are in Vinemont," joked resident Tumika Noblett.

South Vinemont has several landmarks including the highest point in Cullman County, also known as the Pinnacle. The old buildings of the original town still exist and Mayor Dodson's wife, Judy, has an antique store there today. The Ole Store has many of the original features from when the store was first built by Dodson's grandfather, Roscoe Holmes. The town is also incredibly proud of its fire department and community center.

Two Cullman businesses have recently announced plans to relocate to Vinemont: The Shaddix Company and Willoughby Roofing and Sheet Metal.

By: Christy Perry

Welcome to Berlin

BERLIN, Ala. - The town of Berlin was incorporated in 2018, becoming the 12th municipality in Cullman County. The community of Berlin has existed as long as, if not longer than, most Cullman communities and is centered around Walker's Corner USA which is the intersection of U.S. Highway 278 and County 747. The town is approximately 5 miles east of Cullman.

The Berlin Quick Stop is where many in the community come for breakfast and to get what they need to start their days. Owner Mike Hays, aka Mad Dog Mike, is always thinking of ways to better serve the community. Founder of Mad Dog Mike's BBQ, located inside the Quick Stop, Hays' barbecue is cooked on site. If you stop in, the barbecue cheese fries are a must try.

The popular breakfast and lunch destination has recently added a selection of cookies and cakes baked by Hays' mother, Carolyn Hays, and is hoping to expand to offer made-to-order breakfast.

When asked about Berlin, Mike Hays said jokingly, "Well, I'm not sure where the suburbs of Berlin starts, but I believe we are standing in the metropolitan area."

Frank Walker stopped by the Berlin Quick Stop and sat down for a few minutes. Walker's family built the Walkers Corner name that most associate with the town of Berlin.



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Mad Dog Mike's BBQ, located inside the Berlin Quick Stop, is a staple in the community.

He said, "I was born and raised here. I went to Berlin School that was where the community center is now. My grandpa had a store on top of the hill but moved Walkers Corner to (Hwy.) 278 later. We built the building across the street in 1970. We sold hardware and farm equipment."

Of Berlin, Walker said, "I just like being here."

He is optimistic about Berlin's future now that it is an incorporated municipality.

"In the long run, I think it will be a good thing. Maybe the town will be able to buy some land and add a park for the kids, a walking trail or storm shelters, but that's in the future. I'm sure they are working on it. We are getting our part now (referring to tax revenue)."

By: Christy Perry

Colony leaders push to make life better for community

COLONY, Ala. - In the last year, the small southwest Cullman County town of Colony has seen its share of drama inside its town hall, with council members joining, quitting and even being voted out. None of that has deterred the town's leaders from their vision for a community they hope to leave more prosperous, safer and healthier than they found it.

Over that time, Mayor Donnis Leeth, Town Clerk Patricia Ponder and the town council have made multiple improvements and laid the foundations for even more in a short amount of time.

Forward-thinking moves have included:

- Establishment of a Carpenter's Cabinet community food pantry at the Colony Educational Complex. On its opening day in November, food was distributed to 20 area families.
- Creation of a community garden in partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine and help from the North Alabama Agriplex. Several raised beds have been constructed on the south side of the Educational Complex, and more are coming this year. Morehouse issued the town a grant, to promote exercise for those who come to work the garden and better nutrition for those who eat its produce.
- Continuation of a federally-funded summer feeding program to ensure that kids who could qualify for free or reduced meals during the school year would continue to have access to nutrition through their vacation. The program was supplemented with a summer educational enrichment program carried out in partnership with the Benedictine Sisters of Cullman. This year's short-term enrichment program will include a summer camp for older kids to get hands-on with computers, 3-D printers and other technology.
- Installation of a community tornado shelter behind town hall that can provide protection to 80 or more people in the event of an emergency.
- Establishment of an Air Evac Lifeteam landing zone in the town's park near town hall.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Colony Mayor Donnis Leeth displays the award naming the town of Colony a 2019 Healthcare Champion in the Morehouse School of Medicine Healthy Communities Initiative, for its development of a community garden.

Of course, the word that has been drifting around Colony since Leeth came into office was that the town was working on getting a Dollar General. Just recently, the mayor was able to announce that the company has located a piece of property in town, on Alabama Highway 91 going out toward the interstate. A timetable for construction has not been established.

During a town council discussion about future plans, Leeth said, "We're just trying to make the Colony be something. All these years I was in the military, 21 years. When I left, there wasn't nothing; when I come back, there wasn't nothing.

"Same thing we had, they still got it. I've been trying to put something in the Colony for the young people and the elder people."

Leeth's stated long-term plans for Colony include a laundromat, carwash, an affordable government-subsidized single-family development and paving the town hall parking lot. He also proposed regular community activities at the Colony Senior Center, ranging from movie nights to bingo.

Leeth concluded that council discussion by saying, "We're going to make it happen, y'all."

By: W.C. Mann

Dodge City: 'The people are our best asset'

DODGE CITY, Ala. - Dodge City was incorporated as a municipality of Cullman County in 1993; it is located south of the center of Cullman County, just off the west side of I-65, on Exit 299. Dodge City is located just east of Lewis Smith Lake, which offers water activities for Cullman County residents and visitors.

Unique to Dodge City is its sewage treatment plant, which has a system of "S-shaped" ponds that filter out bacteria with cat tails and duck weed. The water is also treated with UV light to remove any remaining bacteria. Town leaders say there are only two more like it in Alabama.

Dodge City has also recently opened a "Little Free Pantry" that is stocked by Life Church.

Dodge City is under the leadership of Mayor Tawana Canada, who shared, "I was born and raised here, so it's home to me. The people are our best asset, they're some of the most caring people on Earth.

"The people of Dodge City are true Southerners. We take pride in the fact that we know our neighbors and that we still wave hello.

"This combination makes Dodge City a great place to work and a greater place to call home!"

Dodge City features local favorite spots such as Pop's Place Bar BQ, Ray Park (named in memory of Dodge City's first mayor) and a nature trail behind the town hall. One of Pop's Place Bar BQ's owners, Karl Hurter, shared how Dodge City's community has affected his business, saying, "It's been a huge impact, we moved (Pop's Place) to Dodge City two years ago and we've had a huge, positive impact on our business. I enjoy being here." About the town, Hurter said, "I enjoy the small-town feel of Dodge City; it's much different than where I grew up. But it's something I've come to enjoy and appreciate, because I've been able to have a much better relationship with my customers."



MAGGIE DARNELL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Dodge City opened its "Little Free Pantry" in Nov. 2018. It is located between Dodge City Town Hall and Jack's, off Alabama Highway 69 South. Jack's donated the land and Life Church keeps the pantry stocked.

The town's annual festival, Dodge City Day, will take place on June 8, 2019 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

By: Maggie Darnell

Fairview: 'The people of Fairview are more than just good people, they are caring people'

FAIRVIEW, Ala. - Incorporated in 1967, Fairview is under the mayoral leadership of Keith Henry, who expressed love for his town, saying, "I love the people, I love the closeness of the community, people willing to help out people in need. I love being able to feel safe in my home and even in our parks. Fairview is a great place to live and raise a family, and I am blessed to be a part of this community."

Fairview resident Jennifer Calahan shared, "Fairview is home. It is such a special small town, not only because it has a most beautiful school campus and park in the middle of town, but also because of the people. The people of Fairview are more than just good people, they are caring people."

Located between Simcoe and Baileyton, Fairview is bisected by Alabama Highway 69, offering many travelers and visitors the opportunity to experience this quaint municipality. Highlights include the newly re-opened Hutch Restaurant, local favorite Randall Shedd Park, Hopper's Family Market and the Fairview Quick Stop. For a more leisurely time, try for a hole-in-one at Chesley Oaks Golf Course.

The Hutch Restaurant has been a staple in the Fairview community since 1979. It recently underwent renovations and is now owned by Josiah and Shannon Daily. The restaurant's building is now completely Fairview Aggie purple, with a new backside porch to provide more seating.



MAGGIE DARNELL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Hutch Restaurant has been a staple in the Fairview community since 1979.

"It's good to have something to do for the community," said Josiah Daily when The Hutch reopened in November.

Shared Shannon Daily, "The people here are so caring and treat everyone with kindness. The people of this community ARE the Hutch and what it stands for. We even incorporated over 1,000 pictures of the people of Fairview throughout the years into our dining tables. We love getting to visit with all the wonderful people that call this community home when they come join us for a meal. The folks that eat with here become like our family (if they aren't already)."

The Hutch is not the only restaurant in Fairview; the town is also home to Brindley Mountain BBQ, which sadly suffered major fire damage on Oct. 23, 2018. The building was declared a complete loss, but construction on the new one began Feb. 2. Soon, citizens of Fairview (or lovers of barbeque in general) will be able to enjoy barbeque from their favorite place again.

By: Maggie Darnell



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Members of area school fishing teams pose for pictures with pro fishermen and representatives of Major League Fishing, along with local officials, after the announcement on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019 that Cullman and Smith Lake will host Stage Five of the 2019 Major League Fishing Bass Tour from April 30 through May 5. The event will coincide with a "festival-style fan experience" in downtown Cullman's Depot Park and Festhalle.

It's an exciting time in Cullman

CULLMAN, Ala. - If you want to know what's good about Cullman, Mayor Woody Jacobs won't hesitate for a moment to tell you.

Jacobs shared, "It's an exciting time to be mayor of the City of Cullman! Cullman has a lot to offer its citizens and visitors, and there are many new and exciting things are happening in our community.

"Our community is strong! We have several annual festivals including the Strawberry Festival, Oktoberfest and Christmas in the Park that are always well-attended and loads of fun for everyone. We've added a new festival this year: The St. Patrick's Celebration on March 16, 2019! These events and many others throughout the year take place in our beautiful, historic and thriving downtown area.

Continued Jacobs, "Cullman is the most family-friendly town in Alabama. We also have one of the best school systems in the state, as well as several excellent private schools. Our medical foundation is strong as well. Cullman Regional provides our city and surrounding area with top-notch healthcare. Through the leadership of the hospital, we have been able to see great progressive medical growth from infrastructure expansions to the new Da Vinci surgical robot. Our character, schools, medical care and parks allow our citizens to have a great quality of life.

"Through Heritage Park, the Field of Miracles, and the Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center, we have a wide variety of sports and recreational activities available for our citizens of all ages and abilities. Our smaller community parks include such amenities as picnic tables, pavilions, traditional and specialized playground equipment, splash pads, and more to provide great free entertainment options for the whole family. The planned creation of more tree-lined parks and walking trails throughout downtown Cullman will provide even more recreational opportunities for families.

"The unbelievable park system that we have been blessed with, combined with our top notch lodging options, allow our parks department the ability to really focus on sports tourism with tournaments all year round; thus making Cullman one of the best tournament destinations in the state. This year, we will also be hosting the Major League Fishing (MLF) Stage Five of the Bass Pro Shop Tour (Smith Lake). This will occur the first week of May, and will provide a festival type atmosphere centered on professional fishing.

Jacobs is excited about economic development happening in Cullman as well.

"Business is booming in Cullman! New restaurants and retail establishments are opening all over town, existing industries expanding, and new industries are interested in Cullman. We are a business-friendly community with an economic development team that is dedicated to helping our local retail and commercial businesses thrive. Recently, Technology Village Cullman (TVC) was created to help innovators develop and succeed in Cullman, because entrepreneurship is also a vital part of our economic development ecosystem. This allows Cullman to be one of the hallmark areas of the state that can capture all areas of economic development: industry, retail and entrepreneurship.

"Cullman has an excellent location along I-65 and along several major highways, and our proximity to Birmingham and Huntsville is a plus, as well. We have an outstanding regional airport that is continually growing to serve the needs of its clients and our community.

Jacobs believes Improvements to the city's infrastructure benefit everyone.

"Many improvements have recently been made or are underway. These improvements include: the recent paving of Main Avenue from U.S. Highway 278 to U.S. Highway 31, the planned repaving of Main Avenue from U.S. Highway 278 to Cherokee Avenue, the replacement of the bridge over Bridge Creek on Eva Road, and improvements to streets, water and sewer lines, and storm drains throughout the city. However, the biggest thanks goes to the U.S. Department of Transportation for selecting Cullman as the recipient of the BUILD (Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development) Grant; the long-anticipated improvement of Alabama Highway 157 to a four-lane highway. Other improvements are planned for the future, as well, including improvements in broadband coverage.

"I am excited about what's happening in Cullman. Cullman is a great place to live, work and play. And we have all the qualities necessary to encourage success in business, as well. I am proud to serve as mayor and am thankful for the support and encouragement of the city council and our community."

By: W.C. Mann

Baileyton: 'Taking care of the kids and your seniors is what makes a town great'

BAILEYTON, Ala. - The town of Baileyton, located in northeast Cullman County, was incorporated in 1973. The community was settled in 1870 by Robert Bailey and was called Baileytown. Upon discovering the name was already taken, the name was changed to Baileyton.

Today, Johnny Dyar is mayor, and his love for the people of Baileyton has resulted in many great improvements to the town.

Dyar said, "I am so proud of our new lights for the park and walking trail, the three storm shelters, our ballfields, the new town hall we are building and our senior center."

Ball season starts soon and the town has worked tirelessly during the fall and winter to give the kids great fields.

Baileyton is also very proud of Parkside School. The school recently gained international fame as the creativity of its teachers captured the attention of J.K. Rowling and Warner Brothers. The kids of Parkside were visited by the cast of "Fantastic Beasts: Crimes of Grindelwald." It was an extraordinary day that the town of Baileyton will remember for a very long time.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Parkside teachers Jacy Douglas, Karen Moon and Tracey Jones react to the news of a $25,000 donation from Warner Bros., presented by Jude Law at the school on Thursday, Nov. 1, 2018.

Kim's Parkside Catfish Restaurant is very popular in the community and known for its generosity.

Owner Kim Thomas said of her community, "Everyone has been so good to me." So Thomas began a new tradition of serving a free Christmas Eve dinner to say thank you. Generosity and fellowship are just two of the town's positive attributes.

The town of Baileyton celebrates Christmas with a festive party held at the town's senior center each year. The party is for everyone and includes a traditional holiday meal, pictures with Santa, presents for the kids and fruit bags for all. The most anticipated part of the party is the drawing for the large stuffed animals, especially the giant teddy bear.

Smiled Dyar, "The Christmas party for the kids is the most important thing we do."

Dyar once described the most important role of town leaders, saying, "Taking care of the kids and your seniors is what makes a town great. That's what we do here in Baileyton."

By: Christy Perry



Congratulations, Robin!

Because of Robin's drive and determination, Peoples Bank has grown from an $8 million bank to an $800 million bank. Today it is one of the top 4 community banks in Alabama. Robin is also a tireless supporter of multiple community causes.

PEOPLES BANK of ALABAMA
IN GOD WE TRUST

Peoples Bank of Alabama would like to congratulate our CEO, Robin Cummings, for receiving the Emma Marie Eddleman Award presented by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce.

Member FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Presented by:
CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Emma Marie Eddleman

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2019

Sponsored by: O.F. Richter & Sons



CONGRATULATIONS TO Robin Cummings

2019 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

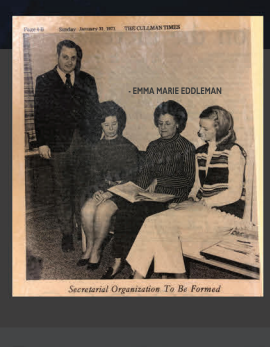
"Robin has served as CEO of Peoples Bank for 36 years and has led the bank in its growth from just a handful of employees to more than 270 across seven counties in Alabama. He has also worked in the Chamber and community by serving on several boards and charitable organizations. His drive and determination he has shown in the community has also helped in his recovery from a stroke suffered in 2016, and he has continued to exceed his doctors' expectations.
The same drive to go the extra mile that got him where he is today has helped him reach countless new goals."

- T.J. Franey,
2019-20 Chamber Chair



When the Chamber of Commerce was incorporated in 1947, 13 men and 1 woman were witness to this historic occasion. That woman was Emma Marie. For many years, Emma Marie was a one-woman show. Clerical duties, accounting, business, industry, tourism — she did it all. In 1983, the Board of Directors wanted to honor her longtime service to the Chamber and the community by not only presenting her with this distinguished award, but by naming it after her as well.

SINCE, THIS AWARD HAS BEEN GIVEN ANNUALLY TO AN INDIVIDUAL, LIKE EMMA MARIE, WHO HAS MADE AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR COMMUNITY.



Good Hope: 'Nice families, good people and a friendly welcome'

GOOD HOPE, Ala. - Good Hope became a township in 1862 and was incorporated in 1962. The city's first mayor was Herman Reid and the council met in houses or William's Grocery until the town hall was built in 1969. Good Hope was a farming and mining community and has always been known for its superior sweet potatoes.

Today, Jerry Bartlett is Good Hope's mayor. He is a retired educator and coach.

Good Hope Parks and Recreation Director Dana Dunagan joked, "One of the best things about our city is we have the best drivers. Mayor Bartlett was everybody's drivers ed teacher."

Bartlett taught at both Cold Springs and Good Hope High Schools.

Bartlett is very proud of Good Hope and continues to think of ways the city can improve the lives of those in the community.

He said, "Good Hope is a great place to live. It's clean and there's no crime."

He credits Dunagan for always making sure the city looks beautiful.

City Clerk Christie Chamblee added, "When you drive into Good Hope from Cullman, you'll notice the grass is always trimmed and it looks so beautiful. That's because of Dana."

Bartlett and city officials make it a priority to help the schools as much as possible. Good Hope Primary School, Good Hope Middle School and Good Hope High School are the pride and joy of Good Hope. The city throws a Back to School Bash and many community events throughout the year to show its commitment to the students and everyone in Good Hope. Bartlett is especially proud of the free community Thanksgiving meal each year.



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right, back row: Rep. Corey "Turkey" Harbison, "Count" Mayor Jerry Bartlett, Councilwoman Susan "Hippie Chick" Eller, Councilman Maxie "Cowboy" Jones and Deputy Eric Robertson; left to right, front row: Harper Salisbury, Anna Salisbury, Destiny Siegel and Lilliana Siegel take part in Good Hope's Halloween costume contest on Oct. 31, 2018.

Good Hope has several restaurants and businesses including The Cotton Gin Seafood Joint. The cotton gin was moved to Good Hope in the 1970s from Cullman. It was originally located where Rally's is today. Other iconic businesses are Jack's Western & Outdoor Wear and Jack's Truck Stop.

The Jack's Restaurant closed a few years back, but Judy Allred is proud of her many years working at the popular stop, saying, "We just wanted to give the truckers our support and take care of them. It was important for them to feel appreciated when they stopped in Good Hope. We had many celebrities stop in. Conway Twitty was my friend. He always stopped in Good Hope when passing through."

Jack's Western & Outdoor Wear was originally attached to the restaurant but moved to its current location several years ago. It's a popular stop for locals and travelers. Billy Byrd works at Jack's and has lived in Good Hope his entire life. According to Byrd it's the, "nice families, good people and a friendly welcome" that make Good Hope a great place to work and proudly call home.

By: Christy Perry

Hanceville: 'One of the best places to live in Alabama'

HANCEVILLE, Ala. - The city of Hanceville turns 140 this year and has a year of festivals and celebrations planned for the city's residents. Incorporated in 1879, Hanceville is growing, and much of that is in part to progressive leadership and its relationship with Wallace State Community College.

Mayor Kenneth Nail is extremely active in his community.

Said Nail, "To me, Hanceville is the very definition of Southern hospitality. The city is a growing community and I am proud to say, logistically, Hanceville is one of the best places to live in Alabama."

Hanceville offers a variety of cultural, recreational and educational opportunities. Visitors and residents can visit The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, enjoy an afternoon of paintball at Mt. Doom, discover the past at the Evelyn Burrow Museum or simply stroll through the shops and eateries throughout the revitalized downtown. Most recently, Hanceville held its second annual Irish Heritage Festival.

Hanceville i comprised of folks with deep roots in the community who welcome others looking for a place to plant theirs.

Perhaps it's the tremendous relationship between the city and Wallace State that helps foster their welcoming spirit.

Nail said of the people, "We all come together to help our neighbors in time of need."

This was clearly demonstrated most recently as neighbors flocked to offer assistance to those in the White City community devastated by a tornado on March 14.

Newcomer Melody Stuber recently moved to Hanceville from South Carolina. Originally from a town in New York state, Stuber was left disabled after a workplace chemical accident. She longed for a welcoming place to call home. It was through the EWTN Network that she learned about Hanceville. She moved to Hanceville in August and says she is glad she did.

Shared Stuber, "I haven't met one person since being here that wasn't friendly or wanting to help in some way. Everybody here checks on you. I hadn't had that in 28 years; it's crazy. I'm really excited to be here."

Hanceville is home to the Bulldogs and proudly displays their colors of purple and gold. The Hanceville High School Bulldog Marching Band hosts the Mud Creek Marching Festival each year.

The Hanceville Middle School football team finished the last season undefeated and as county champs. Could Hanceville have a state championship on the horizon?



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Hanceville Drug Company, the oldest pharmacy in Cullman County, is home to a 1950s-style soda fountain.

The city has a series of festivals and activities coming up this year. All the events are still being planned but will be free to the public except the Aug. 24 event with The Kingsmen Quartet and Genesis. Details will be announced closer to the scheduled dates.

- April 27- Welcome Back to Hanceville Concert, featuring Irlene Mandrell, Vickie Lynn Maxwell and Cody McCarver
- May 3- Senior Fish-o-Rama
- May 4- Kids' Fish-o-Rama
- June 8- Family Fun Fest, featuring Three on a String and Jesse Priest
- July 20- Family Fun Fest, featuring Natchez Trace
- Aug. 2- Kids' Night out
- Aug. 24- Family Fun Fest, featuring The Kingsmen Quartet and Genesis
- Oct. 12- Mud Creek Marching Festival
- Oct. 19- Mud Creek Arts & Crafts Festival
- Oct. 27- Fall Fest
- Dec. 7- Christmas Parade

By: Christy Perry

Holly Pond: 'You won't find a better group of people'

HOLLY POND, Ala. - Coach Bill Oliver led Holly Pond teams to postseason appearances and trophy presentations in multiple sports, on his way to the Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame. After his coaching days, he stayed around town and swapped hats to become Mayor Bill Oliver. The Tribune recently sat down with the mayor to talk about his fondness for his adopted hometown.

"I think that Holly Pond has several positive things about it," said Oliver. "Its location is one thing; if you don't want to live in the city and you want to live in a little more rural setting, we're perfect. We can be in Cullman in 15 or 20 minutes, and so we can have all the city advantages within 15 minutes as far as shopping and eating, and those things that because of our size we don't have. And we're also conveniently located; you can be in Huntsville, Birmingham, Decatur. All of those advantages are there.

"And because we are a small community, a rural community, I think that offers a lot of privacy advantages, too. People can have homes and not live as close together, even though we have a lot of subdivisions and houses that are not on farms, that are in here.

"We have a really close-knit community. Everybody seems to know everybody else, and pretty much everybody seems to look out for everybody else. We have problems just like every other community as far as crimes and the drugs; but I think that the ability for everybody to know everybody else and look out for each other, we're blessed with having what we feel is a safe community."

Businesses

Oliver shared, "Yes, we'd like to have more opportunities as far as shopping here for our local people. Hopefully, we can get somebody back into our (Family) Dollar store real quick; I think they may have had some inquiries with the real estate people. So we hate to lose that business.

"But we have our own grocery store (S & S Foods). The quality of their food is as good as anybody's, better than some, probably! And prices are comparable anywhere you go. The Estes family has done a real good job of that, and been very, very helpful to our community. I know they help the churches, and they work well with our park. If we need something in a hurry, we run down there and get it. So we have that.

"We have a pharmacy (Murphy's Pharmacy). I would like to see a medical facility here. I think we need--what I'd like to see is a family practice, a doctor or something; but, at best, an urgent care type situation. We need that out here.

"We need a little more variety of places to eat. What we have is very good, but, you know, I think people like to be able to shop around a little bit. So you know, I'd like to see some growth, some opportunities for our people to be here instead of having to drive somewhere. But it's a good place to live and, location-wise, we can get whatever we need real quick.

Holly Pond High School

Oliver, who has seen Holly Pond High School from the inside, praised the institution, saying, "I think kids that leave here get a good education, and they're well ready to go on to the next level: to college, or to vocational school, or to work, or whatever it is. I think it's a really good school. Cullman County's a really good school system.

"I worked in it for a lot of years. It's a good place for your kids to go to school, and feel safe about them going to school, and feel that they're going to learn, and quality teachers. And so I'm happy with it. I would recommend our school to anybody that wanted to go there. There's always things that they want to do to improve; if they had the money, they could do that.

"I think most everybody here's really proud of their school. In our community, you know, the school is the focus of our community, even as it is in Fairview or Baileyton, or any. The school is the focus of the community. And so we do as a town what we can do to help them out in that, and we've been able to do that, fortunately."



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Holly Pond Mayor Bill Oliver

Town sewer system a common council discussion item

Holly Pond's 30-plus year old sewer system is showing its age. Damaged pipes are letting excess water into the system, causing the town's plant to have to process up to 12 times the amount of water it should process per day, putting extra wear and tear on equipment and costing extra money. The mayor and town council are working on landing grants or low-interest loans to help repair and upgrade the system.

Said Oliver, "The process is underway, in that the council--everybody I've talked to--is all for it, is to go ahead and fix it, not just continue to band-aid it. But at this point, we're probably putting in $30,000 to $40,000 (beyond typical operating costs) a year in that sewer system just to keep it running and treat what we've got. And that's money that we could use somewhere else."

Oliver is also currently working with the council to patch damaged area roads, and the body is looking at a systematic approach to repaving a certain amount of roads each year as resources are available.

The mayor said, "Like I told them in the council meeting, I think the people that live out here and travel out here had rather drive in their money than see their money sitting in a bank, doing nothing."

The town government is also working on officially establishing speed limits that have in the case of a few area roads just been assumed. Already posted speed limits are not expected to change.

The final word

Oliver smiled, "You won't find a better group of people. We moved here in 1977, and they haven't thrown us out yet. They probably keep me because of my wife, but it's been a real good community to live in. We like it out here, and so I'd recommend it to anybody. Really would."

By: W.C. Mann

West Point: Carrying on the legacy of the late Kenneth Kilgo

WEST POINT, Ala. - The town of West Point was incorporated in 1977, but the community has been around since the 1870s. The town has seen steady growth and continues to welcome new businesses while enjoying its small-town feel. Gerald Shafer was recently appointed as the town's new mayor after the passing of longtime mayor Kenneth Kilgo on Feb. 18, 2019.

In a conversation with Kilgo in December, he said of West Point, "I'm proud of our town of West Point. We have great people. I can go into any of these stores and know 90-95 percent of the folks in there."

He was especially proud of the completion of the new turn at the Alabama Highway 157 intersection, after working tirelessly for three years to make it happen.

West Point Town Hall also serves as the community and senior centers and is located next to the town's sports complex. You can't miss it. Just look for the enormous set of wind chimes.

Just down the road is Willingham's General Store. The store has been owned by Wayne Willingham for the past 28 years and has remained a hub in West Point. The general store was originally Morgan Brothers Mercantile. It has changed hands a few times over the last century, but it continues to be a general store and village post office that generates feelings of nostalgia. Stop by and pick up some elderberry syrup, hardware, feed or mail a letter. They have a little bit of everything.



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The giant wind chimes are a trademark feature of West Point Town Hall.

Next to Willingham's you will find the center of attention-the West Point Warrior Schools. West Point has four schools: elementary, intermediate, middle and high school. West Point School dates back to 1933 when in was moved from Crooked Creek.

The Crooked Creek Civil War Museum located in West Point is a great destination for all ages. Owner Ray Wise owns the museum and has hundreds of authentic Civil War artifacts. Many were found on the property that was the site of the Battle of Crooked Creek during Streight's Raid. Wise recently added an authentic log cabin and turned it into a bed and breakfast.

After a visit to the museum, stop by the Brandin' Iron for a great steak or visit nearby Clarkson's Covered Bridge. West Point's beautiful farms, great schools, and unique attractions make it a great place to live or visit.

By: Christy Perry

Doug Doggett JEWELERS
GRADUATE GEMOLOGIST
Deanna Millican, G.G., AJ.P, GIA
QUALITY DIAMONDS
JEWELRY - WATCHES
215 COMPASS WAY S.W.
CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055
256-734-7883
DOGGETTJEWELERS.COM

Vincent Furniture
Warehouse Store
383 US Highway 278 E
Cullman, AL. 35055
9-5 Mon-Sat
We also do Chair Caning
Anthony Vincent
256-736-8643
Chair Caning
Clock Repair

VILLAGE FURNITURE AND GIFTS
VF&g
EST 1984
Cullman's Most Unique Store
224 3rd Ave SE Cullman, AL 35055
(256)734-8844
villagefurniturecullman@gmail.com
Facebook/Instagram: Village Furniture & Gifts

MARY'S FLOWER MARKET
256-708-1983
Every Bloom Has A Story
LET US HELP YOU
TELL YOUR STORY WITH FLOWERS FROM MARY'S FLOWER MARKET, LOCATED INSIDE CHAMBERS FARM AND GARDEN.
404 MCNABB DRIVE SW
CULLMAN, AL 35055
OPEN MON-SAT
CREATING UNIQUE MEMORIES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

KEEPING IT LOCAL
KARMA'S COFFEE HOUSE
Monday - Friday: 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
103 1ST AVE NE #140, CULLMAN, AL 35055
KARMASCOFFEEHOUSE.COM

McPherson Insurance Agency
Building Long Lasting Relationships
1619 3RD STREET NORTH EAST, CULLMAN, AL 35055
www.mcphersoninsuranceagency.com
Contact us today to get started on a quote
256-213-1088 ▪ 256-347-0592
Fax 256-542-0106
Commercial Insurance
General Liability
Bonds
Builders Risk
Home - Auto
OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Friday 8:30am-6:00pm
EMAIL:
mcphersonins@outlook.com

SCHEDULE A TEST DRIVE TODAY!
CULPEPPER AUTO SALES
107 9TH STREET SW
CULLMAN, AL 35055
256-734-9400
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8-5
SATURDAY 8-1
CULPEPPERONLINE.COM

Mark Johnson
Registered Locksmith LIC#1881
hometownlock@gmail.com
Hometown Locksmith
MARK JOHNSON
20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
HOMETOWNLOCK@GMAIL.COM
REGISTERED LOCKSMITH LIC#1881
P.O. Box 34
Vinemont, AL 35179
256-736-3017
CULLMAN'S ONLY LOCALLY OWNED LOCKSMITH

Living Well
Natural Store
Medical Arts Apothecary
Susan Skinner Adkison, Rph
124 7th Street SW
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4933
Family owned and operated since 1956

Thank you for your support Cullman!

NEED A MASTER PLAN?
LEONARD DESIGN
Building Community Since 1996
CONTACT US:
JOCK D. LEONARD, ARCHITECT
256-739-8020
JOCK@LEONARDDESIGN.NET
You can find us at:
101 First Avenue NE, Suite 140
Cullman, AL 35055

KNIGHT-FREE INSURANCE AGENCY
Wescoat Free
Agent
W. Elliot Free
1942-2018
Paul R. Knight
1905-1983
Celebrating 76 Incredible Years
Serving Cullman Since 1943
Auto-Owners INSURANCE
410 1st Ave. SE, Suite 100, Cullman, AL 35055
www.knight-freeinsurance.com • 256-734-4060

HISTORY

Busy Bee Café readying to celebrate 100 years

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Busy Bee Café has been around for 100 years: two locations, three buildings, eight owners. It has seen much of the rise of Cullman as a growing community and even an economic power in the state. Keeping up with generations of change in simple ways like an expanding menu, it has remained a landmark of area tradition right down to the original 1919 hamburger recipe its cooks still use today.

As the Busy Bee gets ready to celebrate its centenary anniversary on April 27--most Cullmanites know why that date is important to the cafe's story--current proprietors Kyle and Kitty Spears sat down with The Tribune to talk a little history and share about the upcoming celebration.

Do you know the actual date in 1919 that the Busy Bee opened?
Kyle Spears shared, "Apparently, I guess, back in those days you didn't have to have a business license, so there's no official start date. All we know is that it was originally going to be called Ford's Cafe. It was started by a guy named Milford Ford, and he didn't have the money for a business sign, so he opened with a name but no sign yet.

"And it got the name Busy Bee Café because, right after he opened, there was an oak tree with a beehive in there; we know it was obviously going to be either spring or summer because of the buzzing bees.

"The reason we just set April 27, it kind of coincides with the tornado, being torn down, rebuilding, reopening, all that stuff, and, coincidentally, it fell on a Saturday, so it works out nicely!"

How did the Spears family become part of Busy Bee history?
Kitty Spears shared, "My father-in-law (Andy Spears), they moved here. He worked for the oil fields out in Wyoming, and he tried to get a job, even went to Decatur and everything. No one would touch him because he worked for a union; and back in them days, that was a no-no down south.

"He looked and looked, couldn't get a job. And then they just happened to see in the paper: 'Busy Bee restaurant for sale,' so he said, 'I'll just buy me a job!' And that's what they did."

"New" location, "new" menu
The Busy Bee hasn't always been at 101 Fifth St. SE. It started on the northwest side of the intersection of Third Avenue Northeast and Third Street Southeast (now U.S. Highway 278), where Hagan Real Estate's office now sits.

The cafe relocated to its present location in 1962, where the Spears family would acquire ownership in 1967.

Kitty Spears talked about the changes the family brought:
"It originally was just hamburgers and hot dogs. And that's when my in-laws bought it, (Kyle's) grandparents, that's when we started adding all the different sandwiches and breakfast, and become a full-fledged restaurant instead of just hamburgers and hot dogs."

Kyle Spears added, "My grandma also said, 'If you've got to be here all day, you might as well make the best of it you can.' And she knows that some people like the hot hamburgers, some people don't. But even if you do like the hamburgers, you're not going to be coming multiple times a week just to get the hamburgers; she wanted multiple things added to the menu. That way, you could today come get your hamburger and tomorrow, come get you a ham sandwich for lunch, you know, something to keep it fresh, so that way you didn't get burnt out."



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Current generation owners Kyle and Kitty Spears finish up another busy day at the Bee.

What is the big menu item today?
Kitty Spears recalled, "Hamburgers was our number one, still is basically our number one seller, but we have so much to choose from any more, you know, so if you don't like the hamburgers, you've got 15 other choices you can make."

The original hamburger recipe itself has been joined by numerous other burgers, with many non-burger lunch items and a full breakfast menu, as well.

Said Kitty Spears, "Each generation changes it a little bit."

Responding to change
Kitty Spears married into the Busy Bee and has been around for 30 of the Spears family's 52-year tenure. She's seen a lot of things, including the collapse of the building around her on April 27, 2011, giving her a unique perspective on the diner's place in the changing Cullman community.

She shared, "We've still got the same customers! We've got repeats like you wouldn't believe. And then, when something like these news articles come out, we'll get some new faces and they'll become our regulars.

"It's a staple. Everybody tells us that. They can tell you stories about when they was little kids and coming with their grandpa, you know, and it's just kept going from generation to generation. We've had people come in and do five-generation pictures here because they all- five generations- somehow connected to the Busy Bee.

"We serve the same original burger since 1919; that hasn't changed. The recipe's just gotten handed down from generation to generation. When we took it over, me and my husband, we added more items from his parents. And then my kids, they have started adding more items, so it grows because people change; taste and style and everything changes over time. We try to cater to everybody."

What's the secret to the Busy Bee burger?
Kitty Spears was short, sweet and to the point but smiling big when she responded, "It's a secret!"

Then she added, "You either like them or you don't. That's why we've got 15 other sandwiches to choose from if you don't like them!"

Anniversary celebration April 27
Kitty Spears received a permit from the City of Cullman to close the block of First Avenue Southeast in front of the restaurant on the eighth anniversary of the 2011 tornado for a party that promises to be bigger than the little diner itself. There will be games, bounce houses and live entertainment.

And, Kyle Spears promises, "Lots of burgers!"

By: W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

Ashley
mercantile
= est. 2018 =
A Modern Day General Store
105A 1ST AVE NE, CULLMAN, AL 35055
CULLMAN WAREHOUSE DISTRICT
256-747-5508
fASHLEYMERCANTILE2018 @ASHLEYMERCANTILE

Serving Cullman Since...

"Established In 1993"

Whitlock's General Store & Café

6446 County Road 222, Cullman, Alabama 35057

Building & Farm Supplies, Plumbing & Electrical Supplies, Tools, Clothes, Movie Rentals, Gifts

Bruce Whitlock, Master Plumber
Beatrice Whitlock, Notary Public

Business: (256) 734-8230 **Café: (256) 734-8395**
Home: (256) 739-2510 **Fax: (256) 734-7682**

Established 1882

Moss Service Funeral Home

1901 Second Avenue Northwest **256-734-1821**
Our Family Serving Yours www.mossservicefh.com

"Established 1948"

MCGRIFF TIRE & SERVICE TIRE PROS



209 2nd AVE. NW, CULLMAN **256-734-5212**

www.MCGRIFFTIRE.COM

"Formed in 1953"

Cullman-Jefferson Counties Gas District
P.O. Box 399 Cullman, AL 35056-0399

Customer Service
256-737-1600 or
Outside Cullman County - 1-800-321-6572

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. – Monday - Thursday

Mayor Kenneth Nail &
The City of Hanceville

"Established In 1907"

Merchants Bank of Alabama Member FDIC

900 2nd Ave. SW, Cullman, AL 35055

Phone: 256-735-2244
Fax: 256-734-8145

"Memorials of Quality Since 1910"



Cullman Marble & Granite Co.

256-734-2353 **407 1st Ave., Cullman**

"Established 1988"

CULLMAN *QUICK* COPY

Serving All Your Copy Needs

202 1st Ave. SE, Suite E, Cullman
256-739-0699

EST. 1873
CULLMAN
ALABAMA

Mayor & Council
256-775-7109 www.CullmanAL.gov
Cullman City Hall, 204 2nd Ave. NE Cullman, 35055
cityhall@CullmanAL.gov

"Established in 1875"
"Incorporated in 1906"

The Town Of Holly Pond

Mayor – Bill Oliver

Town Clerk – Linda Pope

Council Members – Gladys Wisener, Paul Brown, Lou Thomas, Michelle Bell, Carla Hart

"Established In 1990"

THE BARN
8000 US Hwy 31
Hanceville, Alabama 35077
(256) 352-2737
www.thebarnllc.com
▪ Portable Storage Buildings 8' x 8' through 12' x 30'
▪ We move Portable Buildings
Family Owned and Operated
Charles Freeman Cassie Weaver

WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS!

"Established In 1965"

ZERO

Pistol Bullets and Ammunition
1601 22nd Street SE, Cullman ZeroBulletCo@aol.com

(256) 739-1606 1-800-545-9376
(256) 739-4683 (Fax)

"Since 1971"

Culpepper Real Estate

601 7th Ave. S.W., Cullman, AL 35055
256-739-1389 www.culpepperrealestate.com

Jessi Eidson **Tyson Campbell**
Clay Culpepper **Tammy Roden**
Becky Flack **Mike Sims**

"Since July 1st, 2004"

CULLMAN COSMETIC & FAMILY DENTISTRY

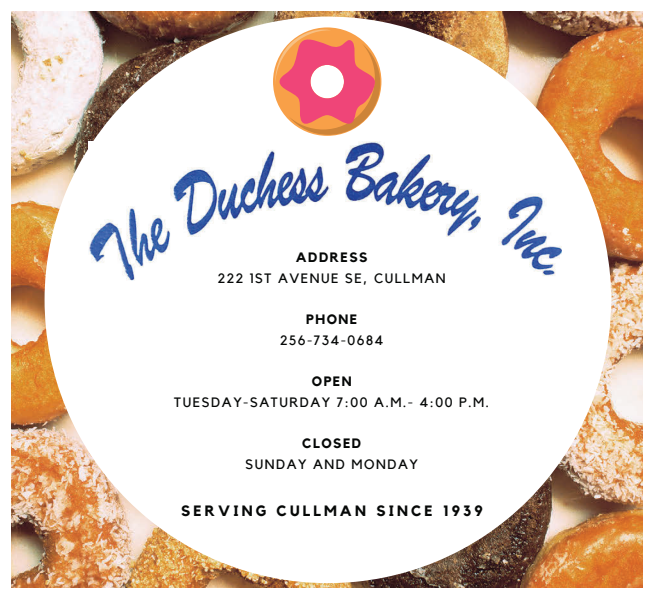
311 6th Avenue SE, Cullman, AL 35055 **256-734-7151**
Cullmandentist.com Monday-Thursday 8-5 Friday 8 am – 1

Jonathan Echols D.M.D., P.C. **Ashley Holladay D.M.D.**

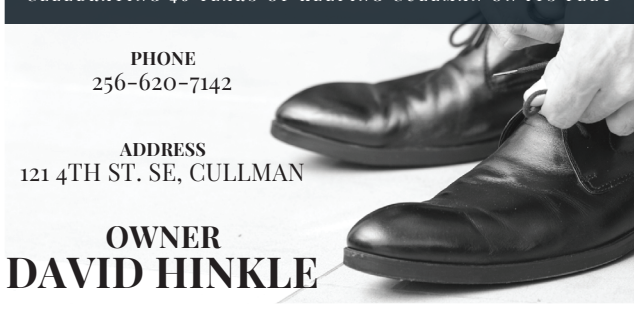
Single visit digital crowns

We offer a wide variety of dental services

Dental implant placement, teeth whitening, porcelain veneers, digital X-ray, dentures, intra-oral cameras, partials, implant restorations, root canal procedures



SINCE JANUARY 17, 1973
HINKLE SHOE SHOP
~ CELEBRATING 46 YEARS OF KEEPING CULLMAN ON ITS FEET ~



"Opened In 2012"



"Every Home Should Be A Happy Home"
Happy Homes Real Estate, LLC

221B 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman 256-737-3050

The Cullman Tribune

Serving Cullman Since 1874

Cullman's Flying 50 and King Edward Cigar Plant

CULLMAN, Ala. – Colonel Cullmann had a vision, to make Cullman the leading agricultural place in the nation. In the 1950s a group of local businessmen, the "Flying 50," wanted to take things up a notch: they wanted to make Cullman a leader in both agriculture and industry. They went on a quest to bring new industry to Cullman. Completely voluntary and with no appointment, the men climbed aboard a National Guard plane and flew to Jacksonville, Fla. After arriving in Jacksonville, they rented a hotel ballroom (at their own expense) and met with tobacco magnate Carl Swisher, of the Jno H. Swisher Company and the company's officials. During the meeting, they urged the cigar company to open their new plant in Cullman.



CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM

Local businessmen, the "Flying 50" volunteer to fly to Florida to bring the King Edward Cigar Plant to Cullman.

Once the Flying 50 returned home, they called a mass meeting for the following Saturday night. During the meeting they discussed the fact that Cullman stood a pretty good chance of getting the cigar plant, but it might be necessary to invest some money. By 10 p.m. that night, they had $200,000 in pledges.

The following Monday, Mayor J. W. Arnold, Chamber President Hugh Brindley and Industrial Chairman Roy Drinkard flew back to Jacksonville and placed the pledges on President Carl Swisher's desk.

"Does that sufficiently demonstrate our interest?" Drinkard asked with a sparkle in his eye.

"Yes, it demonstrates an interest, gentlemen, and we will come to Cullman if a suitable plant site can be provided," Swisher said with a sly smile on his face.

Not long after that second trip to Jacksonville, the men learned they needed $78,000 immediately to purchase the land for their new plant, but the Chamber of Commerce only had $84 in its treasury. Eleven men attended an emergency 10 p.m. meeting at the mayor's office. When less than $10,000 was produced, someone had a bright idea: "Operation Cigar Shack."

"Operation Cigar Shack" began after a contractor's tool shack had been set up on the courthouse square. Two days later, on a Saturday morning, both local radio stations suspended their regular programming and set microphones up in the shack. Then Southern Bell arrived and installed three telephones - without numbers.

"Number please?" the telephone operator would ask and the caller only had to say, 'Cigar' and the call was transferred to the shack.

In the shack, Don Cornish, a local businessman, would pick up the phone. He explained, over and over, that cold hard cash - not pledges was needed immediately in order to make the much needed cigar factory a reality. The people of Cullman County responded and by 4 p.m. that afternoon, $84,000 in cash had been collected and stashed in garbage cans.

The land was purchased, but before the plant was finished the company found it necessary to make some major changes, which delayed production and reduced the original number of employees. The King Edward Cigar Plant finally opened in 1957 with 30 employees. The plant gradually increased the amount of employees to 500 at peak production. Ernie Reddick was the first managerial staff member for King Edward. Ernie made the area his home and is a volunteer, along with his wife, for the Meals on Wheels Program.

The King Edward Cigar Plant was just the beginning. Soon Cullman Products, Bendix-Westinghouse, Daubert Chemical, John Bagwell Poultry, Porter Mills and National Screw, just to mention a few, were added to the list of industrial expansion. In 1998, the "Flying 50" were awarded the first Dr. E.G. Plunkett Visionary Award for their outstanding contribution to the industrial and economic development of the Cullman community. Some members of this remarkable group of men were Roy Drinkard, Dr. R.F. Williford, Joe Sapp, Ottis Burrow, Mickey Clem, Crant Waldrop, Dr. Dwight Fuller, Fred Hale, Luther Hinds, Grady Moss, Elbert Ponder, Bill Wachter, Robert Schaefer, Kermit Gorham, Larkin Yates and Hudson Millar.

Tribune File Story

Strawberry Festival's Historic Heritage

Cullman County Strawberries – A Reason to Celebrate

The town of Cullman was founded by German immigrants who were familiar with the cultivation of berries. Over time, especially during the 1930s and 40s, Cullman became nationally known for its delicious strawberries. In 1931, for example, 279 railroad cars full of Cullman County strawberries were shipped out across the United States. This shipment of berries was valued at over $250,000, which is a lot of money now and then, but especially back in 1931.

Plans for a Strawberry Jubilee was advertised in May 1905 and was written as follows: "Strawberry queen contest, dance, free shows, and spring carnival at which everybody will have fun throwing confetti and nobody will get mad except the old maids and school teachers.

"Thomas Eidson's marvelous new gramophone and a steam-powered flying jenny (merry-go-round) will be featured."

The first celebration in honor of Cullman County's most famous product was presented by Mrs. Bess Morrow to a group of local civic leaders in 1939.

Cullman's Strawberry Festival was then born and became an annual event. The original festival featured a parade with more than 50 floats, a fiddler's contest, street dance, crowning of a queen and a grand ball.

Over time, many more activities were added to the annual festival. There were things such as a governor's luncheon, flower shows, talent contests, street dances, school, agricultural exhibits, junior parade and a battle of the bands. The parades featured floats from other towns in North Alabama and bands from surrounding counties participated in the celebration.

The 2014 Strawberry Festival will be held on May 9 and 10 beginning at 9 a.m. and ending well into the evening. Not only is this a celebration of Cullman's fine strawberries, but it also marks the opening of the Farmer's Market. Local farmers will be at the Festhalle Market Platz with their fresh, homegrown produce ready for sale.

Music will fill the air as several local bands entertain the crowd. Various arts and crafts booths will be present with their selection of unique items available for purchase, along with food vendors ready to curb your appetite. An area full of children-friendly activities will also be set up ensuring the festival is a true family event.

While the kids are at play, the adults are free to browse the classic car show where there will be cars of every size, shape and model parked nearby. There will also be an antique tractor show, which is sure to bring back many memories especially to the older famers who will be in attendance.

For lots of fun and excitement, plan to bring your family, friends and a few lawn chairs out to this year's Strawberry Festival. Admission is free, so come on out and join the community in celebrating Cullman's finest produce – especially the awesome, bright red strawberries.

Tribune File Story

Cullman County Museum

Newspaper USS Cullman Crew



Chronicle photo/DON VAUGHAN

Murel Hill of DeKalb and his wife, Deloris, (far left) hosted a reunion of Hill's WWII buddies, who all served aboard the USS Cullman. They include (from left to right) Russell Goforth and his wife, Jean, of Fresno, Calif.; Erlene and Don Flowers of Dodge City, Kan., and Peggy and George Goodson of Spring, Texas.

Affiliated with the Daily Chronicle

WWII reunion

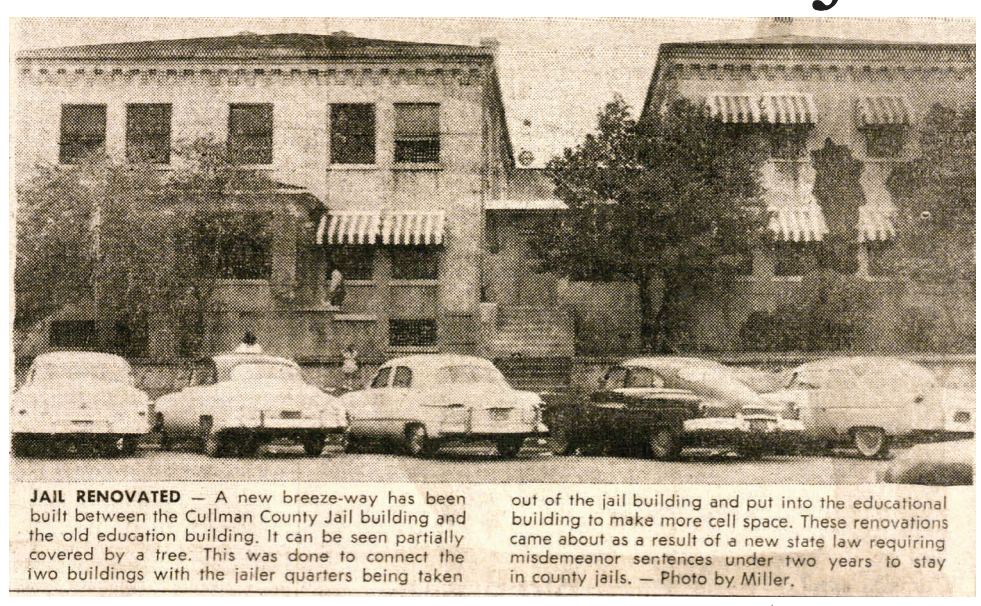
A DeKalb veteran hosts a reunion of his WWII buddies as they hold their yearly get-together.

Page A3

DREW GREEN/CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM

Towards the end of World War II there was a transport ship commissioned as the USS Cullman (There is a mural of it on the building next to Carltons) It never saw duty during the war but was part of "Operation Magic Carpet" which brought service men home after the war.

Old Cullman County Jail

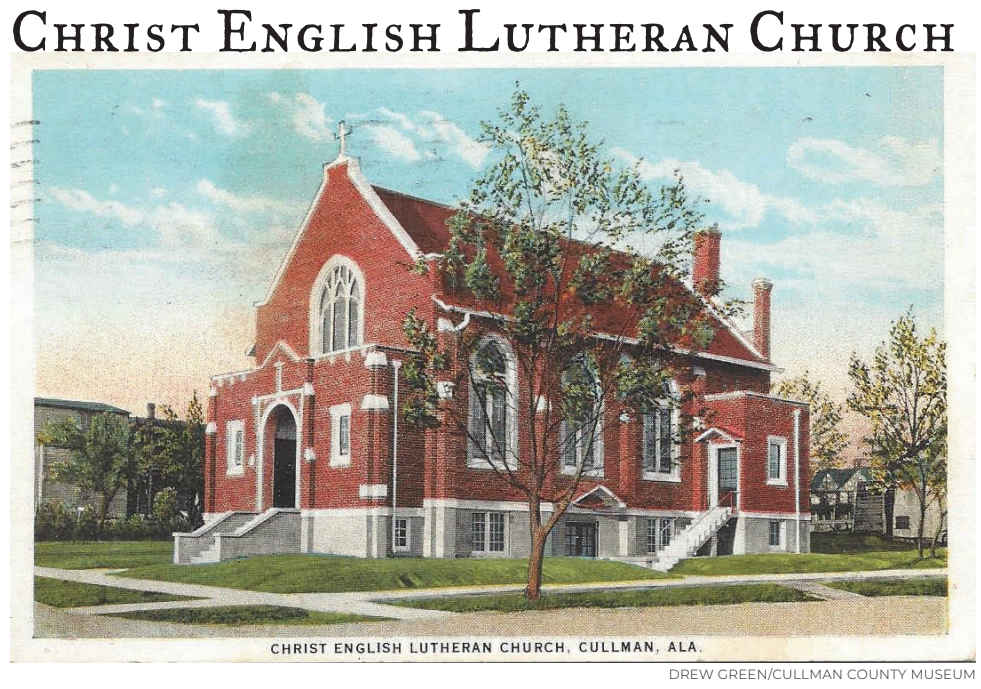


JAIL RENOVATED — A new breeze-way has been built between the Cullman County Jail building and the old education building. It can be seen partially covered by a tree. This was done to connect the two buildings with the jailer quarters being taken out of the jail building and put into the educational building to make more cell space. These renovations came about as a result of a new state law requiring misdemeanor sentences under two years to stay in county jails. — Photo by Miller.

DREW GREEN/CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM

These two buildings were located where the current parking deck is behind the Chamber of Commerce. The jailers family used to live in the jail and the wife prepared the meals for the prisoners. Kind of like Aunt Bea on the Andy Griffith Show.

Christ English Lutheran Church



CHRIST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH, CULLMAN, ALA.

DREW GREEN/CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM

This church was formed by members of St. John's (Cullman' First Church) who wanted a more "up to date" worship service. The included "English" in the name of their church because they wanted everyone to know English was used in worship... not the old fashioned German like St. John's. The church still operates today being completely rebuilt after the 2011 tornado... they no longer use "English" in their name.

JR Griffin Store - Established 1882 - postcard 1927



DREW GREEN/ CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM

When we do our walking tours we sometimes ask...."what did you buy on the mezzanine but not take directly home? You had it delivered across the street and then to your house?" The Griffin store sold caskets on the mezzanine and they wear delivered across the street to Fischer Undertaker who prepared the body and put it in the casket and usually brought it to the person's home to lie in the parlor for a wake.

Buildings or Business Street Scene the street west looking eastward in the 1950's



DREW GREEN/CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM

In early days this location was known as "the holler" It was the main way people came into town. Originally it was really a sharp drop. The city of Cullman decided to make a more level and easier entrance to town and in the 1940's built a bridge to level out the holler. There is a light pole and cornerstone on the bridge. It is interesting to note that the business owners at that time simply built a second floor on their existing business. Today if you go under the bridge you can see what the pre-1940 store fronts looked like. "Underground Cullman"

CA Stiefelmeyer Home



DREW GREEN,/CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM

The Steifelmeyer's house was located where the doctors office across from the Catholic Church is today. It was the first private residence in Cullman to have an elevator. The house was not torn down bust disassembled and reassembled as two houses. Both Stiefelmeyers died in 1959 in there 90's without children and left money to their employees.

Cullman's Early Library/Bookmobile



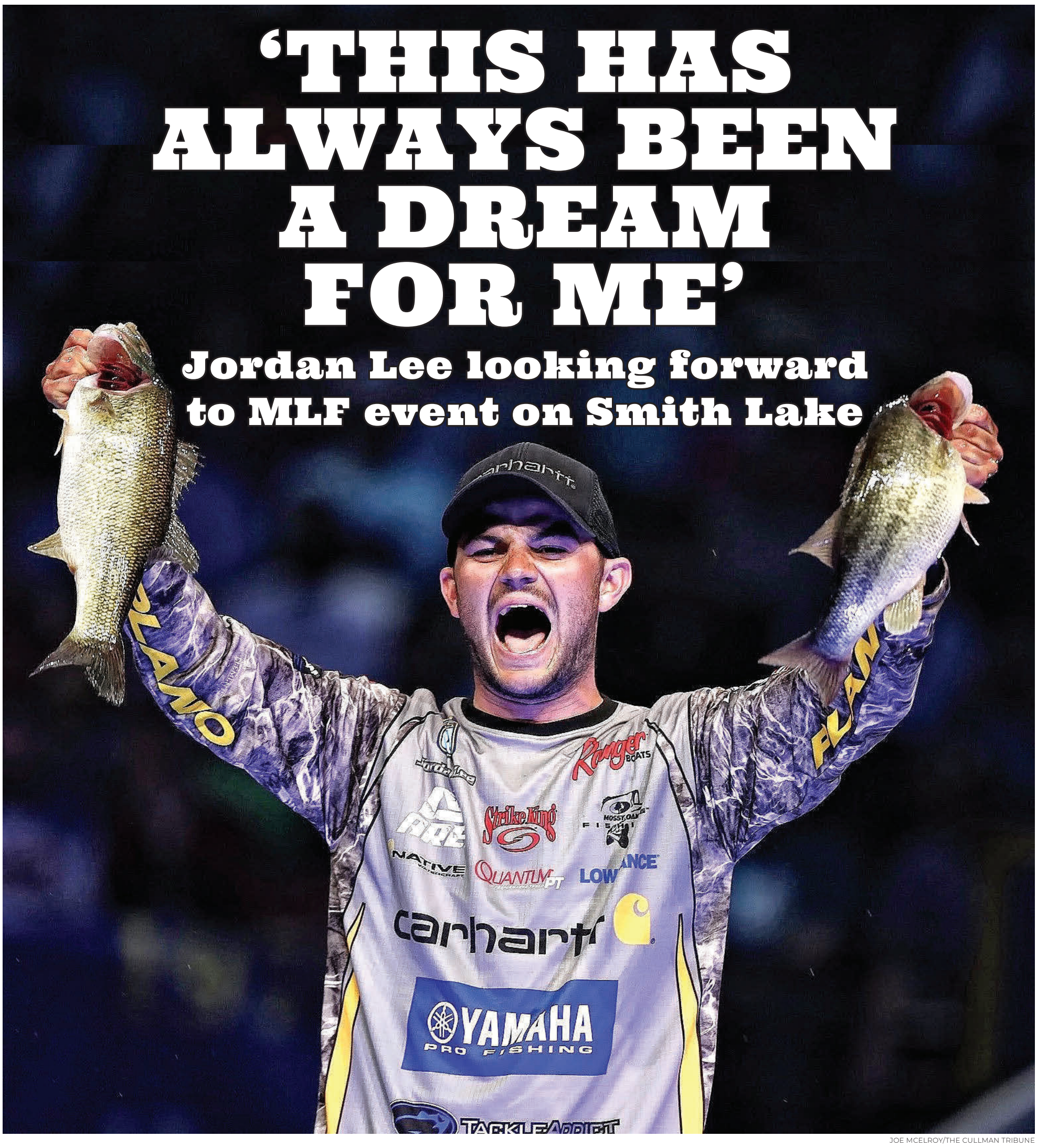
DREW GREEN/CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM

One of the early libraries was located in the basement of the Fuller Building which is now the Cullman Chamber of Commerce. There was a guard rail around the stairs and so many kids would sit on it and fall off that they put pointed spikes to keep them from sitting on it.

SPORTS

‘THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A DREAM FOR ME’

Jordan Lee looking forward to MLF event on Smith Lake



JOE MCELROY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Jordan Lee celebrates on stage after winning his second straight Bassmaster Classic in 2018.

CULLMAN, Ala. – It’s been a busy five years for professional angler and Cullman High School alumnus Jordan Lee. The 27-year-old has racked up a lot of hardware in his first few years as a professional and has shown no signs of slowing down. Lee has collected 30 top 20 finishes, 39 top 10 finishes and six wins including this year’s inaugural Major League Fishing (MLF) Bass Pro Tour event and he became one of just three anglers to win back to back Bassmaster Classic Championships with his victories in 2017 and 2018. Lee is also one of the youngest-ever professionals to hit $1 million in career earnings.

The 2009 Cullman graduate is already off to a hot start in 2019. Lee won the first-ever MLF Bass Pro Tour event in Kissimmee, Florida in January and took home a sixth-place finish at the Bass Pro Tour Huk Stage Two in Conroe, Texas in February. Lee is happy with how this year has started for him and credits his offseason preparation for the fast start.

“This year has started out great. You know, going into a new year there’s a lot of uncertainty. We don’t know exactly how the year is going to be and you try to prepare as best as you can. You go through, you do what you know how to do, and it worked out,” Lee said. “The first event was amazing to win the inaugural MLF event and I couldn’t ask for a better way to start the year.

> ***“This has always been a dream for me. To get a big tournament to Cullman because it’s never happened where Cullman is hosting a big fishing tournament event like this."***
>
> *- Jordan Lee -*

"That’s what you work so hard for in the offseason getting prepared and everything just worked out that week. The next event on Conroe, that lake has been good to me in the past and I just got around the fish and felt confident again in that tournament too, so my confidence is really high here at the start of the year.”

Lee has gotten a few years as a professional under his belt and has felt his confidence grow as he collects more and more victories out on the water.

“This is about my fifth year as a full-time professional and I think every year I learn a little bit more and gain confidence over that time but once you win a tournament and you know ‘Hey I can do this’ that does a lot for your confidence and decision making. When you get out in the morning you know you’re doing this, this and this and if that doesn’t work, I’ll just scrap it. You don’t second guess yourself,” Lee said.

“It’s kind of like any sport, what you put into it is what you’re going to get out of it and that’s just how it’s been for me. Once you get a few wins behind you, your confidence is really high and this format in MLF has really treated me good. I like how it sets up for the catch, weigh and release and it’s been fun.”

Lee found his love for fishing growing up out on the lakes around Cullman, and with Stage Five of the MLF Bass Pro Tour coming to Smith Lake in April/May, Jordan is as excited as he’s ever been to fish in his hometown.

“This has always been a dream for me. To get a big tournament to Cullman because it’s never happened where Cullman is hosting a big fishing tournament event like this. Growing up in Cullman, this is what I’ve always wanted to see,” Lee said.

“To have a tournament come here, let the city see what a big deal it is, have it on national TV and showcase Smith Lake, it’s just going to be awesome. You know, I always wanted to fish for a living, and I fished all these local lakes growing up. I fished Smith, fished Catoma, drove to Guntersville and fished all over but we’ve never had a big tournament come here. So, I think it’s going to be great for all the local high school anglers to get to see a big event put on and to see their favorite anglers. It’s kind of a once in a lifetime chance for a lot these younger kids to see this and it’s going to be really cool.”

Cullman and Smith Lake will host MLF’s Bass Pro Tour Stage Five from April 30 through May 5, and the event will coincide with a festival in downtown Cullman’s Depot Park and Festhalle.

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MARCH 19, 2019

617 WINS

and counting...



TAMMY WEST

MEET THE COLD SPRINGS LADY EAGLES COACH WITH FOUR TITLES UNDER HER BELT

Cold Springs' Tammy West talks about title teams and her time in coaching

BREMEN, Ala. – For the fourth time in school history, the Cold Springs Lady Eagles are the AHSAA 2A Girls State Champions. It's not just the fourth title for Cold Springs High School, it's also the fourth title for Lady Eagles' Head Coach Tammy West since she arrived in 1992. West has helped build multiple championship teams in her tenure at Cold Springs and while all of them had talent, chemistry and great work ethic, there are some differences in those teams that Coach West remembers as well.

"They're all four pretty different. I can think back and the first one in 1999 was extremely special, it was the first one for any of us. It's been so long ago and when I think back, I wish the I would've enjoyed it more but going into the next ones in 2008 and 2009, you learn to really soak it all in an enjoy it," West said.

"For that '08-'09 group, it was really unheard of to go back-to-back and be able to accomplish that, especially with the record that they had. So, that was just an amazing feat for them. This year's team just kind of battled all year long and took advantage of some matchups that we had, and I really think we thought we could do it all year long, but now that it's over you look back and it's such a huge accomplishment for this group."

There aren't very many coaches across the state who know what it takes to win back-to-back state championships, but West joined that club after her team repeated in 2009. The Lady Eagles compiled a combined record of 72-2 during the 2008 and 2009 seasons. Outside of the obvious talent on the team, the returning experience was the biggest factor that West saw in being able to win back-to-back titles.

"You've got to have a lot of returning players, and we pretty much had all of them back for the second year," West said. "When we won it in 2008, most of them were 10th and 11th graders, so having the majority of them coming back was key and of course you had that experience and the nerves weren't there that second year. They knew what to expect and the experience really helped them to finish off those back-to-back seasons."

Coach West and the Lady Eagles have entered three different seasons as defending state champions, but she hasn't had to deal with some of the typical challenges that come with that success. Rather than becoming complacent, West believes next year's team will be anxious to relive its victory in Birmingham.

"I think it just makes them hungry. I actually think these girls are going to work harder now and they're going to believe now that they've already done it," West said. "The ones that were part of it this year, they want to do it again and they know what this feeling is like and then the ones that maybe were not out there, they want to be a part of it next year and have that same feeling. I actually think it's going to make them work a lot harder."

Becoming a basketball coach was virtually pre-destined for West. Growing up with her father, longtime Good Hope Raiders Head Coach Danny Welborn, exposed her to the coaching lifestyle from a young age

"My dad was the coach at Good Hope and he's the one that really made me want to coach," West said. "I still have notes that my dad gave me from my very first year of coaching where he drew up some plays and some practice drills and stuff, so he's actually the only coach I ever watched up close because I had grown up in a gym with my daddy coaching the boys at Good Hope."

Every team, every player and every trophy has meant a lot to Coach West, but this year's title team had something particularly special about it. Her daughter and starting point guard Toni West helped lead Cold Springs to its most recent title and West admits that celebrating as a mom and a coach was truly something to remember.

"You form relationships with so many of these girls, lifelong relationships and just being able to coach all three of my daughters has been a huge blessing. All year long, as a mom, I wanted to see my child be able to experience it after seeing it happen with all these other girls," West said. "I wanted her to be able to experience that because she's worked extremely hard in the offseason, and just seeing her face going through all of it, running out, during the game and her emotions after the game, just made it a little bit different for me. I had only ever been there as just a coach and I got to see the kids meeting their parents upstairs after the game, but this time I got to do that, and it was a great feeling. It was a great experience to be able to go up and celebrate not only as coach, but as a mom, too."

Coach West has racked up 617 wins in her career at Cold Springs, and with her daughter Toni and a host of other Lady Eagles returning next season, that number will continue to climb.

By: Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

Photo by: Martha Needham

MEET THE PHOTOGRAPHERS



JOE MCELROY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Joe McElroy



MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Martha Needham



BILL PIPER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Bill Piper

MARTHA NEEDHAM

How long have you been doing photography?

In 2015 I bought my first camera in hopes of chasing my dream of becoming a photographer. Last year my hard work payed off when I was given the opportunity to cover some sporting events for The Tribune.

What are some of the most memorable events you've shot?

State Basketball Playoffs and The Birmingham Iron game are probably my two most memorable events. The feeling you get stepping onto Legion Field and stepping courtside in the BJCC is something you never will forget.

What is your favorite part of shooting sports here locally?

There is nothing like showing up for a local sporting event and being greeted by a parent or athlete and hearing, “I'm so glad you’re here.” The connection with the community has been overwhelming. If you can look at photo and feel like you are in the game and feel that emotion, I know I have done my job. Capturing memories for these kids is what it’s all about

BILL PIPER

How long have you been doing photography?

I got my first real 35mm camera in 1981. I started shooting sports in 1983.

What are some of the most memorable events you've shot?

Wow, so many. The ‘08/’09 Cold Springs Girls’ State Championships and Cullman Football's deep run in the playoffs in 2007.

What is your favorite part of shooting sports here locally?

My favorite part is the people I've met along the way. These people are more than ball players, cheerleaders, trainers, coaches, etc. They each have a story.

JOE MCELROY

How long have you been doing photography?

I started taking pics with a Kodak 110 Instamatic camera in 1969 while attending a youth camp in North Carolina. In 1976, my senior year of high school, I purchased my first 35mm camera, a Yashika F1 that included a 50- 150mm telephoto lens and a 50mm lens. I was forced to learn about film speed (ISO), aperture and shutter speed with this new camera. I've used this camera for over 43 years and it still takes great film pics.

During my service in the U.S. Army, I was a Green Beret on a Special Forces A Team. I was assigned the added duty of recording our missions with a Leica 35mm camera.

I carried that camera into a dozen or more top-secret missions over my career, recording everything about our mission.

Later in life, after I married in 1979, and we started having children, I began capturing every event of my daughters’ lives: birthdays, holidays, and later, sporting events. This is where my love for sports photography began.

From softball, to dance recitals, archery tournaments, volleyball, basketball and swimming events, I was there snapping away. Not just of my girls but all children and some parents.

When film cameras started to become obsolete around 2000, I reluctantly made the change to digital cameras. I bought one of the first digital cameras Canon put on the market, a Canon 20D. I ended up buying three of these cameras and would carry each of them to every event, with different lens.

I've updated my cameras and lenses and currently have the latest equipment available today. I've been hanging around sporting events in Cullman since 1991. I was tagged "Photojoe" by one of Cullman's students years ago.

So, I guess I've been capturing memories through my lens for about 50 years.

What are some of the most memorable events you’ve shot?

Some of the most memorable events I've taken pics of include the births of my two daughters, Jessica and Kristy. I've covered U.S. Olympics in LA back in ‘84. Cullman's winning State Championships in Baseball and Soccer. Cullman's Jordan Lee winning the Bassmaster Classic in 2017 and 2018, and sadly, the devastating tornado that hit Cullman in 2011.

What is your favorite part of shooting sports here locally?

I love Cullman and our schools. I've followed so many kids as they grew up playing sports in Cullman, and some that moved on to college and the pros. I have millions, millions of memories on hard drives that I cherish. I do it for the love of our kids and capturing memories that they will have for their lifetimes.



JOE MCELROY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



BILL PIPER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

HARD HATS FOR THE JOB.

SOFT HEARTS FOR THE COMMUNITY.



The linemen of Cullman Electric Cooperative are proud to have helped members pass along reliable electricity and community values for generations. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com.

Cullman Electric Cooperative

@cullmanec

CULLMAN *Internal Medicine*
Rheumatology Office
is pleased to announce

Dr. Celia Fernandez
and
Allison Plaster, CRNP



Currently Accepting New Patients
Specializing in Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriatic Arthritis, Lupus, Gout, Ankylosing Spondylitis and other related conditions

To schedule an appointment, call 256-737-8055

1890 Alabama Highway 157,
Suite 220,
Cullman, AL 35058





METAL BUILDING ENGINEERING – FROM DESIGN TO MANUFACTURING

We team with architects, general contractors and erectors to suit your project





SBS SCHULTE BUILDING SYSTEMS
TEXAS • ALABAMA
1.877.257.BLDG (2534) | sbslp.com

Inland BUILDINGS
ALABAMA
1.800.438.1606 | inlandbuildings.com

Schulte Building Systems **(SBS)** and Inland Building Systems **(IBS)** together bring you the most advanced engineering, designing and manufacturing to change the way you think about metal buildings forever.

What does this mean to you?

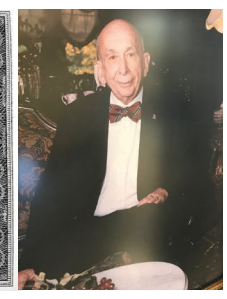
- From the simple to the complex, our engineers think outside the box for designing metal buildings that are safe, durable and meet your specific load and design requirements.
- Our skilled drafting people use the latest software to create drawings for quicker permitting, optimal fabrication and trouble-free erection of your building.
- We are the first manufacturer in the industry to install the MultiMAX LCU plasma cutting surface that is designed for maximum speed and efficiency allowing us to deliver precision frames and components to you quicker.
- Hydraulically operated transfer stations allow your contract carriers or our trucks to load up and be on their way in 30 minutes or less.
- Our dedicated professionals use their years of experience and expertise to add value to your projects and build stronger relationships by providing you unmatched customer service.
- Easier building erections and faster project completions because of superior design, engineering and fabrication all add up to a very positive impact on **your bottom line.**

The future of pre-engineered metal buildings today. **Prepare to be amazed.**
For more information visit us at **sbslp.com** and **inlandbuildings.com.**

IAS ACCREDITED AC472 · METAL BUILDING CONTRACTORS & ERECTORS ASSOCIATION · MBMA METAL BUILDING MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION® · ENERGY STAR PARTNER · CLASSIFIED UL® · FM APPROVED

070200079203038





A TRIBUTE TO

Roy Henry Drinkard

A BELOVED COMMUNITY LEADER

Roy Henry Drinkard was born July 12, 1920 in Falkville, Alabama. He spent his formative years in Falkville, Alabama where his father served as Mayor. Roy began his business career at the age of 9 years old as a newspaper boy in Falkville. After graduating from St. Bernard High School and Gupton-Jones College of Mortuary Science, Roy served in the Pacific in the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII. Afterwards, he entered the business world as a mortician in the family-owned funeral home business. Under Roy's leadership the business grew to 16 funeral homes. When Roy was 29 years of age, he bought the historic Borkenau in Cullman, Alabama, where he still lives today. He was later owner of Drinkard Chevrolet in Cullman, Alabama until he turned the business over to his son-in-law, Mitch Smith. In 1967, Roy was selected as Small Businessman of the Year for Alabama and the United States with the award being presented to him by then Vice President, Hubert Humphrey. Roy was a member of the Flying 50 and served for many years as Chairman of the Cullman Industrial Development Board. Roy has been Past President of the Lions Club of Guntersville, Alabama, Past President of the Cullman County Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Cullman Planning Commission, Director of George C. Wallace Community College and Chairman of the Wallace State Foundation. In 2000, he was appointed by Governor Don Siegelman to the Troy University Board of Trustees. Roy is currently serving in his 19th year after being reappointed by Gov. Robert Bentley. Roy is also a member of the Helen Keller Foundation Board. Today, Roy Drinkard is President of Drinkard Development, LLC, a commercial real estate development business. Roy is widely regarded as a true pioneer in Shopping Center Development. He has developed numerous shopping centers in Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana and Ohio featuring Wal-Mart, J.C. Penney, Kmart, Kroger, Winn-Dixie, Hobby Lobby, TJ MAXX and many others. Recognized as a leader in the profession, Roy and his partners were selected the #1 Developer in the U.S. for Kmart in 1981 and Kroger in 1982. Roy is a recognized and approved developer for the General Services Administration having developed Government buildings throughout the southeast. In 2003, Roy was named the Dr. E.G. Plunkett Visionary Award Recipient by the Cullman Industrial Development Board. In 2006, Roy was named the Cullman County Farm-City Outstanding City Family for 2007. On May 24, 2009, Roy was presented the first Distinguished Alumnus Award by The Board of Directors of St. Bernard Preparatory School at the 110th Commencement Ceremony. In October 2009, Roy was honored to be named the Burgermeister of the 2009 Oktoberfest. Roy was most recently awarded the prestigious Emma Marie Eddleman Citizenship Award by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce. Of all his wonderful awards, he is most proud to have been made a "DUKE OF HAZARD" by Mayor Bob Gorman. Roy Henry Drinkard is loved and revered by many friends and especially by his work family, his family, four granddaughters, four great-grandsons, and three great-granddaughters.

Your injection molding future starts here
Join a culture where you'll be respected and valued! Your ideas matter. You matter.



Since opening our doors in 1987, we've grown by listening to what our customers need and focusing on the processes, products and services to help them succeed. We always need people who are excited to become part of a team working hands-on to solve complex problems. If you're ready to start building your future, Royal Technologies is ready for you. Apply online today.

Royal Technologies®
✓ ADVANCED ✓ FOCUSED ✓ TRUSTED
230 County Road 1601 • Cullman
877-451-6396

www.royaltechnologiescorp.com
www.gotoroyal.com



We have:
- 56 injection molding presses ranging from 85 ton to 750 ton with 1500 ton capabilities
- 52 Station Urethane Foam Line
- Assembly with Sonic and Vibration Welding
- Over 160 people working in Cullman

ESOP
Because we are an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) company, our employees share a tremendous sense of pride and ownership in the work they do every day.

Each of us share in the success of the company, both individually and as a whole.

230 County Road 1601 • Cullman, AL 35058 • (877) 451-6396

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MARCH 19, 2019



MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

One of this year's K.B.A teams prays after a game.

HOOP FAITH

CULLMAN, Ala. – Basketball season may be over for schools across the state, but for the Krossover Basketball Association (K.B.A.), things are just getting started. K.B.A. is entering its third season after being founded by Patrick Gambrill in 2016.

Gambrill has coached basketball for 20 years from the youth level to the high school level and last coached in public school at Addison in 2015. Gambrill was named the Winston County Coach of the Year during the 2014 season.

Along with Gambrill, this year's coaching staff is made up of Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette, Landon Stidham from Hamilton, who played basketball at Welch College, Caleb Barnett from West Point, Josh Sellers, associate pastor at Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Jeremy Creel of Hayden.

Gambrill founded the league because he wanted his faith to be central to his team's philosophy and he saw some obstacles to that in public schools and in traditional Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Basketball.

"This is our third year and I started this because I wanted to put the Christian values back into basketball and in the public-school setting, there's just a road block there. There are less avenues to be able to use Christ as a platform. When you play AAU ball, it's normally Friday, Saturday and Sunday tournaments and Sunday of course is usually the championship games. It got to a point that all travel ball, even baseball and soccer, was just taking away people's family time," Gambrill said.

"I felt myself just taking my Sunday and being really stressed out so what I decided to do in AAU ball was find tournaments that just played on Friday and Saturday but also, if we were in a championship game on Sunday, we would just elect not to play that game. We're still getting plenty of basketball in, we're just walking away on Sundays."

K.B.A. has been able to use the facilities at Cullman First Church of the Nazarene for practices and team meetings. The church has been the home of the Upward Basketball program for years and Gambrill wants to bring that model to his league.

"Pastor Scott Sessions of Cullman First Church of the Nazarene has let us use the Nazarene Church to facilitate practices. As many Cullmanites know, the Cullman First Church of the Nazarene has hosted Upward Basketball for close to two decades. We mock our program after the upward program," Gambrill said. "We are more competitive of course, but, like Upward, we use the concept of God as the center. We want to be different than other academies and clubs. God calls each Christian to be different from the world. God himself is holy and set apart from the world. That's our goal. To teach these young men to be set apart."

Gambrill has had two sons play basketball and found that the values he tried to teach didn't always line up with high school sports. That environment is what first caused him to think about the idea of approaching basketball in a different way.

"I had two boys playing basketball, one a sixth-grader and one an eighth-grader. I was teaching my kids that there was more than basketball so, I was sitting in a high school gym and was listening to the warm up song and the language and the description of things happening in the song caused my youngest son to look at me. I thought to myself, 'If you played this song in class, you get in trouble, but at a sporting event, it's OK.' Then, I went on to notice them more at other high school games. I could even see the players singing them under their breath as they warmed up to it. I became concerned, upset and worried," Gambrill said. "My kids would soon be in high school. Then, as I see technical fouls being given to disrespectful players and be cheered on by crowds, players and coaches, I felt burdened. The sport that I have always enjoyed was being ruined. Players talking back to coaches, coaches overlooking actions and attitude to get a win. This wasn't at just one school but seemed to be growing quickly everywhere even though there are still some schools that hold kids accountable and standards are important."

It was actually Gambrill's wife who pitched the idea of starting a league, and since that day, K.B.A. has grown at an impressive rate.

"I prayed for an avenue to reach the boys. My wife said, 'Why don't you start your own academy?' I laughed and then started thinking. Then, I started praying. Finally, we kicked it off with tryouts," Gambrill said.

"The first year, 2016, we had 11 players, being one seventh-grade team. During the 2017 season, we grew to 21 players with a seventh-grade team and an eighth-grade team. By the 2018 season, we had 66 players and seven teams. The current 2019 season consists of 75 players and we have seven teams; 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, two 15U teams and a 16U team."

For Gambrill, incorporating Christian values is the priority and deciding how they spend their time is a big part of that. His teams don't play on Sundays and that's because he wants his players to spend that time with their families.

"K.B.A. is taking the stand to say that Sunday is not about playing travel baseball, basketball, soccer or competing in gymnastics. Sunday is the Sabbath for us and we're going to keep it holy and we're going to worship and spend time with our families. That is our biggest priority," Gambrill said. "We're having T-shirts made this year that say, 'We're the Chick-fil-A of basketball,' and we know they're closed on Sundays because of what they stand for so K.B.A. does the same thing."

The league is very focused on Christian faith, and Gambrill understands that won't appeal to everyone, but he and K.B.A. want everyone they can get to join their family.

"K.B.A. isn't for everyone. Over the last three years, I have saw some people want the basketball, but not the gospel. That is sometimes hard to swallow, but everyone has a choice where they want to buy something or eat dinner. Sometimes K.B.A. is about the cross (Kross). K.B.A. isn't for everyone, but we want everyone," Gambrill said.

"We want broken families, good families and families that want their children to understand that after basketball life comes. Hopefully, we can use K.B.A. as a platform to share God, who wants to have a relationship with each player and hopefully they will one day. We want our players to be a light to the world on and off the court. If you want your son to get more than just basketball, we would love to have him."

By: Nick Griffin

St. Bernard's Boatright hanging up his hat

CULLMAN, Ala. – After 37 years of coaching basketball at several local stops, St. Bernard's Greg Boatright is officially shutting it down. Boatright graduated from Fairview High School in 1977 and has spent nearly four decades coaching at Warrior, Baileyton, St. Bernard and most notably, his alma mater.

Boatright began his career at Warrior after graduating from Wallace State and says he was fortunate to have a young, but very talented team to work with.

"I started at Warrior, that was my first job right out of college, and I was lucky to even get a job, but I did get that one. I've been fortunate to have some good basketball talent everywhere I've been and that year it was pretty obvious. I was a rookie coach, I'd played basketball in school and went to Wallace to play a couple years there and that was the end of it. I went to Jacksonville State to see what they had, and I just wasn't good enough," Boatright smiled.

"So, in my first year at Warrior I started four eighth grader and one ninth grader and I remember we finished 13-3 but it wasn't because of the coaching. I had some players."

Boatright felt like he was learning the job game by game in his first season at Warrior, but once he found his stride, he made the move to Baileyton before getting the call from his alma mater.

"Every game it seemed like something would come up that I had not prepared them for, but we had enough talent to cover up for my shortcomings as a coach. So, I learned a lot that first year because of that. You think because you've played a sport that you know it, and you do know it from a player's standpoint, but the coaching deal is a whole other world," Boatright said.

"You're responsible for all of it. Then I went on through to Baileyton and had a lot of great players out there, a lot of great teams and I just kept learning as I went. After that I got the job at Fairview."

Boatright always had hopes to return to his school and coach the Aggies, but once he got there, he realized how much more room he had to grow as a coach.

"Of course, I graduated from Fairview in 1977 and I always wanted to coach at Fairview and finally that opportunity came around in 1999. Well, I had coached 17 years up to that point, so you'd think you'd be ready for that, you know what I mean. I was ready for it, but I wasn't totally prepared for it," Boatright said.

"When I got up there, I had to get up to speed on the learning curve because my first year out there we wound up about 12-15. We should've had a winning season, but I was a rookie, 39-year-old varsity basketball coach. I will say this, at Christmas we had only won four and we had a winning record after Christmas and that was from me learning the players and developing more as a coach."

It was after his first season with the Aggies that he felt like he found his groove at Fairview, but Boatright had a lot of people to credit for the success in his tenure.

Coach says that he was blessed with great talent throughout his entire career, but he is thankful for the group of coaches he's been able to work with over the years as well.

"From then on, I felt like I did a little better job because that was the only losing season we had when I was out there and again, I had a lot of really great players to make that happen and some good help too. I have to mention Coach (Windell) Calloway and I'm not going to be able to mention everyone that has impacted me along the way because it's just too many, but he has helped me for a long time. He's been my right-hand man for years," Boatright said.

"I've lost count of how many years he's been helping me and my first basketball coach, Bob Palys, had a big impact on me as well. He's passed away now and it's funny how things work out sometimes because he actually graduated from St. Bernard. He was from Buffalo, New York so he was a Yankee but we turned him into a southern Yankee and he just always went out of his way to inspire me and others to love basketball."

Boatright stepped down as the Aggies' Head Coach in 2013 but knew that he wasn't quite ready to walk away from basketball. He already had relationships with some of the administration at St. Bernard and decided to make the move, a decision he is even happier about today.

"As far as ending up here at St. Bernard, when I retired from public school, I still wanted to coach, and I just heard this job was open. I don't live but 15 minutes away and I thought I'd come over here and get a couple of P.E. classes and coach basketball if they'll have me," Boatright smiled.

"It's been a really good six years and again, I've had some talent, good boys willing to work and sacrifice their time to get better and the whole deal about coaching is you want to give them every opportunity to have the most success they can have."

Coach Boatright admits that this has been a tough decision for him because coaching has been such a huge part of his life, but at the same time, he's looking forward to watching some basketball from the stands instead of the sideline.

"What has made it so difficult is that I've done this for 37 years in a row. It's just been a big part of my life whether it was playing or coaching. This is something that I've always done but the reason I've decided to do it is just the responsibility of it all. I just felt like it was time to go ahead and get out and give somebody the opportunity to come to a good place like this. This is a great place with some great kids coming back and nothing's wrong I just felt like it was time. I wanted to remove the constant concern about getting it done," Boatright said.

"It's on your mind quite a lot, or at least it has been on mine. I think most coaches are that way but it's things like when I go deer hunting and I'm 20 feet up in a tree, I can't think about anything but basketball. What you need to do to make your team better or motivate them or the right way to critique them. There's just always something on your mind so I just thought it was time for me to go ahead and fully retire and enjoy sports without feeling responsible for the outcome."

Now that he's ready to wrap up his coaching career and officially retire, Boatright reflected on the differences between coaching in public school and his time with the Saints and he believes he picked the perfect spot to finish out his career.

"The biggest difference is that we're scattered all over the globe, which has been a really good experience. Even I don't know where every one of them is from but their attitude, their disposition, it's just a pleasant environment. I will say this, and people may not believe it but it's true, typically as a coach, you're going to have some complaints. I've been at St. Bernard for six years and have gotten zero complaints. That's the record for me," Boatright joked.

"Not that I had a bunch of them over the years but to not have one in six years is amazing and the people around here make you feel appreciated. Everybody likes to feel appreciated no matter what you do for a living, if you feel appreciated, it just makes things better. I couldn't have picked a better place to come and finish out my coaching career than St. Bernard."

Photo and Story By: Nick Griffin

GREG BOATRIGHT



37 YEARS OF DEDICATION

St. Bernard Head Basketball Coach Greg Boatright is retiring after six years with the Saints and 37 years total years in coaching.

CULLMAN NATIVE JESSE WIGGINS FINISHES 3RD AT BASSMASTER CLASSIC

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – After a slow Friday on the Tennessee River where he hauled in just 10 lbs., 11 oz., Cullman native Jesse Wiggins stormed up the leaderboard on Saturday and Sunday to finish third at this year's Bassmaster Classic. Wiggins caught 15 lbs., 15 oz. on Saturday and added another 17 lbs., 4 oz. on championship Sunday for a grand total of 43 lbs., 14 oz. and a $40,000 prize. Ott DeFoe finished as this year's champion with a weight of 49 lbs., 3 oz., and Jacob Wheeler finished in second place just ahead of Wiggins with 45 lbs., 5 oz.

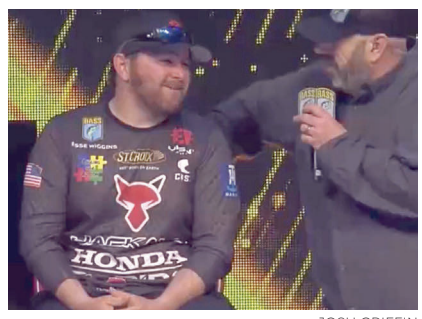
Wiggins' big finish in Knoxville continues the winning tradition at the Bassmaster for local anglers. Cullman High School graduate Jordan Lee won the Bassmaster Classic in 2017 and 2018 and Wiggins, an Addison alumnus, made a big run at this year's title after putting together a huge Sunday morning on the water. Lee placed 42nd at this year's tournament with a total weight of 13 lbs., 10 oz.

When this year's Super Six, made up of Wesley Strader, Chris Zaldain, Jacob Wheeler, Michael Iaconelli, Mark Daniels, Jr. and DeFoe made their way to the stage, Wiggins was sitting in the hot seat as the current leader, and he was thrilled to be front and center on the biggest stage in the sport.

"People ask me all the time when I started fishing, and I'm like 'I don't remember because I can't remember ever not fishing.' I've been fishing that long and this is the biggest tournament in the world and just to be leading it before they come out is just super. Fishing back at home, I remember me and my brother used to fish in an old sewage drain for snapping turtles. That's how much we love fishing," Wiggins said.

"Growing up fishing is all we ever knew and getting to be on this stage, you think about but it you don't really think it's possible. Like I said, I'm just a young, redneck kid from Alabama and I didn't think I could make it to this, but I just kept fishing and kept fishing and I don't know how it happened, but I'm here somehow."

Wiggins was knocked off the hot seat when Knoxville native DeFoe brought 18 lbs., 14 oz. on stage to move into first place with a total weight of 49 lbs., 3 oz.



JOSH GRIFFIN

Jesse Wiggins sitting on the hot seat as the leader during Sunday's weigh-in at the Bassmaster Classic.

Before he left the stage during his weigh-in, Wiggins wanted to share a message with any aspiring anglers that may have been watching.

"I'm just a little ole redneck from Alabama, so guys, if you're out there and you think you want to do this, trust me, you can," Wiggins said. "Just put your head down and fish and fish and fish. Don't take any shortcuts and just fish your butt off as much as you can locally, then go to the next stage and fish regionally at some of the opens and then you can work your way here. That's exactly what I did. Take baby steps and you can get here."

By: Nick Griffin

"Established In 1964"
Earl's Body Shop, Inc.
Phone: 256-734-2406
2251 Decatur Ave. NW, Cullman
www.EarlBodyShop.com

"Started In 1995"
39 Years
FREEDOM INSURANCE AGENCY
Gloria Williams – Agent
Office: (256) 737-0011 Fax: (256) 737-0616
Home: (256) 734-0463
168 County Road 1435, Cullman, AL 35058
gloria.williams@freedomagency.net

RANDY'S SMALL ENGINE PARTS
1605 3RD ST NE, CULLMAN
256-775-6229
randy@small-engine.net
MON - TUE: 7:30 - 4:30
WED: CLOSED
THURS - FRI: 7:30 - 4:30
SAT: 8 - 12

TraditionsBank
Building Bridges.
CULLMAN | HOLLY POND | HAYDEN
DODGE CITY | PRICEVILLE | ARLEY
256-735-2121
www.traditionsal.com

YANMAR
21-horsepower Model SA221 with M60 mid-mount mower
Our favorite activity is productivity.
The SA Series provides subcompact tractor versatility for every job. Industry-standard 3-point hitch, power takeoff and 2-pump hydraulics connect you to a universe of standard attachments to grade, haul, mow, till, seed and plant. And only Yanmar delivers Performance Link Technology™ ensuring every major component works in harmony, from front axle to final drive.
Schedule a test drive at your Yanmar dealer today.
Learn more at YanmarTractor.com
24-horsepower SA424 open-platform tractor with mid-mount mower and Yanmar loader
Basch Bros. POWERSPORTS
Basch Brothers
3330 AL HIGHWAY 157
CULLMAN, AL 35058-5928
www.baschbros.com
2567343225
info@baschbros.com
* Annual percentage rate (APR) applicable to new Yanmar compact tractor equipment. Rate information does not constitute an offer or extension of credit. All transactions are subject to credit approval and such other terms and conditions as we may require in our sole discretion. All rate, terms, and conditions subject to change without further notice. Monthly payment plan based on rate of 0%. Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes, freight, setup, and holding changes may be additional and may vary. Models subject to limited availability. Offer is not available with any offer. ***See your local dealer for limited warranty details and information. Certain restrictions apply. Engine manufacturer specifications and programs are subject to change without notice. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and/or unit specifications.
©2018 Yanmar America Corporation | YanmarTractor.com

Discover YOUR STORY.
PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE, FOR WORK, FOR LIFE
Wallace State Community College is a nationally-ranked comprehensive community college offering associate degree and certificate programs, including university transfer, liberal arts, STEM, health care, applied technologies and specialized training for careers that are in high demand in the north central Alabama region and across the Southeast. Our award-winning, student-centered learning environment provides an education you can take pride in, making Wallace State the perfect place to start college or change the trajectory of your career.
League for Innovation in the Community College – Innovation of the Year Award Winner
National League for Nursing Center of Excellence in Nursing Education
Military Friendly School MF'18 Award
Achieving the Dream Leader College
The Aspen Institute Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence TOP 150 2019
WALLACE STATE HANCEVILLE • ONEONTA
www.wallacestate.edu

Arts & Entertainment

Tradition revived, and a new day dawns

CULLMAN, Ala. - Cullman County offers plenty of opportunities to enjoy or participate in performing arts. You can often catch live music at evening destinations like Goat Island Brewing, or at numerous celebrations like Oktoberfest and the Strawberry Festival, and while folks debate where it should be, no one can deny the impact of Rock the South on both our economy and local culture. School-based and Parks and Rec-sponsored Missoula Children's Theatre programs bring actors to the stage. Dance academies, school bands and choral groups, and the Cullman Community Band round out a something-for-everyone entertainment offering.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Current generation owners Kyle and Kitty Spears finish up another busy day at the Bee.

Two events in the last year, though, have created new entertainment landmarks in the Cullman area:

Cullman Community Theatre revived

In May 2018, Cullman High School Theatre Director Wayne Cook and Choral Director Sarah Skinner, along with others, announced their intent to relaunch Cullman Community Theatre.

Just before their first meeting, Cook told The Tribune, "I feel strongly that community theatre is an important part of a community like this. It fills a need, fills a gap (with something) that we currently don't have. And, with all the things that have happened in this community: the growth, the economic expansion that we've seen--we've seen growth in so many arenas; that's the last link, in my view, of what we really need to explore. And the arts in general, but I specifically come at it from a theatre perspective.

"You go to a lot of communities: you go to Decatur, you go to Florence, you go to Huntsville (which) has tons of opportunities for community theatre. Birmingham has gobs of opportunities for community theatre. Even places like Arab and Guntersville have community theatre groups. So we really need an opportunity for adults and children, and students and people to work alongside each other to do productions in the community.

"This would be an organization that would--it would obviously be a collaboration with the schools, but this is not a school-sponsored thing. This will be a community-sponsored thing, and so it'll have a little different approach, in the sense that we'll open it up to all ages, all people that want to be a part."

Shortly after that first meeting, Cullman Community Theatre began holding auditions and, later in the summer, put on its production of "The Music Man."

After that first production, Cook reflected, "It's been fun for us, you know, and it's the beginning of what I hope will be continued community productions, because it gives opportunities to everybody in the community, all ages. A lot of people who are in this show have reminisced about their high school years or years when they were kids and they were in theatre. They talked about they brought it back, and they never thought they'd get to do it again. That's what community theatre does: it gives people an opportunity to continue something that they love."

Months later, as he looks to community theatre's future, Cook talked first about the relaunch experience:

"It was a very rewarding experience: tons of support from the community, and a lot of people who seems to be very pleased with this effort. It seems to have support from all the way around: from Parks and Rec and different organizations that want to help support it.

"And our committee that is steering all this is now trying to decide how do we make it sustainable and what do we do about making it more year-round: how much do we offer, how much do we not offer, at what length do we go with community theatre. There are just limits to resources and people, and so we're trying to determine how to balance all that.

"And we talked about doing some things during the (school) year. They just never materialized this year. But the effort right now is to do another summer production. There is a movement right now, moving toward an additional production that will be presented in the summer, and probably will audition in May, and will rehearse late May, early June--begin rehearsal--and be sometime in July performed. But the details on that are still kind of being worked out with Parks and Rec and different people who are players in the deal."

Cook has an idea for this year's production, but he's playing that hand close to the vest. He and his volunteer staff are also working on ideas for more year-round activities for the organization.

Wallace State Theatre offers sensory-friendly production for special needs community

On Oct. 28, 2018, Wallace State Theatre opened a new era in north Alabama stage productions, offering the region's first sensory-friendly performance to close out a four-day run of "Mary Poppins."

Show Director Lauren Salerno told The Tribune about her decision to pursue the new course:

"We've never done a sensory-friendly production. It's definitely on my radar, because a lot of theatre companies are starting to do that sort of thing. I had a mom email me to ask if we were going to do one, because she would like to bring her child, but she had recently been to a performance that wasn't sensory-friendly, and she didn't feel that it was a positive experience for her child. And I thought, 'Why aren't we doing that? We should be doing that.'

"I talked to my department chair, and we decided that Sunday afternoon would be a good time to offer that, because it's a daytime show. And I can't imagine that we'll ever do a production again where we don't have a sensory-friendly opportunity, because you want everybody to be able to experience theatre. You want everybody to be able to experience the arts. And if people are uncomfortable, or if they feel they're being judged in any way, that's not going to happen, and then you feel like you can't offer them that."

Much of the responsibility for scaling back the production to ease the experience of the audience fell to the show's tech crew.

Technical Director Noah Carpenter shared, "A sensory-friendly show is mainly targeted to audiences who have sensory disorders, or that in one way or another fall onto the spectrum. The show's purpose is to take the theatre, which so much of the time is an uninviting place to these audiences, and make some small but impactful changes that will help make the show easier for these patrons while not removing any of the art or magic of the show for them.

"As the technical director, a lot of the pieces in a sensory-friendly show do land in my plate. We do adjustments to lighting to eliminate any strobe lights or bright flashes, we leave the house lights up a little bit to prevent the stage from being too bright and overwhelming for patrons, and then on the sound side everything is turned down just a little and we soften any harsh sound effects like crashes or explosions.

"In addition to these things, a sensory-friendly show has a very open-door policy to allow patrons to come and go as they need to if they are overstimulated, and a lot of the house rules are relaxed: patrons are able to interact in the ways that best help them enjoy the show; they can sing along or clap, or anything they need to help them take it all in. The program is also a little different for a show like this, because we use it as kind of a roadmap for patrons and give warnings about parts of the show that might be overstimulating for certain patrons, and also include character comparisons for our characters compared to who they were in the movie, to cut down on confusion."

Thinking about the potential impact of this undertaking on audiences, Carpenter shared, "For me, it's super personal, because I'm extremely dyslexic. So, to be able to open up theatre and know what it's done in my life; and, if I had not had a theatre that opened up to me, I wouldn't be here talking to you. So, just for us to be some of the front-runners in Alabama, doing that, making that movement for these patrons, is something super special that we're able to do in the show, also."

By: W.C. Mann



Cullman, Alabama #7 Micropolitan Area in the United States

Our Industry partners and their continued investment in our community keeps Cullman and Cullman County at the top.

Thank you, again!

EST. 1873
CULLMAN
Economic Development Agency
Cullman Alabama
Economic Development Agency

P.O.Box 1009
200 First Ave, N.E.
Cullman, Alabama 35056-1009
256-739-1891
cullmaneda@cullmaneda.org
www.cullmaneda.org

CULLMAN REGIONAL AIRPORT

Cullman Regional Airpot KCMD
231 County Road 1360
Vinemont, AL 35179
256-775-1011
7 days - 7am-5pm

CULLMAN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Cullman County
Industrial Development Authority

325 Second Street, S.E.
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-775-4696
www.co.cullman.al.us
facebook.com/cullmancounty
@cullmancountyal



SENATOR GARLAN GUDGER JR.

DISTRICT 4

It is an honor to represent the people, the businesses and the industry of Cullman County. I look forward to continuing our success of our community's growth!

Building Community



through the

Arts

CULLMAN AREA COC
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER
cullmanchamber.org

A FESTIVE AFFAIR

Bloomin' Fest

DATE: Saturday and Sunday April 6 – 7, 2019 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

COST: Admission is a $5 donation. For children 5 and younger admission is free. Parking fee applies.

LOCATION: St. Bernard's Prep School – 1600 St. Bernard Drive SE, Cullman, AL 35055

The 35th Annual Bloomin' Festival Arts and Craft Fair to be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 6 – 7, 2019. St. Bernard has been recognized by the Southeast Tourism Society several years as a "Top Twenty Event in the Southeast."

Strawberry Festival

DATE: Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.

COST: Free

LOCATION: Depot Park – 309 First Ave. NE, Cullman, AL 35055

Celebrate Cullman's agricultural history with the 80th anniversary of the state's oldest Strawberry Festival, featuring arts and crafts, food, music, strawberries and more!

Smith Lake Park Memorial Day Weekend Festival

DATE: Saturday, May 25, 2019 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

COST: Free admission to the park

LOCATION: Smith Lake Park – 403 County Road 386, Cullman, AL 35057

Make your plans now to attend the Smith Lake Park Memorial Day Weekend Music Festival on Saturday, May 25, 2019. There will be arts and crafts vendors, food vendors, live music and contests happening all day. Play putt-putt at the newly updated course. It's also opening day for the swimming pool, where you can swim, rent kayaks, canoes and paddle boards. It's fun for the entire family!

Rock The South

DATE: Friday, May 31, 2019 and Saturday, June 1, 2019 with gates opening at noon.

COST: Tickets are currently on sale at RocktheSouth.com

LOCATION: 1872 County Road 469, Cullman, AL 35057

Rock the South has quickly grown from a meager one-day event to a massive two-day party, taking over most of southwest portion of the city of Cullman. Even though Billboard rates Rock the South as the Sixth Best Country Music Festival in the United States, Rock the South will always be a festival about two things-giving back to the community we love and celebrating the Southern culture we all know and love.

Second Fridays

DATE: Second Fridays June – September from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m.

COST: Free

LOCATION: Downtown Historic District, Cullman, AL 35055

2nd Fridays is a Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism-coordinated event sponsored by Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram. This event takes place on the second Friday of each month, June-September, from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m., in the central business district of Cullman. Each month, visitors are able to enjoy a diverse range of activities, including discounts and specials at area boutiques and restaurants, live entertainment and activities for young and old alike.

Smith Lake Park Fireworks & Music Festival

DATE: Thursday, July 4, 2019 at 8 a.m. until 9 p.m.

COST: $5 per person

LOCATION: Smith Lake Park – 403 County Road 386, Cullman, AL 35057

Make your plans now to attend the Smith Lake Park Fireworks and Music Festival on Thursday, July 4, 2019. It's a day full of arts and crafts, food, live music, and fireworks. There will be a golf cart parade and other contests for the family. Play putt-putt in the newly updated course, and the swimming pool will be open and renting kayaks, canoes and paddle boards. Park admission is $5 per person. Additional costs for camping, swimming pool, kayaks, canoes, paddle boards and putt-putt.

Sweet Tater Festival

DATE: Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019 from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Monday, Sept. 2, 2019 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

COST: Admission is $5 per person and armband is good for both days of the event!

LOCATION: Smith Lake Park – 403 County Road 386, Cullman, AL 35057

Smith Lake Park will host its 23rd Annual Sweet Tater Festival in September. There will be live music, food vendors, arts and crafts, a car show and sweet taters.

Cullman County Fair

DATE: TBA Check www.cullmanfair.org as the event draws nearer.

COST: Entry fees vary from $6 and up

LOCATION: Cullman Fairgrounds – 1501 Sportsman Lake Rd NW, Cullman, AL 35055

Since 1954, the Cullman County Fair has been delighting the citizens of Cullman and surrounding counties with thrilling rides, amazing exhibits, fair food favorites, and the best in entertainment. As always, parking is free!

Cullman Co. Fair Parade

DATE: TBA Check www.cullmanfair.org as the event draws nearer.

COST: Free

LOCATION: U.S. Highway 31 from First Baptist Church to McGriff Tire (Sixth St. SW to Arnold St. NE, Cullman, AL 35055)

The Cullman County Fair Parade is the unofficial kickoff to fall around Cullman County. This annual favorite will take place on a Saturday leading up to the Cullman County Fair.

2019 Smith Lake Park Bass Fest Bass Tournament

DATE: Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019 from dawn to dusk

COST: Online and mail-in: $150 by Sept. 27, 2019 (Form available at www.smithlakeparkbassfest.com.)

LOCATION: Smith Lake Park – 403 County Road 386, Cullman, AL 35057

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: There will be a pre-tournament meeting and meal on Oct. 4, 2019, at 6 p.m. at the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center (17465 U.S. Highway 31, Cullman, AL 35058). This is a mandatory meeting; at least one team member from each team must attend. For more information, visit www.smithlakeparkbassfest.com.

Cullman County looks forward to seeing you at Bass Fest. You'll find that in Cullman County, we take pride in everything we do. Our goal is to provide you with the fun and rewarding tournament that you deserve. Bring the whole family out and enjoy the festivities at one of Cullman County's best known parks, then visit our wonderful restaurants and attractions just a few miles from the tournament.

Oktoberfest

DATE: Oct. 2-5, 2019

COST: Most events are free to attend; however, visit www.cullmanoktoberfest.com for updated information as the event draws nearer.

LOCATION: Cullman County Museum and Festhalle are the two main locations for the event.

The city of Cullman, Alabama was founded by, and named after, a German immigrant, Johann Cullmann. The residents of Cullman and the surrounding area are very proud of their German heritage, so it isn't surprising that every year Cullman Oktoberfest is easily considered the area's largest and most anticipated event.

Each year, during the first week in October, senior citizens, adults and school children alike come together to enjoy Oktoberfest activities such as: a wiener dog race, an arts and crafts show, wagon rides, a kids' fun area, multiple stage events, a Biergarten, a classic car show featuring German cars, numerous contests, historical tours, a quilt show and much, much more. Over the years, events and sponsors change, but one thing remains constant: we will always take pride in celebrating Cullman's German heritage.

Established in 1982, Cullman Oktoberfest is a nonprofit organization, staffed by volunteers, whose goal is to provide a family-friendly event for the citizens of Cullman County and surrounding areas. With support from the community, we will continue to provide outstanding entertainment and proudly promote the city of Cullman to Oktoberfest attendees.

Come, celebrate the great German heritage found in the residents of Cullman, Alabama. Come join us!

Bernard Blues & BBQ

DATE: Saturday and Sunday Sept. 14 – 15, 2019 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

COST: TBA

LOCATION: St. Bernard's Prep School – 1600 St. Bernard Drive SE, Cullman, AL 35055

By popular demand, St. Bernard is hosting a fall event to further promote the work of education and the grades 7-12 residential and day college preparatory school. Mark your calendar now for the third annual Bernard Blues and BBQ! Come out and enjoy some great food, music and new friendships! The event features some of the best artisans in the Southeast to include pottery, wreaths, door hangers, flowers, wood turned bowls, clothing, birdhouses, honey, jewelry, soap, brooms, metal art, glass art, freshly ground cornmeal and grits, and much, much more.

Smith Lake Park Tricks and Treats in the Park

DATE: Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019 at 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.

COST: TBD

LOCATION: Smith Lake Park – 403 County Road 386, Cullman, AL 35057

Join us for a night of family fun! Campers are encouraged to decorate their campsites with family-friendly decorations for the event. Trick or treating will take place through the campground area. Those with decorated campsites are encouraged to pass out individual sealed candy. Enjoy the hayrides, bounce houses and train rides.

Christmas in Cullman Parade & Tree-Lighting

DATE: Friday, Dec. 6, 2019 at 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

COST: Free

LOCATION: Downtown Cullman from The Busy Bee Café to Depot Park, all along First Avenue

Join us Dec. 6, 2019 for a night of celebrating Christmas in Cullman with our annual parade, sponsored by Mitch Smith Chevrolet, and tree-lighting ceremony, sponsored by The Cullman Tribune.

Cullman elementary students show off art in annual showcase

CULLMAN, Ala. - Pablo Picasso once said, “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.” It’s a favorite quote of West and East Elementary’s art teacher Judith McBrayer and a source of inspiration for her students’ art projects this year. Approximately 1,200 students had their artwork on display at the WES/EES Art Show at the Cullman Civic Center on Friday night.

Students and parents came to enjoy the vivid color and unique artistic styles. McBrayer has been teaching art at both elementary schools for 13 years and she was noticeably proud of all her students’ originality and hard work.

She said, “I’m really into the bright colors. I love the bright colors. I think it just makes you happy. These kids at this early age, they need to be happy. There’s so many that need that excitement and joy. I do, too, and I get it from them.”

The art exhibit showcased a broad range of styles and textures. Putting on a show including 1,200 students takes planning.

“I start at the first of the year looking for different things they can do with different artists. From that I just start an art project and think about what they can do and think about what medium they can use,” McBrayer explained.

This year’s show drew inspiration from many famous artists including Andy Warhol, Jackson Pollock, Leonardo DaVinci and Picasso.

West Elementary third grader Avary Russo was excited to show her family her art project. Her class colored roses applied paper to give a 3-D appearance. She chose four roses in a large vase.

Said Russo, “I used two colors for the roses. Rust and red.” The blending gave her roses a textured appearance.

The sixth graders were able to do something new this year, McBrayer said, “I’ve never had canvas. I had a donation of enough money that I could buy them canvas.”

The kids were able to paint what they wanted rather than adhering to a chosen theme.

“They took the ball and ran with it. They really did some awesome work,” McBrayer said.

A great crowd came out to support the young artists and the schools’ art exhibit. McBrayer was greeted with many hugs and thanks.

She acknowledged, “Both of my principals are fabulous. They both encourage. They are just wonderful. I just couldn’t be more thankful. Our superintendent does, too! She is very, very supportive. The teachers, oh my gosh, the teachers-I just love them! They are all so supportive.”

By: Christy Perry





CPC Cullman Primary Care
Multi-Specialty Group

Cullman Primary Care HealthCare Guide

Proudly serving the residents of Cullman County for over 40 years!



Cullman Primary Care is a Multi-Specialty Group Focusing on Comprehensive Care, OB/GYN, Sleep, Orthopedics, Pulmonology, Neurology, Family Practice, Radiology, Urgent Care, Hospital Medicine and coming soon Pediatrics

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MARCH 19, 2019

About Us



John Reynolds, MBA, FACMPE, CEO



Danny Gray CFO



Shana Hice Director of Human Resources & Marketing



Leah Hassell Central Business Office Manager, Operations Manager, Security Manager



Donnette Jones, RN, Director of Clinical Quality

A Community of Physicians for the Community

CPC Mission Statement

Cullman Primary Care is committed to providing quality medical care that is community oriented. We pledge to provide ethical, comprehensive, and compassionate care to all members of the families we serve in a cost effective manner.

You can rest assured that we will become recognized by our patients, employers and insurers, as well as our community, as the premier medical group in the area as we continue to expand our services and our group of physicians.

It is our goal to be looked upon as a resource for providing medical information to our community. Our wonderful staff are always willing to answer questions while we will conduct our medical practices in a manner that is cognizant of costs to employers, insurers, and patients while placing ethical and appropriate care first.

CPC recognizes, in order to fulfil our mission, we must attract excellent caregivers by offering a competitive package of wages and benefits, along with a working atmosphere that is attentive to the needs of patients and caregivers alike.

As part of our many strengths and differentiation features, at CPC we will remain community-based and keep a “small town” atmosphere. This is not just important to us but for the comfort of our patients and caregivers. If you’re not comfortable then neither are we!

We will be a community resource for preventive care, patient education and patient advocacy through various means through social media, doctor/patient interaction and making more information readily available on our website.

CPC will provide a select medical team of recent residency trained board certified physicians as well as physicians with years of experience to ensure we are serving all of the communities to the best of our abilities.

It is important that we provide care for a large patient base over a wide geographic area, not just a small region of Cullman county.

We strive to provide excellent accessibility for patients and we will always advocate continuity of care for both inpatients and outpatients through our strong business contacts in the community.

CPC is committed to maintaining internal quality parameters and monitoring system, along with being proactive and visionary in Cullman County.

'Our goal is to provide our patients with the care they need without having to travel to a larger town'

Cullman Primary Care Multi-Specialty Group has proudly served the community for over 40-years. We are one of the largest and most comprehensive medical groups in Alabama. We’ve built new facilities, expanded our technology and services, and increased our medical staff to include more than 45 highly skilled physicians and advanced practice medical providers in 13 different specialties located in several convenient locations.

Our goal is to provide our patients with the care they need without having to travel to a larger town. Cullman Primary Care Multi-Specialty Group is committed to continued growth. We are adding 6 new physicians to our medical group over the next year and will continue to grow in the best interest of our practice. We are excited that our patients can be seen here locally for most all of their health care needs.

At Cullman Primary Care Multi-Specialty Group, we are very committed to taking care of our patients at all times. Our OB/GYN physicians deliver our new babies, our family medicine physicians and our new pediatric clinic see them in the hospital nursery and will continue to treat them as they grow. Our dedicated team of primary care physicians and nurse practitioners see patients in the clinic and we are proud to offer same day appointments at their clinics.

Our comprehensive team of specialists treat our patients when their services are required. When our patients are hospitalized we have our own team of hospitalists who are partners of our group. We are very pleased to offer this service and our patients really like having one of our physicians see them in the hospital.

Cullman Primary Care Multi-Specialty Group has a conveniently located diagnostic imaging clinic staffed with our radiologist. This clinic provides MRI, CT, Nuclear Medicine, Digital Mammography, Bone Mineral Density testing for Osteoporosis, Cardiac Ultrasound, Vascular Ultrasound, General Ultrasound, and performs Fluoroscopy procedures.

We offer a comprehensive clinical laboratory, convenient pharmacy for our patients, and an urgent care clinic. The urgent care clinic is conveniently located and is open every day except major holidays. Our urgent care allows our patients to be seen quickly with access to all of their medical records and it is much cheaper than a visit to the emergency room.

All of our locations are digitally connected and our physicians and nurse practitioners have access to all of our patient's medical information at their fingertips. This provides improved continuity of care, decreases your waiting time and improves our patient satisfaction.

We remain true to our core belief at Cullman Primary Care Multi-Specialty Group; to make our patients our first priority. We are committed to provide exceptional care to the families we serve.

Should you have questions at any time, we are available to talk with you or your family. We welcome any suggestions you have about the way we provide your care and we want you to know that we take both your health care and your comments seriously.

I want to personally thank you for placing your trust in Cullman Primary Care Multi-Specialty Group and look forward to serving you and your family in the coming years.

Sincerely,

John B. Reynolds, MBA, FACMPE
Chief Executive Officer

What is Hospital Medicine and how does it help you?

CPC is pleased to offer our Hospital Medicine Service or Hospitalists to our patients. At some point, you may find yourself admitted to Cullman Regional Medical Center. Rest assured that one of our CPC providers will be there for you at this crucial time.

We have a dedicated team of hospitalists including 8 of our family medicine physicians, our critical care specialist and 4 nurse practitioners. Our specialists are also available for consultation should it be required.

Upon admission to the hospital, a member of our team will be there for you. They will continue to see you daily throughout your stay and they will be there to discharge you. Should you require a consultation with a specialist, our hospitalist will make the consult and ensure you are well taken care of. CPC's hospitalists have electronic access to all of your CPC medical records. If you were seen by a CPC provider in the clinic setting our hospitalists can view recent medical notes, lab results, imaging results and all other information pertaining to your treatment. This is a tremendous asset to the hospitalists in treating you. It provides better continuity of care and eliminates wasteful duplication of medical labs and tests.

When it is time to be discharged, our hospitalists will communicate with our Transition Care Management team and a member of that team will make a follow up telephone call with you. Their responsibility is to check on your health and to ensure you understood your discharge instructions. It is also important that they schedule your follow up appointment with your primary care physician.

CPC's patients are very pleased with our providers that provide hospital care. We routinely receive excellent comments from our patients regarding the care they receive in the hospital and we feel this sets us apart from other medical providers in the community.

Welcome New Providers HOMECOMING: Wendy Shaw returns to Cullman as the city's first certified nurse midwife

CULLMAN - Cullman native Wendy Shaw is happy to be home. She's even happier to be breaking new ground as the city's first-ever certified nurse midwife (CNM). Shaw is now practicing at Cullman Primary Care Obstetrics & Gynecology and can deliver babies at Cullman Regional.

What is a CNM? According to the American College of Nurse-Midwives, CNMs are registered nurses who have graduated from a nurse-midwifery education program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) (formerly the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Division of Accreditation (DOA)) and have passed a national certification examination to receive the professional designation of certified nurse-midwife.

Shaw joined Cullman Primary Care Obstetrics & Gynecology in late November of 2017 after most recently practicing for five years in Gulf Port, Mississippi.

"When I was pregnant with my kiddo, my 19-year-old, I decided I wanted to be a midwife, and so I went to nursing school and did labor and delivery for about, I think I did it close to five years, and then I went back and started working on my master's degree to be a midwife, said Shaw. "I took the long way around because I had a kiddo, but it took me probably about three to four years to get that degree wrapped up. Took me about another year to find a job, somebody that was willing to take on a new midwife, and I ended up in Gulf Port and was there for five years."

Shaw talked about what exactly a midwife is.
"It's taboo, yeah, sometimes. People don't know; everybody goes, 'Oh, do you deliver at home?' Um, no, I don't deliver at home, that's not how it works here. I deliver in the hospital. I'm kind of like a nurse practitioner for an OB/GYN, and then I do the delivery portion also. So I do some of, well, woman care, you know, contraceptive stuff for girls and women that need it that are married and need stuff like that. STDs, I treat those, take care of the adolescents who need help with that and with birth control. I do a lot of OB; that's what I've been doing for the past two years. Mostly OB because that's what the practice - it was three OB/GYNs and they hired me to do some OB, you know, to deliver.

Shaw continued, "I want to work with women to develop a plan of care that they are okay with and that we can come to an agreement about. Some intervention, maybe not even any intervention, and then the ones that want every intervention I can do that too, so it's a big mix of what I can do. Take care of high-risk patients, diabetic patients, hypertensive, that kind of stuff, as well as those people who have no risk factors and want nothing and just want a home birth but in a hospital setting. I can do that too. I have all those skill sets and am very comfortable with all that. There are some things that are too high-risk for me, and that's why we have OB/GYNs. I don't do surgery, but my patients do get epidurals; they have IV pain medications. They have what they need and want. The ones that don't, we do everything we can to try and get them through the labor process and have a healthy baby and healthy mama."

So, what brought Shaw home?
"I grew up here in the Welti area and went to high school at Holly Pond. I went to school here and worked as an RN. My actual first job in labor and delivery was at Cullman Regional Medical Center," Shaw smiled. "I did about six months in Mother & Baby over in Atlanta when I first got out of nursing school because nobody around here would hire you fresh out of school as a labor and delivery nurse at that time. So I went over there and this position came open. My aunt works here at the hospital, and she called me and let me know, so I applied for it and they hired me, so I came back. "I was here for about a year, then I decided I wanted to get some high-risk experience and a lot of volume. Cullman at that time was probably doing 40, 50 deliveries a month, but I was working night shift. I mean it was busy, but it wasn't like UAB, so I went to UAB and worked there for several years. After the first year I started being in charge on nights, and you know we're talking 400-500 deliveries a month, so that's a much higher volume. So I got to see a lot of stuff, and you also get to work with residents, so it's a teaching environment. They were always ready to teach and you were always hearing the new stuff that was coming out, which was good. After I had some experience from UAB, that's when I thought I was ready to go back to (school)."

Shaw said she's happy to be back, but misses the patients she bonded with in Mississippi.
"So far, so good. I love being home, I'm ready to get started. I've been seeing a few of the partners' patients, but it's not like seeing your own patients," she said. "It was hard to leave, you know, because some of those people I would've been delivering their third baby sometime this month. There's been a couple that delivered right after I left that would've been their third baby I'd have delivered. It's tough when you have that patient bond and you have to leave those women, and it's hard on them too, I'm sure."

Do you find that midwives have a much closer relationship with patients?
"I think that varies on who the OB is and how they treat their patients. I've seen some OB/GYNs that have really good relationships with their patients and their patients don't want to see anybody else, and that's also the case with me. My patients were like, 'Well what am I gonna do?' I've promised that they'll get good care and they say, 'But it's not gonna be you, though.' It's just different between people, but when you've seen somebody for 10 months almost, you do get a connection with them. Especially if you've seen them with multiple pregnancies, so I think that happens with OB/GYNs too," she said. "Maybe more, because I don't have to do surgery. I mean, I am up in the middle of the night, but if I am up then it's to do a delivery or whatever, not surgery. I do assist with C-sections if my patients have to have one or if I have a mom that just wants a repeat C-section, but other than that I'm not the primary one. I'm just there to help at that point. I do have a little bit more time, so I can spend longer with them, and some patients want that, and some patients don't; they want you to come in and do what you gotta do so they can move on with their life. So everybody's kind of different."


Wendy Shaw is Cullman's first-ever certified nurse midwife.

If there's a woman out there that's just recently found out she's pregnant or is planning to have a child and is wanting to go with a midwife, what would you tell them to expect along the way?
"I would say expect kind of what you, if you've had a child before with an OB/GYN, it's the same type of care. I practice evidence-based just like they do, I try to be up-to-date on stuff, but I'm also discussing it with them and we're making decisions together, and I try to keep an open mind if they want something that's a little bit out of the box. As long as it's safe and there's no harm, then we just move on and let them do it."

Like water births?
"Yeah, I don't know what the hospital's policy will be on that, but probably won't be doing stuff like that, especially in the beginning. Things may change down the line, but I can't - I don't know that they would even have the facilities for that here, because there's a lot of things that have to go into place for that to be safe, especially when you're having multiple patients use the same tub and that kind of stuff. So I don't think that that would be an option, but you can get in the shower while you're in labor, or walking around while you're in labor versus being in bed. Something like that, that's kind of what my patients do. And a lot of times I tell them to stay at home as long as they can, until they can't stand it anymore. Usually that's the best thing to do because you come in and you're almost ready to have your baby."

What's the biggest satisfaction you get from your profession?
"I think just seeing that mom and the partner, dad, or whoever - maybe it's their grandma there with them - but just seeing them with that new baby and how happy they are," Shaw smiled. "You see them, especially the young girls, you see them grow up to be good moms, and you see them the next year and they're doing well. I think that's the biggest. Seeing them, and seeing that healthy baby at the end. It doesn't always turn out like that, but the majority of the time it can and will."

Cullman Primary Care Director of Human Resources & Marketing Shana Hice shared, "We're just excited to have a female presence in our OB/GYN department because we know we have great physicians and we have a great service to offer, but you have those patients who are more comfortable with a female, and to have Wendy up there is just a great asset to our practice. It's just gonna complement the group so well, you know, we're just excited to offer that service to the community and be able to work with Cullman Regional to expand their OB/GYN & Delivery department, too."

And it helps to have a hometown personality, too. "Exactly! We love having people coming home!"

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MARCH 19, 2019

Brief Synopsis of Each Department

Diagnostic Center
We provide CT, MRI, digital mammography, ultrasound (including vascular, cardiac echo, general ultrasound), nuclear medicine imaging, holter monitoring of the heart, BMD (bone mineral density testing for osteoporosis), and fluoroscopy procedures. Digital X-rays are provided at the Urgent Care, Orthopedic and Primary Care offices. The diagnostic tests and procedures provided within Cullman Primary Care Multi-Specialty Group are overread by our board certified radiologist, Van Wadlington, MD, who is available to patients to help answer any questions or concerns regarding their results.

Hospital Medicine
Hospital Medicine in the United States is the medical specialty concerned with the care of acutely ill hospitalized patients. The CPC Hospital Medicine Providers' primary professional focus is caring for our hospitalized patients only while they are in the hospital. This way we can assure our patients get the most comprehensive, continuity of care in an inpatient setting. In the event of a hospital stay, our hospital medicine providers have the ability to communicate directly with all providers in our group regarding your medical history and care; thus, facilitating an overall comprehensive experience.

Laboratory
CPC has our own clinical laboratory. What does this mean? It means your blood work is tested onsite in our own facility and by our own staff. In the event your physician orders a special lab test that we do not perform, we have agreements with several outside laboratories. Another feature worth mentioning is that all of your health care information including laboratory results are available via our secure CPC Patient Portal so that you can have access any time to YOUR health record. If you would like more information or an invite to access the secure patient portal, contact (256) 736-CARE (2273) and a friendly staff member will assist you.

Neurology
CPC is excited that Rodney Soto, MD and Amanda Adcock, CRNP have joined us and are now accepting patients. These providers diagnose, treat and manage Neurological diseases of the brain, spinal cord, nerves and muscles.

Some disorders include:
- Headache
- Stroke
- Tremors
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Neuropathy/Nerve Pain
- Seizures
- Parkinsons
- Memory Disorders
- Dementia
- Alzheimers
- Balance Disorders

Dr. Soto specializes in cognition, such as memory disorders and dementia. Please contact (256) 736-CARE (2273) to make an appointment today.

Nutrition Services
With a simple referral from your doctor, you can receive comprehensive nutrition counseling and personalized meal planning through our CPC Nutrition Services. Whether you are dealing with diabetes, weight loss management, Chronic Kidney Disease or other nutrition needs, we will work with you to help restore balance. Our office is located at 1800 AL Hwy 157, Ste. 203, Cullman, AL 35058. For more information, contact 256-736-2273.

OB/GYN
CPC OB/GYN specialists are ready to address the full scope of female medical issues, including pregnancy, breast and gynecologic cancer, heart health, birth control, mental health, and are all within the scope of expertise offered by professionals at Cullman Primary Care Women's Center. CPC OB/GYN's continuum of care is extended at Cullman Regional Medical Center for deliveries as well as surgical services. Our providers also provide outpatient surgical care at the Cullman Outpatient Surgery Center. CPC is looking forward to adding to or OB/GYN team by welcoming Taylor Massengill, M.D., in the Fall of 2020. She is originally from Gardendale and her husband is from Hayden, AL. She will be joining us upon completion of her OB/GYN residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS where she is training to become certified in robotic surgery.

Orthopedics & Sports Medicine
CPC is fortunate to have a Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon in our practice with John Songer,M.D. Our office provides Digital X-ray technology with overreads by our board certified radiologist. Splinting and casting is done right in the office and Dr. Songer is on staff at both Cullman Regional Medical Center and the Cullman Outpatient Surgery Center so that your orthopedic surgery needs can be taken care of right here in Cullman. CPC is looking forward to adding to our orthopedic team by welcoming Connor Ojard, M.D., in the Fall of 2020. He is originally from Spanish Fort, AL and his wife is from Kentucky. Dr. Ojard will be joining us upon completion of his orthopedic surgery residency at Oschner Medical Center in New Orleans, LA where he is training to become certified in robotic surgery.

Pediatrics
With the addition of CPC Pediatrics, CPC will complete our full spectrum of services offered through our group of multi-specialty physicians. We believe it all begins with the child and with the addition of CPC Pediatrics, parents may rest assured knowing our physicians will work closely with the family to help ensure a happy, safe road through the early years of life. Andrew Jones, MD will be joining CPC Pediatrics in August 2019 and will see his patients in the clinic as well as in the hospital. Dr. Jones is originally from Greenville, AL and will be getting married this summer in Cullman to his fiancé Taylor who is currently a middle school teacher in Albertville, AL.

Primary Care
CPC Primary Care is the medical specialty which provides continuing and comprehensive health care for the individual and family. CPC Primary Care physicians see patients of all ages. They are comprehensively trained on every system of the body and are the best physicians to see for a general health work up. Often times, if a problem is specialized to a certain area of the body or a certain system of the body, your primary care physician may refer you to another physician who specializes in that area for a more detailed work up. Fortunately, at Cullman Primary Care Multi-Specialty Group, we offer a variety of specialists who are linked to the same electronic medical record system as your CPC primary care physician. This allows you to receive better care and eliminates any error of your specialist ordering labs or diagnostic testing that your primary care physician may have already ordered. CPC's team of 24 primary care providers is pleased to announce several physicians will be joining our team. Alan Hanley, MD will be joining us in April 2019. Dr. Hanley has been practicing in Cartersville, GA and was in residency training with one of our own Dr. Joe Johnson. Dr. Hanley has been recruited to take over Dr. Rick Gober's practice upon his retirement in July 2019. In August 2020, CPC will be adding Justin Rushing, MD and Randy Turner, MD to our primary care team. Dr. Rushing is originally from Arab, AL and he and his wife are currently living in Rome, GA where he is completing his family medicine residency. Dr. Turner is originally from Ft. Payne, AL and his wife is from Huntsville, AL. Dr. Turner is completing his family medicine residency in Huntsville.

Pulmonology
If your primary care physician suggests you may have a lung or breathing ailment such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), you may be referred to a pulmonologist or a doctor who specializes in lung disorders. CPC Pulmonology has a Respiratory Therapist on staff who performs PFTs (pulmonary function testing) to help determine the severity of pulmonary impairment. Our providers at CPC Pulmonology have the best interest of the patient at heart, so always feel free to ask questions while meeting with your pulmonologist or nurse practitioner.

Psychiatry
CPC Psychiatry is happy to be one of the newer additions to our Multi-Specialty Group in recent years as we continue to expand our reach into the community. Our Psychiatry practice provides a wide range of services to meet the psychological and social needs of the community including:
- Physician visits
- Individual Counseling and Psychotherapy
- Family Counseling
- Couples Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Medication Management
- Educational and Psychotherapy Groups (ie: self-esteem groups, assertiveness groups, anger management, emotional regulation, and many more)
- Medication Education Groups

We are well equipped to take care of the following:
- Childhood mental health conditions
- Conduct and behavioral problems in children and adolescents
- Depression and anxiety disorders
- Behavioral problems, stress-related disorders
- Grief and loss
- Alcohol and chemical dependency
- Eating Disorders
- Marriage, relationship and family problems

In addition to two board certified Psychiatrists, we have a team of mental health providers including a LCSW (licensed clinical social worker) and an LPC (licensed professional counselor) to encompass the full care of your mental health.

Sleep Medicine and Family Practice
Sleep medicine is a medical specialty or sub-specialty devoted to the diagnosis and therapy of sleep disturbances and disorders. Dr. Mark Tafazoli is double boarded in both Family Practice and Sleep Medicine. Dr. Tafazoli currently practices in Cullman, AL on the campus of CRMC, but is also in Madison, AL on Madison Blvd. He and his Nurse Practitioner, Amber Nelson, CRNP, are accepting new patients at both locations. Call 256-775-1090 for more information on getting a better night's sleep.

Urgent Care
As a service to our patients, CPC has an Urgent Care for those times you can't get into your family physician during the day or if you need medical care after hours. Our mission is to provide quality care at an affordable cost and we feel that allowing our patients the option of a visit at our urgent care as opposed to the Emergency room after hours for minor injuries and flu-like symptoms does just that. However, if you are having chest pain or trouble breathing, we do recommend you proceed directly to your nearest emergency room or dial 911. Serving Cullman since September 2003, CPC Urgent Care is open 7 days a week from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday – Friday and 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 6 p.m. This is a walk-in facility, so come by at your convenience.

CPC Departments and Locations

CPC PRIMARY CARE
DOWNTOWN OFFICE: CPC PRIMARY CARE, 408 CLARK STREET NE, CULLMAN, AL 35055
Phone: 256-734-3202
Fax: 256-734-4668
Location Hours: Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Driving Directions: Located on Clark Street just a few blocks from City Hall, across from the Cullman County Board of Education professional building.

&

POB III OFFICE: CPC PRIMARY CARE, 1800 AL HWY 157, SUITE 101 POB III, CULLMAN, AL 35058
Phone: 256-739-4131
Fax: 256-739-6027
Location Hours: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Driving Directions: Located on the campus of CRMC, POB III, 1st Floor

CPC DIAGNOSTIC CENTER
Main Office: CPC Diagnostic Center, 501 Clark St. NE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-739-9898
Fax: 256-739-9556
Location Hours: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Driving Directions: Located directly behind the Cullman County Board of Education building.

CPC HOSPITAL MEDICINE
Main Office: CPC Hospital Medicine, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-CARE (2273)
Fax: 256-739-6027

CPC NEUROLOGY
Main Office: CPC Neurology, 1800 Alabama Hwy 157, Ste. 100, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-CARE (2273)
Fax: 256-739-6027
Location Hours: Office hours are Monday – Thursday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Driving Directions: Located on the campus of CRMC, POB III, 1st floor

CPC NUTRITION SERVICES
Main Office: CPC Nutrition Services, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Ste. 203, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-CARE (2273)
Fax: 256-739-6027
Location Hours: Consults available by appointment
Driving Directions: Located on the campus of CRMC, POB III, 2nd Floor

CPC OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY
Main Office: CPC OB/GYN, 1800 AL Hwy 157, POB III, Ste. 302, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-6224
Fax: 256-736-6226
Location Hours: Monday – Thursday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Driving Directions: Located on the campus of CRMC POB III, 3rd floor

CPC ORTHOPEDICS & SPORTS MEDICINE
Main Office: CPC Orthopedics & Sports Medicine, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Ste. 100, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-5505
Fax: 256-736-5551
Location Hours: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Driving Directions: Located on the campus of CRMC, POB III, 1st floor

CPC PEDIATRICS (COMING FALL 2019)
Main Office: CPC Pediatrics, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Cullman, AL, 35058
Phone: 256-736-CARE (2273)
Fax: 256-739-6027
Location Hours: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Driving Directions: Located on the campus of CRMC, POB III

CPC PULMONOLOGY
Main Office: CPC Pulmonology, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Ste. 100, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-255-1161
Fax: 256-255-1162
Location Hours: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Driving Directions: Located on the campus of CRMC, POB III, 1st floor

CPC PSYCHIATRY
Main Office: CPC Psychiatry, 101 2nd Ave SE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-739-4910
Fax: 256-739-9455
Hours: Monday – Thursday Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Driving Directions: Located directly across the street from the Sacred Heart Catholic School

CPC SLEEP MEDICINE AND FAMILY PRACTICE
Main Office: CPC Sleep Medicine and Family Practice
Primary Location: 1800 AL Highway 157, POB III, Ste. 303, Cullman, AL 35058
Secondary Location: 8489 Madison Blvd, Madison, AL
Phone: 256-775-1090
Fax: 256-736-6228
Hours: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Driving Directions (Cullman location): Located on the Campus of CRMC POB III, 3rd floor
Driving Directions (Madison location): Located off of Madison Boulevard

CPC URGENT CARE CENTER
Main Office: CPC Urgent Care, 1406 Wall Street NE, Cullman, Alabama 35058
Phone: (256) 736-2856
Fax: 256-736-2867
Location Hours: 7 Days a week Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. & Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Driving Directions: Located behind Regions Bank on Highway 157

CPC Women's Center

Health is a primary concern for women in all aspects and stages of their lives. Cullman Primary Care Women's Center provides comprehensive and compassionate medical care each step of the way.

CPC Women's Center specialists are ready to address the full scope of female medical issues, ranging from a teenage girl's first visit to her gynecologist to an older woman's expectations after menopause. Pregnancy, breast and gynecologic cancer, heart health, birth control, mental health, fitness and more are all within the scope of expertise offered by professionals at Cullman Primary Care Women's Center.

For those seeking specialized care, CPC Women's Center offers the convenience and comfort of innovative treatments and the latest technologies including 4D Ultrasonography and Urodynamics. Our physicians and specially trained staff members not only see patients for their routine female exams and normal pregnancies, they also treat patients with high-risk pregnancies, fertility challenges, gynecologic cancer, pelvic floor disorders and menopause, among other symptoms.

CPC Women's Center continuum of care is extended at Cullman Regional Medical Center and is devoted to women as well as their newborns. Services include labor and delivery, newborn nursery, postpartum unit and women's surgical suites.

Urodynamics
Our OB/GYN, Dr. Thomas Richard does Urodynamic testing in his office at POB III. Urodynamic testing is a procedure that looks at how well the bladder, sphincters, and urethra are storing and releasing urine. Urodynamic tests can also show whether the bladder is having involuntary contractions that cause urine leakage. You may need testing should you have symptoms such as:

- urine leakage
- frequent urination
- painful urination
- sudden, strong urges to urinate
- problems starting a urine stream
- problems emptying the bladder completely
- recurrent urinary tract infections

To schedule an appointment, call 256-736-6224.

Breast Health
Routine care is the best way to keep you and your body healthy. CPC Women's Center specialists provide compassionate and comprehensive diagnose and treatment for women of all ages. Our Physicians recommend screening Mammograms for their patients who qualify.

These tests are provided by our CPC Diagnostic Center and all studies are read by a certified Radiologist and reports are returned to your physician within 48 hours. Detecting breast cancer at its earliest stage is the main goal of routine screenings, other benign conditions, such as fibrocystic breasts or cysts, are often discovered during routine care.

Gynecology
Our physicians take a multidisciplinary and sensitive approach to evaluating and treating female health issues, especially the reproductive system.

General gynecologic care includes wellness exams for children, teens and women; family planning/contraception; and evaluation and treatment for disorders, including, but not limited to, abnormal pap smears, basic infertility, hormone imbalances, chronic pelvic pain, cervical dysplasia and vulvar and vaginal disorders.

Pregnancy
When it comes to the health of a pregnant woman and her unborn baby, nothing in North Alabama matches the quality and scope of care and services provided by CPC Women's Center. Obstetric specialists oversee the medical needs of the mom-to-be from the earliest days of pregnancy (prenatal) to delivery and after (postnatal).

Our Physicians and their compassionate staff are excited to be going through this journey of your pregnancy with you every step of the way.

Ultrasound
Cullman Primary Care OB/GYN offers Ultrasound services throughout your pregnancy.

You will be asked to make separate appointments for these scans so that the techs will have adequate time to get the best pictures they can of your baby.

Meet the faces of Cullman Primary Care Multi-Specialty Group

PRIMARY CARE

B. Gregory Bostick, M.D.
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 408 Clark Street NE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-734-3202
Fax: 256-734-4668



EDUCATION
- Medical School: University of Alabama School of Medicine – Birmingham, AL (1979)
- University of Alabama – (Bachelor of Science) Magna Cum Laude – Tuscaloosa, AL (1975)
- Residency: Naval Aerospace & Regional Medical Center – Pensacola, FL (1979-1982) and Chief Resident (1981-1982)
- Fellowship: Post Residency Experience – Naval Regional Medical Center – Memphis, TN (1982-1985) and Department Chairman (1984-1985)

Christopher Daniel Coccia, D.O.
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 408 Clark Street NE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-734-3202
Fax: 256-734-4668



EDUCATION
- Medical School: University of Osteopathic Medicine & Health Science, Doctor of Osteopathy – Des Moines, IA (1997)
- University of Osteopathic Medicine & Health Sciences – Masters in Healthcare Administration – Des Moines, IA (1997)
- Villanova University – Villinova, PA (1986)
- Internship: Wilson Regional Medical Center – Johnson City, NY (1998)
- Residency: Wilson Regional Medical Center – Johnson City, NY (2000)
- Fellowship: Masters in Health Care Administration-University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences

Angelia Elliott, M.D.
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 408 Clark Street NE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-734-3202
Fax: 256-734-4668



EDUCATION
- Medical School: University of Alabama School of Medicine – Birmingham, AL (1998)
- Family Practice: Medical Center East – Birmingham, AL (1998-2001)

Rick Gober, M.D.
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Suite 101 POB III, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-739-4131
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- Samford University – Birmingham, AL (1972)
- Medical School: University of Alabama School of Medicine – Birmingham, AL (1975)
- Internship: Druid City Hospital – Tuscaloosa, AL (1976)
- Residency: Druid City Hospital – Tuscaloosa, AL (1976)

Alan Jamison Hanley, M.D. (Coming April 2019)
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Suite 101 POB III, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-739-4131
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- Undergraduate: Louisiana State University – Baton Rouge, LA (1990)
- Medical School: Louisiana State University Medical Center – Shreveport, LA (1994)
- Residency: University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa, AL (1997)

Joe T. Johnson, M.D.
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Suite 101 POB III, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-739-4131
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- Medical School: Samford University – Birmingham, AL
- University of Alabama School of Medicine – Birmingham, AL
- Residency: Family Practice Residency – Druid City Hospital, Tuscaloosa, AL

Joseph R. Jowers, M.D.
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Suite 101 POB III, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-739-4131
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- Medical School: University of Alabama School of Medicine – Birmingham, AL (1998)
- Residency: Carraway Methodist Medical Center – Birmingham, AL (2001)

G. Michael Machen, M.D.
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Suite 101 POB III, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-739-4131
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- Medical School: University of Alabama School of Medicine – Birmingham, AL (1983)
- Internship: Druid City Hospital – Tuscaloosa, AL (1984)
- Residency: Druid City Hospital – Tuscaloosa, AL (1986)

Tom Montgomery, M.D.
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 408 Clark Street NE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-734-3202
Fax: 256-734-4668



EDUCATION
- Medical School: University of Mississippi Medical Center – Jackson, MS (1981)
- Internship: Huntsville Hospital – Huntsville, AL (1982)
- Residency: Huntsville Hospital – Huntsville, AL (1984)

Randall Quinn, M.D.
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 408 Clark Street NE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-734-3202
Fax: 256-734-4668



EDUCATION
- Medical School: University of Alabama School of Medicine – Birmingham, AL (2003)
- Internship: Druid City Hospital – Tuscaloosa, AL (2004)
- Residency: Tuscaloosa Family Medicine – Tuscaloosa, AL (2006)

Justin Rushing, M.D. (Coming 2020)
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Suite 101 POB III, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-739-4131
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- Medical School: University of Alabama in Huntsville – Huntsville, AL (2012)
- Auburn University – Auburn, AL (2013)
- University of Alabama School of Medicine – Birmingham, AL (2017)
- Family Medicine Residency: Floyd Medical Center – Rome, GA (Presently – Aug. 2020)

Michael Schendel, M.D.
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 408 Clark Street NE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-734-3202
Fax: 256-734-4668
Phone: 256-734-3202



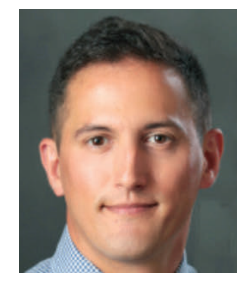
EDUCATION
- Medical School: Louisiana State University – New Orleans, LA (1978)
- Internship: Earl Long Memorial Hospital – Baton Rouge, LA (1979)
- Residency: Earl Long Memorial Hospital – Baton Rouge, LA (1981)

David Shupe, DO
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 408 Clark Street NE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-734-3202
Fax: 256-734-4668



EDUCATION
- Medical School: Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia Campus – Suwanee, GA
- University of Georgia – Athens, GA
- Residency: McLeod Family Medicine Residency – Florence, SC

William "Randy" Turner, Jr., M.D. (Coming 2020)
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Suite 101 POB III, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-739-4131
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- Medical School: Auburn University – Auburn, AL (2007 and 2013)
- University of Alabama School of Medicine – Birmingham, AL (2017)
- Residency: UAB Huntsville Family Medicine Residency Program – Huntsville, AL (Presently until June 2020)

Tammy Cornelius, CRNP
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Suite 101 POB III, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-739-4131
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- Nursing School: Wallace State Community College – Hanceville, AL (1992)
- University of Alabama in Huntsville – Huntsville, AL (1996 and 2007)

Jenny Weissend Doss, CRNP
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Suite 101 POB III, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-739-4131
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- Nursing School: Wallace State Community College – Hanceville, AL (1992)
- University of Alabama in Huntsville – Huntsville, AL (2003 and 2004)

April Robertson, CRNP
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Suite 101 POB III, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-739-4131
Fax: 256-739-6027



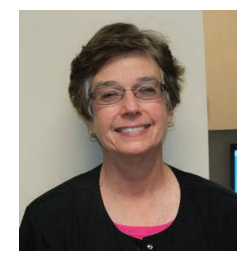
EDUCATION
- Nursing School: Auburn University – Auburn, AL (1999)
- University of Alabama at Huntsville – Huntsville, AL (2012)
- University of Alabama in Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (2012 and 2014)

Jamie Sims, MSN, FNP-C
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 408 Clark Street NE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-734-3202
Fax: 256-734-4668



EDUCATION
- Nursing School: Wallace State Community College – Hanceville, AL (2002)
- University of Alabama in Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (2012)
- Troy University – Troy, AL (2016)

Sharon Lynn Walker Turner, CRNP (Home Visits)
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 408 Clark Street NE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-734-3202
Fax: 256-734-4668



EDUCATION
- Nursing School: East Carolina University School of Nursing – Greenville, SC (1975)
- University of Alabama in Birmingham School of Nursing – Birmingham, AL (1990)

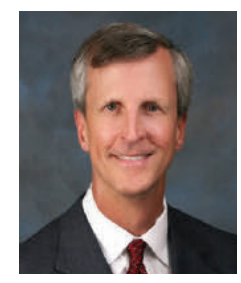
Justin Wilson, CRNP
Main Office: CPC Primary Care, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Suite 101 POB III, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-739-4131
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- Nursing School: Wallace State Community College – Hanceville, AL (2011)
- Jacksonville State University – Jacksonville, AL (2016)
- University of Alabama at Huntsville – Huntsville, AL (2018)

DIAGNOSTIC CENTER

Van R. Wadlington, M.D.
Main Office: CPC Diagnostic Center, 501 Clark St. NE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-739-9898
Fax: 256-739-9556



EDUCATION
- Medical School: Vanderbilt University – Vanderbilt, Tenn. (1982 and 1987)
- Internship: General Surgery Internship at Baylor University (1988)
- Residency: Diagnostic Radiology Resident at Northwestern University Medical Center (1992)
- Fellowship: Fellowship in Neuroradiology-University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, Fellowship in Interventional Neuroradiology at George Washington University Medical Center and Affiliated Hospitals (1993 and 1994)

HOSPITAL MEDICINE

Hassan Mohiuddin, M.D.
Main Office: CPC Hospital Medicine, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-CARE (2273)
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- University of Alabama – Birmingham, AL (2006)
- Davenport University – Grand Rapids, MI (2009)
- St. Matthews University – Cayman Islands, BWI (2011)
- Medical School: Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare – Tallahassee, FL (2014)

Jennifer Anderson, CRNP
Main Office: CPC Hospital Medicine, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-CARE (2273)
Fax: 256-739-6027



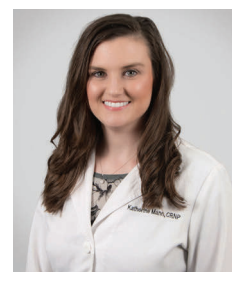
EDUCATION
- Nursing School: Wallace State Community College – Hanceville, AL (2004)
- Jacksonville State University – Jacksonville, AL (2015)
- University of Alabama in Huntsville (2016)

Ashley Drake, CRNP
Main Office: CPC Hospital Medicine, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-CARE (2273)
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- Wallace State Community College – Hanceville, AL (2009)
- Jacksonville State University – Jacksonville, AL (2013)
- University of Alabama at Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (2015)

Katherine Mann, CRNP
Main Office: CPC Hospital Medicine, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-CARE (2273)
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- Nursing School: University of Alabama in Huntsville (2011, 2013)

NEUROLOGY

Rodney Soto, M.D.
Main Office: CPC Neurology, 1800 Alabama Hwy 157, Ste. 100, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-CARE (2273)
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- Medical School: University of Guayaquil School of Medicine – Guayaquil-Ecuador
- Medical Internship: Guayaquil City Hospital Guayaquil-Ecuador
- Internal Medicine: Catholic Medical Center of Brooklyn and Queens – Jamaica, NY
- Neurology Residency: Medical University of South Carolina – Charleston, SC
- Vascular and Critical Care Neurology Fellowship: Comprehensive Stroke Center – UAB – Birmingham, AL
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging Fellowship: Medical Resources Inc. and The American Society of Neuroimaging

Amanda Adcock, CRNP
Main Office: CPC Neurology, 1800 Alabama Hwy 157, Ste. 100, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-CARE (2273)
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- University of North Alabama – Florence, AL (1996-1999)
- Calhoun Community College – Calhoun, AL (2002-2003)
- Bevill State Community College – Jasper, AL (2004-2005)
- Medical School: University of Alabama in Huntsville Huntsville, AL (2012-2014)

NUTRITION SERVICES

Debra Morrison, MS, RD, LD
Main Office: CPC Nutrition Services, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Suite 203, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-2273
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- The University of Montevallo – Montevallo, AL (1977)
- Medical School: The University of Alabama Tuscaloosa, AL (1992 and 1996)

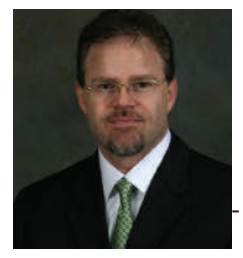
OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Taylor Massengill, M.D. (Coming 2020)
Main Office: CPC OB/GYN, 1800 AL Hwy 157, POB III, Ste. 302, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-6224
Fax: 256-736-6226



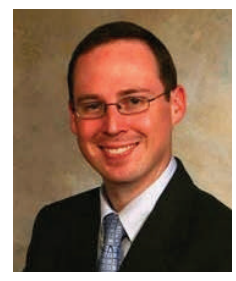
EDUCATION
- The University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa, AL (2011)
- Medical School: University of Alabama School of Medicine at Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (2016)
- University of Mississippi Medical Center – Jackson, MS (2020)

Thomas Richard, M.D.
Main Office: CPC OB/GYN, 1800 AL Hwy 157, POB III, Ste. 302, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-6224
Fax: 256-736-6226



EDUCATION
- Medical School: University of Alabama School of Medicine - Birmingham, AL (1993)
- Residency: Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation New Orleans, LA (1997)

Shane L. Sheffield, M.D.
Main Office: CPC OB/GYN, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Ste. 302, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-6224
Fax: 256-736-6226



EDUCATION
- Medical School: Doctorate of Medicine-University of Alabama School of Medicine (2003)
- Internship: Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN
- Residency: Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis TN

John Wideman, M.D.
Main Office: CPC OB/GYN, 1800 AL Hwy 157, POB III, Ste. 302, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-6224
Fax: 256-736-6226



EDUCATION
- Medical School: University of Alabama School of Medicine - Birmingham, AL (1995)
- Residency: Tulane University School of Medicine New Orleans, LA (1999)

Wendy Shaw, CNM
Main Office: CPC OB/GYN, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Ste. 302, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-736-6224
Fax: 256-736-6226



EDUCATION
- Auburn University – Auburn, AL (1998)
- University of Alabama in Huntsville – Huntsville, AL (2002)
- Medical School: Frontier School of Nurse Midwifery and Family Nursing (2010)

GYN ONLY

Howard F. Williamson, M.D.
Main Office: CPC OB/GYN, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Ste. 302, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-6224
Fax: 256-736-6226



EDUCATION
- Medical School: University of Alabama-Birmingham School of Medicine (1974)
- Internship: Internal Medicine Internship: Carraway Methodist Medical Center, Birmingham, AL (1975)
- Residency: Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency: Carraway Methodist Medical Center, Birmingham, AL (1975-1978)

ORTHOPEDICS & SPORTS MEDICINE

Connor A. Ojard, M.D. (Coming Fall 2020)
Main Office: CPC Orthopedics & Sports Medicine, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Ste. 100, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-5505
Fax: 256-736-5551



EDUCATION
- Samford University – Birmingham, AL (2011)
- Medical School: University of Alabama School of Medicine at Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (2015)
- Residency: Orthopedic Surgery Residency, Ochsner Clinic Foundation – New Orleans, La. (2015-Current)

John Eugene Songer, M.D.
Main Office: CPC Orthopedics & Sports Medicine, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Ste. 100, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-736-5505
Fax: 256-736-5551



EDUCATION
- Medical School: Jefferson Medical College Philadelphia, PA (1982) and Penn State University University Park, PA (1979)
- Internship: Allegheny General Hospital – Pittsburgh, PA (1984)
- Residency: Orlando Regional Medical Center Orlando, FL (1988)

PEDIATRICS (Coming Fall 2019)

Andrew L. Jones, M.D.
Main Office: CPC Pediatrics, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Cullman, AL, 35058
Phone: 256-736-CARE (2273)
Fax: 256-739-6027



EDUCATION
- Medical School: University of Alabama School of Medicine at Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (2016)
- Medical Residency: University of Louisville – Louisville, KY (2019)

PULMONOLOGY

Karl T. Schroeder, M.D.
Main Office: CPC Pulmonology, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Ste. 100, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-255-1161
Fax: 256-255-1162



EDUCATION
- University of Montevallo – Montevallo, AL (2003)
- Medical School: University of South Alabama – Montgomery, AL (2007)
- Intern: University of South Alabama Internal Medicine – Mobile, AL (2008)
- Resident: University of South Alabama Internal Medicine – Mobile, AL (2010)
- Fellowship: University of South Alabama Pulmonary/Critical Care – Mobile, AL (2013)

Melanie Beth Walker, MSN, RN
Main Office: CPC Pulmonology, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Ste. 100, Cullman, AL 35058
Phone: 256-255-1161
Fax: 256-255-1162



EDUCATION
- Nursing School: Wallace State Community College (1991)
- University of Alabama in Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (2012)
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of Alabama School of Medicine at Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (2017)

PSYCHIATRY

Daniel T. Meadows, Jr., M.D.
Main Office: CPC Psychiatry, 101 2nd Ave SE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-739-4910
Fax: 256-739-9455



EDUCATION
- Medical School: University of Alabama in Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (1972)
- University of South Alabama – Mobile, AL (1976)
- Flexible Internship: Brooke Army Medical Center – San Antonio, TX (1977)
- Psychiatric Residency: Eisenhower Army Medical Center – Fort Gordon, GA (1980)

Katie Thrower, M.D.
Main Office: CPC Psychiatry, 101 2nd Ave SE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-739-4910
Fax: 256-739-9455



EDUCATION
- University of Alabama School of Medicine at Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (2009)
- M.S., Human Environmental Sciences, University of Alabama School of Medicine at Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (2010)
- Medical School: University of Alabama School of Medicine at Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (2014)
- Psychiatry Residency: University of Alabama School of Medicine at Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (2018)

Clark Still, LPC
Main Office: CPC Psychiatry, 101 2nd Ave SE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-739-4910
Fax: 256-739-9455



EDUCATION
- Wallace State Community College – Hanceville, AL (1986)
- Samford University – Birmingham, AL (1989)
- The University of Alabama in Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (1994)

Kathy Tanner, LCSW, PIP
Main Office: CPC Psychiatry, 101 2nd Ave SE, Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-739-4910
Fax: 256-739-9455



EDUCATION
- Georgia State University – Atlanta, GA (1993)
- Barry University – Miami, FL (1995)

SLEEP MEDICINE AND FAMILY PRACTICE

Mark Tafazoli, MD
Main Office: CPC Sleep Medicine and Family Practice
Primary Location: 1800 AL Highway 157, POB III, Ste. 303, Cullman, AL 35058
Secondary Location: 8489 Madison Blvd, Madison, AL
Phone: 256-775-1090
Fax: 256-736-6228



EDUCATION
- Medical School: American University of the Caribbean School of Medical - Carol Gables, FL (1998)
- Internship: Montgomery Family Practice - Montgomery, AL (1999)
- Residency: Montgomery Family Practice – Montgomery, AL (2001)
- Fellowship in Sleep Medicine: Healthsouth Medical Center – Birmingham, AL (2005-2006)

Amber Nelson, CRNP
Main Office: Cullman Primary Care Sleep Medicine and Family Practice
Primary Location: 1800 AL Highway 157, POB III, Ste. 303, Cullman, AL 35058
Secondary Location: 8489 Madison Blvd, Madison, AL
Phone: 256-775-1090
Fax: 256-736-6228



EDUCATION
- Nursing School: Auburn University – Auburn, AL (1999)
- University of Alabama at Huntsville – Huntsville, AL (2012)
- University of Alabama in Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (2012 and 2014)

URGENT CARE

Justin Bates, CRNP
Main Office: CPC Urgent Care, 1406 Wall Street NE, Cullman, Alabama 35058
Phone: 256-736-2856
Fax: 256-736-2867



EDUCATION
- Medical School: Bevill State Community College – Jasper, AL (2008)
- Wallace State Community College – Hanceville, AL (2010)
- Jacksonville State University – Jacksonville, AL (2012)
- University of Alabama at Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (2014)

Mark L. Smith, CRNP
Main Office: CPC Urgent Care, 1406 Wall Street NE, Cullman, Alabama 35058
Phone: (256) 736-2856
Fax: 256-736-2867



EDUCATION
- Nursing School: Walker College – Jasper, AL (1988)
- University of Alabama at Birmingham – Birmingham, AL (1994)
- Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing at Stanford University – Birmingham, AL (2003)
- University of Alabama in Birmingham – Birmingham, AL

Welcome New Providers

Meet CPC Psychiatrist, Dr. Katie Thrower

CULLMAN – CPC Psychiatry has had the pleasure of Dr. Katie Thrower, a native of Cullman, at the practice since July 2018. It has been a seemingly smooth transition for all involved as CPC Psychiatry was the young doctor's first choice. Dr. Thrower was interested into giving back to the community where she grew up.

"I chose CPC specifically because their leadership seemed to care deeply about our community and improving access to mental health care. They encouraged me to schedule appointments so that I had time to truly treat each patient instead of trying to squeeze in a patient every ten minutes," said Dr. Thrower. "CPC also offered me the ability to join an established psychiatrist who has been practicing in the community for many years as well as two knowledgeable psychiatric nurses and two very skilled in house therapists. In psychiatry, it is necessary to have a team approach to form a comprehensive treatment plan with both medication management and individual therapy for each patient."

She graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a Bachelor of Science in Biology with minors in chemistry and psychology. She then continued her education by earning a Master of Science in Human Environmental Sciences from the University of Alabama.

"I have been fascinated by the psychopathology involved in mental health disorders throughout undergraduate, medical school, and residency. Psychiatric disorders are complex and can be affected by underlying genetic predispositions, pathology, and life stressors. Mental health affects every person whether directly or through a loved one," she said.

"Unfortunately, there is a shortage of mental health providers especially in rural Alabama. I grew up in Cullman and could think of no better place to offer a small amount of aid with this shortage. I chose CPC specifically because their leadership seemed to care deeply about our community and improving access to mental health care."

One of her greatest accomplishments occurred while pursuing her medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine. This is where she became the recipient of a prestigious award for excellence in psychiatry, along with another distinction.

"I received the Peter Bryce Award for Excellence in Psychiatry during medical school and was awarded the Psychiatric Ambassador Award during residency. I was also honored to serve as Chief Resident for the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology for two years which was an incredibly demanding role but allowed me the opportunity to become a better leader," she said.

"I am also board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. I have worked hard for and have been incredibly appreciative of these accolades but would say my greatest achievement is being able to use my training to help improve my patients' lives. As I stated previously, mental health disorders are complex and can sometimes be difficult to treat. It also takes time to see improvement with many psychiatric illnesses which can be frustrating for both me and my patients, but seeing so many become more functional and then thrive is, for me, my greatest accomplishment," she concluded.

She completed her psychiatry residency at the University of Alabama Hospital where she served as Chief Resident for the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology for two years.

While a private person by nature and by practice, Dr. Thrower enjoys spending time with an incredibly supportive (and just all around incredible) husband, who she's been married to for almost seven years. The couple have a beautiful daughter and two dogs.

"I chose to stay around Cullman so I could stay close to my family," she said.



Dr. Katie Thrower, Board Certified Psychiatrist

