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– FAITH –

Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament celebrates 20 years



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Fr. Joseph Wolfe talks about the history of the Shrine during the Christmas Open House Saturday. » PAGE 3

FAITH

A sense of the divine: Ave Maria Grotto lit up for Christmas

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – For the first time in its 85-year history, the Ave Maria Grotto at St. Bernard Abbey was decked out in Christmas lights for festive evening visits. The Grotto unveiled this addition Friday, Dec. 20. Sunday's event was rained out, but two dates were added: Thursday and Friday, Dec. 26-27, from 5-9 p.m.

Roger Steele, the Grotto's director, said he and his wife made the decision to start working on the project during the first few days of December and only lit up about half of the Grotto for the project's inaugural year.

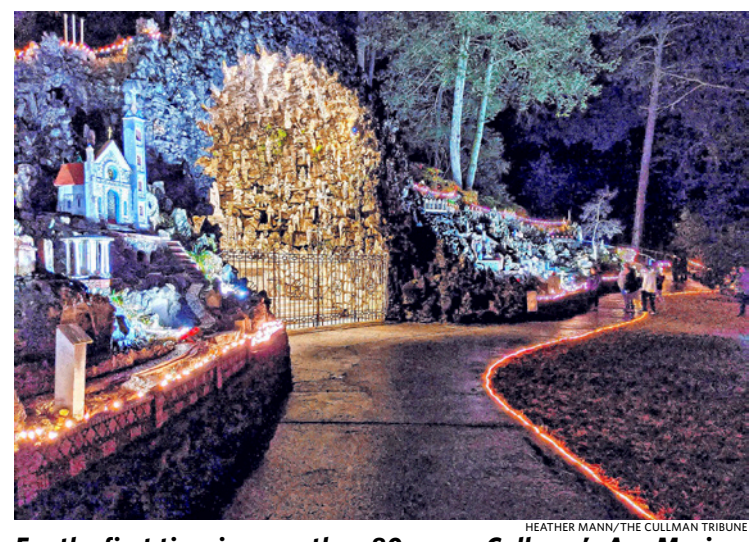
However, he hopes that it will become an annual tradition for the whole Grotto to be lit up all month instead of just one or two weekends.

"We've had some of the monks walk through and they say it's like seeing it for the very first time," Steele commented.

"It took us about two and a half or three weeks to get all the lights up, but what we've tried to do is create an atmosphere where you can get a sense of the divine."

Steele said he was pleased with the turnout, in spite of the rain.

He hopes that as » PAGE 2



HEATHER MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

For the first time in more than 80 years, Cullman's Ave Maria Grotto was lit at night and dressed with Christmas lights.

City, County holiday hours and sanitation schedules » PAGE 2

(BONUS) PET OF THE WEEK

Have yourself a Curly little Christmas!

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman County Animal Shelter's Donna Ruttkay shares a bonus Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week:



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Curly

Curly is a shepherd mix who's approximately 1.5-1.75-years-old. He's a lively but not hyper medium-energy pet with a soft temperament. He's intelligent and attentive to his humans, and is developing his leash skills. And if you enjoy backyard sports, he's a ball player!

Ruttkay said, "This sweet fellow was rescued by a Good Samaritan. They held him overnight. She indicated he was quiet in his kennel and liked to be petted."

Curly has the makings of a good hiking, companion or therapy dog, and the shelter considers him a good prospect for obedience training.

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

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

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

Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmancountyanimalshelter@gmail.com. Visit the shelter at 935 Convent Road NE.

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OPINION

Op-ed: Mental health and substance abuse

Rep. Randall Shedd
Contributor

Holidays are exciting times for many but tough for some.

For some, holidays are tough because of the loss of loved ones. Those of us who experience this sadness have to enjoy our good memories and focus on our loved ones still with us.

Then, there are many who are lonely, not just during the holidays but every day. Especially some senior citizens.

If you know someone who doesn't have family, a phone call, a visit would be priceless and the best gift they could get!

And then there are a number of people suffering from daily and severe mental health issues.

Access to mental health care

Alabama is facing federal court action that requires our prison system to correct its lack of mental health care for inmates.

I support solving that problem. But, we shouldn't stop there! We have to address mental health for all residents of Alabama, not just our prison population.

Governor Kay Ivey, Speaker of the House Mac McCutcheon, House Majority Leader Nathaniel Ledbetter and House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels will be leading the way in the coming 2020 Legislative Session for meaningful solutions to Alabama's mental health problems.

It's a priority this coming year!

Representative Ledbetter has assembled a working group, including some legislators, to work on the issue before the session begins. The Cullman legislative delegation is heavily involved. I am honored to be a part of this working group.

This past legislative session, Senator Garlan Gudger and I sponsored and passed one piece of mental health legislation that mental health professionals and probate judges told us would help.

One thing we learned dealing with our legislative colleagues on that legislation is that our legislative colleagues are hungry for solutions to our state's mental health problems.

Hopefully, this is the year for access to meaningful mental health care.

Substance abuse and treatment

Substance abuse is a national epidemic and has hit almost every family in our state.

The heartache and pain it has caused is unmeasurable.

A slew of federal funds is now available to address substance abuse. That's good, but it also means we have to make sure they are properly used for the right reasons.

Funding needs to go for addiction treatment that has a successful track record, and we have a responsibility to see that it does.

We have to find mental health and substance abuse solutions and this upcoming legislative session is the opportunity. We don't need to miss the opportunity to solve this problem.

Thank y'all for letting me represent you in Montgomery!

Randall Shedd
District 11, Alabama
House of Representatives
1461 Welcome Road
Cullman, AL 35058
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Email: randallshedd@icloud.com

OPINION

December 24 – The Incarnation

Tom Fillinger
Tribune Correspondent

Isaiah 9:6-7 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this."

Matthew 1:18-23 "Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel.'" (which means, God with us).

Luke 2:29-32 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

Revelation 22:6-7 "And he said to me, 'These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place. And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.'"

Acts 17:29-31 "Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Jude 1:24-25 "Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."

Schedules (from Front)

Heath Stewart, Leanne West

Cullman County holiday closings and sanitation schedules
Cullman County offices will be CLOSED Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 24-25, 2019 in observance of Christmas and will be CLOSED Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2019 & Jan. 1, 2020 in observance of New Year's.

Sanitation schedule:
- Mon, Dec. 23, 2019, pick-up of Monday's route
- Tues, Dec. 24, 2019, pickup of Tuesday's route
- Wed, Dec. 25, 2019, NO PICKUP
- Thurs, Dec. 26, 2019, pickup of Wednesday's route
- Fri, Dec. 27, 2019, pickup of Thursday's route
- Sat, Dec. 28, 2019, pick-up of Friday's route
- Sanitation will run the usual routes Monday, Dec. 30, 2019 through Friday, Jan. 3, 2020.

City of Cullman holiday closings and sanitation schedules
City of Cullman offices will be CLOSED Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 24-25, 2019 for Christmas.

Sanitation schedule:
Sanitation will run as normal Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2019. There will be no trash pickup on Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2019. Wednesday's route will be run on Thursday (Dec. 26, 2019), and Thursday's route will be run on Friday (Dec. 27, 2019).

Grotto (from Front)

this event goes on throughout the years, it will grow to be as big as the annual Bloomin' Festival.

"We kinda started small, but we have large aspirations," he said.

Christmas at the Grotto admission rates are $6 for adults, $3 for students and free for children younger than 3.

Find out more at www.facebook.com/events/2396134883987512/ or www.facebook.com/avemariagrotto/.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
Dec. 24 - 26

TUESDAY, DEC. 24
Happy Christmas Eve!

Cards in The Park
Cards in The Park Display (Dec. 7-31), Governor's Park in Holly Pond

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church Children's Christmas Pageant
The stage is set (literally!) for the return of the annual Sacred Heart of Jesus Church Children's Christmas Pageant during the parish's 4 p.m. vigil Mass on Christmas Eve. Directed by Monica Windham and Natalie Hilb, and featuring traditional Christmas music by the Sacred Heart Family Choir, the pageant offers a cute-as-can-be retelling of the Nativity story with Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, angels, shepherds and wise men, along with scripture readings by child lectors.

West Point Community Candlelight Service
- 5-5:45 p.m. at West Point Baptist Church, 140 County Road 1242, Cullman, AL 35057
- Join us for a special holiday celebration! We will sing some Christmas favorites and hear the Christmas story retold. Experience the warm glow of light as we each hold our candles high. There is no better way to begin your family celebration!

Christmas Eve Singles Cornhole Tournament
- 5-9 p.m. at Goat Island Brewing, 1646-A John H. Cooper Dr. SE, Cullman
- Come join us for a singles cornhole tournament. Santa will still come after you take everyone's money. It will be double elimination, best 2 of 3 in the winners' bracket, and one and done in the losers' bracket, so you are guaranteed 3 games! We will be there early, so come practice! Registration starts at 5 p.m. Bags will fly at 6.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25
Merry Christmas!

Cards in The Park
Cards in The Park Display (Dec. 7-31), Governor's Park in Holly Pond

THURSDAY, DEC. 26
Cards in The Park
Cards in The Park Display (Dec. 7-31), Governor's Park in Holly Pond

Sportsman Lake Park Winter Wonderland
- 5-9:30 p.m. Guests can drive through the park.
- The schedule for the Sportsman Lake Park Winter Wonderland: December- Wednesday-Sunday: 5-9:30 p.m.; Dec. 26-29- Drive through only: 5-9:30 p.m.
- For more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/395857437714080 or call 256-734-3052.

UPCOMING...
Sportsman Lake Park Winter Wonderland
- 5-9:30 p.m. Guests can drive through the park.
- The schedule for the Sportsman Lake Park Winter Wonderland: December- Wednesday-Sunday: 5-9:30 p.m.; Dec. 26-29- Drive through only: 5-9:30 p.m.
- For more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/395857437714080 or call 256-734-3052.

Cards in The Park
Cards in The Park Display (Dec. 7-31), Governor's Park in Holly Pond

Free Christmas Wagon Rides at The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament
- See the tranquil grounds of the Shrine from a wagon drawn by genuine draft horses.
- Rides will be offered through Dec. 28. To reserve a ride, contact the Shrine at 256-787-4121. The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament is located at 3224 County Road 548, Hanceville, AL 35077.

Rides will be available on the following dates:
- Dec. 27 from 1-5 p.m.
- Dec. 28 from 10-11:30 a.m. and 1-5 p.m.
- For more information, contact the Shrine at 256-352-6267 or 256-787-4121 or visit https://olamshrine.com/.

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Shrine (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament near Hanceville celebrated its 20th anniversary last week. The Shrine was officially dedicated and opened Dec. 19, 1999. During the Shrine's Christmas Open House Saturday, Fr. Joseph Wolfe of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word, which serve the Shrine and Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), talked to guests about the origins and purpose of the international pilgrimage destination: a little about the hows and whens, but more about the whys.

The Shrine began as a monastery for Mother Angelica's Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, whose previous cloister was located in the present headquarters of EWTN in Irondale. Seeking a location that was bigger, quieter and more conducive to contemplation, the sisters had $13,000 (raised through the sale of fishing lures) to spend on property when they located an isolated parcel of land at the end of a winding road in a bend of the Mulberry Fork in south Cullman County. According to Wolfe, the owner's asking price was the exact amount the order had raised.

As construction crews broke ground in the red clay of a former soybean field on the site, they discovered an unexpected patch of white clay, and there Mother Angelica decided to build the monastery's chapel that would become the Shrine church.

Her thought, according to Wolfe, was, "It was something symbolic- this was going to be something special; this was going to be a place where God was going to bless people, because shrines are really to be oases in the desert of the world. It's to be a place where you come and you encounter God, and you're given renewed strength for the journey of life, which isn't always easy.

"You know, Mother said to me one time- we were here, she was looking toward the Temple, and she said, 'You know, that place is to be a place where people come and they encounter the Lord.' They meet the Lord. We preserve silence there. We only have the morning Mass, typically, up there. The rest of the day is silent adoration. But it's preserved for people just to enter into silence."

Citing writings of Cardinal Robert Sarah, Wolfe explained, "We live in such a noisy world, and we fill our heads with so much noise, and we need that silence to be able to hear the voice of God. That's preserved upstairs where people can just go there."

Two miles of white fence

The first thing visitors notice when they approach the Shrine is a long stretch of mostly undeveloped land on either side of the road, bounded by white fences.

Wolfe explained: "(Mother Angelica) wanted that 2 miles of white fence that you see as you come in. Originally, that wasn't the property of the monastery, but Mother wanted a buffer, she called it, so that there wouldn't just be buildings and noisy things, if you will, coming all the way up to the front gate, but that you had a sense that you're coming to some place apart, that you can leave your troubles behind.

"She said to me once, 'You know, the largeness of this place makes your problems seem smaller, because you're here, you're in the beauty of God's creation, you're in the beauty of His Church. That's the place to encounter God.'

"The Castle (San Miguel) is to show us how to then go out and live our faith with courage like St. Joan of Arc, knowing that we have the angels like St. Michael to help us, and to have virtue and valor like the knights of old as we confront and struggle in the world we face today.

"So that 2 miles of white fence is a time just to enter into some place apart, some place distinct from our noisy lives and noisy world, where we can just come here and we can rest for a while and find rest for our souls and rest in the Lord's presence. Just being in His presence is healing."

Christmas year-round: the Creche

A small chapel projects from the side of a low man-made hill between Castle San Miguel and the Temple, inside of which is a nativity set like few have ever seen. A collection of well-known Fontanini figures, these differ from the norm by being made on a 50-inch scale, over half actual life size.

Wolfe told his audience, "Just around the corner you see that chapel there. (Mother Angelica) wanted, all year round, that there would be a life-size nativity scene so that we could always reflect on the incarnation. And again, the incarnation: with our human logic, our calculations, what's-in-it-for-me kind of mentality, we can't understand God doing such a thing. But if we think with the logic of love, like a Mother Teresa spending her life picking up the destitute out of the gutters, where does that love come from to do something like that? Maybe I can do it for a day or two, but for your whole life? But St. Therese, her patron, said, 'Love stoops down to pick up.' And when we see someone like Mother Teresa, we say, 'Well, there's some source greater than her for that love,' and that love is from God. If we think with the logic of love, we can understand the incarnation. Mother wanted a life-size nativity scene, which is right through that window."

The creche has a more recently added chapel because, according to Wolfe, "She wanted (visitors) to really reflect on the incarnation, that God had become man. And so, they added that chapel. You have a sense when you go in there, you're going into a cave. She wanted the stone in the floor to come from the river that surrounds here, so they brought up that stone. Then you have Christmas music playing, singing of the incarnation."

Colonnade and piazza

In front of the Temple stretches a large brick-paved public area that stretches out to the parking lot. Down either side, coming out from the Temple, is a colonnaded walkway, and in the center of the piazza directly in front of the Temple stands a statue of the Child Jesus holding what visitors sometimes mistake for an apple. The object, though, is a representation of what Catholics call the Sacred Heart of Jesus, held out in offering to Shrine pilgrims as they approach.

Wolfe said Mother Angelica feared noise and traffic approaching too near the Shrine, so she ordered, "'There's got to be a piazza here.' So the colonnade, really, like St. Peter's in Rome, is like two arms welcoming and embracing those who come there, and Jesus is holding out His heart to welcome all who come here."

Wolfe shared Catholic teachings on the purposes of a religious shrine, including:

• Memory - Shrines preserve the memory of a historical event. For Mother Angelica and her sisters, the memory behind the Shrine was the Eucharist (Lord's Supper for many Protestants), referred to by Catholics as the "most blessed sacrament," and the coming of God as a child in the person of Jesus Christ. According to Mother Angelica, a vision of the Child Jesus at a shrine in South America led her to add a shrine to the plans for her Cullman County monastery.

• Prophecy - According to Wolfe, the beauty of the Shrine "is just a little glimpse of what the beauty of Heaven is going to be like. It's a prophecy of what our true land is in Heaven; not just grasping for whatever we can get in this earth, but having this faith that can see farther, the much richer destiny that we have than whatever the earth could give us."

• Presence - The Shrine is a place for administration of the Catholic Church's sacraments, as well as a conference and spiritual retreat center, for days or just a few moments. According to Wolfe, "Mother said, 'I want people to go there to experience His presence, to encounter the Lord, and to come here to the castle to be encouraged with new courage and valor like St. Joan of Arc, knowing that the angels like Michael are with us to help us in the struggles of life. And, having valor and courage like the knights of old, that we can go forward then, after we encounter the Lord here, we can go forward with new hope and new courage.'"

The happiest day of her life

Wolfe told his audience, "You know what Mother Angelica said was the happiest day of her life? The day this church was dedicated. Why? She said, 'Because I could give something so beautiful to Him.'

"This whole place: a lot of blood, sweat and tears went into it, a lot of sacrifices; it was very demanding. It would have been a lot easier if Mother had said 'No' to that inspiration. But then, when that day came, she said it was the happiest day of her life, that she could give Him something so beautiful, the One who had given so much beauty to her life, that had taken her from being this teenager who was confused in a divorced home, with a physical problem, and reaching down into her life and revealing His love to her, so that now, she just wanted to love Him in return with everything she had. That's what He had done for her: taken her out of that darkness and confusion, and the misery of that life that seemed to have no meaning or hope. She wondered if God existed, if He did, if He cared. And she experienced it. She was healed physically, but even in a deeper way in her heart.

"And the rest of her life was like, 'I have to tell people. I have to tell others.' And so, this Shrine, really, is pointing to that truth. If He is really present in the Blessed Sacrament in this unique way, profound way, that saints and people throughout history have understood and experienced, and were willing to sacrifice for, if He's really present there, then it would make sense. And He is."

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Obituary Announcements Dec. 24

Dyliska Barnett Rose, 96, of Lynn passed away Friday, Dec. 20, 2019. Dyliska was born May 26, 1923 in Lynn, Alabama to Samuel L. and Dewey Savannah Barnett. Burial was held Monday, Dec. 23, 2019 at Lynn Cemetery, in Lynn, Alabama. Dyliska is survived by her daughter Linda (Jimmy) Garrett; son Robert Neal (Jeanette) Rose; and grandchildren Jimmy Scott Garrett, Dana (Jason) Boren, Kristie Ann Mobley, Connar Mobley, Anna Grace Mobley, Heath Dutton, Jimeni Garrett, Zac Garrett, Lindsey Hallmark, Sam Garrett, and her precious Abby Rose Garrett, whom she raised since birth, Alli Dutton, Harley Sanders, Gage Dutton, Remi Garrett, Brennen Garrett, Chloe Mobley and Lynn Tucker. She was preceded in death by her mother and father Samuel and Dewey Barnett; husband Robert Neal (Bob) Rose Sr; stillborn son Toney; her precious grandson Randy Rose; sisters Chris, Billie, Cratis, Elizabeth, and Jeanett; brother Rayford Barnett; and many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, make donations to the Lynn Cemetery in her honor.

Rev. Frank Desiderio, 62, of Haleyville passed away Friday, Dec. 20, 2019 at UAB Hospital, surrounded by his loving family. Frank was born April 18, 1957 in Jupiter, Florida to Frences Joseph Desiderio, Sr. and Elizabeth Marie Desiderio. He and his wife, LaVerne, pioneered and pastored Living Faith Pentecostal Church of God for 35 years. The service was Sunday, Dec. 22, 2019 at Living Faith Pentecostal Church of God in Haleyville. Rev. Frankie Miller, Rev. Gayle Lombard, Rev. Rodney Hedrick, Rev. Bobby James and Rev. Randy Sudduth will officiate. Burial will be in Winston Memorial Cemetery. Frank is survived by his loving wife of 39 years LaVerne Walters Desiderio; sons Jeremiah (Jennifer) Desiderio and Joseph (Kristynna) Desiderio; daughter Mariam (Colton) Ward; grandchildren Isaiah Desiderio, Brooke Desiderio, Laken Desiderio, Vera Desiderio and Cedar Desiderio; sisters Fran (Jim) Bateman and Betty (James) Gondles; and half-brother Desi Desiderio. He was preceded in death by his father Frences Joseph Desiderio, Sr.; mother Elizabeth Marie Desiderio; sisters Mary Louise Ericson and Rose Ann Rogers; and brother John Michael. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Living Faith Pentecostal Church of God building fund in Rev. Franks' honor.

A Celebration of Life for Ron Lamon, 44, of Vinemont were Sunday, Dec. 22, 2019 at Vinemont First Baptist Church with Bro. Joey Smithson officiating. Ron Lamon passed away Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. He was born April 20, 1975 in Heidelburg, Germany to Ronald and Jeri Lamon. Survivors include his wife Ginger Lamon; son Jackson Lamon; daughter Marley Lamon; mother Jeri Lamon and Moe; father Ronald (Cassandra) Lamon; brother Robert Lamon; step-brother Cameron Fears; step-sister Kaylee Fears; mothers- and fathers-in-law Lynette and John Burt and Calvin and Connie Mize; sister-in-law Kelley (Nick) Mize; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Thomas Rick Cosper, 64, will be at noon Thursday, Dec. 26, 2019 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Cullman City Cemetery, Revs. Chuck Worley and James Parker officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Cosper passed away Friday, Dec. 20, 2019 at Cullman Regional Hospital. He was born March 26, 1955 to Hershel and Odessa Swann Cosper. He was preceded in death by his father; grandparents T.J. and Nellie Cosper and B.W and Ollie Swann. Survivors include his mother Odessa Cosper; wife Kim Cosper; step-daughter Morgan Hudson; sister Debbie (Mark) Lancaster; grandson Wyatt Hudson; nieces Jade and Bailey Lancaster; nephew Justin (Kelli) Lancaster; and a host of family and friends. Visitation will be Thursday from 10 a.m.-noon at Cullman Funeral Home. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

A graveside service for Doris Knight Gorff will be Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2019 at Eastpoint Cumberland Presbyterian Cemetery at 11 a.m. with Phillip Ashley officiating. Doris was preceded in death by her parents Lawrence and JoAnn Knight. She is survived by her husband Lawrence "Skip" Gorff; brother Sam Knight; and brother-in-law Frank Bailey.

Funeral services for Mary Charlotte Guthery, 65, of Hanceville will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 27, 2019 at the chapel of Hanceville Funeral Home with interment following at Hopewell Cemetery. Mary's family will receive friends at the funeral home Thursday evening from 5:30-8 p.m. An assistant superintendent with the City of Cullman, she was born to the late Edward and Alba Shannon Scheinert June 7, 1954 in Cullman and passed Dec. 23, 2019 in Cullman. She leaves behind her husband Herbert Guthery; sons John (Loree) Guthery and Kenneth (Candice) Guthery; grandchildren Trey, Paige, Trinity Grace, Logan Shane, Patience Grace Guthery, Haley Watson, Chandler and Kingsley Brown; great-grandchildren are Kaylyx Layklyn Guthery and Aurora and Sebastian Watson. Also surviving are sisters Pat Smith, Marie Peppers and Gail Pope; and several nephews and nieces.

Private memorial services for Mrs. Patricia Pearson are being planned by her family. Mrs. Pearson went to be with the Lord Dec. 21, 2019 at the age of 63. Mrs. Pearson was born June 23, 1956 to Lee David Wilson and Mary Elna Barnett Wilson. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Larry Pearson; three sisters and three brothers. Mrs. Pearson is survived by her daughter Misty Pearson; granddaughter Faith Rusk; and a host of family and friends. The family asks in lieu of flowers that donations be made to Hanceville Nursing and Rehab Center for their bird houses and feeders and for candy for the residents. Friends may sign the online guest book at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Funeral services for James Coy McBrayer, 91, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, 2019 at Bethlehem West Baptist Church, Revs. Jerry Lake and Tommy Blackwood officiating with interment in Crossroads Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. McBrayer passed away Dec. 21, 2019 at his residence. He was born Feb. 19, 1928 to parents John 'Ebb' and Lily Pearl Rainey McBrayer. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Herl McBrayer and sisters Versie Hembree and Bonnie Blackwood. Survivors include his wife of 66 years Geneva McBrayer and daughter Patti (Keith) Kitchens. Mr. McBrayer was a Korean War veteran. He worked hard all his life despite crippling arthritis. He will be greatly missed. Visitation will be Friday at Bethlehem West Baptist Church from noon-2 p.m.

Memorial services for Henry Cecil Williams of Falkville, AL will be at 2 p.m. Jan. 19, 2020 at Bell Springs Cemetery. Mr. Williams passed away Dec. 21, 2019 at Cullman Regional Hospital at the age of 80. He was born to Grady and Nattie Sullins Williams March 16, 1939. Mr. Williams was preceded in death by his parents; wife Patsy Harris Williams; and sister Joyce Ann Cook. He is survived by daughter Patty Cecilia (Lynn) Lindsey; sons Donald J. Williams and Henry Cecil Williams Jr.; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a host of family and friends. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Graveside services for Billie Sue Blandenburg, 90, of Cullman will be at 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 26, 2019 at Cullman City Cemetery, Rev. Charles 'Chuck' David officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Blandenburg passed away Dec. 22, 2019 at the Folsom Center. She was born March 14, 1929 to William Henry and Volena Pearl Helton Cole. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband James Olin Blandenburg and sister Doris Pair. Survivors include daughter Marcia (Emmett) Blandenburg Blocher; brother Truman 'Bim' E. (Marie) Cole; granddaughter Natalie Blocher Mathis; great-grandchildren Desmond Cox and Ava Cox; family and friends. In lieu of flowers the family suggests making donations to the Childhaven Home, 1816 Childhaven Road NE, Cullman, AL 35055. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Lisa Ann Plunket, 49, of Holly Pond, passed away Dec. 21, 2019. She was born Dec. 2, 1970 in Marshall County, Alabama. Lisa is preceded in death by her father Billy Plunkett; grandparents Wallace and Dorothy Riddle and Ludie and Mary Plunkett; and sister Janine Dunn. Survivors include mother Carolyn (Rickey) Dunn; special friend and companion Juan Barbosa; son Danny (Sommer) Uribe; brother David Plunkett; grandchildren Destiny-Faith White, Maliki White, Maize White, Ace Uribe and Hudson Uribe; nieces Jenny Plunkett and Amberlyn Plunkett; nephew David Plunkett; and a host of aunts and uncles. Funeral services for Ms. Plunkett are at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, 2019 in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel, Brad Hadley officiating. Burial will follow in South Cemetery in Blountsville, Alabama. Josh Plunkett, Bryan Arndt, Shannon Needham, James Williams, Henry Arndt and Randy Hughes will serve as pallbearers. Friends may visit with the family an hour prior to services from 1 p.m. until services begin. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Plunkett family.

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Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 23

Maggie Darnell
maggie@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 23, 2019. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INCIDENTS
Dec. 19
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance; Hwy. 278 E
- burglary, cruelty to animals; CR 469
- trespassing; Hwy. 278 W
- harassment; CR 654
- theft of property; CR 107
- criminal mischief; CR 813
- theft of property; CR 1127
- harassment; CR 1251
- attempting to elude law enforcement officer, harassment; Doc Clemmons Rd.

Dec. 20
- unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; CR 1078
- harassment; CR 747
- criminal mischief; CR 255
- theft of property; Hwy. 69 S
- burglary; CR 324
- theft of property; CR 1856
- burglary; 703
- violation of a protection order; CR 18
- criminal mischief; CR 1545
- burglary, theft of property, unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; CR 1129

Dec. 21
- trespassing, burglary, theft of property, unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; Hwy. 157
- harassment; Hwy. 278 E
- theft of property; Day Gap Rd.
- domestic violence; CR 76
- unlawful possession of marijuana; Patton Dr.
- domestic violence; CR 1372
- theft of property; CR 679

Dec. 22
- theft of property; Hwy. 278 W
- shooting into an occupied dwelling; Hwy. 69 N
- theft of property; CR 654
- burglary; 2nd St. SE Hanceville
- domestic violence; CR 1343
- harassment; CR 518
- unlawful possession of marijuana, unlawful possession of a controlled substance; Hwy. 69 S
- theft of property; CR 1545
- theft of property; CR 1555
- criminal mischief; CR 1496

ARRESTS
Dec. 19
Alexander, Kody Dean, 30
- harassment
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Atkins, Anthony Marquel, 37
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Sutherland, Shasta, 39
- FTA- expired driver's license

Dec. 20
Autwell, Terry Ray, 28
- failure to register/establish SORNA
- first-degree theft of property

Ballard, Austin Tyler, 22
- second-degree criminal mischief

Cornelius, Amanda Lorean, 34
- writ of arrest – child support

Craig, Farrell Lynn, 41
- FTA- driving while revoked
- FTA- speeding

Cross, Jennifer Letson, 49
- probation violation – unlawful possession of a controlled substance

England, Nathaniel Clay, 18
- third-degree theft of property

Hinman, James Tyler, 38
- FTA- writ of arrest – child support

McDonald, Joshua Blake, 29
- first-degree criminal mischief

Millwood, Joshua E., 29
- FTA- fourth-degree receiving stolen property

Perez, Adrian Cornelio, 37
- unauthorized use of a motor vehicle

Dec. 21
Drinkard, Gregory Delane, 46
- third-degree burglary

Griffin, Morgan Annelle, 33
- third-degree domestic violence – harassment

Nibblett, Nicholas Sean, 40
- third-degree domestic violence – harassment

Pullium, James Lassiter, 34
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Stillwell, Erik Paul, 43
- third-degree theft of property

Susskin, Kenya Blair, 31
- FTA- illegal possession of alcohol
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Winfrey, Jessica Sherrel, 30
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Dec. 22
Lovell, Anthony Ray, 45
- FTA- contempt of court

Martin, Billy Joe, 45
- FTA- driving while revoked
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENTS
Dec. 20
- first-degree theft of property; person; Rosemont Ave. SW; '17 Suzuki; $11,000
- leaving the scene of an accident; person; 2nd Ave. SW, Olive St. SW; damage to '10 Jeep; $250
- counterfeit $100; State of Alabama; Hwy. 157

Dec. 21
- fourth-degree theft of property; person; Harmony Ln. SW; miscellaneous; $4
- fourth-degree theft of property; Belk; Cullman Shopping Center; miscellaneous; $306
- fourth-degree theft of property; Shell Food Mart; 4th St. SW; gas; $49

Dec. 22
- second-degree burglary; Hospital Discount Pharmacy; 4th St. SW; damaged property, cash; $1,800

ARRESTS
Dec. 20
Driskell, William S., 38
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Copeland, Cameron K., 21
- fourth-degree theft of property

Dec. 21
Twilley, Carolyn B., 62
- fourth-degree theft of property

Dec. 22
Guthery, Justina B., 27
- FTA- insurance violation
- FTA- driving while suspended

Tworkowsky, John M., 49
- possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No incidents or arrests reported.

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

















MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

West Point, Hanceville win thrillers to capture Cullman Co. Tournament titles

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. – There was some exciting basketball at Felton Easterwood Gymnasium in Holly Pond Saturday afternoon. Championships for both the boys and girls at this year's Cullman County Middle School Basketball Tournament were on the line and both matchups were worth the price of admission. Ella Minck knocked down a deep three at the buzzer to lift the West Point Lady Warriors over Parkside 24-23 and Konner Helms scored with just a few seconds remaining in the boys game to help Hanceville edge out Good Hope 36-32.

West Point 24 – Parkside 23 (Girls Championship Game)

Parkside got off to a dominant start in the first half, taking an early 7-2 lead after Jayla Gorham converted an and-one play at the free throw line and Peyton Salazar banked in a shot at the buzzer to make it a 9-4 game going into the second quarter. A free throw from Gorham put the Lady Panthers in front 11-4 later in the second but Liberty Shadix answered with a three-pointer on the other end that cut the lead to 11-7. Parkside put together a 5-0 run to end the second quarter and took a 16-7 advantage into the locker room at halftime.

The third quarter is when West Point began to make up some ground. The Lady Warriors trimmed the lead to 16-10 early in the third and a three from Sara Owens cut it to 16-13 midway through the period. Another three from Shadix tied the game at 16 going into the fourth quarter and West Point took its first lead of the game when Carsyn Blankenship scored to put the Lady Warriors ahead 18-16 early in the fourth.

A pair of free throws from Gorham tied the game at 18 and she later scored another basket to put Parkside back in front 20-18 with under three minutes to play. A steal from Hallie Wheeler led to a quick basket for Ella Mink and tied the game at 20 with less than two minutes to play but Gorham got another shot to fall that gave the Lady Panthers a 22-20 lead with a minute remaining in the fourth quarter.

A free throw from West Point's Lela Fisher made it a 1-point game with just 35 seconds on the clock and the Lady Warriors got the ball back with seven seconds and a chance for the final shot. West Point turned the ball over and fouled Salazar with just 2.6 seconds remaining in regulation.

Salazar knocked down one of two from the free throw line to increase the lead to two but Minck put the finishing touches on the championship game for the Lady Warriors. Minck heaved a deep three-pointer as time expired and knocked it down to give West Point a dramatic, 24-23 victory and this year's Cullman County Tournament crown.

Shadix led West Point with six points in the win, followed by Blankenship and Minck with five, Fisher with four, Owens with three and Wheeler with one. Gorham led Parkside with 14 points in the loss, Sadie Smith added four, Salazar posted three and Allison Davis finished with two.

Lady Warriors Head Coach Hayden Voce talked about the shot after the game, praising Minck for her clutch performance and crediting her work ethic for that game-winning moment.

"I was out of timeouts and it was really just 50/50 at that point. I didn't know what was going to happen, but she made the shot and I'm so proud of her because that little girl deserves it more than anybody," Voce said. "She is such a deserving player and has worked hard for me for two years so I'm just so glad she made that shot, I really am."

West Point was held to just seven points in the opening half and Voce knew some adjustments were necessary to help get her team back into the game.

"At halftime we talked about unforced turnovers and scoring because we couldn't score and we kept throwing the ball to the other team," Voce said. "So, we cut down on the turnovers and started scoring a little bit and found a way to make ends meet."

Voce is proud of the way her team performed on Saturday's big stage but knows that today's win was made possible by the work her team has put in throughout this season.

"At the beginning of the season, if you looked at that team and this team now you wouldn't think they're the same team. They have improved so much since the beginning of the season and that goes to show the hard work they put in," Voce said. "They have worked so hard for me all year long and they do everything I've asked them to do. If I asked them to run through this brick wall, they'll do it. I'm just so proud of them because this is such a deserving team. They worked for it and they got it."

2019 ALL-COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM:

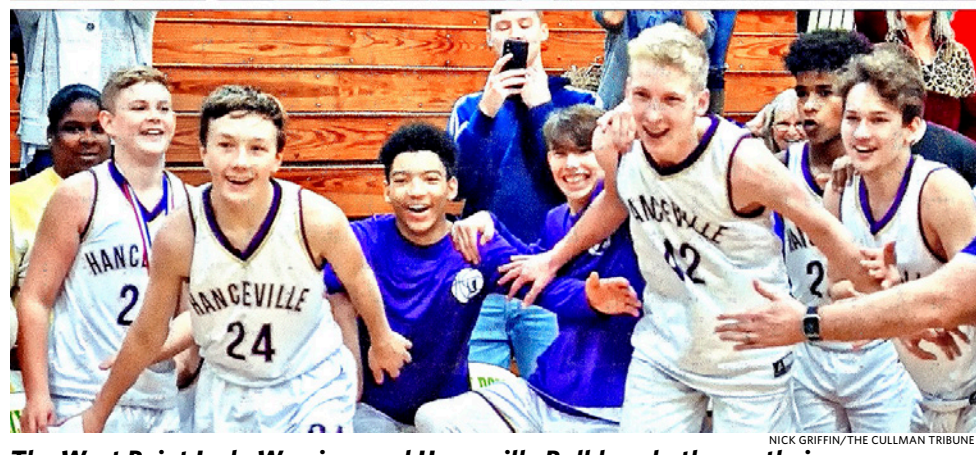
- Ciara Calvert, Cold Springs
- Kenady Graves, Cold Springs
- Sommer Harris, Fairview
- Kabri Redding, Fairview
- Jolee McHan, Hanceville
- Autumn Johnson, Harmony
- Emma Earl, Holly Pond
- Kamryn Tankersley, Holly Pond
- Lexi Collins, Good Hope
- Emma Bailey, Good Hope
- Jayla Gorham, Parkside
- Sadie Smith, Parkside
- Reagan Dunkin, Parkside
- Katelyn Evans, Vinemont
- Lela Fisher, West Point
- Hallie Wheeler, West Point

Hanceville 36 – Good Hope 32 (Boys Championship Game)

A pair of Tucker Malin free throws gave the Raiders an early 4-2 lead over Hanceville and a basket from Weston Hancock made it 6-3 as the opening quarter progressed. Carson Garrett scored down low for the Bulldogs to cut the lead to 6-5 late in the first quarter and a free throw from Konner Helms made it a 9-8 game with Good Hope on top going into the second quarter.

Garrett scored again early in the second to stay within one of the Raiders, but Good Hope managed to pull ahead 13-10 later in the period. Malin converted an and-one play at the free throw line to go up 16-12 with under two minutes to play in the half and Hancock scored another basket to make it 18-12. Konner Stevens got a shot top drop at the halftime buzzer and gave the Raiders a 21-13 lead going into the break.





NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The West Point Lady Warriors and Hanceville Bulldogs both won their tournament title games in dramatic fashion Saturday afternoon.

Good Hope maintained a 22-15 lead midway through the third but Hanceville began to chip away. A 5-0 Bulldogs run cut the lead to 22-20 late in the third quarter but Hancock scored to put the Raiders back up by four. After Hanceville answered with another basket to trim the lead to two, Noah Jones hit a floater to tie the game at 24 going into the final frame.

The score was knotted at 26 early in the fourth until a pair of Jones free throws put the Bulldogs in front 28-26 midway through the quarter and a free throw from Garrett made it 30-26 with under three minutes to play. Jones got another shot to fall and put Hanceville up 32-26 but Malin answered with a three-pointer on the other end to cut the lead to 32-29 with 1:30 remaining in the game.

As the clock continued to wind down and time began running out, Malin drilled another three to tie the game at 32 with just 10 seconds to play but the Bulldogs were ready. They inbounded the ball quickly and got it to Helms sprinting down the floor and he laid one in with just four seconds on the clock to give Hanceville a 34-32 lead. Good Hope attempted to call a timeout but was out for the game and Jones knocked down a pair of technical foul free throws in the final seconds to secure a 36-32 victory for the Bulldogs.

Jones led Hanceville with 15 points in the win, followed by Garrett with 12, Marquies Leeth with five, Helms with two and Jake Cornelius and Keiton Whatley each finished with one. Malin led the Raiders with 12 in the loss, followed by Hancock with eight, Stevens with six and Dakota Overton, Colten Whatley and Ethan McGraw each posted two.

Bulldogs Head Coach David Miller was proud of his team's effort during the game and knew it would take a great game for them to tackle this opponent.

"These guys have been playing together for a long time and they know each other, and they knew offensively we had to get the ball down the floor. It was just instinct, they moved it down the floor, saw an opening to the basket and finished it there at the end," Miller said. "When we played (Good Hope) in the regular season it was a game just like this, so we knew it was going to be a tough battle and Coach (Austin) Hardiman does a great job. He's a tremendous coach and he always has his guys ready, but we knew that coming in."

Miller reiterated the quality of Good Hope's team and it makes him even prouder of the way his team grew and competed throughout this season on the way to another title.

"It's tough when everything is on the line but to win a game like this with two really good teams going at each other just makes it even more meaningful," Miller said. "I'm proud of every one of these guys, they worked hard all year long for this and it's all about them."

2019 ALL-COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM:

- Landon Bishop, Cold Springs
- Kobe Payne, Fairview
- Jameson Goble, Fairview
- Cade Yeager, Fairview
- Carson Garrett, Hanceville
- Noah Jones, Hanceville
- Braxton Broad, Hanceville
- Seth Ingram, Harmony
- Kolin Brown, Holly Pond
- Konner Stevens, Good Hope
- Weston Hancock, Good Hope
- Tucker Malin, Good Hope
- Trace Richardson, Parkside
- Isaiah Jones, Vinemont
- Kolton Perry, West Point

PREP BASKETBALL

Vinemont Eagles, Lady Eagles capture St. Bernard Christmas Tournament titles; Friday scoring recap

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Both the Vinemont Eagles and Lady Eagles were in Friday night's championship games at this year's St. Bernard Christmas Tournament and they each went home with first place finishes. The Lady Eagles collected their hardware first with a 48-37 win over JB Pennington and the Eagles followed them a 46-42 win over St. Bernard in the nightcap.

Vinemont 48 – JB Pennington 37 (varsity girls)

Back to back three-point baskets gave the Lady Tigers an early 6-2 lead but Vinemont responded quickly and a three, followed by a layup, from Bailey Preiss cut the lead to 8-7 with three minutes to play in the opening quarter. Kanasta Daniel scored late in the first to put the Lady Eagles in front 11-8 and they maintained a 13-12 advantage going into the second quarter.

Madysen Hacker scored to keep Vinemont ahead 15-14 early in the second and another Preiss basket stretched the lead to 17-14 midway through the period but JB Pennington finished the half on a 10-4 scoring run to take a 24-21 lead into the locker room at the break. The Lady Eagles put together a scoring run of their own early in the second half and another basket from Hacker gave them a 26-24 lead early in the third.

A three-pointer from Preiss made it 29-24 at the five-minute mark of the quarter but the Lady Tigers managed to knot things up at 29 later in the third. Berkley Gable scored off of a Preiss steal to go up 32-29 and started a big scoring run for Vinemont that was capped off by a three-pointer from Daniel that made it a 43-34 game by the opening minutes of the fourth quarter.

Another bucket from Hacker put the Lady Eagles on top 48-34 with just over two minutes to play and Vinemont held on to win the game and the tournament 48-37.

Preiss led the Lady Eagles with 20 points in the win, followed by Hacker with 14 and Gable with seven. Vinemont will get some time off over the holidays before returning home to host Good Hope Jan. 3.

Vinemont 46 – St. Bernard 42 (varsity boys)

Neither team got off to a fast start offensively in this one with the first basket coming from Vinemont's Jordan Hall nearly four minutes into the game. The Eagles began to build an early lead after that but a three from Jose Zatarain trimmed the lead to 6-5 midway through the first quarter. Tanner Brown converted an and-one play at the free throw line late in the first to give Vinemont a 9-5 lead and the Eagles maintained an 11-7 advantage going into the second.

A basket from Will Rhodes made it 15-7 early in the second quarter and a floater from Collin Teichmiller stretched the lead to 19-9 midway through the period. Clay Rogers knocked down a jumper to make it 22-11 with under a minute to play in the second and Vinemont went into the half with a 24-11 lead over the Saints.

St. Bernard began to chip away in the third quarter. A bucket from Caleb Guthery cut the lead to 26-15 at the five-minute mark of the third and a basket from John Rose made it 26-17midway through the quarter.

An and-one play from Guthery made it an 8-point game late in the third but the Eagles ended the quarter on a 9-2 run and took a 37-22 lead into the final frame.

Vinemont was in control for most of the fourth quarter, holding onto a 9-point lead with four minutes to play but the Saints began clawing back late in the game. A three-pointer from Rose and a jumper from Guthery cut the lead to 44-38 with just over a minute to play and another score from Rose made it a 4-point game with under a minute to play. The late push was held up after Katch Johnson knocked down a pair of free throws for the Eagles with 27 seconds to play and Vinemont held on to win it over St. Bernard 46-42.





NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Both the Vinemont Eagles and Lady Eagles were winners at the 10th annual St. Bernard Christmas Tournament Friday night.

Johnson led the Eagles with 16 points in the win, followed by Rogers with 10 and Hall with six. Rose led the way for the Saints with 18 points, Guthery followed him with 10 and Zatarain finished with five.

Other Friday scores:

- West Point 69 – Decatur 28 (varsity girls)
- Cold Springs 54 – GW Long 49 (varsity girls)
- Holly Pond 30 – Randolph 17 (varsity girls)
- Holly Pond 58 – Randolph 33 (varsity boys)
- Addison 49 – Sumiton Christian 29 (varsity girls)
- Sumiton Christian 68 – Addison 56 (varsity boys)
- St. Bernard 43 – Athens Bible 30 (varsity girls)
- Falkville 63 – Meek 38 (varsity girls)
- Meek 59 – Falkville 54 (varsity boys)
- Cullman 75 – Huffman 24 (varsity girls)
- Oneonta 60 – Cullman 54 (varsity boys)

Sports

8:00 a.m. FSEE College Basketball UCF at Oklahoma.
10:00 a.m. FSEE NBA Basketball Atlanta Hawks at Cleveland Cavaliers.
7:00 p.m. ESPN College Football SoFi Hawaii Bowl — Hawaii vs BYU. (Live)
FS1 WWE WrestleMania's Legendary Moments
8:00 p.m. FS1 WWE Friday Night SmackDown
10:00 p.m. FS1 WWE Backstage

Movies

1:05 p.m. TMC "The Chamber" ★★½ (1996) Chris O'Donnell
1:15 p.m. MAX "The Human Stain" ★★½ (2003) Anthony Hopkins
1:55 p.m. HBO "Mr. Popper's Penguins" ★★½ (2011) Jim Carrey
2:00 p.m. A&E "Jurassic Park III" ★★½ (2001) Sam Neill.
TNT "Miss Congeniality" ★★ (2000) Sandra Bullock.
2:30 p.m. FX "Office Christmas Party" ★★ (2016) Jason Bateman.
GOLF "Seven Days in Utopia" ★★ (2011) Robert Duvall.
2:35 p.m. FREE "The Santa Clause 2" ★★ (2002) Tim Allen.
3:00 p.m. CMTV "Beverly Hills Cop II" ★★½ (1987) Eddie Murphy.
TCM "It Happened on 5th Avenue" ★★ (1947) Don DeFore.
TMC "7 Days in Entebbe" ★★ (2018) Daniel Brühl
3:05 p.m. MAX "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" ★★½ (2005) Brad Pitt
3:30 p.m. PARMT "John Wick: Chapter 2" ★★★ (2017) Keanu Reeves. Legendary hit man John Wick comes out of retirement when a former associate plots to seize control of an international assassins' guild. Bound by a blood oath to help him, Wick travels to Rome to square off against the world's deadliest killers.
4:00 p.m. A&E "Jurassic Park" ★★★½ (1993) Sam Neill. An entrepreneur invites scientists, a mathematics theorist and others to his jungle theme-park featuring dinosaurs regenerated from DNA.
AMC "The Polar Express" ★★★ (2004) Voices of Tom Hanks. Animated. The conductor of a train to the North Pole guides a boy who questions the existence of Santa Claus.
E! "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" ★★★★ (1982) Henry Thomas. Premiere. A boy's close encounter with an alien stranded on Earth leads to a unique friendship in Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning film.
TNT "Hitch" ★★★ (2005) Will Smith. A smooth-talking man falls for a hardened columnist while helping a shy accountant woo a beautiful heiress.
4:20 p.m. SHOW "American Gangster" ★★★ (2007) Denzel Washington A Harlem mobster combines ingenuity and strict business codes to dominate organized crime, while a veteran cop searches for a way to bring him down.
4:30 p.m. GOLF "Tin Cup" ★★★ (1996) Kevin Costner. A curvy customer and a smarmy golf-pro pal motivate a down-and-out Texas driving-range owner to try for the U.S. Open.
4:35 p.m. USA "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" ★★★½ (2004) Daniel Radcliffe. The young wizard and his friends confront Sirius Black, a fugitive with ties to Harry's past.
4:40 p.m. FREE "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" ★★ (2000) Jim Carrey.
4:50 p.m. TMC "In the Line of Fire" ★★★ (1993) Clint Eastwood An assassin toys with a White House Secret Service agent haunted for 30 years by his failure in 1963 Dallas.
5:00 p.m. FX "The Night Before" ★★½ (2015) Joseph Gordon-Levitt.
HBO "The Kid Who Would Be King" ★★★ (2019) Louis Ashbourne Serkis Old-school magic meets the modern world when young Alex stumbles upon the mythical sword Excalibur. He soon joins forces with a band of knights and the legendary wizard Merlin when the wicked enchantress Morgana threatens the future of mankind.
5:05 p.m. MAX "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" ★★½ (2018) Amanda Seyfried
5:15 p.m. TCM "Holiday Affair" ★★★ (1949) Robert Mitchum. A war widow has a 6-year-old son, and two men who want to marry her for Christmas.
5:30 p.m. CMTV "Beverly Hills Cop" ★★★ (1984) Eddie Murphy. A hip Detroit detective drives out to Los Angeles and shows local police how to catch a killer.
6:00 p.m. AMC "Elf" ★★★ (2003) Will Ferrell. Adopted as a baby by one of Santa's elves, a man leaves the workshop to search for his family in New York.
TNT "Monster-in-Law" ★★ (2005) Jennifer Lopez.
6:30 p.m. PARMT "John Wick" ★★★ (2014) Keanu Reeves. New York City becomes the bullet-riddled playground of a former assassin as he hunts down the Russian mobsters who destroyed everything he held dear.
6:40 p.m. E! "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" ★★★★ (1982) Henry Thomas. A boy's close encounter with an alien stranded on Earth leads to a unique friendship in Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning film.
7:00 p.m. WVTM "It's a Wonderful Life" ★★★★ (1946) James Stewart. Ruined by a miser on Christmas Eve, a suicidal family man sees life anew thanks to his guardian angel.
A&E "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" ★★½ (1997) Jeff Goldblum.
TBS "A Christmas Story" ★★★★ (1983) Peter Billingsley. In the 1940s, little Ralphie tries to convince his parents to get him a Red Ryder range-model BB gun for Christmas. Narrated by Jean Shepherd.
TCM "The Bishop's Wife" ★★★ (1947) Cary Grant. A suave angel saves a woman and her Episcopal husband from spiritual doubt and marital woe.
HBO "Little" ★★ (2019) Regina Hall
TMC "The Patriot" ★★★ (2000) Mel Gibson (Premiere) A pacifist farmer of South Carolina reluctantly joins the Revolutionary War and fights alongside his son.
7:28 p.m. USA "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" ★★★ (2005) Daniel Radcliffe. Signs of Voldemort's return emerge as Harry's friends help him prepare for a tournament with Europe's best student wizards.
8:00 p.m. AMC "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" ★★★ (1989) Chevy Chase. The Griswolds spend the holiday in a garish way, especially when a country cousin pulls up in an RV.
CMTV "Beverly Hills Cop II" ★★½ (1987) Eddie Murphy.
TNT "A Christmas Story" ★★★★ (1983) Peter Billingsley. In the 1940s, little Ralphie tries to convince his parents to get him a Red Ryder range-model BB gun for Christmas. Narrated by Jean Shepherd.
8:50 p.m. HBO "The Sun Is Also a Star" ★★ (2019) Yara Shahidi
9:00 p.m. COM "Night at the Museum" ★★½ (2006) Ben Stiller. Premiere.
PARMT "John Wick: Chapter 2" ★★★ (2017) Keanu Reeves. Legendary hit man John Wick comes out of retirement when a former associate plots to seize control of an international assassins' guild. Bound by a blood oath to help him, Wick travels to Rome to square off against the world's deadliest killers.
TBS "A Christmas Story" ★★★★ (1983) Peter Billingsley. In the 1940s, little Ralphie tries to convince his parents to get him a Red Ryder range-model BB gun for Christmas. Narrated by Jean Shepherd.
TCM "Meet Me in St. Louis" ★★★½ (1944) Judy Garland. A St. Louis lawyer's family stays in town for the 1904 World's Fair.
10:00 p.m. A&E "Jurassic Park III" ★★½ (2001) Sam Neill.
BRAVO "Cheaper by the Dozen" ★★½ (2003) Steve Martin.
TNT "A Christmas Story" ★★★★ (1983) Peter Billingsley. In the 1940s, little Ralphie tries to convince his parents to get him a Red Ryder range-model BB gun for Christmas. Narrated by Jean Shepherd.
USA "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" ★★★ (2016) Eddie Redmayne. Magizoologist Newt Scamander, two sisters and a No-Maj battle dark forces while tracking down magical creatures set free in the wizarding world of 1926 New York.
TMC "The Catcher Was a Spy" ★★ (2018) Paul Rudd
10:15 p.m. AMC "Elf" ★★★ (2003) Will Ferrell. Adopted as a baby by one of Santa's elves, a man leaves the workshop to search for his family in New York.
FX "Office Christmas Party" ★★ (2016) Jason Bateman.
MAX "Quantum of Solace" ★★½ (2008) Daniel Craig
10:30 p.m. CMTV "Weekend at Bernie's" ★★ (1989) Andrew McCarthy.
11:00 p.m. TBS "A Christmas Story" ★★★★ (1983) Peter Billingsley. In the 1940s, little Ralphie tries to convince his parents to get him a Red Ryder range-model BB gun for Christmas. Narrated by Jean Shepherd.
TCM "A Christmas Carol" ★★★ (1938) Reginald Owen. Dickens' London miser Ebenezer Scrooge meets the ghosts of Christmases past, present and yet to come.
SHOW "Rambo" ★★ (2008) Sylvester Stallone

TUESDAY EVENING

MOVIES

DECEMBER 24, 2019

		5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
WABM-MyTV	2	25 Words or Less	America Says	Family Feud	Family Feud	Dateline Investigation into a woman's murder.		Chicago P.D. Burgess recuperates in the hospital.		Chicago P.D. Burgess is relegated to desk duty.		Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing
WBIQ-PBS	4	Ready Jet Go! (El)	Peg & Cat (El)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Christmas at Belmont Carols and seasonal favorites.		Christmas With the Tabernacle Choir Featuring Kristin		Rick Steves' European Christmas Christmas in Europe.		Ray Stevens CabaRay	Dugger Mountain Christmas
WVTM-NBC	5	WVTM 13 News at 5p (N)	NBC Nightly News - Holt	WVTM 13 News at 6p (N)	WVTM 13 News at 6:3	★★★★ "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946, Comedy-Drama) James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. An angel saves a distraught businessman from suicide.						WVTM 13 News at 10p	To Be Announced
WBRC-FOX	7	WBRC FOX6 News at 5pm	WBRC FOX6 News	WBRC FOX6 News at 6pm	Inside Edition (N)	A Christmas Story Live! A boy wants a BB gun for Christmas.				WBRC FOX6 News at 9pm	WBRC FOX6 News	WBRC FOX6 News at 10pm	(:35) TMZ (N)
WIAT-CBS	8	CBS42 News 5pm (N)	CBS Evening News	CBS42 News 6pm (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	NCIS "Hail & Farewell" A Marine major is found murdered.		FBI "Closure" Dana puts her career in jeopardy.		FBI "Scorched Earth" A search for a serial bomber.		CBS 42 News: 2020	The Marvel of This Night
WTTO-CW	9	The Goldbergs "Weird Al"	2 Broke Girls	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Masters of Illusion: Christmas Magic 2019		Greatest Holiday Commercials Countdown 2019		Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show
WPXH-ION	11	(4:00) "12 Pups of Christmas" (2019) Charlotte Sullivan.		"Christmas Belle" (2013) Haylie Duff, Nicholas Gonzalez. A longtime suitor complicates a woman's new relationship.				"Christmas Crush" (2019, Romance-Comedy) Cindy Sampson. Addie makes a Christmas wish.				"Snowmance" (2017) Ashley Newbrough, Adam Hurtig.	
WABM2-ABC	12	ABC 33/40 News at 5PM	ABC World News	ABC 33/40 News at 6PM	Wheel of Fortune	Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town		CMA Country Christmas A holiday celebration.				ABC 33/40 News at 10PM	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!
A&E	42	(4:00) ★★★ "Jurassic Park" (1993) Sam Neill, Laura Dern. Cloned dinosaurs run amok at an island-jungle theme park.				★★ "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" (1997, Adventure) Jeff Goldblum, Julianne Moore, Pete Postlethwaite. An expedition returns to monitor dinosaurs' progress.						★★ "Jurassic Park III" (2001, Adventure) Sam Neill.	
AMC	53	(4:00) ★★★ "The Polar Express" (2004) Michael Jeter		★★★ "Elf" (2003, Children's) Will Ferrell, James Caan. A man leaves Santa's workshop to search for his family.				★★★ "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989, Comedy) Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid.				(:15) ★★★ "Elf" (2003) Will Ferrell, James Caan.	
ANPL	47	The Aquarium Rehabilitation of a group of penguins.		The Aquarium "Otter Tale" Feisty baby alligators arrive.		(:01) The Aquarium: A Deeper Dive "Stud Puffin" (N)		(:07) The Aquarium: A Deeper Dive "Seal of Approval" (N)		(:13) The Aquarium: A Deeper Dive "Forever My Penguin" (N)			(:19) The Aquarium
BET	55	(4:35) "Holiday Heist" (2019, Drama) Chaley Rose, Jatone Smith. A man gets a job at a struggling jewelry store.				"One Crazy Christmas" (2018, Comedy) Terri Abney, Sean Blakemore, Kiana Dancie. A woman has a prior connection to her daughter's fiancé.					★ "A Madea Christmas" (2013, Comedy) Tyler Perry, Kathy Najimy.		
BRAVO	58	Chrisley Knows Best	Chrisley Knows Best	Chrisley Knows Best	Chrisley Knows Best	(:01) Chrisley Knows Best	(:32) Chrisley Knows Best	(:03) Chrisley Knows Best	(:34) Chrisley Knows Best	(:05) Vanderpump Rules "How They Got Here 2019" (N)		★★ "Cheaper by the Dozen" (2003) Steve Martin.	
CMTV	61	(3:00) "Beverly Hills Cop II"	★★★ "Beverly Hills Cop" (1984, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Judge Reinhold, John Ashton. A Detroit cop goes west to avenge his friend's death.					★★ "Beverly Hills Cop II" (1987, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Judge Reinhold, Brigitte Nielsen. A Detroit cop tangles with a vicious gang in California.					"Weekend at Bernie's"
CNBC	35	Shark Tank Safe and natural cleaning products.		Shark Tank Beard oils and mustache waxes.		Shark Tank All-in-one early education solution.		Shark Tank Non-toxic, super hydrophobic spray.		Shark Tank A pimple-popping simulator.		Shark Tank Line of "manscaping" products.	
CNN	37	The Movies Stars and movie themes of the 1980s. (Part 1 of 6)				The Movies Stars and films of the 1990s. (Part 2 of 6)				The Movies Popular films and actors of the 2000s. (Part 3 of 6)			
COM	56	(:15) The Office Dwight plans the office Christmas party.		(5:50) The Office	(:25) The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office (Part 1 of 2)	The Office (Part 2 of 2)	★★ "Night at the Museum" (2006) Ben Stiller. Premiere. Museum exhibits spring to life when the sun goes down.			
DISN	49	Bunk'd	Jessie Jessie and the Ross kids go to Hawaii.		Gabby Duran	Holiday Party	Holidays Unwrapped	Sydney to the Max	Just Roll With It	Raven's Home	K.C. Undercover	K.C. Undercover	Big City Greens
DSC	43	Moonshiners: A Very Moonshiners Christmas (N)		Moonshiners: A Very Moonshiners Christmas (N)		Moonshiners: A Very Moonshiners Christmas (N)		Moonshiners: A Very Moonshiners Christmas "Walk the Line" Mark and Digger's favorite moments.					
E!	21	(4:00) ★★★★ "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" (1982) Henry Thomas, Dee Wallace. Premiere.		(:40) ★★★★ "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" (1982, Children's) Henry Thomas, Dee Wallace, Peter Coyote. A California boy befriends a homesick alien.							Parks and Recreation	Parks and Recreation	Parks and Recreation
ESPN	29	SportsCenter (N) (Live)		Peyton's Places (N)	CFB 150: Greatest	College Football SoFi Hawaii Bowl -- Hawaii vs BYU. (N) (Live)							SportsCenter (N) (Live)
ESPN2	30	ESPN Documentaries (N)				ESPN Documentaries (N)				30 for 30 The story of Dennis Rodman, on the basketball court and beyond.			
FOOD	45	Chopped Spanish meat is paired with airy cookie.		Chopped Seafood and an Asian pastry; beef. (Part 4 of 4)		Christmas Cookie Challenge (N)		Christmas Cookie Challenge (N)		Christmas Cookie Challenge (N)		Christmas Cookie Challenge (N)	
FREE	48	(4:40) ★★ "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (2000) Jim Carrey, Jeffrey Tambor. A curmudgeon hates the Christmas-loving Whos of Whoville.					(:20) Frosty the Snowman	(7:50) Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer		(8:55) Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town		The 700 Club Five unforgettable holiday movies. (N)	
FS1	20	FS1 College Football Playoff Preview		Herd for the Holidays		WWE WrestleMania's Legendary Moments		WWE Friday Night SmackDown				WWE Backstage (N)	
FSEE	32	Braves Season Rewind Josh Donaldson hits a walk-off single. From July 19, 2019.						Braves Season Rewind The Atlanta Braves hit 5 home runs. From June 19, 2019.					
FX	28	★★ "The Night Before" (2015) Joseph Gordon-Levitt. Three lifelong friends party in New York on Christmas Eve.				FX's A Christmas Carol Scrooge has a dark night of the soul.						(:15) ★★ "Office Christmas Party" (2016) Jason Bateman.	
GOLF	82	(4:30) ★★★ "Tin Cup" (1996, Comedy) Kevin Costner, Rene Russo. An undisciplined golfer attempts to reach the U.S. Open.				A Very Feherty Christmas		A Very Feherty Christmas		A Very Feherty Christmas		A Very Feherty Christmas	
HALL	72	"Crown for Christmas" (2015) Danica McKellar, Rupert Penry-Jones. Sparks fly between a European king and a governess.				"Christmas Town" (2019, Romance) Tim Rozon, Candace Cameron Bure, Beth Broderick.			"Write Before Christmas" (2019, Romance) Torrey DeVitto, Chad Michael Murray.			"Christmas in Evergreen: Tidings of Joy" (2019) Jill Wagner	
HGTV	46	Property Brothers Karen and Rick want a deluxe retreat.		Property Brothers Newlyweds sacrifice honeymoon for home.		Property Brothers "Game Night: Room to Roam Revisit"		Property Brothers (N)		Property Brothers (N)		Generation Renovation (N)	House Hunters International
HIST	40	The Curse of Oak Island: Digging Deeper		The Curse of Oak Island: Digging Deeper		The Curse of Oak Island: Digging Deeper "Tunnel Visions: Extended Edition" Forgotten clues produce new leads. (N)						(:06) The Curse of Oak Island: Drilling Down	
LIFE	23	"Christmas Love Letter" (2019) Ashley Newbrough, Tilky Jones. Amalie receives an unsigned love letter in a Christmas card.				"A Date By Christmas Eve" (2019) Vanessa Lengies, Katherine Baileess. A dating app grants a woman magical powers.				(:03) "A Christmas Wish" (2019, Comedy) Hilarie Burton, Pam Grier. A wooden wishing box is placed in the park as a tradition.			
MSNBC	36	The Beat With Ari Melber (N)		Hardball With Chris Matthews (N)		All In With Chris Hayes (N)		The Rachel Maddow Show (N)		The Last Word With Lawrence O'Donnell (N)		The 11th Hour With Brian Williams (N)	
NGC	22	America's National Parks "Olympic"		America's National Parks "Grand Canyon"		America's National Parks "Yellowstone"		America's National Parks "Great Smoky Mountains"		America's National Parks "Saguaro"		America's National Parks "Grand Canyon"	
PARMT	57	(3:30) ★★★ "John Wick: Chapter 2" (2017, Action) Keanu Reeves, Common.			★★★ "John Wick" (2014, Action) Keanu Reeves, Michael Nyqvist, Alfie Allen. An ex-assassin hunts down the gangsters who ruined his life.					★★★ "John Wick: Chapter 2" (2017, Action) Keanu Reeves. Legendary hit man John Wick takes on deadly killers in Rome.			
TBS	25	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	★★★★ "A Christmas Story" (1983, Children's) Peter Billingsley. A boy tries to convince his parents to get him a BB gun.				★★★★ "A Christmas Story" (1983, Children's) Peter Billingsley. A boy tries to convince his parents to get him a BB gun.			
TCM	79	(:15) ★★★ "Holiday Affair" (1949, Romance) Robert Mitchum, Janet Leigh. Two men want to marry war widow for Christmas.				★★★ "The Bishop's Wife" (1947, Fantasy) Cary Grant, Loretta Young. An angel lends a hand in funding a new church.				★★★ "Meet Me in St. Louis" (1944, Musical) Judy Garland. A disappointed St. Louis family may miss the World's Fair.			
TLC	24	Outdaughtered It's the quints' first family vacation.		Babies, Babies, Babies (N)		Outdaughtered Adam plans a beach vacation getaway.		Outdaughtered "Quints on the High Seas" The Busbys go on a Disney cruise.				Outdaughtered The family celebrates Adam's birthday.	
TNT	26	(4:00) ★★★ "Hitch" (2005) Will Smith, Eva Mendes.		★★ "Monster-in-Law" (2005) Jennifer Lopez, Jane Fonda, Michael Vartan. A shrewish woman clashes with her son's fiancee.				★★★★ "A Christmas Story" (1983, Children's) Peter Billingsley. A boy tries to convince his parents to get him a BB gun.				★★★★ "A Christmas Story" (1983) Peter Billingsley.	
USA	27	(4:35) ★★★ "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" (2004) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint. The young wizard confronts the fugitive Sirius Black.					(:28) ★★★ "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" (2005, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint. Voldemort lays a trap for Harry at the Triwizard Tournament.					★★★ "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" (2016)	
WE	71	Law & Order "America, Inc." A contractor's murder.		Law & Order Bank executive must assist in robbery.		Law & Order Gunman seeks revenge for baby's death.		Law & Order "Kingmaker" An undercover cop is killed.		Law & Order A woman's body is in Falco's bathroom.		Law & Order McCoy uses a corrupt DEA agent.	
HBO	518	★★★ "The Kid Who Would Be King" (2019, Children's) Louis Ashbourne Serkis, Rebecca Ferguson, Patrick Stewart. 'PG'				★★ "Little" (2019, Comedy) Regina Hall, Issa Rae. A mogul transforms into a 13-year-old version of herself. 'PG-13'				(8:50) ★★ "The Sun Is Also a Star" (2019, Romance) Yara Shahidi. 'PG-13'			"Can You Keep"
MAX	549	(:05) ★★ "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" (2018, Musical Comedy) Amanda Seyfried, Lily James. 'PG-13'				★ "Say It Isn't So" (2001, Comedy) Chris Klein, Heather Graham, Orlando Jones. 'R'			(:40) ★ "Monkeybone" (2001, Comedy) Brendan Fraser, Bridget Fonda. 'PG-13'			(:15) ★★ "Quantum of Solace" (2008) Daniel Craig.	
SHOW	578	(4:20) ★★★ "American Gangster" (2007) Denzel Washington. A chauffeur becomes Harlem's most-powerful crime boss. 'R'				Ray Donovan Ray struggles to stay on Mickey's trail.		Inside the NFL Highlights from the 16th week. (N)		Shameless "Citizen Carl" Carl embraces his civic duty.		Inside the NFL Highlights from the 16th week.	
TMC	598	(4:50) ★★★ "In the Line of Fire" (1993) Clint Eastwood. A veteran Secret Service agent battles a vicious assassin. 'R'				★★★ "The Patriot" (2000, War) Mel Gibson, Heath Ledger, Joely Richardson. Premiere. A man and his son fight side by side in the Revolutionary War. 'R'						★★ "The Catcher Was a Spy" (2018) Paul Rudd. 'R'	

Best Bets

7 a.m. on SUNDANCE
Movie: White Christmas

Some purists may sniff that 1942's "Holiday Inn," of which this 1954 musical is a partial remake, is a superior piece of work. The fact remains that this latter vehicle for Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera-Ellen has become a compulsory part of the yuletide celebration for millions around the world. The classic title tune is just one of several memorable Irving Berlin melodies performed here with style, heart and panache.

12 p.m. on MTV
Movie: Bad Santa

Holiday spirit mutates for a seasonal felon and his partner (Billy Bob Thornton, Tony Cox) in director Terry Zwigoff's darkly hilarious 2003 comedy. The mock Santa and his "elf" plan to rip off the latest store that has hired them for Christmas duty, but a youngster (Brett Kelly) might alter their scheme. Longtime Thornton friend John Ritter had his last film role here; Bernie Mac and Lauren Graham ("Gilmore Girls") also star.

7 p.m. on WVTM
Movie: It's a Wonderful Life

Small-town guy George Bailey (James Stewart) defers one big dream after another to stay home, marry a local girl (Donna Reed) and run the family business. Facing financial ruin, he's pulled from suicidal despair by angel Clarence (Henry Travers), who shows him how terrible the world would have been if he'd never lived. Lionel Barrymore also stars in director Frank Capra's 1946 classic.

7 p.m. on WBRC
A Christmas Story Live!

They won Oscars for their work on "La La Land" and Tonys for their score to Broadway's "Dear Evan Hansen," and the red-hot song-writing team of Benj Pasek and Justin Paul brought this stage musical adaptation of a favorite holiday movie to television in 2017. Seattle newcomer Andy Walken stars as Ralphie, with Maya Rudolph and Chris Diamantopoulos as his mom and dad. Jane Krakowski also stars as schoolteacher Miss Shields. Ana Gasteyer has a featured role, and Matthew Broderick narrates.

7 p.m. on WABM2
Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town

A lanky mailman with the voice of Fred Astaire explains Santa's origins in this animated 1970 special, which sidesteps the St. Nicholas part. In this version, the future jolly old elf is a foundling adopted by the Kringles, a family of toymakers. He grows up with toys in his blood, so to speak, and feels called to give them away to the local youngsters — but mean old Burgermeister Meisterburger will have none of that.

8 p.m. on AMC
Movie: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

Written by "Home Alone" filmmaker John Hughes, the third installment in the movie-comedy series was a major hit of the 1989 holiday season. Chevy Chase returns as Griswold family patriarch Clark, who tries to ensure a traditional yuletide for his clan — despite the considerable odds against it. Co-stars Beverly D'Angelo and Randy Quaid also are back. Juliette Lewis plays one of the younger Griswolds.

10:35 p.m. on WIAT
The Marvel of This Night: Christmas at Duke University Chapel

The Rev. Dr. Luke A. Powery, dean of Duke University Chapel, delivers a Christmas reflection during this one-hour religious special, which also includes traditional Scripture readings of the season, as well as beloved Christmas carols sung by the chapel choirs, accompanied by three of the hall's pipe organs. The program takes its title from a 1981 hymn by Jaroslav Vlada, which calls upon angels to proclaim the birth of Jesus throughout the world.



Andy Walken stars in "A Christmas Story Live!" on Fox.

Letters to Santa

Cold Springs Elementary

Ms. Bookout's 3rd grade class

Dear. Santa

I hope yoy will git me a iPhone 11 Pro. I allso hope yoy will git me a xboxls. I allso hope yoy git me a PSy with fortnite and gta 5 for the xbox.

meery chistmas

Jayden Nelson.
3rd grade
Cold Springs Elementarx School

Dear Santa,

First, I would like to thank you for giving me that sewing machine last year. I would like you to bring me a barbie dream house. I would like you to bring me some polly pockets. I would like you to bring me some blue wierless beats headphones. I would like you to bring me some Dork Diaries. I hope you bring me these things.

Love,
Tansyn Philbeck
9 years old
3rd grade
Cold Springs Elementary School

Dear Santa,

How are you today! I'm great! My elf Eve said that I'm on the nice list.

Can you please bring me my pawpaw. Or you could bring me some clothes because not to long ago my house burnt down.

So Santa what is it like to work everyday making toys.

Merry Christmas,
Natyn Moore
9 years old
3rd grade
Cold Springs Elementary School

Dear, Santa
I have been super good this year so could you get me these three things.

First, I want a Phone cause they are fun: second I need some clothes.

Third, I need some shoes.

love,
Kinzlie myrex
8 years old
3rd grade
Cold Springs Elementry school

Dear Santa,

How are you today! I'm great! My elf Ellie told me I'm on the nice list!

Can you please bring me an american girl doll bathroom, because I don't have one and my american girl dolls need to go to the bathroom.

Can you also please bring me an american girl doll named Blaire Wilson, because my other american girl dolls need other friends.

Oh and one more thing the last thing I want is for everybody to be happy!

Merry Christmas,
Claire Hancock
8 years old
3rd grade
Cold Springs Elementry School

Dear Santa

How are you?

What I'i hope you would bring me is a hoverboard

Is Mrs. Clause okay?

I've been good this year.

Are the elfs still making toys?

What I'm also hoping for is a Nitendo swich

Merry Chrismas
Sincerly, Camdyn Taylor
eight years old
3rd grade
Cold Springs Elementary School

Cullman City Primary School

Mrs. Trammel's Kindergarten Class



Dear Santa,

Mr name is Evelyn and I have been verr good this rear. I would like for rou to please bring me some things this Christmas. Here is mr list:

Brbecamer Jeglbels
toysanta toyhors
Frozen2 toyBarbe

All Mr Love,
Evelyn

Evelyn Phillips
Age: 6
Cullman City Primary School
Ms. Trammell's Kindergarten

And
mavis



Dear Santa,

Mr name is Bentley and I have been verr good this rear. I would like for rou to please bring me some things this Christmas. Here is mr list:

robot elektriKUitfe
electric guitar
speakrz mikrfOh microphone
speakers
tOYelf xOYtigr toy tiger

All Mr Love,
Bentley

Bentley Marsh
Age: 6
Cullman City Primary School
Ms. Trammell's Kindergarten



Dear Santa,

Mr name is Jad and I have been verr good this rear. I would like for rou to please bring me some things this Christmas. Here is mr list:

Legocruise Leyucampftruck
Sship Kittel
FrosiN2 toyBus

All Mr Love,
Jad

Jad Dyke
Age: 5
Cullman City Primary School
Ms. Trammell's Kindergarten



Dear Santa,

Mr name is Gray and I have been verr good this rear. I would like for rou to please bring me some things this Christmas. Here is mr list:

dUPtrUK grYSh hoggS
dump truck Grossery Gangs
toY dog toYCar toy car
toy dog
IoYPIrY toYtrACtx
toy pirate toy tractor

All Mr Love,
Gray

Gray Hawkins
Age: 6
Cullman City Primary School
Ms. Trammell's Kindergarten



Dear Santa,

Mr name is Will and I have been verr good this rear. I would like for rou to please bring me some things this Christmas. Here is mr list:

thamogeluf Nintendow
Bublball aRme
Bintinomy+pixyoshe hotwelstrac

A Mr Love,
Will

Will Damron
Age: 5
Cullman City Primary School
Ms. Trammell's Kindergarten



Dear Santa,

Mr name is JDyIEE and I have been verr good this rear. I would like for rou to please bring me some things this Christmas. Here is mr list:

nors JEGbels
horse jingle bells
toeSANTA Ele Elf
toy Santa
ELSAdol WISI whistle
Elsa doll

All Mr Love,
JAYIEE

Jaylee Criddle
Age: 5
Cullman City Primary School
Ms. Trammell's Kindergarten

•1874• **Alabama Tribune** •2019•

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

"THE 67-COUNTY, ALABAMA GARDEN PARTY"

GENEVA COUNTY

Ben Johnson South
Tribune Correspondent

"History is written by the victors," is a quote attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte. It is as true of victorious environmentalists as it is of militarists.

The 67-County Alabama Garden Party, this county-by-county exploration, celebrates how "positive and pleasurable PLANTS + PEOPLE" have come together over the last 200 years. So, here in Geneva County, a coastal plains area that shares a border with Florida, we can look with hope to successful efforts reviving parts of the native longleaf pines (Pinus palustris) and the dominant understudy of herbaceous wiregrass (Aristida beyrichiana).

Geneva County plant enthusiasts have reason to be hopeful about the efforts of the Longleaf Alliance to conserve and restore the dwindling longleaf pine ecosystem, including the wiregrass.

The Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership, which is part of the Alliance, was formed in 1996 with seven public and private landowner partners and enrolled 840,000 acres.

Today, there are 13 partners actively restoring, protecting and managing more than 1.25 million acres. You can read more about these environmental activists at their informative website: www.longleafalliance.org.

Geneva County was established in 1868. By 1930, most of the longleaf pine ecosystems in Alabama had been forested. About half the state, excluding the Black Belt delta and areas north, were in this ecosystem. Longleaf pine thickets could even be found in the most northern counties in the dry ridgetops.

The wiregrass and longleaf pines in Geneva County were supplanted by agriculture and timbering interests, as well as by fire suppression. Fire is essential for the reproduction of these plants. Every part of a longleaf pine forest is adapted for fire, including plant flowering and seeding, and for the nesting of ground-dwelling birds.

Famed plant explorer William Bartram described the wiregrass and longleaf pines in his writings when he traveled this part of Alabama in 1778. Frequent fires resulted in open park-like grassland and allowed for a great diversity of animals, including red-cockaded woodpeckers (Piciodes borealis) and the gopher tortoise (Gopherus Polyphemus).

Southern Wiregrass is a native perennial, warm season bunch grass (Poaceae) and grew in tandem with the longleaf pine ecosystem across much of the land in Geneva County prior to European settlers. Wiregrass does not tolerate soil disturbance and is destroyed by plowing. It requires full sun and sandy soil to flower and seed.

Wiregrass is a handsome plant with leaves that are stiff and rolled. (Note: If you want to impress your gardener friends, the term for rolled leaves is "involuted.") Because of the conservation success of the Longleaf Alliance, Southern Wiregrass in Geneva County is reclaiming its native turf.

Much of the heart pine found in old buildings of Geneva County were constructed of longleaf pine. The area was known for high-quality lumber and for the production of a by-product, turpentine. The early European settlers clearcut the forests and planted near endless rows of a variety of crops. In the late-1800s, there were miles and miles of cultivated sugarcane.

GENEVA COUNTY TAKES THE CAKE! To salute the work of Longleaf Alliance and the history of sweet sugarcane, we could serve one of the region's famed "Little Layer Cakes" on the 67-County, Alabama Garden Party.

These prized desserts come in an array of flavors, though the most popular has about 12 thin layers of cake generously slathered with caramel icing between and surrounding each little layer. We could picnic in a copse of longleaf pines with our blanket atop healthy, 21st century wiregrass.

Here are other positive and pleasurable PLANTS + PEOPLE things to enjoy in this part of the state on the 67-County Alabama Garden Party, including the celebrated, circa 1970 layered carrot cake recipe from our food writer, Laurie Johnson's, mother, Mary Scoggins, published in a classic, treasured, Civitan Cookbook.

• **CONSTITUTION OAK**- One of the most famous plants in Alabama is the state's oldest (more than 300 years old) and largest live oaks which is growing in Robert Fowler Memorial Park in the city of Geneva.



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

• **APLIN FARMS**- ATTENTION: PLANT TOURISTS, THIS IS A MUST-EXPERIENCE in Alabama: Family farm since 1952 that now grows more than 100 varieties of vegetables- "Vine ripe Slocomb tomatoes" are the most-popular to purchase, but your family will enjoy the farm tours and "u-pick" experience, the corn maze, the October pumpkin patch and more. 327 West County Road 70, Slocomb, AL 36375, 334-726-5104, www.aplinfarms.com

• **GENEVA COUNTY BLUEBERRIES**- Forrest Haynes, 542 Johnson Road, Samson, AL 36477, 334-684-2706

• **GENEVA COUNTY STRAWBERRIES**- (Slocomb) Little Sweets Strawberry Farms, 334-618-8365

• **GENEVA COUNTY MELONS**- McAlister's, 1785 South State Highway 103, Slocomb, AL 36375, 334-886-2576

• **GENEVA COUNTY SWEET CORN**- Charles and Susan Turner, 3067 County Road 6, Black, AL 36314, 334-684-3008; also, peas, beans, melons

• **GENEVA COUNTY FARMSTANDS**- C&B Farm & Produce (Slocomb), Dennis Mills (Slocomb), Edwin Wofford (Slocomb), Hendrix Farm Produce (Slocomb), Jackson Rials (Coffee Springs), James Bedsole Produce (Slocomb), Johnny Scott (Slocomb), Richard Collins (Slocomb), Ronald Sawyer (Slocomb), Ross Farms (Geneva), Sawyer Produce (Malvern), Sidney Smith (Geneva), Working Cows Dairy (Slocomb)

• **GENEVA COUNTY PLANTS ADVICE/ EDUCATION**- Alabama Cooperative Extension System local office at 2765 East State Highway 52, Hartford, AL 36344, 334-684-2484

• **COFFEE SPRINGS**- This Geneva County community would be an ideal place to enjoy a cup of "joe" and some locally baked "Little Layer Cake."

• **PLANTING AN IDEA**- As mentioned above, "Little Layer Cakes" are a well-known tradition in Geneva County and appreciated throughout Alabama and beyond. How about getting a good sign painter to paint an existing water tower like a famous layer cake? Think how popular the "Meet Me at the Peach" water tower is in Chilton County. I'd love to say "Come to Geneva County, it's as easy as a cakewalk" or "piece of cake." This public art could be a sweet way to salute the great bakers in this part of Alabama and the agricultural tradition of farming sugarcane. If not this, a "Little Layer Cake" mural. Someone write a grant to request funds from the Alabama Arts Council. Sweet.

Y'ALL COME to Geneva County on your 67-County Alabama Garden Party tour, where life is not just a picnic, it's a "Little Layer Cake" in a longleaf pine grove picnic atop a beautiful lawn of Southern Wiregrass.

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



Geneva County

67-CARAT CARROT CAKE

As a youngster, I didn't much like or appreciate mother's annual Christmas cake that contained vegetables, nuts, spice and fruit – yucky things that seemed like a waste of good sugar. Making it was one of her many labors of love and I helped, but I never touched a slice when it was ceremoniously served at the end of our Christmas feast. Fortunately, as we grow up our tastes mature, and I've come to love and appreciate this moist, sumptuous layer cake made with carrots, nuts, spice and pineapple. If you are going to eat something insanely delicious and sweet, you may as well connect to plants by adding vegetables, nuts, spice and fruit and think of it as healthy! (Oh, I was reminded that mother tripled the amount of icing in this recipe. So much for healthy.)

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 sticks of softened butter
- 3 cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour (If you want to use self-rising, omit the baking soda, powder and salt.)
- 1 tsp. each baking soda, baking powder and salt (Omit if using self-rising flour.)
- 3 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 2 1/2 cups finely grated fresh carrots
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans or walnuts
- 1 small can of crushed pineapple (not drained)
- For icing: 1 container of softened pineapple cream cheese, 1 stick softened butter, 1 tbsp. vanilla extract, 1 box confectioner's sugar and 1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts (Double or triple the icing amount if you want to ice the entire cake, instead of just on top or between the layers – or you just like a lot of icing!)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Pre-heat oven to 325F.
2. With a hand mixer, cream softened butter and sugar together.
3. Mix in eggs, one at a time.
4. Sift in the flour with baking soda, powder, salt and cinnamon and mix lightly.
5. Blend in, by hand, the grated carrots, nuts and pineapple.
6. Split batter into prepared round cake pans. Prepare 2 10-12-inch round cake pans or 3 or 4 8-9-inch pans (preferably non-stick) depending on how thin you want your layers. If you are confident in the non-stick quality of your pans (which didn't exist for my mother), you might just spray with a little cooking spray. If not, you might want to lightly grease and flour the pans.
7. Bake in the pre-heated oven for 35-50 minutes (may vary with the thickness of your layers) or until the cake surface bounces back to the touch or a toothpick comes out mostly clean. Cool on rack for 10 minutes before removing by running a butter knife around the pan and turning out.
8. Prepare icing by creaming together the cream cheese, butter and vanilla. Mix in the confectioner's sugar and fold in the nuts by hand. (See earlier note about doubling or tripling.)
9. After layers are fully cool, layer them on a plate and ice – all over or just on top and between the layers. Enjoy your sweet desert that connects to plants – carrots, pineapple and nuts.