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4th of July celebrations planned across the county



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN COUNTY – Each year when the 4th of July rolls around, families and neighborhoods have get-togethers and barbecues to celebrate the holiday. Below is a roundup of Independence Day festivities to enjoy with the community.

Saturday, July 1: Smith Lake Park Fireworks and Music Festival

This annual festival will take place on Saturday, July 1, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Admission is $5 per person. Guests can play putt-putt-golf for $3 or swim in the pool for $3.50/$5. For the more adventurous, two-hour rentals for kayaks or canoes are $15 and paddle boards are $25.

Schedule:

- 9:30 a.m. Connor Patrick
- 11 a.m. Early James
- 1 p.m. Reid Haughton
- 3 p.m. golf cart parade
- 3:30 p.m. Steel City Union
- 5:30 p.m. Jackson Capps
- 7:30 p.m. Lamont Landers
- 9 p.m. fireworks

Saturday, July 1: Independence Day Celebration, Concert and Cookout at Sportsman Lake Park

Hosted by Seed-Harvest Music Academy, this celebration, from 4-7 p.m. on Saturday, July 1, is free and open to the public.

Guests are asked to bring their favorite food to grill, a chair and favorite (non-alcoholic) beverage. Special musical performances will be given by the academy's 3-9-year-olds.

Also featured will be the Cullman Homeschool Orchestra, the Guitar Ensemble and select solo performances from some of the academy's private students.

Tuesday, July 4: Cullman Fireworks Festival

The Cullman Fireworks Festival, hosted by Desperation Church, will kick off at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4 at Heritage Park. Admission is free.

There will be food, games, music and more. Listen live on WKUL 92.1 or Praise 97.9 for the fireworks show beginning at dark.

Food will be available for purchase from these vendors:

- Heritage Park Concessions: Hotdogs, snacks, shaved ice, drinks, etc.
- Son's Smokehouse: Pulled pork or chicken sandwich w/ chips, pulled pork or chicken nachos, 6 smoked wing snack, ribeye steak sandwich w/ chips and coke products
- Steel City Pops: Gourmet popsicles
- Devil Dawgs: Funnel cakes with assorted toppings, strawberry lemonade and fresh squeezed lemonade
- Repicci's Italian Ice: Italian ice, gelato and drinks

Tuesday, July 4: Fairview Area 16th Annual Freedom Celebration

The Freedom Celebration was started 16 years ago by First Baptist Church of Fairview and is hosted by Fairview area churches, businesses and the Town of Fairview. This free event starts at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4 at Fairview Community Park. Singing and activities start at 5 p.m. Fireworks will be at approximately 9 p.m.

Note: Garden City First Baptist Church will not be hosting its annual fireworks show this year. According to Garden City Town Hall, the church hopes to resume the show next year.

'Too good to be true'

Sheriff warns WaLLi class about scams



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Sheriff Gentry addresses the WaLLI class at Wallace State on Wednesday, June 28, 2017.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry visited Wallace State Community College on Wednesday to speak to participants in the Wallace State Lifelong Learning Institute (WaLLi) senior continuing education program about various scams that might target them.

First up was a discussion about phone scams Gentry explained how scammers acquire and use citizen's phone numbers to target them. He shared how criminals can go online to mask the actual point of origin and number from which they call, and can even make a call from another state appear to originate from within the victim's own area code.

» PAGE 5

Drug trafficking defendants sue county officials: Sheriff responds

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – A group of Cullman County drug trafficking defendants have filed a class action civil rights lawsuit in the U.S. District Court against an array of county officials, claiming that the county's standard $1 million property bond for drug trafficking is excessive and unconstitutional. The complaint was filed by defendants Randall Parris, Shawn Smelser, Gorman Max Culwell, Jr., Rose Meeks, Colin Scott, Nicholas Moody, Christy Burks and Misti Anderson on behalf of "themselves and a class of similarly situated individuals," according to court documents.

The complaint names the following county officials and agencies as defendants:

- Circuit Judge Martha Williams
- Magistrate Joan White
- Magistrate Amy Black
- Circuit Clerk Lisa McSwain
- County Commissioners Kenneth Walker, Kerry Watson and Garry Marchman
- Cullman County Sheriff's Office
- Sheriff Matt Gentry
- Alabama Administrative Office of the Court (AOC)
- AOC Director Randy Helms

The complaint begins, "This case is about the 32nd Judicial Systems [sic.] post-arrest detention scheme to imprison some of Cullman Counties [sic.] poorest residents without the benefit of reasonable bail."

It goes on to explain the plaintiffs' position that a drug defendant's initial arrest outcome is determined by his or her wealth status, saying that, "Wealthy arrestees purchase their freedom by paying an arbitrary amount set by a magistrate relying upon a bail schedule and a policy adopted by the office of the clerk. Poor arrestees simply remain stuck behind bars because they cannot afford to post the required amount of bail."

According to the plaintiffs, the standard across-the-board amount of $1 million fails to account for the individual circumstances of each drug defendant. This, they say, violates the reasonable bail requirements of the U.S. Constitution's Eighth Amendment, and the due process and equal protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment. The complaint also alleges that these bonds are set as cash-only bonds "to (e)nsure the continued imprisonment of alleged offenders in violation of the Presumption of Innocence."

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry was the first to speak to The Tribune in response to the suit, saying, "My first reaction is this: we're going to do everything within the law to keep people in jail that are a menace to society. If you're going to traffic drugs in our community, then we're going to do everything we can within the law. There is a set bond schedule by the law. We're going to do everything within that bond schedule to keep you in jail.

"If you're a sex offender or a drug trafficker, or if you're out breaking into houses, I don't want you on the street. I want you in jail. I don't want you out causing havoc in our community. So we're going

» PAGE 2

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JUNE 29, 2017

Registered sex offender arrested for multiple thefts

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN COUNTY - Following tips from residents living on County Road 1101, investigators with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office on Monday arrested registered sex offender Brent Donald Sigala, 44, of West Point and charged him with first-degree theft of property and second-degree theft of property.

Neighbors gave information to the CCSO after several utility trailers were stolen recently in the vicinity of CR 1101.

Sigala also drove a vehicle that fit the description of the one seen leaving several residences following the thefts.

On Monday, June 26, investigators were in the area of West Point and Battleground when they saw a vehicle matching the suspect's pulling a cattle trailer, said a statement from the sheriff's office.

A traffic stop was conducted, and Sigala was placed under arrest.

"I am proud of the time our investigators and deputies put into this case to arrest this suspect so that he is now in jail and not still in the community stealing from our citizens," said Sheriff Matt Gentry.

If citizens believe Sigala stole and sold their utility trailers, they are asked to call the CCSO at 256-734-0342 and speak with Investigator Trevor Clemmons. Sigala is currently being held in the Cullman County Detention Center on a $15,000 bond. Sigala, then living in Holly Pond, was convicted in Etowah County in 2010 of second-degree sexual abuse after having been charged with subjecting a 12-year-old child to sexual contact. He was sentenced to one year for that crime.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Brent Donald Sigala, 44

New athletic facility coming to Good Hope schools

Heather Mann
Tribune Correspondent

GOOD HOPE – A new athletic training facility for Good Hope Middle and High Schools is in the works, and coaches Alan Scott, Drew Adams and Tyler Hudson were on hand at this week's city council meeting to discuss the project.

Originally, the school was going to build and equip a new building for $100,000, using a three-phase plan to break up the cost. However, the estimated price became much higher than planned, so the idea was amended to use an already-existing building.

By using the old band building (which already has air conditioning, plumbing and two offices), the project's estimated cost was cut in half.

The City's donation of $32,244, previously for the new facility, will now go toward the purchase of necessary exercise equipment. For the sake of clarity, since the City is going through an audit, the council moved to let the school use the money for the project as it sees fit.

Scott addressed the council, explaining the benefits the training facility will offer. He said that in the past few years, a school-wide strength training program for both boys and girls has been implemented, resulting in seven state champions at the state weightlifting meet.

According to Scott, the training building will provide physical education benefits for 250-300 students in both the middle and high school per year, and the donations received will help buy the best equipment possible.

Adams commented that when it's finished, the training facility will be the nicest in the county.

Committee reports

• Councilman John Harris said that the City's audit should be done by Thursday and that they've received a very good report so far.

• Roads report- Stripers for the paved roads should be coming soon, and two roads would need to be shut down quickly for emergency repairs. The road in front of Good Hope Baptist Church and the road near the tennis court both have metal pipes underground that have rusted and warped. Due to the threat to the roads' structural integrity, Mayor Jerry Bartlett wants to have the pipes fixed as soon as possible. Both roads will be shut down for repairs July 5.

• Utilities report- Despite last week's rainfall (6 inches in four days), the system had no problems.

• Councilman Greg Brown reported that the Back-to-School Bash will be July 27 from 5-7 p.m.

• The Parks Committee reported a good weekend tournament.

Bartlett reported the community pond, which is currently stocked with minnows, will soon have bass introduced. The bass will feed on the minnows and are expected to grow 1 pound each year.

The City received a request from the Cullman County Museum to put up historical markers for the Alabama Bicentennial.

The museum plans to put informational signs in front of two landmarks or monuments in each municipality so visitors can learn more about the community, and the council discussed which two locations should have the signs. Councilwoman Susan Eller suggested the Good Hope Baptist Church and the oldest part of Good Hope School, as those buildings are the oldest sites in town. The council has until August to make a final decision.

A recommendation from the Alcohol Review Committee to grant an alcohol license to Manan, Inc. was approved. The company took over the Exxon gas station and needed an alcohol license in its name.

The council also reviewed Section 94 of the Alabama Constitution, which states: "Municipalities not to grant public money or lend credit to private persons or corporations. The legislature shall not have power to authorize any county, city, town, or other subdivision of this state to lend its credit, or to grant public money or thing of value in aid of, or to any individual, association, or corporation whatsoever, or to become a stockholder in any such corporation, association, or company, by issuing bonds or otherwise."

The issue came up when the council tried to buy an ad from the high school's quarterback club and a representative of the Good Samaritan Health Clinic called to request donations from different municipalities; City Attorney Rita Nicholas recommended against doing so because of Section 94.

The idea is that if the City donates to one nonprofit, it could get into trouble if it refuses funds to another.

The Good Hope City Council meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Good Hope City Hall. The public is welcome to attend.

Sue (from Front)

to do everything within the law to protect our citizens here in Cullman County.

"You have people who can sue for anything, but I have no problem getting up in any court and explaining what we do and why we do it, when we operate within the law.

"So, if some liberal lawyer with a bunch of inmates wants to sue me because we're doing everything within the law to keep people in jail and keep them from hurting our community, then sue me. But I know the law, and I'm going to do everything within the law to keep those criminals off the streets. I'll never apologize for that."

The bail schedule mentioned by Gentry reads as follows:

Felonies

• Capital felony $50,000 to No Bail Allowed
• Murder $15,000 to $ 150,000
• Class A felony $10,000 to $ 60,000
• Class B felony $ 5,000 to $ 30,000
• Class C felony $ 2,500 to $ 15,000
• Drug manufacturing and trafficking $ 5,000 to $1,500,000
• Class D felony $1,000 to $ 10,000

Misdemeanors (not included elsewhere in the schedule)

• Class A misdemeanor $ 300 to $ 6,000
• Class B misdemeanor $ 300* to $ 3,000
• Class C misdemeanor $ 300 to $ 1,000
• Violation $ 300 to $ 500
• Municipal Ordinance Violations $ 300 to $ 1,000

Traffic-Related Offenses

• DUI $ 1,000 to $ 7,500
• Reckless driving $ 300 to $ 1,000
• Speeding $ 300 to $ 500
• Other traffic violations $ 300 to $ 500

Magistrates set amounts within this schedule, while judges have the discretion to set amounts above or below the established ranges.

Several statistics are commonly cited for the extremely high amount set for drug trafficking:

• On average, more than 30 percent of defendants who are released while awaiting trial on drug charges will commit another similar offense before they go to trial.
• Almost one in four federal drug defendants fail to show at scheduled court appearances.
• Released drug defendants have the highest re-arrest rate of any defendant category.

Almost one-third of persons arrested for drug-related offenses will commit the same or a similar offense while awaiting trial.

The commission of a second crime while out on bail can lead to the right to bail being revoked, and may possibly result in bail paid or pledged being forfeited to the court.

Therefore, high bail amounts for drug cases not only increase the chances of defendants showing up for court, they also encourage those most likely to repeat their offense to obey the law while they wait.

See our related stories on bond amounts at http://qrne.ws/bonds1 and http://qrne.ws/bonds2.

The county officials and agencies involved are being represented by Laura Howell and Jim Davis of the Alabama State Attorney General's Office in Montgomery.

According to Press Secretary Mike Lewis, the AG's office was not offering comment on the case at the time of writing.

The plaintiffs are being represented by local attorney Thomas Drake II.

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Vacated Colony council seat remains open

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

COLONY – The Colony Town Council is still trying to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Myra Twitty in early May. At its meeting Tuesday evening, confusion and lack of communication seemed to prevail. The vacancy was an item on the printed agenda, and candidate Melvin Hammond (see http://qrne.ws/colony) was present; but when Mayor Donnis Leeth announced the item, no one spoke up. As the meeting adjourned, Councilwoman Margaret Dimbo asked if the council was going to discuss the vacancy. As the meeting had adjourned at that point, no action could be taken.

In informal conversation among council members afterward, Dimbo, having previously looked up candidacy requirements, pointed out that candidates only needed to be registered to vote in the town, and have 30 days of residency. Those conditions would make Hammond a valid candidate for the vacant seat.

The good news of the night came from Councilman Curtis Johnson, who shared that attendance is holding strong at the summer feeding program with an average of around 20 participants per day. Additionally, volunteers from St. Andrews United Methodist Church will be coming down on Tuesdays to read to community children at the Educational Complex. A reading program led by various volunteers and featuring offerings by organizations like the McWane Center is already active on Wednesdays at the complex.

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

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The use of benzodiazepines and related drugs increases the risk of hip fracture by 43 percent in persons with Alzheimer's disease, according to a new study published in the Journal of the American Medical Directors Association. Benzodiazepines are a class of psychoactive drugs used to treat a range of conditions, including anxiety and insomnia. They are one of the most widely prescribed medications in the United States, particularly among elderly patients. Benzodiazepines possess sedative, hypnotics, anti-anxiety, anticonvulsant and muscle relaxant properties.

***

In a population-based study published in the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, use of commonly prescribed acid-suppression medications such as proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) was linked with an increased risk of intestinal infections with C. difficile and Campylobacter bacteria, which can cause considerable illness. Users of these medications should be particularly vigilant about food hygiene as the removal of stomach acid makes them more easily infected with agents such as Cambylobacter, which is commonly found on poultry.

***

Heart medication taken in combination with chemotherapy reduces the risk of serious cardiovascular damage in patients with early-stage breast cancer, according to results from a new landmark clinical trial. Existing research has shown some cancer therapies such as Herceptin greatly improve survival rates for early-stage breast cancer, but come with a fivefold risk of heart failure-a devastating condition as life-threatening as the cancer itself. A new five-year study published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology shows that two kinds of heart medications, beta blockers and ACE inhibitors, effectively prevent a drop in heart function from cancer treatment.

***

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- Have a doctor's declaration of disability
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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JUNE 29, 2017

Council recognizes firefighter, EMT of the year, bids farewell to 2 fire department veterans

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com



The council and audience sang "Happy Birthday" to special guest Hannah Jacobs



Cullman Fire Rescue Chief Edward Reinhardt, Firefighter of the Year Lt. Jason Lamb with his son Nathan, EMT of the Year Chase Cornell, and Councilman Andy Page



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Chief Reinhardt with retiring CFR officers Tim Richards and Greg Smith

CULLMAN – It was a joyful meeting Monday evening as the Cullman City Council recognized the achievements of two members of Cullman Fire Rescue (CFR), celebrated the careers of two of the department's veterans, and welcomed a special guest.

The council introduced the CFR staffers who earned the Cullman VFW's EMT and Firefighter of the Year awards:

• EMT of the Year Engineer Chase Cornell has been with CFR since 2012 and holds apparatus operator, aerial, hazmat, fire instructor and smoke diver certifications. The recommendation letter submitted by his captain stated that Cornell "always works well with his crew and other agencies at medical scenes, is very knowledgeable about patient care and providing a high level of care, no matter the severity of the incident."

• Firefighter of the Year Lt. Jason Lamb has been with CFR since 2011, after serving with the Jasper Fire Department. He holds apparatus operator, rope, structural collapse and advanced EMT certifications; and his nomination letter noted that, "due to Engineer Lamb's high level of performance as a firefighter and engineer, his technical skills and positive attitude have enhanced his crew's response capability."

The council also recognized Tim Richards and Greg Smith, who are retiring from CFR. Both are 18-year veterans. Richards attained the position of engineer. Smith was noted as one of the founding members who helped create the department's EMS division, and retires as the EMS division chief.

Before the council got down to its regular business, President Garlan Gudger had one more guest to recognize. Hannah Jacobs, daughter of Mayor Woody Jacobs, got to include in her day's birthday celebration an invitation to stand before the council and audience while everyone present sang "Happy Birthday" to her.

In regular council business, the council unanimously passed all five requests on its agenda, although one was amended with certain provisions first.

1. A request from WWTP Superintendent Jeff Adams to purchase road base materials and asphalt paving for a pump station access road from Jones Brothers Paving in the budgeted amount not to exceed $14,880.

2. A request from Ronald Stevenson of 2906 Leighsdale Ave. SW for a special event permit to stand and minister on the sidewalks of Cullman on Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. (actually only once or twice each week). This request was amended: the permit will only be extended to the end of August, when it will be reviewed; Stevenson was instructed to notify the Police Department ahead of time about when and where he will be ministering.

3. A request from Carl Malin of Calvary Apostolic 1st UPC for a special event permit to hold Family Fun Days on July 29, 2017 from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. and on July 30, 2017 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. around their church located at 303 Clark St. NE.

4. A request from Ron Lamon of Vinemont Baptist Church for a special event permit to hold a Community Walk from Mary Carter's Store to Depot Park on August 12, 2017 from 10 a.m. until noon to support suicide prevention and awareness.

5. A request from Cali Tidwell of Desperation Church for a special event permit to hold the annual Fireworks Festival in Heritage Park on July 4, 2017 from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. While it did not affect the request, CFR Chief Reinhardt noted that the request will still have to be approved by the state fire marshal before an event permit can be issued.

Two ordinances were also passed:

1. Ordinance No. 2017 - 15 to vacate and surplus a city-owned sidewalk directly north of Rumor's Deli that received a favorable report from the City of Cullman Planning Commission that this is consistent with previous requests. This will allow Ponder Building owner Quick Development to acquire the strip and install an elevator that will open the upper floors of the building to public use.

2. The second reading of Ordinance No. 2017 - 16 to rezone 1006 Second Avenue NW from M-1 Manufacturing District to B-2 Business District that received a favorable recommendation from the City of Cullman Planning Commission. The City Planning Commission noted at its meeting that the previous Manufacturing district zoning should have been changed when properties around the site were converted years ago. The retention of that zoning was a simple oversight.

The council tabled a request to rezone a vacant lot located at the corner of Denson Avenue SW and 3rd Street SW from CBD Central Business District to R-4 Residential District, at the request of the property owner. That request had received an unfavorable recommendation from the Planning Commission.

The council gave a first reading to two proposed ordinances:

• Ordinance No. 2017 - 18 to annex the property located at 451 County Road 1467 owned by Pam and Jerry Cason into the city limits of Cullman, Alabama as R-1 Residential District that received a favorable recommendation from the City of Cullman Planning Commission.

• Ordinance No. 2017 - 19 to annex the property located at 48 County Road 497 owned by Virgena Thornton into the city limits of Cullman, Alabama as R-1 Residential District that received a favorable recommendation from the City of Cullman Planning Commission.

As these were first readings, no action was taken at this meeting.

The council finished its business by passing two resolutions:

• Resolution No. 2017 - 82 to award bid R-01784 for tree services at 16th Street SE to the lowest responsible bidder, Reeve's and Son LLC, in the budgeted amount not to exceed $1,850.

• Resolution No. 2017 - 83 to enter into a professional services contract with Ballew Building Company, Inc. for project management services in the budgeted amount not to exceed $25,000.

The Cullman City Council meets on the second and fourth Monday evenings of each month at 7 p.m. in the Cullman City Hall auditorium. The public is invited to attend.

Dizzy Dean Area 1 Tournament: Tough night for local teams

Johnny Thornton
johnny@cullmansense.com

HOLLY POND – Tuesday night was a tough one for three local teams in the Dizzy Dean 12-under, Area 1 Tournament at Holly Pond Lion's Club Park.

District V champion, Cullman, was eliminated by a 14-2 loss to Winston County.

Holly Pond lost a close encounter with Jasper by the score of 6-4. That knocked them out of the tournament as well.

Vinemont ran into a stout Rock Creek team that sent them to the loser's bracket, 13-3. The good news for Vinemont is they have qualified for next week's 12-under state tournament to be played in Scottsboro.

Cullman and Winston County was a rematch of the District V championship game eight days ago in Vinemont. This time, Winston County was not going to be denied the victory.

A two-run single from Eli Moore in the first propelled Winston County to the lead. Moore singled home Sy Blanton and Eli Edgil.

Four runs were scored by Winston County in the second inning, with the key hit being a two-run single from Briley Millican.

Edgil drove home a run on a single and the score was 6-0 with Cullman in need of a rally.

Cullman got a pair of runs back against Edgil with a double by Tanner Gaines scoring Lane Parker and a ground out to the mound from Logan Brothers getting Rames Martines in to close the gap to 6-2.

Parker relieved Gaines in the second and got a pair of outs in the third after Winston County put runners on with a single from Eli Kennedy and a walk to Blake McCurley.

The hit that broke the game open was a single up the middle from Cam Steele, moving Winston County to an 8-2 advantage and on their way to sending Cullman out of the area tournament.

Five runs in the fifth allowed Winston County to close it out by the run rule when Edgil got three consecutive outs after allowing Gaines a base hit to lead off the final inning. Gaines had both hits for Cullman, with the All-Stars struggling at the plate, striking out nine times against Edgil.

Holly Pond can't hold on vs. Japser

With one inning left, Holly Pond held a 4-3 advantage over Jasper. But Jasper put together a comeback, scoring three times to take the lead, and then kept Holly Pond at bay in the fifth to win it by the final of 6-4.

Luke Clark singled for Jasper, Spencer Rainfield and Jamie Brewton doubled, and Cory Shepherd tripled. Luke Aldridge earned the win for Jasper.

Austin Huddleston's double was the lone hit for Holly Pond. He was charged with the loss.

Early lead for Vinemont doesn't last with Rock Creek

Rock Creek was down 3-0 after a half inning when Vinemont got two hits and took advantage of a walk and a hit batter.

But Rock Creek had the bats ready to swing in its half of the first, sending 12 runners home on eight hits. Landon Guthrie, Jarred Hyde and Austin Echols had two-run singles against three Vinemont pitchers.

After the first, Vinemont slowed Rock Creek down, allowing only one run the rest of the game. That came in the third with Rock Creek up 13-3.

The game ended in the fourth via the run rule.



JOHNNY THORNTON/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman's Hunter Moore ready to swing at a pitch from Winston County's Eli Edgil Tuesday in the Dizzy Dean Area 1 Tournament

Jasper remains in the tournament

In the last game of the evening, Jasper topped Winston County 15-6, putting them out of tournament play. Jasper led 5-0 after the top of the second with Winston County waking up from a slow start and cutting the lead to 6-5 following the third.

But Jasper used hits and took advantage of Winston County miscues, scoring four in the fourth and five in the fifth to put the game out of reach.

Winston County finishes fourth in the area, which is good enough to get them to the state tournament next week.

They will join Rock Creek, Vinemont and Jasper representing Area 1.

On Wednesday, Vinemont and Jasper meet at 6 p.m. with the winner to battle Rock Creek for the title at 8 p.m.

County Commission questioned by accident victim's spouse about conditions on County Road 222

W.C. Mann, Heather Mann

CULLMAN – County Road 222 has become infamous for the number of wrecks that happen on it. Several deaths and even more injuries have taken place in the past few years, and a member of the audience at the Cullman County Commission meeting Tuesday morning wanted to make sure the commissioners knew the danger and would take steps to help solve the problems.

On June 5, 2016, Julian Morris lost his wife Veronica in a two-vehicle collision on County Road 222 near Big Bridge, a stretch of road that has been the scene of numerous incidents, as recently as last week. On Tuesday morning, Morris stood before the commission to plead for improvements to make that area safer.

Morris was not on the agenda for the commission's regular meeting, but he rose to speak when the floor was opened for public comment. After introducing himself, he began to explain his view on road conditions at Big Bridge and the mounting number of accidents.

"It happens too often," Morris said. "On the other end of the bridge, the south end maybe a mile up the road, they've got a bad curve and road signs and guardrails. On this end there's nothing. My questioning is, it's not banked properly, I think. I wondered if there's anything that can be done by the commission to solve that problem. There's just too many wrecks.

"In the accident report when (Veronica Morris) died, the trooper stated that the speed limit was 55. It's not 55, and he based it on the fact that the nearest sign is 55, which is wrong. In other words, the road signs are not right. The speed limit is obviously too fast to have this happen.

"All the cases are traveling towards Big Bridge from the west, but they wind up on the shoulder on the left. My wife left the road completely coming up that hill and hit the shoulder, and the kid slid into her and they went into the wall, and killed her. My whole point is, it seems to be the banking on the curve. They should go to the right if they slide out, but they're going to the left.

"Every time it gets a little bitty drizzle, we're going to have wrecks. It's time to do something about it."

Morris' comments on Big Bridge may not have been planned, but it came as no surprise to commissioners that such questions would be raised. The commission had received a report on that very area from County Engineer John Lang during its work session that morning, so Chairman Kenneth Walker deferred to him for a response to Morris' request.

Lang stated, "At 222, I was out there yesterday and checked a few cross slopes, and worked up an estimate to do some slope correction for the roadway.

"We've got two different things coming in play. We're going to have a federal aid project on the marina end that's going to come right up to the marina prior to the bridge where County Road 96 is.

"As a part of that, we will be addressing those curves on that side, and we'll be able to get those sloped more appropriately. And on the other side of the road it won't be a federal aid project, but I've worked up estimates and sent them to (the commissioners) about what we could do, and some potential solutions.

"The thing that will happen soonest will be that we're going to put some signs up, because we do know that that's been a problem area. We'll put some advanced warning signs up, along with some advisory speeds. We ought to be able to get that done in the next week or two.

"We're still evaluating what we're going to do when, because there are a few options, and they're all varying in cost and scope of what we're going to firmly settle on; but I can tell you that it is our intent to get something done with that stretch of road, so we can help with the accident situation, because we know it's bad. We've had a lot of people make us aware of it."

After Lang's statements, Morris continued with concerns about how heavily traveled that road is, and how congested it becomes when an incident occurs. At the time of his wife's accident, according to Morris, "That road was shut down for three hours. My wife laid on the ground in the rain for three hours, waiting on the trooper from Florence to come to investigate the wreck.

"That road was shut down for three hours; they had to go all the way back up to Good Hope to get on the interstate to go either direction. My point is, it's a well-traveled road, it's too much traffic, and it's just going to be worse than it is now. It's getting that way. I hope that you can get something done about it."

Walker drew the discussion to a close by offering Morris the assurance, "We are very aware of it, and we are working on it."

After the meeting, Morris shared with The Tribune an additional concern about road conditions around Smith Lake, "They got liquor passed, too, so they're going to be selling beer and drinks at the marina down there. I know you're not supposed to leave with a cup, and all that kind of stuff, but it's just going to get worse and worse. Something needs to be done about it."

Also following the meeting, The Tribune caught up with Lang, who gave more detail about the County's plans for improvement:

On the south side of Big Bridge: "With the federal aid project that we've got coming, that will go all the way from the four-way stop there at (CR) 109 to right just before we get to Big Bridge Marina. That project will address those sets of curves right before you get to the marina, which is also a problem area.

The County hopes to begin work on that project in spring 2018.

On the north side of Big Bridge, site of more accidents: "On the other side of Big Bridge, where the curves are more direct, that's where we're not firm. What we do know is that we're going to do something to address the wrecks: either a slope correction with asphalt or skid resistance material, in addition to warning signs.

"People travel really fast through there. I was out there yesterday and about got run over; I was dancing in and out of traffic. Signs' degree of effectiveness can be limited, but we're going to sign it better, for sure. In addition to that, we're going to be doing some sort of construction to address the skid resistance. We haven't firmed up the details of that yet, but I put a proposal before the commissioners yesterday and we're just kind of mulling that out now."

Other commission business

Under new business, the commission authorized County Attorney Chad Floyd to file a civil lawsuit against a business for failure to pay their sales and use tax, then authorized chairman Kenneth Walker to sign a deed in favor of David and Shirley Hays for an easement to help access their land-locked property. The commission approved a software purchase from Harris Local Government, the cost of which will be split between two budget periods, and voted to give $5000 to the Oktoberfest Committee for this year's festival.

The commission voted to spend almost $13,000 to repair the tar distributor for their chip sealing rods, then voted to list the following surplus on GovDeals: a 1993 Ford cab tractor with front broom attachment from the County Road Department, a 1999 International 4700 fuel truck from the Road Department, and a 2004 Dodge Durango from the County Coroner's Office. They then approved a plat of six lots for the Jayce's Place subdivision on County Roads 1564 and 1589.

The final orders of business before adjourning were three bids for extensions, all of which were approved: jail supplies from North Alabama Chemical & Central Paper, lawn care from Pro Lawn Unlimited, and pest control from American Pest Control.

The next commission meeting will be Tuesday, July 25 at 10 a.m. in the commission meeting room in the Cullman County Courthouse. The public is invited to attend.

Scams (from Front)

Gentry said some of the common phone scams are:

- Fake IRS delinquent tax notices that may appear to originate from Washington D.C., demanding immediate payment over the phone.
- Fake sweepstakes announcements that require the "winner" to pay a certain amount of money up front to collect the prize.
- Fake charity calls requesting donations to organizations that may not exist.

Gentry advised, "This is the thing: if somebody calls and wants money, it's probably a scam. If somebody that you don't know calls and wants to solicit personal information from you, it's a scam. If the Publishers' Clearing House calls and says 'You just won $2 million, and if you'll send us $500 , then we'll send you your check,' this is always my response, 'You bring me the $2 million in cash, and I'll cut you $500 out of it.'"

Gentry advised students not to give out personal information over the phone, even to callers who claim to represent an organization with whom the student regularly does business. Because so many organizations are set up for online business, the sheriff advised people to go to those sites instead.

Addressing online scams, Gentry gave particular attention to a growing scam on Facebook, in which criminals use fake or hacked profiles to solicit money or personal information from "friends."

"It's hard to convince people that it's not real," said Gentry, "because they will tell you stuff, and they will play off your emotions."

Another kind of scam is a bank scam. In a scenario Gentry described, the victim receives a check in the mail for a large sum of money, and is told to deposit the check in his or her bank account while getting a small portion back in cash. The victim is told the cash should immediately be sent or wired to an address included with the check. If the victim follows the instructions, the criminal will have the cash up to a day before the bank discovers that the check is a fake.

Gentry warned, "You're the one that owes $2,500 to the bank, because you're the one that went and took it. It's a scam that hits people every day. I always tell people if it's too good to be true, then it is false; it's not real.

About door-to-door scams, Gentry described situations in which a stranger comes to the victim's door with a claim of car trouble or some other issue, in an attempt to gain entry to the house. Once inside, the criminal looks for targets of opportunity that might be taken unnoticed from a homeowner whose attention is diverted even for a moment: cell phones left on a table, checks from the back of an exposed checkbook, and others.

"Don't even open the door," Gentry advised. "Tell the young lady that you'll call the Sheriff's Office for her. Most of the time--99.9 percent--you're going to see that young lady going somewhere else, because she don't want to be there when the Sheriff's Office arrives."

In addition to the phone scams seeking donations to fake charities, mentioned earlier, Gentry also advised his audience to beware of letters seeking donations by mail, as many of these are not legitimate charities. He also told students to watch carefully for people seeking handouts, if they show up regularly to the same locations. In many cases, these people have no real need, and are simply scamming kind-hearted citizens for money that could better be given to known and reputable services. "They're playing off our emotions," said Gentry. "If I donate money, I donate money to people that I know and to groups I know, so I know where the money goes."

The sheriff's final notes to the class included tidbits like:

- Sign checks and documents in blue ink, which is more difficult to photocopy than black ink.
- Use credit cards instead of debit cards to limit access from the receiving end to one's bank account information. Gentry was adamant, though, that when credit cards are used, their balances should be entirely paid off each month.
- Keep a close eye on even small expenditures from your checking account or credit card. Some criminals get their money by taking small amounts of money from a lot of people.
- Examine the card reader on the gas pump you use, to see if it looks odd or overly thick. Criminals will attach "skimmers" to card readers to harvest information as cards are swiped. Pulling lightly on a reader will usually detach a skimmer. The sheriff warned students not to yank hard on every card reader, as damage could result.

For more information on Wallace State's WaLLi program, contact Mandi Perkins at 256-352-7826, email mandi.perkins@wallacestate.edu, or visit www.wallacestate.edu/ce.

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A look at area girls' basketball teams for the 2017-18 season

Johnny Thornton
johnny@cullmansense.com

Editor's note: This is the second in a 2-part series written by Tribune Sports Editor Johnny Thornton from his coverage of girls' high school basketball play days during the month of June. See part one at http://qrne.ws/basketball.

CULLMAN COUNTY – Plenty of storylines were developed during the month of June for high school girls' basketball programs across the county.

As is routine, each is going through the process of putting together a new starting lineup, mixing in returning personnel and giving others the opportunity to step into vacant positions.

The Tribune spent three weeks of the month touring plenty of play-day assignments, seeing games in West Point, Cullman, Falkville, Hartselle, West Morgan, Brewer and Winston County.

Everyone wants success, but what each coach is looking for is a good lineup on the floor and to develop depth at all positions.

COLD SPRINGS – Plenty of good talent is still here for veteran coach Tammy West. But she must find a leader after All-State standout Emme Willoughby graduated in May and is now at UAH.

All-County performer Elizabeth Hill is back for her sophomore season, sharing the scoring duties with sharpshooting guard Camryn Crider, a junior. Freshman guard Toni West played well in the play days and will share the backcourt with Crider as both are capable of ball handling and scoring.

Hard workers such as Neely Ellison, Aubrey Negron, Kinley Campbell, Kylon Hamby, Zoe Strawbridge and Prisca McAnnally will blend in, helping the Lady Eagles with another quest for greatness in Class 2A, Area 13 and across the county.

CULLMAN – Injuries to Anna Evans and Kennedy Wren changed the culture of the club for the summer. Coach Josh Hembree relied on experience in Anna Bowden and A.K. Eastman to lead them in June and had others such as Olivia Neal, Lauren Grace Evans, Alexandria Barker, Anna Grace Murphy and Sadie Young raise their level of play.

Cullman played hard with several good defensive stops in games against Lawrence County, Hartselle, Cold Springs and Good Hope and will need to display consistency on offense to take pressure off the hard work by the defense.

FAIRVIEW – It was a change of pace for the defending Cullman County champions in June. Fairview was without the services of center Abbi Taylor, recovering from foot surgery. Taylor should be ready to go when fall workouts take place.

The team is small without her in the middle. But that allowed coach Mary Hartline to inject her tempo game with quickness, aggressive pressure defense and the ability to score in transition.

Point guard Taylor Yeager committed to UAH earlier in the month, then went out and showed her normal play of scoring numerous times, handling the ball effectively and showing good leadership.

The team is not just built for Yeager. Abby Schnittker, Katie Ball, McKinna Yearwood, Peyton Golden and Daylia Dean provided support, with Fairview having success from a small lineup with a 5-1 record at Jacksonville State and a 66-35 runaway victory over Colbert County, a very good 3A team, in Hartselle.

GOOD HOPE – Making a strong and surprising run in the playoffs last year inspired Amanda Swann's Lady Raiders. Now that they have had a taste of winning, they seek more of it in Swann's second season at her alma mater.

Center Kate Kent is the primary weapon on offense for her ability to produce around the basket.

The Lady Raiders have experience returning in PG Savanna Derrick, G Ericka Woodall, F Leyton Seal, F Amber Sterling and F Abby Neighbors off the bench.

The Lady Raiders will look to be a balanced team scoring-wise, with defenses determined to shut down Kent in the post. Scoring in transition, plus the perimeter, and a hard-working attitude will be the key to carry this squad throughout next season.

HANCEVILLE – A ball club that can present challenges to the opposition is the tale of the tape for Hanceville. Christina Watson got a new floor leader in PG Kelly Pickett, allowing her to move Candice Campbell to wing guard and place Kierra Merriweather on the opposite wing.

That gives Hanceville speed, agility and the ability to attack the basket. Carmen Johnson in the post is another positive for this team, along with Lauren Robertson and Malia Howell, who give hard effort when they come off the bench.

Consistency, especially at the foul line, is a must for Hanceville to challenge in 3A, Area 13 and vs. county competition.

HOLLY POND – Changes occurred when Paige Adams resigned on June 13, a day after her team went 2-1 in a play day at Falkville. The Lady Broncos opted out of two play-day assignments at Cullman the 19th and 21st.

No word has come from the school on a replacement for Adams, who was coming off her first season coaching the varsity.

ST. BERNARD – Second-year coach Tiffany Hinkle-Pope sent her squad out to a series of play days, seeking consistency. The Lady Saints will rely on good guard play by Traci Loyd and Makenna Klein for handling the ball and point guard scoring.

Emily Tafazoli plays hard in the post and they will need that from her regularly.

Claire Sanders, Macy Whaley and Ashley Duke have experience and will be asked to contribute in all phases of the game.

VINEMONT – Youth will be served for Vinemont with coach Lance Lay having a squad that seeks valuable experience every time they take to the floor.

Bailey Preiss, Sadie Stanley, Kanasta Daniel, Madison Hacker and Kinley Puckett started when the Lady Eagles played a tripleheader at Winston County June 15.

Bench play consisted of Valeria Cofer, Lexi Helton, Mackenzie Lawrence, Lexi Holmes and Maddie Harbison.

Vinemont will have to reduce unforced mistakes, score when they have good looking opportunities from the field and foul line and not allow the opposition to dictate the tempo.

WEST POINT – John Welborn's team has experience, but they are still a young unit. Forward Olivia Ball enters her junior season as a two-year starter.

Freshman Lexi Shadix stood out in June. The wing player put up 18 second-half points on eight field goals in the period against a press-happy Hazel Green team.

She took punishment well and left an impact that had the Hazel Green coaching staff up in arms and unable to slow her down.

Shadix got a summer-high 35 points vs. Danville in a Falkville play day, ripping the cords for 27 in the first half.

West Point spent June without guard Miriam Oldacre, who is recovering from a late-season ankle injury. Her twin sister, Micah, showed steady play handling the ball and was consistent from the free throw area.

Makenzie Carter comes back to the frontline for her sophomore season. Brooke Brownfield got plenty of reps running the point, and eighth-graders Sydney Smith and Riley Jones made valuable contributions as well.

West Point will welcome the addition of forward Kyler Hembree, transferring from Good Hope.

The experience the Lady Warriors possess, along with confidence they achieved in the summer, will go a very long way after they posted 22 victories last season and got to the sub-regional round in the 5A playoffs.

FINAL ANALYSIS – Fairview, Cold Springs and West Point are again at the top of the ladder for county girls' teams. Good Hope and Hanceville want to show they can challenge, while Holly Pond and Vinemont want to develop a formula for success.

Cullman and St. Bernard will be well-coached and will need to perform hard and to keep mistakes to a minimum in order to win games.

The county has good talent at different positions and also talent from seniors, juniors, sophomores and freshmen. The quality of play has progressed tremendously, and it will be fun to see these young ladies go out when the season begins in early November and see teams down at Wallace State for the regionals in late February.

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Obituary Announcements: June 28-July 3

Danny Underwood, age 59, of Blountsville, AL., passed away on June 24, 2017. Mr. Underwood spent his time enjoying life with his family. Preceding him in death were his parents Oren and Ruby Lee Underwood; brother-in-law James Killough and sister-in-law Marilyn Killough. Survivors include his wife of 40 years Darlene Killough Underwood of Blountsville; children Danny Lee Underwood, II of Washington, DC formerly Oneonta, Justin Nicholas Underwood (Hannah) of Fort Belvoir, VA formerly Oneonta and Marilyn Jean Hawkins (Danny) of Blountsville; grandchildren Joaquin and Ida Mae Underwood, Nicholas, John, Davony, Izabella, Sawyer and Olivia Underwood, Summer and Alex Hawkins; sister Jean Moss (Darrell); brother and sister-in-laws Darrell and Kim Killough, Phillip and Penny Killough, Keith and Elizabeth Bowling, Scott and Margie McGath; father and mother-in-law Horace and Ida Mae Killough; host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends. Funeral services held on Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at the Chapel of Lemley Funeral Home with burial in Dailey's Chapel Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers were Darrell Killough, Phillip Killough, Keith Bowling, Keith Killough, Josh Killough and Jakob Bowling; honorary pallbearer was Jesse Bowling. Lemley Funeral Home and Crematory directed.

Funeral services for Bobby "Jerry" Duke, 70, of Cullman, were held Wednesday, June 28, 2017, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home Chapel, Bro. Harold Widener officiated, with interment in adjoining cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Duke passed away Monday, Jun 26, 2017 at his home. He was born August 7, 1946 to parents Fred and Ida Duke. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Betty "Gail" Duke; one son Alan Duke; two grandsons, Adam and Jason Duke, all of Cullman; one sister, Dorothy Rhodes, of Albany, GA; a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends. The family would like to thank their church family, Dr. Holloway and Trish, the home health workers, Hospice of North Alabama, their grandsons, Adam and Jason, and Faye for helping take care of Mr. Duke. In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to Cullman Caring For Kids.

Our mother told us a few days ago that she was going home to be with our Lord and Savior, and so she has. All of her seven children feel so certain that when she arrived, the Lord said "Well done, my good and faithful servant." The Lord's servant, Billie Jane Alldredge, was born January 30, 1931, in Cullman, to parents Bessie Ginny Bell Waldrip Sanders and Willie George Sanders. She wed Willard Glenn Alldredge on October 10, 1947, and began her life, which blessed her with Jane (Patrick) Dalton, Susan (Max) Merritt, David (Diana) Alldredge, James (Jan) Alldredge, Terry Alldredge, Michael Alldredge, and Tammie (Tim) Dunlap. Known as "Mawmaw", she was the proud grandmother to 15, great-grandmother to 25, with another on the way, and great-great-grandmother to seven. She was a 60+ year member of Northside Baptist Church, taught Sunday school faithfully, until she was 85 years old, and had seen her members all go home to Heaven. She was an avid reader, and instilled her love for the written word in each of her children. She gave the love of music to us all, and the talent to few. She crocheted ferociously, and each of us wrap up, at first chance of cool weather, in our afghans, handmade with love. She gave to us, and all who knew her, the Love of God, the wisdom of a strong, Southern mother, and the laughter and humor, of a woman who often laughed to stop the tears, as we all grew up. Our mother passed Monday, June 26, 2017 at her residence. Please join us in celebration, and honor of her life. Her service will be Thursday, June 29, 2017, at 2 p.m., at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home Chapel, with interment in adjoining cemetery, Rev. Jack Collins officiating. The family wishes to recognize and thank, the staff of Southern Care Hospice, whose compassion, and care, was above expectation. Their care of not only her, but also the family, made this transition so much easier. The family will receive friends from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m., prior to service, for visitation.

Roger Bruce Akridge died June 26, 2017 at the age of 70. He was born July 31, 1946 in Albertville, Alabama to L.D. Homer Freeman and LaRue Burkhart Akridge. Mr. Akridge was in the Navy for 4 years at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Naval Hospital. He later worked as a pharmacist for 36 years in Cullman North Shopping Center. He also worked at Woodland Hospital Pharmacy and Southern Medical Equipment. Mr. Akridge is survived by his wife of 47 years: Wanza Akridge; daughter: Elizabeth Leigh (Matthew) Hart; sons: Steven Chad (Danielle) Akridge and Matthew Brian Akridge; sisters: Jackie Gibson and Betty Ann Delchamps; and 2 grandchildren: Cole and Ava. Visitation will be Thursday, June 29, 2017, 12 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Moss Service Funeral Home chapel with funeral services at 2 p.m. with Matt Hart officiating.

James Harry Moore, 74 of Houston, entered into rest on Monday, June 26, 2017 at his home surrounded by his loving family. Mr. Moore was born on November 6, 1942 in Carbon Hill. He was a graduate of Carbon Hill High School and received an Associate's Degree from Walker College. He went on to the University of Alabama, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in education and completed his education with a Master's Degree. Mr. Moore was a former teacher, band director, principal and coach at Winston County High School and Double Springs Elementary School. He retired as an Administrator with the Winston County Board of Education. James Harry was a member of First Baptist Church Double Springs following his long-time membership of Houston Memorial United Methodist Church. He spent his life teaching and coaching his children in all their life's pursuits. He loved music, golf, baseball, football, Alabama Crimson Tide Athletics, and anything the kids or grandkids were doing. He also loved his pets, Jack and Zoe. Funeral services will be held at Houston Memorial United Methodist Church on Thursday, June 29, 2017 at 2 p.m. He will lie in state from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. Brother Joshua Allison and Reverend George Whitten will officiate. Burial will follow in the adjoining cemetery. Mr. Moore is survived by his wife of 48 years, Mary G. Moore; sons, James David Moore and his wife Mary Frances, and Stephen Douglas Moore and his wife Haley; daughter, Mary Beth Bush and her husband Evan; mother and father-in-law, Carl and Owene Godsey; he was "Pop" to 8 grandchildren, Ethan Moore, Ella Moore, Eli Moore, Ryley Moore, Kinley Moore, Liam Moore, Maddie Bush and Bryce Bush; and close friend and cousin, Mike Moore. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Grace Moore.

Elizabeth A. "Bill" Presley, age 89, of Oneonta, AL., passed away on June 26, 2017. Mrs. Presley was a member of Park Avenue Baptist Church. She graduated from Blount County High School in 1946. She was the first school bus driver at Oneonta City School. She ran the concession stands at the recreation park and the McDaniel Gym for many years. She loved to embroider and make handmade rugs and enjoyed playing ball with her grandchildren. Preceding her in death were her parents Ernest and Addie Robinson Armstrong; husband Robert "Bob" M. Presley, Jr.; daughter Alice Michelle "Shelly" Robinette; son-in-law Stephen Robinette; nine brothers and sisters. Survivors include her daughters Sandra Gail Maciel (Alex) of Huntsville, Charlene Adams (John) of New York, Suzette Presley of Oneonta and Denise Nelson (Rick) of Huntsville; sons Robert D. Presley, Sr. (Deb) of Morris and Dennis Presley (Daphne) of New Harmony; grandchildren Suzanne Tjarks (Chris), Robbie Maciel, Anna Logan, Robert D. Presley, Jr., Brenna Weston (Andy), Ashley Robinnette, Nick Presley, Kristen Guffey (Jordan) and Ryan Nelson (Ainsley); great granddaughters Abbigail Logan, McKenzie Chitwood, Chloe Presley and Sienna Presley. The family will receive friends on Sunday, July 2, 2017 at Lemley Funeral Home from 12 Noon until service time. Funeral service will be held in the Chapel of Lemley Funeral Home at 2 p.m. with Bro. Dan Sims officiating. Burial will be in the Pleasant Mount Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Robert Maciel, Robert D. Presley, Jr., Ryan Nelson, Bart Rainey, Roger Jackson and Ross Norris. Lemley Funeral Home and Crematory directing.

James Paul Lee Doyle, 23, passed away June 24, 2017. Funeral services will be held Monday, July 03, 2017 beginning at 2 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. Arrangements under the direction of Moss-Service Funeral Home, Cullman, Alabama. Visitation will be held Monday, July 03, 2017 from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home.

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BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, as follows:
SECTION 1. It is hereby established and declared that the following described real property of the City of Cullman, Alabama, is no longer needed for public or municipal purposes, to-wit: A parcel of land, otherwise known as a sidewalk north of Rumor's Deli, which is 24.20 feet by 100 feet, more or less, located directly west of Clark Street NE and being more particularly described as:

"Begin at the northeast corner of block 2 of Osborne's addition to the City of Cullman as recorded in map cabinet A, slide 49 in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama same being the intersection of the west right-of-way line of 1st Avenue southeast, with the south right-of-way line of Clark Street NE, having an Alabama state plane, west zone, NAD 83 coordinate value of N.1520725.70', E.2166998.76, and run thence south 63 degrees 06 minutes 08 seconds west (bearing based on AL. state plane, west zone, NAD 83, grid), a distance of 100.00 feet to the northwest corner of said block 2, same being the east right-of-way line of a railroad right-of-way; thence north 26 degrees 53 minutes 52 seconds west, and run along said east railroad right-of-way line, a distance of 24.20 feet; thence north 63 degrees 06 minutes 08 seconds east, a distance of 100.00 feet to the west right-of-way line of said 1st Avenue southeast; thence south 26 degrees 53 minutes 52 seconds east, a distance of 24.20 feet to the point of beginning."

SECTION 2. That the Mayor and City Clerk be, and they hereby are, authorized and directed to execute and attest, respectively, for and on behalf of the City of Cullman, Alabama, a warranty deed, a copy of which is on file in the office of the City Clerk, whereby the City of Cullman, Alabama, does convey the premises described Section 1 hereof to the adjoining property owners for its fair market value.
SECTION 3. This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication as required by law.
ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, this the 26th day of June, 2017. /s/ Garlan E. Gudger, Jr. - President of the City Council
ATTEST: /s/ Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk
APPROVED BY THE MAYOR, this the 26th day of June, 2017. /s/ Woody Jacobs – Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 2017 – 16
AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2004-03 AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, TO RE-ZONE CERTAIN PARCELS OF PROPERTY AS SET FORTH HEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:
1. Under the authority of Chapter 52, Articles 1 through 4, Section 11-52-1 through Section 11-52-84, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, and specifically Sections 11-52-77 and at the request of property owner, Rodney Kinney, the following describe the tract or parcel of land, to-wit:
PPIN: 010978. PARCEL: 17-02-09-1-017-003.000. ADDRESS: 1006 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.
DESCRIPTION: Beginning at a point 350 feet West of the East line of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 9, Township 10 South, Range 3 West, which point is also the Northeast Corner of the four acres of land brought by T.L. Humphrey and running in a Northwesterly direction along the railroad tract (right of way) 185 feet to a point of beginning; thence continue running in a Northwesterly direction along said railroad tract 185 feet; thence run West 305 feet; thence in a Southeasterly direction 185 feet, thence run East 305 feet to the point of beginning. Situated in the city limits of Cullman, Alabama, and lying and being in Cullman County, State of Alabama, designated as M-1 Manufacturing District on the Zoning Map of the City of Cullman, Alabama, under Ordinances No. 2004-03 and as may be reflected in any comprehensive master plan for the City of Cullman, Alabama, be, and is hereby changed from M-1 Manufacturing District to B-2 Business District.
2. That this ordinance be published at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in advance of its final passage in a newspaper with general circulation within the City of Cullman, Alabama, the first publication of said notice and ordinance being verbatim and the second publication either verbatim or synopsized, with the last publication being at least 15 days prior to the date set for public hearing and passage of said ordinance.
3. That a public hearing be held relative to the passage of this ordinance on the 26th day of June, 2017 at 7:00 o'clock p.m., at which time interested parties and citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance and any changes relating thereto.
4. That all notices as required by law be given by the City Clerk concerning said public hearing, and in addition thereto, a certified letter be sent by the Clerk to all contiguous property owners at their last known addresses as shown by the tax records for the City of Cullman, Alabama.
5. That upon final passage of this ordinance, all zoning maps, master comprehensive plans or any other documents of the City of Cullman, Alabama, in conflict with this ordinance be and are hereby changed and amended to reflect the changes and amendments herein.
6. Should any part or portion of this ordinance be held invalid, unenforceable or unconstitutional, for whatever reason, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect any other part or portion of this ordinance.
7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage or adoption as required by law, including notice, publication and public hearing, all in accordance with Section 11-52-1, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.
ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, this the 26th day of June, 2017. /s/ Garlan E. Gudger, Jr. - President of the City Council
ATTEST: /s/ Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk
APPROVED BY THE MAYOR, this the 26th day of June, 2017. /s/ Woody Jacobs – Mayor

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

TRACIE DANIEL WOOTEN,
Plaintiff

Vs. Case Number: **DR-2017-000144.00**

GARY LANE WOOTEN,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Gary Lane Wooten, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Tracie Daniel Wooten's Complaint for Divorce by August 28, 2017 or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-DR-2017-000144.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 27th day of June, 2017.

Lisa McSwain,
Clerk of Circuit Court

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

DEBRA WHITTINGTON MILLER,
Plaintiff

Vs. Case Number: **DR-2017-000131.00**

JOHN W. MILLER,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

John W. Miller, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Debra Whittington Miller's Complaint for Divorce by August 14, 2017 or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-DR-2017-000131.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 14th day of June, 2017.

Lisa McSwain,
Clerk of Circuit Court

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DONALD WAYNE SHEDD, Deceased. Case No.: PC-2017-130

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to CHRIS THOMAS, Personal Representative on the estate of DONALD WAYNE SHEDD on the 19th day of June, 2017 by the Honorable TAMMY BROWN, Judge of Probate Court 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 the law or the same will be barred.

MICHAEL D. HAYNES
Attorney for Estate
412 First Avenue, SE
Suite 100
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 737-5068

TO: Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

TAMMY BROWN
Judge of Probate

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF NINA MARIE GOSSETT, Deceased. * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA. * CASE NO.: PC 2017-132

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 19th day of June, 2017, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Victoria Lynn Amberson, Personal Representative of the Estate of Nina Marie Gossett, Deceased

Law Firm of Nail & Sparks, LLC
Pamela E. Nail
Attorney for the Estate of Nina Marie Gossett
200 Second Ave. S. W.
Cullman, Al. 35055
256-734-3342

To: Publisher of the Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks in said newspaper.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of BRITTANI MARIE MARTIN, An incapacitated person Case No. PC 2017-159

ORDER AND NOTICE FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The Petitioner, Nichole Marie Martin, having filed a Petition for the Appointment of a Guardian for Brittani Marie Martin, an incapacitate person together with a Motion for Service by Publication supported by the affidavit of Nichole Marie Martin, stating that Richard Alan Toole, father and next of kin of Brittani Marie Martin, who has been absent from his last known address in the State of Florida for more than thirty days and whose whereabouts are unknown and cannot be ascertained after the exercise of reasonable diligence; and it appearing to the court that said petition and motion is in proper form it is,

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Cullman Tribune publish this order and notice to Richard Alan Toole once a week for ~~three~~ consecutive weeks, and thereafter file with the court a copy of the notice so published and an affidavit of publication.

2. That said petition is hereby set for hearing on the 15th day of September, 2017 at 9:00 o'clock A.m.

3. That Richard Alan Toole should make known any objection to said petition in writing filed with this court on or before the day and time of said hearing.

Done this the 13th day of June, 2017.

TAMMY BROWN
PROBATE JUDGE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: DORINDA DALE SHEDD, DECEASED. CASE NO.: PC-2017-133

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to CHRIS THOMAS, Personal Representative on the estate of DORINDA DALE SHEDD on the 19th day of June, 2017 by the Honorable TAMMY BROWN, Judge of Probate Court 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 the law or the same will be barred.

MICHAEL D. HAYNES
Attorney for Estate
412 First Avenue, SE
Suite 100
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 737-5068

TO: Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

TAMMY BROWN
Judge of Probate

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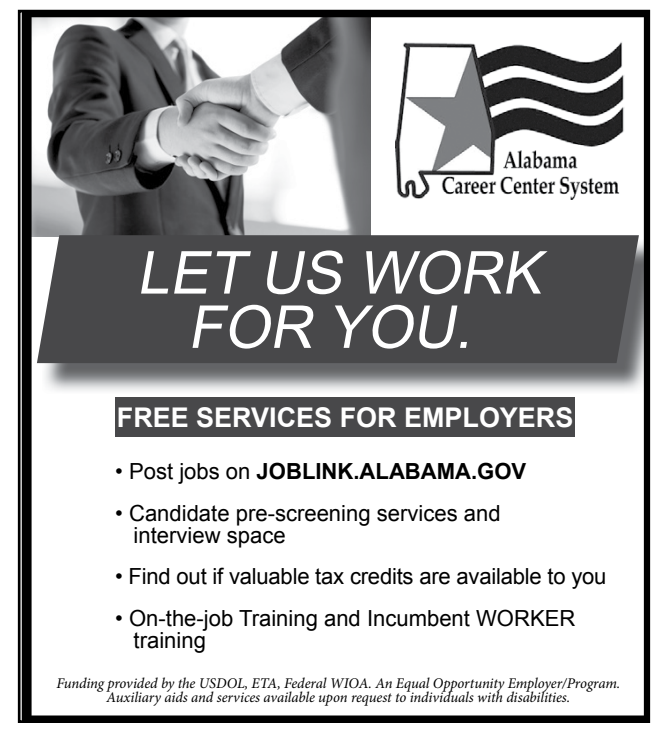
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