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Cullman Police announce changes to morning traffic flow around city schools



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CPD Lt. Jeff Warnke, left, Officer Rodney Banister, center, and CPD Chief Kenny Culpepper demonstrate how the cones will be set up during school hours.

Heather Mann, W.C. Mann
Cullman Tribune

CULLMAN – The start of a new school year brings a fair amount of confusion, especially when it comes to school traffic. Until parents find their own comfortable routine, morning drop-off areas tend to be chaotic and crowded. To help combat traffic congestion around Cullman Middle School, Primary School and High School, which has been a problem in recent years, the Cullman Police Department worked together with the city schools and a city traffic engineer to design new routes for parents dropping off their children.

The project, nicknamed "Mayhem 2017," was the subject of a meeting held by Chief Kenny Culpepper Wednesday morning, during which he went over some of the areas that will likely pose more problems.

Culpepper says each of the three schools in the affected area will have an officer present at its open house to explain the traffic flow changes, and that during the first few weeks of the new school year, pairs of officers will be stationed at each affected school intersection to answer questions from drivers and direct traffic if necessary.

The open house schedules for Cullman City Schools are as follows:

Thursday, August 3

- Cullman Middle School, 5 p.m.

Friday, August 4:

- Cullman City Primary School
  - *Kindergarten, 4 p.m.*
  - *First grade, 5 p.m.*

Monday, August 7

- East Elementary, 4-6 p.m. (not affected)
- West Elementary, 5-7 p.m. (not affected)
- Cullman High School, 6-8 p.m.

Several people present at Wednesday's meeting anticipated negative reactions over the changes, especially one near the middle school. Drivers traveling south on Second Avenue will no longer be able to turn left onto Oak Drive in order to drop their students off in the circle, which ends up causing congestion with drivers going north on Second and turning right; instead, they must turn left onto Ninth Street and drop their kids off in the designated drop-off zones.

Additionally, drivers will no longer be able to turn left off of Third Avenue onto Oak Drive during school hours.

Although several restrictions » PAGE 2

After eleven tasty years, AJ's Steakhouse prepares to say goodbye



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Melody Folsom Hill, daughter of former Alabama governor "Big Jim" Folsom opened AJ's Steakhouse with her late husband, Doug Hill.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – AJ's Steakhouse has been a Cullman institution since 2006. After 11 years and multiple "best steak" awards, owner Melody Folsom Hill has decided it's time for something new. She sat down with The Tribune to reminisce about her life as a restaurateur, and to talk about her decision to turn the page.

The early days

Hill began, "We opened Aug. 1, 2006, when our daughter was 11 months old. And she's AJ; that's who we named it after. She was named after my brother Andrew Jackson. He passed away when I was two months pregnant. My husband and Jack were real close, and they wanted to go into the restaurant business together, but it just didn't happen.

"My husband worked » PAGE 8

ALS nonprofit holding arts and crafts fair this weekend

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Nonprofit group Fishing 4 a Cure 4 ALS is doing something new. In addition to its annual bass tournament, which is held in the fall, a vendor arts and crafts fair is happening this Saturday, July 29, from 5-9 p.m. at the Cullman Festhalle.

The new event, organized by Megan Harris, is free to attend.

"It is all for the community!" Harris emphasized.

This is the first year for the craft fair, but the group's fishing tournament has been around since 2014.

"Since it is our first (craft fair), we are starting small," Harris said.

"We plan for this event to grow each year. I would love to be able to fill up Depot Park with vendors one day!"

The annual Fishing 4 a Cure 4 ALS bass tournament is the primary event the organization has used to raise donations for the Alabama Chapter of the ALS Association, Harris explained.

"While raising money is important to our organization, bringing awareness is also part of our mission," said Harris.

"This vendor and craft fair allows us to reach another demographic in our community."

As to why she thinks members of the local community should come out and support the cause, Harris' answer was simple: it will be fun and connect Cullman with a worthy cause.

"We will have free entertainment by the Coleman Brothers, several different vendors, and local crafters," Harris said.

"This event gives us the opportunity to get involved with our community and show them what Fishing 4 a Cure 4 ALS is all about."

As of press time, the confirmed vendors are: Strength by Design, LuLaRoe, JewelScent, Perfectly Posh, Housewife Handcrafted, LipSense, Plunder, Mary Kay, adornable.u, Scentsy, doTERRA, Turquoise Cotton Boutique, Cullman Mental Health, and Magic of Mickey, as well as several local crafters.

According to its Facebook page, "Fishing 4 a Cure 4 ALS, LLC is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness and funds to find a cure for ALS and support those families affected by this disease.

"We formed this group in honor of Danny Harris, our husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend who is currently battling this disease."

Says the National Institutes of Health (NIH), "Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a rare group of neurological diseases that mainly involve the nerve cells (neurons) responsible for controlling voluntary muscle movement.

"Voluntary muscles produce movements like chewing, walking, breathing and talking. The disease is progressive, meaning the symptoms get worse over time.

"Currently, there is no cure for ALS and no effective treatment to halt, or reverse, the progression of the disease."

ALS is also referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease.

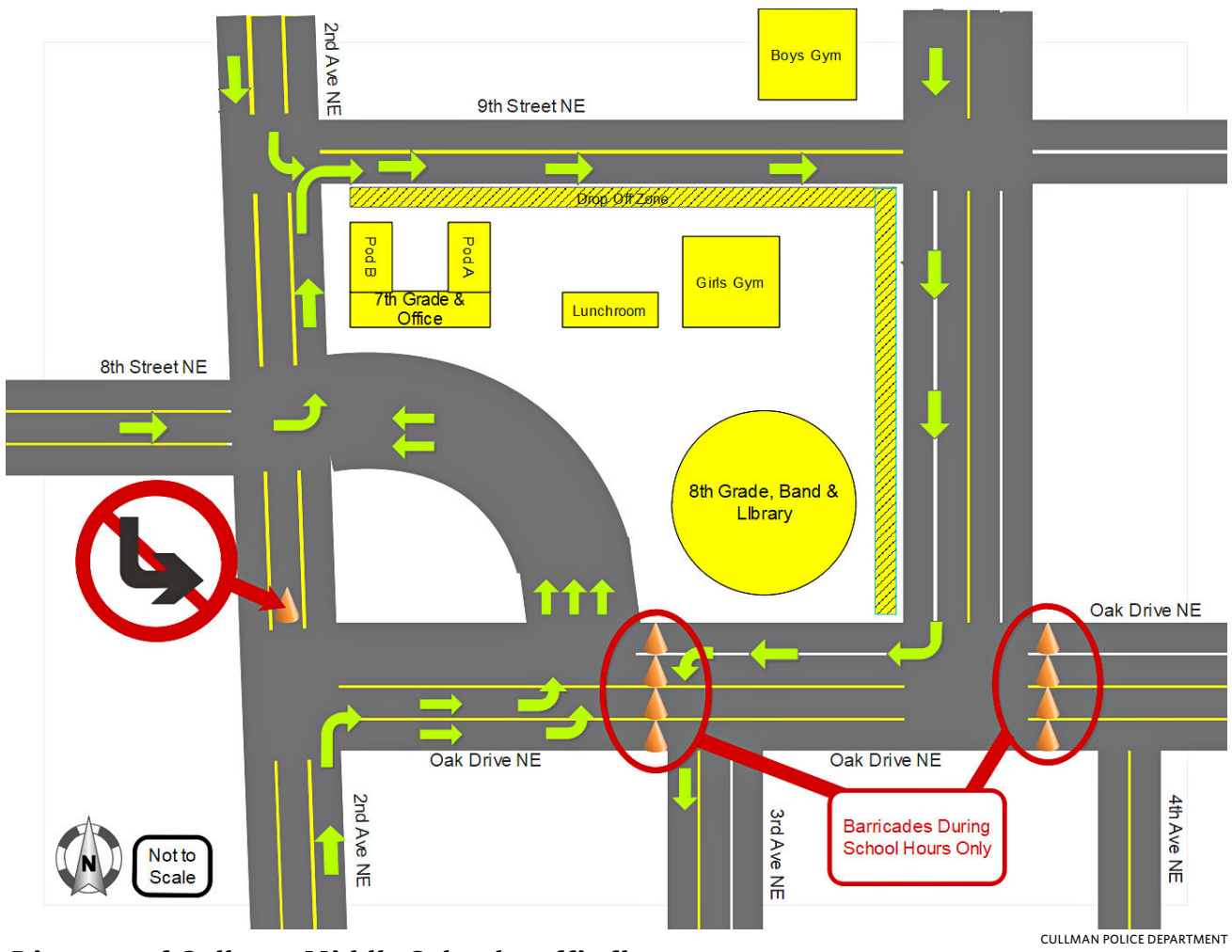


Diagram of Cullman Middle School traffic flow

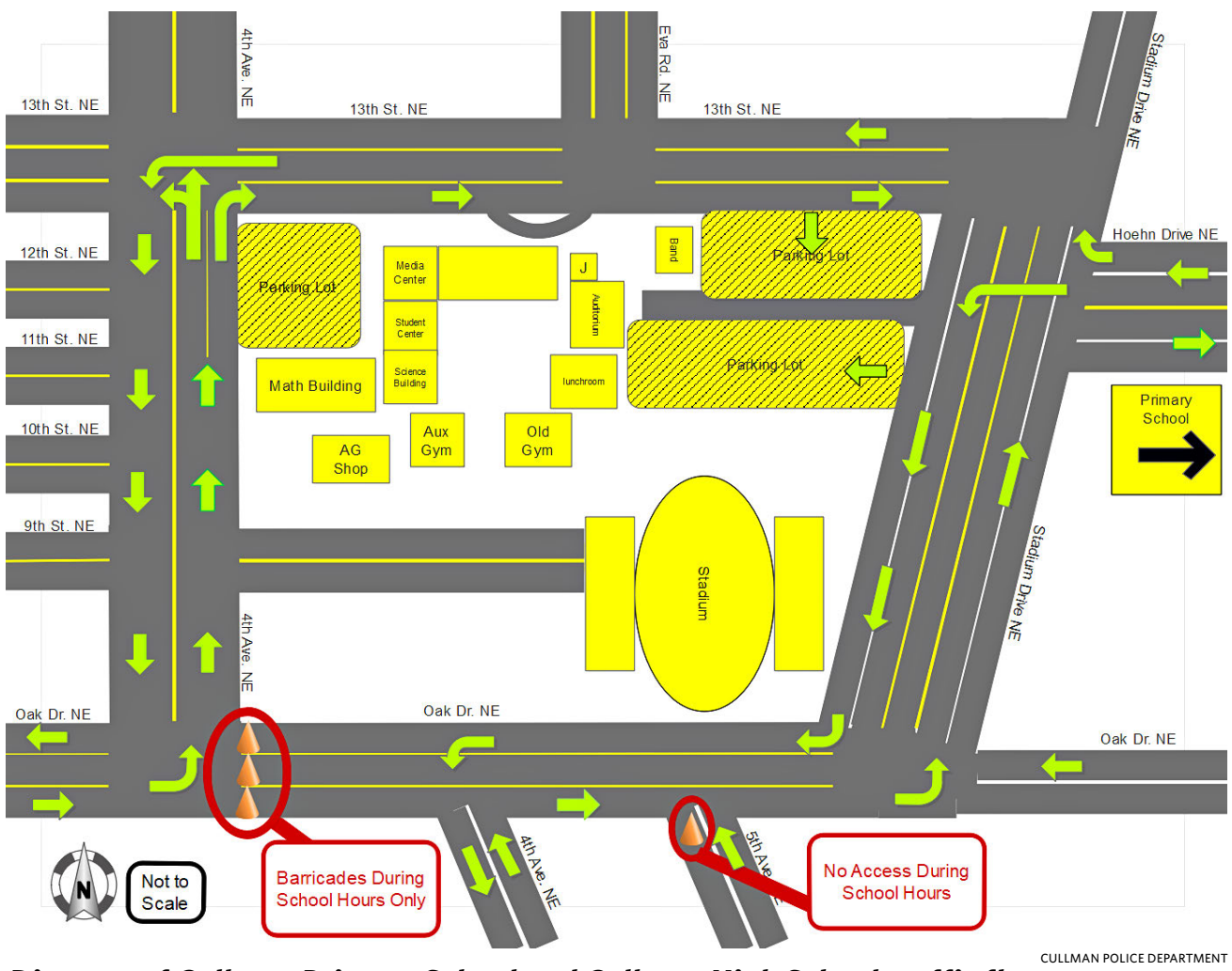


Diagram of Cullman Primary School and Cullman High School traffic flow

Traffic (from Front)

are being set up on where drivers can go, the police are also setting up cones and barricades to ensure one-way traffic flow on certain streets in order for cars to use every lane instead of just the ones on the right side of the road.

They plan to have the barricades set up each morning by 7:15, and will take them down after the drop-off hours are over. Furthermore, afternoon pick-up will not be affected by any of the morning changes.

The presentation included updated directions for drivers going to the primary, middle and high schools depending on which direction they are traveling:

To primary school

- From Childhaven or Eva Roads: turn left onto 13th St., right onto Stadium Drive, then left onto Hoehn Drive
- From Hwy 278: travel north on Fourth Ave. NE, turn right onto Oak Drive, left onto Stadium Drive, then right onto Hoehn Drive
- From Convent Rd.: travel west on Oak Drive, turn right onto Stadium Drive, then right onto Hoehn Drive.
- From Hwy 31: travel east on Eighth St., turn left onto Second Ave., right onto 13th St., right onto Stadium Drive, then left onto Hoehn Drive.

To middle school

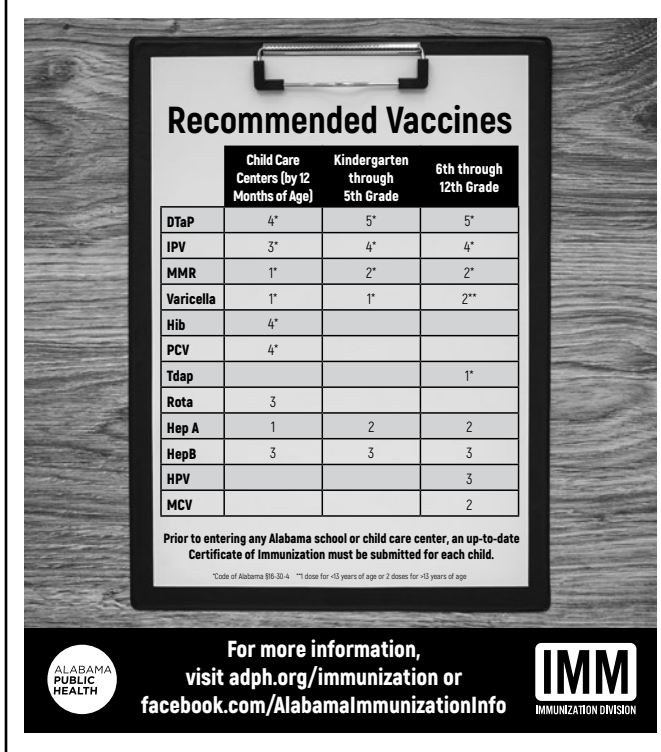
- From Childhaven Road: travel south on Second Avenue, turn left onto Ninth St., drop kids off at Ninth St. side
- From Hwy 278: travel north on Second Avenue, turn right onto Oak Drive, then left into CMS circle (pull up as far as possible before stopping)
- From Convent Road: travel west on Oak Drive, turn left onto Hoeppner Lane, right onto Elizabeth St., right onto Second Avenue, right onto Oak Drive, then left into CMS circle (pull up as far as possible before stopping)
- From Hwy 31: travel east on Eighth St., turn left onto Second Avenue, then left onto Ninth St.

To high school

- From Childhaven or Eva Roads: turn left onto 13th St. and right onto Stadium Drive.
- From Hwy 278: travel north on Third Avenue NE, turn right onto Oak Drive, left onto Fourth Avenue NE, right onto 13th St., then right onto Stadium Drive.
- From Convent Road: travel west on Oak Drive and turn right onto Stadium Drive.
- From Hwy 31: travel east on Eighth St., turn left onto Second Avenue, right onto 13th St., then right onto Stadium Drive.

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

A new study published in *PLOS ONE* has found that people who take proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) had a 70 percent increase in the risk of being admitted to the hospital with infectious gastroenteritis.

***

A new Universite de Montreal study in the *British Medical Journal* reveals that antidepressants prescribed to pregnant women could increase the chance of having a baby with birth defects. The risk – six to ten percent, versus three to five percent in women who do not take the drugs – is high enough to merit caution in their use, especially since, in most cases, they are only marginally effective, the study says. For example, when Celexa (the brand name for citalopram) was taken in the first trimester, the risk of major birth defects jumped from five percent to eight percent. Similarly, use of Paxil (paroxetine) was associated with an increased risk of heart defects; venlafaxine (Effexor), with lung defects and tricyclic antidepressants (such as Elavil), with increased eye, ear, face and neck defects.

***

As many as three out of four surgery patients could be receiving anti-clotting medications that they do not need, according to new research. A study published in *Annals of Surgery* challenges standard-of-care guidelines specifying that all general surgery patients receive anticoagulants. The treatment is meant to prevent formation of blood clots in the veins. In the worst cases, clots could break free and block blood flow to vital organs such as the lungs, causing sudden death. However, the new findings suggest that the preventive measure may be unnecessary for most patients and could even be harmful to a small proportion.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JULY 27, 2017

Commission meeting becomes referendum on local trucking business

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – When the Cullman County Commission planned Tuesday morning's meeting, the commissioners probably did not know that the hot topic wouldn't even be among the 18 items on the agenda.

Early in the meeting, when the floor was opened to public comment, four Vinemont area residents from County Roads 1285, 1286 and 1279 took their turns speaking about Zachary Wootten of Wootten Logistics, who is trying to locate a trucking business on County Road 1285.

Kim Smith was the first to speak, offering the most detailed presentation.

Smith had a prepared written statement, which she made available to The Tribune, but modified the wording at certain points during her presentation. The following transcript is from an audio recording of her verbal statement.

She began, "I'm here to address a statement that has been made to me by Zachary Wootten of Wootten Logistics. He stated that the County Commission has agreed to widen County Road 1285 and fix the intersections where it joins Highway 31 and County Road 1286, so he can put his trucking company on a 5-acre lot that is located on 1285 that is in the middle of residential homes.

"County Road 1285 is not even wide enough for two cars to pass. It's been in a pitiful condition for what I've known at least 18 and a half years that I've lived there.

"And I think it's wrong for the County Commission to use our tax dollars to widen County Road 1285 and to fix those intersections for only one businessman. One business, a trucking company that is established there, is going to cause the property values to decline for 26 current homeowners who pay taxes and vote. There's 16 homes on County Road 1286, four homes on 1285, six homes on 1279, and Dubberly General Contractors is now developing 10 acres on the north end of 1285 that's going to have 10 additional homes on it. This is going to negatively impact Dubberly General Contractors on their development there with trucks coming out 24/7. It's also going to present numerous safety issues for our children, our young drivers and everyone who lives on 1285, 1286 and 1279, with anywhere from 20 to 30 trucks coming in and out of that road 24/7."

Smith went on to list accidents and code violations involving the company over the last two years, express concern about chemicals from truck wash bays and fueling stations getting into area soil and water, and challenge the commission to justify the potential expense of modifying County Road 1285.

She concluded by referencing a conversation she had with Commissioner Garry Marchman, in which she says he told her that the commission had not agreed to help Wootten; but followed up by pointing out that the commission had apparently agreed to trim trees along the road to allow Wootten's trucks to pass.

Chairman Kenneth Walker offered the commission's first response.

"Actually, this commission has not agreed on nothing. Actually, this is the first time I've ever heard about this project, period. So I don't know where Mr. Wootten's getting his information, but this commission has not agreed on anything; because this is the first I've heard anything about 1285 or any Wootten, LLC, or whatever. So ever what he's telling you, I have no idea what you're talking about."

Marchman, who did have previous contact with Wootten, added, "He's right; there's no agreement been made by the commission to widen the road or anything like that. Now, I did agree to go out there and trim the trees back, but that's common on any county road, you know. And he said the trees were overhanging the road where he couldn't get his trucks down if he had to use it. I'd do that for anybody, any company, or a local farmer that needed to haul a tractor in and out. You know, I would do that for anybody."

The three remaining Vinemont residents, Steve McClellan, Ed Taylor and Ruby Taylor, spoke briefly in turn afterward, echoing Smith's safety concerns, and adding that property for a truck yard was available elsewhere in the county, and that the proposed Vinemont site adjoined Soul's Harbor Christian School. Ed Taylor pointed out that all houses along the narrow County Road 1285 are already within 50 feet of the road, and that widening the road and adding drainage could create additional problems for those homeowners. Ruby Taylor expressed concern that trucks could pose a hazard to children at the school, since the school had no fence along the boundary of its property.

As this was not an agenda item, the commission could not and did not take any action after the public comments were concluded.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The commission met before a nearly packed house Tuesday morning.

Zachary Wootten's response

Wootten was not present at the commission meeting, nor was any representative from Wootten Logistics. A driver himself, he was on the road to Indiana when he found out about the meeting, and he spoke with The Tribune by phone Tuesday afternoon.

"They didn't tell me they were going to do this," said Wootten, "and I'm angry. They've made this into a big ordeal, and I didn't want to be made out to be a bad person. All I'm trying to do is put in a truck company, and it's a small trucking company; I drive my own truck. I have about 15 trucks: 10 trucks of my own, and four or five that are leased.

"It's just going to be a shop, offices and parking. I'm trying to make a living, and I need a shop to make a living. It takes a shop to make a truck company work. I can't always be sending my trucks out for someone else to work on.

"They want me to buy property somewhere else, but I can't sell the place for what I've got in it, then buy a $250,000 piece of property somewhere else. I can't find property I can afford. There's property available on major roads, but it's too expensive; go find a flat 5-acre piece of land, and see what it costs. If I sell, I've got to make enough to cover the cost of moving.

"I talked to Garry Marchman, and he said he would help me any way he could. If he could, he'd widen the road. If he could pave, he'd pave. If not, he wouldn't. He wouldn't do anything under the table. There was nothing for certain. If they help, they help. If I have to kick in money to widen the turns, I'll do it. For me to sell, it will cost more money to buy another property than it would cost to build where I am.

"I'm 32 years old. I've got a wife and kids, and I'm just trying to take care of my family. I'm trying to stand on my own two feet. I drive a truck; I'm on the road today. I don't deserve this."

Other commission business

In addition to several common administrative items, the commission approved the following:

- 2017-18 funding for the Cullman Area Rural Transportation System, to include the construction of a wash bay and fueling stations at the CARTS facility
- A disaster assistance agreement that will allow the construction of a community safe room/storm shelter at Stony Lonesome OHV Park. The shelter will hold up to 187 people, and will be paid for mainly through a federal grant.
- A resolution allowing County Attorney Chad Floyd to pursue delinquent taxpayers without having to bring each case before the commission on an individual basis. Floyd said the move would streamline the process of collecting overdue taxes.
- A lease agreement with the state, allowing the Cullman County Emergency Management Agency official use of a National Guard warehouse at 704 23rd St. SW in Cullman. The facility has been on loan to EMA for several years as a storage site for disaster response and state mortuary team equipment. The county's "rent" will consist of funding routine maintenance and repairs at the site.

The commission announced temporary changes to its meeting schedule, due to the commission conference room being used as a polling place for the upcoming special U.S. Senate election, and to other schedule conflicts.

The remaining meetings will take place on the following days:

- Tuesday, Aug. 8
- Thursday, Aug. 31
- Tuesday, Sep. 12
- Thursday, Oct. 5
- Tuesday, Oct. 24
- Tuesday, Nov. 14
- Tuesday, Nov. 28
- Thursday, Dec. 14
- Thursday, Dec. 28

The Cullman County Commission's next meeting will take place in the Commission Meeting Room at the Cullman County Courthouse at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8, with a work session at 8:30. The public is invited to attend.

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CCCDC awards almost $110K in grants

Andrew Cryer
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – The Cullman County Community Development Commission (CCCDC) met on Monday evening at Cullman City Hall, where they awarded almost $110,000 in grants to nonprofits, community organizations and municipalities across the county.

Funding for CCCDC grants comes from taxes- Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in lieu of taxes and beer taxes. The CCCDC began the evening with $209,980 in available funds; however, the board has a $100,000 reserve policy. Grants are capped at $12,000 and are not issued for more than that amount except under extraordinary circumstances.

One of these extraordinary circumstances, according to the Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview and Fairview High School, is the disrepair of the track at the school.

The school requested $50,000 for the project, one that is similar to the projects completed using CCCDC money at both Hanceville and West Point High Schools; both of those schools had their tracks renovated thanks to CCCDC funding.

The request from Fairview was not approved, however, due to current drainage issues at the site of the track.

There was a lengthy debate, during which commissioner Jamie Speakman stated that the drainage problems have caused damage to the track and will only set the school back into the same position in a few years.

This lead commissioner Bradley Williams to question if the request was an efficient use of taxpayer money. After a vote requiring a majority to pass, the request was not approved.

It was not declined, however. It will be heard again next month. The commission stated in no uncertain terms that Fairview High School Principal, Dr. Chris Gambrill, should be at the future meeting to address the commission's concerns about the drainage issue.

Four requests were rushed in preparation for the upcoming school year, since it will begin by the time the next CCCDC meeting is held. Holly Pond and Vinemont Elementary Schools were awarded $9,653 and $12,000, respectively, to purchase Chromebooks.

The Cullman Area Technology Academy received $12,000 of the $12,560 requested, also for the purchase of Chromebooks. The Cullman County Board of Education CARE Program was awarded $10,000 for Chromebooks as well.

Additionally, the following requests were approved by the CCCDC:

- $6,000 to the Cullman Senior Center for upgrades and repairs
- $4,000 to the Colony Senior Center for upgrades and repairs
- $8,000 to the Cold Springs Community Center for the purchase a generator
- $12,000 to the Vinemont-Providence Volunteer Fire Department for cardiac arrest life-saving equipment
- $12,000 to the Fairview Volunteer Fire Department for a firefighting skid unit
- $12,000 to the City of Hanceville for sidewalk expansion to Wallace State Community College, which the City hopes will encourage walkability between shopping areas and the college.
- $12,000 to the Cullman County 4-H Shotgun Club for the purchase of two skeet throwers and a trap machine

Several requests were denied by the commission, mostly due to not falling within the commission's set parameters of economic and community development, education, conservation and fire protection:

- $12,000 to Camp Liberty- denied for being too vague. Without anyone present to address concerns, the commissioners said the request can be resubmitted at a later date.
- $12,000 to West Point Elementary School for its playground project. This was denied because it fell outside the commission's set parameters (playgrounds).
- $12,000 to The Crossing- denied for falling outside the commission's set parameters (hygiene items).
- $488 to the Boy Scouts- denied for falling outside the commission's set parameters (salary).
- $12,000 to the Logan Preservation Foundation- denied because it fell outside the commission's set parameters (playgrounds).
- $8,000 to CATA for a conference for students- procedurally denied because the conference has already taken place.

The following requests were tabled due to a lack of information and/or available funds:

- $12,000 to the VFW for its Veterans Day Celebration- tabled due to the request being made too soon following a previous award (12-month waiting period). The commissioners also voiced concerns, saying they did not receive the required paperwork following the VFW's last award. The VFW can re-apply closer to the date of the celebration.
- $12,000 to the Oktoberfest Committee- tabled because commissioners said they did not receive the required paperwork following the Oktoberfest Committee's last award.
- The Cullman County Probate Office requested $12,000 to partially fund an ongoing project preserving historic documents of the county, but the grant received by the commission would only cover a portion of the cost. Per CCCDC rules, the recipient of a grant must prove what they used the money for, and must complete the project that grants were allotted for.
- A request from the Cullman County Commission for $100,000 to be used to repave/resurface County Road 813 was tabled due to lack of funds.
- $50,000 for the Fairview High School track (see above)
- Nonprofit group Life That Counts requested $12,000 for "positive youth development." The commissioners said they need more information before they make a decision.

CCCDC board members are appointed by Alabama state legislators.

Board members are:

- Jamie Speakman- appointed by Sen. Paul Bussman, R-Cullman
- Bradley Williams- appointed by Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope
- Acting Chairman Joe Golden- appointed by Shedd
- Josh Speakman- Rep. Ed Henry, R-Hartselle

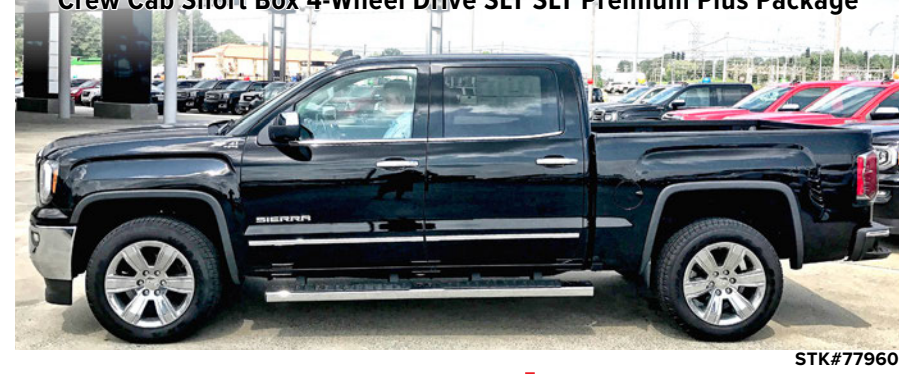
To learn more or to submit a grant application, visit http://co.cullman.al.us/cccdc/cccdc.html. The next meeting will be on Aug. 28 at 6 p.m. at Cullman City Hall.

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Visit info booths of local non-profits and colleges!
For more info please contact Mary Hovater at mahovater@aol.com



Obituary Announcements: July 27-29

Frankie Herbert Elliott, 68 of Logan, entered into rest on July 24, 2017 at Cullman Regional Medical Center surrounded by his loved ones. He was born on January 21, 1949 in Cullman. Herbert attended Good Hope High School. He enjoyed horseback riding, fishing, coon hunting, and gardening. He was called "Pudley" by his friends and family. Visitation will be held on Thursday, July 27, 2017 from 12 p.m. 2 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Addison, where services will be held at 2 p.m. Reverend Herman Elliott will officiate. Burial will be in New Mt. Zion Baptist Church Cemetery. "Pudley" was survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Jennie Elliott; son, Dewayne Elliott; daughter, Susan Kilgo and her husband Edward; brother, Billy Elliott and his wife Lois; sister, Shelia Purser and her husband David Douglas; he was "Paw Paw" to 1 grandchild, Tasha Alden, and 1 great-grandchild, Lakyn Alden. He was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Mary Elliott; and brother, Donald Elliott.

Funeral Services for Mr. Kenneth Edward Privett, age 59 of Blountsville, will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 27, 2017 at Holly Pond Funeral Home, Dale Weaver officiating. Interment following in Rock Springs Cemetery. Mr. Privett was born on November 18, 1957 in Blount County, Alabama to Eunice Edward and Mary Elizabeth Towns Privett. He attended J.B. Pennington High School. Mr. Privett married the love of his life, Ms. Betty Denney, on June 10, 1977. He worked for Smith Poultry as a truck driver until his health declined. He enjoyed riding motorcycles, was a fixer of anything that was broken, and was a caring father and grandfather. Mr. Privett is predeceased by his father, Eunice Edward Privett and a sister Brenda Staton. Survivors include his wife, of 40 years, Mrs. Betty Denney Privett; mother, Mary Elizabeth Privett; daughters, Joni Posey, Jamie (Donald) Franklin, and Jessica Dobbs; grandchildren, Hallie (Joey) Saye, Hannah Nelson, Trevor Posey, Kati Franklin, Tyler Franklin, Tristen Dobbs, and Jayda Dobbs; siblings, Roy (Deanna) Privett, Johnny Privett, Patricia (Lonnie) Cardwell, and Danny Privett, and best friend, James Staton. Visitation will be held from 6 p.m. until 8 pm Wednesday evening at the funeral home. Pallbearers will be Mike Gibbs, Kyle Langston, Mark Staton, James Staton, and Dustin Denny, and Joseph Privett. Honorary pallbearers will be Benji Gibbs and Justin Fleming. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the family.

Funeral services for Lillian Opal Gibson Mitchell, 97 of Cullman, will be 2 p.m. on Friday, July 28, 2017 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with interment in Cullman City Cemetery, Rev. Stanley Dye officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Mitchell passed away Monday, July 24 at Cullman County Long Term Care. She was born April 5, 1920 to parents Jospeh Jeter and Julia Pearl Davis Gibson. She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Charlie B. Mitchell; one daughter, Pat Simpson; one sister, Dorothy Easterling; two brothers, Clyde and Sam Gibson; and one niece, Esta McCary. Survivors include two sons, Brad (Nancy) Mitchell and Kelly (Renea) Mitchell; six grandchildren, Beth (Craig) Alexander, Mandy (Charlie) Piper, Will Mitchell, Morgan Mitchell, Matthew (Jennifer) Simpson, and Christopher Simpson; ten great-grandchildren, Ella Alexander, Ellie Simpson, Emily Simpson, Bobby Simpson, Charlie Rae Piper, Scarlett Piper, Eli Piper, Keirin Piper, Hattie Piper, and Torin Piper; one brother Shelby Douglas Gibson; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends. Visitation will be Friday from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m.at the funeral home.

Funeral services for Bobby Joe Norwood, Sr., 78, of Cullman, will be Saturday, July 29, 2017 at 2 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with interment in Cullman Heritage Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Norwood passed away Tuesday, July 25 at Walker Baptist Medical Center. He was born December 28, 1938 to parents Thomas Bruce and Nancy Lillian Freeman Norwood. He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Thomas Harris Norwood, I; and one sister, Mary Helios Norwood. Survivors include his wife of 42 years, Wanda Bragg Norwood; two sons, Bobby Joe Norwood, Jr. and Thomas Harris Norwood, II; two daughters, Angela Norwood Gordy and Mary Ann Norwood Lawrence; nine grandchildren, Sebastian, Adrionna, Ethan, Jordan, Kingsley, Bryson, Angel, Amanda, and Christopher; several great-grandchildren; two sisters, Ann Janet Chisolm and Martha Jane (Arthur) Beach; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends. Visitation will be Saturday from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. prior to service at the funeral home.

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NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made in the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Joe K Mcclain Husband And Pam Mcclain Wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., its successors and assigns dated June 24, 2004; said mortgage being recorded in Book 1389, Page 774, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, D/B/A Christiana Trust, not individually but as Trustee for Hilldale Trust by assignment recorded in Deed Book 319, Page 996 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.
The undersigned, Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, not individually but as trustee for Hilldale Trust, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on the 18th day of August, 2017 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:
Commence at the Northwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter Section 12, Township 9 South, Range 3 West, thence South 89 degrees 00' East 330.64 feet to the point of beginning, thence South 9 degrees 15' 51" East 539.86 feet to an iron pin, thence South 79 degrees 21' 50" East 216.72 feet to an iron pin, thence North 1 degree 50' 01" West 568.2 feet to an iron pin, thence North 89 degrees 00' West 281.78 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 3.0 acres, more or less. Also a the centerline of a 20 foot R.O.W. more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter Section 12, Township 9 South, Range 3 West, thence South 89 degrees 00' East 330.64 feet to a point, thence South 9 degrees 15' 51" East to a point, thence North 2 degrees 44' 06" West 134.32 feet to a point, thence North 2 degrees 43' 04" East 678.86 feet to a point on the South R.O.W. of County Road Number 1387. Said land lying in the Northwest quarter of the Northeast Quarter and Southwest quarter of the Northeast Quarter, Section 12, Township 9 South, Range 3 West, Cullman County, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as 688 County Road 1387, Vinemont, AL 35179.
The indebtedness secured by said Mortgage has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of default under the terms of the Note secured by said Mortgage, including but not limited to, nonpayment of the indebtedness as and when due. The indebtedness remains in default, and this sale will be made for the sole purpose of paying the same, including all expenses of the sale, attorney's fees, and all other payments provided for under the terms of said Mortgage.

Said property will be sold subject to the following items, which may affect the title to said real property: all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the property; any outstanding taxes, including but not limited to, ad valorem taxes, which constitute liens upon said property; special assessments; all outstanding bills for public utilities, which constitute liens upon said property; all restrictive covenants, easements, rights-of-way; the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law; and any other matters of record superior to said Mortgage. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the real property is Joe K McClain and Pam McClain or tenant(s).
Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT AS TRUSTEE FOR HILLDALE TRUST
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
Two North Twentieth
2 20th Street North, Suite 1310
Birmingham, AL 35203
(800) 275-7171
FT21@mccallaraymer.com
File No. 941217
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
07/27/2017,08/03/2017,08/10/2017

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on May 14, 2007 by John T. Sumner, unmarried, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1521, Page 576 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on August 17, 2017:

A parcel of land in the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 22, Township 11 South, Range 5 West, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Northeast corner of said forty; thence West 210 feet; thence South 420 feet; thence East 210 feet to the East forty line; thence North 420 feet to the point of beginning. Situated in Cullman County, Alabama.

Said sale is made for the purpose of paying the mortgage debt and cost of foreclosure.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as part of the foreclosure process.

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Dewayne N. Morris
Attorney for Mortgagee
2131 Third Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
The Cullman Tribune-July 27, August 3, 10, 2017

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
DEARL GENE PHILLIPS,) CASE NO.: PC-2017-037
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION

Letters Testamentary having been granted to **Jonathan Scott Speegle and Kelly Williams Carlsen,** as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of **DEARL GENE PHILLIPS,** deceased, on the 6th day of July, 2017, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge of said County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law, or the same will be barred.

DONE this 6th day of July, 2017.

JONATHAN SCOTT SPEEGLE
KELLY WILLIAMS CARLSEN
Co-Personal Representative

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for Estate of
Dearl Gene Phillips, Deceased
200 First Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

TO THE PUBLISHER OF: **THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE**

Please publish the above notice for three (3) consecutive weeks and provide a proof of publication affidavit to the Probate Judge of Cullman County, Alabama.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
)
Carl Willard Thomas, Deceased) Case No. 7815

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Gaylia Murphree, as Administratrix Cum Testamento Annexo, having filed a Petition for Final Settlement of the Estate of Carl Willard Thomas, deceased and it appearing to the Court that said petition is in proper form, it is,

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by the Court as follows:

1. That the Cullman Tribune publish this notice to John D. Thomas, Bobby Joe Thomas, Gaylia Murphree, individually and as Administrator of the Estate of Hazel Gober, Clifton Thomas, Bonnie F. Davis, David Thomas, Randy Thomas, Andena Frank, Darlene Thomas, Mary H. Thomas, Personal Representative of the Estate of Larry C. Thomas, Martha Jane Thomas McNabb, Susan Thomas, Ricky Thomas, Gene Mayfield, Jeffery Mayfield, Marcina Guffy, Danny Helms, Dwayne Helms, Margie Spitalsky, Evelyn Adkin, Diane Hoops 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 11th day of September, 2017 at 10 o'clock A m.

3. That any person having any objection to the Petition for Final Settlement of the Estate of Carl Willard Thomas, deceased should makes the same known in writing filed with this court on or before the day and time of said hearing.

DONE this 7th day of July, 2017.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for the Estate
200 First Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256) 739-3970

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
)
JANET D. BROADBROOKS,) Case No. PC: 2011-186
)
Deceased)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR INSOLVENCY AND CONVEYANCE OF REAL ESTATE

To: DEAN D. BROADBROOKS AND ANY AND ALL NEXT OF KIN OF JANET D. BROADBROOKS WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN AND TO ALL CREDITORS AND INTERESTED PARTIES:

Please take notice the Petition for Insolvency and Conveyance of Real Estate of the Estate of Janet D. Broadbrooks, deceased, filed by petitioner, Phylena A. Broadbrooks Babbitt, by and through her attorney of record, Beverly Paschal Poston, has been set for hearing on the 17th day of August, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. before Probate Judge Tammy Brown, in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama.

Dated this the 12th day of July, 2017.

TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for the Estate
200 First Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256) 739-3970

To the Publisher of: The Cullman Tribune

Please run the above publication in the Cullman Tribune once a week for (3) consecutive weeks and return proof of publication by an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE ESTATE OF)
)
JERRY ANTHONY HARPER) CASE NO.: PC2017-157
)
Deceased)

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 10th day of July, 2017, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the 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 time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

DORIS M. HARPER

Roy W. Williams, Jr.
JACKSON & WILLIAMS
416 First Avenue, SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
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To: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

Hon. Tammy Brown, Probate Judge

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

HOWARD T. GARDNER, deceased CASE NO.: PC2017-169

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF HOWARD T. GARDNER, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Maylon L. Butler on the 5th day of July, 2017, by the Honorable 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.

Maylon L. Butler, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774
e-mail: steve@smithandsmithllp.com

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Goodbye (from Front)

10 years at Western Sirloin in Moulton, and the Littrells and the Chenaults helped us get started. The Littrells and the Folsoms have been friends since the 1940s, so when my husband decided to open his own restaurant, they fully backed us. The first six years, they were our business partners, then, after that, we were on our own.

"We had thought about selling when it got so populated, and everything went wet, because my husband didn't want to sell alcohol. He wasn't a prude; he was the first one to drink a beer with the ball game. He just didn't want to sell it, said that was just too much, and we'd have to worry too much about everything.

"His dream was to own his own restaurant, so he was self-made. Nobody handed him anything; he worked for it. He was a cook for 30 years. He just passed away last year; he was diabetic and went into septic shock. He just always worked; he was a workaholic."

The decision to close AJ's

"After this year," Hill admitted, "it's been really difficult to come here every day. It's not as much fun, you might say, because he's gone, and our dream is not together any more. I just felt like it's time to be with my daughter.

"I hate it, but it's just part of that chapter in my life, and I need to go to a different one. It's a lot with one person, and I'm just not as passionate about it as I used to be. It's just time to go. We had to go in all together, when I was pregnant. My husband was like, 'Do you trust me?' And I was like, 'Completely,' because we had been together 14 years before we had a daughter. I knew he could do it, because he was a workaholic and he had a passion for it. But when he's gone, it's just not the same; and I know he would want me to do what makes us happy. My daughter's 11, and you know we're not promised tomorrow. I just want to be able to spend the weekends with her, and go to church with her, things like that we have not got to do."

What's next?

Hill once worked as a dental surgical assistant, and she says she would like to return to the field.

"For me," said Hill, "hopefully I'll go back to work for a dentist. That's what I did. I worked for a periodontist before here, in Birmingham. It fascinates me--the surgical aspects of it, and seeing the results before and after. And I'm not weak-stomached; that was a blessing!

"I'm ready to be able to work 9-5, and take my daughter to church on Sunday, and not have to rush back to work. I lost three siblings really young, and I don't want to be about what I could have done or should have done.

What do you want Cullman to remember about AJ's?

"After being 11 years here, I love Cullman. I'm from Cullman, born and bred. When we first opened, they were standing out the doors, welcoming us, and we've had some wonderful patrons that have come probably every Friday or Saturday night for 10 or 11 years. It's like a family.

I've had some of the girls that have worked for me for 10 years. It's kind of like they're all my children. I've got some that are cosmetologists, some that are pediatric therapists, culinary chefs. It's just exciting to know that we were a part of that. These kids were like our family. We might not have all had the same last name, but they were all my kids. I'm so proud of all of them.

"We were a family. We thought of our customers as family. We remembered what booth, what drink they liked, what server, when their birthdays were. I take pride in that. I'm going to miss all my customers, but I'm ready to start a new chapter."

AJ's Steakhouse will close on Sunday, Aug. 20.

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