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SHANNON BRIDGES

Vinemont High School wins 1st place in UAH STEM competition P8



WSCC

Women thriving in WSCC's Technical Division's male-dominated fields P16

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PREP BASKETBALL

Good Hope takes down Hanceville; Lady Raiders fall P4

Cullman County Conservation District offers relief to drought-stricken cattle farmers

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CULLMAN – 2016 was a hard year for cattle farmers in Cullman County. Lower livestock prices meant farmers had less money to spend; and a lack of hay, driven by drought and army worm infestations, meant they had to spend more. For the number one cattle producing county in the state, that's a big problem.

At the December 2016 meeting of the Cullman County Community Development Commission (CCCDC), County Commissioner Gary Marchman explained that cattle farmers were having to purchase much more hay than they normally would, since their own pastures were not producing. In many cases, they had to go outside the county, paying transportation fees that made the cost prohibitive. As a result, some area farmers were simply giving up and selling their herds and farms.

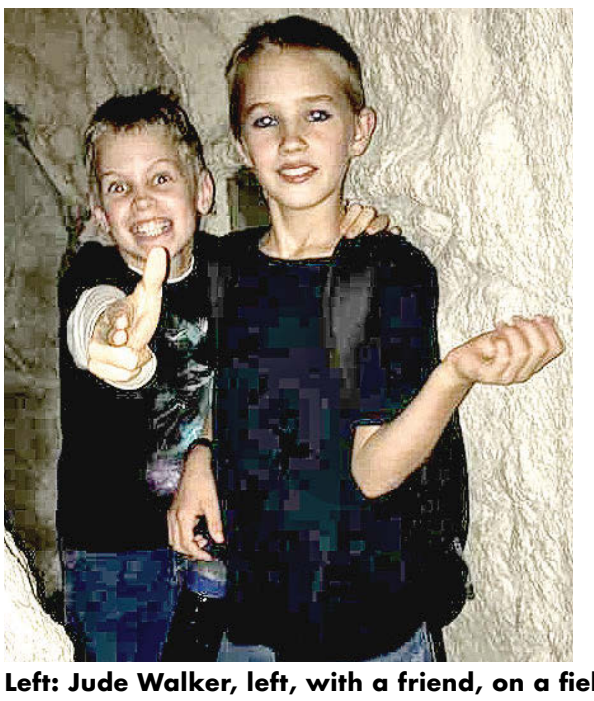
A brief survey of farm properties for sale in Cullman County did not reveal specific numbers, but showed cattle farms currently for sale around Cullman, Good Hope, Vinemont, Holly Pond and Logan.

Marchman requested and received a $12,000 grant from the CCCDC to pay for the transportation of hay into Cullman County.

On Monday, the P8

Choosing the way they learn

Local family talks benefits of homeschooling





P14

Left: Jude Walker, left, with a friend, on a field trip to the Anniston Museum of Natural History. The Walkers try to get in at least one field trip each month. Right: Shiloh Walker, who describes herself as an introvert, loves her garden, reading and the personalized education that being homeschooled affords her.

LAURA WILLINGHAM WALKER

Cullman Co. Commission votes to support proposed 3-cent gas tax for county road improvements

Wendy Sack
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CULLMAN – The Cullman County Commission on Tuesday voted to support a 3-cent per gallon gasoline tax to fund a $1.2 billion bond issue that would be distributed among Alabama's 67 counties for road repairs. The tax would expire when the bonds are repaid.

The Association of County Commissions of Alabama (ACCA) will seek legislative approval for the proposal, called ATRIP2, during the upcoming legislative session. The proposal was approved at the ACCA's annual legislative conference earlier this month.

According to Cullman County Engineer John Lang, Cullman County currently operates on an annual road budget of approximately $8.6 million. Should the proposal receive legislative approval, Cullman County's share of the bond issue would amount to roughly $19 million.

Under the current proposal, 20 percent of the P9

Community Profile: Beat 8

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CULLMAN COUNTY – Southwest Cullman County has been a coal mining district that includes parts of Walker and Jefferson Counties for a long time. Stories circulated through the region as early as the 1820s of rocks catching fire around travelers' campfires. By the late 1830s, small-scale commercial mining operations were underway. A century later, the Drummond Coal Company was founded in Walker County, to tap the still rich resources of that area. Over the years, Drummond and its Shoal Creek and Twin Pines mining operations worked their way through northwest Walker County and found themselves eyeing a ripe field just across the Cullman County line, in a community so small it didn't even have a formal name, just a title derived from its census/voting district: Beat 8.

Beat 8 is a community of around 500 people, in the Cold Springs school district and Arkadelphia fire district, and southwest of both along the Walker County line. The area saw non-native travelers and hunters as early as the 1830s, but large-scale homesteading began in the 1880s, when President Chester Arthur issued land grants to the Howles and other families. Prominent early families included the Howle (later Howell), Stuart, Dion, Myers, Drummond and Williams families.

From its earliest days, the Beat 8 community's economy was driven by agriculture, with substantial numbers of cattle and poultry farmers. The coal industry put an end to that: Drummond, through Twin Pines Coal, bought the mineral rights to possibly as many as 1,500 acres of land around the community. The company strip-mined the area, with the promise of a three-phase land reclamation project afterwards. Pasture lands were dug up, and chicken farms fared poorly as well. As community member Carolyn Calvert explained, "Blasting and chickens don't go together!" P8

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CRMC sees earlier flu season this year

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CULLMAN – Flu season may be upon Cullman County earlier this year than previous years. According to Cullman Regional Medical Center (CRMC) Infection Control Prevention Manager Marti Smith, RN, BSN, CIC, cases of the flu have been coming in earlier, in mid-December and early January, as opposed to the three-week spurt in February of the 2015-2016 season.

"Only a few cases have been admitted," Smith said of the number of people who have been hospitalized for the flu so far this season. "Most cases have been treated in the ER."

Smith had some words of wisdom for everyone hoping to avoid catching the flu this season.

"Firstly, if people have not taken a flu shot, then it is not too late to do so," Smith said. "Flu can occur-even in the summer! And there were cases of the flu last summer in Cullman. Be sure all ages 6 months or older have a flu shot. The flu vaccine has been a good match for the flu strains that have been in the U.S. this year. It will take approximately two weeks after the shot for the individual to produce the antibodies that protect them from the flu.

"The flu shot cannot give someone the flu. It can give them mild flu-like symptoms - especially if they have not had a flu shot before as their body produces the antibodies needed to protect them from the flu."

The reason that this time of year ends up creating an onslaught of cases of the flu is because close interactions with others is increased, according to Smith.

"People are typically indoors more in the colder months, which then increases their exposure to others more," Smith said, advising that if one is exhibiting flu-like symptoms, he or she should stay at home in order to avoid exposing others to potential sickness.

Smith observes that flu season could be in swing with the recent up-tick in flu cases.

"(The recent number of flu cases) could indicate that Alabama's flu season is upon us. Last year we had three weeks in February with elevated levels of the flu. This dropped down to zero the first week of March and then increased for the rest of the month and into the first two weeks of April. Because of the longer flu season in our area, our hospital staff remained vigilant with our flu prevention efforts until May."

The last bit of advice Smith imparted was to utilize hand sanitizer stations, especially the ones set up around the halls of CRMC.

According to the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

"Influenza activity is rising in the U.S. at this time. Outpatient visits for influenza-like-illness are above the national baseline. Activity is expected to increase further in the coming weeks.

"CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months and older. It is not too late to get vaccinated. Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses and prevent flu-related hospitalizations. More than 143 million doses of seasonal influenza vaccine have been distributed at this time.

"CDC also recommends prompt treatment with influenza antiviral drugs for people who are very sick with flu or people who are at high risk of flu illness who get flu."

Visit https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/main.html to see the CDC's interactive "Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report," which shows that the state of Alabama, in particular north Alabama, is seeing higher numbers of flu cases than normal.

For tips from the Alabama Department of Public Health on how to prevent the flu, visit http://www.adph.org/do10/.

It's Human Trafficking Awareness Month

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CULLMAN – January is Human Trafficking Awareness month nationally, and was proclaimed so in Cullman County Tuesday morning by the Cullman County Commission and Wednesday in the city of Cullman by Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs. Wednesday, Jan. 11 was Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

Members of the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force were special guests at Tuesday's Cullman County Republican Women meeting, where they shared about the task force's efforts to bring awareness to and end human trafficking in Cullman County.

On Wednesday, Karma's Coffee House, along with the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force, hosted Coffee for a Cause, where patrons learned more about human trafficking and a portion of the day's sales went to the task force.

Cullman's task force made great strides in 2016. In the fall, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a partnership between the DHS Blue Campaign, the department's unified effort to combat human trafficking, and Cullman County, aimed at raising public awareness about human trafficking. Cullman is only the second county in the state of Alabama to partner with DHS. Jefferson County is also a partner.

"Being a partner with the Blue Campaign opens up opportunities to provide our community with free training opportunities, free literature and DHS agents to work with our local law enforcement to help combat human trafficking. The more education that we can provide the more our community can be protected from this heinous crime," said Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force Chair Kathy Wilson.

Through this partnership, co-branded Blue Campaign materials are posted throughout the county as part of a public awareness campaign to educate local residents on how to recognize and report potential instances of human trafficking. Blue Campaign Chair Maria Odom signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on behalf of the DHS with Cullman County Commission Chairman Kenneth Walker.

The Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force is made up of representatives from local community organizations, juvenile probation and the district attorney's office, including Cullman County Presiding District Judge Kim Chaney and District Attorney C. Wilson Blaylock. The task force holds free public training sessions, some with the DHS Blue Campaign and spreads public awareness materials to members of the Cullman County community, including targeted materials to attorneys, juveniles and members of the trucking industry in the county.

"I am extremely pleased and proud that through the efforts of the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force that Cullman County has been chosen to partner with the United States Department of Homeland Security with the Blue Campaign to bring awareness and education about human trafficking to our county and state," Chaney said.

"It is my understanding that Cullman County will be only the second governmental entity in the state of Alabama that has been selected by Homeland Security to participate in the Blue Campaign," he continued. "This partnership will allow the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force to access world-class resources to inform and educate area law enforcement, medical providers, attorneys, educators, business leaders and the community about human exploitation for profit.

"Hopefully we can use these resources to make a positive impact not only in Cullman County but the entire state of Alabama," said Chaney. "But more importantly, as we call attention to these issues I hope to use these resources to work to make Cullman County a safer place for our children and families."

The Blue Campaign works in partnership with law enforcement, government, non-governmental and private organizations to protect the basic right of freedom and to bring those who exploit human lives to justice.

Find the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force on Facebook at http://qrne.ws/ht.

For more information on the Blue Campaign, visit www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign.

EARL'S BODY SHOP
2251 Decatur Ave., N.W.
734-2406

Local couple arrested for sex crimes involving minor

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CULLMAN – During the past month, Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) investigators arrested Jason Elliott Poole, 42, of Cullman and Tanya Michele Cordell, 42, also of Cullman for second-degree rape, second-degree sodomy and enticing a child for immoral purposes.

After a CCSO investigation, it was discovered that the suspects, Poole and Cordell, were involved in the sexual molestation of a minor under the age of sixteen.

The victim came forward to CCSO investigators after the incident took place and both suspects were arrested a short time later.

Due to the graphic nature of this crime, the CCSO will not be releasing specific details.

"It's hard to imagine how anyone with common decency would do harm to children. I have no sympathy for individuals that engage in these acts," said Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry. "I would like to thank our investigators for doing a great job on this case."

Both suspects are currently being held in the Cullman County Detention Center, each on a $75,000 cash bond.

According to CCSO arrest reports, Poole was arrested on Dec. 20, while Cordell was arrested on Jan. 5.

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Colony to host severe weather conference with NWS Huntsville and Cullman Co. EMA March 2

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COLONY – The Colony Town Council met Tuesday evening. Councilwoman Myra Twitty was absent; all other Council members, plus Mayor Donnis Leeth and Town Clerk Patricia Ponder, were present.

During their working session before the meeting, council members discussed two upcoming events in the community

On Thursday, Jan. 12, at 11 a.m. the Highway 91 Homemakers' Club will hold its monthly meeting at the Colony Educational Complex. An outgrowth of home demonstration clubs from the 1940s and 50s, the club meets monthly and hosts speakers. It also holds fundraisers and donates to various charities.

The club rotates its meetings around different locations through the year, and has chosen to come this time to Colony.

On Thursday, March 2, a severe storm awareness and weather safety conference will be held at the Educational Complex, led by representatives of the National Weather Service's Huntsville office.

The event is sponsored by NWS Huntsville, the Cullman County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and the Town of Colony.

The regular meeting opened with an invocation. Following that, the minutes of the last meeting were approved without discussion.

Committee reports followed. Police and Fire, Streets and Drainage, and Sanitation and Utilities brought no reports. Councilwoman Jamelle Dimbo reported for the Finance committee that the town budget is not yet complete.

Councilman Curtis Johnson reported for Parks and Recreation on the Christmas break opening of the game room and community center, and stated that he is getting information to purchase a new stove for the Educational Complex kitchen.

The council went on to discuss a few other matters of business. Councilman Julian Fields spoke about his plan to ride around town and survey the condition of streets and signage. Leeth added to that the continuing problem of certain residents leaving yard debris in ditches and alongside roads, and spoke with Fields about meeting with those residents.

Johnson reported that, due to low attendance and usage, the Community Center will temporarily close. It will re-open later in the year. Additionally, the Community Center's maintenance man/groundskeeper will be temporarily laid off while the center is closed. Dimbo pointed out that this will be a good time for needed cleaning and repairs at the center.

Ponder addressed the matter of ethics training for new council members, stating that the training is required and that failure to complete training within the specified time can result in a $1,000 fine. She said that the training can be completed online at the library.

When the floor was opened for public comment, an audience member asked how many storm shelters the town has. Leeth replied that Colony currently has one dedicated shelter, plus agreements with the Baptist and Methodist churches for use of their facilities. He is requesting two more shelters from the County.

Before adjourning, Leeth announced that the Cullman County Sheriff's Office has donated a white Dodge Durango SUV to Colony, and that it should arrive this week. The vehicle has already had all Sheriff's Office insignias removed, and will be marked with the Town of Colony seal. It will be a general-use vehicle for town business.

The Colony Town Council meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m. at Colony Town Hall. The public is invited to attend.

Phase III of City's emergency water conservation plan in effect

Leanne West
Office of Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs

CULLMAN – On Thursday, Jan. 5, Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs signed a Declaration of Urgency declaring that Phase III of the City's Emergency Water Conservation Plan, as set out in Ordinance 2011-29, was to be implemented beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, Jan.6.

The City of Cullman has been in Phase II of the Emergency Water Conservation Plan since October 2016, when the levels of the city's reservoir, Lake Catoma, dropped to 15 feet below full pool.

Jacobs is updated regularly on lake conditions by Water Treatment Superintendent David Freeman and Water Superintendent Chris Freeman.

Though there have been periods of rain recently, lake levels have continued to decline. The current level of Lake Catoma is 22 feet below full pool, which surpasses the level required to initiate Phase III of the Emergency Water Conservation Plan.

"We waited to initiate Phase III because we had hoped that the recent rains would bring the lake levels up a bit," said Jacobs.

"However, since conditions were so dry for so long, the rain we've received has not produced adequate runoff to bring lake levels up."

The restrictions in Phase III are basically the same as in Phase II, except that customers are required to use no more than 85 percent of what their water usage is during normal conditions.

There are also higher monetary fines in Phase III, but those will not be enforced at this time.

"All of our customers have done a great job conserving water these past few months," said Jacobs.

"We have made the decision not to initiate the monetary fines and penalties contained in the ordinance at this time because we feel that it is not necessary to encourage our customers to continue to conserve water."

Jacobs spoke with County Commission Chairman Kenneth Walker prior to signing the Declaration of Urgency.

Walker is in agreement with the implementation of Phase III water conservation measures. County water systems have their own water conservation plans, but their plans follow roughly the same guidelines as the City's water conservation plan.

"We know our customers are concerned about this water shortage, and we appreciate all that they've done so far to conserve water," Jacobs added.

"Now we just all need to continue to find ways to cut back on our water usage until we receive the rain we need to bring our reservoir back up full pool."

Ordinance No. 2011-29 and the Mayor's Declaration of Urgency can be found on the City of Cullman website (www.CullmanAL.gov).

County joins City in phase III of water conservation plan

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CULLMAN – The Cullman County Commission on Tuesday morning announced that Phase III of the County's Emergency Water Conservation Plan has been officially implemented. This means that customers are now being asked to only use 85 percent of the amount of water they normally consume. Last Thursday, Jan. 5, City Water customers were put under the same restrictions, as Cullman Mayor Wood Jacobs signed a Declaration of Urgency declaring that Phase III of the City's Emergency Water Conservation Plan would be implemented beginning Friday, Jan.6.

Here's how the County's plan reads:

Customer Percentage Curtailment

No customer shall make, cause, use, or permit the use of water from the System for any purpose in an amount in excess of 85% of the amount used during the base period. The "Base Period" is defined as the amount of water used on a customer's premises during the corresponding billing period in the prior twelve months. Any customer who was not a customer on the premises for which service was billed by the System during the base period shall be assigned the same base for such or similar premises. The System shall have the discretion to adjust such base in the event such customer's use if substantially different. Summation: Water usage is to be decreased by 15% from the same month the previous year.

County water customers have been under restrictions since Nov. 16, and City customers since the last week of October.

City Water Treatment Plant Superintendent David Freeman said Tuesday that the city and county's main water source, Lake Catoma, is holding at 22 feet below full pool.

He is hopeful, however, that rain forecasted for this week will make a difference.

"Before, when we got a couple of inches it didn't make a difference because the ground was so dry. Now, the ground is pretty much saturated and the retention ponds are filling up."

"All of our customers have done a great job conserving water these past few months," said Jacobs on Thursday.

"We have made the decision not to initiate the monetary fines and penalties contained in the ordinance at this time because we feel that it is not necessary to encourage our customers to continue to conserve water."

According to a news release from the mayor's office last week, Jacobs and Cullman County Commission Chairman Kenneth Walker were in agreement with the implementation of Phase III water conservation measures.

County water systems have their own water conservation plans, but their plans follow roughly the same guidelines as the City's water conservation plan.

There has been some confusion over which customers are to follow which restrictions.

It is important to understand that the City's restrictions apply to all customers, whether they be residential, business or wholesale.

Cullman County Water and other municipal water companies including Garden City, Johnsons Crossing and VAW, etc. are customers of City of Cullman Water; however, each water system should have its own emergency water conservation plan and share it with their direct customers at the appropriate time.

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PREP BASKETBALL

Good Hope takes down Hanceville; Lady Raiders fall

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HANCEVILLE – Lane Horton Gymnasium on the campus of Hanceville High School was buzzing Tuesday night in anticipation of some quality hoops action. Not only was it a chance for two Cullman County rivals to prove their dominance on the hardwood, but the outcome would have ramifications on the seedings for the Cullman County Basketball Tournament that takes place later in the month.

Fast is the only way you to describe the opening quarter between the Hanceville Bulldogs and the Good Hope Raiders. The Raiders opened the game with a three from Kallen Sharpton and Hanceville quickly answered with a drive from RJ Evans. Hanceville and Good Hope matched each other point for point for the remainder of the quarter.

Good Hope started the second with a flurry, going on a 5-0 run with a layup by Isaac McDonald and a three by Mason Moniz. The run prompted a Hanceville timeout early in the quarter. Hanceville picked up their first points of the quarter on an easy basket by Evans as they came out of the timeout. Good Hope answered with a pair of free throws from Matt Cofer to keep the Raider lead at three. Brendan Flanigan scored the next four Hanceville points to give them their first lead since late in the first.

The two squads traded points for the rest of the quarter with Good Hope holding on to slim 18-17 lead going to the half.

It was all Good Hope early in the third as they went up by as much as seven. However, Hanceville fought back and on the strength back-to-back threes from CJ White and Cameron Brockman, the Bulldogs closed the gap to just one. Late in the third Cofer added a basket for Good Hope to push the lead back to three.

The next trip down the floor for Hanceville was the last possession of the quarter and they made it count. Good ball movement got Brockman a good look that he did not miss, draining a three form the right corner to tie the game at 30 as time expired in the third.

Hanceville jumped out in front with a Flanigan free throw but Good Hope quickly took the lead back with four unanswered to go up by three. The three-point advantage was enough to hold off the attack of Hanceville as the Raiders went on to win the game 45-37.

Hanceville 44, Good Hope 32 (Girls)

Desi Hackney started hot for the Lady Bulldogs as they welcomed the Lady Raiders to town. Hackney scored the first three points of the game for Hanceville. Her first missed shot came on the back end of a pair of free throws and was cleaned up by Karmen Johnson. Kierra Merriweather added a layup to put Hanceville on top 7-0 and force Good Hope timeout.

The Lady Raiders scored first coming out of the timeout thanks to a three at the top of the key by Savannah Derrick. Just seconds later Kate Kent added a bucket under the basket to pull Good Hope to within two, prompting a timeout from the Hanceville bench.

Late in the quarter, Makailey Speegle grabbed an opposite side offensive rebound and scored the put back to tie the score 7-7 after one.

With two-and-a-half minutes gone in the second, Speegle drained a three to give Good Hope their first lead of the night.

Hanceville answered back with a layup from Malia Howell and an offensive



BILL PIPER

board and put back by Brooke Barnett.

Both teams traded baskets for the next three possessions but Hanceville got the last laugh as they put together a 10-2 run to end the half up 21-14.

Hanceville quickly pushed their lead to 11 on the strength of a 6-2 run to open the quarter.

The two teams traded points for the rest of the quarter with Hanceville taking a 31-22 advantage to the fourth.

Good Hope dropped in four quick points to begin the fourth. Hanceville responded with a timeout to try and slow down the Lady Raider momentum and it worked. The break is just what Hanceville needed as the settled down and played their game, beating the press and scoring easy buckets to take the game by a final score of 44-32.

PREP BASKETBALL

Eagles roll to easy home sweep of St. Bernard

Sammy Confer
Tribune Correspondent

BREMEN – It was home, sweet home, for the Cold Springs Eagles Tuesday evening, as it was their first home game in more than a month, and they did not disappoint their fans one bit as they rolled to an easy home sweep of the St. Bernard Saints.

Cold Springs 73, St. Bernard 39 (Boys)

Cold Springs did not waste any time getting off to a great start as they jumped out to a quick 8-0 lead. The Saints found the scoreboard on a Miguel Sanchez layup with 5:32 remaining in the opening quarter. The Eagles quickly pushed their lead to double-digits behind a huge quarter by Jesse Lee, as he put up 11. Christian Peterson had seven in the quarter, but Cold Springs was able to keep the rest of the team at bay as they took a 19-9 lead after one.

The second quarter, Peterson got off to a quick start, scoring eight in a row for the Saints, as they cut the deficit to 21-17, but that was as close as they got the whole game, as Cold Springs finished the quarter on a 10-2 run to increase their lead to 31-19 going into the half.

Lee and Blake Wood scored all but two of the Eagles' 19 third-quarter points to push the lead to 50-29 after three, and the rest was history as they cruised to the easy home win. They improve to 9-7 on the season.

Lee finished with 24 points, added three steals, and three rebounds for Cold Springs. Wood ended up with 17 points and six rebounds. Hunter McClendon finished with nine points and added three rebounds, and Eli Hamby had seven points and three rebounds.

"We had a lot of and ones in the game," Cold Springs coach Tim Willoughby said.

"We shot the ball better in the second half. Christian Peterson is a really good player. This was our first time playing him up close, and you can really respect the kind of player that he is."

Peterson finished with a game-high 27 points for the Saints and Caleb Guthery had six. They will travel back home to take on Vinemont on Thursday.

Cold Springs 75, St. Bernard 27 (Girls)

After holding a slim lead after one, No. 4 Cold Springs quickly kicked it into high gear in the second quarter, outscoring the Lady Saints, 28-6, en route to an easy win at home. They improve to 16-1 on the season.

Emme Willoughby was one of four Lady Eagle players to score in double figures as she finished with 22 points. She also added seven rebounds, two blocks and a steal. Camryn Crider had 17 points and added two steals of her own. Elizabeth Hill ended up with 14 points, five rebounds, two blocks and two steals. Aubrey Negron finished with 12 points, six rebounds, and added a block of her own. They will host Winston County on Thursday.

"We got off to another slow start," Cold Springs coach Tammy West said. "I do not know what it was, but we quickly pulled away in the second. Jaden Edge is a really good ballplayer. She can score and she is really scrappy too."

West was really impressed by the play of her younger ballplayers, like Crider and Hill.

"Crider has really stepped up offensively. She has led us in scoring eight times. In her last eight games, she has averaged 19 points a game. Hill is getting better and better each game for us. Emme's being consistent as always. I have been really impressed with the play of the young players on this team."

"It's been a really easy transition for me going from John Carroll to here," Hill said.

"I got used to the team and the system really quickly. Coach West pushes us every practice."

Willoughby says she wishes that she can stay at least a couple of more years.

"I am going to miss playing with this great group of girls," Willoughby said.

"I wish I can play two more years. Every team that we will play is going to be tough. We just have to be ready."

Edge finished with 19 for St. Bernard. They will head home to take on Vinemont on Thursday.

High Cholesterol? The creator of Gatorade can help.

Gainesville, FL – If you are one of the millions of Americans that have been diagnosed with high Cholesterol, "Natural" help is now available from the creator of Gatorade!

The highly regarded late Dr. Robert J. Cade while at the University of Florida did extensive clinical trials utilizing a special formula he developed containing soluble fiber (Acacia Gum).

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PREP BASKETBALL

Bearcats, Lady Bearcats top West Point

Johnny Thornton
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CULLMAN – A five-game home losing streak was broken by the Cullman Bearcats Tuesday night when they defeated the West Point Warriors 59-46.

The Bearcats utilized a strong three-point attack with 10 treys scored on the evening. Freshman Noah Bussman ripped for four with Drew Morton getting three and Trey Tucker a pair to lead the assault.

The three-point shooting accounted for 63 percent of their offense in the first half. Cullman scored four times from long distance in the second quarter to break a 15-15 deadlock after the opening period and lead 33-23 at the break.

Morton had two of his go in during the stanza with one from Bussman and one by Jake McAffee.

They were able to carry the shooting touch into the third period on three more and had a 48-35 lead with a quarter to go.

Cullman kept the lead at double digits by going to an offense of attacking the West Point defense with short range jumpers and layups.

The Bearcats scored five times in the fourth to clinch their first win in 2017 and eighth on the season.

Bussman's 12 was the high for the Bearcats with Morton scoring 11, Dylan Finch 10 on five field goals, Tucker with eight, Zane Manley and Jayden Sullins four each, Nick Williams and McAffee three each and two apiece by Reese Harbison and William Kress.

West Point had no one in double digits. The Warriors were guided by Brandon Farley and Kolby Sullins with eight each, Austin Dubberly seven, Rylan Jones and Kolton Sapp six each, Toby Cunningham five and Alex Hernandez four.

Cullman 57, West Point 48 (Girls)

It was an upset earlier in the evening as Cullman overcame adversity, losing starter Anna Evans for the rest of the season due to torn ligaments in her knee. Evans, the second leading scorer and rebounder on the team, suffered the injury last Thursday in a 62-51 home win against Albertville.

Coach Josh Hembree put Kennedy Wren into Evans' starting position, and she responded with eight points.

Cullman had the defense going, not letting West Point get a field goal in the first period.

The Lady 'Cats led 12-3 behind balanced scoring and took a 27-17 advantage to the locker room at halftime.

Anna Bowden delivered three field goals in the third, two from three-point territory, and the advantage grew to 45-26.

But West Point showed life in the final quarter with a 22-12 edge to cut the margin to nine when the game ended.

Bowden and eighth-grader Hannah Hoffman both scored 13 in the 12th win of the season for Cullman. Hoffman was effective from the foul line with 7-of-8.

Wren netted eight, Victoria Barker and Sierra Easterwood scored six each, Anna Murphy five, A.K. Eastman and Chloe Ray three each.

Barker blocked nine shots in the game and had better than a dozen rebounds.

West Point lost for the first time on the road and fell to 15-3.

Freshman Brooke Brownfield was hot for John Welborn's Lady Warriors with 14, scoring four from long range.

Lexi Shadix and Lillie Burdette scored seven each, Olivia Ball six, Miriam Oldacre five, Mackenzie Carter four and Bailee Yearwood one.

Postponed games have been rescheduled:

West Point will play Fairview in a make-up game on Jan. 20 at Fairview's Joe Shults Gymnasium.

West Point took the game with Curry that was originally scheduled for the 20th and moved it to Thursday night. They will play at Jim Boyd Gymnasium in 5A, Area 12 play.

West Point girls' coach John Welborn told the Tribune that Cold Springs, with his sister Tammy West as the coach, moved their game with Winston County to Thursday night at Cold Springs, due to it being a 2A, Area 13 game and being postponed from last Friday because of the winter storm.

Cold Springs will now play Madison Academy at Jesse George Gym on Jan. 23.

They were to meet the No. 3 team from Class 4A on Thursday and swapped it in order to get the area game with Winston County rescheduled as quickly as possible at the request of the Alabama High School Athletic Association.



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This week in Cullman history

On Jan. 12-13, 1982, Cullman was hit by a large snow storm. The storm began Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 12, and would dump nearly half a foot of snow on Cullman before it was finished. Schools were closed, postal service was disrupted, and numerous power outages and traffic problems were reported.

Compiled by Samantha Vest



JOHN FINNEY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

A snow-related traffic jam on First Avenue SE.

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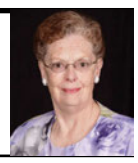
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Questions? LaDonna Allen
256-352-8071
ladonna.allen@wallacestate.edu

News from the Pond

Jimmie Dean Carnell
Tribune Contributor



Good morning Tribune readers and family members. Did you enjoy our 'snow day'? I'm sure that the school students did, even though we did not get the amount of snow predicted. They had an unscheduled day away from school. Since it was declared a state-wide emergency, the governor issued his proclamation, and they would not have to make it up at a later date.

Last Sunday, January 8th, the Dripping Springs Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held their monthly meeting in the Bob Sapp Sunday School Class room of First Methodist in Cullman.

In spite of the extremely cold weather, we had an outstanding group of young people and their parents attending this meeting.

These young people represented high schools in our county and were chosen as Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizens from their schools.

An independent panel of judges chose one from the group as our chapter winner, and this winner was entered into the northern division state level of competition. Each school's winner was introduced by Doctor Nancy C. Horton, who was the chairperson for this event. Each winner was presented with a certificate of accomplishment and a lapel pin.

The main winner was Mr. Dawson Foust, representing Holly Pond High School, who received a cash award. Winners from each of the schools included: Bailee Marie Yearwood, of West Point High School, Hannah Nicole Sumner, of Hanceville High School, Alexandria Laningham, of Vinemont High School, Owen Griffith Lovell, of Cullman High School, Taylor Lee Dover, of Fairview High School, Jefferson Lee Wayne Boyett, of Cold Springs High School and Dawson Foust, of Holly Pond High School.

I and my family have known members of the Foust family for a number of years. Dawson's grandmother is Mrs. Vileta Foust, who resides in the Walter Community.

She was a former teacher at Holly Pond until her retirement. Mrs. Vileta, as everyone called her, was also a teacher's aide with my mother, Bessie G. Carnell before Mrs. Vileta received her degree and went on to be employed as a teacher. Dawson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Foust. Congratulations to Dawson. I hope that he judges well on the state level also. Dawson read his essay to the group on Sunday.

It was very, very good. Doctor Horton stated that this contest was among the closest in scores in several years with the winners being separated by only fractions of points.

Last Sunday morning at Holly Pond First Baptist Church we had as our guest speaker, Kenny Boulhanis, the husband of Holly Pond resident, Bethany Harbison Boulhanis. Kenny and Bethany are serving as missionaries in South Asia.

They are leaving at the end of this week to return to their home there and will be transferred to their original place of service later next week.

They were only home for the holidays. They are scheduled for a furlough beginning probably in September 2017 and will get to stay here for a longer period of time.

The church honored them and their little ones with a luncheon at the church following services Sunday morning, along with Zack and Savannah Freeman, who have been in Asia for a year assisting them in their work. I know Zack and Savannah are going to miss Kenny and Bethany when they go back to their field of service. It promises to be quite an adjustment for them.

Until next week, try to keep warm and be safe.



CONTRIBUTED

Dripping Springs Daughters of the American Revolution presented Good Citizens Awards to Owen Griffith Lovell, of Cullman High School, Jefferson Lee Wayne Boyett, of Cold Springs High School, Taylor Lee Dover, of Fairview High School, Dawson Foust, of Holly Pond High School, Hannah Nicole Sumner, of Hanceville High School and Bailee Marie Yearwood, of West Point High School. Not pictured: Alexandria Laningham, of Vinemont.

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1917

Mrs. Leigh Taliaferro returned to her home in Nashville, on Saturday, after a visit with Mr. and Mrs. G.S. Leeth.

D.T. Kinney has returned from a few days visit in Atlanta.

Mrs. G. Hartung was hostess at the Symphony Club meeting on Thursday.

S.M. Lovelady was painfully injured on Sunday near Mount Zion, where he was leaning over at work on his automobile and was side swiped by another auto, as it was driven down the pike. The unavoidable accident was deeply regretted by all.

A crowd of 19 gave Miss Louise Buettner a birthday surprise on January 1st.

Leonard and Herman Lee, of Vinemont, were in the city on Friday.

Miss Deany Rollo has returned from Troy, where she visited her aunt, Mrs. Emma Head.

Herman Steindoff has resigned as secretary of the City School Board and

J.A. Dunlap, City Clerk, has been elected to succeed him.

Mayor M.L. Robertson entertained a number of friends at a dinner party on Tuesday evening, honoring Miss Elsa Hartung, who leaves this week for Cincinnati to become a student at the Conservatory of Music.

Mrs. W.B. Mason entertained her card club on Tuesday. Mrs. Philip Hartung won a high score and was presented a kewpie pincushion.

J.R. Martin, who lives seven miles south of town on the Bremen pike, killed a large gray eagle near his home last Friday. It measures seven feet and six inches from tip to tip of wings.

He gave it to the Tribune and we are not having it mounted. *(Editor's Note: Eagle Eye is still "on guard" at the Tribune office).*

Doctor and Mrs. W.P. Wilks were "pounded" at the Baptist Church on Thursday. He has completed his third year as pastor here.

From The Files Of 1937

The senior class of Hanceville High will present their class play on January 23rd. The cast includes: Margaret Engel, Mary Dunlap, Birdie L. Webb, Mary Lynn Compton, Beulah Carroll, Sarah Marlowe, Alice Compton, Harold Meadows, Elwin Creel, A.D. Rutherford,

Lester Chappell, Glenn Ryan, Rimel Freeman, Claude Grantham, Allen Horton and Inez York.

J.N. Nix was appointed engineer of the City Light and Water Plant to succeed

Raymond Wray, who resigned after ten years in that capacity.

While the Cullman High School basketball team was practicing on Wednesday many articles of value were taken from the pockets of their clothes, hung in the bath house. Among those losing articles were: Collis Day, a watch and ring, George Gammon, watch, knife and chain and Clark Keller, watch, chain, knife and some money.

Mr. and Mrs. William R. Griffin are on vacation, motoring in Georgia and Florida.

Professor P.F. Bria is ill with the flu. Married this week were Miss Margaret

Lewis and Maurice Dean.

Mrs. John Wagner, age 85, died at her home.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Another year is in the books

Bill King
Tribune Contributor



The Christmas trees are down and our house has been undecorated. We have put 2016 to bed and cranked up another new-year. Sometimes looking back is dangerous. When Lot fled from Sodom, God instructed them to not look back. Mrs. Lot disobeyed and turned into a pillar of salt. Billy Bob's wife, Thelma Lou Jean, pulled out from their house the other day and she looked back. No, she didn't turn into a pillar of salt, but because she wasn't watching where she was going she did turn into a telephone pole! Before I get too deep into the new- year, I want to take one last look back at 2016.

I had a busy but blessed year. I had many opportunities to do the things I love to do. I am about to complete my tenth year with Tuskegee Lee Baptist Association. Thank you to the numerous churches and organizations that had me in to speak, preach, teach, sing, or perform humor as Billy Bob Bohannon – oh, and eat!

My first children's book, with illustrator Joe Copeland, was published and we began work on a second one. I finished writing my second novel, my sixth book overall, which will be released in early 2017. I also completed my third year of writing this column and was picked up by several more newspapers across the state.

I am fortunate to have had these opportunities, but I want to focus on three trips I made in 2016. These were not vacations but missions trips. A couple of days after eating my black- eyed peas and turnip greens I hit the road.

That first road took me and a team of disaster relief volunteers to the town of Elba, Alabama. We spent that first week of the year helping flood victims. We scooped up mud from their floors, hauled out soggy furniture and tore out wet sheetrock and insulation. We listened to their stories and prayed with them.

No matter the culprit, it is hard to see your belongings destroyed. Most of them gave thanks for what, or mainly who, they had left rather than bemoaning what they had lost. I gave thanks for a house that had not been flooded. This was my only disaster relief trip for the year, but our team made others.

In May, I took a small mission team to Haiti. We worked with Children's Hope Orphanage, in Jacmel, and led classes for local pastors there. Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world and is the poorest in the Western Hemisphere. We found many warm, loving, beautiful people there. I was reminded, once again, how spoiled we North Americans are. After we were there, the country that was still trying to recover from the 2010 earthquake was hit by a devastating hurricane. Please pray for Haiti.

In July, our Master Builders team went to Midland City, Alabama. We spent a week helping the members of Mount Enon Baptist Church with a new church building. Their need was not born out of poverty or disaster, but simply a small church that needed some help. There we met some of the kindest people, who made some of the best homemade ice cream, in the world. I also played and sang there for the last time with my dear friend Robert Vickery before he left us.

We look forward to returning in 2017 to see our new friends as they dedicate their completed sanctuary, fellowship hall, and classrooms.

I look back with a spirit of thanksgiving and look ahead with great anticipation. Every new year is a gift from above.

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, will hold a public hearing on January 23rd, 2017 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. 2017-08 (set forth in full below) will be given an opportunity to be heard.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017 – 08

TO DECLARE CERTAIN PROPERTY SURPLUS WHICH IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC OR 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 portion of Charles Avenue SW, which is fifty feet by seven hundred and twenty-eight feet, more or less, located directly west of Charles 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.

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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PHARMACY TOPICS

by Eddy Hoenig

Hospital Discount WEST



Front L-R: Sonja Sewell, Launne Reid, Sue Miller.
Back L-R: Kathryn Striker, Eddy Hoenig, RPH

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved Vaxchora, a vaccine for the prevention of cholera caused by serogroup 01 in adults 18 through 64 years of age traveling to cholera-affected areas. Vaxchora is the only FDA-approved vaccine for the prevention of cholera. Vaxchora is a live, weakened vaccine that is taken as a single, oral liquid dose of approximately three fluid ounces at least ten days before travel to a cholera-affected area. Cholera, a disease caused by Vibrio cholera bacteria, is acquired by ingesting contaminated water or food and causes a watery diarrhea that can range from mild to extremely severe. Often the infection is mild; however, severe cholera is characterized by profuse diarrhea and vomiting, leading to dehydration. It is potentially life threatening if treatment with antibiotics and fluid replacement is not initiated promptly. According to the World Health Organization, serogroup 01 is the predominant cause of cholera globally. While cholera is rare in the United States, travelers to parts of the world with inadequate water and sewage treatment and poor sanitation are at risk for infection. Travelers to cholera-affected areas have relied on preventive strategies recommended by the CDC to protect themselves against cholera, including safe food and water practices and frequent hand washing.

***

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has granted accelerated approval for Ocaliva (obeticholic acid) for the treatment of primary biliary cholangitis (PBC) in combination with ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA) in adults with an inadequate response to UDCA, or as a single therapy in adults unable to tolerate UDCA. PCB is a chronic, or long lasting, disease that causes the small bile ducts in the liver to become inflamed, damaged and ultimately destroyed. This causes bile to remain in the liver, which damages the liver cells over time, and results in cirrhosis, or scarring of the liver. As cirrhosis progresses, and the amount of scar tissue in the liver increases, the liver loses its ability to function.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
January 12, 2017

Vinemont High School wins 1st place in UAH STEM competition

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

VINEMONT – A group of Vinemont High School students took first place in a portion of a NASA-themed competition at the University of Alabama in Huntsville recently. Students from Alabama high schools compete in UAH's InSPIRESS program twice a year.

The InSPIRESS competition has three different categories: Open House, Final Review and Final Paper. While there is an overall winner – which Vinemont has won in the past – Vinemont came away with first place in the Final Review.

InSPIRESS, the Innovative System Project for the Increased Recruitment of Emerging STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Students, is an outreach project that provides the opportunity for high school students to develop and design a scientific payload to be accommodated on a spacecraft which is designed by undergraduate students from UAH.

InSPIRESS teams compete for selection by the undergraduate engineering teams.

Students are given a topic by representatives from UAH, which must be researched and designed. Students then present resolutions to NASA officials and receive practice and application experience while researching real-life problems and answers related to features in outer space.

The students at Vinemont High School named their team ICON, which stands for Investigating Carbon on Neptune, the subject location for this year's competition.

The schools use the weeks leading up to the competition to research and prepare to present their research.

The different schools decide what to research and how they will go about researching. The entire project is theoretical, but the students use actual data recorded by NASA for their calculations.

According to Shannon Bridges, the science and physics teacher who leads the InSPIRESS program at Vinemont High, in previous years the winner of the Final Review portion has been awarded a trip to Washington D.C. to visit the NASA headquarters to give their presentation to a team there.



SHANNON BRIDGES

Team members include (left to right) Alex Millwood, Seth Campbell, Leigh Ann Smithson, Mykenzie Lamb, Miguel Perales, and Damon Gustafson. Their teacher is Shannon Bridges.

Bridges allows the students in her class to work on their InSPIRESS project in the classroom. She weaves the subject matter of the class' textbook with the project, which gives the students a chance to experience scientific concepts in action.

Vinemont has been competing in the InSPIRESS competition since it began in 2009.

Beat 8 (from Front)

The coal mines are closed now, at least around Beat 8 (Drummond is still active in Walker, Jefferson and Tuscaloosa Counties.), but their effects live on. Reclamation efforts have been hit-and-miss, and one mine site just down the road from the community center was simply abandoned.

Beat 8 Committee member and Community Center Director Calvert said, "They pretty well got all this community. It had good coal under it. It's been stripped all back in here (down County Road 15 toward Walker County), and down through Arkadelphia a lot. They got our (the Calvert family) land. The guy that ran the coal company (Jimmy Myers, president of Drummond subsidiary Twin Pines Coal) got a lot of land, and he's made a lot of pasture. It had to go through three phases reclamation; they were supposed to put topsoil, and it looked like a piece of bread with some peanut butter spread on it. There wasn't no topsoil. You might grow some trees later on, but you couldn't have had a pasture on our land. It was bad, so we sold ours."

Today, a few cattle and poultry farms still operate, but most working residents make the weekday commute to Cullman, Jasper, Sumiton or Birmingham.

The community does have the Bug Tussle Gas and Grocery, Jeremy Rollo Logging and Darrell Williams Paint and Body, as well as a flower shop and bait and tackle shop.

Recently, the Bug Tussle area at the north end of the community became home to a Dollar General.

The cultural heart of the Beat 8 community is its small community center near the intersection of County Roads 15 and 91.

The original center, dating to the early 1950s, was a one-room cinderblock building with a slab floor. It had electricity, but no water. On voting days, poll workers had to bring food and water, and make arrangements to go elsewhere to find a bathroom.

In 1982, Charlie Drummond joined the Beat 8 Committee, and became a driving force behind the development of the facility.

With his leadership and the help of numerous volunteers and donors, he oversaw a floorplan expansion, installation of water lines, a kitchen and bathrooms.

Over the years, though, the improved center fell into disrepair and was the victim of thieves. A 2015 grant of $8,000 from the Cullman County Community Development Commission (CCCDC) helped with repairs to damage caused by moisture and the theft of the center's A/C unit. The money also paid for a wheelchair ramp.

When the money ran out, there was still work to do; so, in December 2016, the CCCDC approved an additional $12,000 to complete repairs and upgrades to the rear portion of the building, and to pave a portion of the gravel parking lot to make access to the wheelchair ramp easier.

In a small community like Beat 8, the community center is a multi-use facility. According to Calvert, "It is rented for showers and anniversaries. We have a beagle club (hunting club); they have land they hunt across the road, but they have their meetings here. The Neighborhood Watch meets here, too. And it's a voting center. Then we try to rent it all we can."

Beat 8 is a small community, but its people are close-knit and happy to be in the same place that was homesteaded by their grandparents and great-grandparents.

The grants show that it is catching the attention of the powers that be in the county: not just a spot with some history, but a place with a future.

Calvert said, "I'm proud of my community. I've been down here (at the community center) since 1982 a lot of hours, because I want it to be nice. And I've had a lot of help from my friends Rita Light and Martha Johnson."

Relief (from Front)

Cullman Conservation District office began signing farmers up for hay relief. According to spokesman Travis Kress, hay will be available on a first come-first served basis at a projected cost of $30-40 per round bale (depending on cost from suppliers). The amount represents actual cost plus a small handling fee that will go right back into the program to purchase and transport additional hay. Grant funds cover all transportation costs to get the hay into the county.

Enrollment began Monday morning; by mid-afternoon, Kress had already received 54 applications. Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17. Once applications are approved, rationed amounts of hay will be distributed, to ensure that as many farmers as possible are helped.

For more information or to apply, contact the Cullman County Conservation District office at 256-734-1431.



Friends of Frankweiler preserves ties to the old country

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Cullman's German heritage organization Friends of Frankweiler (FoF) held its regular meeting Sunday afternoon at the Cullman County Museum.

For those who may not be familiar, FoF is a group which, by its own definition, is "devoted to maintaining and encouraging cultural exchanges and personal relationships between Cullman, Alabama and Frankweiler, Germany." Frankweiler is the birthplace of Cullman's founder Johann/John Cullman.

The Tribune sat down with FoF President Ernest Hauk for a little background.

"FoF was started in 1987 after there had been some communication for the centennial of Cullman in 1973. There continued to be communication back and forth, and in 1987 it was decided that the city of Cullman and the city of Frankweiler need to form a partnership or 'twinning' of the two cities. Since then, there has been a lot of communication and mutual visits between Cullman and Frankweiler."

There is a corresponding organization in Frankweiler, the Friends of Cullman.

Asked about the purpose of FoF, Hauk responded, "Basically, our sole purpose is to keep our German heritage alive and keep our history alive. It's very much equated, I think, to family history; and when you talk about your grandparents or your great grandparents, or things of this sort. It's set up to keep Cullman from losing its German identity, with where we came from."

Hauk continued, "During the year, we meet and have a few social activities. Occasionally, someone from Frankweiler will come to the states, and we will all gather and greet, and spend some time with them. If someone from Cullman goes to Germany and can get to Frankweiler, they reciprocate. We have been on an alternating schedule where, every four years, the people of Cullman go to Frankweiler; and in the interim (the second year between trips) people from Frankweiler will come here."

FoF and its German counterpart recently began an exciting summer program for selected high school juniors and seniors.

Hauk shared, "A couple of years ago, both of us started sending young people; a young man from Cullman went to Frankweiler year before last, and this last summer two girls from Frankweiler came to Cullman." This is a two-week program.

At the January meeting, Hauk reported on communication he received from the families of last summer's youth visitors, noting that the students have been giving outstanding presentations in Frankweiler about their experiences. It was reported that the presentations reflect very well on the city of Cullman.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Hauk also brought news that Cullman's Christmas greetings to the city of Frankweiler had been well-received in the sister city.

At the meeting, FoF also began planning its next big project: hosting a small delegation from Frankweiler coming later this year. According to the rotating schedule, said Hauk, "In 2017, it is time for the people of Frankweiler to come here." This could be a big thing for both cities, since this year marks the 30th anniversary of the twinning.

Susan Hauk, Julie Burks and Elaine Fuller were appointed to form an entertainment committee. The schedule for that visit has not yet been finalized, and FoF will be working with the mayor's office to plan the anniversary celebration and reception for Frankweiler's delegation.

The next meeting of FoF will be Sunday, Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. at the Cullman County Museum. The public is invited to attend. Those interested in the organization can call 256-739-1258, email friendsoffrankweiler.cullman@gmail.com, or visit Friends of Frankweiler on Facebook.

Tax (from Front)

county's allocation from the bond issue would be divided among each of the municipalities in Cullman County based on their populations.

ACCA Executive Director Sonny Brasfield said that the minimum allocation for each county under the proposal is $10 million.

The revenue from the bonds can only be spent on road and bridge projects. It cannot be spent on salaries, equipment or any construction other than roads and bridges.

"For a person driving about 20,000 miles per year – which is a high estimate – this increase would cost about $25 a year. That's just a few cents over two bucks a month," said Brasfield.

According to Brasfield, 53 counties were represented at the business session where the plan was initially unveiled, and all attending counties voted in favor of the bond issue.

ATRIP2 is a follow-up to Gov. Robert Bentley's 2012 Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (ATRIP). http://www.drivealabama.org/funding/atrip/.

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STATE OF ALABAMA)
)
COUNTY OF CULLMAN)

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Date & Time of Sale: Monday, January 23, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.
Sale Location: Cullman County Courthouse East Entrance
500 Second Avenue, S.W.
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Writ of Execution Parties: Larry Collins, *et al*
vs.
Clarence Blake West, *et al*
713 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

By virtue of an Execution issued to me by Circuit Clerk Lisa McSwain, pursuant to the Code of Alabama, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Execution issued on a judgment, with interest and cost. Upon the expiration of proper notice and advertisement, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder at the date, time, and location listed above, all right, title, and interest of Clarence Blake West, real property, described as follows:

A parcel of land described as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of the south half of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 16, Township 10, Range 5 West, thence west to the east side of the Jones Chapel and Crane Hill Road, also known as County Road 940, thence southerly along the east right of way of said Road a distance of 120 feet, thence east to a point on the east line of said southwest quarter of the southeast quarter that is 120 feet south of the above beginning point, thence north along the east line of said southwest quarter of the southeast quarter a distance of 120 feet to the point of beginning. Said parcel of land being in the south half of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter in Section 16, Township 10, Range 5 West.

Source of title: Deed Book 565, Page 674 in the Office of Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

THEREFORE, according to said command, I shall expose for sale at public auction, all the right, title, and interest of the above-named Clarence Blake West, in and to the above-described property on the date listed above, subject to all prior encumbrances of record.

Dated this the 19 day of December, 2016.

BY: Matt Gentry, Sheriff
Sheriff Matt Gentry

STATE OF ALABAMA)
)
COUNTY OF CULLMAN)

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Date & Time of Sale: Monday, January 23, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.
Sale Location: Cullman County Courthouse East Entrance
500 Second Avenue, S.W.
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Writ of Execution Parties: Larry Collins, *et al*
vs.
Clarence Blake West, *et al*
713 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

By virtue of an Execution issued to me by Circuit Clerk Lisa McSwain, pursuant to the Code of Alabama, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Execution issued on a judgment, with interest and cost. Upon the expiration of proper notice and advertisement, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder at the date, time, and location listed above, all right, title, and interest of Clarence Blake West, real property, described as follows:

The South half of Lot No. 417, as shown on the recorded map of the City of Cullman, Alabama, being a tract of land 82 ½ feet by 132 feet located on the Northwest corner of the intersection of Second Avenue, East and Eighth Street, in the City of Cullman, Alabama.

Said property is transferred subject to all easements, and rights of way, whether recorded or unrecorded.

Source of title: Deed Book 422, Page 400 in the Office of Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

THEREFORE, according to said command, I shall expose for sale at public auction, all the right, title, and interest of the above-named Clarence Blake West, in and to the above-described property on the date listed above, subject to all prior encumbrances of record.

Dated this the 19 day of December, 2016.

BY: Matt Gentry, Sheriff
Sheriff Matt Gentry

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC-2016-331

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF GARLAND McCARN, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Kristy Myers on the 21st day of December, 2016, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Kristy Myers, Personal Representative

and

Thomas A. Smith, Jr., Attorney for the Personal Representative

To the publisher of the *Cullman Tribune:*

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Thomas A. Smith, Jr.
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Personal Representative
P O Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398

DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY

AFH Properties
(PLAINTIFF)
VS CASE NO: SM-2016-000525
Brandon Dawson
(DEFENDANT)

NOTICE OF FILING OF LAW SUIT

DEFENDANT, Brandon Dawson, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the complaint brought against him/her by the PLAINTIFF, AFH properties, for $2,747.05 plus court cost, cause of action being: Non-payment of rent in the amount of $2,142.60 plus $604.45 for 2016 taxes.

ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT MUST BE MADE BY THE SAID DEFENDANT on or before the 9th day of February, 2017, or a default may be rendered against him/her in the above styled cause.

DATED THIS THE 22nd DAY OF DECEMBER, 2016.

LISA MCSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA) IN THE PROBATE COURT
)
CULLMAN COUNTY) CASE NO: PC2016-315
)
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
)
PATRICIA EUDY BAXTER,)
)
DECEASED.)

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters of Testamentary of said Deceased having been granted to MICHAEL EUDY, personal representative on the 13th day of December 2016, by the Hon. TAMMY BROWN, Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

MICHAEL EUDY, Personal Representative
The Estate of **PATRICIA EUDY BAXTER,** Deceased

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice once a week for three successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

Attorney for the Estate:
MELVIN HASTING
PO BOX 517
407 2ND Ave S.W.
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0517

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT default has occurred in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by **MATTHEW T. LIVINGSTON AND DESTINY NICOLE LIVINGSTON**, to **JEANNIE HELMS**, on the 4th of February, 2016. The mortgage is recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, in Book 1782, Page 842. Because of the default, the undersigned Mortgagee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in the mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash in front of the courthouse door of the Cullman County Courthouse at Cullman, Alabama, on the 24TH day of January, 2017, during the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate located in Cullman County, Alabama:

Commencing at a one inch re-bar at the Northwest corner of the Northeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 10, Township 12 South, Range 2 West of the Huntsville Meridian; thence South 89 degrees 12 minutes 31 seconds East, a distance of 1,339.62 feet to a ½ inch re-bar at the Northeast corner of the Northeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 10, Township 12 South, Range 2 West; thence South 39 degrees 24 minutes 43 seconds West; thence South 39 degrees 24 minutes 43 seconds West, a distance of 692.52 feet to a ½ inch re-bar, of Cap #CA-78 at the Point of Beginning; thence South 33 degrees 09 minutes 04 seconds East; a distance of 380.00 feet to a ½ inch re-bar, Cap #CA-78 thence South 58 degrees 11 minutes 02 seconds West, a distance of 114.63 feet to a 5/8 inch re-bar on the Northeast right of way of a county road; thence North 33 degrees 09 minutes 04 seconds West, a distance of 380.00 feet to a ½ inch re-bar, Cap #CA-78 on said right of way; thence North 58 degrees 11 minutes 02 seconds East, a distance of 114.63 feet to the Point of Beginning. Property being in Cullman County, Alabama and containing 1.00 acres, more or less. Property subject to all existing rights of way and/or easements that are recorded or unrecorded.

Subject to any and all prior mortgages and/or liens and easements and right-of-way of record, restrictions of record, mineral and mining rights, if any, current ad valorem taxes, municipal improvements assessments, and statutory right of redemption on the part of those entitled to redeem.

THIS SALE is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by the said mortgage, as well as the expenses of the foreclosure.

By:
DAVE BEUOY
BURKE, BEUOY & MAZE, P.C.
Attorney for Mortgagee
725 North Brindlee Mountain Parkway
Arab, Alabama 35016

BURKE, BEUOY & MAZE, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
725 NORTH BRINDLEE MOUNTAIN PARKWAY
ARAB, ALABAMA 35016

NOTICE

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPLICATION TO VACATE A PORTION OF AN UNNAMED AND UNIMPROVED COUNTY ROAD.

WHEREAS, property owner John Bryant, desires to vacate a portion of a county road within the County limits of Cullman, pursuant to Ala. Code § 23-4-20 (1975);

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ala. Code § 23-4-2 (1975), the Cullman County Commission is required to hold a public hearing, prior to taking final action;

WHEREAS, notice of which is required by statute, shall occur once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks;

WHEREAS, a public hearing will take place on Tuesday, February 28, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cullman County Commission Meeting Room; First Floor; Cullman County Courthouse; 500 2nd Avenue, S.W. Cullman, Alabama 35055;

WHEREAS, applicant, John Bryant is requesting vacation of a portion of an unnamed and unimproved County Road described as follows, to-wit:

A R.O.W. along an Unimproved County Road described as follows: Commence at the Northeast Corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 11, Township 9 South, Range 5 West, thence N 88°53'55" W 441.11 feet to an iron ½" capped rebar set on the East R.O.W. of said road and the point of beginning, thence S 6°15'00"W 64.40 feet to a point on said East R.O.W., thence S 4°48'42" E 99.87 feet to a point on said East R.O.W., thence S 6°45'49" E 114.07 feet to a point on said East R.O.W., thence S 2°58'30" E 207.40 feet to an iron ½" capped rebar set on the North R.O.W. of County Road 1082, thence S 73°17'55" W 31.07 feet along the North R.O.W. of County Road 1082 to an existing iron on the West R.O.W. of said Unimproved County Road, thence N 2°58'30" W 214.73 feet to a point on the West R.O.W. of said road, thence N 6°47'50" W 112.08 feet to a point on the West R.O.W. of said road, thence N 4°49'18" W 100.90 feet to a point on the West R.O.W. of said road, thence N 26°12'55" W 75.73 feet to an existing iron on said West R.O.W., thence S 88°53'55" E 70.55 feet back to the point of beginning. Said land lying in the NW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 11, Township 9 South, Range 5 West, Cullman County, Alabama.

WHEREAS, an action is requested for an adoption and approval of a Resolution vacating a portion of an unnamed and unimproved County Road.

WHEREAS, said notice is posted in accordance with Title 23-4-2, et.seq. Code of Alabama, 1975. All persons who desire shall have an opportunity of being heard in opposition to or in favor of such resolution. This public notice is posted a minimum of Thirty (30) days prior to the date of the public hearing at: Cullman County Courthouse Entrance Bulletin Board.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the provision of the Resolution vacating a portion of an unnamed and unimproved County Road, will be considered by the Cullman County Commission at a Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2017, at the Cullman County Commission Meeting Room at 10:00 a.m. at which time and place all persons who desire shall have an opportunity of being heard in opposition to or in favor of such Resolution or any provision thereof.

Dated this the 13th day of December, 2016.

BY: /s/ J. Chad Floyd
J. Chad Floyd
Attorney for Cullman County
500 Second Avenue, S.W., Room 110
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Telephone: (256) 775-4893

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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *

GLENDA LUCILLE FOWLER * CASE NO: PC2016-336

Deceased. *

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR SUMMARY DISTRIBUTION

A petition for Summary Distribution of the Estate of Glenda Lucille Fowler, has been filed by Gloria Collins on December 28, 2016, in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by the law or same will be barred.

That said petition is hereby set for hearing on the 13th day of February, 2017 at 9:30 A.M.

Gloria Collins
Petitioner

Attorney:
Melvin Hasting
PO Box 517
Cullman, AL 35055
256-736-2230

Please publish the foregoing notice in the Cullman Tribune ONE TIME and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE

FOR THE ADOPTION OF CASE NO: AD 2016-069

VIOLET SADDIE LEE
A Minor child

AMENDED NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: COLLEEN CHRISTINE REYNOLDS, Natural mother address unknown

You must answer The Petition for Adoption filed be Haynes and Chelsia Riddle, which was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman, Alabama on the 13th day of October, 2016,and that should you contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with counsel for said petitioner and with the clerk of the said probate court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

DONE THIS 5th DAY OF January, 2017

Attorney for Petitioners:
Gregory Johnson
427 Second Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Phone (256)739-0006

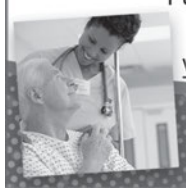
To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

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Weekly online news recap, Jan. 4-11

The Cullman Tribune's weekly print edition is packed full of important community news and current events. Did you know that you can also access our content for free online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?

Find us three ways: on our website at CullmanSense.com, on social media at facebook.com/CullmanSense and twitter.com/CullmanSense or through our free mobile app, "CullmanSense NOW," available from the App Store or the Google Play Store. Also online is our calendar, so you never miss an important community event. Find it at CullmanSense.com/calendar.

Here's a recap of our online news you may have missed since last Thursday.

Bethsadia Volunteer Fire Department Board meets: special election rejected, chairman resigns

BETHSADIA – On Thursday evening, the Bethsadia Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) Board held the meeting that had been highly anticipated since last month's controversial meeting following the mass resignation of seven firefighters. This meeting was much shorter than December's, as the floor was not opened to public comment. That did not stop several attendants from asking their questions, though. Chairman Dan Willingham recognized that public comments during the board's Old and New Business segments were out of order, but he allowed people to speak.

Youth Explosion "No Limits" tour swings through Cullman

CULLMAN – Despite below-freezing temperatures, the Youth Explosion "No Limits" tour went on in Cullman this weekend at the Cullman Civic Center. The tour is part of a ministry that helps provide goods and services to families and children living at or below the poverty line, and concerts like Saturday's help raise money to keep those services free. The tour plays an average of 200 concerts a year throughout the South with between 20 and 30 bands per concert, but Saturday's icy temperatures delayed the event, resulting in only nine bands being able to perform. The list of bands and artists included a wide variety of music genres, from rapper Chozen to Christian rock band God's Outlaws to heavy metal band Out of Black.

Green's 3-pointer as time expires lifts Wallace State men past USC-Salkehatchie

HANCEVILLE – Locked in a 59-59 tie in the final seconds, Rashawn Green was one of the Wallace State players instructed to take the final shot for the Lions on Friday. Green delivered in dramatic fashion. The sophomore from Huntsville corralled a loose ball at the top of the key between two USC Salkehatchie defenders and drained a game-winning 3-pointer as time expired, sending Wallace State to a thrilling 62-59 victory at Tom Drake Coliseum. Green and the Lions overcame an eight-point deficit in the final 8:30, snapping a three-game losing skid in their first contest since Dec. 17.

Falkville man arrested in Cullman for trafficking

CULLMAN – A traffic stop in Cullman on Thursday led to the arrest of a Falkville man for trafficking. Cullman Police Department (CPD) Investigators Justin Craft and Chris Thomason made the arrest after observing a white Ford truck driving on the wrong side of the road and failing to stop at a stop sign on Second Street Southeast in the city of Cullman. During the traffic stop, Craft and Thomason seized drug paraphernalia, methamphetamine, suboxone strips, suboxone pills, alprazaloam pills, hydrocodone pills, a clonazepam pill, marijuana and an amount of oxycodone pills large enough to be considered a "trafficking amount," according to the CPD. Christopher Taylor, 51, of Falkville was arrested for trafficking in illegal drugs, two counts of unlawful possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of marijuana and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

Rock the South 2017: Sam Hunt to perform

CULLMAN – Organizers for 2017's Rock the South music festival on Monday morning announced that Sam Hunt will be performing. This year's Rock the South will take place June 2-3 at Cullman's Heritage Park. The next artist announcement is expected on Friday, Jan. 13. Find out more at www.rockthesouth.com and https://www.facebook.com/RockTheSouth/.

Incoming Pilot Club president proves point in Polar Bear Plunge

CULLMAN – Like many retirees, Nan Auston hardly seems retired. She's lived in Cullman for 17 years with her husband, Cullman native and Navy veteran Keith Auston. They're both active members of Eastside Baptist Church. A few years ago, she accepted an invitation from friend Patricia McGriff to join the Cullman Pilot Club. That's where the fun begins. "It sounded like something I'd like to do," Auston said. "I grew up with my mother telling me to always give something back to my community. We're a service club. Pilot Club does not take one penny of the money we raise. We help people, and we help different organizations: anything having to do with traumatic brain injuries. We all just love it, and you can make some very good friends in the Pilot Club. It's a marvelous organization." Auston's love of the club is evident, both in her words and in her actions. This June she will take the helm as president of the local chapter of Pilot Club International. She's excited about the rummage sale, fashion show and other fundraisers she will get to preside over in the coming year. Then there's the Polar Bear Plunge.

CP&R holds 3rd annual Community Wellness Day and Polar Bear Plunge

CULLMAN – On Saturday Cullman Parks and Recreation (CP&R) hosted its annual Community Wellness Day at the Wellness and Aquatic Center. The center opened to the public for a day of free swimming and exercise, as well as a health fair. Memberships could be purchased at a $50 discount. CP&R's Waid Harbison shared a little about the event: "The biggest thing about this is we're offering free admission today. We really want people who maybe don't come to the facility, that aren't able to come to the facility, that have big families that might be a little expensive, to really come out and enjoy swimming in our pools, enjoy our fitness classes or the workout room or anything like that." The big draw for many, though, was what some people might consider the least healthy thing you could do at the center on this day: the annual Polar Bear Plunge. People were pulling off their overcoats, stripping down to their swimsuits and getting ready to jump into the outdoor (that's OUTDOOR) pool. For the record, the air temperature at the time of the plunge (11 a.m.) was 21 degrees. Most people do it to prove something to themselves, a few are taking dares, a few are promoting a cause and some are just taking a shot at the free one-year membership to be given by drawing to one lucky participant. I walked outside to get the lay of the land a few minutes before the event started, and in a fittingly prophetic twist, over the loudspeakers came Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb."

West Point man arrested for distributing marijuana

CULLMAN – A West Point man was arrested recently and charged with two counts of unlawful distribution of a controlled substance after he allegedly sold high-grade marijuana to Cullman Police Department Investigators Chris Thomason and Justin Craft, who were undercover, on two separate occasions. Orion Austin Townsend, 20, has since been released on bond.

Lady Raiders squeak by Holly Pond; Broncos smoke Good Hope

GOOD HOPE – After almost pulling off a major upset against No. 9 West Point to start off 2017, the Good Hope Raiders came home looking to get back on track and break a seven-game losing streak as they took on Holly Pond.

Dems Night Out: Local Democrats plan to become more active in community

CULLMAN – The Cullman County Democrats recently held their monthly "Dems Night Out" event at Grumpy's Italian Grill, where they discussed what they describe as "activist fervor" growing among local Democrats. The group says they plan to take bold action. Those present discussed various progressive issues that they say affect Cullman directly, including public education reform, recycling and renewable energy, and homelessness.

CRMC "breaks ground" on new 30-bed, 5th-floor expansion

CULLMAN – On Wednesday afternoon, Cullman Regional Medical Center (CRMC), TRO Healthcare Design architects and Doster Construction broke ground for a hospital expansion that won't actually involve any broken ground. Having found that the original hospital plans could accommodate future vertical expansion, a fifth floor will be added to the main hospital building. This expansion, which was announced last January, will add 30 new beds to CRMC, and should increase the number of private rooms while decreasing wait time for rooms. It will also add 30 new jobs at the hospital initially, and many more when the expansion is fully complete.

Judge Brown issues statement on end of common law marriage in state

CULLMAN – Back in June, Gov. Robert Bentley signed a bill abolishing common law marriage in the state of Alabama. That law went into effect on Jan. 1, 2017. Cullman County Probate Judge Tammy Brown issued the following statement (presented in-full online) regarding the matter: All couples who met the requirements of common law marriage prior to Jan. 1 will continue to be recognized as common law under Alabama law. The requirements for a common law marriage to exist include: 1. Both parties have the mental capacity to marry/be of sound mind and age 2. Both parties have a mutual agreement to be married 3. Both parties hold themselves as husband and wife to friends, family and the public.

Thrice as nice; Lady Bearcats drop Albertville for 3rd time this season

CULLMAN – It was a night of three-peats and repeats Thursday when the Cullman Lady Bearcats defeated the Lady Aggies of Albertville for the third straight time in the 2016-17 season. The boys were not so lucky as they fell to Albertville for the second straight time.

Alabama man, formerly of Cullman, pleads guilty to producing child pornography involving multiple victims

ALABAMA – An Alabama man pleaded guilty on Thursday, Jan. 5 to producing child pornography involving seven minor victims, announced Assistant Attorney General Leslie R. Caldwell of the Justice Department's Criminal Division and U.S. Attorney Joyce White Vance of the Northern District of Alabama. Gregory Jerome Lee, 54, formerly of Cullman County, Alabama, pleaded guilty to four counts of production of child pornography before U.S. District Judge Virginia Emerson Hopkins of the Northern District of Alabama. Sentencing is set for April 12, 2017.

Point of View: Bethsadia firefighter and board member Alan Edwards

BETHSADIA – After the turmoil of the last month within the Bethsadia Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) came to a very public head yet again Thursday night, fire department Board member and newly-appointed Assistant Chief Alan Edwards asked to speak to the Tribune, to share his point of view on the events.

OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS: JAN. 3 - 10

Funeral service for Zettie Lou Atkinson, 81 of Cullman, held January 5, 2017 at Moss-Service Funeral Home Chapel; Terry Michaels officiated with burial at Jones Chapel cemetery. Mrs. Atkinson died Monday at CRMC. She was born February 2, 1935 in Lauderdale county to Miles Roy and Jewel James Weston. She was a housewife.

Larry K. Kelley, 75, of Columbus, Georgia, formerly of Haleyville, entered into rest on January 4, 2017 at his home surrounded by his loving family. Mr. Kelley was on born June 23, 1941, in Haleyville, Alabama. He was a graduate of Lynn High School and was a truck driver for the Winston County Road Department. He was loved and will be greatly missed. Funeral service held January 6 at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville. Burial followed in Ashbank Cemetery.

Memorial service for Jonathan Kyle Chaney, age 21 of Cullman, held January 6 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home Chapel. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. Jonathan passed away on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at his residence. He was born February 9, 1995 in Birmingham.

Rachel Louise Nicholas Nail, 95, passed away on January 4. She is preceded in death by her husbands: Elmer Nicholas and Gerstile Nail, her son, Manard Nicholas, parents: Grover and Della Powell, five sisters and four brothers. Funeral service held January 7, 2017 at Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel. Interment at Johnson's Grove Cemetery.

Funeral service for Robert "Bobby" Henry McDonald, 82 of Cullman, held January 7 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Bethlehem Cemetery; Bro. Paul Rivers officiated. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. McDonald passed away January 4 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. He was born June 9, 1934 to Ocie & Maye Gamble McDonald.

Memorial service for Margene J McGee, 65, held January 7 at Grace Baptist Church in Hartselle. She passed away January 3.

Funeral service with military honors for Elmer Revis Bryant, Sr., 85 of Cullman, held January 8 at Jones Chapel First Baptist Church with interment in Jones Chapel Cemetery, Rev. Randall Edmondson officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Bryant passed away Thursday, January 5 at his residence. He was born January 14, 1931 to parents, Revis and Evelyn Bryant. He was a member of Jones Chapel First Baptist Church. He served his country in the U.S. Army and the Korean War. He was past Master of the Masons at Trussville lodge and current member of West Point lodge and member of Zamora Shrine.

Funeral services for Glenda Joyce Dunkin, age 72 of Cullman, held January 9 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; Rev. H.E. LaFevor officiated. Interment in Jones Chapel Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Ms. Dunkin passed away Thursday, January 5, 2017 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. She was born May 28, 1944 in Cullman.

Memorial service for Eileen Gossett, 79 of Cullman, held January 9 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel; Pastor Dan Cobb officiated. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Gossett passed away January 4.

Paskell "Pat" Garrison, 76, passed away January 9. Complete arrangements and obituary information will be announced at a later date. Nichols Funeral Home directing.

Mary Jeanette Baldwin, 90 of Double Springs, entered into rest on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at Hendrix Health and Rehabilitation in Double Springs. Mrs. Baldwin was born on November 14, 1926 in Macena, Alabama. She was a member of The Church of God for 65 years, with the last 20 years being at Houston Church of God. Jeanette worked for K Mart for 16 years, where she was a supervisor. She enjoyed taking care of her family. Funeral service held on January 10 at Nichols Funeral Home in Double Springs; Reverends Buford Smith and Aaron Gann officiated. Burial will be in Houston Community Cemetery.

Funeral service for Betty Joyce Cummings, 66, held January 10 at Moss Service Funeral Home. She passed away December 26, 2016.

Evelyn Sue Blackwell, 86, passed away January 6. Service information is unavailable at this time. Arrangements under the direction of Moss Service Funeral Home.

Memorial service for Jeremiah Adam Knott, age 25 of Cullman, held January 11 at Bethel Freewill Baptist Church on Highway 278 East. Jeremiah passed away on January 8 at his residence. He was born March 12, 1991 in Cullman. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Guy Larae Clement, 84, of Red Bay formerly of Haleyville, entered into rest on January 8, 2017 at Generations of Red Bay Nursing Home. Mr. Clement was born on June 9, 1932, in Phil Campbell. Guy served in the United States Navy for 4 years during the Korean War. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church for 35+ years, where he was also a Sunday School Teacher. Guy loved to fish and was a member of the Bassmasters Club for years and received fisherman of the year numerous times.

Wesley Owen Weeks, age 88, of Center Point Community, passed away at his home January 8. He was born in Jefferson County to William Ryan and Elsie Mae Noble Weeks. Mr. Weeks served 4 years of military service in the U.S. Navy and served 21 years in the U.S. Air Force, retiring from the military with 25 years of service to his country. He was a Baptist and Member of the SS McKenley Reunion Members. He is predeceased by his wife, Mary Ellen Duckett Weeks, wife of 65 years and parents. Funeral service held January 11 at Center Point Baptist Church; burial in adjoining cemetery. Holly Pond Funeral Home directed.

Robert Lee Moody, 66 of Double Springs, entered into rest on Monday, January 9, 2017 at his home surrounded by his loving family. Robert was born on May 14, 1950 in Lawrence County, Alabama. He was a member of Double Springs Church of Christ. He loved fishing, riding horses and camping. Funeral held January 11 at Nichols Funeral Home in Double Springs. Vance Hutton officiated. Burial in Mt. Ebron Cemetery.

Funeral service for Bernice Chesser, 86 of Cullman, held January 11 at Cullman Heritage Chapel with Jimmy Drinkard officiated; interment in Cullman Memory Gardens. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home directing. Mrs. Chesser passed away on Sunday, January 8th at CRMC. She was born September 30, 1930. She was a homemaker.

Funeral service for Ruth Othel Moore, 76, held January 12 at Moss Service Funeral Home. She passed away January 10.

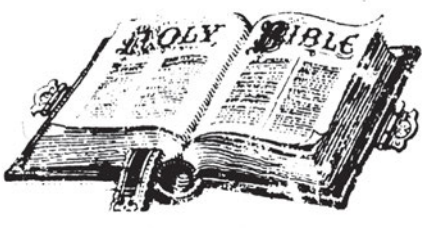
Memorial service for John Wayne Pugh, 67 of Cullman, will be Sunday, January 15th at 2 p.m. at The Worship Center, 8492 Bagley Road, Dora, AL with Ray Dollar officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. Mr. Pugh passed away Monday, January 9th at Cullman Regional Medical Center. He was born August 21, 1949 in Birmingham.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
January 12, 2017

Learn (from Front)

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – In the Walker household, school attire often consists of pajamas. That's right, two of the three Walker children are homeschooled, and for them, lessons might start as soon as their feet hit the floor, or later in the morning, after mom, Laura Willingham Walker, has taken their sister, Tekoa, to public school.

"I don't think that homeschooling is either a right or wrong decision," said Walker. "It can be decided per kid, per year."

Laura attended college at Florida University, graduating with a major in biblical studies and a minor in Koine Greek. She knew she wanted to home school her own children long before meeting and marrying their father, Ryan Walker, in 1997. The couple has three children, Shiloh, Tekoa and Jude. When the time came to make the choice about where their children would attend school, Laura had much more enthusiasm for the project than Ryan, who had some reservations, mainly concerning sports and interaction. Ryan, an extremely intelligent jock, wanted his children to experience team sports and other aspects of the high school experience; however, Laura convinced him to let her try.

She was determined to make it work, but a long battle with Lyme disease contributed to the fact that some of her children's early education was done by Cullman's public schools because she was extremely ill.

Later, when she was in remission, she picked up the routine, but by that time Tekoa, the middle child, had decidedly blossomed in public school, where she excelled academically while enjoying the social interactions in school. "She is a social butterfly," laughed Laura.

In summing up their homeschooling experience, Laura reflects that she and her husband knew that one of the perks of homeschooling was the individual attention that each child would benefit from. Other considerations were the protective atmosphere, and the security that homeschooling affords. Laura is also able to interject life and religious lessons and references into her curriculum.

The downside might be, for some children, less socialization; however, the Walkers make sure that their children are well adjusted by scheduling several field trips with other homeschoolers and their families, playing sports in the summer with their peers and taking extracurricular classes, like pottery and art. Their church offers more socialization for the Walkers, who also engage in community outreach programs through organizations like The Link of Cullman County.

One of the best advantages of homeschooling, according to Laura, is that she can focus on what her children need extra attention in, something that is hard for public school teachers to do in a class full of children and a ticking clock. Homeschooling also allows the children to spend more time on the subjects that interest them most.

Seventh-grader Shiloh, for example, enjoys integrating her love of gardening with science classes, and is responsible for maintaining her own greenhouse. An exemplary student, Shiloh never enjoyed the "drama" she says was a part of her public-school experience even in elementary classes.

Jude, a fifth-grader, is easily distracted and benefits from the one-on-one attention, as well as the freedom to learn at his own speed. "He would much rather be out in the woods looking for frogs than in class," laughed Laura, "but he has also set a goal for himself of finishing before his sister, so that keeps him on task."

Shiloh and Jude start school at home at 8:30 a.m.; she has four 45-minute sessions, while Jude has five 45-minute sessions. Most of their work is done using workbooks approved for homeschooling curriculums.

Shiloh also takes pottery, cello and piano lessons. Jude builds intricate forts, often mapping them out on paper. "He's very creative," Laura observed. "He does well in hands-on projects."

Meanwhile, Tekoa does stage performances, like the Missoula Children's Theatre, and is currently in her fifth year with the group.

One of the obvious differences in home and public schooling is that the mothers of homeschooled children, and in some cases, the fathers, have little time to themselves. Laura even works from home, which is easier in her case, because she is an artist.

"I used to take my children to the shop, but last year I started working from home, and it's much better all 'round," she said. "The children got too distracted at the shop with people coming in and out.

"One of the best things about having the children schooled at home is that I can see the joy of learning being instilled in them," Laura observed. "However, all three of our children have chosen their preferred method of learning and it is working well," she continued. "They are able to identify what their hearts need.

"When people say that they are concerned about their children being socialized in a home environment, I think about some of the things I've heard that happen in public schools and I thank God that they are with me at home."

Laura makes an extra effort to involve her children in the community. "Shiloh helps with food for the sick at church, and Tekoa makes it a point to look for kids who need to be included in school activities," said Laura.

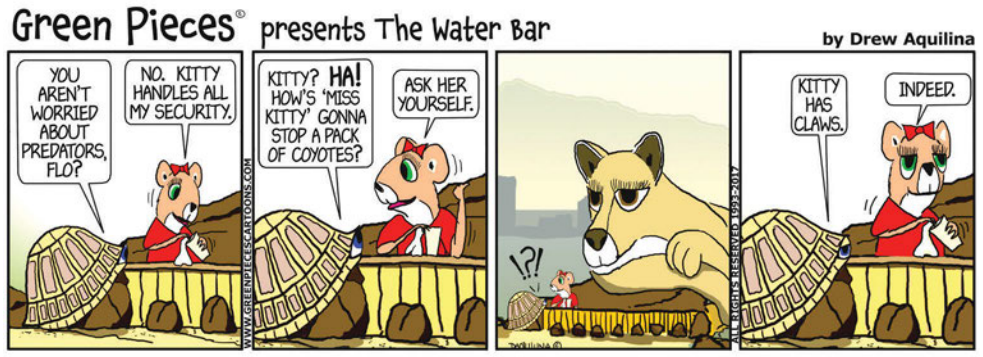
"I really love the personalization that is part of homeschooling," said Shiloh. "I get to concentrate on what I am interested in, like gardening and science, that way I can learn what I need to know for later in life.

"There are homeschooling groups available, also, but I love having time to myself to read and do the things I'm interested in; however, the groups suit some people very well," Shiloh added.

By allowing the children the opportunity to have a say in the way they learn, the Walkers say they are seeing the results-children with impeccable manners, who can carry on adult conversations and are developing their personalities in ways that will benefit not only themselves, but the communities in which they will live and serve.

The Walkers will be the first to tell you that homeschooling isn't for everyone, but if you can identify your child's needs, and you are financially and emotionally disciplined enough to handle homeschooling, they contend that it does provide an alternative to private or public, city or county school systems.

Comics









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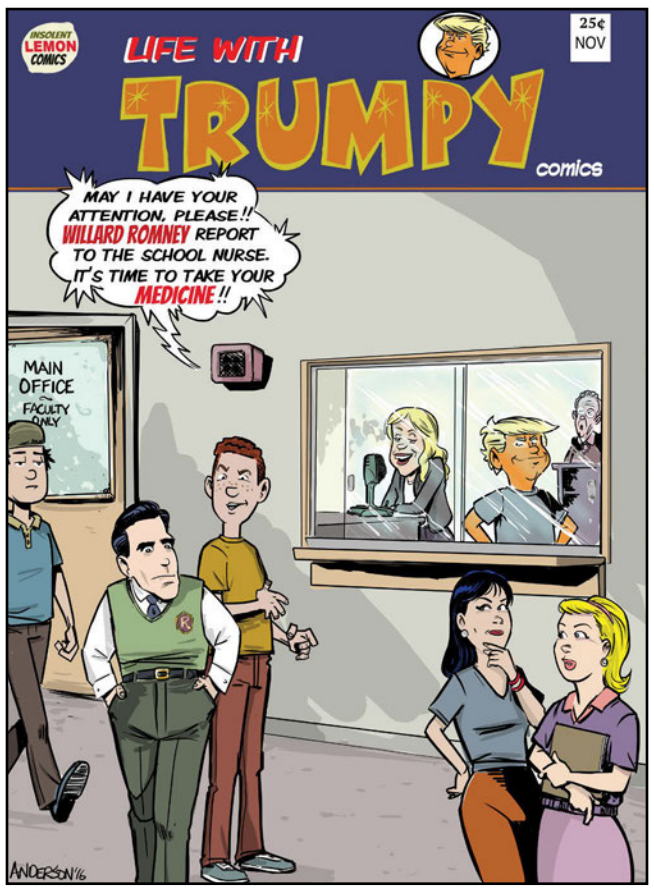
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Editorial Cartoon



Poet's Corner

A SENSE OF SPRING

She cut the finger tips from her gloves. A
learned trick from berry picking where
you needed to feel the berries
while protecting your hands from piercing thorns.
So on cold winter days, she could feel the ice cycles
she broke and the cold whiskers of her outside cats.
It was fun to touch her dog's wet nose,
making jokes about the cold.
"Just wait until it warms my friends and we
shall plant more flowers again and watch
the fish jump in the pond." she said.
She always planned for spring, even when the
cold came to stay. When she no longer venture
out to break icicles from her awnings.
Outside her window the jonquils always
bloomed and bigmouth bass flipped,
leaving circles radiating across
a mossy pond.

By: Randy C. Hale

HOW ARE WE DOING?

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FOXGLOVES & FIREFLIES

Teachers

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Correspondent

In writing an article for another paper I recently came across the story of a fourth-grader who initiated a fundraiser for a new animal shelter in her area. The fact that it was a child who came up with the idea was amazing, but it was the backstory that caught my attention.

It seems each November/December holiday period the guidance counselor at her school focuses on giving back to others, including the community. Realizing that it's hard for most fourth graders to give back financially, the counselor seeks to teach them to give back from their hearts.

Simple in concept, the idea is not a new one, but what is novel about this is that those things, community consciousness, paying it forward, it being more blessed to give than to receive, being part of the community of mankind, those things used to be intrinsic to our values, part of our culture, taught in our homes, churches and schools.

Somewhere along the way, perhaps when we let the morning prayers in each classroom slip away without kicking up a fuss, or when teachers were restricted to teaching a rigidly pre-planned curriculum, or when dozens of other things changed in our schools, the spontaneous lessons of life were left behind. There was once a time when teachers could actually stop their homogenized lesson plan to teach life lessons as situations arose.

And here and there, those teachers who are bold enough, have continued to use real life situations to illustrate to their students how to respond to things that aren't mentioned in math, history and English literature.

To those teachers, I'd like to say a big 'Thank You' for your service in forming tomorrow's leaders.

I'd love to have a dime for every time I've interviewed someone who said, "It all started with a teacher," or "I wouldn't be where I am today if not for a teacher" and "I had this one teacher who showed me something that I've never forgotten," or some variation on those sentiments.

Teachers might think that they are just drumming dusty facts or endless numbers into the heads of students who would rather be playing video games or in the gym, but everything teachers do and say becomes a lesson, because children watch and listen more than you think they do, and they absorb what they see and hear the way a sponge absorbs water. (Although some of the numbers and dates run right on out like the tide.)

Teachers have the incredible task of instilling pride, knowledge, values, morals, work ethics, responsibility, dedication, goal orientation, self-discipline, self-respect and respect for others in thirty-minute increments, during which they are also required to teach things like how salamanders affect the environment.

Yes, these things should be taught in the home, but the sad truth is, in today's world where parents work two and three jobs just to pay the bills, or where there is only one parent trying to be everything to everyone while holding down a job and putting food on the table, often times there are just simply not enough hours in the day to ensure that these lessons are being taught in the homes of all students.

Churches teach these things, too, but teachers are at the forefront each day, teaching not only from a textbook, but by example.

If you want a child to grow into a responsible adult, then they must be around responsible adults. If you want a child to learn community pride and have the desire to serve in that community, then they must see people doing so. If you want a child to be humble, polite and courteous, then they must see others being humble, polite and courteous.

Why do little girls play teacher? Haven't you ever seen them, standing up in front of their dolls and stuffed rabbits, holding forth on how to say the Pledge of Allegiance or the Gettysburg Address? They are mimicking what they see and hear for seven-and-a-half hours each day.

As they grow older, kids may mimic what they see and hear in other, less obvious ways, like adding words to their vocabulary or speaking with a more confident voice. Boys often idolize their coaches, while girls tend to gravitate to teachers who dress well and display self-confidence.

Teachers have a daunting responsibility; they are teaching even when they are out in the community, where students see them at parades, in the mall and at sporting events. They are watching always.

We owe teachers a debt of gratitude that is immeasurable. They have taken our children and tried to give them the best academic education available, and in doing so, they have shaped the future for all of us.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Planning to live

Dave Robinson
Contributor

When I first started making preparations I was convinced it was all about adding another can of Spam or some more beans to the pantry. The more I learn and the farther down this road I go, the more my thinking has evolved. Your plan is every bit as important as having your shelves full of food. You may have the most well-equipped pantry and every one of your cars has a get-home bag, but without a plan it may all be for naught.

Your response to disaster will be different if an earthquake occurs when you're 100 miles from home than it will be if you're sitting in your living room.

When a fireman knocks on your door and says you have one hour to evacuate because of a wildfire heading your way, your plan has to be flexible enough to accommodate that scenario. Two years ago a fatal landslide in Oso, Washington, prompted an entire community to be evacuated on short notice. If that knock came to your door, do you have any idea what you would take with you and what you would do first?

Some years back, as a student pilot, my flight instructor drilled into me the importance of always keeping a landing area in mind. There aren't too many suitably flat areas in Western Oregon to land a small plane, but if I expected to survive an engine failure or other emergency, I'd better have a plan where I was going to land that airplane. No plan can cover every scenario, but a primary basic to every disaster plan is communications. How do you plan to get in touch with your family? Have you discussed with your family who they should contact if they can't get in touch with you? One method widely encouraged by experts is to establish an out-of-state friend or relative to be a clearinghouse for your family's communication. Many times it's easier to make an out of state call than to call next door. If local communications are disrupted, quite often calls out of the area more successful than local calls. Also text messages will sometimes be more successful than voice communication. If you don't know how, ask any kid. It's really pretty easy.

Now sit down with your family and decide which out of state relative or friend will make a good contact hub for you. Make sure each family member is supplied the necessary contact information and under which circumstances you will make contact.

Making plans isn't as exciting as finding a bargain on freeze-dried food or discovering another new gadget. But if you don't have a plan in place, none of the survival food nor the latest GPS receiver is going to be of any use to you. After all you've got to have a place picked out to land that airplane. Every pilot knows if they fly long enough, sooner or later they may have to make an emergency landing. You'd better have a plan! Remember the credo: Get a kit, make a plan, be informed! Don't overlook the 'plan' part.

As always contact me for questions or comments at disasterprep.dave@gmail.com. Previous columns can be found on my blog at www.disasterprepdave.blogspot.com. Dave Robinson is the Postmaster in Bandon, Oregon, and the author of "Disaster Prep For The Rest Of Us," available on Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble and other online booksellers.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
January 12, 2017

Women thriving in WSCC's Technical Division's male-dominated fields

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Maci Key wasn't sure of the career field she wanted to pursue until Wallace State's Jonathan Minyard visited her high school to discuss the college's Machine Tool Technology program.

Meanwhile, Melanie Patterson was ready for a new challenge after working nearly 20 years in the newspaper industry.

Key and Patterson both decided to pave a unique path as women enrolled in Wallace State's Technical Division programs and haven't regretted the choice one bit.

As a dual enrollment student, Key, 18, began taking Machine Tool Technology classes at Wallace State during her senior year at Hayden High School.

"I was fascinated by the things Mr. Minyard showed us when he visited my high school. He showed us the different items the program had made, and I was impressed with the attention to detail and how they could take a piece of metal and make something so defined and small," Key said.

"I was still trying to figure out what I wanted to do and decided to take a stab at machining. I fell in love with it the first day I walked through the doors."

Key had no reservations joining a program and profession traditionally dominated by males. Since she began at Wallace State, a healthy rivalry has developed between Key and her male classmates.

"Of course, I get picked on a lot, but it's all in good fun. If I do anything embarrassing, the guys are definitely going to point it out," Key joked.

"They also don't like it when I do things better because it makes them look bad."

Salon and Spa Management, formerly Cosmetology, has traditionally been one of the technical programs most popular among women. Programs like Engineering Technology and Culinary Arts are increasingly popular among both men and women.

But other programs, like Machining, Diesel, Welding and the Automotive Technology and Collision Repair have been slower to attract women in large numbers.

Key and Patterson are among the female students at Wallace State bucking the trend.

"It is always special to watch people who are able to fulfill their passion and even more enjoyable when it's something you see that goes against the grain or what you might expect. It's gratifying to see females succeed in fields not normally dominated by that gender. It proves again that people can do what they really want to do as long as they set their mind to it," said Jimmy Hodges, Wallace State's Dean of Applied Technologies.

"I love seeing the females in our programs capitalize on the opportunities presented."

Added Key: "I think me being in this program shows that it's all right to step out of the box and try something others may not think we should try. I think women can fit into the technical programs well because they are more detail-oriented than men."

While Key is in the early stages of her collegiate career, Patterson is nearing completion of her second act at Wallace State.

Patterson, 42, gained nearly two decades worth of experience in the newspaper industry, fulfilling a variety of roles at stops in Cullman, Gardendale and in multiple cities in Colorado, before determining she needed a change in life.

Patterson, who also served in the Army Reserve as a military journalist before beginning her newspaper career, chose to enroll in Wallace State's welding department in the fall of 2015.

Patterson, a Fairview native, wasn't initially sure which Wallace State program she wanted to enroll in until talking with welding instructor Jim Thompson.

"I wanted to do something different for a long time. When I was a reporter, I loved human interest stories and I would go out and interview mechanics, welders, carpenters or people who worked with their hands and thought how it would be neat to do those things. I loved their environment," Patterson said.

"I looked at the programs at Wallace State and welding did stand out the most, but I wasn't convinced until talking with Jim. I got into it not knowing if I would truly like it or not. I came in for one semester and told myself if I hated it, there wasn't too much lost. I absolutely loved it and have ever since."

Patterson is on track to graduate in May with her degree in welding, making a rare transition from a career in journalism to welding.

Patterson was one of three females in the welding department during the fall semester, and like Key, isn't uncomfortable pursuing a male-dominated profession.

"I haven't had a hard time at all. I sort of expected to, but it hasn't happened whatsoever. It may actually be easier being a female because

"I'm not expected to know as much as a male might know. I can get away with a dumb question here or there and not get ripped for it," Patterson said.

"I've never felt like I'm judged in this program and don't feel like less or more is expected of me. I feel like I'm on equal footing. I'm a better welder than some people, and I'm a much worse welder than some people. I just try to do my personal best."

Patterson added that she pondered a welding career upon graduating high school in the 1990s, but decided to pursue a more conventional career for a female at the time.

"Things are different. There is probably more acceptance now of a female in welding than there might have been 20 years ago. It doesn't matter who you are. The best thing you can do is follow your dreams and heart and do more than what is expected of you," Patterson said.



Melanie Patterson worked in the newspaper industry for 20 years before deciding to enroll in Wallace State's Welding program in 2015.

For a list of Wallace State's Technical Division programs, visit: www.wallacestate.edu/programs/technical-division.

For more information about Wallace State, visit www.wallacestate.edu.

Videos:

- Maci Key discusses her decision to choose the Wallace State Machine Tool Technology program: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCeisQwNGqA
- Maci Key works on a machine in the program: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ii9xRHQyEuE
- Melanie Patterson discusses her decision to join the Wallace State Welding program: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQXu7SX2jVc



PHOTOS COURTESY WSCC

Maci Key initially enrolled in Wallace State's Machine Tool Technology program as a dual enrollment student at Hayden High School.

