

# Calhoun Times

and Gordon County News

Covering Calhoun, Fairmount, Ranger, Oakman, Plainville, Sugar Valley, Resaca and the unincorporated areas of Gordon County since 1870

Saturday, December 29, 2018

Volume 149, No. 104

www.calhountimes.com

facebook.com/calhountimes

@calhountimes

## World War II

A2

**Remembering the killing of 17 American civilians by the Japanese military on a remote island in the Philippines.**



## Opinion

**Staff Writer Alexis Draut shares her thoughts on those who thrive on traveling and those who choose to stay at home.**



## Sports

**A look back recalling some of the biggest local sports stories of 2018.**



B1

## Local family surprised with a 'miracle' during Christmas

◆ Calhoun joins together to buy a handicap-accessible van as a surprise for the Miller family on Christmas Eve.

By Alexis Draut  
ADraut@CalhounTimes.com

When Joan White took her niece Ginger Miller and Miller's sons out to Cracker Barrel for lunch on Christmas Eve, the Miller family thought it was an ordinary holiday meal. But when Ginger was surprised in the parking lot with a 2009

Toyota Sienna van being presented to her by a few local friends, she knew her family's Christmas was anything but normal.

Ginger Miller, a native of Calhoun and a graduate of Calhoun High School, always wanted to leave Calhoun when she was younger. But when she had her three sons, she realized that Calhoun was her home and decided to stay close to family.

But staying in the area has had its own set of challenges. Her oldest son, Will Miller, 23, has cerebral palsy and cystic fibrosis, and their doctors are in Chattanooga, which requires a bit of a commute. And as of recently, their old van had been having problems, making trans-

portation difficult and often unsafe.

Throughout Will's life, Ginger's father Randall Woody had been a source of support with taking care of Will, lifting him and helping out in ways he could. However, Woody suffered from a few health issues this year and was no longer able to help out Ginger in the ways he used to.

White said after Woody's health problems, Ginger quit her job to take care of Will full-time. And as a single parent, this decision left the family in a tight financial situation, though Ginger was doing the best she could.

SEE SURPRISE, A3

## Index

Calendar.....	A9
Church News.....	A5
Classifieds.....	B4
Obituaries.....	A3
Opinion.....	A4
Sports.....	B1



75¢

Calhoun Times

## Children of Calhoun

◆ Three Calhoun natives share their experiences growing up in the small town that they have come to love.

By Alexis Draut  
ADraut@CalhounTimes.com

Though many are born in small towns, it's becoming rare that children born and raised in such places stay there when they grow up. The Calhoun Times recently sat down with three individuals who were born and raised in Calhoun during the 1930s-1950s.

Mignon Ballard, Jane Powers Weldon and James "Jim" Lay were all born within four years of each other, and grew up when Calhoun was a bit different than it is today. Throughout their lives, they have been able to experience Calhoun through what it was and what it is now, observing the many changes that have taken place over time.



Mignon Ballard

### Family histories

While Ballard, Powers Weldon and Lay each have detailed histories with Calhoun, these natives were not the first in their families to be born in the area. All three of them were preceded by ancestors who moved to the town long before they were born.

"My kin folks got here in 1832, and my Aunt Bea Hall started the Calhoun School system in 1902," said Lay, pointing to a wall in his house that displayed years of family photographs. "One of her nephews, Jim Hall, was one of the editors of the Calhoun Times."

Lay, who was born in the house he still lives in, the Stoneleigh House on Fain Street, has an endless amount of stories regarding his parents, grandparents and extended family members living in Calhoun. One of his favorite stories to tell is about his Great-Great Aunt Mary who was living in Calhoun when the Yankees marched through town following the Civil War.

SEE CHILDREN, A9



Terry Knight, owner of the eponymous Terry Knight Studios in downtown Calhoun, will hand over the keys to new owner Jennifer Tinsley on Tuesday. Tinsley plans to call the studio Art by JennyPenny. / Liz Crumbly

## A LIFETIME OF ART

Terry Knight is stepping away from his studio, which he opened after 30 years in education, but the legacy he has woven with students will last forever.

By Liz Crumbly  
Community Correspondent

The funny thing about Terry Knight, the man so many Gordon Countians recognize as an institution in art education, is that he never really intended to teach. But when Knight tells his story, it's clear that his assertion that God had other plans for him must be true.

Knight spent 30 years in the public education system bringing a creative outlet to young people as he taught them to sculpt, paint and sketch. He retired from the schools a few years ago but continued to welcome adults and children for classes at his Terry Knight Studios, which he opened 18 years ago just a stone's throw from the Harris Art Center on Wall Street in downtown Calhoun. Now, he's retiring from life at the studio, but he'll stay true to his artistic roots with plans to set up a booth at art festivals in the tri-state area from spring to fall where he'll market his own art pieces.

"I do everything from non-representational to expressionism, impressionism and realism all the way to photorealism," he says.

The walls of the studio are lined with Knight's examples of these styles.

### 'I'm going to run this place'

Knight graduated from Berry College in 1976 with a major in art and a minor in education. This combination seems ripe for facilitating the teaching career he eventually chose, but he didn't go that direction at first. Instead, he went to work



Terry Knight's work hangs in the studio he's owned for the past 18 years. / Liz Crumbly

for Georgia Power after graduation. When he interviewed at a steam plant with the company, he remembers saying, "I'm going to run this place one day."

He quickly found success in that line work, and he did end up running the plant on Lake Sinclair as a boiler turbine operator. But he wasn't content.

"It was kind of like party time and having fun, and I made so much money I didn't know what to do with it, but I wasn't happy with it," he recalls. "Sometimes I just get teary-eyed going into work."

He eventually switched career paths and went to work at Clark Memorials back in his hometown of Macon as a stone carver. One of his mentors there was from Italy, and it was there that he learned to sculpt marble and granite. It was a profession he was already familiar with, as his family also owned a stone memorial business.

SEE ART, A7



Terry Knight still has a collection of pages from the Sonorville High yearbook that feature his students' work. He took care of the layout during his time teaching there. / Liz Crumbly

## Young Artists



This artwork is from Gordon Central junior Anayeli Segura.



This artwork is from Red Bud Middle School student Hannah Burtnett.



This artwork is from Gordon Central senior Lupita Barrios.

The Calhoun Times is looking to feature student artwork in our Young Artists section. Pictures of artwork can be emailed to Managing Editor Spencer Lahr at SLahr@CalhounTimes.com. Please keep photos in their original format and do not alter them. Also, be sure to include the name of student, their grade and the school they attend.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ VOTE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# Scott Tidwell

## State House - January 8

Committed Christian Conservative

★ Republican ★

PAID FOR BY TIDWELL4HOUSE