# The Cullman Tribune

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## Cullman Animal Control searching for missing horse P5


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## Meet Cheryl Parker, Cullman Christian School's new principal P16

## Cullman City Council awards $407,812 contract to rebuild Larkwood Road, to begin in April P3

## Broncos leave it all on the floor, fall to Midfield 86-78 P4

# Cullman ranked no. 2 micropolitan in U.S. for the 2nd consecutive year

**Wendy Sack**
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**CULLMAN** – Site Selection magazine has named Cullman as the no. 2 micropolitan in the country for 2016. It's the second consecutive year Cullman has ranked second. Micropolitans are cities with a population of 10,000 to 50,000 that cover at least one county. There are 575 micropolitans in the U.S.

Findlay, Ohio ranked no. 1 again for total number of qualified new and expanding industrial projects. Findlay had 22 qualifying projects in 2016, while Cullman had 19. To qualify, a new or expanding company must meet one of three criteria P12

# Cullman County Animal Shelter **Hopeful but Realistic**




P10

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**Shelter Manager Nick Johnson with Marty and Susan Chennault of Decatur, and new love Lottie**

# Springtime at the Agriplex

**W.C. Mann**
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**CULLMAN** – Springtime is almost upon us. That's planting season in the agricultural world, and it's a busy time for the North Alabama Agriplex in Cullman as well. They've got a lot of stuff coming up, including (of course) planting stuff!

The Tribune sat down with Mandy-Shea Riggins, Americorps Vista volunteer and the Agriplex's educational liason to Cullman City Schools, to talk about what's happening.

Riggins defined the facility's purpose: "The Agriplex is here to help preserve heritage skills and promote the history of agriculture."

Right now, Riggins is working on the Agriplex's school garden project, which builds raised bed gardens at local schools to create outdoor classrooms for science.

"The year that we're planning," she explained, "we can start talking to them about agriculture in the classroom, about the history and what we do at the Agriplex, the history of Cullman County and the history of agriculture, then moving on to a curriculum on the actual outdoor classroom: how to plant things, how the garden works. P12

# Director Doug Davenport talks county parks

**Loretta Gillespie**
Tribune Correspondent

**CULLMAN** – For Cullman County Parks and Recreation Director, Doug Davenport, each day is a new adventure. An avid outdoorsman, Davenport and his job are a perfect fit.

Not one to sit behind a desk any longer than absolutely necessary, he frequents the parks and recreational areas in his charge, knowing them like the palm of his hand, and that's saying a lot, as the parks and rec system in Cullman County is extensive and spread out all over the county. The system includes Smith Lake Park, Clarkson Covered Bridge, the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center, Sportsman Lake Park (including Veterans' Park) and Stony Lonesome OHV Park.

On March 10-11, the Southern Rock Racing Series is scheduled at Stony Lonesome OHV Park, 10075 AL-69, in Bremen. This challenging course is a must for any off-road enthusiast. "This is a mountain-type dune buggy course," Davenport explained. "Last year it brought in a record 3,000 visitors to the park."

"They loved it," laughed Davenport, warming to one of his favorite subjects. "We also got a lot of support from the community for this event, probably because they were racing for $10,000 that day."

He continued, "It's a lot like a billy goat trail. Two out of 70 starters made it to the top, but it's also based on time as well as ability to finish."

According to Davenport, in the past 18 months the OHV Park has really done a turnaround. "People might not realize how much it fuels the local economy," he said. "People coming from the interstate stop in Dodge City for food and gas. It has really helped the local economy to have that many people come in for these events."

Davenport is especially excited about the new drone purchased by the parks P14


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# Be prepared: spring tornado season is upon us

**Samantha Vest**
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**CULLMAN** – Alabama's spring tornado season is upon us. Spring tornado season is typically defined as lasting from the beginning of March to the beginning of May. However, tornadoes can and do occur earlier than March. Summer tornadoes are extremely rare in Alabama.

Though there are some notable exceptions, spring tornado season is when Alabama usually experiences violent, long track tornadoes. Both the 1974 and 2011 tornado outbreaks occurred in spring- in April, specifically- and most tornado fatalities happen in spring. Because of this, now is a good time to begin reviewing tornado safety, and put a plan in place for severe weather.

**Here is a list of basic steps you can take to keep yourself and your family safe:**

• Know the difference between a tornado watch and warning: a watch means conditions are favorable for tornadoes to form, and a warning means a tornado has been indicated, either by radar or by storm spotters.

• Know where your local tornado shelter is located: a list of Cullman's County storm shelters can found at the Cullman EMA's website.

• Have several ways of receiving weather warnings: a NOAA weather radio is a very good idea, and there are many smartphone and iPhone apps for weather warnings.

• If you plan to take shelter in your home, know where to go and what to do: go to the basement or storm shelter if you have one; if not, go to the lowest level to an interior room and cover yourself with blankets or mattresses. Wear a helmet if you have one.

• Pay attention to weather forecasts

• Have a basic weather kit: some suggestions for weather kits include batteries, flashlights, a first aid kit, a whistle, hard-soled shoes, food & water to last for at least three days, and important documents. A more exhaustive list can be found at FEMA's disaster website (www.ready.gov/kit)

• Have a plan ready: know where to go and what to do if a tornado warning is issued. Don't wait until a warning is issued to figure out what you need to do or where to take shelter.

**In addition, know what not to do during a tornado warning:**

• Avoid mobile homes: Most tornado fatalities that occur happen in mobile homes.

• Avoid cars: Cars are also dangerous. Don't be on the road driving during a tornado warning.

• Don't go outside and look for the tornado

• Don't try to chase the tornado

Further information can be found at NOAA's "Weather-ready nation" website (www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation) FEMA's disaster website (www.ready.gov) and Cullman's EMA website (www.cullmanema.org).

**Cullman County**
**Community Shelter Sites**
**Current as of 01/10/2017**
***All information verified by each jurisdiction/responsible entity**

| Site | Address | Capacity | Opened by | Special Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Town of Baileyton | 112 Fairview Rd | 96 | Town of Baileyton | No Pets* |
| Chapel Village Apts/ Jones Chapel | 74 Co Rd 1034 (Just off Hwy 278W) | 96+ | Always Open | No Pets* |
| City of Hanceville (Behind City Hall) | 202 Bangor Ave SE | 96+ | Hanceville PD | No Pets* |
| City of Hanceville (CW Day Park) | 203 Michele St NW | 96+ | Hanceville PD | No Pets* |
| City of Hanceville (Steppville) | 1407 Commercial St SE | 96+ | Hanceville PD | No Pets* |
| City of Cullman (Across from Fair Grounds) | 1511 Sportsman Lake Rd | 396+ | City of Cullman | No Pets* |
| CCCDD Beech Center (basement level/Red Cross Office entrance) | 1803 Beech Ave SE Cullman (behind Handy TV, 1 block south of the Cullman Co Detention Center) | 150+ | Cullman PD & Red Cross | No Pets* |
| Dodge City Town Hall Basement | 130 Howard Circle | Unknown | Town of Dodge City | No Pets* |
| Dodge City VFD Station #2 | 7150 County Rd 223 | 96+ | Dodge City VFD | No Pets* |
| Fairview Housing Authority | 96 Countryside Acres Rd | 90+ | Always Open | No Pets* |
| Garden City Town Hall | 501 1st Ave SW | 450+ | Town of Garden City | No Pets* |
| Vinemont Providence VFD Station #1 (2 Units) | 576 Co Rd 1355 | 192+ | VPVFD | No Pets* |
| Town of South Vinemont VP VFD Station #2 2 Units | 60 Ridgeway St Vinemont | 192+ | VPVFD | No Pets* |
| City of Good Hope City Hall Basement | 134 Municipal Dr | 75+ | Always open | No Pets* Basement Only |
| City of Good Hope (next to Municipal Park) | 301 Municipal Dr | 96+ | City of Good Hope | No Pets* |
| City of Good Hope | 301 Day Gap Rd | 96+ | City of Good Hope | No Pets* |
| Town of West Point (adjacent to Town Hall) | 3990 Co Rd 1141 | 96+ | Town of West Point | No Pets* |
| Gold Ridge (next to Fire Station) | 5225 Co Rd 1545 | 96+ | Gold Ridge VFD | No Pets* |
| Cullman Senior Center | 1539 Sportsman Lake Rd NW Cullman | 89+ | Senior Center | No Pets* |
| Crane Hill Senior Center (next to Fire Station #1) | 15095 Co Rd 222 Crane Hill | 48+ | Crane Hill VFD | No Pets* |
| Colony Senior Center | 12980 AL Hwy 91 Hanceville | 48+ | Senior Center | No Pets* |
| Brushy Pond Senior Center | 2729 Co Rd 143 Bremen | 48+ | Senior Center | No Pets* |
| Hanceville Senior Center | 1500 Spruce St SE Hanceville | 48+ | Senior Center | No Pets* |
| Smith Lake Park | 416 Co Rd 385 | 96+ | Co Park & Rec | No Pets* |

*****Cullman Co Courthouse Basement is NO LONGER to be designated as a community shelter**

*****Recommended that those seeking a storm shelter in the City of Cullman use the Community Shelter on Sportsman Lake Rd across from the Cullman Co Fairgrounds or the Beech Center basement (American Red Cross Office) located at 1803 Beech Ave SE Cullman 1 block south of the Cullman County Detention Center.**

*** Only service animals for the disabled allowed in shelter. No household pets allowed in shelter for reasons of safety and liability. No smoking. No alcohol. No drugs. No firearms or weapons.**

# State Bicentennial Commission meets in Cullman ahead of March 3 kick-off

**Loretta Gillespie**
Tribune Correspondent

**CULLMAN** – The State Bicentennial Commission meeting took place in Cullman on Feb. 24, at the Cullman County Museum. Bicentennial Chairman, Sen. Arthur Orr, R-Decatur and Vice-Chairman and State Director of Alabama Tourism, Lee Sentell were on hand for the meeting.

Rep. Mike Ball, R-Madison and Bicentennial State Director Jay Lamar were present to offer inspiration and answer any questions about the events on tap for the three-year-long celebration.

Members of the Cullman Committee sat in to share their plans and as a special treat, the famous All-Steak orange rolls were served after a scrumptious lunch, catered by Sweet Peppers Deli.

Everyone is cordially invited to the Bicentennial Kick-Off Ceremony, Friday March 3 at 2 p.m. at the Old Rail Road Depot, located just behind the Museum on the corner of First Avenue and Arnold Street.

The formal announcement of Cullman's participation in the Bicentennial celebration will be announced at that time.

March 3, 2017 is the 200th anniversary of Alabama becoming a territory and beginning its journey to statehood on December 14, 1819.

Serving as Master of Ceremonies for the event will be "John Cullmann" (aka Larry Rowlette) along with Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs and Cullman County Commission Chairman Kenneth Walker, who will be making brief remarks.

Also, entertaining the crowd will be the Cullman Police Department Honor Guard, who will present the colors.

Sharing the stage will be the Wallace State Jazz Band, under the direction of Ricky Burks, and vocalist Hannah Crider, accompanied by fifth graders from West Elementary, who will all be decked out in red bicentennial T-shirts to perform the Alabama state song.

Immediately following the ceremony, everyone will be served refreshments, including a special Bicentennial cake with distinctive, new Alabama 200 logo.

The event is free to the public all are welcome.

For more information, or to volunteer for various Bicentennial committees, contact Cullman County Bicentennial Chairman Drew Green at dgreen@cullmanal.gov.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Bicentennial or if you or a group or club you are involved in is interested in participating or has a project you would like to propose, contact Drew Green at the Cullman County Museum, 256-739-1258 or dgreen@cullmanal.gov.

# Special day for diabetic children this Saturday

**Heather Mann**
Tribune Correspondent

**CULLMAN** – The Cullman Community Lions Club will hold their annual Family Fun Day for Diabetic Children this Saturday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. This year's theme is "Horsing Around with Camp Seale Harris," and the event will take place at Hope Horses, Inc.

Activities will include games, diabetes education, a short horse ride and grooming the horses.

Entrance is free for all children living with diabetes and their families, and people are advised to bring their own lawn chairs as seating is not provided.

Those interested in attending should register in advance by Wednesday, March 1 by contacting John Latimer at 205-402-0415 or john@campsealeharris.org.

For those unable to register in advance, onsite registration is at 9 a.m.

Hope Horses, Inc. is located at 1301 Convent Road NE, Cullman.

For more information about the event, contact Patty Miller, Cullman Community Lions Club, 256-734-0131.

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# Cullman City Council awards $407,812 contract to rebuild Larkwood Road, to begin in April

## City accepts grants to build Health Technology Center, receives notice of dangerous weather

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – Reconstruction of Larkwood Road should begin in mid-April, according to the Cullman City Council, who met for a regularly-scheduled meeting Monday evening. A section of the road was undermined and severely damaged in the Christmas flood of 2015, and has been closed since that time.

After review by the City and CDG Engineers, the council awarded the construction contract to the low bidder, Wiregrass Construction, in the amount of $407, 812.

The project will be funded by a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant (FEMA Project 4251-DR-AL), and City Clerk Wesley Moore pointed out that the bid amount came in under the original budget.

According to information from the Department of Streets, the project should begin in mid-April, and will be completed within 45 days.

**Cullman Health Technology Center**

The council voted to accept a $100,000 Community Block Development Grant and a $300,000 Appalachian Regional Commission grant to fund site preparation and the construction of the Cullman Health Technology Center. Upon completion, the facility will be occupied by Sequence Health, a company specializing in medical data management and other aspects related to medical information technology.

**Weather alerts**

At the request of Public Safety Committee Chairman Andy Page, Cullman City Police Chief Kenny Culpepper brought a report from a briefing by the Cullman County Emergency Management Agency earlier in the day.

Culpepper stated, "The early prediction is 60 mile-an-hour straight line winds possible Wednesday between noon and 2 p.m., with a possibility of some tornadoes."

The chief noted that the chances of tornadoes are considered small, but that the incoming storm will bring substantial rain.

**Other council business**

**The council voted unanimously to accept the following requests (from the agenda):**

**1.** A request from Marsha Franks of the Oktoberfest Board for a special event permit to hold the 2017 Cullman Oktoberfest in the Special Events Area from Oct. 4, 2017 until Oct. 8, 2017.

**2.** A request from Culpepper to purchase from the state bid list a 2017 Ford Explorer for the Cullman Police Department in the budgeted amount of $30,184.

**3.** A request from Water Superintendent Chris Freeman to purchase from the city bid list three double cab trucks from Mitch Smith Chevrolet in the budgeted amount of $88,924.50.

**4.** A request from Water Superintendent Chris Freeman to purchase from the city bid list three single cab trucks from Eckenrod Ford in the budgeted amount of $79,713.

**5.** A request from Information Technology Director Daniel Hunt to purchase AV equipment for the auditorium/courtroom (city hall auditorium) in the budgeted amount of $13,500.

**The council voted unanimously to accept the following resolutions and ordinances, except where noted (from the agenda, including those items mentioned above):**

**1.** To accept a $100,000 CDBG grant and a $300,000 ARC grant to implement site improvements and construction of the Cullman Health Technology Center which will be occupied by Sequence Health.

**2.** To enter into a contract with Community Consultants, Incorporated to perform project administrative services for the CDBG and ARC grants.

**3.** To award the bid for the reconstruction of Larkwood Road to the lowest responsible bidder, Wiregrass Construction, Inc., in the budgeted amount of $407,812.

**4.** To enter into a professional services agreement with CDG Engineers and Associates, Inc. to develop, plan and design a downtown sidewalk improvement plan on First Avenue.

**5.** To enter into a professional services contract with TTL, Inc. for testing at Industrial Park V in the budgeted amount of $15,750.

**6.** To enter into a services contract with Fabre Painting, LLC to repaint the caboose in Depot Park in the budgeted amount of $9,800.

**7.** See below

**8.** See below

**9.** To rescind and repeal Ordinance No. 2014 – 12 based on the recommendation of the city attorney. Ordinance 2014-12 annexed a parcel of land into Cullman. The owner of the property, however, did not wish for that property to be annexed; the previous owner had requested annexation, but had sold the property before annexation took place. The council was not informed of the sale, and the new owner was not informed of the annexation request.

**10.** Board appointments: no appointments were presented.

**11.** To change the council's Mar. 13 meeting date to Mar. 20, due to predicted absences on the 13th.

**12.** To set a public hearing on Mar. 27 for an Amendment 772 project. Amendment 772 to the Alabama Constitution allows counties and municipalities to buy, sell or lease property and equipment for the purpose of economic or industrial development; and also, to grant public funds to private entities or issue bonds for the same purpose. The exact nature of this particular project was not presented.

The seventh resolution before the council, "To authorize the mayor to purchase the property adjacent to Depot Park and the City of Cullman Police Station for public and/or municipal purposes," was passed by unanimous vote of all participating council members, with Councilman John Cook abstaining.

The eighth resolution, "To appropriate funds for Camp Meadowbrook," was tabled for further discussion, without any discussion taking place at this meeting.

The next Cullman City Council meeting will take place on Monday, Mar. 20 in the auditorium at Cullman City Hall.

The public is invited to attend.

# Colony council signs off on Smith Lake evacuation plan, prepares for storm spotter class

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

**COLONY** – Colony welcomed Director Phyllis Little of the Cullman County Emergency Management Agency (CEMA), and officially signed off on the agency's emergency evacuation plan for Smith Lake Dam (Lewis Smith Dam) at Tuesday night's council meeting.

Should the dam fail, Colony is an area of the county that will see significant flooding.

Little said, "For the past year my office has been working with other emergency response agencies in the area to develop a better evacuation plan, in the event of a catastrophic failure of the Lewis Smith Dam.

"That is a possibility, but not a very high probability. I was asked (at another local meeting) if it had anything to do with the dam that was failing out in Oroville, California; it did not. We started on this a long time ago.

"We feel like we've got a good plan in place. The fire departments in the area helped out on this and worked with us. Between them, my office and the Revenue Commissioner's Office that helped us identify properties that would be in a high flood zone, we feel like we've got something good in place that we can work with."

With Colony's acceptance of the plan, Little will meet next with Good Hope, Hanceville and Dodge City.

(See: http://www.cullmansense.com/articles/2017/02/23/cullman-county-ema-issues-new-emergency-plan-smith-lake-dam)

Colony is also making final preparations to host a National Weather Service Storm Spotter class on Thursday, Mar. 2 at 6 p.m. at the community center.

(See: http://www.cullmansense.com/articles/2017/02/15/colony-host-national-weather-service-storm-spotter-class)

The council also heard from Kim Searcy, representing the Girl Scouts. She requested council input on the possibility of starting a Girl Scout troop in Colony. She noted that the closest troop is located in Good Hope, and that many Colony area girls have no way of getting there for meetings. Searcy hopes to locate the new troop at the library or community center.

Mayor Donnis Leeth agreed that having a troop in Colony would be a good idea, but the council took no action, choosing to wait on more information about the level of interest among girls and families in the area.

**In other council business:**

• Councilwoman Jamelle Dimbo shared that the town's budget and procedure manual are both complete and ready for review by the finance committee.

• Councilman Julian Fields reported that two stop signs need to be replaced on Wooley Road.

• Councilman Curtis Johnson reported that he is still attempting to get toilets installed at the community center, and may seek another plumber since he has had trouble reaching the present plumber.

• Councilwoman Myra Twitty reported that PALS meetings have been moved to 8 a.m. on the third Thursday of every month, instead of Wednesday. She also stated that the town's scheduled cleanup day is Apr. 22 with an if-needed rain makeup day on the 29th.

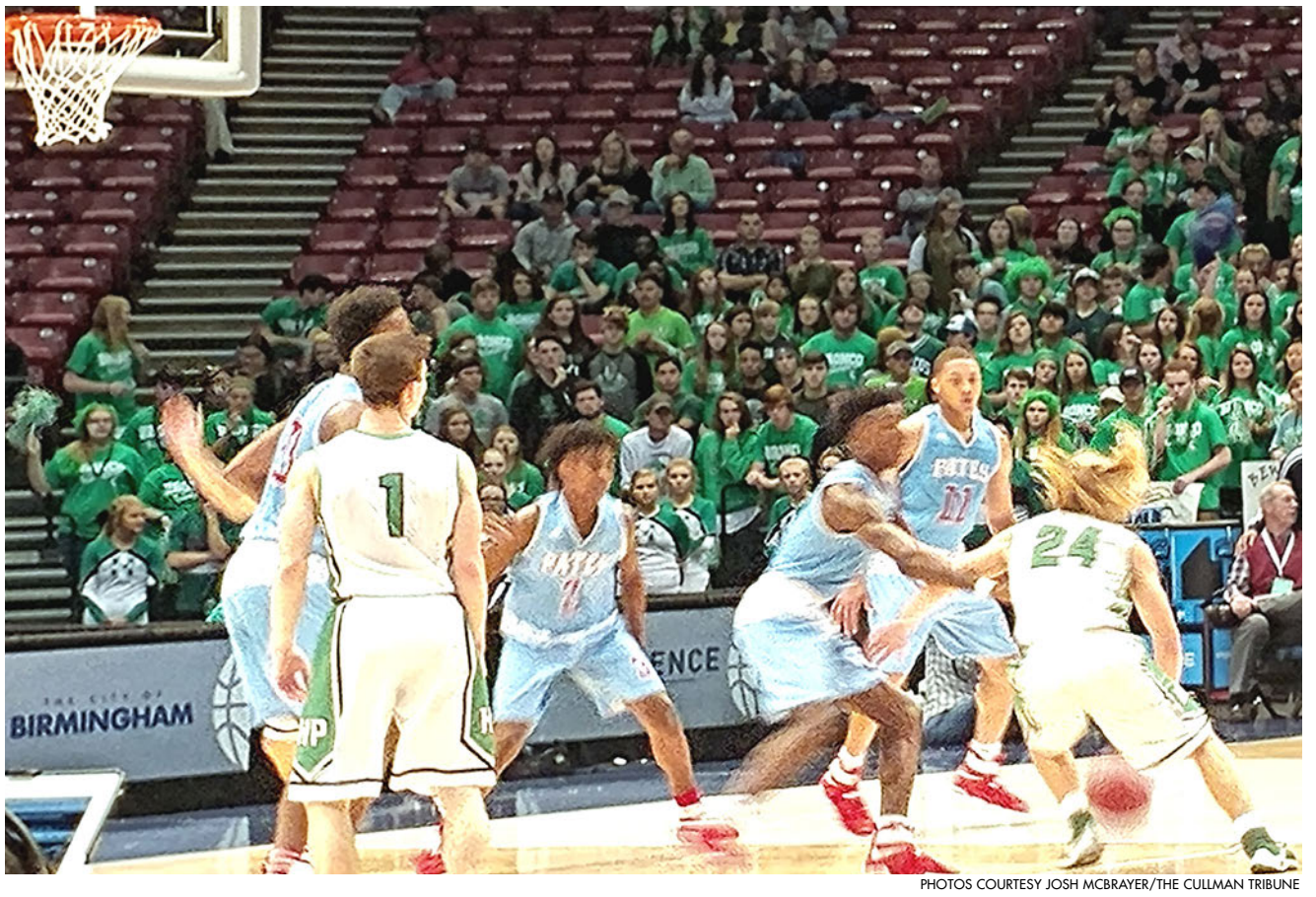
• The council passed a resolution to purchase new flag poles for the town hall.

• A motion to consider purchasing a sponsorship of the Ms. Senior Cullman County Pageant was tabled until more information could be gathered by Town Clerk Patricia Ponder.

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

EARL'S BODY SHOP
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734-2406





PHOTOS COURTESY JOSH MCBRAYER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

### 3A STATE SEMIFINALS

# Broncos leave it all on the floor

## *Fall to Midfield 86-78*

**Josh McBrayer**
josh@cullmansense.com

**BIRMINGHAM** – Holly Pond left it all on the floor at the Legacy Arena Tuesday morning as they took on the Midfield Patriots in the 3A State Semifinals, with the Patriots emerging victorious, 86-78.

Midfield opened the game with a basket by Kalon Williams and followed with points in the paint by Keenan Isaac to take a 4-0 led.

Not a team to be intimidated, or outdone, Holly Pond came roaring back with baskets by Matt Cahoon and Drew Jones to tie the score at 4-4.

The two squads traded points on the next two trips before Cahoon converted an and one to give the Broncos their first lead of the game, 9-6.

Jones added to the lead with a short jumper, giving Holly Pond a five-point lead, but it was short-lived. Midfield went on a tear at the end of the quarter, going on a 13-2 run to end the first up 19-13.

Thanks to a quick five points from Shy Cunningham, the Patriots continued their run to start the second.

Cahoon broke the scoreless drought for the Broncos when he hit a layup and was fouled.

Pats coach Darrell Barber was then hit with a technical for being on the floor arguing the call.

This gave the Broncos the spark they needed, riding the momentum for the next three minutes to pull to within one of the Patriots.

However, for the second quarter in a row, Midfield ended the quarter on a run, this one 9-2, to take a 42-32 lead to the half.

The Patriots extended their lead to open the third, putting the Broncos in a 15-point hole, but the green and white were not done yet.

Late in the third, Andrew Shaw and Jones found the range from downtown, igniting a 9-0 run that got the Broncos to within six. Midfield countered with five unanswered points to end the quarter up 64-52.

Jones stayed hot in the final frame, cutting the Midfield lead to single digits with a three to start the fourth.

Midfield's Woods responded with a pair of free throws to push the lead to 11.

From there the Patriots went on a 9-3 run to stay firmly in front as they looked to put the game away, but Holly Pond was not going anywhere.

Dawson Foust, Cahoon and Smith combined for a trifecta of threes to get the Broncos as close as seven. Throughout the contest, it seemed that any time the Broncos had the momentum, a whistle would slow down the action, and the fourth was no different.

Forced to foul, the Broncos had to put the Patriots on the line where they held their lead and advanced to the 3A State Championship by the final score of 86-78.

Midfield will play Friday at 2:15 p.m. versus the winner of Plainview and Hillcrest-Evergreen.

Drew Jones finished the game with 19, Dawson Foust dropped in 13, Matt Cahoon and Garrett McKinley each had 12. Andrew Shaw scored nine, Bailey Smith had eight, Caleb Jones three and Michael Lambert added two.

The Broncos end their season 33-2 and with three titles: area, county and region.



**Congratulations To The Holly Pond Varsity Boys Basketball Team!**

**2017 REGIONAL CHAMPS!** *Best Wishes In State Playoffs!*

*Sheriff Matt Gentry*



*"Remember to NEVER Drink and Drive" and "Do Not Text and Drive"*
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**CONGRATULATIONS!**
**Holly Pond Varsity Boys Basketball Team 2017 Regional Champs!**

*Best Wishes In The State Playoffs!*

**Jet-Pep, Inc.**

P.O. Box 143, Holly Pond, AL 35083-0143
**256-796-2237** *President: Robert G. Norris*

**CONGRATULATIONS!**
*Holly Pond Varsity Boys Basketball!*
**2017 REGIONAL CHAMPS!**
*Best Wishes In The State Playoffs!*

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**The Town Of Holly Pond**

Mayor – Bill Oliver
Council Members – Gladys Wisener, Paul Brown, Lou Thomas, Michelle Bell, Karla Hart
Town Clerk – Linda Pope

***Congratulates The Holly Pond Varsity Boys Basketball Team!***
Best Wishes In The State Playoffs!

**GO BRONCOS!**

**2017 REGIONAL CHAMPS!**

# Alabama employers among Freedom Award semifinalists

## Cullman's Topre America Corp. part of group

**Jim Billings**
Contributor

**MONTGOMERY** – Three Alabama employers are among 148 semifinalists for the 2017 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. They were selected from 3,064 nominations submitted by Guardsmen and Reservists.

**The three employers are:**

• Team TSI, Albertville (small business)

• Topre America Corp., Cullman (large business)

• Phenix City Board of Education (public sector)

"We are so proud of these employers and grateful for the support they provide to the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve," said Dr. William Kringel, chairman of the Alabama Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

The Freedom Award began in 1996 by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to draw attention to support from the employer community.

To date, only 235 employers have received the award. More than 17,000 nominations have been received since 2011.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency, seeks to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees with ESGR as the principal advocate within DoD.

ESGR does this by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws and resolving conflict between employers and service members.

Paramount to Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.

# Cullman Animal Control searching for missing horse

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmansense.com

**CRANE HILL** – Capt. Tim McKoy and the Cullman County Animal Control Office (CCAC) are looking for a horse that is missing and presumed stolen from the Crane Hill/Guthery's Crossroads area.

On Feb. 9, Terry Turney reported a female horse named "Doll" stolen from her pasture on County Road 222.

The incident took place one week after a 7-year old horse was shot and killed by an unknown perpetrator in the same pasture on Feb. 2.

In a Facebook post, Turney described her horse, "She has got white winter coat and a bad scar on her left rear knee... She is 28 years old and her name is Doll... She sweet and genial.. Please don't hurt her she won't hurt you."

Anyone who sees the horse or who may have relevant information is asked to contact CCAC at 256-734-5448, or the Cullman County Sheriff's Office at 256-734-0342.

McKoy noted that another horse was also recently reported stolen on County Road 565 near Hanceville, but was found earlier this week.

That animal was in a pasture, and was found deceased, appearing to have been in poor health.

Foul play is not suspected, and the case was closed.

The two missing animal cases were unrelated.

Horse thefts are unusual in Cullman County. According to McKoy, an average of only two to three such thefts occur in the area annually.

To be prepared for such an event, though, he advised, "I highly recommend that people identify their animals by branding, or by ear tagging or tattooing; doing something to put a mark on that animal that shows that it belongs to them.

"You can get similar animals that look alike, and you can't identify them because they are similar."



CAREY LANSFORD

# Commission on Aging aims to improve quality of life for area seniors

**Loretta Gillespie**
Tribune Correspondent

**CULLMAN** – When Dusty Baker accepted the position as director of the Cullman County Commission on Aging two years ago, he had no idea how much there was to learn. However, he quickly caught on, and quickly instituted a total evaluation of the existing programs, while exploring new ways to assist Cullman County's senior citizens.

"It has made us more efficient and better able to serve our clients," said Baker.

The biggest program, and the one which has proven most cost-effective for the seniors in Cullman County is the Medicare Part D program which starts Oct. 15 and runs through Dec. 7. "In this program, we do comparison studies, for instance, we can put in a client's prescription and the computer spits out the top plans," said Baker.

"It benefits the clients and has resulted in a savings of over $1.2 million for them. Some more than others."

The Senior Prescription Program is another that's been a great help to the clients who come to the centers.

"We work with pharmaceutical companies, using trial medications, which might not be what they are taking at home," Baker explained. The program has saved the commission's clients an impressive $820,000.

Baker is happy to have saved the clients some money. "I just hope they spend it on something they enjoy instead of spending it on medications," he said emphatically. "They've paid their dues, worked hard, and deserve to enjoy life."

The senior nutritional program is another thing that the commission provides. Hot meals are served at the Cullman Senior Center, and are also delivered within a 5-mile radius of their location. "We have seven full-time seniors who are not able to get out any longer," Baker pointed out.

"In some cases, these drivers are the only person they will see all day long."

The meal deliveries not only provide nutrition to seniors, but they also provide an assurance check that all is well. The program, formerly Meals on Wheels, has served 62,500 meals to date.

Cullman County has seven full-time senior centers (and 10 part-time), serving approximately 250-300 clients on any given day. "We try to offer programs to all of them," said Baker. "Especially the ones who are alone."

Part of the commission's outreach is that the transportation is free, and there is never a charge for seniors using the centers.

Some programs are in the planning phases, but Baker is always looking for ways to change things and improve them for his clients. Planning is underway for the annual Senior Fishing Day, which is on April 28 this year, at 9 a.m., at the City of Hanceville Veterans' Park.

The Ms. Senior Cullman County pageant will be held at Wallace State on April 29. Several have already signed up. Visit the Commission on Aging/Cullman Senior Center at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road, NW or http://www.cullmancoa.com to learn more.

For a list of full-time senior centers, see: http://www.co.cullman.al.us/coa/assets/PDFs/FullTimeCenters.pdf.

For a list of part-time senior centers, see: http://www.co.cullman.al.us/coa/assets/PDFs/PartTimeCenters.pdf.



# News from the Pond

**Jimmie Dean Carnell**
Tribune Contributor



Good morning Tribune readers and families. Hope you have had a good week. The weather continues to be up and down. Warm on one day and cooler on the next one.

I have a great big congratulations again to the varsity boys' basketball team members and their coaching staff. For the first time in several years, they are playing in the state tourney being played this week in Birmingham.

Coach Mitch Morris and his team have really made a lasting impression on this community and county wide.

They defeated the team from Locust Fork High School last week to be regional champs. This is the first time I can remember that our team has won the county tournament, sub-regional and regional all in one season.

Drew Jones was tapped as Tournament Most Valuable Player. We are so proud of Drew, you cannot find a finer Christian young man. As I have mentioned before, several of the team attend our local church, along with the coach and his family.

Mr. Mitch Jones, Drew's father also is an assistant coach and attendee.

Mrs. Kathy Jones' family, Hershel and Joyce Patterson and Mitch Jones' family, Ronald and Judy Jones are also attendees.

They are all so proud of their team members, along with the Jones' family grandparents.

I wish them the best of luck in the up-coming state game and hope that no one gets hurt and each one plays to the best of their abilities.

I now need to extend my Christian sympathy to two families nearby. Mrs. Doris Engle Hendrix and Mrs. Agnes Hammock, who both attended the Center Point Baptist Church, were buried this past week.

Mrs. Doris was a long-time friend of mine. She was one of my first Avon customers and a special friend. Her Mother, Mrs. Audie Engle worked at the old Carl Woodard store and rode with me to Cullman many times to work.

Her father, the Reverend Ollie Engle was a noted preacher in the olden times. Mrs. Doris was married to the late Mr. Perry Hendrix.

They were the parents of a son, Jerry Hendrix and a daughter, Miss Jill Hendrix. Mrs. Doris took Jill many days to the Child Development Center, where she and Jill had many enjoyable days.

Her family also included Marsha and Mike Mabry and their son and daughter, Haley and Hunter Mabry.

They were all close friends of mine. Mrs. Agnes Hammock was very special to Mrs. Doris in long ago years during a knee operation. She stayed with Doris all through her healing time.

This week, I have three nieces having birthdays. These are Susan Marks (my new next-door neighbor), Candace Floyd (daughter of Julia and Walt Floyd) and De Floyd (who lives in the Washington DC area). Happy Birthday to these three lovely ladies.

Are you ready for the windy month of March? It's here, ready or not. Time is going by at a very fast clip. Daylight savings time will soon be here. Until next week, stay safe and warm.

# Tribune Files from Yesteryear

**From The Files Of 1939**

**Hanceville Happenings**

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Green, of Powatan and Mrs. G.W. Green, of Garden City, visited Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Green, on Wednesday.

Mrs. D.H. Veal, Mrs. Marvin Veal and Mr. and Mrs. Ad Veal and little daughter, Myrtis Jo, all of Birmingham, spent Friday with Miss Beulah Hamrick.

Earl Green, of Arley, visited Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Green, on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Gammond visited his brother, George Gammond, in Birmingham, on Friday.

Miss Beatrice Alexander spent the weekend at her home in Pell City.

Bryant Russian, of Greenville, was the weekend visitor of Miss Owen Dunn.

L.A. Kelton, of Nyota, spent the weekend at home.

Mrs. George T. Rowe and daughters, Misses Peggy and Betty George, spent the weekend with her parents in Tuscaloosa.

**From The Files Of 1906**

Corn is so scarce that a great many Georgia families, who arrived here last fall, have had trouble getting enough to meet their demand.

Miss Alice McNabb and Frank Hoefscher were married on Wednesday, at 9:00 a.m., at the Catholic Church. Miss Theresa Hoelscher was bridesmaid and George J. Beyer was best man.

J.E. Woolsey, of Cullman, made a speech at the third annual meeting of the State Horticultural Society meeting in Thorsby.

Miss Una C. Lane, a social favorite in Cullman and John Culbreath, of Warren, Arkansas were married here on Monday.

J.H. Mayes, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin has located in Cullman.

Guy Jones is now employed at Loveman, Joseph and Loeb, in Birmingham.

The Majestic Manufacturing Company of Saint Louis will have a man at C.A. Stiefelmeyer's all next week to demonstrate the baking of biscuits, with both top and bottom burner, in three minutes. Adv.

A.S. Sutton, of Walter, was in town on Thursday and bought a fine surrey.

Miss Florence Weatherford, of Athens, is visiting Miss Emma Adkins.

Miss Lucy Sells, of Thomasville, Georgia is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Owen McKoy.

Miss Sarah Parker returned to Cincinnati, Ohio, on Friday.

She is studying at the Conservatory of Music there.

**From The Files Of 1936**

Mr. and Mrs. Houston Lovelace are parents of a son, born on Tuesday, whom they have named Douglass Saint John.

Death came this week to J.C. Norwood, 68, who for the past 22 years has been editor of The Cullman Tribune.

The old J. Mackentepe Store, on the corner of Highway 31 and Third Street West is being torn down and a modern filling station will be built there.

The Mackentepe Store has already been moved to the new building next door.

**BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF**

# Uncle Alonzo's quick ride in our Buick

**Bill King**
Tribune Contributor



I was about ten years old when my dad brought home Ethel. From the first moment I laid eyes on her I was smitten, head over heels in love. Ethel was a slightly used 1962 Buick Electra 225. Some people nicknamed them a deuce and a quarter. She was the prettiest, fanciest, best equipped vehicle I had ever seen. I'm not saying she was the best in the world. I am saying she was the best in my world and even more so the best in the world of my Uncle Alonzo and his boys.

Ethel's paint color was Camelot Rose. I had never seen a car that color, but Dad quickly informed me that her color was not pink. Ethel was fully equipped with all of the latest bells and whistles.

Under the hood she had a giant Wildcat 445 engine and a turbine drive, two-speed automatic transmission. The things that fascinated me most about Ethel were found in her interior. This was slightly before the days of hang down eight-track tape players in cars and long before cassette and CD players. Ethel did come with an AM/FM radio.

It didn't really matter that she had an FM radio because we didn't have any FM stations, but I still liked to show my buddies that she had a FM radio.

Periodically I checked to see if any FM stations had popped up without my knowing it. They never had but I checked anyway to be sure. Ethel also had power steering and power brakes.

That didn't matter much to me since I wasn't old enough to drive, but I got many hours of enjoyment out of her electric windows and powered seat.

I almost wore those windows out rolling them up and down. I moved that seat back and forth, up and down, until Dad would finally come out and say, "You're going to run down my battery."

Not long after Ethel arrived, my Uncle Alonzo and his boys came to visit. They had seen cars before, but I felt quite certain they had never seen one like Ethel. For the longest time the only transportation they had was an old Mule that they plowed with, named Bartholomule. Later on Uncle Alonzo bought an old International Farmall tractor.

I can still see him driving that tractor across his corn field, but still hollering gee and haw! Shortly before Dad bought Ethel, Uncle Alonzo had bought a 1949 Chevrolet pickup truck. It was straight shift with what we called three on the tree.

He had never driven anything that had an automatic transmission. Dad asked him if he would like to take Ethel for a spin. He quickly answered, "Oh no, I wouldn't know how to drive a high powered machine like that, but I wouldn't mind sitting behind the wheel." He put his foot on the brake pedal and said, "Look at this boys. This thing has the clutch and the brake all in one pedal!"

I thought Uncle Lonzo might enjoy a ride in the electric seat. When I reached down and pushed the button that seat moved and so did Uncle Alonzo. He shot out of that car like a housecat with a string of firecrackers under him. He finally rode in Ethel, but he never sat under the steering wheel again.

Sometimes we are frightened by that which we do not understand. In some form, the Bible says, "Do not be afraid," 365 times. That's one time for each day of the year. Trust in God, coupled with a little education, can help us conquer our fears.

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

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For information on how to register email:

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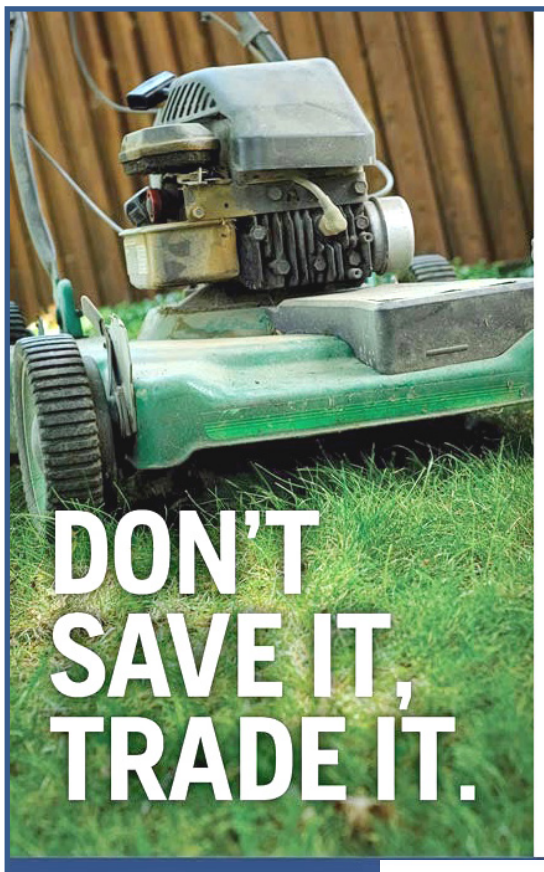
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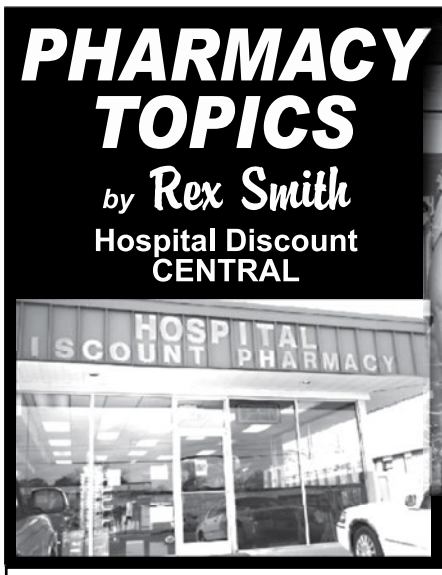
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# PHARMACY TOPICS

by Rex Smith
Hospital Discount CENTRAL






Pictured L-R: Vanessa Patton, Becky Cook, Becky Burks and Rex Smith, RPh

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved Nuplazid (pimavanserin) tablets, the first drug approved to treat hallucinations and delusions experienced by some people with Parkinson's disease. Hallucinations or delusions can occur in as many as 50 percent of patients with Parkinson's disease at some time during the course of their illness. People who experience them see or hear things that are not there (hallucinations) and/or have false beliefs (delusions). The hallucinations an delusions experienced with Parkinson's disease are serious symptoms and can lead to thinking and emotions that are so impaired that the people experiencing them may not relate to loved ones well or take appropriate care of themselves. An estimated 50,000 Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson's disease each year, according to the National Institutes of Health; about one million Americans have the condition. The neurological disorder typically occurs in people over age 60, when cells in the brain that produce a chemical called dopamine become impaired or die. Dopamine helps transmit signals between the areas of the brain that produce smooth, purposeful movement – like eating, writing and shaving. Early symptoms of the disease are subtle and occur gradually. In some people Parkinson's disease progresses more quickly than in others. As the disease progresses, the shaking, or tremor, which affects the majority of people with Parkinson's disease, may begin to interfere with daily activities. Other symptoms may include depression and other emotional changes; hallucinations and delusions; difficulty in swallowing, chewing and speaking; urinary problems or constipation; skin problems and sleep disruptions.

***

A new systematic review of randomized clinical trials lasting 12 to 52 weeks published in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* found that when added to metformin, gliclazide confers the lowest risk of hypoglycemia compared with glipizide, glimepiride and glibenclamide.

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# Cullman Christian seeks success in first softball season

**Sammy Confer**
Tribune Correspondent

**CULLMAN** – Any team starting their first season in a new sport will have some challenges and some hurdles to jump over, but they cannot wait to prove themselves. That is the case for Cullman Christian School, whose 2017 softball season is the first for the program. The inaugural CCS softball season began Feb. 20.

Cullman Christian head coach Lauren Wynn is looking for a successful first season and admitted to the process being a little difficult, but says this is a big opportunity for her team to really step up and shine on the field.

"Fielding a new softball team is stressful and exciting," Wynn said. "I am eager to get out on the field and see what abilities each girl has. I am sure there are plenty of areas that we need to improve and work on, even with the girls who have played before. I am confident that with myself and my additional coaches we will be able to instill the softball fundamentals that are needed to get a program up and running. We have also had outside support and help which has been an unbelievable blessing."

Wynn has seen the girls' attitudes with starting the new softball program, and she likes the way they have responded.

She added, "I believe my team will respond well with starting this new softball program. The girls are eager and excited about having this new opportunity. We have multiple girls who have played the sport before. I am confident that with their understanding and playing ability, they will have a huge influence on the other players. Allowing these girls to become leaders on and off the field is important to me."

Wynn is looking for senior Hope Ledbetter and junior Gracie Bryan to step up and become the leaders of this team.

What does Wynn hope to see from her team in their first year? Pretty much what any coach wants in their first season.

"I hope to see an improvement in each players' fundamentals, growth in their confidence in themselves and their abilities, team growth and respect for each other, and most importantly, I hope to see a fire and love for the game."

**CCS Softball Roster:**
- Hope Ledbetter (senior)
- Gracie Bryan (junior)
- Jazmin Barrett (junior)
- Maddie Hooks (junior)
- Aubri Whitney (junior)
- Klowy Barrett (sophomore)
- Anna Mason (sophomore)
- Lacey Watts (sophomore)
- Raina Henderson (freshman)
- Irelyn Henderson (seventh grade)
- Jayla Cumberland (seventh grade)

**Head Coach:** Lauren Wynn

**Assistant Coaches:** Tenneill Manning and Christie Foust

**Team Manager:** Maggie Holloway



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# Woodmen of the World donates flags to CHS athletics

**Andrew Cryer**
Tribune Correspondent

**CULLMAN** – Local WoodmenLife (Woodmen of the World) chapter leaders, with the assistance of representative Ken Bates, recently donated two United States flags to two Cullman High School sports programs.

The school's baseball and soccer fields were both in dire need of a new flag. Bates said, "Our nation's emblem should be taken very seriously by knowing how to honor, display, carry and fold the flag. We must make sure to always show a true appreciation for those that have sacrificed so much for our country."

Cullman High School staff was very appreciative of the donation.

According to Philip Del Robertson, the Alabama-North community outreach manager for WoodmenLife, one staff member was quoted as saying, "It was especially gratifying to have someone share with our student athletes the values and reasons for respecting the American flag."

WoodmenLife chapters carry out several roles in local communities.

These programs include conducting fraternal, civic, patriotic and social projects of benefit to communities in which they reside.

Other projects include the presentation civic awards, equipment to volunteer fire departments, rescue squads, homes for senior citizens, the handicapped and orphans.

One of the most popular programs is the presentation of American flags. Since the beginning of WoodmenLife's patriotic program in 1923, WoodmenLife chapters have provided more than 3.2 million flags to churches, schools, libraries, youth organizations, parks, playgrounds, civic centers and other nonprofit institutions.





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# Shelter (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – The Cullman County Animal Shelter takes in a wide variety of animals, from kittens and tiny lap dogs to livestock. But what happens then?

The shelter has 33 kennels, plus a small outdoor pen for livestock. It takes in an average of around 2,300-2,500 animals per year, mostly dogs. Of those, roughly half are what Animal Control deems adoptable: they are not sick, injured, aggressive or feral. Of the approximately 1,200 adoptable animals, up to 40 percent will get adopted or claimed (in the case of lost pets).

That is fewer than 500, and Animal Control records show that the number of adopted strays and claimed lost animals is often between 300 and 400.

This means that around 2,000 animals per year, up to 900 of them adoptable, are put down annually at the shelter.

The number sounds horrific, and conjures up frightening images of what might be lurking behind the shelter's doors. There are no monsters. There are people faced with an overwhelming and often unpleasant task.

They are happy when their efforts have a positive outcome, but they are realistic about the odds.

The Tribune visited the shelter, met some of the staff, and talked with Animal Control Director Capt. Tim McKoy and Sgt. Chris Westmoreland.

**What they have to do**

The shelter staff and Animal Control would like to see lots of happy animals leave the shelter with delighted owners, but the odds are against many of them. It's all about the numbers: 33 kennels, 200 animals per month.

The majority of animals entering the shelter will die there. The staff is realistic about it, but no one seems to like it.

McKoy explained, "The shelter staff, they really work hard to get as many animals adopted and claimed, and to the rescue groups as possible. They're very diligent in doing that. But it's just a matter of numbers, ultimately.

"It's certainly not the shelter staff's fault. It's irresponsible owners who are at fault, for allowing animals to range freely, be bred or have a litter of puppies unwanted. That's where the problem lies."

Animals may be picked up by Animal Control, or citizens who live in Cullman County can drop them off, as long as the animal is not sick, pregnant or aggressive.

Westmoreland was careful to point out that dropping an animal off does not cost anything, and that dropping off at the shelter might be preferable to letting an unwanted animal become a nuisance.

Westmoreland stated, "We say that to keep people from taking it down to the creek and dropping it off. There's other options."

**What they want to do**

When stray animals are brought in, the shelter staff is required to hold them for seven days, to see if an owner will come looking.

"That's ultimately the goal," said McKoy, "to get these animals back to their owners. There's not as many stray animals as people would think. A large percentage of them are owned; they just got lost."

The shelter maintains a Facebook page, where people can view photos of recently acquired animals, to see if their lost pet is among them.

For people whose animals have not been found, or those who have picked up an animal, pictures and notices can be posted online, and a bulletin board in the shelter office has been set aside for lost and found posters.

After seven days, the animals become county property.

Then they can be put up for adoption.

The Animal Control and shelter staff want to see animals get adopted and leave the shelter happy and healthy.

McKoy shared, "We've got a very aggressive adoption program, which helps a lot. We get a lot of animals going out.

"We work with a lot of the groups like the Cullman Area Animal Welfare Association (CAAWA) and rescue groups, and they pull from the shelter. And we have a high number of claimed animals; that helps as well.

"We work with a lot of different rescue groups, and a lot of these animals go up north. They go up north where they have such strict laws (to protect animals), that's why they're getting all these animals from the south. And that's a great thing: we've got them, and they're adopting them. That's real good."

Through online sources like Facebook, the staff has seen adoptions from as far away as New England.

McKoy explained what happens when someone finds their dream pet at the shelter:

"They come and they look, they choose an animal and they adopt it. They do the paperwork here. The next morning, that animal goes to the vet of their choice, where it's altered, vaccinated, they get 45-day free pet insurance, and it's microchipped."

So far, 2017 is looking like a better than average year.

The shelter is able to boast a year-to-date adoption rate of 51 percent among adoptable animals. It may not seem high, but it's moving in the right direction.

To see animals currently available for adoption at the Cullman Animal Shelter, see awos.petfinder.com/shelters/cullmananimalshelter.html, www.facebook.com/cullmancountyanimalshelter, or www.cullmananimalcontrol.us.

Or, drop by the shelter at 935 Convent Road in Cullman, 9 a.m.- 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Reach them by phone at 256-734-5448.



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IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF

**CONNER ALAN GOFF**

A MINOR CHILD. DOB: **04-25-2005**

**NOTICE OF PETITION OF ADOPTION TO BE PUBLISHED**

**TO: Any Alleged, Purported Father, known or unknown person, who might be the biological father of Conner Alan Goff.**

YOU MUST ANSWER THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION FILED BY DENNIS ALAN GOFF & CINDY RAE GOFF WHICH WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA ON THE 2ND DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2017, 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, SUITE 101, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055.

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.

DONE THIS 10th DAY OF February, 2017.

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

Attorney for Petitioner:
Melvin Hasting
407 2nd Avenue S.W.
P.O. Box 517
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0517
256-736-2230

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STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2016-298

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ROBERT LEE HAGA, DECEASED.

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Robert Carson Haga on the 15th day of February, 2017, 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.

Robert Carson Haga, Personal Representative

To the publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

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

**CATHERINE S. LEDFORD,**
Plaintiff

Vs. Case Number: **DR-2016-000355.00**

**HAL ROSS LEDFORD,**
Defendant

**NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION**

Hal Ross Ledford, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Catherine S. Ledford's Complaint for Divorce by April 17, 2017 or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-DR-2016-000355.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 15th day of February, 2017.

Lisa McSwain,
Clerk of Circuit Court

PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY:
RANDY A. HAMES
427 2nd AV SW
CULLMAN, AL 35055

---

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2017- 036

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF WESLEY OWEN WEEKS, DECEASED.

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Donna Jo Oden and Wesley Owen Weeks Jr. on the 21st day of February, 2017, 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.

Donna Jo Oden and Wesley Owen Weeks Jr., Joint Personal Representatives

To the publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Sherry H. Barrett
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorney for Personal Representatives
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Telephone: (256) 734-4721

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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, March 13, 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:** Johnny Albright
vs.
Terry Wright
6231 Alabama Hwy 69 North
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 Terry Wright, property, described as follows:

*The West half of the Southwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of section 30, Township 9, Range 1 West, containing 20 acres, more or less, LESS & EXCEPT THAT PORTION HERETOFORE SOLD TO CARLTON JACOBS.*

***Also less and except the following:***

*A part of the West half of the Southwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of Section 30, Township 9, Range 1 West, being more particularly described as follows:*

*Beginning at the Southwest corner of said twenty acre tract; thence north a distance of 300 feet to the right of way of the Chumbley Road; thence continue north a distance of 480 feet to the point of beginning of the lands herein conveyed; thence continue north a distance of 510 feet; thence east along the north line of the twenty to the east line of the twenty; thence south a distance of 350 feet, more or less, to the northeast corner of the Carlton Jacobs property; thence west a distance of 315 feet to a point; thence south 149 feet to a point thence west a distance of 335 feet to the point of beginning, containing 6 ½ acres, more or less. Also, an easement 20 feet wide on the west side of the twenty ACRE TRACT, LEADING NORTH from Chumbley Road to the point of beginning of the property hereinabove conveyed.*

***Also less and except the following:***

*A part of the West half of the Southwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of Section 30, Township 9, Range 1 West, being more particularly described as follows:*

*Beginning at the Southwest corner of said twenty acre tract; thence east ALONG THE South line of said twenty a distance of 660 feet; thence north a distance of 250 feet to the Chumbley Road; thence west along Chumbley Road to the west line of the twenty acre tract to a point which point is 300 feet north of the point of beginning; thence south along the west line of the twenty acre tract a distance of 300 feet to the point of beginning, subject to a twenty foot wide easement on the west side of the twenty acre tract, leading north from the southwest corner of the twenty acre tract to the Chumbley Road. Containing herein five (5) acres, more or less.*

*Source of title: Deed Book 524, Page 009 (Fiche 70, Frame D2) 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 Terry Wright, in and to the above-described property on the date listed above, subject to all prior encumbrances of record.

Dated this the 6th day of February, 2017.

BY: Matt Gentry
Sheriff Matt Gentry

# CLASSIFIEDS

## AUCTIONS

**TWO HEAVY** Equipment Auctions - Number 1 - Saturday, Mar 18th, 9:30 AM. 279 Crescent Road, Blairsville, GA 30512; CAT, Komatsu, John Deere & Kubota, Trucks, Trailers, and more. Number 2 - Friday, March 24, 9:30 152 Godley Road, Port Wentworth (Savannah) 30147; New JCB Loader Backhoes, Rollers, Skid Steer Loaders, Diesel Engines & replacement parts. 1-678-673-9194. www.joeymartinauctioneers.com. GA2627.

## SERVICES

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# Weekly online news recap, Feb. 23-Mar. 1

## 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.***

**Cullman County Detention Center inmate dies; no foul play suspected**

**CULLMAN** – An inmate at the Cullman County Detention Center has died. According to a media release from the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, inmate Cody Dwayne Strickland, 26, of Cullman, was taken to Cullman Regional early Sunday morning after being treated and evaluated for an illness. He was pronounced dead at the hospital a few hours later.

**8 arrested for drug offenses in separate incidents Friday**

**CULLMAN COUNTY** – Agents with the Cullman Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET) and investigators with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) on Friday arrested eight individuals for various drug charges in two separate incidents. After a tip from a local resident, CNET agents visited Countryside Acres in Fairview where drug activity was believed to be occurring. Agents searched a residence where five suspects were discovered 2 grams of methamphetamine, two Hydrocodone pills and a suboxone strip.

**Crowds enjoy this year's Lions Club Fish & Ham Dinner**

**CULLMAN** – On Saturday, the Cullman Lions Club and Lioness Club put on their annual fundraising fish and ham dinner at Cullman Middle School's cafeteria. Diners could eat onsite or take out; drive-thru service was even available. Lions prepared the dinners, while the Lioness Club brought in more than 150 homemade cakes for dessert.

**Etha Baptist hosts BBQ to raise mission funds**

**CULLMAN** – Members of the Etha Baptist Church on Friday held the first of what they hope will be an annual barbecue fundraiser to raise money for their yearly mission trips. This year, the church will be going to Masaya, Nicaragua and will require $5,000 to purchase construction materials. The church will be sending 20 members on the trip; in addition to the 20 mission members, five college-aged members will be interning in Nicaragua.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

**Fired up for a cause: Cullman EMS 2017 Chili Cook-off**

CULLMAN – It was a busy day at Cullman Emergency Medical Services on Second Avenue downtown Saturday, but not for the normal reasons. On this Saturday, firefighters, emergency medical responders and law enforcement officers from all over Cullman County gathered at Cullman EMS for their second annual charity chili cook-off. The day provided an opportunity for the community to meet the emergency personnel who serve them every day, and to raise money for a worthy cause.

**Colony gathers to celebrate Black History Month, town**

**COLONY** – Citizens of Colony and others gathered in the town's Educational Complex Friday night, packing its auditorium to celebrate Black History Month, and to celebrate Colony's own history as a community. The event slogan was "Stepping from Our Past into Our Future."

**City of Hanceville moved forward with ACE accreditation**

**HANCEVILLE** – The City of Hanceville is moving forward with its plan to pursue accreditation as an Alabama Community of Excellence (ACE). If its application is accepted, the city will begin a three-phase project geared toward developing community programs and tools for long-term economic success.

# Agriplex (from Front)

"We can expand it to history, reading, art, music; so, they can have the outdoor classroom as part of their overall experience."

The Agriplex has just installed new aluminum-walled raised beds on its own grounds (replacing deteriorating all-wood beds, and is installing trellises between them for climbing plants.

In the back of the building is a mini indoor greenhouse full of seedlings that will be planted in the next few weeks. It won't be long before folks can come and see corn, beans, cucumbers, peppers, herbs, tomatoes, eggplants and squash.

The garden will feature native plants grown from seeds supplied by local farms, and emphasis is given to heirloom and heritage varieties of plants.

This year, the garden will also feature historically southern crops, including several varieties (and even colors) of cotton, mulberry bushes, indigo, sorghum, cane and possibly even tobacco (just for show, not for sampling).

**Upcoming Agriplex events for the spring season**

**For children ages 3-4**

• March 10 – Weather: learning about wind, rain, clouds and the morning dew

• April 7 – Cottontails: learning about bunnies

• May 12 – Flowers: learning about why plants make them, and what they do in the garden

**For children 5 and up**

• March 4 – Tractor Time: learning about what tractors do and how they help farmers. Kids will even get to try out a tractor!

• April 1 – Playing in the Band: recycling everyday objects into imaginative musical instruments

• May 6 – Busy Buzz: learning about the bee, and how important he is to us

**For homeschoolers**

• March 23 – Whole Food Cooking: learning what whole foods are, and preparing delicious treats. Students will help cook a meal.

• April 27 – Nature Notebooks: taking a hike and recording what you find

• May 25 – Flowers: learning about the importance of native wildflowers

**For adults**

• March 9 – Companion Planting: interplanting different plants to enhance plant growth and protection from pests

• March 16 – Survival Skills: surviving on your own in the woods

• April 4 – Organic Gardening: fertilizing and pest control without the need for synthetic products

• April 11 – Pysanky Eggs: a traditional Ukrainian egg-dyeing art for Easter

• May 16 – Growing and Harvesting Sorghum: learning the value of sorghum and sugar cane

• May 18 – Strawberry Jam: making fresh strawberry jam (everybody gets some to take home)

For more information about Agriplex programs, visit www.agriplex.org, www.facebook.com/NorthAlabamaAgriplex or call 256-297-1044. The Agriplex is located at 1714 Tally Ho St. in Cullman, at the entrance to Peinhardt Farm.

# Micropolitan (from Front)

– a capital investment of more than $1 million, building construction of more than 20,000 square feet or creation of 20 new jobs.

Cullman Economic Development Agency (CEDA) Director Peggy Smith said, "This is an outstanding recognition for our community and the industrial base here."

Site Selection is a recognized leader in the economic development field and Smith says their lofty ranking of Cullman validates the tremendous industrial growth here.

"We ranked third in the nation in 2014 and improved to second in 2015," Smith said. "I am excited that we closed the gap on Findlay and I am optimistic that we can be number one because of the strength of the workforce here and the quality of the industries in our community. It is disappointing in some respects to be second, but there are 573 other communities envious of this Cullman ranking that would gladly trade places with Cullman to move up on this list. We are the no. 1 micropolitan in the South."

Smith says the CEDA staff did an excellent job of collecting the data and submitting documentation on the qualifying projects.

"The Site Selection team verifies the submittal, but it all starts with our agency presenting those facts for the judges. I want to acknowledge the efforts of our office team. However, the real winners are the new and expanding industry that continue to create jobs and invest capital here. We are so appreciative of their role in the economic stability of this community," Smith said.

# OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS: FEB. 21 - 28

**Graveside service for Doris Engle Hendrix**, age 85 of Holly Pond, held February 22 at Center Point Baptist Church Cemetery; Kenneth Little officiated. Mrs. Hendrix passed away on Tuesday, February 21 at her residence. She was born in Cullman Co., Ala. to W.O. and Audie Stidham Engle. She was a church member of Center Point Baptist Church and a loving mother and granny. Mrs. Hendrix is preceded in death by her parents and husband, Perry Hendrix. Survivors include her son, Jerry Hendrix; granddaughter, Marsha (Mike) Mabrey; and great grandchildren, Haley and Hunter Mabrey.

**Kenneth Ray Evans**, age 69 of Blountsville, passed away February 23 at Woodland Village Healthcare. He was born April 12, 1947 in Stevenson, Alabama. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Evans was preceded in death by his parents, Lucas and Leah Rice Evans; two brothers, Kyle Evans and David Evans; and a sister, Ann Young. Survivors include his wife, Betty Young Evans; four children, Kathy Barnes, Lynda Cervantes, Kenneth Evans, Jr. and Michelle Evans; sixteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. No service information is scheduled at this time.

**Leon Martin Smith**, 74, passed away February 24. Service information is unavailable at this time. Arrangements under the direction of Moss Service Funeral Home.

**Funeral service for Dovie Wisner**, 84 of Cullman, held February 24 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel; interment in Missionary Grove Cemetery. Bro. Greg Alldridge officiated. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Wisner passed away February 21. She was born November 9, 1932 to Herman W & Bee Blackwood Smith. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Murlin Wisner; four brothers and one sister. Survivors include her son, Steve (Michelle) Wisner; brother, Tillroe (Joann) Smith; sisters, Shirley Kilgo, Loretta (Mansel) Garrett, Cathy (Ernest) Williams; grandson, Eathan Wisner; a host of family and friends.

**Mrs. Rozella Humphries** passed away February 22 at the age of 94. Graveside service will be held February 24 at Good Hope Cemetery. Moss Service Funeral Home directed.

**Rayburn "Ray" Lewis Mather**, 54 of Houston, entered into rest on Tuesday, February 21 at Grandview Medical Center in Birmingham. Mr. Mather was born on May 25, 1962 in Russellville. In 2010, Ray surrendered his life for Christ and became a member of Houston Congregational Church. He served as an usher, sign ministry, and Sunday School teacher. He attended Phil Campbell High School and was a former longtime member of Sons of American Legion. Ray loved cars and was known as "Ray" or "Ray-Ray" by family and friends. Funeral Service held February 24 at Houston Congregation Church; Brother Bobby Smith officiated. Burial in adjoining cemetery. Ray is survived by his wife of 8 years, Lisa Mather; sons, Bryan Mather, Stephen Mather, Bobby Gilliland, Trevor Lee, Justin Mather; mother, Gladys Mather; step mother, Brenda Mather; brothers, Roy Mather, Tom (Serena) Mather, Billy (Michelle) Mather, Phillip (Ashley) Mather; sisters, Jan Place, Regina Richie, Lori (Cliff) Creeman, Tammy (Jeff) Hutcheson, Rhonda (Ernest) Presley, Tina (Santwon) Odom; and mother of Bryan and family friend, Paula (Billy) Ergle. He was "Grandpa" to 2 grandchildren, Oliver Mather, and Madison Mather. He was preceded in death by his father, Tom Mather; paternal grandparents, Paul and Annie May McMahon; and maternal grandparents, Jack and Ruby Nichols.

**Donald Roger Clay**, 81, passed away peacefully at home in Cullman on February 21. He was born April 20, 1935, in Cullman County and was one of 12 children born to Kiah Lincoln and Eleanor Ferguson Clay. Donald was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Eleanor Richardson Clay; brothers, K.L. Clay, Charles Clay, James Clay and Billy Clay; and sisters, Margaret Clay Pittman, Rose Clay Lott and Joan "Judy" Clay Harbison. Surviving Donald is his wife of over 15 years, Wanda Walker Clay; sisters Jacqueline Clay Willoughby, Deloris Clay Crider and Linda Clay Crider; stepchildren, Alan Walker, Tim Walker and Terry Walker; stepgrandchildren and stepgreat-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends. For many years Donald taught at the Cullman Vocation School as a welding instructor. He was a longtime member of Cullman First Church of the Nazarene. Donald especially enjoyed meeting for coffee for many years at the All Steak with friends to discuss politics and Alabama football. In 2001, Donald married Wanda Walker Clay and moved to Baileyton. Together they were active in the Baileyton United Methodist Church, which ministered to them throughout Donald illness. Donald enjoyed participating in the activities at the Baileyton Senior Center. He was a very gregarious person who loved life, always striking up conversations with strangers and friends alike. Donald was available any time for playing Rook with his many friends. He will be especially missed by his 12-year-old Shih Tzu, Princess. The family would like to extend special gratitude to the staff of North Alabama Hospice and especially caregivers, Heath Privett and Brenda Harden. Funeral services for Donald Roger Clay held February 24 at the funeral home; Debra Moon officiated. Interment in Walker Memory Cemetery, Jasper.

**Sarah Lorene Howell**, 85 of Double Springs, entered into rest on February 22 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. Mrs. Howell was born on May 25, 1931 in Double Springs. Sarah was a member of Addison Church of God. She loved spending time with her family, planting flowers, enjoyed being outside, reading her Bible, needle work, and world traveler. Funeral service held on February 24 at Nichols Funeral Home in Addison. Pastor Rodney Ridgeway officiated. Burial in Fairview Cemetery in Double Springs. Sarah is survived by her loving husband of 66 years, J.T. Howell; son, J.T. (Susan) Howell Jr.; daughters, Lisa (Dan) Linehan, Melanie (Danny) Hayes, Kim (Rick) Blankenship; and brother, Joe Maze. She was "Maw Maw" to 6 grandchildren, Chris Howell, Kevin Howell, Walt Hayes, Blake Linehan, Hunter Blankenship, Timber Blankenship; and 3 great grandchildren, Slade Howell, William Hayes, and Cooper Hayes. She was preceded in death by her sons, Rudy Howell, infant Gregory Howell; parents, Lonnie and Junie Maze; sisters, Lorea Pruitt, Loette Henderon, Logeane Maze, and infants Pearl and Effie Maze.

**Funeral service for Mancel McSwain**, age 88 of Cullman, held February 25 at Cullman Heritage Chapel; Larry Duke officiated; interment in Cullman Heritage Cemetery. Cullman Heritage in charge of arrangements. Mr. McSwain passed away February 22 at Woodland Village Healthcare. He was born February 3, 1929 in Cullman to the late Auther and Lula Emma Garner McSwain. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Billie Ruth McSwain; two brothers and five sisters. Survivors include his wife, Betty Skinner McSwain; daughters, Beverly (Michael) Carden, Sheila Skinner and Renee Willingham; sons, Steve M. (Brenda) McSwain and Keith (Sonja) McSwain; thirteen grandchildren and thirty-three great-grandchildren; and a host of family and friends.

**Funeral service for Douglas K. Reese**, 84 of Hanceville, held February 25 at Hanceville Funeral Home; with interment with military honors in Hopewell Cemetery. Mr. Reese died on Wednesday. He retired as Master Sergeant in the US Air Force and served during the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jessie Reese Sr. and Minnie Chambers Reese Bradley; his wife, Mary Frances Stricklin Reese; great granddaughter, Hailey Caidence Reese; three brothers and two sisters. He is survived by his son, Donald (Lisa) Reese; daughter, Vicki (Alan) Lewis; sister, Peggy Yates; grandchildren, Dewayne (Yvonne) Reese, Michael (Rebecca) Reese, Chris (Sarah) Reese and Belinda Lewis; great grandchildren, Alexis, Alenna, Isabella, Adam, J.R. and JonLuke Reese.

**Funeral service for William Radginal "Buck" Buckelew**, 82 of Cullman, held February 25 at Bethsadia Baptist Church with Revs. James Abbott and Glen Williams officiated. Burial will be in the adjoining cemetery with Masonic honors. Moss Service Funeral Home directing. Buck was born in Cullman Co. July 5, 1934 to Gilbert Virgil and Zettie Schultz Buckelew. He died February 21 at his residence with family and friends present. He is preceded in death by his parents, son; Greg Buckelew, brother; Virgil Lee Buckelew. Buck is survived by his wife of 63 years; Javottee Y. Buckelew, children; Willette (Wayne) Bagwell, Susan Buckelew, Timothy (Beverly) Buckelew, Regina Buckelew (Steve) Below, LeAnne (Tim) Persall, Karen (Tim) Jones, sisters; Weda (Travis) Nails, Ann (Lee) Vickers, 21 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren. Buck was a long distance trucker, veteran of the Korean conflict with the U.S Air Force. Buck traveled to give his personal testimony of salvation through the placing of a Gideon New Testament extensively through the years. In lieu of flowers please consider the Gideon Bible plan that God's work will continue.

**Ronald "Ronnie" Manuel Putman**, 70 of Crane Hill, entered into rest on February 21 at his residence surrounded by his loving family. Ronnie was born on November 17, 1946 in Oneonta, Alabama. He was a graduate of Hueytown High School in 1965. Ronnie served in the United States Air Force for four years with a tour of duty in Vietnam. He retired from CSX with 41 years. He was a devoted church member of Addison First Baptist Church for seven years. He enjoyed umpiring for softball and will be greatly missed by all. Funeral service held February 25 at Addison First Baptist Church. Brother Kenneth Sudduth and Brother Mark Kimbrell officiated. Burial in Antioch Methodist Church Cemetery in Oneonta, Alabama. Ronnie is survived by his loving wife of 32 years, Veronika Putman of Oberammergau, Germany; daughters, Jo Anne (George) Martinez, Dixie (Raymond) Daves; mother, Edma Brannon Putman; brother, Jerome Putman; sister, Lillian Haines, Barbara (Eddie) Houts, Pam Putman; 5 grandchildren, Art Daves, Katie Quave, Julia Daves, Erica Martinez, Nicole Martinez; and 2 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father, Hershel Putman; and nephews, Phillip Johnson, and Keith Houts.

**Agnes M. Hammock** of the Holly Pond community departed this life for heaven February 22. Agnes passed away at the Cullman Regional Medical Center after a long illness with Lukemia. Funeral service for Mrs. Hammock held February 25 at Moss Funeral Home in Cullman; Pastor Ron Woodward officiated. Agnes was born in Jefferson county, Alabama March 5, 1935 to James Monroe and Missouri McCombs Lowery. Agnes was preceded in death by her parents, husband Willis Adron Hammock, three sisters and four brothers. Survivors include a sister, Flora Dunn of Birmingham, Alabama, a brother, John Lowery of Cullman, Alabama and a host of nieces and nephews. Mrs. Hammock was retired from Meadowcraft Corporation where she worked as a welder manufacturing patio furniture. Agnes attended Center Point Baptist Church near Holly Pond. Agnes loved the Lord God and was a Christian example to those around her.

**Funeral service for Betty Jean Fairbanks**, 79, of Cullman, held February 26 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Mt. Pleasant Baptist Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Fairbanks passed away February 24. She was born March 4, 1937 to Charlie Lee & Minnie Godbee Stallings. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Clifton Stallings, Alton Stallings, infant brother, Elton Stallings; sister, Joyce Stallings Horton and her husband, Horace Horton. Survivors include her husband of almost 62 years, George Fairbanks, Sr.; sons, Kenneth Charles Fairbanks, George Henry Fairbanks and daughter-in-law, Jennifer; four grandchildren and a host of great grandchildren, family and friends.

**James M. Speeker, Jr., M.D.**, quietly passed away February 22 at Hanceville Nursing Home. He was 71. Jim is survived by his wife of 44 years, Donna Speeker; daughters Beth (Chandler) Cruit, M.D. and Virginia Strickland, M.D.; brother, Lane (Rachel) Friedman, M.D., and five grandchildren: CJ, Amelia and Adelle Cruit, and Charlotte and Bennett Strickland. Dr. Speeker was born in Birmingham, AL, where he graduated from the old Shades Mountain High School. He joined the US Air Force in the late 1960s where he was trained as an x-ray technologist and served in South Carolina, Texas, and Taiwan, Republic of China. A graduate of the University of Arkansas, where he met his wife, Dr. Speeker worked as a forensic chemist for the State of Arkansas before being admitted to the University of Alabama School of Medicine. He graduated in 1981, and practiced family medicine in both Jefferson and Cullman Counties. He loved his grandchildren's visits, enjoyed reading, snow skiing, golf, and bicycling, but was confined to home in recent years. Dr. Speeker was pre-deceased by his mother Betty Friedman of Birmingham, father James Malcolm Speeker, and step-father Louis L. Friedman, M.D. Funeral service held February 25 at Hanceville Funeral Chapel. Interment will be at a later date at the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo.

**Odie Hayes**, 97 of Addison, entered into rest on Wednesday, February 22 at his residence surrounded by his loving family. Mr. Hayes was born on January 28, 1920 in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. His faith and membership was Church of God for 73 years. Odie enjoyed hunting and loved fishing, fishing, and more fishing. Funeral service held on February 25 at Addison Church of God. Pastor Rodney Ridgeway and Grandson Steton Hayes officiated. Burial in the adjoining cemetery. Odie is survived by his loving wife for 2 years, Wanda Smith Hayes; sons, Stevie (Ladonna) Hayes, Tyler Hayes; daughters, Sandra (Larry) Bishop, Ladonna (Leonard) Stallings; sister, Eula Jean (Bobby) Parris; and a host of nieces and nephews. He was "Paw Paw" to 11 grandchildren, Shane, Tracy, LaShay, Rodney, Marlo, Corey, Cherish, Jesse, Steton, Spencer, and Sheena; and 16 great grandchildren, Lacey, Eric, Deidra, Katie, Cayden, Kason, Mallory, Alena, Kelsie, Karley, Kurtis, Steton, Cole, Seth, Josie, and Jackson; and 6 great-great grandchildren, Brooklyn, Hadyn, Briley, Henly, Amos, and Ezra. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mauvelene Hayes; son, Phillip Hayes; granddaughter, April Hayes; parents, Jesse and Savanna Hayes; brothers, Osie Hayes, Uyles Hayes; sisters, Marie Sewell, Ruby McCrary, Thelma Jarrett, and Sybil Campbell.

**Amber Leigh Gilliland**, age 41 of Cullman, passed away on February 23 at her residence. There will be a Memorial visitation February 26 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Ms. Gilliland was born January 17, 1976 in Cullman. She is preceded in death by her mother, Shelaine Aldridge Gilliland and a grandfather, Raymond Aldridge. Survivors include her daughters, Lexie Gilliland and Molly Gilliland; a son, Jakeb Gilliland; two sisters, Tyler (Marcus) McLemore and Alex (Dustin) Gray; a brother, Bubba (Tonya) Gilliland; a grandmother, Thelma Aldridge; an aunt, Shirley Aldridge; and special friend, Kenneth Depotty.

**Funeral service for Bobby Joe Gamble**, 84 of Garden City, held February 26 at Hanceville Funeral Home; interment with military honors at Garden City Cemetery. Mr. Gamble passed away February 22. He was a member of the US Army during the Korean Conflict and received the Purple Heart medal. He was an avid University of Alabama fan and enjoyed hunting. He was a dedicated husband to his wife, Mary Ella for 62 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Vester and Pernie Reid Gamble. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ella Gamble; son, Andy Gamble; daughter, Valerie (Max) Duke and brothers, Larry Gamble and Allen Gamble.

**Funeral service for Eugene Dixie Lindsey**, age 75 of Cullman, held February 26 at Cullman Heritage Chapel; Perry Knight officiated. Interment in Good Hope Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Lindsey passed away February 24 at his home. He was born September 5, 1941 in Cullman. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Verna Harper Lindsey; and two brothers, Loyd Lindsey and Jerry Lindsey. Survivors include his wife, Doris Rhodes Lindsey; a daughter, Regina Lindsey; a son, Rodney Lindsey; and grandchildren, Braxton Holcomb, Kayley Lindsey, Canaan Jones, Colton Lindsey, John Steele Jones and Callahan Lindsey; god-children, Alicia (Reetus) Young, Stephanie (Nathan) Brown and Justin Ray; and five sisters, Laura (Gene) Hudson, Julia Hand, Nell Bowling, Janet (Leonard) Jackson and Margaret (Jerry) Olson.

**Beatrice Irene Miller Burford**, 102 of Haleyville, entered into rest on February 24 at home surrounded by her loved ones. Mrs. Burford was born on January 14, 1915, in Haleyville, Alabama. Beatrice graduated from Haleyville High School in 1933. She enjoyed and retired from a career in nursing. Beatrice was a member of Haleyville First Baptist Church for 70 plus years and held the title there of being the oldest member. Funeral service held Sunday, February 26 at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville. Brother Nathan Carroll will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillcrest Cemetery, Haleyville. Beatrice is survived by her son, Howard Burford and his wife Mari; daughters, Susan Beck and her husband James, Nancy Mize; grandchildren, James Jr., Daniel, Martha, Nick, Elizabeth, Evan, Jacob, Elijah and 13 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Howard Burford; parents, William and Luzena Miller; brother, Lee Miller and sister Ester Miller.

**Pauline Harbison**, 88 of Cullman, passed away February 24. She was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin D. Harbison, parents: Ernest D. & Nina B. Hensley Chaffin; son David Earl Harbison. Mrs. Harbison is survived by her daughter, Tanina Gay Baker; sister, Kathy Campbell (Gerald); brother Earl Chaffin (Ozell); grandsons: Trey Gay & Robbie Gay (Kathy); great granddaughter: Bree Gay; nieces and nephews: Ross Campbell (Teresa) & Donna, Ernie (Sue) & Lori of the Chaffin family. The celebration of Mrs. Harbison's life was held February 26 at Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel. Burial in Cullman City Cemetery.

**Funeral service for Illa Ann Mewbourn** held February 28 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with the Larry Graham officiating. Interment will be in Emeus Cemetery. Mrs. Illa Ann Mewbourn, 68 of Arab, passed away February 25 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. Born, April 17, 1948 in Cullman she was the daughter of the late Fred McClendon and the late Ruth Gay McClendon. Surviving are son, Bobby Gene (Sonya) Mewbourn, Jr., daughters, Melonie (Brad) Sullivan, and Bethany (Jamie) Carpenter, grandchildren, Kayla Johnson, Kayla Sullivan, Keillian Carpenter, Noah Carpenter, Olivia Carpenter, Olivia Sullivan and Gage Carpenter, brother, Fred Walter McClendon, Jr., sister, Mary Sue Rainwater Parker. She is preceded in death by her husband, Bobby Gene Mewbourn and grandson, Joshua Kaleb Mewbourn.

**Funeral service for Duane Eddie Stancil**, 54 of Hanceville, March 1 at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel; interment in Hopewell Cemetery. Mr. Stancil died on Saturday. He was preceded in death by his parents, James Stancil and Hilda Sue Baker. He is survived by his children, Ashlee (Matt) Phillips, Tristian Stancil and Zoey Stancil; granddaughter, Fiona Bee Phillips; brothers, Tony Stancil, Frankie "Doodle" Stancil, Joe Baker and Wayne Baker; sister, Sabra Henry and aunt, Bonnie Sams.

**Funeral service for Donald Ray Chambers**, age 69 of Holly Pond, held March 1 at Holly Pond Funeral Home with Patrick Morton officiating. Interment following in Holly Pond Cemetery. Mr. Chambers passed away on February 27 in Cullman. He was born on December 3, 1947 to J. V. Chambers and Evelyn Andrews Chambers in Cullman. Mr. Chambers was retired from Pepsi after working in the service department for 35 years. He served in the First Infantry Division, better known as the Big Red One, during the Vietnam Era, of the United States Army as a radioman. Mr. Chambers is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Leon Chambers; and sister, Shelia Wooten. Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Rita Holcombe Chambers; daughters, Donnette (Wes) Rakestraw, Amanda (Damon) Barnett, and Jody (Mike) Murphy; 6 grandchildren; brother, Jackie (Sandra) Chambers; sister, Becky Tucker; sister-in-law, Linda Chambers; brother, Mike Chambers; and sister, Gail Repp. Pallbearers were Damon Barnett, Mike Murphy, Wes Rakestraw, Eric Johnson, Nathan Chambers, and Rodney Chambers. Holly Pond Funeral Home honored to serve the family.

**Funeral service for Alvin Willard Russell**, 75 of Hanceville, held March 2 at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel; with interment in Riverside Cemetery. Mr. Russell passed away February 26. He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter Richard and Louise Russell and a sister, Flora Mae. He is survived by his wife, Julia Edith Russell; sons, Scott (Kathy) Russell, Danny (Annette) Russell and Chris (Lisa) Russell; grandchildren, Emily Chapman, Christina (Keith) Dickie, Jamason Russell, Nicki (Blake) Ashley and Robert Powell and great grandson, Blake Dickie.

**Ethel May Moyer**, 93 of Cullman, passed away Monday, February 27. Funeral service held March 3 at Moss Funeral Home. The internment will follow at Prospect Cemetery. She was born on August 20, 1923, in Detroit, Michigan. She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry Charles and Ethel Mary Eckhout and one brother, Henry David Eckhout. She met the love of her life, Coyal V. Moyer, in 1950 while working together and they were married for 65 years. She is survived by her husband, Coyal Moyer; six children, Kathie (Stan) Miller, Glenn Moyer, Sharon (Bill) Rottier, Bruce Moyer, Janet (Max) Bartlett, Dale (Tracie) Moyer; nine grandchildren, Matthew Miller, Megen Miller, Christy Reynolds, Jamie Moyer, Joshua Rottier, Luke Rottier, Austin Moyer, Jessica Coleman, Jonathon Bartlett; five great-grandchildren, Christopher Moyer, Colby Reynolds, Burke Coleman, Hylan Coleman, Parker Moyer. A special thank you to Southern Care Hospice and nurses, Amanda Lee and Mindy Robinson, and capelin, Johnny Sims.


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# Parks (from Front)

and rec department for use in filming off the off-road events. "There is really no other way you can film these kind of events from the ground," he pointed out. "They are just too fast to cover from on foot, too bumpy for good video, and they cover too much territory, all of it rugged terrain." The drone will also be used for filming other events in the county's park system.

The county even has one park inside the city limits, Sportsman Lake Park, which serves both the city and county with recreational opportunities and events throughout the year.

On March 18, there will be a community-wide yard sale at Sportsman Lake Park, with 122 vendors signed up so far. This event brings in many visitors from outside the county, adding to the tourism quota and the tax dollars spent on gas, lodging and food. The county-operated, wheelchair accessible park also offers fishing, putt-putt golf, playground, hiking trails, picnic area, pavilions, paddle boats and a train. In addition, there are a multi-use paved trail and a 4.7-mi. mountain bike trail. The park is also home to the Veterans' Memorial Park, which has become a destination trip for people who have found there a place of meditative reflection on those who lost their lives for our freedom.

**Sportsman Lake Park**
1544 Sportsman Lake Road NW
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-3052

Also under the auspices of the Cullman County Parks and Rec umbrella, is one of Cullman's most well-known attractions, the Clarkson Covered Bridge, originally built in 1904. Once used regularly by farmers and travelers to cross Crooked Creek, the weatherworn, historically rich bridge is now closed to traffic, and serves as the centerpiece of a park built in period fashion to showcase the bridge and its historical significance.

The bridge was torn in half, in 1921, by a huge storm. One piece was left intact, the other swept downstream, but was soon salvaged. A year later, the project to repair the bridge with the salvaged material was completed.

On June 25, 1974, Clarkson Covered Bridge was named to the National Register of Historic Places. Shortly thereafter, in 1975, the Cullman County Commission restored the site with the help of concerned citizens as part of the American Bicentennial Project, adding hiking trails, a picnic area and two period structures built to accent the historical nature of the bridge, a dogtrot log cabin and a working grist mill.

Located just off U.S. Highway 278 in Bethel, Clarkson Covered Bridge is the site of numerous activities. Rental cabins are now available at the site, which has become a popular wedding venue. "This is an unusual focal point for a county or a private park," Davenport commented. "Guests from many different countries and states visit here.

"It really gives us (the park system employees) a sense of pride in our county when people come here to see it," he added. "The caretakers house was just converted into an activity house for rent; what used to be offices have been converted into guest cabins, and the water wheel has just been repaired," he said.

Also under that County Parks and Rec umbrella, is the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center. The Ag Center is the venue for many music events, sports competitions, farm exhibitions and family activities for north-central Alabama.

The Ag Center sees rodeos, barrel races, dog shows, bluegrass, rock, country, and gospel music events, racking, walking, and quarter horse shows and 4-H events. Motocross, outdoor exhibits, Boer goat shows and an R/C rally also make their rounds at the Ag Center. 'The remote-control race brings in people from as far away as Australia," said Davenport. "People come in campers, RVs and fly in from all over the world for this event."

The facility is also available to rent for company picnics and other events.

**Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center**
17465 U.S. Highway 31
Cullman, AL 35058
256-739-4959

"The county parks and rec has family-oriented fun for all ages," Davenport said, obviously proud of the way Cullman County includes recreation as well as business and industry in its well-rounded atmosphere. "We have wilderness, camping, water sports and much more."

These are just a sample of some of the great opportunities awaiting you in Cullman. Come and see what all the county and city have to offer you!

For more information on these and other great outdoor opportunities, and to check scheduling of events, visit www.cullmancountyparks.com

**Upcoming CCP&R events**

**Friday, March 10**
• Southern Rock Racing Series

**Saturday, March 11**
• Southern Rock Racing Series
• Night Ride

**Saturday, March 18**
• Sportsman Lake Park Yard Sale

**Saturday, March 25**
• Night Ride
• Smith Lake Park Yard Sale

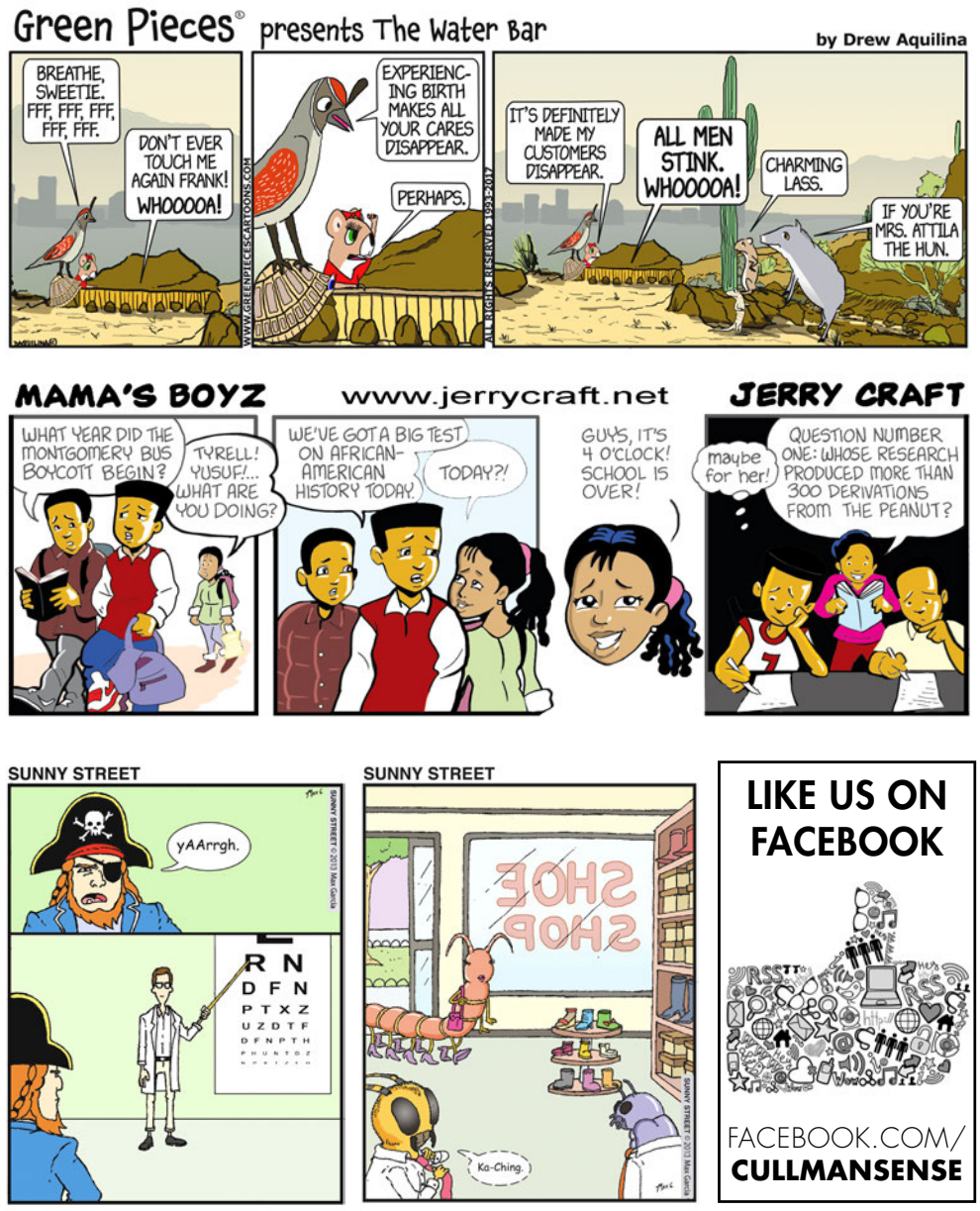
**Saturday, April 8**
• Night Ride

**Saturday, April 15**
• Sportsman Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 22**
• Night Ride
• Str8 Up SxS Hill Climb Competition




# Comics




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# This week in Cullman history

On Saturday, March 5, 1949, McMinn Motors- a local car company in Cullman- added a new line of DeSoto cars to its showroom. According to Noah McMinn, the new line took advantage of "the beauty of modern design without sacrificing a single feature of comfort, safety, or convenience."

**Compiled by Samantha Vest**




TRIBUNE HISTORICAL PHOTO

# Poet's Corner

## GOD'S GARDEN

God made a beatous garden
With lovely flowers strown,
But one straight, narrow pathway
That was not overgrown.
And to this beauteous garden
He brought mankind to live,
And said: 'To you, my children,
These lovely flowers I give.
Prune ye my vines and fig trees,
With care my flowerets tend,
But keep the pathway open
Your home is at the end.'
Then came another master,
Who did not love mankind,
And planted on the pathway
Gold flowers for them to find.
And mankind saw the bright flowers,
That, glitt'ring in the sun,
Quite hid the thorns of av'rice
That poison blood and bone;
And far off many wandered,
And when life's night came on,
They still were seeking gold flowers,
Lost, helpless and alone.
O, cease to heed the glamour
That blinds your foolish eyes,
Look upward to the glitter
Of stars in God's clear skies.
Their ways are pure and harmless
And will not lead astray,
Bid aid your erring footsteps
To keep the narrow way.
And when the sun shines brightly
Tend flowers that God has given
And keep the pathway open
That leads you on to heaven.

**By: Robert Frost 1874-1963**




# There but for fortune: A mother's story, Pt. 5

**Loretta Gillespie**
Tribune Correspondent

*This is the true story of heartache, physical, sexual and alcohol abuse, love, hate, financial burdens and finally, finding joy, happiness and hope.*

*We trust that you will understand why the names and some of the circumstances had to be changed to protect the privacy and safety of some of the people in this story. It contains information that is true, but the situations have been framed in slightly different circumstances, or alternative locations to protect the source of the story. In some cases, several people have been combined into one person or events gathered into one time frame for the same reason, to protect the source of the story, who still lives in Cullman County.*

*This could very well be happening right there in your neighborhood. It could be happening to one of your classmates, your co-workers or your neighbors. It could happen to you, as the song says, "There but for fortune, go you, or I."*

Having overcome so much in her life, Keri has no doubt that this situation can be dealt with, as well, but sometimes we all need a little help, and with children in this scenario, she knows that people offering to help are doing so out of kindness, not pity.

"People can overcome any obstacle if they know what the right path is to take," she wrote. The family has been able to make arrangements for a house that is big enough for all of them, but they still have to wait to move in until they can save up enough to pay for deposits and to turn on the utilities.

"We don't want to rely on handouts," she said firmly. "I want to pay for what we need, and I do appreciate the help that we have gotten. I don't want people to feel sorry for us," she said simply. "I want something better for myself and my family, and I don't mind working for it.

"The Lord helps me through it all. Of course I'm not perfect by any means but it's mistakes that make us who we are, we all make mistakes, but we can handle a little rough patch with His help," she said, her face lighting up.

"Prayer works, that is for sure, I know that myself, I love everyone and would do whatever I could to help any way I can even if it's giving them the shirt on my back or the last dollar I have because we are here on earth to help each other.

"We are here for a purpose. I used to wonder what that purpose was for so long but, I know now, my babies are my purpose for living; they are my reason for life and nothing will ever change that. I am here for my children and my husband, to care for them, and I'm not perfect but I am going to give it my all," she said emotionally. "I am here because of them; they are the reason I live."

They say that when it rains, it pours. In Keri's case, it came a monsoon...

"On top of everything else it's not been a good weekend but things are looking up; we got served an eviction notice, after they gave us two extra weeks on Friday. We have to be out by the end of the week. It was hand printed from a computer, then the words were written in; it was from the landlord, not from a sheriff; I'm not sure if that is the way it is supposed to be done or not.

"My truck started doing something weird. I thought the transmission was going out, it had no gears, when I mashed the gas it was like it was in neutral. I called my husband and he walked me through fixing it myself. I wound up being a mechanic for the day," she laughed.

"We will be just fine once we get on our feet," she affirmed.

The family is still in need of a good used refrigerator, washer and dryer. Keri's old dryer gave up the ghost just as this article was being written. If you would like to donate or sell these appliances, in good working order, please contact The Cullman Tribune.

***Next week:*** what the experts say about Keri's story, how to teach your child when to recognize inappropriate behavior and where to turn in case of suspected abuse

**Author's note:** Working with Keri on this series, I have been continually amazed by her positive outlook on life. It would seem that a person who has been through what she has survived would be cynical, hard and aloof. Instead, Keri is a gentle, caring person who loves to make others smile.

Keri describes her younger self as being very nervous around people. Now, she is a very different person.

"I meet everyone with a smile on my face," she said confidently. "You never know how many people are hurting and to see someone smile makes me happy. Smiles hide a lot... people may smile but they could be fighting a battle that we know nothing about. We only see them from our point of view, the outside, but the inside could be so broken, just waiting for healing. To see someone else smile makes me smile too, because smiling is contagious. You smile and usually someone smiles back."

One of the last things she said to me was, "I know now it wasn't my fault. I know that for sure, but I will carry it on me for the rest of my life. The anger and hatred are far beyond me now; I am here to be a blessing for someone and I know that in my heart. I'm a better person today because of those two people who took me in; they were there when I needed them the most," Keri said.

"They didn't even know me, really, they didn't know if I was a bad person, or if I was a thief, or a killer, yet they invited me in with open arms."

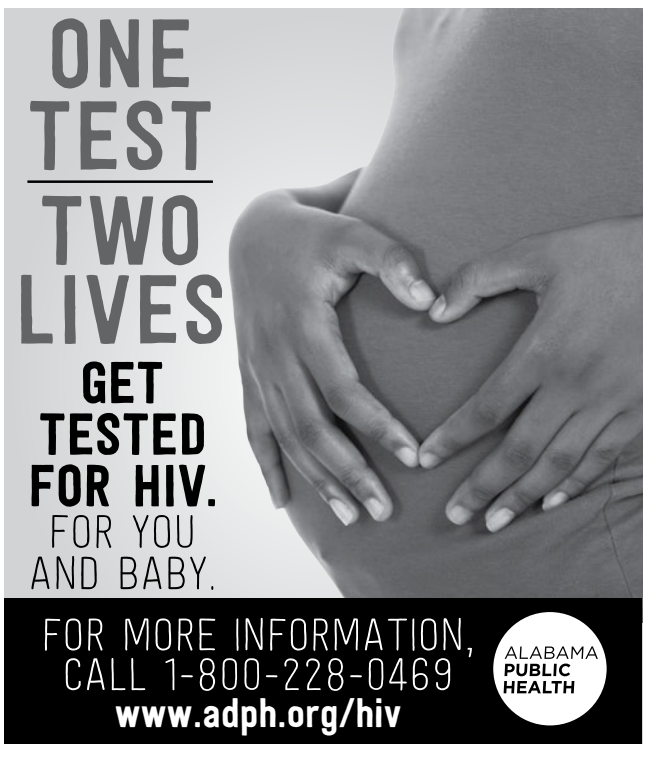
The one thing they couldn't do for her, she had to do for herself...come to terms with what happened to her. She is doing that right now.









# Meet Cheryl Parker, Cullman Christian School's new principal

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – Cheryl Parker retired a few years ago, after working as a teacher and counselor in the Morgan County public school system for 31 years. Most recently, she taught at Falkville Elementary School. Like so many retirees today, though, she might just be busier now than she was back then.

On Tuesday, Feb. 21, Parker was appointed interim principal of Cullman Christian School (CCS) when Rachael Howze left to take a full-time position at Wallace State Community College. She started last year as a part-time teacher in science and English, and was serving as the school's counselor this year when she was approached about the promotion.

An Arkansas native who spent her older youth in Texas, Parker graduated from Arkansas State University and earned her master's degree in education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She is married to Stephen Parker, an attorney with Regions Bank; the couple has two adult daughters.

CCS is in its 10th year of operation, an interdenominational institution located at Seventh Street Baptist Church since the loss of previous facilities during the 2011 tornado.

With less than four years remaining on its agreement with the church, CCS is engaged in a capital campaign to fund the construction of a new facility on Golf Course Road.

Parker spoke highly of the good relationship between CCS and Seventh Street, but noted that the close quarters often create inconveniences for both entities.

"We're so thankful that they let us be here," said Parker, "but we're also looking forward to having a place of our own."

The school is small by any standard, a Pre-K through 12th grade program with a 25-member staff and 130 students.

Parker considers the small size to be an advantage, in that students are able to receive far more attention from teachers than they would get in a larger school setting.

And, unlike some private schools, CCS boasts a faculty composed entirely of state-certified teachers. The academic outcomes are impressive.

"We have a 100 percent graduation rate," Parker boasted.

"We don't have anybody that drops out. All of those who have graduated have gone on to college. Last year's graduating class received over $700,000 in scholarships. Every student received some type of scholarship."

That number gets even bigger when you find out that last year's graduating class had only nine members. That averages out to over $75,000 in scholarship money per graduate.

All of last year's seniors scored higher than 25 on the ACT, and more than half exceeded 30. The school, though not currently accredited, is working toward that goal.

"That is something the board talked about at the last board meeting," Parker noted, "so it is being discussed; and we know that's something we're going to have to do. But all of our teachers are certified, and no college has ever refused to accept one of our graduates."

CCS has just created a new partnership with local homeschool groups to begin a co-op program which will allow homeschool students to take certain classes at the school, and will allow those students to participate in CCS sports.

CCS students who might enroll in the academic Fast Track program at Wallace State will be eligible for sports programs as well. The school currently has basketball, baseball and softball teams.

Parker is proud of her school, saying, "We have small classes, we have great teachers and we can offer more one-on-one instruction for the kids in a Christian environment, which is so important to me. A lot of people would like for their kids to go to a Christian school, especially in today's society. It's scary to me what some kids are facing, that they shouldn't have to face at young ages; in a Christian environment, they're not going to have to deal with that kind of stuff. I think that's something parents are looking for, and here they will see that difference."

Parker encourages interested families to call the school, arrange a tour and have their kids come and sit in for a day. Enrollment for the 2017-18 year begins this week. For more information, visit www.cullmanchristian.org or call 256-734-0734.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

**CCS Interim Principal Cheryl Parker**

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