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SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

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# Spilling the tea on a great new eatery

**Lauren Estes**
lauren@cullmantribune.com

The Olive House — home of Chat & Chew, Sunday Tea Time — opened its doors to the public on Sept. 3, 2024.

Owners Roger and Cherrie Verhoff and Leann Boatright would love to welcome you into a space that infuses your senses with the sweet fragrance of light, hope, peace, joy, food, laughter and fellowship.

"The name and idea for The Olive House was born from our desire to create a beautiful atmosphere conducive to igniting a sense of community," Cherrie Verhoff said. "We grew up in Cullman at a time where we were able to experience the authenticity of real community; we so enjoyed the beautiful memories of visiting with neighbors, sharing food, stories and laughter in each other's homes. You could just sit, relax and bask in the joy of the moment. We live in a world today that is so fast paced many have never experienced being greeted and welcomed into this kind of an inviting atmosphere that was a norm for us when growing up in Cullman."

Verhoff said they hope The Olive House recreates a similar experience for all who enter.

"Each room is eclectically and uniquely designed with great details to » PAGE 4




CONTRIBUTED

*The Olive House is located at 502 Third St. SE in Cullman. It is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. for lunch and has Afternoon Tea Time (you must book tickets) every Sunday at 2 p.m.*

# Ethos Craft Brewing, Bloom Winery celebrate grand opening




NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

*Ethos Craft Brewing Owner Paul White is joined by representatives from the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Good Hope to cut the ribbon at Friday night's grand opening celebration.*

**Nick Griffin**
nick@cullmantribune.com

**GOOD HOPE, Ala.** — A crowd of friends, family and fellow patrons gathered to celebrate the grand opening of a pair of new businesses in Good Hope Friday night. Ethos Craft Brewing and Bloom Winery cut the ribbon on their new locations and officially opened up their doors to a crowd of locals and Ethos owner Paul White was excited to see years of preparation culminate in Friday's celebration.

"I started brewing professionally about 10 years ago and I was at Goat Island Brewing for about five years and then I was at TrimTab Brewing for three years. The last three years I've been learning the sanitary side of it and the dairy industry," White said. "I've worked for Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) out of Birmingham. Ever since I started in this, I've wanted my own place and my own flavors and the freedom to express what I wanted to do."

Ethos and Bloom Winery have been open throughout the week and White has been moved by the support they've already received from the community.

"It's been awesome, man. It's been so great, and it's been emotional to be honest with you. It's been three years building toward this and after putting every week into it just seeing that people are receptive to it and enjoy it has been great," White said.

"My whole goal has always been to make beer for my customers, not just beer that I want to make so to see them being so receptive has been great.

"I grew up here, born and raised in Cullman and my parents have been business owners here for 30 years so it's been humbling to see how much everyone has come out to support us over this week."

Ethos Craft Brewing and Bloom Winery are located at 1849 County Road 222.

Normal business hours for Ethos are 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. Mon. – Thurs., 11 a.m. – 12 a.m. Fri. & Sat. and 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. on Sun.

Business hours for Bloom Winery are 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Sun. – Tues., 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Wed. – Sat.

# Practice safety awareness this holiday season

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# Several Raiders earn All-Region honors



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

*Congratulations to several Good Hope Raiders on earning All-Region recognitions this season. QB Tyler Cone, WR Carter Rutherford, TE Tucker Screws, OL Jathan Smith, OL Eli Drake, K Robert Rodriguez, DL Callahan Lindsey, LB Mason Drake, LB Hank Hudson, LB Cody Stevens and DB Tyler Byrd each earned spots on this year's 4A Region 5 All-Region Team. Landon Bagwell was named the Defensive MVP and Head Coach Alan Scott was selected as the Coach of the Year.*

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

# The dream of a lifetime

## Evelyn Stevens' journey to all 30 MLB stadiums



AMELIA STEVENS-SUTTER MOYER

*Amelia Stevens-Sutter Moyer, Evelyn Stevens and Renita Stevens Rigney in their final stadium, accomplishing the dream created by Bud 30 years ago*

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# Holiday hosting on a budget

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Bill Smith

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# Hosting (from Front)

**Katie Spicer**
katie@cullmantoday.com

The holidays are a time for gathering with loved ones; however, hosting can add unwanted stress to the holiday season. Whether you are cooking for family or entertaining an assortment of guests, you can alleviate the stress with some creativity and strategic planning!

**Set your budget**
Start by determining how much you can comfortably spend on the event. List out all the essentials, such as food, drinks, decorations and entertainment. Once you have a clear understanding of your budget, prioritize items that are most important to the atmosphere of your gathering, like food or music. Also, you can look for coupons and discount codes online on by searching sites like Groupon, Flipp and Rakuten.

**Decorations**
You don't need to buy expensive holiday decorations to set a festive mood. Opt for DIY décor to add a personal touch.

• Natural elements: Use pinecones, evergreen branches and holly from your yard or local park to create beautiful centerpieces or mantel decorations.

• Repurpose old decorations: Get creative by upcycling last year's decorations or giving them a new look with spray paint or glitter.

• Thrift or coupon: Many local thrift stores are home to vintage holiday décor waiting to be rehomed. Furthermore, craft stores like Hobby Lobby offer a weekly ad with discounts available.

**Food**
Food often takes up the biggest part of the budget, but there are ways to provide a delicious spread without overspending.

• Keep it simple: Serve a few signature dishes instead of a large variety. Classic, hearty meals like casseroles or slow-cooked meats can feed many guests without requiring gourmet ingredients. Grocery stores like Publix often have meat on sale around the holidays. Check their weekly ads online or in store for updated sale dates.

• Potluck-style: Don't be afraid to ask guests to contribute! You can create a theme (like international dishes or family recipes) and have everyone bring one dish, reducing your food costs while involving your guests in the event.

• Purchase family meal deals: Skip cooking all together by picking up a pre-made family-sized meal from your favorite restaurants. Restaurants such as Cracker Barrel, Johnny's Bar-B-Q and Kentucky Fried Chicken offer affordable fixings to feed the whole family!

**Entertainment**
Keep your guests engaged by providing affordable activities and entertainment!

• Create a playlist: Curate a holiday playlist that suits the vibe of your gathering. You can use streaming platforms like YouTube, Spotify and Apple Music to find free, ready-made playlists or personalize one based on your guests' preferences.

• Holiday games: Engage guests with simple, fun holiday games like charades, Pictionary or holiday trivia. Look up charades and Pictionary topics or trivia questions online. These activities require little to no cost and are a great way to break the ice.

• Cookie decorating station: Provide basic sugar cookies, icing and sprinkles for guests to decorate their own holiday treats. Many stores such as Walmart, Publix, Hobby Lobby and even Tractor Supply offer pre-made cookie/gingerbread kits as well!

• Photo booth: Set up a DIY photo booth with props (like Santa hats, reindeer antlers or holiday-themed backgrounds). Guests can take fun pictures without the need for a professional photographer.

**Gifts**
If your holiday party involves gift-giving, consider low-cost gift exchange ideas.

• Secret Santa or White Elephant: Set a small budget limit, such as $10 or $15, for each gift. These games bring an element of fun without pressuring guests to spend a lot. Stores like Five Below, T.J. Maxx and Ross often have affordable gift options. Stores like Belk typically offer special holiday discounts both in store and on the app during the holiday season.

• DIY gifts: Homemade gifts, like baked goods or DIY ornaments, are thoughtful and personal without being expensive.

**Add a special touch**
Make your holiday party stand out by adding a simple special touch.

• Create digital invitations using online platforms such as Evite or Canva. Not only is this eco-friendly, but it also allows for easy RSVP tracking and event updates.

• Small, thoughtful details like handwritten place cards or a thank-you note for each guest can leave a lasting impression, showing you care without costing much.

By using these budget-friendly strategies, you can host a holiday party that feels special and memorable without the stress. The key is to focus on creativity, community and the simple joys of the season.

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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

# Cooking for Christ

**Katie Spicer**
katie@cullmantoday.com

Wade Maynard is a well-known name in the culinary world of Cullman County. After serving as kitchen manager for over 20 years at All Steak and as head of the Food Service Ministry at Northbrook Baptist Church, Wade has broadened his horizons while reflecting on his past accomplishments.

Wade recalls having a meager upbringing. His first experience in employment came at the young age of 13. He began his career at All Steak only three years later, where he quickly rose through the ranks. Most people who know Wade know of his skill and passion for cooking; however, not many know his history.

After marrying his beloved wife, Marie, in 1981, she encouraged him to start attending church. As a young man and nonbeliever, he recollects trying to avoid attendance.

However, when he did attend the occasional service he remembers feeling both a sense of peace and simultaneous conviction.

It was not long before Wade accepted Jesus Christ as his lord and savior. From there, the sense of conviction persisted, and he realized he was being called into ministry.

Wade served in a number of ministry roles while also maintaining employment at All Steak. His first pastoral position was offered to him in 1995 at Mission Grove Baptist Church in Simcoe, Alabama, where he was paid only $25 per week.

In 2008, he accepted a position at Northbrook Baptist Church, starting out in a part-time position as the leader of Adult Ministries. While serving in this role, the church was unable to find a proper fit for a long-term kitchen position and Wade offered his services. In 2011, he took on both roles full time.

Said Wade, "God has given me these abilities and I want to use them for his honor and his glory."

As the leader of Adult Ministries, he assumes the responsibility of pastoral care, nursing home and assisted living ministries, and checking in on senior adult members in the community.

He also leads a weekly Bible study at The Neighborhood senior living community on Monday evenings. He says his priority is "to love on people and check on people." Wade agrees with the age-old adage – people don't care how much you know until you know how much they care – and he strives to make this idea the heart of his service in the community.

As the head of the Food Service Ministry, Wade's mission is to offer a welcoming environment for visitors. He shared that one of the main reasons Northbrook offers a meal before service on Wednesday nights is to help people connect.



CONTRIBUTED
***Wade Maynard***

Especially for visitors, he said, "People feel more comfortable talking to somebody over a meal. I want people to enjoy their meals and be satisfied – that means a lot to me. That is my ministry."

Wade said if he could offer one piece of advice to the community, it would be, "Speak less, listen more and you will answer a lot of life's questions."

As a result of his community commitment and a high volume of requests, this year Wade enlisted the help of his daughters, Katie and Chelsea, to start a catering business, Wade's Catering. His business motto is "Allow my family to cook for yours!" Over the course of the past year, Wade's Catering has serviced a number of birthday parties, weddings, funerals, family reunions and more.

Contact Wade's Catering at wadescatering62@gmail.com or 256-347-8638.

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# LEGALS

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO.: PC 2024-396

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF MARK DAMON RICHARD, DECEASED

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

Notice is hereby given that a verified Petition for Summary Distribution has been filed by Sherry Elizabeth Chamblee on November 5, 2024.

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

Dated this the 27th day of November, 2024.

Tammy Brown
Probate Judge

TO: PUBLISHER OF *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

IN RE: The Estate of *
HELEN MARIE DAHLKE, * CASE NO. PC 2024 - 404
Deceased. *

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Frances Ann Dahlke and Betty Louise Dahlke as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of HELEN MARIE DAHLKE, deceased, on the 26th day of November, 2024, 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.

Frances Ann Dahlke
Petitioner

Betty Louise Dahlke
Petitioner

Douglas E. Harris
Attorney for Petitioners

DOUGLAS E. HARRIS, ATTORNEY AT LAW, LLC
95 County Road 1682
Cullman, AL 35058
Telephone: (256) 565-7138

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, Probate Judge

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
CHADWICK WADE KOCH
Deceased. CASE NO.: PC 2024-319

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to HEATHER MOORE as Personal Representative of the Estate of CHADWICK WADE KOCH, deceased, on the 27th day of November, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Heather Moore
Personal Representative

Kimberly H. Drake
419 Second Ave SW. Suite B
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

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

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







# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

*Submit your calendar items or public notices to wendy@cullmantribune.com*

**The Crossing Food Bank**
The Crossing is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m. We are located at 1503 Second St. SW, Cullman, AL 35055 (in the Housing Authority).

**Cullman Low Vision Support Group Meetings**
Third Tuesday of every month, from 10-11:30 a.m., at the Alabama Career Center, 1201 Katherine St. NW in Cullman. Contact Olivia Wade, case manager, at 256-389-2502.

**Baileyton Bargain Days**
First Saturday of each month from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the old Baileyton fire station next to the town's park. Beauty and health products, toys, home goods, pet items, food and many everyday items. A donation of $20 will allow a shopper to fill up a bag, and for $40 a shopper can fill a large box. Some of the items of greater value will require a larger donation. There will be some restrictions and product limits on the items. Cash and checks accepted. Proceeds will be used for park improvements and capital improvements for the town.

**Alcoholics Anonymous**
The Grace of God group of Alcoholics Anonymous has open AA meetings (all are welcome) Mondays and Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. at the Carriage House, located next to Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE Cullman. Contact phone numbers: 256-347-1097, 256-841-2209 or 256-708-1340

**Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD**
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Sunday, Dec. 1 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.
• Sunday-Friday, Dec. 1-6 - International evangelist and prophet Dr. Arvind D'Silva will lead revival services. Sunday, Dec. 1, at 11 a.m. and Monday-Friday, Dec. 2-6 , at 6 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous**
Sundays, 3 p.m. at Cullman First Church of the Nazarene, 5415 Alabama Highway 157. CLOSED literature study. Handicap accessible.

**TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Meetings**
Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m., at the Donald E. Green Adult Active Center, 1625 Cleveland Ave. SW. The first meeting is free. TOPS, a national program, is a hands-on/pounds-off approach to weight loss and management through weekly meetings providing information, accountability, support and encouragement where you make the changes that make sense to you.

**Cullman NAR-ANON Group Meetings**
• The NAR-ANON family group meetings are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction. We offer Help by sharing our experiences, strength and hope.
• We carry the message of hope by letting others know that they are not alone by practicing the 12 Steps of NAR-ANON and changing our own attitudes.
• We Respect Your Anonymity. Our program is not a religious one, but a spiritual way of life. Meetings will be held at The Ruehl Building (Family Life Center of St. John's Church) Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. Contact Jamie Weathersby Smith 256-708-7122 or Don or Nancy McKenzie 256-736-3327 or 256-736-3470 for more information.

**Cullman Al-Anon Meetings**
The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of friends and family whose lives have been affected by alcoholism. The Cullman Serenity Al-Anon Group meets each Monday at noon at 1519 St. Joseph Dr. NE. There is also a Zoom meeting each Tuesday at noon. The Courage to Change Al-Anon Family Group meets on Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church at 305 Arnold St. NE in the Carriage House, located between the church and the Arnold House on the corner. For more information call 256-734-2231 or 256-531-4429.

**Master's Hand Food Pantry at The Link**
• 708 Ninth St. SE, Cullman, AL 35055
• Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
• Closed for lunch noon-1 p.m.

**21st Annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Display**
Through Dec. 29, 5-9 p.m. at Sportsman Lake Park, 1544 Sportsman Lake Road NW. Admission is a cash donation of $10 cash per vehicle. In addition to over one million lights, there will also be a Christmas train, horse and carriage rides, snow machine, photo booth, hot chocolate and even a few visits from Santa himself.

**Specific dates of operation:**
• Nov. 30
• Dec. 1, 4-8, 11-15, 18-22
• Drive-through only Dec. 26-29

**Cullman Christkindlmarkt**
Depot Park, 107 Arnold St. NW, Cullman, AL 35055
Through Dec. 23, Thursdays-Saturdays, from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sundays from noon-8 p.m. | Open seven days a week beginning Dec. 16 (closed on Thanksgiving Day). Get more information at www.cullmanchristkindlmarkt.com.

**6th Annual Christmas at the Grotto**
Through Dec. 28, 5-9 p.m. at the Ave Maria Grotto, 1600 St. Bernard Dr. SE. Christmas lights return to the Grotto! Come and experience the beauty of Br. Joseph's work at night surrounded by lights and music! We have expanded this unique holiday experience to include a Christmas Tunnel at entry and also Santa's Workshop! We've also have added more dates! The weekend of Dec. 13-14 will feature even more to see and do, including musical performances, food trucks, kids' rides and horse-drawn wagon rides around St. Bernard's campus. Plus, Santa Claus will be here! Refreshments will be available every night.

**Dates:**
• Nov. 29-30, Dec. 1
• Dec. 5-7
• Dec. 12
• Dec. 13-14 (food trucks, kids' rides, wagon rides, Santa Claus)
• Dec. 19-23
• Dec. 26-28

**Admission:**
• Adults - $10
• Seniors - $8
• Military/Veterans/First responders - $7
• Teens (13-17) - $8
• Children (5-12) - $7
• Children 4 and younger - free
• rides on Dec. 13-14 - $5
• Kids' rides on Dec. 13,-14 - $3

**Northbrook Baptist Church Holly Jolly Palooza**
Wednesday, Dec. 4, starting at 6 p.m. This free event will include Christmas cookie decorating, carriage rides and a snow experience that guarantees a white Christmas no matter the weather. Funnel cakes, hot chocolate and apple cider will also be available for everyone to enjoy. New this year, the event will include an outdoor movie and bonfire space designed for youth. 3691 Alabama Highway 157 in Cullman.

**4th Annual Berlin Volunteer Fire Department Pancakes with Santa**
Saturday, Dec. 7, 7-10 a.m. at the Berlin Community Center, 3309 U.S. Highway 278. Breakfast plates and meetings with Santa are for donation only; however, the department encourages the whole community to fellowship and enjoy this fun event, regardless of ability to contribute. The breakfast will also feature a drive-through and all proceeds will benefit the department's Christmas program, serving local children in their service area.

**Jones Chapel Merry Market Vendor and Craft Show**
Saturday, Dec. 7, at 9 a.m. Old Jones Chapel School, 192 County Road 940. The Merry Market is a collective of Christmas goods and gifts, conveniently located in one space.

**35th Annual Cullman County Christmas Parade**
Saturday, Dec. 7, beginning at noon, starting at Wallace State and traveling down U.S. Highway 31 to the fire station west of Hanceville City Hall. Get more information at www.facebook.com/hancevillecivitan.

**Baileyton Senior Center Community Christmas**
Saturday, Dec. 7, from 5:30-8 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, popcorn, sno-cones and drinks. Free picture with Santa! Each child will receive a candy bag, a fruit bag and a gift. Everyone welcome! Doors open at 5:30.

**Cullman Ballet Theatre School Presents "The Nutcracker"**
Saturday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2:30 p.m. at Hartselle High School, 1000 Bethel Road. Cullman Ballet Theatre School will present its annual production of "The Nutcracker" at Hartselle High School. Get tickets online at www.cullmanballettheatre.com.

**Cullman Chapter of The National Association of Retired and Active Federal Employees Meeting**
Monday, Dec. 9, at The Golden Corral Restaurant. Our program will be our Christmas "dirty Santa" $10-$15 gift exchange. Dutch lunch prior to meeting, which begins at noon. Members and nonmembers welcome. This meeting will be our last meeting until April 2025. More info 256-708-5326.

**South Vinemont Free Senior Citizen Christmas Fellowship Event**
Monday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Vinemont Community Center. Local seniors are welcome to attend and enjoy lunch and activities. There will be a pie/cake competition, with the winner receiving a $25 Walmart gift card. 88 Ridgeway St.







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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
NOVEMBER 30, 2024

PREP BASKETBALL

# Bearcats fall to Hewitt-Trussville in Mike Dean Turkey Shootout, 62-39

**Nick Griffin**
nick@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — After collecting wins over Lawrence County and Decatur Heritage earlier this week, Cullman was back on the court at Bearcat Arena Wednesday night to play Hewitt-Trussville in the final matchup of this year's Coach Mike Dean Turkey Shootout. The Huskies gave Cullman problems on the defensive end throughout the night and were able to pull away late to give the Bearcats their first loss of the season, 62-39.

Brooks Loftin laid one in to tie the game at 2 early in the first quarter but an 8-0 run from the Huskies put the 'Cats behind 10-2. Evan Wilson knocked down a three later in the period to make it a 10-5 game, but Hewitt-Trussville was able to extend its lead to 14-5 by the start of the second quarter.

Three-pointers from Sam Dorough and Loftin trimmed the lead to 14-11 early in the second but another scoring run from the Huskies made it a 19-11 game. Baskets by Loftin and Gray Hopper stopped the run and cut the lead to 19-15 midway through the second quarter. Jake Dorough laid one in to make it a 3-point game later in the period, but Hewitt-Trussville scored the final four points of the quarter to take a 24-17 lead into the halftime break.

A three-pointer from Preston Gay made it a 29-20 game early in the third quarter and after a 7-0 run from the Huskies, Owen Graves laid one in to hold the lead to 36-23. Emory Bonds split a pair of free throws and Hopper scored inside to make it a 10-point game with two minutes remaining in the third. Gay hit a pair of free throws to make it 40-28 in the final minute of the period and the Bearcats went into the final frame trailing 42-29.

Three-pointers by Hopper and Wilson cut the lead to 44-35 early in the fourth quarter. Jake Dorough drove to the basket and laid one in to make it 46-37 but the Huskies turned up the intensity on the defensive end, outscoring Cullman 16-2 in the final five minutes to pull away with a 62-39 win.

Loftin led the Bearcats with nine points in the loss. Hopper finished with eight, Wilson posted six and Gay added five. Jake Dorough and Loftin both earned all-tournament honors.

Cullman will be back home at Bearcat Arena to play Arab Monday night.




NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

***Brooks Loftin (23) led the Bearcats with nine points in their 62-39 loss to Hewitt-Trussville Wednesday night.***

## Eatery (from Front)

welcome our guests in to find a spot that they may feel comfortable in," Verhoff said. "We purposely try to greet every guest and welcome them to our 'home' — The Olive House. As you enter the foyer you will see a beautiful painting created by Emily Blair Anderson Art of 'The Olive Tree' to your left (and) written on the wall is the beginning of our vision statement."

Boatright said as you travel through the house you will see pieces of the vision statement written in different places.

"Downstairs we have Peacock Parlor, Spill the Tea, Tea Room and The Study," Boatright said. "As you travel up the stairs you will enter our 'Garden Area' with The Garden Room on your right, and The Magnolia Room on the left — this room is the only white room in the house. We chose different shades of green in the other rooms. The color green represents life. We want The Olive House to bring life to all who enter."

Boatright said The Olive House's afternoon tea times are a more traditional tea service.

"When you arrive at The Olive House you are taken to your table where you will enjoy three courses — a savory course consisting of assorted tea sandwiches and finger foods, a bread course to include scones, Devonshire Cream and jam and last, but certainly not least, is your sweets course featuring different dessert bites," she said. "Each course is accompanied by a different tea — some served hot, some served iced. The Afternoon Tea times last an hour and a half and are perfect for a girls' afternoon out, a date or just a quiet moment alone. It's a fun new experience for many and we love seeing all the new faces each week."

In the future, The Olive House will be hosting Dinner nights.

"These events we'll presell tickets of no more than 30 per dinner in order to keep it a more intimate setting and give our guests the best quality experience," Boatright said. "We also plan to host some fun themed nights during the fall and winter months. October will be a 'Bridgerton Mystery Night.' Info will be coming out soon to pre-purchase tickets for this event. We will also be featuring our German dishes during the week of Oktoberfest. Right now at The Olive House we have our "FALLing For You" menu, which offers new fall items each week."

Verhoff said there are many meanings of the olive tree. Specifically, it is a symbol of friendship and reconciliation, beauty and blessing, cleansing and healing, light, victory and richness and, above all, a sign of peace.

"May you find a refuge here from the fast pace of everyday life," she said.

"Take a deep breath and relax. Just as the roots of the olive tree extend far past the ability to not just survive, but to thrive despite times of drought, our prayer is that your experience here at The Olive House does the same for you. Their roots are so strong that they can re-grow even when it seems like they've been totally decimated. Even if the tree itself has been destroyed, if the roots are intact the olive tree can cling to life and rise above the soil once again."

The Olive House is an official Embassy for The Republic of Tea, which means it offers tea and fellowship for those wanting to have a premium tea experience.

"We also have available the Republic of Tea for purchase and you can carry home, along with our Olive House "Tea Shirts" designed by Nomadic Threads and Southern Vinyl. Customized earrings specifically designed for The Olive House by a local artisan — The Clay Collection. You must try our custom made 'baby cakes' from another Cullman native, Twin Treats. Not only are they the most exquisitely designed, but the taste is equally exquisite. We absolutely love to feature local artisans; Cullman is blessed to have so many," said Boatright.

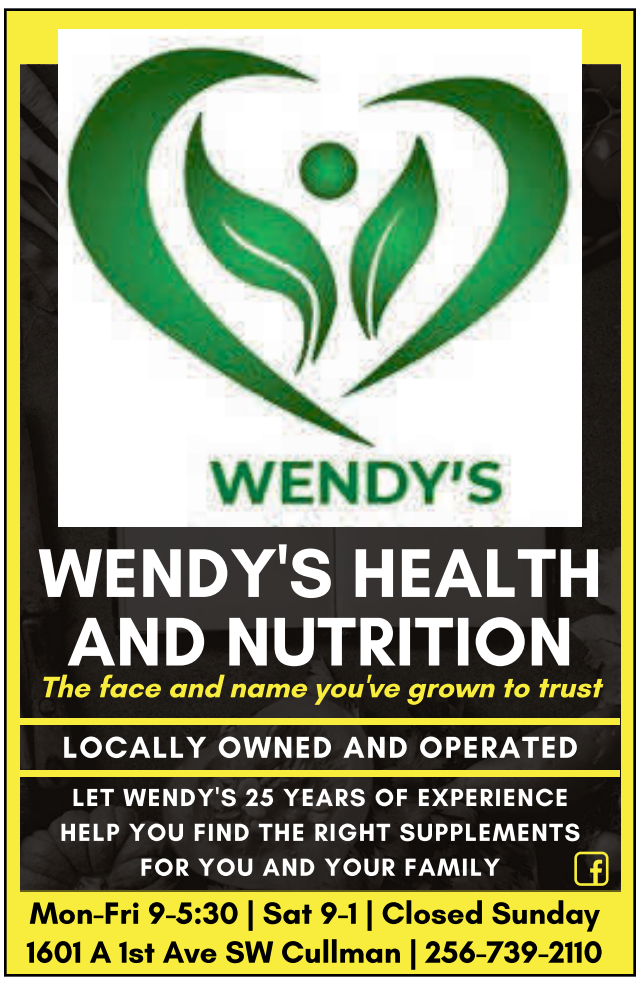
"We are beyond grateful for this opportunity to serve our community that we love so dearly. We are continually amazed at the love and generosity of our small (not so small) hometown and the people that make it what it is. We have been gifted so many treasures that are making The Olive House home for all. You will find many of these items on display in each and every room.

"We have received beautiful vintage lamps, sets of china, gorgeous teapots, vintage salt cellars — all from our patrons wanting to invest in the vision of The Olive House. We really do live in one of the best places with the very best people."

Also, The Olive House can be rented out for events. You can rent individual rooms or the entire place for showers, parties, meetings, micro-weddings, private tea parties and more.

The Olive House is located at 502 Third St. SE in Cullman. It is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. for lunch and has Afternoon Tea Time (you must book tickets) every Sunday at 2 p.m.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/itsallaboutthegraze.









SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

# 95 years of living life to the fullest

**Lauren Estes**
lauren@cullmantribune.com

Military veteran and Vinemont man Robert Doty, lovably known as Mr. Bob in his neighborhood, shared his knowledge and experience from his 95 years life.

"My name is Robert Doty, but everyone calls me Bob," Doty said. "I turned 95 on Sept. 6. I live in South Vinemont with my daughter and son-in-law. I have lived a full life."

Doty shared that he ran away from home at 16-years-old and joined the Army Air Corps (before it became the Air Force) in 1946 after the end of World War II.

"I was almost in a year until my mother found out where I was and contacted my commanding officer," Doty said.

"Because I was under age, I was given an honorable discharge. In 1952, about a year after getting married, I was drafted into the Army and was sent overseas to Korea where I served in the 40th Infantry Division. I was stationed in the area called the Punch Bowl between White Horse Ridge and Heartbreak Ridge. I got too close to an incoming mortar shell in 1953 and was sent to Tokyo, Japan to the 80/59th Army Hospital. I served the remainder of my time working for Commander Samuel Trask from 1953 to 1955. During this time, I served as Military Police and escorted Marilyn Monroe to the stage for a USO tour."

Even having so much life under his belt at such a young age, Doty said his best memory is the day he met his wife.

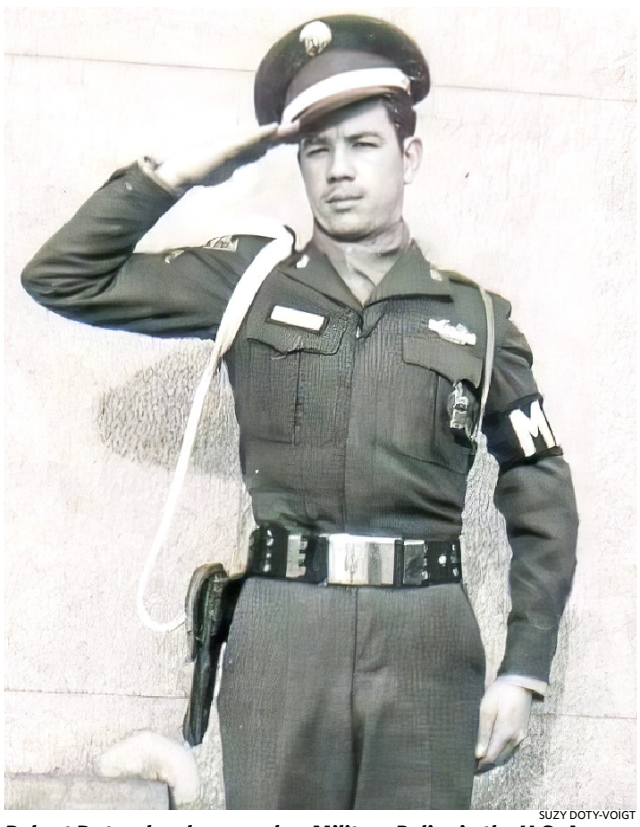
"I was standing in line at the movie theater in Joplin, Missouri," Doty said. "I met a young lady that asked me to sit with her. Being single and unattached, I agreed. We took our seats and while we waited for the movie to start, the most beautiful girl I ever saw said, 'Excuse me, sir, can I get to that seat?' She was pointing to the seat next to the young lady I met in line.

"I was so taken by her beauty and her sweet voice. When the movie was over, the young lady I met in line asked me if I wanted to walk her home. I told her, 'No, I'm walking Red here home' motioning to the young lady that stole my heart.

"I asked her to marry me that night. She said, 'No, we just met.' But she did ask her mother if she could date me. I asked her to marry me many, many times over that first year of dating her. I followed her when her family moved from Missouri to Iowa for her father's work. And after about a year and a move, she said 'Yes.' We spent 62 wonderful years together."

I asked Mr. Bob, "If you could give one piece of advice to your 30-year old self, what would it be?"

"Take time each day to pray and read your Bible," Doty said. "I have read my Bible through at least 14 times since picking it back up again in 2011 when my wife passed away. It helped me get through tremendous grief. I only wish I'd started sooner."



SUZY DOTY-VOIGT

***Robert Doty when he served as Military Police in the U.S. Army***

Mr. Bob's day-to-day routine sounds like that of a dream: Easy like Sunday morning.

"I wake up early, anywhere from 5-6:30 a.m.," Doty said. "I get my coffee, read my Bible and take my first walk of the day, if the weather allows. On Tuesdays and Thursdays I exercise with weights. Most days, if the weather is nice, I take at least two walks a day. I mow our 2 acres and weed-eat. On Wednesdays I like to go to karaoke to see Danny (Frasier) and dance with my daughter and the other nice ladies that go there (Grumpy's Down Under)."

His daughter Suzy Doty-Voigt shared and reiterated a few facts about her father.

"When he was in Korea, he was Military Police and escorted Marilyn Monroe to the stage for a USO tour," Voigt said. He spent the majority of his life as an auto mechanic. He was with his last boss for 45 years. They worked on classic cars manufactured from 1932 to1980. He worked on the car Jay Leno drove onto set on his first night as the host of 'The Tonight Show.' He retired at 86-years-old. He is also hugely loved in our neighborhood. Everyone calls him Mr. Bob and one of the neighbors, who's become a good friend, made him a bench that says 'Mr. Bob's Bench' with an American flag on it and a flag in the fence by it so if he gets tired while walking, he had a place to rest."



SUZY DOTY-VOIGT

***Robert Doty***

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# Safety (from Front)

**Lauren Estes**
lauren@cullmantribune.com

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office has some seasonal safety tips for the community to help with safer driving, shopping and overall home preparedness this holiday season.

**While driving and/or shopping:**

- Keep doors and windows locked at all times, whether you are inside or out of your vehicle. Don't make it easy for the bad guys!
- Pay more attention to your surroundings than your phone.
- Remember where you park! Park in well-lit areas at night.
- Pay attention who you are parking beside; avoid vans, camper shells or vehicles with dark tinted windows.
- Park as close as possible to the building.
- Never leave your vehicle running while unoccupied (or with children inside)!
- Do not leave valuables in plain sight.
- Have your keys readily available as you approach your car.
- Be especially aware of your surroundings as you are approaching your vehicle.
- Do not approach your vehicle if there are suspicious people loitering around the area.
- Ask security or store personnel to escort you to the vehicle if you are apprehensive.

**At home:**

- Keep your doors and windows locked at all times!
- If you are leaving for an extended period of time, have neighbors or family members check on your residence and pick up your mail.
- Leave a radio or TV on to give the appearance that someone is home.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.

**If someone is at the door:**

- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering packages or gifts.
- You are not required to open your door. Never open the door if you are uncertain.
- Do not hesitate to call the sheriff's office/police department if an issue arises.
- Be skeptical of door-to-door solicitors. Criminals will take advantage of people's generosity during the holiday season.

**Here are a few tips that will help with Christmas trees:**

- Make sure fresh trees have green needles that do not fall off when touched. Before you put it in the stand, make sure there are 2 inches cut off the bottom. A lot of local sellers will do it for you.
- Keep your trees 3 feet away from any power sources. Radiators, HVAC systems, candles, high-voltage lights don't need to be within reach of your tree. Three feet of separation is a good rule of thumb. Also, make sure your trees aren't blocking the exit of the house.
- When using lights, ensure they're labeled and show they were tested by a third party, such as Underwriter's Laboratory (UL), and meet safety requirements.
- Make sure to use indoor lights inside the house and outdoor lights outside the house. When purchasing lights, read the label for the location in which the lights are to be used. Many are marked as indoor/outdoor use and have been tested as such. Please don't use real candles as decorations and make sure to turn off all lights before going to bed.
- It's not common for Christmas trees to catch on fire — but they will light up a house in a heartbeat. With pre-wired trees, the plastic covering over the wires can break down causing the wires to short out. Make sure there are no broken or exposed wires before plugging into an outlet.

# Obituary Announcements: Nov. 28-29

**Barry Michael Willingham Sr., 79**

Barry Michael Willingham Sr., age 79, of Crane Hill, Alabama passed away on Monday, Nov. 25, 2024. Mr. Willingham attended Blessed Sacrament School and graduated from John Carroll High School and Jefferson State College. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in the medical corps in Germany. He received numerous awards and achievements before receiving an honorable discharge with the rank of Specialist 5. He spent his entire working career in the Birmingham trucking industry and retired as Executive Vice President of Builders Transportation Company with thirty years of service. At the time of his death Mr. Willingham was the assistant to the President of Buddy Moore Trucking Company. He was also past president of the Birmingham Motor Truck Club and the Birmingham Traffic and Transportation Club. He received the Marcus Whitman Transportation Man of the Year Award at the University of Alabama Annual Transportation Forum. He was also a charter member of Tide Pride. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Patricia Gardner Willingham, a son Barry (Denise) Willingham Jr. of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, his daughters, Bethany (Justin) Ross of Houston, Texas, and Beverly (Brandon) Marbut of Huntsville, Alabama. Other survivors include a sister, Margaret (Jimmy) Freeman and his grandchildren, Brittain Ross, Lydia Marbut, Michael Ross, Mary Chapel Marbut, Claire Ross, Andrew Willingham and Ava Marbut. He is also survived by his niece, Donna Musgrove and his nephew, David Freeman. In addition to his love of family and catholic faith, he was passionate about the trucking industry. For years, he facilitated the transportation of ductile iron pipe produced in Birmingham to destinations throughout the country. He also enjoyed wonderful times fishing, boating, and barbecuing with friends on his beloved Smith Lake, and spent his Saturdays cheering for the Crimson Tide. He was a charter member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and is currently a member of St. Boniface. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to: St. Boniface Stained Glass Window Fund at Sacred Heart Catholic 256-734-3730, 205 Third Avenue SE, Cullman, AL 35055. A Visitation Service will be held Friday, Nov. 29, 2024, 6:15 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 205 Third Avenue SE Cullman, AL, 35055, with a Rosary Service to follow at 7:30 p.m. Funeral Mass will be Saturday, Nov. 30, at 10 a.m. with a graveside service to follow at Elmwood Cemetery – 800 Martin Luther King Jr Dr. Birmingham, AL, 35211. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

**Stewart Veltus Sanders, 85**

Funeral services for Stewart Veltus Sanders, 85, of Cullman, will be 1 p.m. Saturday Nov. 30, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Rev. Tim Ayers will be officiating. Burial will follow the service at Cullman City Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Born on May 22, 1939, Stewart Sanders, a man who cherished his life and lived it to the fullest, passed away peacefully on Nov. 26, 2024. Known for his warmth, kindness, and dedication to his family, Stewart left an indelible mark on all who knew him. Stewart loved his family deeply and worked tirelessly to be a devoted provider. For 21 years, he owned and operated S&E Carpet in Bremen, Alabama, earning the trust and respect of his community. After selling the business to his sister, Martha, and her husband, Kermit, he embarked on a new chapter. Stewart turned his focus to renovating and reselling homes, pursuing this passion in Cullman, Tennessee, and Florida. His hard work and determination ensured his success in every endeavor. A true people person, Stewart had a gift for connecting with others. He delighted in conversations with friends and family, always ready with a kind word, a story, or a laugh. His positivity and zest for life were infectious, and his presence brought joy to all who spent time with him. Stewart's life was a testament to love, dedication, and an enduring spirit. He will be deeply missed but fondly remembered by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. Mr. Sanders is survived by his wife, Judith Healy; siblings, Wynona Campbell, James Harbison (Peggy), Martha Kilgo, Charlie Harbison (Rita); and a host of nieces and nephews. Mr. Sanders was preceded in death by his daughter, Wanita Sanders; sister, Mary Bookout (Glenn), brother-in-law, Kermit Kilgo; and his parents, Doyle Sanders & Ellen Harbison.

**Eleanor Frances Vinson, 81**

Funeral service for Eleanor Frances Vinson, age 81, of Cullman, will be Monday, Dec. 2, 2024, at 1 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, with Bro. Brent Garrett officiating. Visitation will be held at the chapel from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Eleanor was born on Jan. 27, 1943, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to Marvin and Laverne Humanes. She passed away on Friday, Nov. 29, 2024, at Woodland Village Nursing Home in Cullman, surrounded by her loving family. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, David Vinson; son, Raymond Powell; daughter, Christy Hutchenson. She is survived by her sons, Keith Powell, Wesley Powell, Kenneth Hutchenson, Jeffrey Vinson, and Dewayne Humanes; daughter Linda Trina Shelnutt (Kevin); brother, Lee Humanes (Sue); sisters, Wendy Shipp, and Venus Simms; grandchildren, Sabrina Shelnutt, Erica Shelnutt, Breanna Vinson, Jason Powell, Daniel Powell, Timmy Powell, and Nathan Powell; a host of family and friends. Please visit www.culllmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

**Troy 'Butch' Cleghorn, 74**

Funeral service for Troy H. "Butch" Cleghorn, age 74, of Cullman, will be Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. at Sulpher Springs Baptist Church in Crane Hill, with Paul Cleghorn and Kerry Cleghorn officiating. Visitation will be held at the church from noon - 1:30 p.m. and the interment will follow at Liberty Cemetery in Helicon. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Cleghorn was born on June 18, 1950, to Troy Felton Cleghorn and Eunice Ward Cleghorn in Cullman, Alabama. He passed away on Friday, Nov. 29, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. Full obituary to follow. Please visit www.culllmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

**David Eugene Brooks, 63**

With heavy hearts but grateful spirits, we announce the passing of David Brooks, affectionately known as Pappy to his family and P'Nut to his friends and comrades. David passed away peacefully at home on Nov. 27, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of love, laughter, stories and dedication that will forever be cherished. David's heart was as big as his passions. A proud veteran, he served with honor in the United States Navy aboard the USS Finback, where his courage and commitment to his country were evident every day. But his service didn't stop there. For over 30 years, he was a trusted over-the-road trucker, a career that saw him driving countless miles with determination and pride. As the owner and operator of LMR Trucking, David poured his heart into his work, always dedicated to providing for his family and ensuring his passengers and cargo were in safe hands. David's love for his family was boundless. He is survived by his loving wife, Sammi Brooks, who was the light of his life, and his daughter Shanna Keough, her husband, Jonathan, and their children—Haley, Tyler, Keith, and Tobias. David was also the proud father of his son Josh Brooks and his wife, Autumn, and their children Carson and Carolyn, all of whom he adored beyond measure. His love extended to his bonus daughter, Kristina Moss and her husband Jeremey, and their children Landon and Isabella, as well as bonus son Garrett Higgins, his wife Errin, and their daughter Harbor. David's family was his world, and his love for them was reflected in everything he did. He was the steady anchor, the trusted mentor, and the unshakable rock. He will be deeply missed by his brothers, Michael Lisenby and LaDale Brooks, and a host of extended family and friends who knew him as a man of integrity, humor, and unwavering loyalty. In his free time, David found peace in creating. His woodshop, affectionately known as Pappy's Workshop, was where his hands brought his many ideas to life. Whether crafting simple pieces of wood into beautiful works of art or inventing something entirely new, David poured his heart into each creation. His loved ones are blessed to have received countless handmade treasures, each one a testament to his skill, care, and the joy he found in making something special for others. David's warmth, kindness, and humor touched all who knew him. He had a way of making everyone feel seen and valued. Whether sharing a story, a laugh, or offering a helping hand, he was always there for those he cared about, with a heart as vast as the world itself. In honor of David's memory, his family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Eva Baptist Church, located at 121 Gravel Ridge Road, Eva, AL, 35621. David's faith was an essential part of his life, and the family requests that his legacy of love, service, and devotion continue through this meaningful contribution. David "Pappy" Brooks lived a life that was full, rich with love, and lived with purpose. While his physical presence may no longer be with us, his spirit will continue to inspire, uplift, and live on in the hearts of his family, friends, and all who were blessed to know him. Rest in peace, Pappy. You will never be forgotten. "Let's do another one!"

**Otto William Evers, 95**

Otto William Evers died on Nov. 23, 2024. He was born on Aug. 5, 1929, in Cullman, Alabama to Magadalena Blette Evers and Otto Theodor August Evers. He is predeceased by his loving wife of 68 years, He is survived by his daughter Kathryn Evers (David Hartwig) of Parker, Colorado, grandson Will Hartwig (Jennifer Schmitt), of Washington, DC, granddaughter Katie Hartwig and great grandson Leo Ashner of Denver, Colorado. He attended school at Pleasant Hill, later at the City School and Cullman High school. He joined the Air Force in 1950 and was stationed at San Antonio, Texas. Later he was transferred to Biloxi, Mississippi and then to Mather Field, California. He came home on leave in November 1951 to be married to Mildred Frank when he received orders to report back to California for overseas duty. He was stationed in Tokyo, Japan, for 18 months during the Korean Conflict. After returning to the United States he was stationed in Altus, Oklahoma and later sent to Greenville, South Carolina After returning to Cullman they moved to the family farm which is now the Cullman Golf Course. During this time he made the decision to return to school. He attended Cullman College, St. Bernard College and University of Alabama Birmingham to earn his degree in education. He began his teaching career at West Point High School. After teaching several years he returned to school to earn his Master's Degree and later returned to school again to be able to teach drivers education. During his career in teaching he taught, at West Point, Vinemont High School, Good Hope High School, Fairview High School and Wallace State Community College night classes. He retired in 1988, from Fairview High School. After retirement he worked with the Soil Conservation Service. He began working with Hospice of Cullman County as a volunteer and was in the first class to become a volunteer in Cullman. He worked as a Hospice volunteer for three years. He then began volunteering with the American Red Cross and later served on the Board of Directors. He served this organization as a volunteer for 12 years. During his years of education, working and volunteering he continued to farm. He and his wife farmed on the Frank Farm at East Point and continued to live on the farm and planting a garden each year in addition to maintaining a well manicured yard with many types of plants in the flower garden. Mr. Evers was a life long member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church where he served with his wife and the late Dot Graf as youth counselors. He served as Sunday School Superintendent for a number of years and later served on the St. Paul's Lutheran School He was a member of the Cullman County Historical Society, a charter member of the Cullman German Club and the Friends of Frankweiler. Mr. Evers was an avid reader, especially books of the Second World War. He enjoyed the travels to Europe, especially Germany and going to the towns his ancestors came from. He will long be remembered for his years of teaching by the children he felt he helped to mold into productive citizens. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. His family was his pride and joy.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

# Thanksgiving is more than a holiday

**Bill King**
Tribune
Contributor



The late gospel singer and writer Andre Crouch had a popular song back in the 70s titled, "To God Be the Glory." The opening verse says, "How can I say thanks for the things God has given me? Things so undeserved, yet he gave to prove his love to me. The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude!"

Thanksgiving is a special time for us to express our gratitude. Thanksgiving is more than simply a holiday. It's certainly more than a time to eat too much and watch football with family. It is a time to give thanks.

This Thanksgiving I give thanks to still be here. Life is a most precious gift that we tend to take for granted. A close brush with death can cause us to reevaluate and look at life through a different set of eyes.

When I had my heart surgery last December, I never thought I was going to die. I prayed for God to see me through the surgery and bring healing to my heart and my body in the days and weeks afterward. Now, almost a year later, I give thanks that he did exactly that.

I give thanks to my cardiologist and my surgeon, as well as all the medical team, for using their God-given knowledge and skills to save my life, as well as the lives of many others. I give thanks to the cardiac rehab team that pushed me to get stronger.

I give thanks to my wife of almost 50 years who stood by my side, took care of me and rallied me back to health. I give thanks to my daughter, who happens to be a registered nurse, who was always there with tough but encouraging love and help. I give thanks to all the many friends, especially the members at Lanier Baptist Church, who prayed for me to get well.

I give thanks for each new sunrise. I give thanks for the opportunity to see more of this beautiful world this past year and visit places I never dreamed I would see. I give thanks for the many opportunities to minister to others at our church and to be ministered to by them, as well. I give thanks for the opportunities to bless others through my writing, music and even humor through stories and songs as Bro. Billy Bob. I give thanks for the opportunities to "play" in my woodshop and craft works of art.

We are not promised another day, much less another year. It has been said that life is like a vapor. It is here one minute and gone the next. Every single day we live, each breathe we take, is a gift from God. Each moment we spend with family, loved ones and friends should be cherished.

In the 17th chapter of the gospel according to Luke, the writer tells us about 10 lepers who had an encounter with Jesus. He sent them to see the priests and as they were going their skin began to clear up and their leprosy disappeared. One might think that all 10 of them ran back to Jesus to tell him thank you, but not quite. In fact, only one of the 10 returned to give thanks.

The rest, evidently, went on their merry way with little thought, and evidently not much gratitude for the enormous blessing they had received. May we never be guilty of taking life and the blessings we have received for granted. May we instead receive them with gratitude and give thanks where thanks is due. Happy Thanksgiving week!

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

HISTORY

# Files from Yesteryear: 1955

**From the files of 1955**

Fred Harbison won the Grand Championship at the Beef Show with a shorthorn steer. Mary Wood won Reserve Champion with a Hereford steer.

Don Morgan, nine year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Morgan, won the Cub Scout Soap Box Derby, last Sunday afternoon here. Don is in Mrs. Ruth Edward's fourth grade room in East Elementary School.

Six-year-old Douglas Romine is recovering nicely in a New Orleans hospital after undergoing plastic surgery, last Thursday morning. Plans are for him to leave the hospital, on April 29th. However, he will have to go to his physician for treatment, every other day, for some time.

Douglas was seriously burned at his home in Saudi Arabia two years ago.

Mrs. Romine last month brought Douglas from Arabia to the states for the operation.

Also coming with them were the Romine's other children, Sharon and Michael, who are staying here in Cullman with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George Romine. Sharon has entered the East Elementary School, where Miss Frances McPherson is her teacher.

This is her first experience of attending school in the states and she likes it very much.

Miss Pearl Raney, sister of the late Mrs. J.T. Winn, of Cullman, died in a Jasper Hospital, Sunday p.m. Funeral services were held in Athens, at 3:00 p.m., on Monday. Reverend G.M. Bynum was the officiating minister, with Stanfield of Jasper directing interment.

Survivors include: a sister, Mrs. J.M. Maples, of Florence and several nieces and nephews.

Relatives from Cullman attending the funeral were: Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Entrekin, Mr. and Mrs. W.S. Walker and Mr. and Mrs. Carl C. Ellard.

Two mystery farms were identified this week. The farm published in the April 7th issue of the Tribune, was that of Dwight Tilley, of Route Four, Cullman and the April 14th farm was that of Eldridge Harris, of Route Two, Hanceville.

The first persons to identify the Tilley farm were Kermit Wix, Mrs. O.M. Earl and H.J. Tilley.

The previous owner of this forty acre farm was H.K. Tilley, who had owned it for some forty years, having inherited it from his father, who in turn had owned a five-hundred acre tract.

The farm was just put under plow seven years ago, when the Dwight Tilleys came into possession of it.

They do tractor farming and grow sweet potatoes and plants as well as vegetables for trucking. Their favorite livestock is hogs.

The Tilleys were married on December 22nd, 1948 and have two children, Dennis, five and Donna, three.

They are members of the Bethsadia Baptist Church and Farm Bureau. His hobby is livestock, particularly hogs and her hobbies are music and flowers.

One of the greatest honors ever received by Mr. Tilley was in 1948, when he received his American Farmer's Degree, in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Harris farm is better known as the W.B. Scott place and it was thus that the first ones,

Stella White and Eloise Madison, identified it. The Harrises have very recently bought this farm.

Mrs. Harris is the former Lacie Lynn. They were married in 1946 and have two children, Carolyn, eight and Lynn, four. They are members of Beech Grove Baptist Church.

# POET'S CORNER

## The Breath of Winter | By: April McCay

The breath of winter
Chills my skin,
Grateful for pockets
To warm my hands in.

A quick season
That seems so long,
Stores and homes decorated
All playing Christmas songs.

Enjoy the season
Enjoy the rush,
Smell the aroma of hot soup
Slowing down for holiday hush.

Snuggle with love ones
By the flame,
Remembering this season's reason
Enjoying the people that came

# CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

NOV. 30

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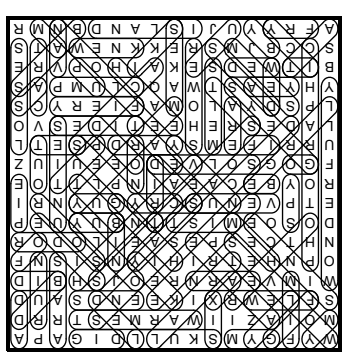
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# CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

NOV. 30

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...IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS CHRIST DIED FOR US. ROMANS 5:8

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

# The dream of a lifetime

## Evelyn Stevens' journey to all 30 MLB stadiums

**Gauge Day**
gauge@cullmantribune.com

A dream born from the love of a husband. An unwavering dedication from a widowed mother and wife. Two daughters determined to honor both. Evelyn Stevens, at the remarkable age of 89, embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime journey that took her to every corner of the United States to visit every Major League Baseball stadium, accompanied by her two cherished daughters. Together, they set out to complete a dream that spanned years, miles and family memories that would mean the most of all.

Evelyn, born in 1935, has been a devoted member of First Baptist Church for nearly 88 years. Her family moved to Cullman when she was just 8 months old, quickly finding a home within the congregation at First Baptist Church. The church became a cornerstone of her life, one that has remained constant through the decades.

"My mother, sister and her aunt and their families were all established at First Baptist, so we naturally went there. I have been there 88 years now," she shared with fond memories in her eyes.

As a young girl growing up in church, Evelyn was deeply involved in various ministries. She participated in Girls in Action (GAs), where young girls learned about scripture, prayer and giving. She also served in the Young Women's Auxiliary (YWA), which emphasized evangelism and mission work. Beyond these roles, she attended summer camps, sang in the youth choir, toured with the choir and stayed active in the youth group, all while strengthening her relationship with God.

Remembering back to the most defining moment of her journey, she recalled the day that she was saved.

"It was in Bible school, the commencement part on the last day. The preacher was Bill Piper and there was a tent revival at the time. The tent was where the courthouse is now. The school building that had been there burned, and it was a vacant lot. And so, we had tent revival." She continued, "The preacher spoke to all of the kids in Bible school and I learned the books in the Bible in Bible school, and I can still say them. It stuck with me. That was in '44. I was 9 years old," she said, smiling at the memory.

Her life, deeply rooted in both faith and Cullman, led her to meet her soulmate, Milton "Bud" Stevens. The two crossed paths at Davis Lumber Company, where Evelyn worked, and Bud, at the time, was a truck driver. He later transitioned into a truck mechanic, a career that would become his lifelong work.

"I was a junior in high school, and he was eight months older than I. They said on my first day there that I said, 'Who's that curly-headed boy?' I don't remember that, but they accused me of that," Stevens shared with a cheerful laugh.

When asked about her first impression of Bud, she smiled and said, "He was tall, dark and handsome."

Bud, standing 6'3, an avid baseball lover and a lefty pitcher with that natural curve only a southpaw can produce, was the package deal that would win Evelyn's heart.

It took just four years for them to tie the knot. After high school, Evelyn spent a few years at Sacred Heart, a junior college during the 1940s and '50s. Although she initially planned to attend Auburn, life took an unexpected turn when dorms weren't available. Instead, she made a deposit for a dorm at the University of Alabama, setting the stage for the next chapter in her life.

However, love won out in the end. With a deposit already in place and life moving quickly, they decided that marriage was the priority. The couple married at Evelyn's favorite place, First Baptist Church.

For Evelyn, the church had always been a cornerstone of her life, but it was different for Bud. Raised in the country, he grew up attending a Methodist church in his community. After their marriage, Bud agreed to attend First Baptist with her, though Evelyn recalled that he had not yet accepted Jesus into his heart.

"I remember that the first year we were married, we just went to church. The next year, when Renita was born, I thought, he may not go to Sunday school, but this girl's going to be in Sunday school. So, we started going to Sunday school, and eventually, he did too."

Years later, Bud would finally accept Jesus into his heart. But even before that, Bud was already known for his honorable character. "Bud was always an honorable person. You did not lie to Bud. He was honest as the day is long, and he expected everybody else to be," Evelyn shared.

With marriage came children. Two girls, Renita and Amelia, would bless the Stevens household. Renita came first in December 1956 and Amelia would follow years later in June 1960.

Evelyn's work life shifted as the needs of her family changed. She adapted to what was necessary at the time, whether it meant staying home with a newborn or working to save for a down payment on a house.

She spent 10 years doing bookkeeping for Holiday Motors, an Oldsmobile dealership that has since closed. She then worked for another decade in the tax assessor's office. Eventually, she found her true calling, serving in the district office of an Alabama congressman, a position she held and cherished for 34 years.

It was in that office that she would work for Congressman Tom Bevill for 17 years, followed by another 17 years for Congressman Robert Aderholt. During her time in these roles, she handled West Point appointments and had the opportunity to visit various military academies, including the Naval Academy. After a remarkable career, she finally retired at the age of 79.

"I worked a long time, but I enjoyed it. I still read the newspapers and go by the office weekly. I'm still included in all the fun things, the Christmas party, his birthday fundraiser, just all of the fun things," she shared.

From kids, to work, to all of the adventures in between, Evelyn and Bud shared 39 years of life together. It was during these cherished years that a simple thought turned into a real dream – to visit all the Major League Baseball stadiums in the U.S. This shared passion would soon become a goal they both wanted to achieve.

In 1994, Bud felt it was time to start making this dream a reality. Both Evelyn and Bud, passionate baseball fans, began discussing how they could visit every stadium. However, their plans hit a snag when the MLB went on strike from 1994 to 1995, leading to the cancellation of the remainder of the season, including the World Series.



AMELIA STEVENS-SUTTER MOYER

***Amelia Stevens-Sutter Moyer, Evelyn Stevens and Renita Stevens Rigney stand before the last stadium they had left to visit, Comerica Park, home to the Detroit Tigers.***

Not long after, on July 11, 1995, Bud passed away just shy of their 40th anniversary at the age of 61. That dream, conceptualized by Bud, would lie dormant for the next 10 years.

Ten years later, the dream resurfaced, sparked by a thoughtful idea from Evelyn's daughters, Amelia and Renita. With their mother growing older, they searched for something truly meaningful to give her – a gift beyond material possessions.

"Renita and I were struggling. This was in 2005. We were trying to come up with something to give Mother. I told Renita, 'You know what, we can run into Belk, buy tons of things for her to open, and make sure she has gifts. But you know what we really need to give her? It's our time,'" Amelia shared, recalling the moment that reignited the dream.

"Renita and I had a long conversation about it – Daddy's dream. Daddy loved baseball and we would live out his dream for him, especially because Mother knew that was something he had wanted to do. We had been to many Braves game when the Braves weren't cool or winning. We'd gone to an Astros game with him. This is how we decided that was what we would do. We would live out Daddy's dreams that he didn't get to do."

The plan, crafted by Amelia and Renita, was simple: to give their mother the gift of undivided attention during their trips. "No husband, no kids, just mother and her girls. And so, we set off for Tampa Bay," Amelia said.

Each year, Amelia and Renita would carefully plan these trips with their mother. Weekends were filled with long days of travel, laughter, shopping and Evelyn's favorite pastime – beating her daughters in cards. When they weren't at the ballpark, they made the most of their time by exploring each city, soaking in the unique culture and scenery that every destination had to offer.

Stadiums were selected strategically. For instance, when both New York teams, the Yankees and Mets, were at home, the trio would plan their trips to catch both games on the same weekend. If they knew a stadium was in its final season, it became a priority to visit before it closed.

In 2023, the realization hit Amelia that they were closer than ever to fulfilling her father's dream.

"We knew we had four stadiums left at that point," Amelia shared. "So, we went to Kansas in June and drove to Kansas City for that game. We started talking about the fact that we had four left. Hypothetically, if we could catch three of the four at home, we could finish this by the end of the year."

Amelia continued, "In August, we flew from Nashville to Arizona and went to the Cardinals game that night. Got up and flew to Los Angeles the next morning and went to an Angels game. Flew to Seattle the next morning and went to a Mariners game. Flew home the next day. Three stadiums in four days and we were down to one: Detroit."

Detroit held the final stadium on the list, and it was intentionally saved for last. After encountering a few sketchy scenarios in previous cities, safety had become a concern for their mother, and the idea of visiting Detroit brought some apprehension.

"But then we went. It was a beautiful stadium. The city has been working to revamp and rebrand themselves. The riverwalk was named the best riverwalk for the past three years. It was a beautiful place. And by waiting, Detroit had recreated itself and we were safe," Amelia explained.

When asked about her favorite stadium, Evelyn shared, "Detroit. The last one. It was the newest and the most unique. It was a beautiful stadium."

At 89 years old, Evelyn Stevens achieved something many only dream of. With her two daughters by her side, she found herself passing the finish line of her late husband's dream. Her daughters, motivated not to let her "grow old," have become her inspiration to keep on achieving and doing.

As Evelyn reflected on the adventure, she shared her favorite part of the experience, "The main thing has been the time we spent together."

For Evelyn Stevens, this journey was more than a series of stadiums; it was about creating moments with the people who mean the most, proving that the best part of any adventure is the company and the memories that are made along the way. For Evelyn, Bud's dream from 1994 had come to fruition through the love and efforts of their daughters, a testament to the family they built together.