The Cullman Tribune

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'American Pickers' to film in Alabama P5

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Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday sales

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – The term Black Friday has long been associated with the day following Thanksgiving. The first recorded use of the term was coined, not about holiday shopping, but in reference to the crash of the U.S. gold market in 1869. The story goes that two of the most world's most notoriously ruthless Wall Street financiers, Jay Gould and Jim Fisk, schemed to buy up as much of the nation's gold as they could get their hands on, in an attempt to drive the price through the roof, and then sell it at astronomical prices, resulting in huge profits for themselves. On Sept. 24, 1869, the conspiracy fell apart, sending the stock market plummeting and bankrupting much of the nation. Suddenly, from Wall Street moguls to blue collar workers and farmers- anyone who had invested in the stock P11



SWEET HARMONY

Cold Springs FFA String Band places high at national competition

Travis Hill, Hunter McClendon, Katie Dollar, Matthew Blair, Andrew Blair

STEPHANIE BLAIR

P4

Free Thanksgiving community meals

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmansense.com

If you are looking for somewhere to spend Thanksgiving, either to eat, volunteer or both, here are three great options. As always, check our online calendar for an up-to-date listing of community events at http://www.cullmansense.com/calendar. If we learn of more Thanksgiving meals, they will be listed there.

Happy Thanksgiving!

City of Good Hope 8th Annual Community Thanksgiving Meal
When: Wednesday, Nov. 23 at 11 a.m.
Where: Good Hope High School lunchroom; 210 Good Hope School Road, Good Hope

P11

Agriplex reception honors Jim Boyd and Dr. Tom 'Big Doc' Williamson

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – You could almost feel the tangible emotions in the room as people watched former Cullman County Schools Superintendent, Jim Boyd, and local veterinarian, Dr. Tom Williamson, take their seats beside the podium to receive well-deserved accolades from a host of city and county dignitaries who came to pay homage to these two men who are stepping down from years of service to the agrarian segment of Cullman's economic base.

Cullman Economic Development Agency Business Development Manager Jamie Troutman welcomed the assemblage, reminding them of the vision that the honorees had of what the North Alabama Agriplex could be back in 2000.

"They worked tirelessly to see this through, in order to help young people understand the importance of agriculture, of preserving the values and significance of farm life, and being self-sufficient, and those lessons will go forward for years to come," said Troutman.

Troutman went on to recognize Boyd and Williamson for their devotion to seeing their dream come to fruition, and for "opening the eyes of young people to the various jobs available in the farming sector."

Alabama Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview was also on hand to acknowledge the accomplishments of the two, "gi- P14

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Good Hope prepares for busy holiday season

W.C. Mann
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GOOD HOPE – The City of Good Hope has some good things going on over the next few weeks, to get its folks into the swing of the Thanksgiving-to-Christmas holiday season. Councilman Greg Brown gives us a rundown.

Thanksgiving Dinner

On this coming Wednesday, Nov. 23, the city will celebrate Thanksgiving with a free community dinner. School lunchroom staff from Good Hope and Hanceville, along with council members and other volunteers, will be cooking and serving at the Good Hope High School lunchroom.

Meals will be ready to eat in or carry out, starting at 11 a.m.

There will even be drive-through service, with local Boy Scouts directing traffic to get everyone in and out quickly.

And... it's FREE. There will be no charge for anyone to take part in this meal. Good Hope residents are encouraged to invite people in need, to take meals to shut-ins and the elderly and to feed friends and family. The council has planned for 1,200 meals to be available.

Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park

On Saturday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m., the city will hold its Christmas parade, starting at Good Hope High School and proceeding to the park at City Hall.

The parade will include area school bands, scouts, horse riders, and local churches. The Grand Marshal will be Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry.

Once everyone gets to the park, local kids and their families will be treated to train rides, hot food and refreshments, inflatables and of course visits with Santa. All activities and food will be free.

Christmas Food and Gift Drive

While Good Hope celebrates, it also remembers those for whom the holidays might not be such a happy time.

For them, the city and Good Hope Elementary School are holding a drive to gather food and gifts for distribution to families in need during December.

Last year, the program helped 30 area families with gifts and food, and was even able to give each family a turkey.

Items being requested include new unwrapped toys, non-perishable food items (canned goods and dry goods) and small gifts. No age range is given for the toys; Brown notes that in previous years the program has served families with kids from babies to teens. Monetary contributions are also welcome.

Those who wish to donate can bring items or money to Good Hope City Hall or the Good Hope Dollar General.

The drive is already underway, and will continue through Dec. 5.

Distribution will begin as soon as donations can be organized and families can be lined up.

Hanceville PD to get new patrol vehicles

W.C. Mann
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HANCEVILLE – Recently, the Hanceville City Council approved its new budget. Among the items included are eight new patrol vehicles for the Hanceville Police Department: a modified Ford Explorer for each full-time patrol officer in the department. The total cost of the new fleet, including purchase and law enforcement modifications, will be around $200,000. The surplus sale of 10-11 old vehicles will help offset the cost of modifications and add-on equipment.

Police Chief Bob Long says that the department has been purchasing, driving and increasingly maintaining used cars and SUVs for eight years now.

These Explorers will be the first new vehicles purchased by the department since 2008.

Last year, according to Long, the cost of maintaining the aging fleet was almost equal to the cost of buying comparable vehicles.

The average HPD vehicle has 174,000 miles on it, and the fleet has a total mileage of approximately 6.2 million miles. Engines and transmissions have been rebuilt, and the cars are constantly having to come in for maintenance and repair.

The average gas mileage of the current fleet is around eight miles per gallon. Even though they are SUVs, the new vehicles are supposed to be capable of up to 18 miles per gallon.

Long says he hopes that the purchase process can begin in the next week. The specially-built vehicles will take around 12 weeks to build and ship; upon arrival, they will require another week for their final outfitting. The department plans to have the vehicles on the street by spring.

Hanceville Knapsacks for Kids changing kids' lives one bagful at a time

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Hunger is a bigger problem in Cullman County than we would like to think. In a recent interview, Laurel Moffatt of the North Alabama Food Bank stated that around 4,800 Cullman County children live under the constant threat of hunger. Several agencies are actively addressing the problem, and children in the Hanceville area have a special group of friends in Hanceville Knapsacks for Kids (HKK).

Sandy Waters shared a little about who the organization is and what it does.

Each Friday of the school year, HKK distributes to approximately 50 area students backpacks containing a weekend's worth of nutrition:

- 4 meal items - canned ravioli or spaghetti, or other ready-to-eat foods
- 2 breakfast items - cereal, breakfast bars
- 2 specially formulated milk servings that do not require refrigeration
- 2 juice servings
- 1 bottled water
- 2 fruit cups
- 2 pudding cups
- 4 snacks
- disposable utensils

Kids pick up the loaded knapsacks at school on Friday afternoons, and drop them back off on the following Mondays, all the way through the school year.

This last week, because of the holiday break, double portions of all contents were included.

HKK will do the same thing before the Christmas break, and also add school supplies and small gifts for the kids.

All this help doesn't come free, but the group has figured out how to maximize its resources.

Through private donations and its partnership with the North Alabama Food Bank, HKK is able to do what they do for $5 per child per week.

But that adds up to $1,000 or more per month, and a lot of knapsacks to stuff almost every week through the school year.

It takes a team, and HKK has one: three civic clubs and nine churches make up the local organization: Hanceville Culture Club, Hanceville Civitans, the Highway 91 Homemakers' Club, Hanceville First Baptist Church, Hanceville First United Methodist Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, Hopewell Baptist Church, Stout's Mountain Baptist Church, Fairview West Baptist Church, Center Hill Baptist Church, and HKK's newest member Garden City Church of God.

Hanceville's mayor and city council have long supported the program, and provide HKK space at the Hanceville Civic Center to pack bags.

Each member organization comes at least twice during the school year to do the packing.

On Thursday mornings at 8:30, someone will be there; those who are interested in helping out or learning more are invited to stop by. Donations of goods or money are always welcome.

More information can be found on the organization's Facebook page "Hanceville Knapsacks for Kids."

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Medicare open enrollment is October 15 - December 7, 2016. Whether you have original Medicare, Medicare Advantage or a prescription drug plan through Medicare Part D, now is the time to make sure you have the right plan for 2017.

For unbiased information on Medicare open enrollment, please call the Alabama AgeLine at **1-800-243-5463**, go to **Medicare.gov/find-a-plan** or call Medicare at **1-800-633-4277**.

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Cullman County Community Development Commission awards $46K in grants for November

Andrew Cryer
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CULLMAN – The Cullman County Community Development Commission (CCCDC) met recently to distribute grants for the month of November. The amount available for distribution this month was $145,992; however, $100,000 was put into reserve.

Funding for CCCDC grants comes from taxes-Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in lieu of taxes and beer taxes. CCCDC board members are appointed by Alabama state legislators.

The chairman of the CCCDC, Bill Strandlund, noted, "Cullman County is the only county that distributes (these) funds in the form of grants."

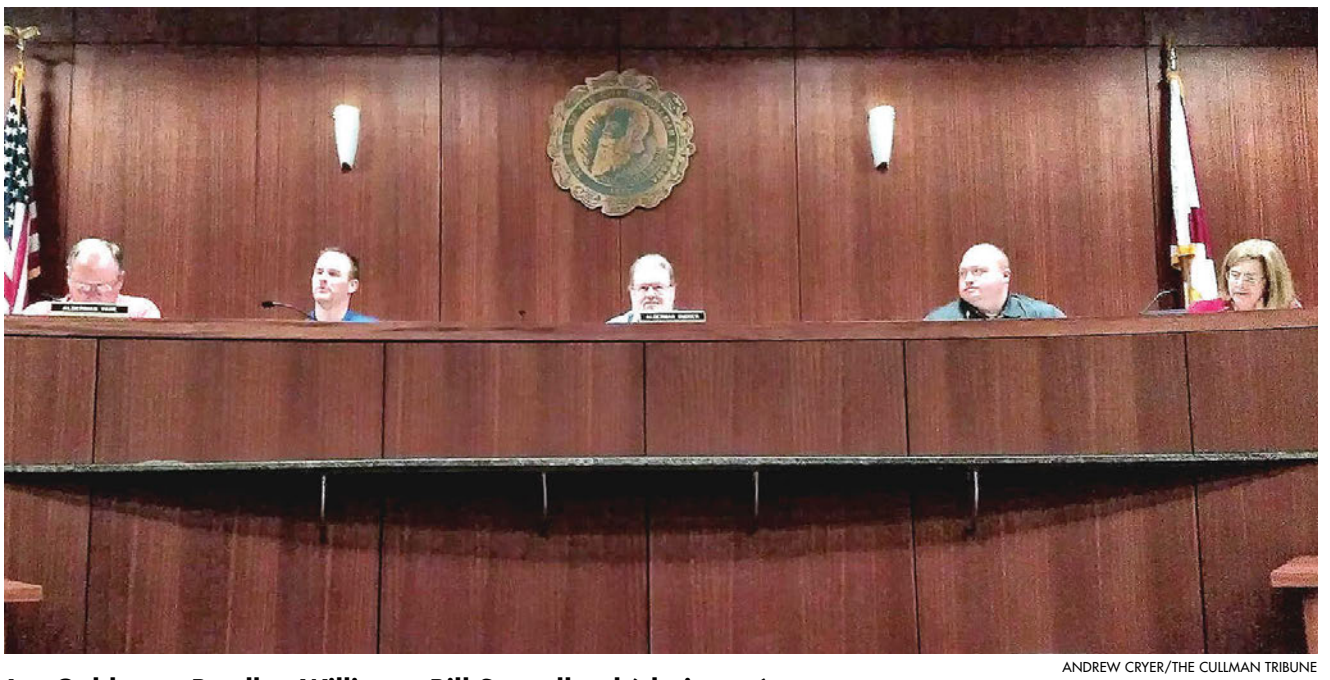
Board members are:

- Bill Strandlund- appointed by Sen. Paul Bussman, R-Cullman
- Bradley Williams- appointed by Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope
- Joe Golden- appointed by Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview
- Josh Speakman- appointed by Rep. Ed Henry, R-Hartselle

Strandlund expressed gratitude on behalf of the CCCDC to Bussman, Harbison, Shedd and Henry "for not creating local legislative offices," which he says can cost counties as much as 40 percent of their monthly commission budget.

Of the available $45,992 for November, the CCCDC approved four grants:

- $12,000 to the Baileyton Community Center for renovations
- $12,000 to The Link of Cullman County's Wise-Up Program
- $12,000 to the Dodge City Community Center for repairs and up-keep
- $9,982 was allocated to Hanceville High School for much-needed repairs to the school's track and field. The funds will be used for phase one repairs, which will allow students of Hanceville and Cullman County to compete against each other. Later expansion of the track and field is planned so that Hanceville may possibly host track meets in the future.



ANDREW CRYER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Joe Goldman, Bradley Williams, Bill Strandlund (chairman), Josh Speakman and Lisa Digginson (secretary)

To learn more about the CCCDC or to submit a grant application, visit http://co.cullman.al.us/cccdc/cccdc.html. The next CCCDC meeting will be held Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. at Cullman City Hall. The group will hold meetings on the third Monday of each month in the 2017 calendar year.

Aiming high and shooting straight: Cullman Sons of Confederate Veterans raise money for local charities with turkey shoot

W.C. Mann
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JONES CHAPEL – On Saturday morning, groups of armed men converged on the west Cullman County community of Jones Chapel. There they shot it out for several hours, before giving up and going their separate ways again. What was the cause? Simple: meat, money and the children of Cullman County.

This was the fourth annual turkey shoot sponsored by the Thomas Jefferson Denney Camp #1442 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), based in Cullman. According to event spokesman, West Point Mayor and SCV member Kenneth Kilgo, the event is a fundraiser for the camp and for local charities it supports. While a portion of the proceeds will remain with the camp for support of SCV southern history education programs, much of the money will go to Cullman Caring for Kids, with some funding also going to the local chapter of Veterans of Foreign Wars and other charities.

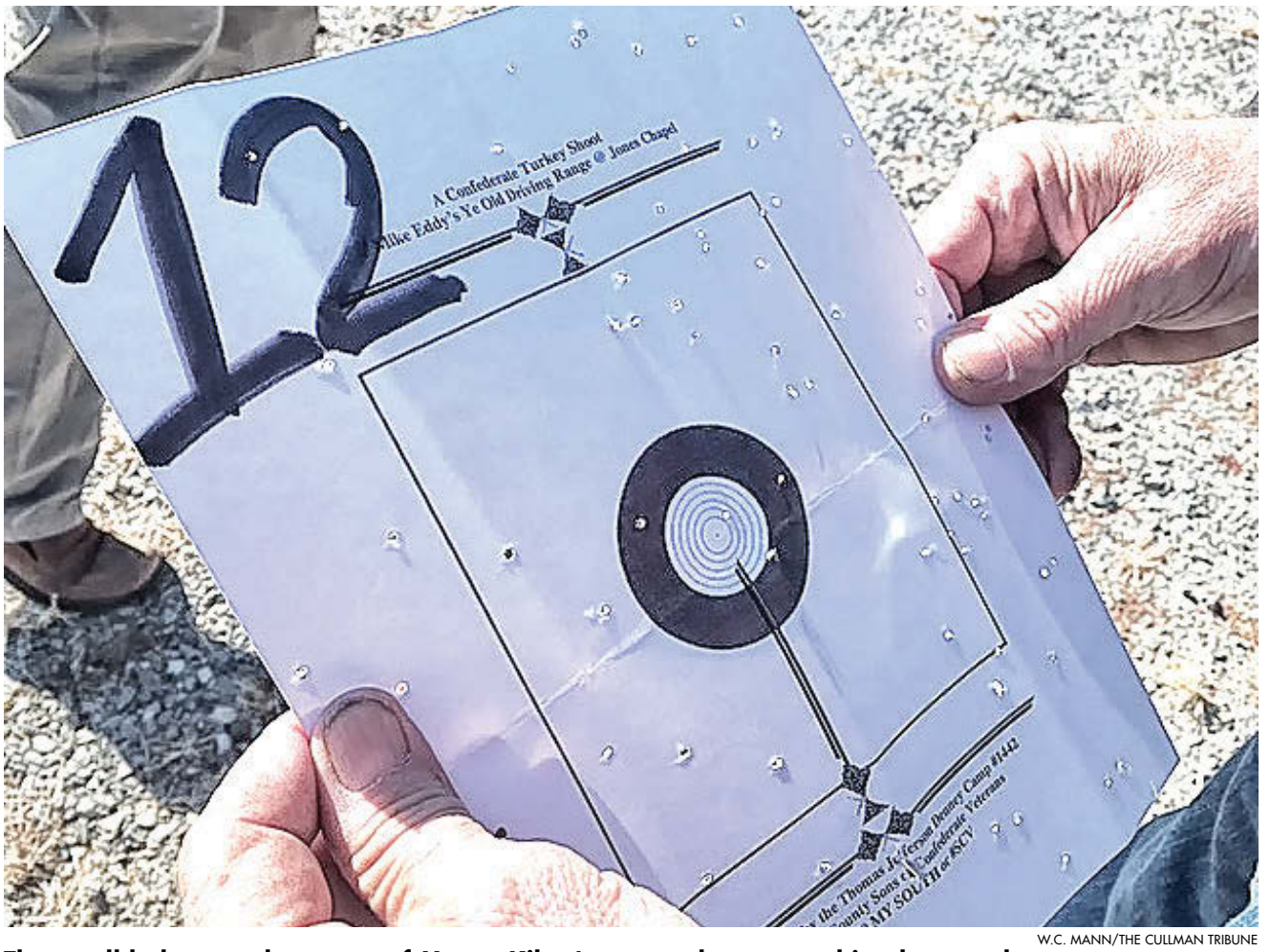
The rules of this turkey shoot were simple: use a regular shotgun and hit closer to the center of the target than anyone else in your group.

Shooters competed in groups of 12 (though one person could shoot multiple targets by paying extra), paying $5 per shot in rounds in which the prize was a $20 gift certificate to Brickyard Meats, and $10 per shot in "money rounds" in which the prize was half that round's pot.

Only factory stock shotguns fitted with common commercial chokes were allowed; none of the high dollar custom-built barrels and chokes often found in upscale shooting events. Each shooter aimed at an individual small multi-ring bullseye target. Judges took up the targets after each round; the target with a single pellet hole closest to the center won the round.

Each round had its champion, but the overall winner will be Cullman Caring for Kids, a charity of which the Denney camp is quite fond:

"We committed to donate 16 tons of food to Cullman Caring for Kids this year," said Kilgo, "and we're at 7 tons right now." He added, "We wanted to do this right before the holidays because the food bank always has shortages, but especially at this time of the year."



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The small hole near the center of Mayor Kilgo's target almost won him the round.

Event hosts hoped for a good turnout of more than 100 shooters (many of whom would participate in multiple rounds), noting that at last year's event 276 shots were fired over 23 rounds, leading to the raising of $900 after expenses.

"The more that come," Kilgo stated, "the more we can give to charity." SCV is known for its work in preserving southern history, but the mayor offered the assurance that Thomas Jefferson Denney Camp 1442 is "also committed to taking care of those in need in our community."

Southern Prep Sports Academy opening in Hanceville

Program for football players who have the talent to play college ball, but need help with grades or to improve athletic skills

James Tolbert
Contributor

HANCEVILLE – The opening of Southern Prep Sports Academy, based in Hanceville, has been announced by its athletic director, James Tolbert, who says the academy will encourage and develop the skills needed to bridge the gap between academics and athletics.

According to Tolbert, the north-central Alabama area is the perfect location for an academy that could help countless athletes who have the talent to play football at the next level following high school but need help with grades, or a second chance to work to improve their athletic skill level.

It also avails the opportunity to individuals who desire to continue to play for the love of the game.

A Southern Prep football team will be fielded for the 2017 season.

Academy members will be required to enroll at Wallace State Community College to continue their educations by the fall semester of 2017 to be eligible for the Academy football team.

"We'll play a full schedule of games," said Tolbert, who will be the head coach of the football squad.

The Southern Prep team will face opponents such as other prep academies, as well as junior varsity programs of some colleges.

Throughout his many years as a coach on different levels, James Tolbert built tremendous relationships with colleges across the country, helping many of his former players further their educations.

"We care about our young people being educated and moving on to a successful life," said Tolbert.

"The Academy is based on 4 Fs: Faith, Family, Future (being education) and Football. Our goal is to be the elite program in the country," Tolbert continued.

"We want to be a total program to develop the total person. Students will have an opportunity to mature, improve grades and learn life lessons."

For more information, Tolbert may be contacted at 205-353-9204.

Information on the program will be sent to area high schools.

Band (from Front)

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BREMEN – Cullman County has some good music: great high school marching bands, fun gathering spots with open mic nights, numerous laid-back jam sessions, traditional choirs, German music, Irish folk music, dulcimer performers and others. And the rural community of Cold Springs has given us a state champion bluegrass band whose all-teen lineup has received national recognition.

Four years ago, Cold Springs High School (CSHS) students Travis Hill and Andrew Blair began making music together, just for fun. Hill played the banjo, and Blair played the guitar and mandolin; both sang. The duo struggled to get traction as a two-man bluegrass band, but they started to find other kindred souls. Guitarist and vocalist Hunter McClendon came on board, along with Katie Dollar, a singer and occasional percussionist with the spoons. More recently, Andrew's brother Matthew Blair added a bass guitar to the mix; and the band began to find its own distinct take on the traditional bluegrass sound.

Last year, the band placed third at the Future Farmers of America (FFA) district competition; it wasn't a win, but they knew they were onto something. In April of this year the CSHS group won the district FFA string band competition, then went on to win at state and qualify for nationals.

At the national string band competition in October, they placed fourth. That's fourth out of 300 bands who submitted applications and 15 who made the semifinal cut.

Now they're back home and staying busy. According to their sponsor, CSHS faculty FFA Advisor Brad Murray, the band is scrambling to respond to numerous requests for performances. They play at churches and community events, at the recent Cullman County Fair and were just at an event at Orange Beach last week.

Murray hopes that a recent offer will help pay for all this road time: a local recording producer has offered free use of his studio, where the band hopes to record a few tracks for a CD and individual sale through iTunes.

Oh yeah, and they're also full-time high school students. While FFA extracurricular activities do not require maintenance of a certain grade point average, Murray says that he holds the participants in all his activities to high standards of academic performance and personal conduct. And the band members do not disappoint him.

Being a high school program, there will be a final curtain call for this band, at least for this lineup. Hill and Andrew Blair are seniors. Both plan to begin their post high school days at Wallace State. Andrew Blair is keeping his options open, while Hill already plans to study performing arts at the University of North Alabama.

Murray is planning for the future. The band is currently developing Abigail Burrough, an up-and-coming fiddler and vocalist. Other students have expressed an interest, too; but Murray is not looking for just anyone. The next generation will have to complete auditions as he seeks to maintain the level to which the band has now risen.

In the meantime, the current lineup will have one more shot at FFA glory. Even though two will graduate, the way the competition schedule is set up, they could still be eligible for the state and national events in June and October 2017.

The FFA advisor is proud of his students and insists that he is more of a band manager than a supervisor or instructor. The kids are self-motivated, come up with their own music and practice on their own.

"These are great representatives of our school and the community," Murray insisted. "These are kids I can leave for a period of time, and not worry about them getting into trouble. They're going to do the right thing always."

Videos of the band are available by searching YouTube for "Cold Springs FFA String Band."



PREP / PREP GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Schedule: Thanksgiving week hoops tournaments

TUESDAY

West Point Girls Thanksgiving Tournament
- West Point vs. Albertville 4 p.m.
- Cold Springs vs. Phil Campbell 5:15 p.m.
- Hanceville vs. Guntersville 6:30 p.m.
- West Point vs. Oakman 7:45 p.m.

Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament
- Locust Fork vs. Dora 4 p.m.
- Cold Springs vs. Corner 5:15 p.m.
- Good Hope vs. Curry 6:30 p.m.
- Hanceville vs. Mortimer Jordan 7:45 p.m.

Danville Lady Hawks Thanksgiving Classic
@ Danville
- Priceville vs. Athens 4 p.m.
- Brewer vs. Jackson-Olin 5:20 p.m.
- Fairview vs. West Morgan 6:40 p.m.
- Holly Pond vs. Danville 8 p.m.

@ Falkville (Consolation bracket)
- Lawrence County vs. Decatur 4 p.m.
- Mortimer Jordan vs. Russellville 5:20 p.m.
- Good Hope vs. Falkville 6:40 p.m.
- Hatton has bye

WEDNESDAY

West Point Girls Thanksgiving Tournament
- Cold Springs vs. Guntersville 10 a.m.
- Hanceville vs. Phil Campbell 11:15 a.m.
- Cold Springs vs. Oakman 12:30 p.m.
- West Point vs. Phil Campbell 1:45 p.m.
- Hanceville vs. Albertville 3 p.m.

Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament
- Loser of LF/Dora vs. loser of CS/Corner 4 p.m.
- Loser of GH/Curry vs. loser of HV/MJ 5:15 p.m.
- Winner of LF/Dora vs. winner of CS/Corner 6:30 p.m.
- Winner of GH/Curry vs. winner of HV/MJ 7:45 p.m.

Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament
- Fairview vs. Cullman 5 p.m.
- West Morgan vs. J.B. Pennington 6:30 p.m.
- Holly Pond vs. Arab 8 p.m.

Danville Lady Hawks Classic
@ Danville
- Semifinal no. 1 12:40 p.m.
- Semifinal no. 2 2 p.m.
- 3rd place game 6 p.m.
- Championship 7:30 p.m.

@ Falkville (Consolation bracket)
- Semifinal no. 12:40 p.m.
- Semifinal no. 2 2 p.m.
- 3rd place game 6 p.m.
- Championship 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament
- Arab vs. J.B. Pennington 5 p.m.
- Fairview vs. West Morgan 6:30 p.m.
- Cullman vs. Holly Pond 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament
- 7th place game 4 p.m.
- 5th place game 5:15 p.m.
- 3rd place game 6:30 p.m.
- Championship game 7:45 p.m.

Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament
- Fairview vs. J.B. Pennington 5 p.m.
- Cullman vs. Arab 6:30 p.m.
- Holly Pond vs. West Morgan 8 p.m.

Compiled by Johnny Thornton

Cullman Community Band makes good music fun for everyone

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Garry Taylor is really into music. He is known to Cullman area residents as the retired band director for Cullman High School. And when a man who has spent a good part of his life conducting a band in Cullman decides to give it up, what does he do? Well, he conducts a band in Cullman, of course.

The Cullman Community Band is a group of more than 60 musicians that describes itself on its Facebook page as "an enriching and fun musical outlet for adult musicians in the Cullman area as well as quality symphonic band entertainment for the community."

Taylor says he was approached in 2005 by friend and fellow musician Robert Bean, a veteran music educator and professor of music at Wallace State, with the idea of bringing together the pool of musical talent in the Cullman area.

The two approached then mayor Donald Green and the city council, receiving not only approval for a community band but even funding to get them started.

Practice space and even access to some larger instruments was made available at Cullman Middle School, where Bean's wife Linda teaches music and directs the band.

In Sept. 2005, the band held its first rehearsal, with Bean as conductor and Taylor as associate conductor. Taylor has since taken the reins, and now conducts the band.

The Cullman Community Band is today a symphonic band with brass, woodwind and percussion sections.

With more than 60 members, there are plenty of instruments with a good balance in numbers, though Taylor does say he could use a few more percussionists.

He laughs about that, noting, "In school bands, it seems like everyone wants to play the drums!"

Its season roughly coincides with the school year, with the first rehearsal held the Monday after Labor Day in September and the last held the Monday before Memorial Day in May.

Rehearsals are held at Cullman Middle School on Monday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m.

During its season, the band performs at Oktoberfest and the Strawberry Festival, and holds Christmas and spring concerts.

The next band performance will be the Christmas concert at Wallace State on Dec. 12.

Sponsored by the Cullman Community Concert Series, it will be a free event for the public; attendees are encouraged to bring canned goods that will be donated to Cullman Caring for Kids.

Taylor, who also serves as the executive director of the Alabama Music Educators' Association, is proud of his local band: "There's a good pool of talent around here, and the group just keeps getting better."

For more information, visit "Cullman Community Band" on Facebook.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Garry Taylor, executive director of the Alabama Music Educators' Association, and conductor of the Cullman Community Band.



CONTRIBUTED

'American Pickers' to film in Alabama

Cat Raynor
Contributor

Mike Wolfe, Frank Fritz and their team are excited to return to Alabama! They plan to film episodes of the hit series "American Pickers" throughout the region this winter.

"American Pickers" is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique picking on the cable channel, History. The hit show follows Mike and Frank, two of the most skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques. They are always excited to find sizeable, unique collections and learn the interesting stories behind them.

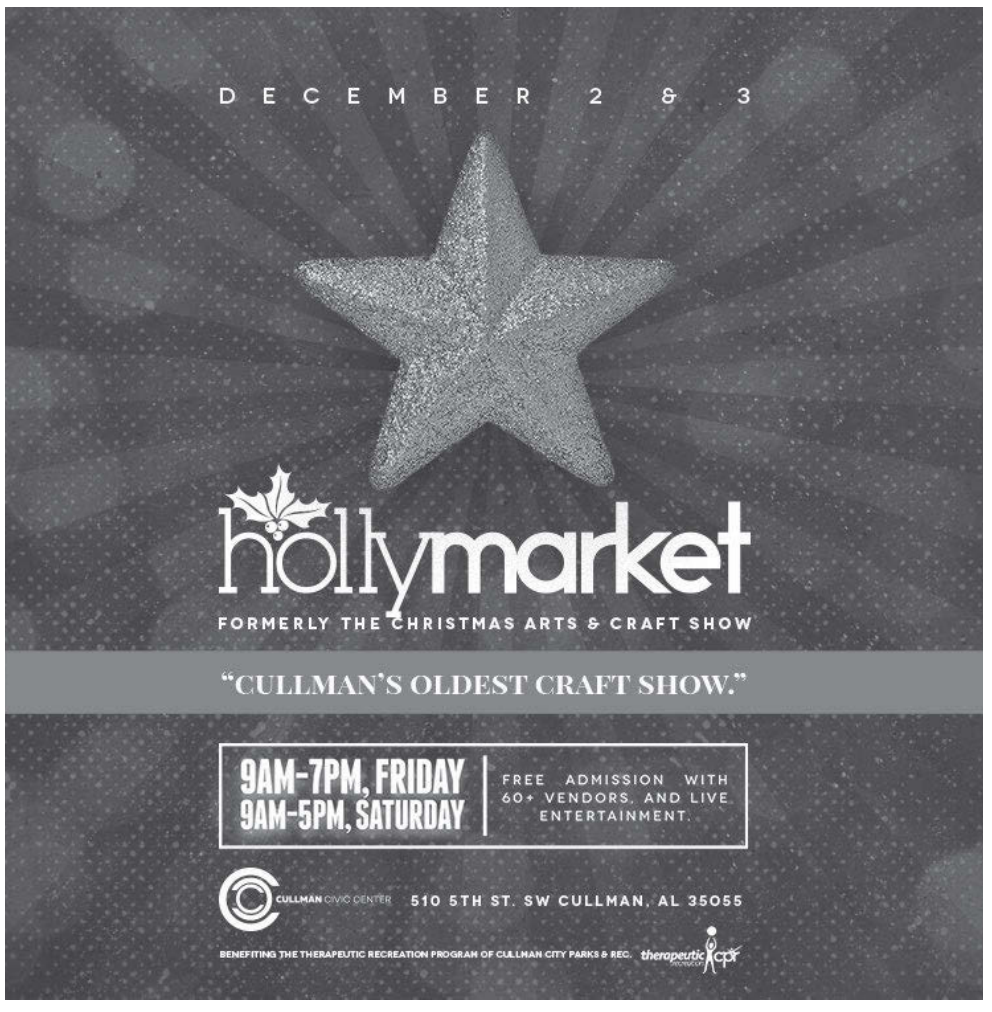
As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, Mike and Frank are on a mission to recycle and rescueforgotten relics. Along the way, the Pickers want to meet characters with remarkable and exceptional items.

The pair hopes to give historically significant objects a new lease on life, while learning a thing or two about America's past along the way.

Mike and Frank have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they've never seen before. They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them.

"American Pickers" is looking for leads and would love to explore your hidden treasure. If you or someone you know has a large, private collection or accumulation of antiques that the Pickers can spend the better part of the day looking through, send us your name, phone number, location and description of the collection with photos to: americanpickers@cineflix.com or call 855-old-rust.





News from the Pond

Jimmie Dean Carnell
Tribune Contributor



Good morning Tribune families. We certainly are wishing for some rain. My yard looks like the Sahara, with all the dust around. I feel sorry for folks with livestock and other big water needs, they seem to have the greatest issues with stock ponds and wells drying up. We must take this and all problems to the Lord, it is in His hands.

Holly Pond Homemakers held their November meeting this week. It was a huge covered dish meal in honor of the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday.

Special guests were the folks that have worked so hard to bulldoze and prepare the newly acquired cemetery property to be incorporated as a part of the existing property.

It really looks great and the transition is seamless. Also honored was the new Cemetery Committee for the management and oversight of Holly Pond Cemetery lots and property. Guests that attended included: Velma Armstrong, Bartee Bryan, Terry Carr, Jim Holcomb, Sam Pinyan, Shane Pinyan, Mike Pinyan, Dewitt Sanford, Mike Wisener and Dan Scott.

Members were reminded of upcoming events, the Holly Pond Christmas Parade and Christmas Cards at Governor's Park on December 10th.

Homemakers Club members attending were: Carolyn Bryan, Julia Floyd, Nell Harbison, Gail Hatley, Lyndell House, Londalene Jean, Judy Jones, Janice Murphree, Peggy Ray, Linda Reid, Madelyn Robertson, Brenda Scott, Louise Scott, Tavia Smith, Eloise Stevens, Amelia Wisener, Brenda Wisener, Gladys Wisener and Annette Yates.

Our church family welcomed a lovely new baby girl on Wednesday this week. Our pastor at First Baptist Holly Pond, Reverend Benjamin Smothers and his wife Jada are the proud parents. Christian sympathy is extended to Linda Shoemaker and her family in the loss of her mother.

As I look back on the past year this Thanksgiving Season, I realize that through the many recent changes in my life I am truly blessed to be surrounded with the love of a great family and many wonderful friends.

There is a song that we used at the recent Prime Time Singers program that speaks to me and many of the things I am thankful for. It is "I am Blessed" by Jerry Goff. It goes like this:

Thru the sunshine and rain, even sorrow and pain, Jesus is still my comfort and Guide. And His love comforts me and His grace has set me free; and someday I shall stand by His side. I have shoes for my feet; I have plenty to eat and a home in heaven by and by.

Brothers and sisters on this earth, they are mine by my new birth, and we shall share in that home beyond the sky. I am blessed, I am blessed. Every day that I live I am blessed. When I wake up in the morning, till I lay my head to rest, I am blessed, I am blessed.

Have a great week and count your blessings.

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From the Files of 1928

S.V. Davis, of Crane Hill, was in town on Saturday.

Gene Thompson, of Vinemont, was in town last Friday.

S.V. Waller was a business visitor to Hartselle on Wednesday.

Mrs. H.S. Wallace spent Wednesday afternoon in Hanceville.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Turentine were business visitors to the city last Friday.

Homer Bentley, a good citizen and prosperous farmer, was in town on Friday.

Mrs. L.B. Keller is spending the week with relatives in Tuscumbia and Moulton.

Miss Ida Clement was a weekend visitor of Mrs. Max Weber at the Eureka Hotel.

Miss Mary Kelley has returned home after spending her vacation in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Doctor and Mrs. W.J. Cottingham and Mr. and Mrs. Asa Fuller spent Sunday in Muscle Shoals.

Mrs. Frank Morgan and Mrs. W.A. Trimble visited Mrs. R.F. Warren in Decatur, this week.

Mrs. Mary L. Denson and children, spent last week in Valley Grove with relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Sizemore, of Bessemer, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Ward, this week.

Miss Venia Bavar, of Miami, Florida, is visiting relatives and friends in Cullman and in the county.

J.T. Joseph, a prominent citizen and businessman, of Thorsby, was a visitor to our city first of the week.

Miss Eva Bridges, an accomplished pianist, of Route Five, is playing for a revival near Falkville, this week.

Howard Smith and Walter Waters are attending the normal singing school in Albertville of a three weeks' term.

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To prospective home builders see us for prices on building materials before buying. C. Arnold and Son, phone 71.

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W.J. Hicks, a good citizen and farmer, of Hanceville, Route One, was a business visitor to the city Saturday and paid us a visit.

G.C. Kempson and son, George, are spending the week in Leoma, Tennessee, as the guests of Mr. Kempson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kempson.

Ottis Denson spent Saturday and Sunday in Birmingham and attended the annual Sacred Harp Singing at the Jefferson County Courthouse.

Mr. and Mrs. George Stiefelmeyer and children have returned after a month's vacation on an automobile trip to northern and eastern points.

Miss Emma Assell returned home Tuesday from Birmingham, where she has been the guest of her brother and family for the past three weeks.

Judge and Mrs. F.E. Saint John and son, Finis Saint John, returned home Wednesday after spending the past three weeks at Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee.

Mrs. B.E. Thornton and little son, B.E., Junior, left Tuesday morning for Red Bay to spend a week with her parents and old friends in that little city.

Master Maurice House, who has been sick for some time from the effect of measles, which he had early in the spring, is apparently beginning to recover.

Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Newman and children are spending the week in Tuscumbia on a visit to Mr. Newman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Newman.

Reverend and Mrs. W.H. Aufderhaar, Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Stiefelmeyer and Mrs. Max Oeser attended the funeral of Reverend Ebinger in Birmingham, on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Beaty will leave Sunday for Montgomery, where they will be until August 2nd and from there they expect to go to Barbour County to spend a few days with relatives.

Mr. Beaty will return home Sunday week, while Mrs. Beaty will spend several days with relatives.

S.M. Lovelady was called to Hartselle Wednesday, to assist in conducting the Masonic funeral services of a Mr. Vest, a deceased member of Hartselle Masonic Lodge.

Mrs. F.B. Hughes and daughters, Mrs. Bill Hays and little son and Mrs. Kate Helms, of Steppville Route One, were shopping in the city Wednesday and paid our office a visit.

Misses Sarah, Eleanor, Pauline and Annie Neal Brown, of Birmingham were the weekend guests of Doctor and Mrs. J.P. Kessler in the city. The misses are sisters of Mrs. Kessler.

Mrs. Emil Buettner and Mrs. C.W. Derrick and sons motored to Decatur Thursday to visit Mrs. Walter Taylor (nee) Mae Hauk, who is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hauk.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Please don't call Thanksgiving 'Turkey Day'

Bill King
Tribune Contributor



I'm afraid Thanksgiving has become one of those holidays that have lost much of their true purpose. As far back as 1789, we were called on by George Washington, to set aside a special day on which we give thanks. In 1863, in the midst of Civil War, Abraham Lincoln issued the first national thanksgiving proclamation to set apart the last Thursday in November as a day of thanksgiving.

Some today, view Thanksgiving as simply a day off work. With more retail stores opening on Thanksgiving, some don't even have the day off, while others spend the day getting a jump on their Christmas shopping. Now we have Greenback Thursday and Black Friday.

For children, Thanksgiving may be a day to sleep late and then watch the parades on television.

For some guys, it is a day to hunt in the morning, get home in time to eat so much lunch that we can barely waddle to the recliner afterwards to watch whoever is beating the Lions.

We might squeeze a nap in there somewhere. Moms and grandmothers are the ones who have it the hardest because they may spend half the day in the kitchen cooking.

Of course, the guys come in after lunch and wash up all those dishes. What? Guys, come on. That's the least we can do and if you don't, that sweet wife of yours might "accidently" cut the satellite cable during the middle of the game. Yeah, I know, you think "my" wife wouldn't do that, but is your mother-in-law coming?

Now, in my humble opinion, there is nothing wrong with any of the activities I mentioned, however, if that is all Thanksgiving is to us then I'm afraid we've missed the point.

Some people these days have even taken to calling Thanksgiving, Turkey Day. The holiday does not belong to the turkey.

Ladies! You took that completely out of context. I was not referring to your husband!

The turkey may be at the center of the table but he should not be the center of attention.

He's like a lazy employee who is invited to the boss's office, he's only there because he is about to have his lunch eaten.

What then is Thanksgiving intended to be? Primarily, Thanksgiving is a day to pause, reflect and give thanks.

Who should we thank? Probably some people, certainly those ladies in the kitchen, but definitely God. G Campbell Morgan, an early twentieth century British minister, told the following story.

A boy was bringing home a loaf of bread when a man asked him what he had.

The boy replied, "A loaf of bread." The man asked, "Where did you get it." The boy answered, "From the baker."

The man asked, "And where did the baker get it?" The boy said, "He made it." The man then asked, "From what did he make it?" The boy thought for a moment and said, "Flour."

The man asked, "And where did he get the flour?" The boy answered, "I guess from the miller."

The man continued, "So the miller ground the flour from corn. Where did he get the corn?" The boy answered, "Probably from a farmer."

Finally, the man asked, "And where did the farmer get the corn?" The boy replied, "He must have gotten it from God."

The man then asked again, "So where then did you get the bread?"

James said, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father."

Enjoy your turkey, but please don't forget to give thanks to God. Happy Thanksgiving!

Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com or 334-745-0588 (office) or 334-728-5514 (cell).

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PHARMACY TOPICS *by Rex Smith*

Hospital Discount Central



Left to right: Becky Cook, Marie Wright, Regenia Geisen, Rex Smith, Rph. And Vanessa Patton

A review of nine observational studies published in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* found evidence supporting an increased risk of heart attacks in patients taking antipsychotic drugs. The review expands previous knowledge by demonstrating an increased and more pronounced risk in short-term users of these medications. After reviewing data from the studies, researchers found that antipsychotic drug users were nearly twice as likely to experience a heart attack than non-users. Patients with schizophrenia and those who took the drugs for less than 30 days had even higher risks.

***

A meta-analysis of clinical trials evaluating the effectiveness of aripiprazole (brand name Abilify) for the treatment of Tourett's disorder (TD) in children and adolescents showed a significantly greater overall improvement in total tics and tic severity from pretreatment to post-treatment for the aripiprazole compared to the placebo group. The drug was safe, with drowsiness, nausea and headache being the most common adverse effects, according to the study published in *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology*.

***

A drug commonly used to treat pain, epilepsy, anxiety and other brain health disorders may be associated with an increased risk of major birth defects, according to a study published in Neurology, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology. The drug pregabalin is approved by the FDA to treat epilepsy, fibromyalgia and neuropathic pain, such as pain from diabetic neuropathy or pain after shingles or spinal cord injury. It is also used for generalized anxiety disorder and other mental health issues. This is called off-label prescribing.

***

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For more information, contact
Jeff Curtis at 256.352.7862 or jcurtis@ccboe.org
or
Karen Johnson at 256.352.8051 or
karen.johnson@wallacestate.edu

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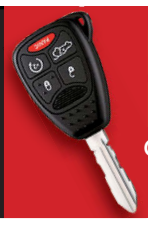
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, will hold a public hearing on December 19, 2016 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the Lucille N. Galin Auditorium at City Hall, 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. At this time anyone wishing to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-___(set forth in full below) will be given an opportunity to be heard.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017 – ____

TO DECLARE CERTAIN PROPERTY SURPLUS

WHICH IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES BY THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, as follows:

SECTION 1. It is hereby established and declared that the following described real property of the City of Cullman, Alabama, is no longer needed for public or municipal purposes, to-wit:

"A parcel of land, otherwise known as an undeveloped alleyway, which is twenty feet by two hundred and twenty-one feet, more or less, located directly east of 1299 10th Street SE."

SECTION 2. That the Mayor and City Clerk be, and they hereby are, authorized and directed to execute and attest, respectively, for and on behalf of the City of Cullman, Alabama, a warranty deed, a copy of which is on file in the office of the City Clerk, whereby the City of Cullman, Alabama, does convey the premises described Section 1 hereof to the adjoining property owners for its fair market value.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication as required by law.

Wesley M. Moore – Cullman City Clerk

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SECTION 1. It is hereby established and declared that the following described real property of the City of Cullman, Alabama, is no longer needed for public or municipal purposes, to-wit:

"A parcel of land, otherwise known as an undeveloped portion of Short Street, which is fifty feet by two hundred and eighty feet, more or less, located directly west of Broadway Avenue SW."

SECTION 2. That the Mayor and City Clerk be, and they hereby are, authorized and directed to execute and attest, respectively, for and on behalf of the City of Cullman, Alabama, a warranty deed, a copy of which is on file in the office of the City Clerk, whereby the City of Cullman, Alabama, does convey the premises described Section 1 hereof to the adjoining property owners for its fair market value.

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ORDINANCE NO. 2017 - ___

AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2004-03 AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, TO RE-ZONE CERTAIN PARCELS OF PROPERTY AS SET FORTH HEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Under the authority of Chapter 52, Articles 1 through 4, Section 11-52-1 through Section 11-52-84, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, and specifically Sections 11-52-77 and at the request of property owner, Industrial Development Board, the following describe the tract or parcel of land, to-wit: PPIN: 048519. PARCEL: 17-03-05-4-001-010.000. ADDRESS: Vacant Lot containing 5.3 acres more or less.
DESCRIPTION: A part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter Section 5, Township 10 South, Range 3 West, more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Southeast corner of said forty, then North 1 degrees 28'51"W 1141.33 feet to the true point of beginning, thence S 81 degrees 31'57" W 825.50 feet to a point on the East right of way of Old Highway #157, thence N 27 degrees 08;39" W 332.70 feet, thence N 88 degrees 45'50" E to the Northeast corner of said forty, thence S 1 degrees 28'51" W 195.35 feet to the point of beginning. Subject to all existing rights of way for roads, power lines, poles, etc. For source of Title Deed Book 431 Page 560. Situated within the city limits of Cullman, Alabama, and lying and being in Cullman County, State of Alabama, designated as R-1 Residential District on the Zoning Map of the City of Cullman, Alabama, under Ordinances No. 2004-03 and as may be reflected in any comprehensive master plan for the City of Cullman, Alabama, be, and is hereby changed from R-1 Residential District to B-2 Business District.
2. That this ordinance be published at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in advance of its final passage in a newspaper with general circulation within the City of Cullman, Alabama, the first publication of said notice and ordinance being verbatim and the second publication either verbatim or synopsized, with the last publication being at least 15 days prior to the date set for public hearing and passage of said ordinance.
3. That a public hearing be held relative to the passage of this ordinance on the 19th day of December, 2016 at 7:00 o'clock p.m., at which time interested parties and citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance and any changes relating thereto.
4. That all notices as required by law be given by the City Clerk concerning said public hearing, and in addition thereto, a certified letter be sent by the Clerk to all contiguous property owners at their last known addresses as shown by the tax records for the City of Cullman, Alabama.
5. That upon final passage of this ordinance, all zoning maps, master comprehensive plans or any other documents of the City of Cullman, Alabama, in conflict with this ordinance be and are hereby changed and amended to reflect the changes and amendments herein.
6. Should any part or portion of this ordinance be held invalid, unenforceable or unconstitutional, for whatever reason, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect any other part or portion of this ordinance.
7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage or adoption as required by law, including notice, publication and public hearing, all in accordance with Section 11-52-1, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.

Wesley M. Moore – Cullman City Clerk

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE:
C.O.A.
A Minor Child, 10/27/2015

CASE NO. JU 2015-618.02

NOTICE

The Petitioner having made a Motion for Service by Publication in the above styled action, it is

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Father of C.O.A. born on or about 10/27/2015 to Mikayla Williams, respond to the Petition by the 15 day of December, 2016, or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioner.

Contact may be made: Attorney for Petitioner: Michael J. Baggett, P.O. Box 561, Cullman, AL 35056-0561, (256) 739-9300 or Clerk of Court: Lisa McSwain, 500 2nd Ave SW Cullman, AL 35055.

DONE this the 12th day of October, 2016.

WELLS R. TURNER, III
JUVENILE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

November 2nd

Lisa McSwain (GW)

FILED IN OFFICE
OCT 17 2016
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE

PETITION OF CHRIS SCHAEFERS AND SARAH FISH

CASE NO: AD2016-053

FOR THE ADOPTION OF

KAYLA LECOMPTE, MINOR.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: DON WOOD, biological father address unknown

The Petition for Adoption which is attached to this Notice is important and you must take immediate action to protect your rights. You are required to mail or hand-deliver a copy of a written answer, either admitting or denying each allegation in the Petition to the Attorney for the Petitioner, whose name and address are shown below and you must file the original of your answer with the Clerk of the Probate Court of Cullman County, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055 or P.O. Box 970, Cullman, Alabama 35056. THIS ANSWER MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF THIS NOTICE AND PETITION AS EVIDENCED BY THE RETURN AND, RECEIPT IF YOU INTEND TO CONTEST THE ADOPTION.

DONE THIS 17th DAY OF November, 2016

STUART L.MOORE
409 Second Avenue Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-739-0148

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

YAHN KELLY,
Plaintiff,

V.

YAHN CARLOS WAYNE,
Defendant.

Case No.: DR-2016-900287.00

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: THE EDITOR OF THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff has filed a divorce action in the Circuit Court, of Cullman County Alabama, and that an Order was entered directing service be made upon the Defendant by publication. You are hereby commanded and required to file with the Clerk of the Court and to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney, *Melvin Hasting, 407 2nd Ave. S.W., Cullman, Alabama 35055*, an Answer to the Complaint before the 9th day of January, 2017, or a Default Judgment will be entered against you.

DONE this 4th day of November, 2016.

/s/ GREGORY A NICHOLAS
CIRCUIT JUDGE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

OVERTON MELVIN L,
Plaintiff,

V.

COLE SHIRLEY ANN,
Defendant.

Case No.: DR-2016-900307.00

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: THE EDITOR OF THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff has filed a divorce action in the Circuit Court, of Cullman County Alabama, and that an Order was entered directing service be made upon the Defendant by publication. You are hereby commanded and required to file with the Clerk of the Court and to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney, *Melvin Hasting, 407 2nd Avenue S.W., Cullman, Alabama 35055*, an Answer to the Complaint before the 9th day of January, 2017, or a Default Judgment will be entered against you.

DONE this 4th day of November, 2016.

/s/ GREGORY A NICHOLAS
CIRCUIT JUDGE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE

PETITION OF CHRIS SCHAEFERS AND SARAH FISH

CASE NO: AD2016-054

FOR THE ADOPTION OF

SARAH WOOD, MINOR.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: DON WOOD, biological father address unknown

The Petition for Adoption which is attached to this Notice is important and you must take immediate action to protect your rights. You are required to mail or hand-deliver a copy of a written answer, either admitting or denying each allegation in the Petition to the Attorney for the Petitioner, whose name and address are shown below and you must file the original of your answer with the Clerk of the Probate Court of Cullman County, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055 or P.O. Box 970, Cullman, Alabama 35056. THIS ANSWER MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF THIS NOTICE AND PETITION AS EVIDENCED BY THE RETURN AND, RECEIPT IF YOU INTEND TO CONTEST THE ADOPTION.

DONE THIS 17th DAY OF November, 2016

STUART L.MOORE
409 Second Avenue Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-739-0148

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

Sales (from Front)

market was broke.

However, most people associate the term Black Friday with retail sales and because, after operating at a loss through much of the year (known as operating "in the red"), the day after Thanksgiving is such a huge shopping day that many retailers can recoup some of their losses on just that single day.

It started back in the '50s, when police in the city of Philadelphia coined the term to describe the pandemonium that began on the morning after Thanksgiving, as masses of shoppers and tourists took over the city in advance of the Army-Navy football game, traditionally played on the Saturday following Thanksgiving.

It wasn't until the mid-80s, that retailers started referring to the day as Black Friday because their books suddenly went from being in the red to being "in the black," or turning a profit.

These days the one-day sales blitz has morphed into a four-day bargain extravaganza, adding Small Business Saturday (and some places on Sunday) and Cyber Monday to the holiday.

In Cullman, Black Friday and Small Business Saturday are much anticipated events, officially kicking off the start of the holiday shopping season.

Buffed and glittering with holiday décor in every window, and cheery ribbons and greenery festooned on street corners everywhere, the city is ready for visitors!

According to a 2016 pre-holiday survey by the National Retail Federation (NRF), American consumers plan to spend an average $935.58 during the holiday shopping season this year, according to NRF's survey conducted by Prosper Insights.

Nearly six in 10 plan to buy for themselves, spending an average $139.61, up four percent from last year and marking the second-highest level of personal spending in the survey's 13-year history.

The NRF expects retail sales in November and December (excluding autos, gas and restaurants) to increase a solid 3.6 percent to $655.8 billion.

Online sales are forecast to increase between seven and 10 percent over last year to as much as $117 billion. Retailers are expected to hire between 640,000 and 690,000 seasonal workers this holiday season, in line with last year's 675,300 holiday positions.

Traditionally, Cullman goes all out for this holiday extravaganza, with retailers making sure that they price merchandise at deep discounts, while savvy shoppers search high and low for the best bargains in town, resulting in a win-win situation for everyone.

According to Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Director of Small Business and Workforce Solutions, Ben Smith, this is going to be a great opportunity for shoppers and businesses.

"As the holiday season quickly approaches, the Chamber is looking to help support local business endeavors by providing promotion and support," he said enthusiastically. "One of the best ways we can do this is through promoting Small Business Saturday on Nov. 26!

"This holiday season, Cullman's small businesses and large retailers alike are eagerly preparing for the biggest holiday shopping weekend for the year."

Smith went on to add that, "While Black Friday has long been known as a day where great deals can be found, Small Business Saturday is quickly building its own reputation as a shopper's paradise.

"Holiday purchases that are kept local go on to stimulate Cullman's economy in a variety of ways, primarily creating seasonal jobs and allowing tax dollars to stay within our community," Smith emphasized.

"Rightfully so, many small businesses in the Cullman area view this holiday weekend as an essential puzzle piece to their overall success for the year."

Teresa Daniel, owner of Vintage West Home, and one of the many business owners in Cullman who will be participating in Black Friday/Small Business Saturday, is looking forward to the first Black Friday in her new location.

"We are excited for our first Black Friday in the new location. We will be offering numerous special from 15 percent off home décor, rug and Christmas décor to our red and yellow dot sale. If you see a yellow dot, the item is 15 percent off, a red dot means 25 percent off that item!" said Daniel.

"The move to Highway 31 has been great for so many reasons: parking, visibility and space. We are now able to display even more of our beautiful décor and accessories for our customers to see!"

Rita Dean, owner of two trendy women's and girls' apparel stores located in Cullman's popular Warehouse District says that What a Girl Wants and J K TAYLOR will be two of the participating stores in Black Friday and Small Business Saturday. Their hours are as follows:

Black Friday - What a Girl Wants 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.; J K TAYLOR 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Small Business Saturday - What a Girl Wants 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; J K TAYLOR 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Owner Iryna Harris says that Nadiya's Patio Store will be open Friday and Saturday 8.30 a.m.-6 p.m.

"We are located at 423 Second Ave. SW in Cullman. Come and find great looking patio furniture and accessories at Nadiya's Store!"

Online store Art with a Soul will have great prices on Cyber Monday. Cullman artist and business owner, Laura Willingham Walker, will have a 25 percent off sale on all completed artwork (excluding custom orders) on Cyber Monday.

Walker has been in Cullman with a brick and mortar presence at the Art Shop Around the Corner since 2006. In 2011, she started a shop on Etsy.

"I have never participated in Cyber Monday before, although I do have regular sales on my Etsy and Facebook pages," said Walker.

The coupon code for Etsy and Facebook will be Cyber25. Walker's available art can be viewed on her Facebook page, http://www.facebook.com/laurasshop; check out her two photo albums: Laura Willingham Walker's Art and Laura's Spiritual Art.

Walker's Etsy shop is located at http://www.etsy.com/shop/cullmanlaurasart.

To locate businesses participating in Small Business Saturday, shoppers can visit https://shopsmallnow.americanexpress.com/shopsmall#/. For more information, or directions, contact the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center at 256-734-0454.

To find Black Friday deals from large chain retailers and big box stores, visit https://www.theblackfriday.com/.

Meals (from Front)

The city of Good Hope will celebrate Thanksgiving with a free community meal. School lunchroom staff from Good Hope and Hanceville, along with council members and other volunteers, will be cooking and serving at the Good Hope High School lunchroom.

Meals will be ready to eat in or carry out, starting at 11 a.m. There will even be drive-through service, with local Boy Scouts directing traffic to get everyone in and out quickly.

And... it's FREE. There will be no charge for anyone to take part in this meal. Good Hope residents are encouraged to invite people in need, to take meals to shut-ins and the elderly and to feed friends and family. The council has planned for 1,200 meals to be available.

3rd Annual Gold Ridge Community Thanksgiving Dinner
When: Wednesday, Nov. 23 from 2-8 p.m.
Where: Gold Ridge Community Center; 5225 County Road 1545, Cullman

The free community Thanksgiving dinner is for anybody and everybody to come and join a full meal with the community!

Also, we invite people from outside our community to join us to show our love and support for them!

We also have carry out plates for people who cannot get there- we can carry plates to them inside our community!

Grover Reeves' Community Thanksgiving Day Meal
When: Thursday, Nov. 24 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: Christ Hall at St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church; 512 Second Ave. SE, Cullman

Sponsored by Cullman area churches, this is a free meal! Serving will begin at 11a.m. in Christ Hall at St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church. If you would like to volunteer to provide food, help serve or deliver plates, contact St. John's Church at 256-734-0344 or First Baptist Church at 256-734-5632.

Please call St. Johns or First Baptist to make your reservation.

If you are unable to attend and need your meal delivered, contact First Baptist Church at 256-734-5632 or St John's Church at 256-734-0344 by noon on Tuesday, Nov. 22. (Please do not leave messages on the answering machine after noon on Nov. 22, as they will not be received until after Thanksgiving.)



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office will receive Bids from qualified Contractors for the construction of the Cullman County Sheriff's Office Storage Facility, 1910 Beech Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama until 2:00 pm Friday, December 2nd, 2016, at the Conference Room of the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, 1910 Beech Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

The Project consists of the construction of a new metal framed building with concrete slab, approximately 4000 gross square feet enclosed.

A copy of the building specifications can be obtained beginning Friday, November 18, 2016 at the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, 1910 Beech Ave SE, Cullman, Al 35055. Contact Major Matt Hogue @ 256-734-0342 or 256-255-5145

No bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of Bids for a period of forty-five days. Only Bids submitted by qualified Contractors licensed as required by applicable Federal, State and Local laws will be considered. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids to waive formalities and technicalities.

Cullman County Sheriff's Office
1910 Beech Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Advertised: November 17, 22 & December 1st, 2016

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
November 22, 2016

How-To: Making a rag garland

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Contributor

Rag garlands have become all the rage lately. They are easy to make, you don't have to sew a stitch and they add texture and color to your décor.

You can make them out of just about any kind of material you can think of: silk, cotton, linen, denim, tulle and many other materials, including ribbon, yarn, beads, buttons, rick-rack and old jewelry – the possibilities are endless.

I saw one at a wedding and instantly fell in love with the simplicity and the richness of the combined fabrics. When I realized that I wouldn't have to sew, I was sold on the project!

You can start with any kind of material, but the most economical and something you probably have on hand, are old sheets. Mine came from a yard sale – a queen size set for less than $4, and the original one I so admired came mostly from consignment shops.

"You can find sheets there for a very reasonable price," said my new crafty friend, April Williams.

The sheets I started with were beige. Since it will be used throughout the year, I wanted something neutral. This is how easy it is to give your mantle a new look, your table a new skirt, your window a new treatment, or your bed a new canopy.

Start with an old sheet, cut the corners with the elastic away, you don't even have to do it neatly, just snip until it comes away from the sheet.

Then, starting at the longest side, tear one long strip about 3 inches wide, the entire length of the sheet. This is the base on which all of the other strips will be tied. If you start it with the scissors it should easily rip the rest of the way. (This turns into really good therapy, too, lol) Tie several big knots at each end to keep your other pieces from slipping. You can also use a clothes pin at the point of each end knot. You will remove this when you are finished.

Next, because you don't want your other strips to be that long, cut the sheet in half, lengthwise.

The width of the strip you are holding now should be about the length of the tip of your fingers to your shoulder. If it's not exactly that, don't worry, you can always snip the ends later.

Go down the length of your half-sheet, scoring it about an inch deep, and about 2-3 inches apart. This will determine the width of your strips; you might want them a little larger or smaller. I staggered mine, making some 1 inch, others anywhere from 2 to 3 inches. It depends on how OCD you are, ha!

Now simply start at one end and tie the shorter strip to the base strip so that each dangling end is even, with the knot in the center.

Repeat, repeat, repeat, etc.

You'll begin to see it taking shape about mid-way.

When you have gotten to the opposite end, your knots should be roughly in the same position. I tied mine over a wide double doorway; a friend tied hers between two chairs.

I had to reach, she had to either sit or bend. You can do this sitting down with it in your lap, but it's more complicated. Just be comfortable. This is fun once you get going.

Now, you've probably used most of your base color, so you want something that compliments it, but also contrasts with it. I chose brown, finding a 2x2 foot square at a discount store. It was the same material, soft cotton, so it looked good with the first color. You can choose from all the colors in the rainbow... pink and white, light blue and navy, red and green for the holidays; you are only limited by your imagination.

When the brown was added, I could really see it taking shape, but it needed other textures and patterns, so I added brown ribbon trimmed in gold, tan ribbon with gold polka dots, strings of gold Mardi Gras beads because I had them on hand, but later I found some smaller ones at a craft store and added them, as well.

Add these other materials at random up and down the length of your garland.

Lace really added a punch when placed with the other smooth material, so I added several lengths of different patterned lace, in white and ecru. Old tablecloths or curtains work wonderfully for this, or just ribbon on a spool.

Gold rick-rack gave it some bling, and a few strings of wooden beads and some burlap mesh ribbon added more dimension.

At this point, I could stand back and check the lengths of my strips of various materials. Some were too long, and I discovered that it looked better if the middle was shorter, with each end gradually getting longer as it neared the end on both sides, forming sort of an arch over the door.

I added burlap strips, some of which had gold thread running through them, others had lace in the center, and some was just plain old burlap.

Finally, I discovered some really delicate, wide lace and laid it over the top of my knots, tying it with thin wire to keep it in place since I didn't want to cut it up. This formed a type of valance over the garland.

You can use any length of strips, any material, any color for this project. If you can tie your shoes, you can do this, making this a great school project or a wonderful pastime for older people who are confined to their homes. Anyone of any age will enjoy the result. This is shabby chic at its best!

When you are finished the entire length of your base piece should be covered by your various strips. At this point you can add lights, a bow, a wooden initial or a special memento from your family.

The Cullman Tribune would like to see your completed project, and to share it with our readers. When we have compiled a gallery of garland photos, we invite our readers to vote for their favorite garland. The winner will receive a six-month subscription to the Cullman Tribune and a $25 gift certificate to Hobby Lobby. Voters should vote for only one garland. See our Facebook page for voting instructions.

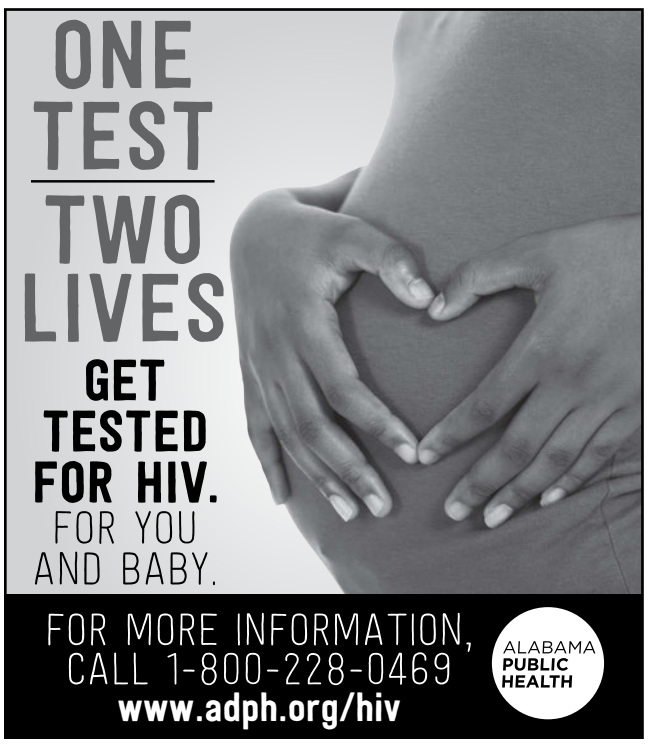
Other materials and objects to add punch to your garland:

- Strips of boa feathers to a little girl's garland
- The cut-away cuffs of men's shirts, including the buttons
- Strips of denim from jeans, skirts and jackets
- Discarded bracelets, necklaces and broaches
- Heirloom buttons glued to strips of lace
- Beads of all kinds strung on thin wire
- Old baby clothes for nursery garlands
- Cords of all kinds, including jute
- Lengths of small chain
- Charms attached with glue or wire to strips of thin ribbon



LORETTA GILLESPIE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Dress up your front door for the holidays with a festive rag garland.





Tips for your leftover Thanksgiving feast

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Contributor

All the work and preparation that goes into shopping, baking, roasting and cleaning up after your Thanksgiving meal results in leftovers. What to do with them?

First, if you have a foodbank or a church or local mission that feeds needy families in your area, they would surely appreciate anything you have to offer. Check with them before ever tossing good food into the wastebasket.

Next, if you've seen the movie, "The Christmas Story" in which the family dinner gets eaten by a pack of neighborhood dogs, then you will remember the list of things that Ralphie's family looked forward to after Thanksgiving; turkey sandwiches, turkey salad, turkey gravy, turkey hash, Turkey a la King and gallons of turkey soup!

Well, those are dishes that we can all have with a little ingenuity and effort, and leftover turkey, of course!

First order of importance at our house - **turkey sandwiches**.

Using really good bread, like the Monk's Bread available in Cullman, or if you don't have access to that, you might try Lewis Deli Sesame Rolls, or other good quality rolls, which have been lightly buttered on both sides, and toasted in the oven until golden brown, then layer the following: mayo and/or mustard as desired, lettuce, tomato, cheese slices and turkey. Salt/pepper optional.

Or serve open-faced chopped turkey on toasted rolls with warm turkey gravy, topped with shredded cheese if desired.

Turkey soups vary from family to family and region to region.

Most call for, of course, leftover turkey, to which any drippings or gravy can be added.

Use any leftover raw veggies, like carrots, English peas, bell peppers, tomatoes, celery and onions, even your creamed potatoes can go in your soup for added heartiness.

If you have saved your turkey skeleton, cover with water (about 2 quarts). Boil it for a while to get out all of the flavor, then discard, making sure to remove all bones.

If you didn't save the turkey carcass or your chicken broth, you can use a couple of chicken bouillon cubes to add more flavor to your soup, just remember that you won't need to add additional salt because bouillon cubes are heavy on sodium.

You can also add spices to your taste, including poultry seasoning, thyme, garlic and pepper.

Boil until veggies are tender and soup has thickened. Serve with leftover rolls or crackers.

Turkey and Roasted Red Pepper Corn Chowder is another way to utilize leftover turkey and will warm you up if the weather turns cold!

Here's the recipe:

- 1/2 cup chopped onions
- 1 roasted red bell pepper, chopped, divided
- 2-3 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- 4 oz. (1/2 of 8-oz. pkg.) cream cheese, cubed
- 2-3 cups shredded cooked turkey
- 1 can (14.75 oz.) cream-style corn
- 2 cups chicken broth (fat-free is fine)
- 1 cup milk
- Cracked black pepper and salt to taste
- Optional- chopped green onions, pepper jack cheese

1. Sauté onions and half the red pepper in butter in a saucepan on medium heat for 5 to 6 minutes or until tender, stirring frequently. Add to soup pot.

2. Add cream cheese; cook on low heat 3 to 4 minutes or until melted, stirring constantly to keep from sticking. Stir in turkey, corn, broth and milk.

3. Cook 5 min. or until soup is heated through, stirring occasionally. Garnish with chopped green onions, remaining bell pepper, pepper jack cheese and/or black pepper. Serve with hot cornbread or crackers.

Barbecued Turkey

Shred leftover turkey into small pieces. Place in a Dutch oven with the following ingredients:

- 2 cups catsup
- 1 tablespoon mustard
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons Coca-Cola
- Garlic and onion salt to taste
- If you have an excessive amount of turkey, double recipe for sauce.

1. Toss turkey with sauce in Dutch oven, then cook at 350 degrees for about 40 minutes, tossing twice during cooking process.

2. Serve on hamburger buns with slaw and chips.

Turkey Pot Pie

Even a novice cook can prepare this dish with success!

1. Roll out two Pillsbury pie crusts on a floured surface.

2. In a saucepan with your turkey pieces (approximately 2 cups), add the following:

- One large can of cream of chicken soup
- Half a stick of butter
- One can of English peas, drained
- One can diced carrots, drained, or leftover carrots, diced
- Two small potatoes, diced
- One small onion, finely chopped
- (If you don't have these in your pantry, one large can of Veg-All will substitute very well.)

3. Add spices to taste. (garlic, salt, pepper, poultry seasonings, chicken bouillon cube)

4. Stir and cook over low heat until soup and butter are melted and blended.

5. Place bottom of first crust in a deep-dish pie plate.

6. Carefully pour ingredients from saucepan into crust, stopping when it is ¾ full.

7. Top with remaining crust, crimping edges and pricking in the center with the tines of a fork to let steam escape.

8. Set pie plate on an aluminum or parchment paper covered cookie sheet. Bake at 350 for 50 minutes or until golden brown. (After 20 minutes, cover edges of crust with strips of aluminum foil or pie crust shields.)

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Reception (from Front)

ants in our community, who had so many amazing ideas, and were so thrifty with the funds that built this beautiful building."

Boyd, who is known for telling tall tales, said in a somber moment that he will continue to promote agriculture and farm life, and, introducing his large family, he went on to proudly commend them for their contributions to farming.

Shedd recalled a story that about Boyd's father, who was also a farmer in Cullman County.

"He said that an insurance salesman called on him and was pointing out that he would need money if his barn burned or got blown away. Mr. Boyd looked at the salesman and said, 'If I ever thought I lived in a place where my neighbors wouldn't come and help me rebuild if my barn burned or got blown away, why, I'd move!'"

That shows in a capsule of a comment just what kind of people Cullman County farmers are.

They do want needs to be done, they stop what they are doing to help their neighbors, pitching in when times are hard, lending whatever is necessary to get a job done.

Cullman County Commissioner Kerry Watson pointed out, "Certain people got us where we are in this community, and these are certainly two of them," indicating the two seated men.

When Williamson, also a much beloved figure in the Cullman area, known affectionately as 'Big Doc,' stood at the podium with teary eyes and a tremor in his voice, he said that he felt very honored to have been a part of the Agriplex from its inception.

"Thanks to everyone who came out here today," he said, looking out over the crowd.

"Most of you have had some part in making this all possible.

"Over 5,000 people used this Agriplex last year," he said proudly.

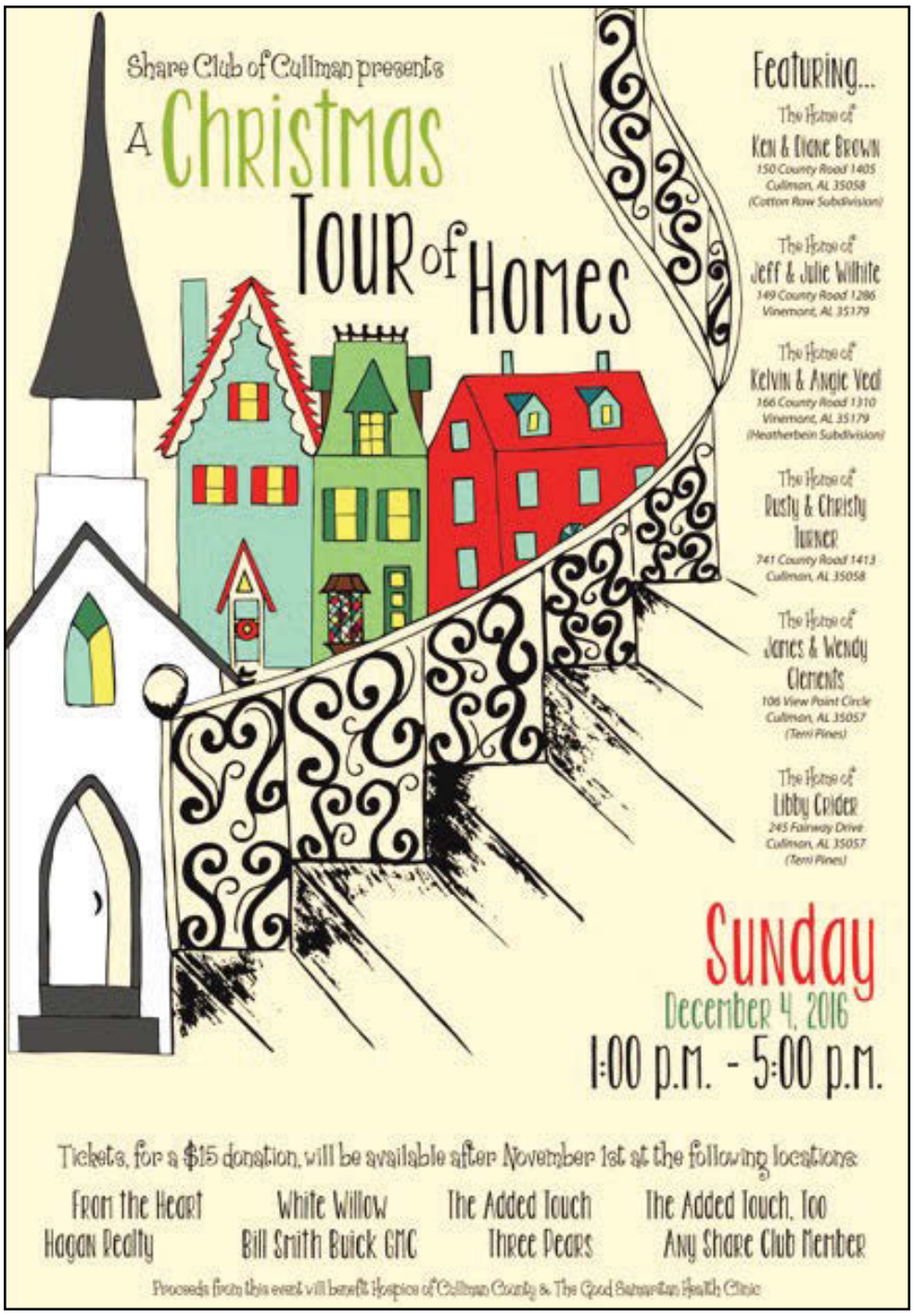
"There is a need for this program, now more than ever, showing farmers how to use best practices, because they are going to be feeding even more people in the future.

"Thanks for all of your support," Williamson said to the audience, "It's good to see everyone, good to see kids here; they are our future."

Both Boyd and Williamson praised Agriplex Director Rachel Dawsey for her stellar job performance and for her willingness to go the extra mile. In her turn, Dawsey promised to honor and continue their legacy.

Both honorees were presented with a proclamation from newly elected Mayor of Cullman, Woody Jacobs, and Williamson was (unbeknownst to him, until two men came walking out with a sign) honored by the Agriplex Board with a huge sign bearing his name, proclaiming the building the "Agriplex John T. Williamson Heritage Center."

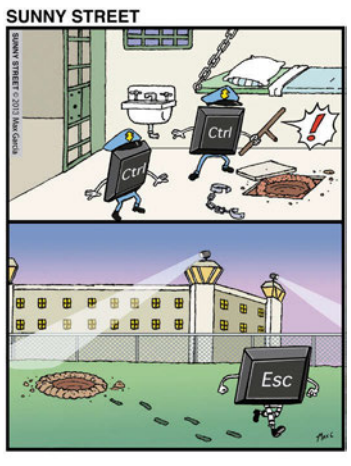
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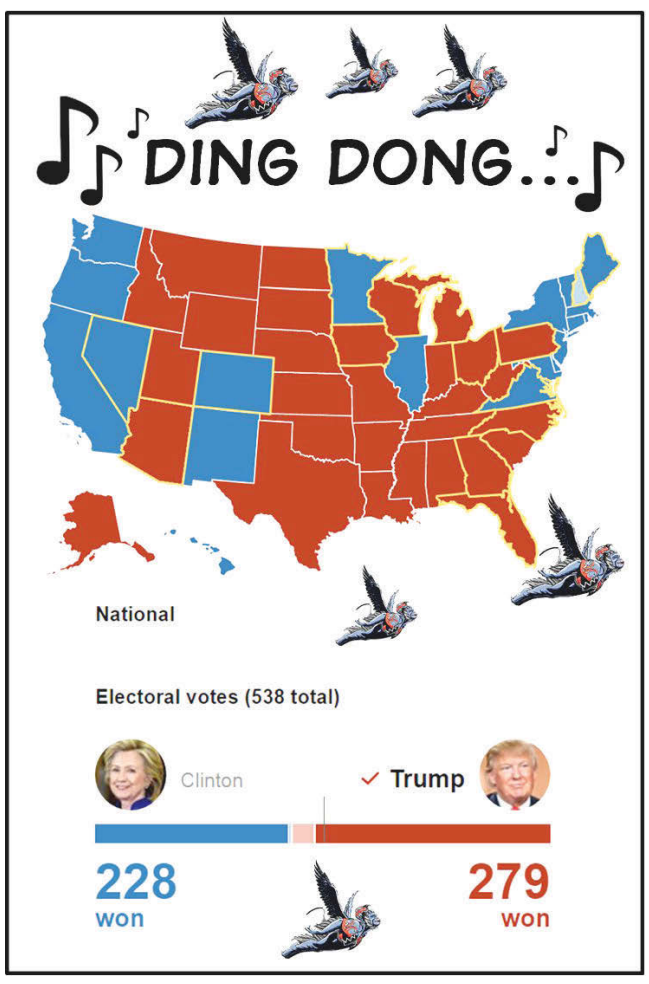
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Editorial Cartoons





Poet's Corner

PSALM 103: VERSES 1-8

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that
is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and
forget not all his benefits:
Who forgiveth all thine iniquities;
who healeth all thy diseases;
Who redeemeth thy life from
destruction; who crowneth thee with
lovingkindness and tender mercies;
Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so
that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.
The Lord executeth righteousness and
judgment for all that are oppressed.
He made known his ways unto Moses,
his acts unto the children of Israel.
The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow
to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

Happy Thanksgiving

King James Version • Submitted by Randy C. Hale

FOXGLOVES & FIREFLIES

Why and how to brine a turkey

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Correspondent

What is brining and why would I want to do it? Well, brine is salt, or saltiness, and has been used to preserve meat for centuries. In the days before refrigeration, brining was used as a way to preserve meats, but these days it's a popular way to add flavor and moisture to lean meats.

Why should I brine my meat?

Brining makes meat juicier and more flavorful and improves its texture.

"Salt adds tremendous flavor," says scientist Greg Blonder, Ph.D. "And brining, if you do it right, will get the salt deep into the meat, so every bite has a nice, salty taste."

Brining is also a cook's insurance policy against accidentally overcooked meat, because brining helps to lock in moisture. In other words: no more dry turkey.

Brining is a great way to ensure juiciness and flavor no matter which method of cooking you prefer: roasting, grilling and even smoking. Once you brine a turkey, you'll never prepare one any other way.

The day before you plan to cook your turkey, follow these directions.

Remove thawed turkey from plastic covering. Remove giblets from turkey.

Boil two cups of kosher salt and one cup of sugar in 1 gallon or water (for a 10-pound turkey, double everything; for other sizes, see chart below.)

When this mixture has dissolved, set aside to cool.

Thoroughly clean a large ice chest type cooler. Rinse well. Add turkey and cooled salt/sugar water. Cover with ice. Turn bird a few times and then leave breast-side down in the water; place a heavy plate or an aluminum covered brick or tile over the poultry if it floats. Let the turkey brine overnight in the cooler.

(For a spicier turkey use the following: 1- 2 teaspoons crushed garlic, fresh rosemary, thyme and sage, about 3 to 4 twigs of each herb, the juice of two lemons, plus the lemon peel, juice of two oranges, plus the peel, one teaspoon cracked allspice berries and 1/4 teaspoon pepper.) If you have a spice bag or a large piece of cheesecloth, you can tie your spices up in it, to keep them all together. You can also purchase bags for brining turkeys which include the spices at specialty stores.

The following day, remove turkey from cooler and pat dry. DO NOT RINSE.

Cook the turkey the way you normally would (by using a browning bag, lots of butter, celery, lemons and onions tucked under the skin of your turkey breast, you get a super moist, no-hassle, great-tasting turkey with a lot less clean-up). Don't add much more, if any, salt - you can add a little more but not much, along with pepper and poultry seasoning. Cook the turkey breast-side down, then just before serving, take it out, turn it over and brown the top until it just changes color.

This will be the moistest turkey you've ever tasted.

Locally, you can find pre-seasoned brining bags (which make brining your turkey much easier) at Werner's Trading Company at 1115 Fourth Street SW in Cullman. Call 256-734-5673.

Find them online at:

- Turkey Brine and Brining Bag- To buy: $10, crateandbarrel.com.
- Fire & Flavor Turkey Perfect Herb Blend Brining Kit- To buy: $10, bedbathandbeyond.com.
- Brining Bags- To buy: $17 for 4, williams-sonoma.com

Brining Chart

8 to 12 pound turkey
2 gallons water
1- 1/4 cups table salt

13 to 17 pound turkey
2 1/2 gallons water
1 ¾-2 cups table salt

18 to 22 pound turkey
3 gallons water
3 1/-4 cups table salt

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Hiking

Kayti Persall
Health & Wellness Coordinator, CP&R

Aristotle once said, "In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous."

Residents in Cullman County and the surrounding areas are lucky to have areas such as Hurricane Creek Park and Duck River Reservoir for hiking.

Taking a moment to unplug and spend time in a natural setting has been shown to make a positive impact on mental health. Believe it or not, breaking free from the light cast by a television or computer screen can help improve your overall mood.

The health benefits of hiking are innumerable. In a society filled with pleas for Americans to get out and get active, hiking is a great activity for all ages and fitness levels.

If you still need some convincing to get out and take a hike, consider these known health and wellness benefits of hiking.

Taking a brisk nature walk or a hike can lower your risk of developing heart disease. Heart disease can describe a range of conditions that affect your heart, such as: coronary artery disease, arrhythmias (heart rhythm abnormalities) and narrowed or blocked blood vessels.

Your heart is a muscle, and cardiovascular activities will increase your heart rate and strengthen the cardiovascular system and will improve overall health.

Hiking has also been shown to improve blood sugar levels, particularly in individuals who have Type-2 diabetes.

Type-2 diabetes tends to occur in individuals who are overweight, sedentary and have a poor diet.

By adding hiking to your routine, Type-2 diabetes patients will push glucose out of their blood stream and into surrounding cells, which will help maintain more consistent blood sugar levels.

This activity will also boost bone density, since walking is a weight-bearing exercise.

The impact of your feet hitting the ground during prolonged hikes can increase the bone density in your lower body.

There will be even more impact when walking uphill, or downhill. This will not only strengthen your bones, but your muscles as well. Hiking can strengthen and tone your entire body depending on the duration and terrain.

A change in terrain will also help to improve balance by combining movements of multiple muscle groups at the same time.

This synchronization paired with locomotion and adaptation to changing landscape requires core and lower body strength that will aid in balance. Strengthening your body without setting foot in a gym? That sounds like a plus.

Another big plus, hiking can contribute to weight loss and help maintain a healthy weight.

There are many contributing factors to weight loss, but the pace and duration of the hike can be a huge determining factor.

Also, if you consume less calories than you expend during a physical activity, weight loss should occur.

Take the time to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather.

Even if you are not planning on taking a hike for health reasons, it is a nice way to spend the day with friends and family. If you have a particular destination picked out, print out a trail map, or pick one up if they are available.

If there are multiple trails, they will usually vary in terrain and length. Depending on your fitness level this will help determine the best path for you.

However, if you have any existing health concerns always contact your physician and inquire about possible health risks of new physical activities. Once you have been given the all-clear, make some time to get out and live!

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
November 22, 2016

The Nelons, join Michael English and friends for SING Christmas Tour 2016 in Trinity, AL

Deana Surles
Contributor

TRINITY – The SING Christmas Tour 2016 is coming to Trinity Baptist Church in Trinity, Alabama, located at 1281 Old Highway 24, on Friday, Dec. 9 at 7 pm.

Multi Dove Award-winning and Grammy-nominated recording artists, The Nelons and Michael English represent more than 75 years in Christian music. The musical ministry of The Nelons was formed after family patriarch Rex Nelon had already enjoyed a spectacular 20-year career as a member of the legendary LeFevres. Michael English took the Christian music world by storm in the early 1980s as a member of the popular Singing Americans, and the prestigious Happy Goodman Family, before landing with multi Grammy Award-winning recording group, The Gaither Vocal Band. These renown artists will unite to present an exciting Christmas musical evening in Trinity.

The Nelons have been singing hit songs and bridging the traditional sounds of Gospel music with contemporary influences that inspires listeners of all ages for decades. The group, who was recently inducted into the Gospel Music Association's Hall of Fame, has enjoyed much success as a part of the prestigious Gaither Homecoming Tour and Video Series, continues to cross generational gaps, presenting rich harmonies that have been embraced by audiences from all walks of life.

Michael English is known as one of the most powerful communicators in Christian music. As a young teen, he sang with his father and brother, and shortly after high school graduation, joined his first full-time quartet, The Singing Americans. In 1985, Michael joined the Gaither Vocal Band and quickly soared to the forefront of Christian music. That popularity led to various addictions and a spiral into depression that he chronicles in his autobiography, The Prodigal Comes Home. After a life-changing encounter with God, Michael's career came full circle. Today, he continues to perform solo concerts, sharing the message of grace found through Christ.

In addition to The Nelons and Michael English, this exciting evening will also feature talented, young, female vocalist, Amber Nelon Thompson. Amber, who travels full-time with The Nelons, has also established an exciting solo career with multiple releases. She was named as the youngest Dove Award nominee in history by the Gospel Music Association.

Talented musician, Jeff Stice, who is a six-time recipient of the Singing News Fan Award for Favorite Musician, will also be featured in this exciting event. Jeff has enjoyed an exciting career in Christian music, having traveled with such groups as The Blackwoods, The Nelons, The Kingdom Heirs and Triumphant Quartet.

This exciting evening, featuring classic Christmas standards, as well as Christmas songs that will surely become favorites, promises to be a night that will be enjoyed by music lovers of all ages.

"It will be a lot of fun," stated Kelly Nelon Clark. "Not only will we be singing the Christmas classics that have stood the test of time, we will also share many wonderful new songs and many special Christmas stories."

For more information call 256-355-4801. To purchase tickets, visit https://event.attendstar.com/event/show/sing-christmas-tour-2016.

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