

The Cullman Tribune

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County School board recognizes departing board members, swears in new members

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County School Board held its regularly scheduled December meeting at the central office Thursday afternoon and they had a lot of new business to attend to. Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette was sworn in for a new term along with three new board members. A pair of departing board members, Gene Sullins and Heath Allbright, were also recognized for all their contributions to the school system over their respective terms.

Before being sworn in for his next term as superintendent, Dr. Barnette recognized Sullins and Allbright, thanking them for the work they've put in since taking a seat on the board. They each shared a few words with the crowd, reflecting on their time serving on the board.

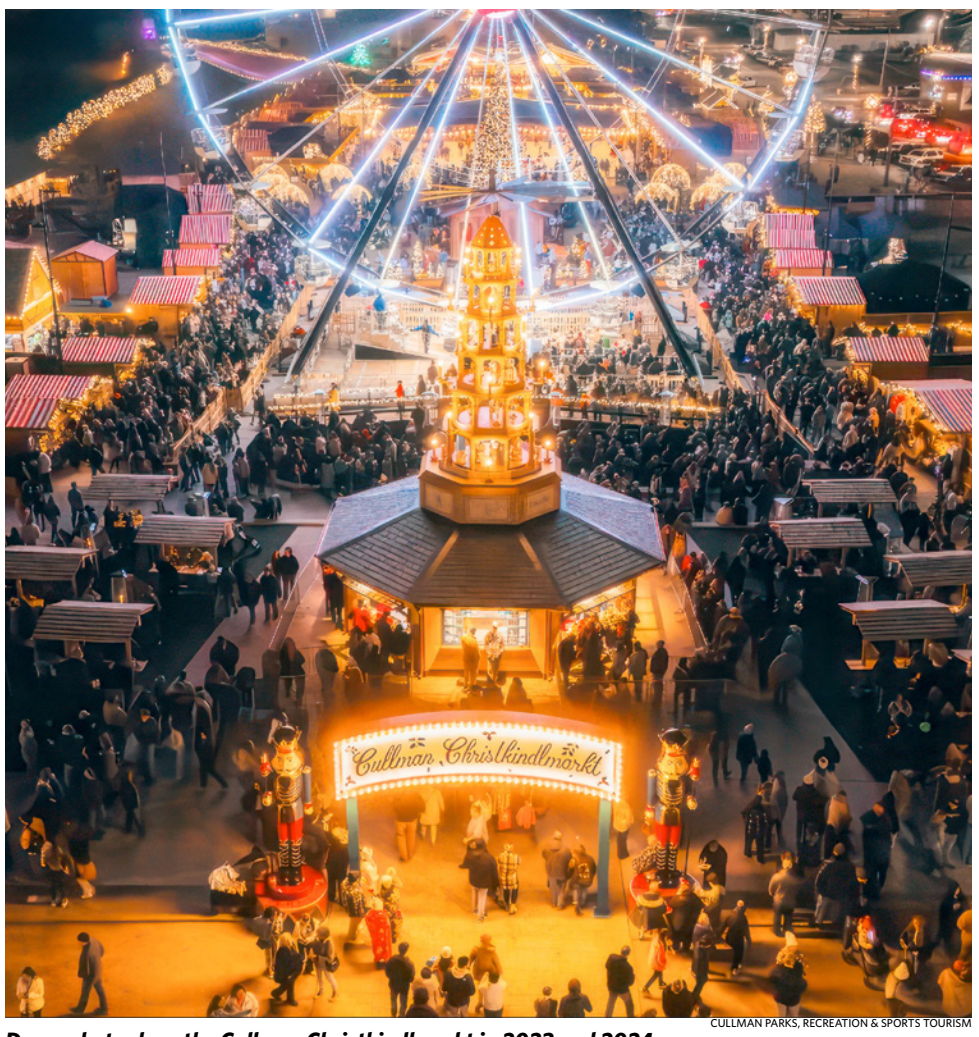
"It's been a joy working with these boys on the board. When you work with them for a long time you get to know them and I'll tell you what, I've really enjoyed» PAGE 10



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette is sworn in for a new term at Thursday's school board meeting.

Christkindlmarkt doubles in size, now open daily through Dec. 23



CULLMAN PARKS, RECREATION & SPORTS TOURISM

Drone shots show the Cullman Christkindlmarkt in 2023 and 2024

Jen Baker
jen@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Christkindlmarkt has doubled in size since last year. For the first time, and it is now open daily through Dec. 23, from 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

"Christkindlmarkt last year versus this year has more than doubled in size. We were able to get a grant and it helped us to frame some of the cost. We have been able to add a lot more booths and a lot more space because it was crowded last year. We just didn't realize that many more people were going to come," said Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs. "It is crowded again this year. We were able to get the Ferris wheel this year, and that was a good addition. The way we worked that out is that it didn't really cost us anything, we just share revenue with them. They get to keep most of the money because they own the Ferris wheel and we get a portion of the money because they are here working within our market. It has been a good for the kids. We added a couple more things such as the snow tube ride and they love that. We are trying to make it more family friendly."

Visitors can expect over 40 unique crafts, clothing and food vendors. The ice-skating rink is the largest outdoor rink in Alabama. Warming booths, stations and buildings are available to keep guests comfortable. Kids can get their pictures made with Santa Claus and enjoy crafts at the Kinderplatz, and the Christkindl Express train station travels around the market. » PAGE 3

Cullman County Schools holds Middle School Student Expo



JEN BAKER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Jeff Lawson is seen on stage at the Cullman County Schools Middle School Student Expo on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024, at Temple Baptist Church. » PAGE 5

Bearcats Head Coach Brent Patterson inducted into ABCA Hall of Fame



CULLMAN BASEBALL

Congratulations to Cullman High School head coach Brent Patterson on his induction into the Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Patterson was officially inducted at the ABCA's Coaches Convention in Birmingham on Thursday night, Dec. 12, 2024.

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 13

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 13, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Dec. 9
- trespassing; CR 1605
- sell-distribute drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 933
- domestic violence; CR 622
- harassing communications; CR 796
- burglary; theft of property; CR 1477
- theft of property; CR 633
- harassing communications; CR 1524
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1477
- burglary; CR 750
- assault; Commercial St. SE Hanceville
- domestic violence; CR 703
- harassing communications; CR 1606

Dec. 10
- violation of protection order; CR 1291
- unlawful possession of controlled substances; possession of drug paraphernalia; attempt to elude law enforcement officer; Hwy. 69N
- harassment; CR 109
- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 1194
- violation of protection order; Logan St. SW
- theft; CR 783
- domestic violence; US. 31
- domestic violence; CR 946
- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 1695

Dec. 11
- unlawful breaking and entering a motor vehicle; CR 601
- theft of property; CR 490
- burglary; CR 1371

ARRESTS

Dec. 9-11

Alexander, Chadwick L.; 49
- FTA – burglary-residence-no force

Bentley, Amanda D.; 47
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – resisting arrest
- FTA – obstructing – governmental operations
- FTA – failure to signal

Bentley, Jonah N.; 35
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Connell, Ben C.; 60
- burglary-non-residence-no force
- theft-miscellaneous, $1500-$2500
- possessing stolen property, $1500 or more
- buying/receiving stolen property

Criscoe, James M.; 37
- FTA – certain person forbidden possession pistol
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- FTA – sell/distribution of dangerous drugs
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer
- FTA – unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Cruz, Sarah C.; 29
- burglary-residence-force

Davis, Kayla L.; 28
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Diamond, Roderick O.; 55
- FTA – speeding

Dingler, Brandy M.; 32
- possession of methamphetamine

Duke, Tracy D.; 39
- sell/distribute – methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Goodwin, Joseph G.; 35
- FTA – burglary-residence-force
- FTA – theft-shoplifting, less than $500

Gregory, Jesse D.; 30
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Grohman Jr., William J.; 30
- FTA – contributing to delinquency of minor

Harris, Phillip D.; 39
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Mariano, Zachary F.; 33
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Martin, Dannal J.; 41
- burglary-non-residence-force
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- theft-miscellaneous, $1500-2500
- possessing stole property, $1500 or more
- possession of dangerous drugs

Martinez, Dustin A.; 31
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Murphy, Jerome L.; 39
- FTA – domestic violence - criminal trespass-3rd degree or subsequent conviction

Reid, Deborah J.; 68
- FTA – minor sale of alcohol

Self, Richard D.; 60
- possession of methamphetamine

Sifuentes, Tyler M.; 30
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Weaver, Donnie R.; 34
- GJ – counterfeiting
- FTA – forged instrument
- GJ – forged instrument
- GJ – theft-grand jury arrest warrant

Whitehead, Joseph C.; 43
- criminal trespass

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Dec. 7
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '24 GMC Terrain; $200; Cullman Shopping Center

Dec. 9
- theft of property-3rd degree; person; miscellaneous; $1,438

Dec. 11
- leaving the scene of an accident; person; damage to '14 Hyundai Sonata; Cherokee Ave. SW / 2nd Ave. SW

Dec. 12
- harassing communications; person
- theft of property-4th degree; criminal trespass-2nd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $30; Olive St. SW
- theft of property-1st degree; person; cash

ARRESTS

Dec. 11-12

Raymond, Robert A.; 45
- theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)

Davis, Joshua L.; 35
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – driving while revoked
- FTA – expired tag
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – fail to register vehicle (2 counts)

Martinez, Bryann L.; 26
- criminal trespass-2nd degree

Giles, Gerald G.; 65
- FTA – domestic violence-3rd degree

Walker, Teresa L.; 60
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Nail, Sonya L.; 64
- public intoxication

Felps, Shana D.; 46
- DUI (controlled substance)
- unlawful possession of controlled substance

Bartlett, Daniela A.; 48
- theft of property-4th degree

McDonald, Damion T.; 26
- theft of property-4th degree
- criminal trespass-2nd degree

McDonald, Jonie M.; 20
- theft of property-4th degree

Trapchak, Barbara E.; 51
- DUI
- unlawful possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Banks, Drew P.; 41
- theft of property-4th degree
- criminal mischief-3rd degree

Lee, Hailey R.; 41
- FTA - criminal mischief

Carnes, Reese I.; 23
- public intoxication

Shook, Amber N.; 32
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Cullman City Primary School named 2024 Safe Schools Initiative Awards winner

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall this week announced the winners of the 2024 Safe Schools Initiative Awards. The selection process featured a comprehensive four-phase application and review process by highly educated judges who have skill and knowledge in school safety trends. Six schools from across the state of Alabama were selected to receive the Safe School Award, the highest achievement. Marshall will visit each school to present its award in person.

"The safety of our schoolchildren is always on the forefront of our minds and hearts. That is why it is important to highlight and promote the innovative efforts to improve student safety through the Alabama Safe Schools Initiative," Marshall said. "These six schools have developed innovative programs and taken practical, effective steps to combat the threat of violence that has become a terrible part of our modern society. Their dedication and resolve to provide a safe environment for learning is an inspiration to us all. I look forward to continuing to spotlight the best school safety ideas for school administrators, resource officers, parents and students."

2024 Safe School Award winners
- Orange Beach Middle & High School, Orange Beach
- UMS-Wright Preparatory School, Mobile
- Ladonia Elementary School, Phenix City
- Russellville Elementary School, Russellville
- Cullman City Primary School, Cullman
- Elvin Hill Elementary School, Columbiana

Eight additional schools exceeded the minimum state requirements and exhibited dedication to higher standards for student learning, mental health and safety. These schools were recognized by receiving a congratulatory letter and certificate from the Marshall.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman City Primary School is seen Friday, Dec. 13, 2024.

2024 Silver Model of Enhanced School Safety Award winners
- Orange Beach Elementary School, Orange Beach
- Mount Olive Primary School, Fort Mitchell
- Allen Thornton Career Technical Center, Killen
- Eastwood Elementary School, Decatur
- Coosa Valley Academy, Harpersville
- Harriette W. Gwin Elementary School, Hoover

2024 Bronze Model of Enhanced School Safety Award winners
- Lauderdale County Student Success Center, Florence
- Discovery Middle School, Madison

CCBOE talks winter bus safety

Jen Baker
jen@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman County Schools has tips for bus riders this winter.

Tips include:
- Dress warmly and get to bus stops early
- Wear bright colors if possible so that drivers can see you in foggy weather
- Stand back from the bus stop to give buses space in case they slide when stopping on icy roads

Cullman County Schools parents will receive calls if there is a possible weather delay, said Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette.

"Anytime we make a decision on the safety of students, and postponing school, we study the best-case scenario to keep everyone safe. We can make up a math lesson, but we can't replace the children. I do not take it lightly," he said "Me, my transportation department and other leadership go out and look at roads. We call the sheriff's department because they are spread out all over the county. We talk to the EMA office usually throughout the night. We are watching weather patterns for usually weeks leading up to a certain event to try and make the best decision we can. We will usually postpone for a few hours because a lot of our buses get out before the sun comes up and they can't see that ice or a tree across the road. At the end of the day, my goal is to make sure students, teachers and bus drivers are safe."

Station Head Bus Driver Matt Wood talked about the importance of warm clothing in the winter and thanked the administration and others for their vigilance.

"Always be vigilant and wear good, warm clothes. Don't wear shorts in the winter, because that's not going to keep you warm. We have nice heaters on the bus. Whenever you get on the bus, it's going to be nice and warm. We have kids that will sometimes wait on the porches where it's warmer and we will give them time to come out to the bus if it's not a long period of time," he said.

"I would like to thank our superintendent who keeps us well equipped with top quality buses for our students and transportation to and from school and activities. Also, our transportation director, Mr. Harper, always advises us and keeps us safe. Without our maintenance shop department, we would not be in the safe buses that we are in because they are the number one group in the state of Alabama."



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Christkindlmarkt (from Front)

Continued Jacobs, "Last year we opened a few days all day long towards the end. Today is Thursday, December the 12, and typically we would close after the weekend on Sunday.

"We continue to stay open until Dec. 23. This gives people more opportunities to come out during the week when it's not as crowded as it is on the weekends. School gets out so they can travel a little bit better.

"We will see how that works. We are already looking towards next year and how we can make it a little bit bigger because of the size of the crowds."

The Cullman Christkindlmarkt is located at Depot Park, 107 Arnold St. NW, in Cullman. Get more information at www.cullmanchristkindlmarkt.com.

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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 (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
• Saturday, Dec. 14 - 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Kids Loving Kids Christmas Giveaway
• Sunday, Dec. 15 - 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.
• Saturday, Dec. 21 - 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank

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.

The 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:
• Dec. 14-15, 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. 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:
• Dec. 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
• Wagon rides on Dec. 13-14 - $5
• Kids' rides on Dec. 13,-14 - $3

Good Hope Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park
Saturday, Dec. 14, at 2 p.m. starting at the Good Hope football field and going to city hall. Christmas in the Park is from 3-5 at Municipal Park.

Fairview Lions Club Christmas Parade
Saturday, Dec. 14, at Randall Shedd Park in Fairview. The parade will start lining up from 3:45-4 p.m. at the turnaround by the school and start at 4:30. It will end at the park. Anyone is welcome to participate. We will have a lighting of the tree with carols being sung, the reading of "The Christmas Story," free hot chocolate and cookies. Bring the kids cause Santa will be there! For more info, call Kita at 256-358-8805 or William at 256-385-5596.

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.

FREE Food Box Giveaway
Wednesday, Dec. 18, from 1 p.m. until boxes are gone, at First Presbyterian Church of Cullman, 615 Third Ave. SE. You do not have to get out of your vehicle. We will bring the box to your car (LIMIT ONE BOX PER CAR). Cars may line up beside the tent next to the church on Seventh. Volunteers will direct traffic. Each box contains bone-in ham, canned corn, canned green beans, flour, cornmeal, tea bags, mac & cheese, Vienna sausages, ramen noodles, broth, rice, dry pinto beans and saltine crackers.

Free Christmas Meal
Saturday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m. till all food is gone! Free to all!! At The Foot Of The Cross Church, 2101 County Road 1435, Vinemont.

Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District Quarterly Board Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 9:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center, 501-B Fourth St. SW in Cullman.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 14, 2024



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Pictured, left to right, with students are Emily Moss/AmFirst Cullman teller, Daniel Boggan/AmFirst Cullman Branch manager, Jesse Lee/AmFirst Teacher of the Month, Dr. Shane Barnette/Cullman County Schools superintendent, Mike Jones/West Point Intermediate principal and Melanie Collier/West Point Intermediate assistant principal.



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Pictured with students, left to right, are Ashley Barnett/teacher, Troy Taylor/Hanceville Elementary assistant principal, Tori Pagan/special education teacher, Tiffany Farr/AmFirst Staff Member of the Month, Dr. Shane Barnette/Cullman County Schools superintendent, Daniel Boggan/AmFirst Cullman branch manager and Emily Moss/AmFirst Cullman teller.

Lee, Farr named December CCBOE/AmFirst Teacher, Staff Member of the Month

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Each month of the school year, Cullman County Schools and AmFirst recognize a teacher and staff member who go above and beyond in their profession.

Teacher of the Month: Jesse Lee, West Point Intermediate

"Mr. Lee is an exceptional teacher, mentor and coach who goes above and beyond for his students, athletes and fellow teachers," said Mike Jones, West Point Intermediate principal. "It is teachers like Jesse Lee who leave lasting impressions on their students and create a legacy of excellence."

Staff Member of the Month: Tiffany Farr, Special Education Aide, Hanceville Elementary

"Tiffany does a great job working with students and working at school," said Stacie Olinger, Hanceville Elementary principal. "She is always early and is willing to do whatever is asked and not asked. She's always positive and eager to help teachers, students and our parents."

Cullman County Schools thanks AmFirst for sponsoring this program. Each Teacher and Staff Member of the Month receives a $100 gift card.

Parkside Outreach Program hosting annual Christmas dinner at Parkside Elementary School – Dec. 20

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

BAILEYTON, Ala. — The Parkside Outreach Program invites the community to its annual Christmas dinner on Friday, Dec. 20, from 5-7 p.m. at Parkside Elementary School. This free event offers a sit-down meal in the school's lunchroom or convenient to-go plates for those unable to stay.

This year's menu includes chicken and dressing, green beans, corn, sweet potato casserole, rolls and desserts, with all items donated by local businesses and the Parkside Outreach Program. The dressing, a staple of the meal, is provided by Kim's Parkside Restaurant, renowned for "the best dressing around."

The evening will feature live entertainment beginning at 5, including Christmas carols performed by Parkside Kindergarten students and a play titled "I Believe in CHRISTmas" by New Jerusalem Baptist Church.

Jennifer Harlow, director of the Parkside Outreach Program, shared the history and inspiration behind the community Christmas dinner.

"We began hosting our Christmas Dinner Program at Parkside School last year when we outgrew Kim's Parkside restaurant," Harlow explained. "Kim had begun hosting the Christmas Eve meal several years ago. Once we found out what she was doing, Parkside Outreach joined in to help. She has been an inspiration to our community and we could not pull this off without her."

Last year's dinner served around 700 plates with the program anticipating to feed 1,000 people this year. Harlow credited the success of the event to the generosity of the Parkside community and its efforts.

"There are so many people within our community that have no family or no means to have a Christmas dinner," Harlow said. "This is our way of spreading a little Christmas joy to those in need, and it is such a blessing to bring our community together for fellowship and a home-cooked meal."

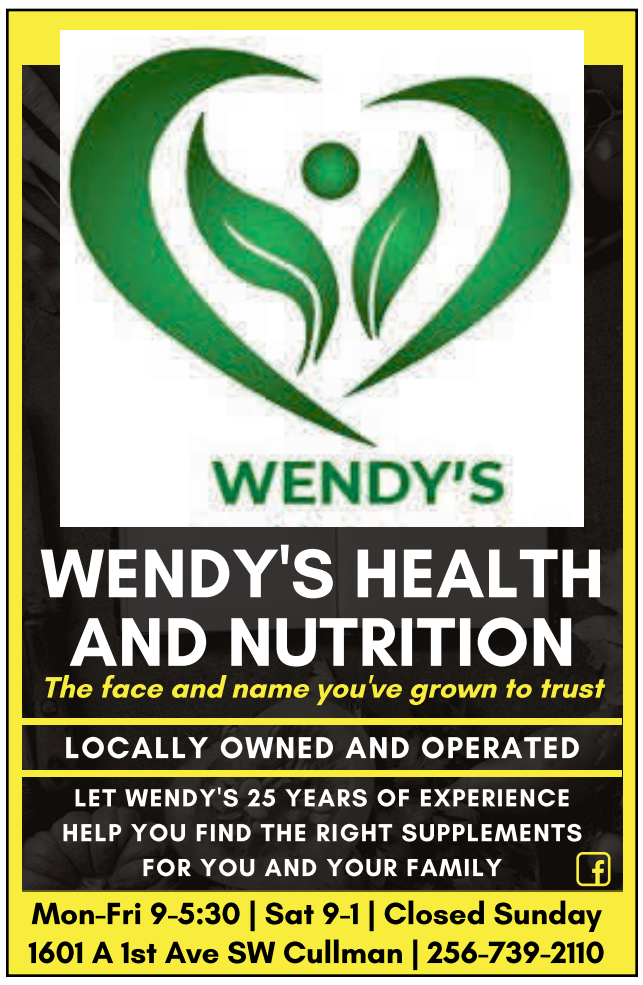
She added, "The Parkside community is a tight-knit community who takes care of their own. We are so blessed to be able to have the support of local businesses and members of our town who are always trying to find ways to improve our community and schools."

Harlow also reflected on the broader mission of the Parkside Outreach Program, which has been supporting families since its founding in 2018. After her business, A&D Motors Inc., received the Cox Automotive Service Award and a $10,000 donation, Harlow established the nonprofit to assist the Parkside community. The program now provides essential services such as a food pantry and a Christmas Coalition to support families during the holiday season.

In addition to the Christmas dinner, the program will host a toy giveaway beginning Monday, Dec. 16, at 10 a.m., lasting throughout the week or until supplies run out.

"Parkside Outreach, with the assistance of local sponsors, has been able to provide Christmas for needy families for seven years. We will host our toy giveaway starting this Monday, Dec. 16, at 10 a.m." Harlow stated. "Last year we were able to provide over 700 children with Christmas thanks to the generosity of our local sponsors and Toys for Tots. We would almost be out of toys, and miraculously someone would pull up with another load. Anyone in need can get toys. Our goal is to have no toys left."

Parkside Outreach Program is a 501(C)(3) located in Baileyton. The program operates a thrift store in the community to fund the local food pantry and the Christmas Coalition for the Parkside community. For more information about the Christmas dinner or the Parkside Outreach Program, contact the Parkside Outreach Program at 256-683-0715 or visit www.parkside-outreach.com. Donations are always welcome and appreciated to support its efforts in the community.









JEN BAKER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



JEN BAKER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Expo (from Front)

Jen Baker
jen@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County middle school students on Wednesday, Dec. 11, gathered for the first-ever Cullman County Schools Middle School Student Expo, held at Temple Baptist Church.

Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette told the students, "Friends of mine have come to speak to you. It's all about encouraging and motivating you guys. I mean that from the bottom of my heart. I want you to have fun. We are going to play some games, and I have some great speakers for you."

Guests spoke to the students about mental health, career options and the dangers of social media, keeping the middle schoolers engaged with games and on-stage interviews.

Speaking about social media and mental health, Cullman County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Jeff Lawson explained, "Snapchat doesn't go away, guys. You think that it does; that's why a lot of us like to use it. Everything goes to a big database. When I get that, I get everything."

Lawson told the students that messaging inappropriate pictures to each other can cause embarrassment and is a crime.

Moving on to career options, Assistant Superintendent Richard Orr hosted three games. The first career topic was culinary arts, with students competing to decorate the best Christmas tree cookie cake.

The second was health science, which had the students racing to cover their own Santa Clauses with medical gauze. The last topic was construction technology, seeing students trying to construct the best gingerbread houses.

The last speaker to take the stage was critically acclaimed author, motivational speaker, educator and coach Willie Spears, who talked about the importance of making wise decisions early in life.

"I made the better things happen for me. I want to encourage you that if you are going in the wrong direction that you can change," he shared. "You don't always have to be this person."

To close the Expo, students were interviewed about what they learned. They spoke about being thankful for what their parents do for them and being careful when using Snapchat.

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IF YOUR NAME APPEARS ON THIS LIST, YOU ARE ADVISED TO IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE CULLMAN COUNTY BOARD OF REGISTRARS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT UPDATING YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION RECORD. YOUR UPDATED VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 31, 2025.

IF YOUR NAME APPEARS ON THIS LIST AND YOU DO NOT UPDATE YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION BY THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON JANUARY 31, 2025, YOUR NAME WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION LIST. IF YOUR NAME IS REMOVED FROM THE COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION LIST, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO REGISTER TO VOTE TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE ELECTIONS.

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ELLISON EDMOND STEPHEN
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HARBIN NORMAN D
HARRELSON JARED BRACKETT
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JOHNSON MICHAEL BENTON
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KALTENBAUGH TERESA D
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WARD DANE WILLIAM
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LIVELY TIMOTHY LEE
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NARAMORE BRANDON CHARLES
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PFEFFER JAMES SCOTT
SANDERS JERRY DON
SANDERS WANDA K
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WEST JENNIFER MICHELLE

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DYER JASON RAY
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Holiday Hoopsgiving: No. 2 Auburn meets Ohio State in Atlanta

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. – No. 2 Auburn's robust non-conference schedule resumes Saturday when the Tigers travel to Atlanta for their annual Holiday Hoopsgiving appearance.

After defeating Indiana last season at an NBA venue in State Farm Arena, Auburn takes on another Big Ten opponent Saturday, the Ohio State Buckeyes.

"One of the best 3-point shooting teams in the country," said Auburn coach Bruce Pearl. "We're going to have to extend defensively. We have a slight advantage inside in size."

Saturday's showdown marks Auburn's fifth appearance in this event, with wins over the Hoosiers, Nebraska and Memphis, along with a loss to Memphis.

"We've had great, great crowds," Pearl said. "I encourage our fans to go to Atlanta and watch us play on Saturday."

No stranger to SEC opponents, Ohio State opened its season with a win over Texas in Las Vegas, then lost to Texas A&M in College Station, Texas.

"Their KenPom is 20, so this is a top-20 opponent for us," Pearl said.

The Ohio State game will be a homecoming for Auburn guard Miles Kelly, who was born in Stone Mountain, Georgia, and who played three seasons at Georgia Tech, where the Yellow Jackets heavily depended on him to score.

"He's able to work harder offensively because he's playing fewer minutes because he's on a better team with greater depth," Pearl said.

"It starts with senior leadership. It starts with guys not worrying about their numbers, just worry about the score."

Auburn should be well rested after taking Monday off and practicing shorter than normal on Tuesday and Wednesday because of final exams.

"Our defense has been really good with the exception of the Duke game," Pearl said.

"We didn't bother Duke with our defense, and we've been able to bother every other opponent.

"As long as the guys continue to play hard and play unselfishly, especially with the guards – it's not going to be the same guy every night – and that's what makes us a good team."

Looking to improve to 5-0 at neutral site games this season, Auburn (8-1) tips off at noon CT Saturday against Ohio State (6-3) at State Farm Arena in Atlanta on ESPN2. Andy Burcham and Randall Dickey will bring the action to listeners on the Auburn Sports Network.



SAMMY CONFER

No. 2 Auburn will take on Ohio State in Atlanta on Saturday.

Alabama to play Michigan in the ReliaQuest Bowl

Alex Thompson
UA Athletics

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — The No. 11/11/11 Alabama Crimson Tide will face off against the Michigan Wolverines in the ReliaQuest Bowl at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, officials have announced. The contest will kick off on Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 11 a.m. CT (noon ET) and will be televised on ESPN.

It marks the second consecutive year and third time since 2019 that the Crimson Tide and Wolverines will meet in a bowl matchup. The last time the two teams squared off came in last season's College Football Playoff semifinal at the Rose Bowl, with Michigan winning in overtime, 27-20.

About the matchup

- The New Year's Eve Day contest will be Crimson Tide's second appearance in the ReliaQuest Bowl, formerly known as the Hall of Fame and Outback Bowl. UA's last showing at the bowl came in 1997 when it defeated Michigan, 17-14.
- The Tide and Wolverines have split the six games played against each other in the all-time series, with each team winning three times
- Alabama dropped a 27-20 overtime contest to Michigan in last year's CFP semifinal which was played at the Rose Bowl.
- The two teams also met in the 2019 Citrus Bowl in Orlando, with the Tide coming out victorious over the Wolverines, 35-16
- Five of the six games played between the storied rivals have come in postseason bowl games, with four of those contests decided by a touchdown or less

Ticket information

- Tickets to the Alabama-Michigan contest are available through the ReliaQuest Bowl website.
- Current Tide Pride, faculty/staff and former letterwinner season ticketholders may request tickets through their online account
- Current Tide Pride, faculty/staff and former letterwinner season ticketholders may request tickets until 5 p.m. CT on Thursday, December 12. Tide Pride requests are not guaranteed and will be fulfilled and allocated based on Tide Totals priority points.
- If you have any questions, please contact the Alabama Athletics TIDE PRIDE/ Ticket Office at (205) 348-2262 or by email at ticketoffice@ia.ua.edu.

WSCC ATHLETICS

Cross Country competes in 1st indoor races

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College recently participated in the Birmingham Indoor Icebreaker event in Birmingham, competing in four meets in a field that included four-year DI and DII schools.

In the 4,000-meter Men Distance Medley, a squad comprised of freshman Carson Masterson of Hatton, sophomore David Robles of Springville, freshman Daniel Leija of Albertville and freshman Tyler Anthony of Fort Payne finished in fourth place with a time of 10:48.71. They finished behind two squads from Mississippi College in first and second place and Alabama A&M in third place.

Individually, Leija finished in eighth place in the men's 1-mile race, with a time of 4:31.83. He was followed by Anthony at 13th with a time of 4:37.82 and Masterson at 18th with a time of 4:41.66.

Also in the men's races, Robles finished 35th in the men's 3,000-meter race with a time of 9:35.51.

The women competed in the 3,000-meter race, with freshman Reagan Parris of Bremen as the top team finisher at 27th with a time of 11:19.48. Sophomore Abigale Vega of Fort Payne finished 32nd with a time of 11:38.58, followed by freshman Bernarda Tizapa-Robles of Cullman at 36th with a time of 12:00.37.

"I was really proud of them," said Head Coach Tony Crider of the team's new venture into indoor and outdoor track meets. "They competed really well."

Crider said the addition of indoor and outdoor track meets of 800 meters and more will provide their runners with additional training during what would have normally been an off-season for the teams.

"The goal is to keep them in good condition and if they happen to rank high enough to go to nationals, maybe we can do that," Crider said.

The team has five more indoor/outdoor events scheduled for the spring season, including two indoor meets in Birmingham in January and February and outdoor events in March and April at the University of West Alabama, Montevallo and the Crimson Classic in Tuscaloosa.

Wallace State Cross Country finished their fall season with Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) Championships for the men's and women's teams. The men finished third nationally at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) tournament, with runner Luke Kennedy earning All-American status. The women finished in fourth place nationally. Crider was named the NJCAA Central Region Men's and Women's Coach of the Year and the ACCC Men's Coach of the Year.

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PREP BASKETBALL

Addison edges Meek in OT 47-45, Lady Bulldogs collect 47-36 win

Todd Walker
Correspondent

ARLEY, Ala. — Addison traveled to Arley to take on the Meek Tigers in a pair of varsity games Thursday night and both Bulldog squads returned home with wins. Meek is an area foe as well as a county rival for the Bulldogs. The Addison girls held off a late Lady Tiger rally to come away with a 47-36 win. The Bulldogs and Tigers played an epic back and forth overtime game in which the Bulldogs staged a late rally to come away with a thrilling, 47-45 win.

Addison 47 - Meek 36 (Varsity Girls)

The Addison Lady Bulldogs opened the game winning the first period 10-7. Addison's Lauryn Cunningham had 5 points as well as 3 steals in the period. Gracie Roberts nailed a three and Ava Bartlett dominated the boards with 5 and had a blocked shot. Meek was led by their do everything guard Addyson Williams who had 4 points and a board. Kyler Shehan drained a 3 pointer and had 2 rebounds.

The second period was a very good period for the Lady Dawgs as they pulled away from the Lady Tigers by outscoring them 16-7 to take a 26-14 lead at the half. Lady Dawg Katie Barrett had her best quarter of the season as she had 9 points, two include 2 treys. Ms. Barrett also had 4 rebounds and 2 steals. Bartlett continued her dominance as she pulled down 4 more rebounds and had a blocked shot. Meek was led by Williams who had 4 more points and 2 boards. Shehan nailed another 3 pointer and grabbed 2 more rebounds.

The third period was a struggle for both teams as the defenses picked up and neither offense could really find rhythm. Addison won the period 9-7 to go into the fourth period ahead 35-21. Barrett had 4 points, but it was Karson Wyatt who dominated this period. Wyatt had 5 points and 6 rebounds. Meek only could score one bucket, by Ms. Williams, but they did drain 5 free throws. Zoey Hearn had 3 of the made free throws and she showed up on the glass with 5 rebounds as well.

Meek made a late run in the fourth outscoring the Lady Dawgs 15-12 but couldn't get any closer as Addison came away with a 47-36 victory. Barrett carried Addison late as she scored 7 points while Wyatt scored 3 points and Bartlett dropped in a bucket. The Lady Tigers were led by Williams and Hearn who each had 4 points while Shehan hit a long range 3.

Unofficial stats

Addison was led in scoring by Barrett who had a game high 20 points and 7 rebounds. Wyatt had 10 points and 13 rebounds. Bartlett had 6 points, 10 rebounds and 3 blocked shots. Cunningham had 5 points, 3 boards, 9 assists and 3 steals. Gracie Roberts had 3 points, 5 rebounds and 4 steals. Emma Cleghorn had 3 points, 8 rebounds and 2 steals. Ms. Cleghorn also wins the award for the best faces made after she gets called for a foul. They are classic. Reese Osborne snagged 2 rebounds.

Meek was led by Williams with a team high 15 points and 5 rebounds. Shehan had 9 points and 7 rebounds. Hearn had 7 points and 9 boards. Maci Lollar had 4 points. Molli Sandlin had 2 rebounds.

Addison 47- Meek 45 in overtime (OT) (Varsity Boys)

Meek came out firing and jumped on Addison 5-0 and outscored the Bulldogs 13-6 in the first period. The home crowd was crazy, and the visitors didn't have too much to cheer about as Meek's offense got easy layups and Addison was forced into awful shots by the Tiger defense. Meek was led by Ryan Ewing and Parker Ferguson with 4 points apiece. Ferguson also led the Tigers with 2 rebounds in the period. Addison was led by Jed Wilkins who scored 4 of Addison points but kept Addison in the game with 5 rebounds. Bradley Willette also had a good period on the glass as he scored Addison's other 2 points and snagged 5 rebounds as well.

The second period wasn't a good offensive period for either team as both defenses tightened up and there were plenty of hard fouls to go around. I don't think either side was terribly fond of the officials on this night. Meek took this period as well by the score of 7-6 to go into the half leading 20-12.

Meek had all the momentum going into halftime as Addison's offense looked terrible. Meek was led by Weston Hutchins who hit a deep corner 3 while Ewing and McCay had a bucket each. Ewing, Ferguson and Briley Bowling each had 3 rebounds. Addison was led by Wilkins with 4 more points and 5 more rebounds. Owen Pratt had 2 points.

Again, Addison Head Coach Triston Chambers must have had a great speech at the half as Addison came out and played much better in the third period. Addison won the frame 17-11 to cut the Tiger lead to 31-29 going into the fourth period. Willette had a big period as he scored 5 points, 5 rebounds and had 2 blocked shots. Scout Flynn sank a trey and Joey Wilson had 4 points. McCay led Meek with 6 points and 3 rebounds.

The fourth period was a classic. I don't care who you rooted for, both these teams and coaching staffs put everything on the court, and it was great. This is the type of game that you hate to see one team lose. Addison's Wilson tied the game at 31 with a bucket. Pratt, who was on fire in the fourth, sank a three to give Addison their first lead at 34-31 with 5:11 to go in the game. Meek's Ewing pulled the Tigers back within 1 with a bucket at 34-33. After an exchange of buckets, Addison led 39-36 after two Pratt free throws. The Tigers then stole the ball on back-to-back possessions to take a 42-39 lead with 1 minute left. Meek's McCay scored on back-to-back steals. Then with only 11 seconds on the game clock, Pratt calmly sank a game tying 3 pointer, and we were all tied up at 42. Meek had two shots to try and win it in regulation but were unsuccessful and this game was going to overtime.

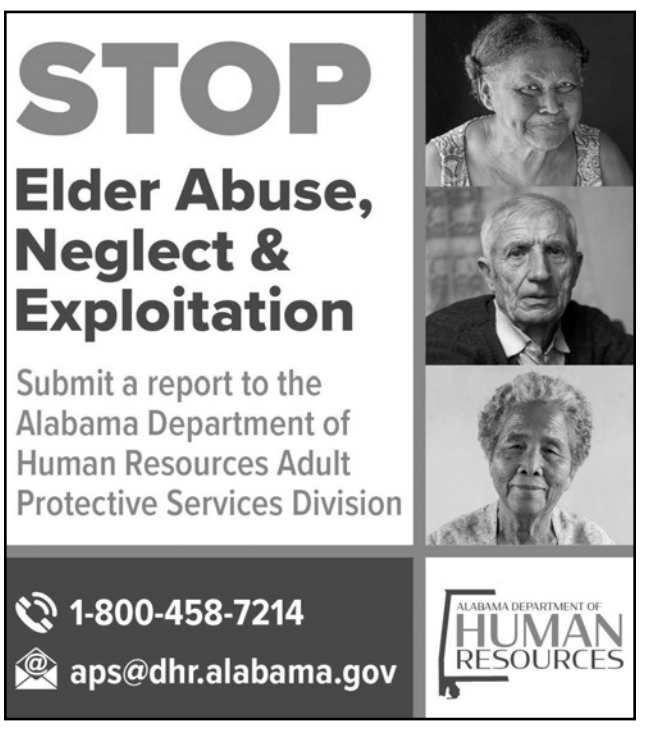
In the overtime, Meek hit 3 of 4 free throws to go up 45-42. Well, you guessed it, Addison's Mr. Ice Man Pratt drilled another game tying 3 pointer with a minute to go in overtime to knot it up at 45. Solid defense by both sides had Addison with the ball with about 9 seconds to go in the game. Willette then found Wilson moving to the basket and hit him with a pass in which Wilson laid the ball up and into the basket for two. Addison took a 47-45 lead with seconds to go. Meek was unable to get off a good shot and the game ended. Addison came away with a 47-45 win and I can't wait till these two teams meet again.

Unofficial stats

Addison was led in scoring by Pratt with a game high 16 points and 3 boards. Wilkins had 12 points and 13 rebounds. Willette had 7 points, 13 boards and 2 blocks. Wilson had 6 points, 2 boards and 2 assists. Kaden Dyson had 3 points and 3 rebounds. Flynn had 3 points and 7 rebounds. Kiah Lake had 2 assists.

Meek was led by McCay with a team high 14 points and 6 rebounds. Ferguson had 12 points and 7 rebounds. Ewing had 8 points and 5 boards. Bowling had 4 points and 4 boards. Brady Baxter had 4 points and 2 rebounds. Hutchins had 3 points. Jordan Phillips had 2 boards.











COLUMN

Good dogs

Joe Hobby
Contributor

"Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in." Mark Twain

I read where author Rick Bragg's just lost his dog Speck. If you've read his best-selling book, "The Speckled Beauty," I think you will understand his feeling of loss. I sure do. In fact, once I read the article, I put down my phone and cried. It's because I know how he badly he hurts - I've hurt the same way.

It should come as no surprise that I'm an unashamed dog person. I prefer canines to most people. I can spend a half day watching dog videos. One of the first things I plan to ask Jesus is why He gave dogs such a short life span.

It seems like everybody has one dog in their life that is different from all the others. Rick's was a stray named Speck and mine was a rescue named Precious. The events of my life and her reaction to them bonded us together tightly. Our emotional connection transcended dog and man. Let me explain.

I can still vividly recall sitting down on the couch and weeping bitterly.

The sum total of all the events from the previous 15 years finally came to a head a few hours before in a federal courtroom.

That's where I watched in horror as my son stood before a judge facing robbery charges, a byproduct of his drug addiction.

The shock of him dressed in an orange jumpsuit, bound by handcuffs and leg irons, was more than I could bear. Still, I held myself together until I got back home and sat on the sofa.

Then it all came spewing out. I was a sobbing, inconsolable mess. However, it didn't stop someone from trying to console me. Within a few minutes, I felt something on my leg.

I looked down and saw Precious. She had jumped on the couch, quietly curled up beside me and put her head in my lap.

A rare source of light during my darkest night. I was in pain, and she wanted to help. It was the perfect show of love that I desperately needed at that moment.

During the time before his trial, my son stayed at our house.

Despite all of his bad decisions, he was a dog lover, and as a result, Precious became a calming influence for everyone during this stressful time.

Finally the authorities came for him, and in an act of decency, they allowed him a moment to say goodbye to her.

A wave of sadness washed over me because Presh was 8 years old, and I knew it would almost certainly be the last time he would ever see her.

Families with an addict face a difficult path.

A byproduct of drug use is stealing, lying, manipulation, anger and unforgiveness. For the addict, jail time, or even death, becomes a real possibility.

All of this trauma causes severe emotional damage to everyone in the family, and we were no exception.

Precious was our four-legged therapist. She was very intuitive - and always offered us unconditional love, which is usually in short supply in the family of an addict.

After my son was gone, Precious stayed even closer, constantly following me from room to room in the house. It was if she was keeping tabs on me. She was.

I would've never believed that a dog would become so important to us. She was a rescue of sorts. One evening I came home from work and found her on our deck. My middle son took the pup away from a college girl at the University of Alabama who was barely feeding her. She had named the dog Precious - ironic for a person who was practicing animal abuse. I agreed to keep the pup until we could find a good home. Famous last words. We had her for almost 15 years - Presh brought joy to our household at a time when we needed it the most.

About four months before my son was released we lost her. It's been years now, and I still have a hole in my heart. Precious was cremated and I have made it clear that her ashes will go with me when I depart this world.

I believe that God put that dog in our life for a purpose, and once she finished her task, He called her home. Yes, I'm in the category of people who believe our pets go to heaven.

Billy Graham and CS Lewis went on record saying we will see them again, and that's good enough for me.

Any time I read where someone on social media has lost a pet, I always respond by saying, "My heart hurts with you." That's not just a standard reply - it's the absolute truth.

So Rick, believe me when I say that my heart hurts with you. It will get better with time, but I doubt you'll ever really get over it. I haven't.

Joe Hobby is a barbecue-loving comedian from Alabama who wrote for Jay Leno for many years. Find more of Joe's stories on his blog: https://mylifeasahobby.blogspot.com. Follow him on Facebook at Joe Hobby Comedian-Writer.

Members (from Front)

working with every one of them. You guys will have a good board member taking my place.

"I said when I decided not to run that I wouldn't let just anybody take my place. So, the best of the best, Larry Duke, is taking my place and I guarantee you he will do his best like I have to do what he can for your school and your teachers," Sullins said.

"Like I said I enjoyed working with all these board members, but I have to say thanks to one of them that has been the biggest help for me since I've been on the board and his name is Kenny Brockman. Kenny Brockman has helped me more than you could ever imagine since I've been on the board. Kenny is also a great friend, and I just want to say thank you for all you've done helping me along the way."

Allbright added, "Dr. Barnette was talking about all the things we've been able to accomplish, and I feel like this is something very special that I've been able to be a part of. My two biggest constituents when I came on in 2016 were eight and five years old in Cade and Lily and they just didn't understand why we couldn't have a Subway and a McDonalds at Holly Pond," Allbright joked.

"It's truly something I feel special to be a part of. Eight years has gone by really fast, and I thank the people of the county for trusting me. I've met some really good friends and brothers in Christ that I'll always count on in the future."

The first to be sworn in for their new term was Barnette and earlier when the meeting began, he shared some perspective on what the County School system has been able to accomplish in recent years.

"Over the last eight years we've moved from having one day beyond the state required balance in reserve to when we look at it now, we have around 140 days in reserve, which is a blessing. We've done about $70 million in projects, and we've brought our school system into the new century as far as facilities," Barnette said.

"We've replaced a lot of buildings and repaired a lot of buildings and beyond just the infrastructure we've got procedures and policies in place so that regardless of who is in these roles, we hope the great things that are happening now will continue to happen for many years.

"We've moved from about 80% on our graduation rate to now we're right at a 97% graduation rate. At that time about 72% of our graduates were ready for college or a career and today we're at 99%.

"So, I just want to commend you two (Sullins & Allbright) and the entire board for what we've accomplished over the last eight years."

After Barnette was sworn in for his new term, the incoming new school board members were up next.

Larry Duke is taking the seat for District 1, representing West Point High School, West Point Middle School, West Point Intermediate, West Point Elementary and Harmony School.

Richard Hays will serve as the board member for District 3, representing Holly Pond High School and Holly Pond K-8.

Wayne Myrex was sworn in as the representative for District 5, which includes Cold Springs High School, Cold Springs K-8 and CARE (Alternative School).

The County School Board will hold its next regular meeting on Thursday, Jan. 23 at 3:30 p.m. at the central office.

LEGALS

Legal Notice
In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given that Blalock Building Company, Inc., Contractor, has completed the Contract for the Additions and Renovations to Fairview High School located 841 Welcome Road, Cullman, Alabama 35058 for the State of Alabama and Cullman County Board of Education, Owner(s), and have made request for final settlement of said Contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify, Lathan Associates Architects, P.C., 300 Chase Park South, Suite 200, Hoover, AL 35244.

Blalock Building Company, Inc.
7309 Gadsden Highway
Trussville, AL 35173

Pursuant to Alabama Code 32-13-1, Earl's Body Shop will offer for sale at Public Auction the following vehicles on January 23, 2025, at 7:00am

2008 Chev. Cobalt	1G1AL187106550
2009 HARLEY-DAVIDSON	1HD1KB41X9Y641912
2023 DODGE CALLENGER	2C3CDZFJ5PH617703
2002 HONDA AACCORD	1HGCG16592A075036
2002 FORD ESCORT	3FAFP13P82R147177
2017 NISSAN ROGUE	KNMAT2MT2MT9HP502651
2009 DODGE JOURNEY	3D4GG57V69T507402
2015 CHEV CAMARO	2G1FD1E36F9114776

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
KENNETH LEE TILLMAN, * CASE NO.: PC2024-418
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to JANICE WALLACE, as Personal Representative, of the ESTATE OF KENNETH LEE TILLMAN, deceased, on the 5th day of December, 2024, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court.

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 will be barred.

Janice Wallace
Personal Representative

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

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 5th day of December, 2024.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 12-13

Richard Leonard Starkel, 100
Richard Leonard Starkel, age 100 of Crane Hill, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, at his residence. He was born, Nov. 8, 1924 to Leonard Elgar Starkel and Helen Starkel. He was preceded in death by his, parents; wife, Joan Shaw Starkel; daughter, Catherine Horton; sister, Dorothy Thomas, brother, William Starkel. Survivors include his daughters, Jodi (Kenneth) Lucas, Janet (Bruce) Gaddy, Susan (Chuk) DeMarsh, and Leslie (Eric) Norden, grandchildren, Jeffrey (Bethany) Bannon, Sean (Hannah) Gaddy, Andrew (Haley) Gaddy, Ian Norden, Zachary (Christa) Norden, Grace (Reid) Goodfellow, Case (Emilie) Norden, Kevin (Cate) Horton, Lindsey (Derrick) Duke, Kate (Attison) Swann; great grandchildren, Mason Gaddy, Palmer Gaddy, Starkel Gaddy, Lydia Brice Gaddy, Julian Goodfellow, Adelaide Horton, James Horton, Katie Duke, and Cooper Duke; and a host of family and friends. No services are planned at this time.

Reiko Shimizu Stanfield Deter, 92
Reiko Shimizu Stanfield Deter died peacefully in her sleep on Dec. 11, 2024, at Woodland Village in Cullman, Alabama. She was born Reiko Shimizu on Nov. 5, 1932, in Tokyo, Japan, a surprise child, as her mother was over 40 when she was born. Her brother Humimaro was 20 years older, Emiko, her sister-15 years older and Shoichi, 10 years her elder. Her father was a tailor who adored her, until his death when she was 12. She ended up retiring after 20 years as a seamstress at Sir Edwards Haberdashery at Walt Disney World.
She married Pvt. Clarence "Stan" Curtis Stanfield who was taken in as a son to Hoyt and Eunice Grimes and brother Harry (Jimmie) and sister Dorothy in Fairview, Alabama. They had 2 daughters, Barbara & Jeannie who were both born in Japan. Her extended Grimes family was such a blessing while being a military wife. Many family holidays over the years were spent all together. She loved many pet dogs but particularly her 3 Shih Tzu's! Reiko is survived by her two daughters, Barbara Stanfield Koehler of Dunwoody, Georgia and Jeannie Stanfield Duffy (Jeffrey) of Bluffton, South Carolina, 4 grandchildren Joseph Robert Koehler, Taylor Nicole Keith (Nic) and Jacob Stanfield Koehler, Chelsea Stanfield Duffy (Brian Bartiss) and great granddaughter, Cameron James Keith and recently born great grandson, Duffy Dakota Bartiss. She was preceded in death by Command Sgt Major Clarence Curtis Stanfield aka Uncle Stan, husband of 21 years and father to their two daughters; and also, her late second husband, Richard Deter of Orlando, Florida; and son-in-law Dennis Allen Koehler. She will be remembered as a sweet, kind, talented, tiny lady who was loved by many!
A small intimate memorial service will be held at a later date.

Kipp Lynn Merritt, 59
Funeral service for Kipp Lynn Merritt, age 59 of Decatur, will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 16, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Buddy Price officiating; burial at Flint Creek Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 16, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Merritt passed away on Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024, at Decatur Morgan Hospital. He was born Friday, Sept. 17, 1965, to Frank Merritt and Jan Livingston. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister, Tilda Merritt, and brother-in-law, Rex Hale. Survivors include his wife, Tammy Merritt, brother, Tony Merritt, sister, Tammy (David) Taylor, sisters-in-law, Vickie (David) Smith and Lori (Doug) Bice and a host of nieces and nephews.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

Email: robin@cullmantribune.com • Phone: 256-739-1351

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

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

I pigged out at the Oink Joint

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



I got together with a couple of old friends last week that I had not seen in a while. Jimmy was one of five guys (not to be confused with the hamburger place) that I went through a doctoral program with at New Orleans Baptist Seminary. We all became good friends and dubbed ourselves The Fab Five (not to be confused with the Fab Four from Liverpool). In seminary we attended classes together, studied together and ate together. Last Monday, Jimmy, Jean and I got together for lunch. Through the years, all five of us have occasionally gotten together.

The other friend I had not seen in a while was not another member of The Fab Five, but all five of us have had him for lunch a few times.

Truthfully, sometimes when we get together, we may eat like pigs, but the other old friend I got with last week really was a pig. No, seriously, literally a pig. He joined us for lunch, but he didn't eat with us...we ate him! Those of you who know me well, well, you know that I love barbecue. Someone once told me they thought I loved all barbecue. They were incorrect.

Not all barbecue is good barbecue and not all kinds of barbecue are my favorite. There are many different kinds of meat that we barbecue, but here in Alabama, there is one that many of us consider to be the real deal. That one is pork. I have had some really good beef brisket, especially in Texas.0

That's what they call barbecue, but beef doesn't come from a pig, and in the Southeast barbecue doesn't usually come from a cow! I do occasionally love a good smoked brisket, but that's not what we mean when we say barbecue.

I am approaching the one-year anniversary of my heart surgery. For the past year now, I have not had hardly any beef or pork. I have eaten so much chicken that I don't snore anymore at night...I crow! I've sworn off the red stuff and eaten mostly chicken, turkey and fish.

No, none of that was fried. But last Monday, I fell off the wagon and pigged out on some pork. It was the best barbecue I had tasted all year.

Jimmy had asked me to build him one of my cigar-box guitars. He ordered one with a big Georgia Bulldog "G" on the front of it. Yes, he's a Georgia boy who now lives a few miles east of Atlanta. Since I had not seen my old friend in a few years, rather than shipping his guitar to him, we decided to meet halfway and I would deliver it. Of course, we decided to meet at lunchtime.

Jimmy asked if I still ate barbecue. I answered, "Yes, but chicken or turkey these days."

He suggested we meet at The Oink Joint in Newnan. With a name like Oink Joint, I knew exactly what kind of restaurant it was and figured it had to be good. It did not disappoint!

I've eaten so much white meat this past year, and especially since Thanksgiving, that I just couldn't do it. Since my ole friend ordered the pork plate, I didn't want him to make him feel bad as he watched me eat a heart-healthier lunch, so I indulged. Yes, I pigged out at The Oink Joint, but I did not eat the lemon pie!

There's nothing like time spent with old friends and family. The holidays are a good time to do that. I hope you get that chance really soon!

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Dec. 19, 1957

From the files of Dec. 19, 1957

Barbara Yost To Lead S.T.A.R. Dance

Miss Barbara Yost, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Yost, will lead the Fourteenth Annual S.T.A.R. Dance, Saturday night, December 21st at the Cullman High School gym. The lead-out will start at 9 o'clock.

Miss Yost will be escorted by Bobby Jacobs; Diane Hudson, vice-president, will be escorted by Robert Gray; Sharon Dahlke, secretary, escorted by Stacy Thomas; Jane Ann Merrill, treasurer, escorted by Don Brandon; and Mary Benton Engel, reporter, escorted by Max Brown.

Other members and their escorts include Becky Hudson and Ken Campbell; Barbara Duffey and Wayne Blalock; Pat Schaefer and Butch Bachmann; Becky Maxey and Allen Green; Leanna Morrow and Gale Montgomery; Lucinda Leeth and John Heatherly; Sandy McPhillips and Hubert Grissom; Susie West and Joe Mac Roden; Jackie Hamilton and Dale Cook. Millard Buchmann and his orchestra will present the music.

Mrs. Duncan Hostess Coterie Christmas Party

Mrs. Joe Duncan was hostess to members of The Coterie at their annual Christmas dinner party on Friday evening at the Ewing Wallace home.

A lighted Christmas tree, a santa (made by the hostess), and Christmas arrangements were used to decorate for the party.

Celophane bags of home baked cookies marked places for Mesdames Joe C. Sapp, W. D. Cook, Henry Young, J. G. Daves, O. P. Jackson, J. M. Oldacre, J. E. Sutterer, Dwight Pylant, Owen Williams, Frank Stitt, J. M. Lee, Henry F. Arnold, Forney Fuller, R. M. James, Allen Hyatt, W. P. Gibbs, H. F. Mitchell, Bruce Pylant, L. J. Vogel, L. V. Yates, J. A. Dunlap, V. L. Vines and the hostess.

Mrs. W. D. Cook, presided at the business meeting when the group voted to nominate Mrs. Gertrude Harkins and Wm. R. Griffin as woman and man-of-the-year candidates.

Mrs. Allen Hyatt read a delightful Christmas story "Alice Returns", and led group singing of Christmas carols.

The meeting closed with a gift exchange.

Esther Moye Circle Has Christmas Party

Members of Esther Moye Circle of Seventh Street Baptist Church enjoyed their Christmas meeting on December 9th at the lovely new home of Mrs. Tommy Hendrix at Vinemont, with Mrs. Ben Lambert as co-hostess.

Candles, holly and berries decorated the house for the party.

After the mission program the group enjoyed a gift exchange.

A delicious buffet supper was served to Mesdames J. F. Edwards Noel Tidwell, R. B. Moyers, Guy Hodge, H. E. Walker, Oren Shaw, Silas Fuller, W. L. Dunlap, Novie Chaney, Ethel Pierce, W. H. Bailey H. W. Askea, Lena Patterson and the hostesses.

Berlin Sunshine Club Has Christmas Meeting

The Berlin Sunshine Club held its Christmas party at the club room on December 10th with Bertha Boyles and Janette Witcher as co-hostesses.

The devotional was given by Janette Witcher, a Christmas story by Edna White and the program completed by group singing of carols led by Lois Burks.

Delicious refreshments were served to those mentioned and to Mesdames Billie Jean Payne, Eron Duke, Rosa Boyls, Dovie Duke, Nell Bailey, Dorris Smith, Emma Payne, Ruth Harris, Mary Patterson, Theoline Jones, Mantez Johnston, Nell Payne, Susie Smith Gladys Sticher, Magaline Smith, Nora Grizzard, Betty Smith, Josie Duke, Estell Walker, Elsie Teichmiller, Elva Jackson and Christine Jones.

Children guests were Marvalene Jones, Sandra Smith, Nikki Parrish, Tony Duke, Mike, Sharlene, and Sandra Payne, Peggy Ellen Sticher, Jo Ann Bently and Jo Ann Walker.

POET'S CORNER

The Magi | By: Randy C. Hale

A Star in the east,
appeared to them,
Wise men from a distant land.
And guided them to the child,
that they might worship Him.

Three gifts they gave to Him
to celebrate His birth.
Gold, myrrh and frankincense,
brought noble men of earth.

Gold the wealth for a King;
Frankincense for divinity; and
myrrh symbolic of his death,
a future prophecy.

They bowed before
the child from God
to worship and adore.
And praised the future
King of Kings,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Matthew 2:1-12



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

DEC. 14

B E G U N L O G S T O Y R B D
E P S U K I D Y R W D A U O O
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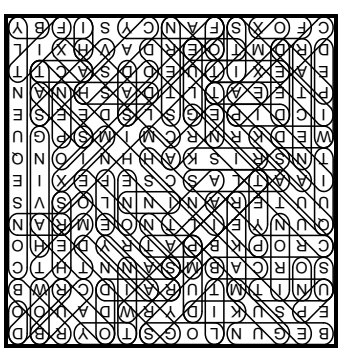
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

DEC. 14

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2	3	1	8	6	7	9	4	5
7	5	9	3	1	4	2	6	8
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WEDS 8-12 | SAT 8:00-2:00
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...IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS CHRIST DIED FOR US. ROMANS 5:8

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Bill Smith

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