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Cullman Utilities Board files suit against Duck River Dam engineers, construction company



FACEBOOK/DUCK RIVER RESERVOIR PROJECT

W.C. Mann
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CULLMAN – At 3 p.m. Friday afternoon, Cullman City Attorney Roy Williams, on behalf of the Utilities Board of the City of Cullman, filed suit against CH2M Hill Engineers, Inc., ASI Constructors, Inc. and Western Surety Company for deficiencies discovered in the Duck River Dam. CH2M Hill designed the dam, and ASI built it; Western Surety issued ASI's required performance bond, guaranteeing the successful completion of the project.

The Christmas flood of 2015 put the dam to its first major test of strength and, unfortunately, it did not fare so well.

"At that time," according to the papers filed by Williams, "a far greater than anticipated flow of water from the reservoir into and through the concrete portion of the dam was first observed ('Excessive leakage'). Much of the excessive leakage flows into and through the Gallery."

The gallery is an internal access thoroughfare which allows inspections and repairs to be made inside the dam.

It was later found that water had risen high enough inside the dam to contact and damage electrical wiring, leading to a shutdown of the electronics that control the dam's gates and valves.

ASI has asserted, and continues to hold, that the leakage was due to deficiencies in CH2M's design.

CH2M, in response, defended its design and contended that the problem was with ASI's construction. The two entities have continually passed blame for more than a year.

Whoever is at fault, the fact remains that Duck River Dam has a problem. Cullman Economic Development Director Dale Greer, who briefed the media on the suit, offered assurance that the dam is in no imminent danger of catastrophic failure; two independent engineering firms have inspected the structure and agreed that the dam is presently safe.

Even though safe from collapse, at least for now, the litigation paperwork states that the dam "cannot be operated or used as intended, and continues to require extensive and expensive monitoring, investigation, and maintenance that exceeds any routine upkeep contemplated by CH2M's design documents and the ASI Construction Contract (prepared by CH2M).

"Because the Duck River Dam cannot be operated and used as intended, the reservoir itself cannot be used as intended."

The fix may be as simple as extra waterproof coating on the face of the dam, or sealant in the joints between structural components.

At one point ASI was poised to attempt those measures, when they suddenly pulled out of the project.

After that, ASI Constructors sold all of its equipment and assets, then declared that it is no longer able to continue work on the project.

Western Surety wrote to the Cullman Utilities Board, according to the litigation paperwork, that "as far as Western Surety was concerned, 'ASI no longer exists.'"

ASI Constructors, Inc., however, sold all its assets to a company named ASI Construction, LLC headquartered in the same city (Pueblo West, Colorado). Web searches for either name lead to the same website, on which both names occur.

Western Surety, for its part, declared that the bond it issued did not include corrective work to the dam; and therefore that it had no liability in the matter.

The purpose of the lawsuit

As the two companies and bond issuer will not agree on who is responsible for the problem, the City of Cullman hopes that the suit will help sort out who needs to do » PAGE 7

Area kids get hands-on at local art camp



HEATHER MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Local artist Laura Walker held her art camp at The Link of Cullman County this year, where several area kids participated.

Heather Mann
Tribune Contributor

CULLMAN – Some say that encouraging creativity in children can often lead to a better future. Expanded imaginations can come up with new inventions for transportation, renewable energy sources or medical breakthroughs. However, finding ways to inspire creativity can sometimes be challenging for parents. Locally, Cullman has an active artist community, and artist Laura Walker shared her talents this week in her annual art camp, held at The Link of Cullman County.

Walker has been teaching art camps for 10 years, though these past few years have seen only one camp per year due to her wish to spend more time with her own kids.

Each camp, which lasts for a week, requires an additional week of preparation prior.

Walker has taught kids » PAGE 5

SPOTLIGHT ON MENTAL HEALTH

New AL mental health commissioner visits Cullman

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Thursday, State Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview hosted a meeting at the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) training center, to introduce new State Mental Health Commissioner Lynn Beshear to professionals in his district who are on the front line of Alabama's mental health struggle.

Mental Healthcare of Cullman Director Chris Van Dyke talked about the struggles of a mental health system short on resources and facilities, while Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry, Cullman Police Chief Kenny Culpepper and Marshall County Sheriff Scott Walls shared the perspectives of law enforcement officers who have to deal with mental health issues when all else has failed.

In a conversation with The Tribune, Shedd described the event as "an open dialog about the challenges of law enforcement professionals and mental health professionals in dealing with mental illness. It wasn't a blame game, just a very good meeting."

Shedd spoke about what led him to this event. "I serve four different counties," he said.

"Three of them, since April of 2016, have experienced three horrific tragedies dealing with mental health. I've been hearing about it for quite some time." » PAGE 2



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Pictured are Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry, Rep. Randall Shedd, Cullman County Probate Judge Tammy Brown, State Mental Health Commissioner Lynn Beshear and Mental Healthcare of Cullman Director Chris Van Dyke.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JULY 29, 2017



CCSO

Top row, l-r: Whitney Nichole Thursby, Oliver Samual Tucker, Danny Ray Tucker and MiKayla Delaine Burleson Bottom row, l-r: Donald William Holder, Shelly Dawn Holder, Bradley Dewayne Hester and Kimberly Johnson Graves

CCSO: 8 arrested for drugs on 2 separate search warrants

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN COUNTY – Agents with the Cullman Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET) and investigators with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) on Thursday arrested eight individuals after two search warrants led to the discovery of drugs.

In the first incident, a search warrant was executed early Thursday morning on County Road 335 close to Miller Flats on Smith Lake. Allegedly discovered were 4 grams of methamphetamine and 3.5 grams of hydrocodone.

Four people were arrested and charged with two counts each of unlawful possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia. Each had a bond of $9,000.

- Whitney Nichole Thursby, 29 of Berlin
- Danny Ray Tucker, 49, of Crane HIll
- MiKayla Delaine Burleson, 20, of Cullman
- Oliver Samual Tucker, 21, of Crane HIll

In the second incident, which happened later Thursday, a search warrant was executed on County Road in the Bremen community.

There, various Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 pills were allegedly discovered, along with drug paraphernalia.

Four people were arrested. Their charges and bond amounts are below:

- Donald William Holder, 49, of Bremen- unlawful possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia - $5,000 bond
- Shelly Dawn Holder, 49, of Bremen- unlawful possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia - $5,000 bond
- Kimberly Johnson Graves, 50, of Bremen- unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia- $1,000 bond
- Bradley Dewayne Hester, 35, of Bremen- unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia - $1,000 bond

In all, the CCSO seized more than 4 grams of methamphetamine, 3.5 grams of hydrocodone, various Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 pills, and various items of drug paraphernalia.

"Anytime you can arrest this many drug offenders, that's a good day. We have gotten some tips from citizens about drug activity and we have really been concentrating on drug suppression in these areas," said Sheriff Matt Gentry. "I would like to thank the CNET agents and our investigators for all they did yesterday." All suspects are currently being held in the Cullman County Detention Center.

Sheriff's Office warns of new phone scam

Bradley Williams
CCSO

CULLMAN – The Cullman County Sheriff's Office received several calls from Cullman County residents Friday saying that people are calling and claiming to be with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office and that the resident of Cullman needs to pay them a fine or pay for a bond over the phone. This is all a SCAM.

The CCSO never calls anyone over the phone to collect money.

The callers have foreign accents.

Please make your elderly family members aware of this scam as they target them the most.

Health (from Front)

The wake-up call

His own turning point, according to Shedd, occurred on Apr. 19, 2016, when mentally ill gunman Daniel Blackmon shot three people near Blountsville, and died in a shootout with police at the intersection of Highway 79 and Highway 278 a short time later.

Shedd admitted, "It was a wake-up call for me. I realized things are getting more and more serious. I started talking with mental health officials about the issue, and about what we can do."

Jamie Wallace and the Federal Court

On Dec. 5, 2016, a class action suit began in an Alabama Federal Court, brought by mentally ill prisoners and their advocates against the Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC), alleging that the state's treatment of mentally ill patients amounted to cruel and unusual punishment.

The trial opened with the testimony of Jamie Wallace, a severely ill inmate imprisoned for the murder of his mother.

Ten days after his opening testimony, Wallace hanged himself in his prison cell while awaiting a mental evaluation ordered by the same judge before whom he had testified.

In the end, the court ruled in favor of the prisoners, labeling ADOC's mental health policies "horrendously inadequate" and leveling such charges against the agency as failing to provide adequate treatment, failing to identify and deal with suicide risks, and punishing prisoners for exhibiting symptoms of their mental illnesses. The court mandated that ADOC come up with a solution that is "both immediate and long term."

For Shedd, the response to mental illness that leads to criminality needs to begin long before the patient is locked in a prison cell.

"Now we're dealing with prisons and the need to offer mental health care in prisons," observed Shedd, "but we don't just need to be taking care of prisoners."

Seeing the problem

Shedd concluded, "Awareness is something we talked about in particular. The public is becoming more aware of mental health issues, and more aware of the dangers of mental illness. It's going to take some time, but this is something I'm going to be discussing with my colleagues in the legislature.

Sheriff Matt Gentry

Gentry, who has been vocal with his concerns about the condition of the state's mental health system for some time now, was glad to be face-to-face with Alabama's top mental health official.

"It gave us the opportunity to inform the commissioner and (Shedd) about issues we face with people who are mentally ill," the sheriff explained.

"There are evil people all over the world, and not every criminal is a mental health issue; but there are mental health issues all over the state that are not being addressed. There needs to be somewhere for these people to get help, but there's not any now."

When asked if Shedd or Beshear had mentioned possible upcoming mental health actions in Montgomery, Gentry responded, "We didn't talk about legislation; we just told them about what we're experiencing. This is not a new issue. We've been talking about this for a couple of years. We're glad we got to talk to them about this. Now it's time for a response."

See these related stories from our February mental health series:

- http://cullmansense.com/articles/2017/02/17/short-term-solution-long-term-problem-sheriff-gentry-weighs-mental-health-issues - interview with Sheriff Matt Gentry

- http://www.cullmansense.com/articles/2017/02/18/inside-cullman-s-mental-health-system - interview with Chris Van Dyke of the Cullman Area Mental Health Authority

- http://www.cullmansense.com/articles/2017/02/09/cullman-city-police-chief-kenny-culpepper-addresses-local-mental-healthcare-and - interview with Cullman Police Chief Kenny Culpepper

Poet's Corner

Dreams

Submitted by: Randy C. Hale

Dreams" Fleetwood Mac Rumours (1977)
"Sylvia's Mother" Doctor Hook
and Medicine show (1972)

In the 70's,
the radio played songs like
Dr.Hook's "Sylvia's Mother Says"
and Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams."
I listened to the graveled voice of Stevie Nix.
There was platform shoes,
bell bottom jeans and silk shirts. The young
boys put cherry bomb mufflers on their
cars and installed eight track players.
We played on the streets,
the pastures, the woods and creeks.
Most days carried some
kind of adventure in our small world.

"Sylvia's mother says, 'Sylvia's busy.
Too busy to come to the phone," and
"Thunder only happens when
it's raining." Such dreams.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

The shortest epitaph I have ever seen

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



This may seem a bit strange, perhaps even morbid, but I enjoy strolling through cemeteries. I especially enjoy old ones. I find the information on the tombstones interesting, particularly the epitaphs. Talk show host Merv Griffin used to say, "We'll be right back after this message." His tombstone reads, "I will not be right back after this message." One Dorothy Ann Whitaker's epitaph reads, "Born, who knows; died, who cares." Last Tuesday, I saw a tombstone that basically said the same.

I spent last week on a mission trip with Master Builders. We are a volunteer Christian carpentry team that helps churches, and sometimes families, with construction needs, in particular drywall work. This time we helped the fine people of New Home Baptist Church, in Moreland, Alabama, complete a new fellowship hall, kitchen and education space. Moreland is a rural community in Winston County. The Moreland Community Cemetery sets directly across the road from the church. I found some interesting tombstones there.

First, I found several Bohannons buried there. For fifteen years, I have performed humor through stories and songs using the name Billy Bob Bohannon.

I discovered the tombstones of Billy Lee Bohannon in the cemetery, as well as his son, Billy Ray Bohannon. Billy Lee, Billy Ray and Billy Bob could all pass for Bohannon kin.

The tombstone that intrigued me most was one I almost didn't find. After I heard the story about an unknown man who had been killed and buried there back in the forties, I wanted to see his tombstone.

I was told his grave was located in front of the Bohannons. I unsuccessfully looked for his gravesite twice. Then I met the cemetery's caretaker.

When I saw him, I thought he was Uncle Si, from Duck Dynasty. Not only did he look like him, he sounded like him as well. If he had been drinking sweet tea from a plastic glass, I would have asked for his autograph.

He told me the story again, with a few additional details, and then took me directly to the grave. I realized why I had been unable to locate it. Not only is it small, but it might best be described as a marker, rather than a tombstone. It lies flat on the ground and is only about eighteen inches long and perhaps eight inches wide. It contains no name, no date of birth and no date of death. In fact, it only contains one word, which I would consider an epitaph but the shortest one, and perhaps the saddest, I've ever seen. The engraved word is "Drifter." No one knows his name, his age, where he came from or was going, or who killed him. It seemed that nobody knew; nobody cared. Someone shot and killed him, but no one knew who or why. He was of Mexican descent and thought to have been a drifter. He was buried beside a man whom many suspected may have killed him, but he was not charged. The man owned two plots in the cemetery, so he offered to allow the drifter to be buried in one of them, right beside where he was later buried. For many years the drifter's grave was unmarked. Some years ago, "Uncle Si" and other members of the cemetery committee showed they cared. They raised money to buy him a marker. Now, he will forever be known by those who find his grave simply as "Drifter."



BILL KING

The words on our own tombstones will depend on how we have lived, or what those we leave behind know about us.

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

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1964
Hanceville Happenings

Culture Club

The Hanceville Culture Club met on Thursday, January 23, with Mrs. Joe Sawyer as hostess. Refreshments were served as the guests arrived. The president, Mrs. J.D. Plunkett, presided over the meeting. The devotional was given by Mrs. David B. Lamont. A guest, Mrs. Lloyd Harris, of Oneonta, gave a book review on "Thirty Years Behind the Backstairs of The White House."

All members were present except three, Mrs. Douglas Martin, Mrs. Wallace E. Green and Mrs. Harold Bingham. The two guests present, from Oneonta, were Mrs.

E.H. Horton and Mrs. Lloyd Harris. The next meeting will be with Mrs. Wallace E. Green.

Kathleen Mallory Circle

The Kathleen Mallory Circle of the First Baptist Church met with Mrs. James Chappell on January 20th.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. J.J. Dunlap, in the absence of the circle chairman,

Mrs. Hubert Linton. An interesting program was led by Mrs. G.E. Barnett, "Citizens of the Two Worlds." Delicious refreshments were served to the seven members, who were present.

Mrs. Clyde Kanaday is visiting relatives, in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Mrs. Lou Petrasek and D.F. Trucks, of Birmingham, were the Tuesday and Wednesday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Columbus V. McElroy.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Creel and Barry were the weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Pepper and family, in Athens.

Mrs. L.B. Jones entered the Highland Baptist Hospital, in Birmingham, on Sunday afternoon for treatment.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Freeman and little son, Aaron, of Tuscaloosa, were the weekend guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Clapp.

Ehrensperger Rites

Funeral services were held on January 21, at Faith Lutheran Church, in Birmingham, for Miss Roberta Ehrensperger, age 43, who died at the residence of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Ehrensperger, in Birmingham.

Graveside services and interment followed at the Cullman City Cemetery.

In addition to her parents, two brothers, W.E. Ehrensperger, of Atlanta and Fred E. Ehrensperger, of Birmingham, survive.

J.E. Griffin Dies

James Edward Griffin, age 85, of Garden City, died on January 19, at the Garden City Nursing Home and funeral services were held at Garden City Baptist Church, on January 20, with the Reverend W.D. Fanning and Reverend D.C. Lankford officiating and Moss Service, of Hanceville, directing interment.

Survivors include one son, Henry L. Griffin, of Garden City; one daughter, Mrs. Irene Arnold; two brothers, Ben Griffin, of Altoona and Frank Griffin, of Blountsville and three sisters, Mrs. Sallie Smith, of Dallas, Texas, Mrs. Etta Cook, of Garden City and Mrs. Ada Black, of Tuscaloosa.

Pallbearers were Talley and Eldridge Griffin, George Sims, Billy Ray Black and Sam and Rufus McAnnally.

Cullman News

Working ever so hard getting everything lined up for the Heart Fund campaign here next month, is Mrs. George Hinkley, local chairman.

As they returned from Jacksonville, Florida last week, H.G. Pinkston and son, Henry Grady, stopped by Auburn University to see Carol Pinkston, who is a student there.

Hugh Brindley, Junior, is off to South Alabama, this week, with the touring Howard College A Cappella Choir.

Mrs. Samuel N. Stapler has been up, from Talladega, to visit her husband's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T.G. Stapler, of Baileyton. Her husband, Private Stapler, is currently with the Army, in Korea.

When Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Leverett and children returned to Pensacola, Florida, after the weekend with relatives here, his mother, Mrs. G.E. Leverette, went with them for several weeks visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cordes, of Birmingham, were guests this week of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Kratohvil.

Leaving on Tuesday for a visit with Doctor and Mrs. Myron McEachern and family, in Tampa, Florida, was Mrs. Jesse H. Smith.

Down to Birmingham on Sunday went Mesdames Carl E. Kugler, Harold Freeman, Fredrick Kugler, Verlie Jones, Gerald Freeman, Jake Rodgers and S. Jones, to attend a bridal tea, at Fairview Methodist Church, honoring Betty Gene McKee, bride-elect of Lionel Freeman. Lionel is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cortez Freeman, who formerly lived here. The wedding will be on February 7.

The Frank Valentines were here from Albertville last week, to visit the Hugh Brindleys.

The Everette Chandlers visited relatives, in Athens, on Sunday. Mr. Chandler's father died of a heart attack there last week.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JULY 29, 2017

PLANT IT

The care and feeding of roses

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Correspondent

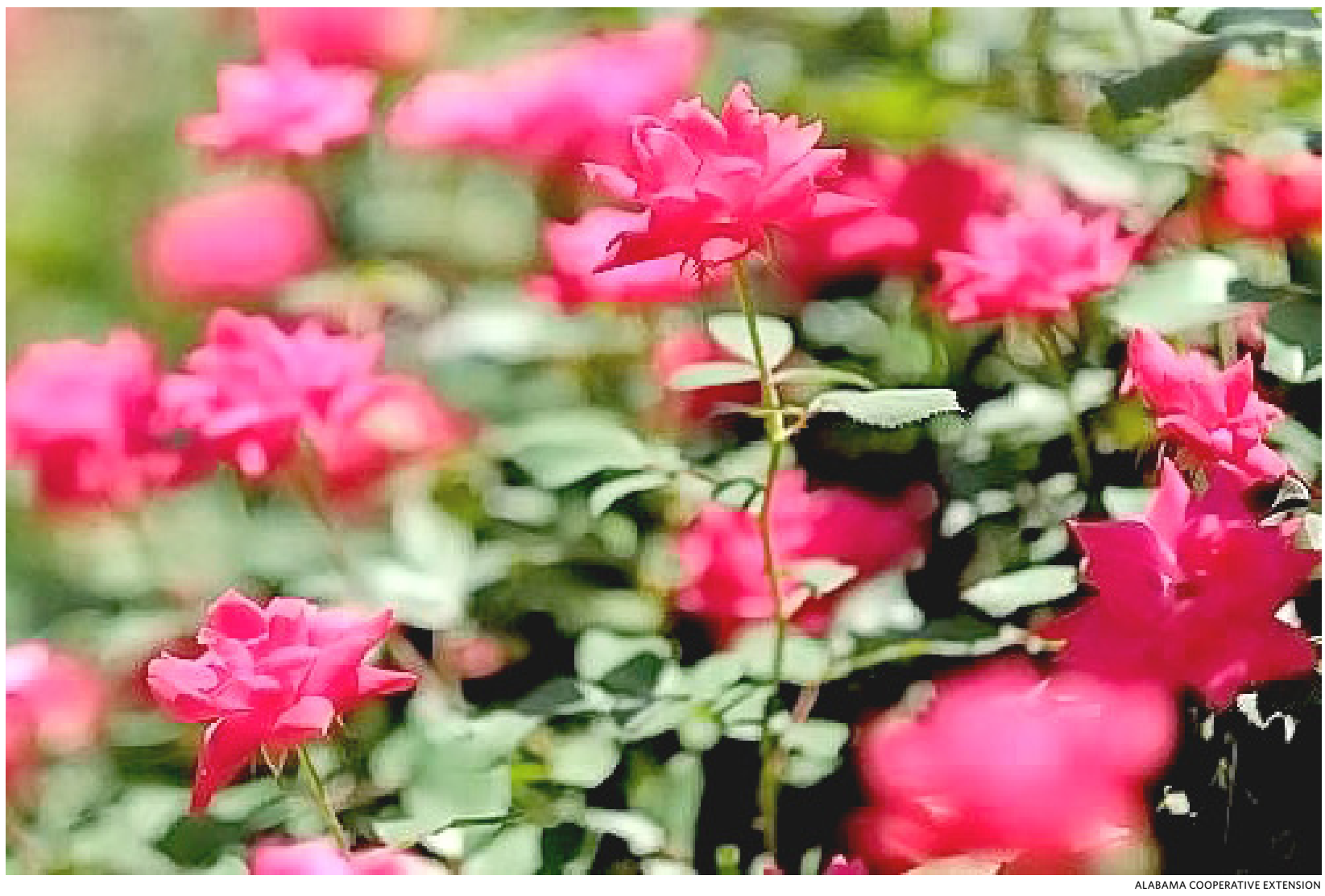


Caring for rose bushes doesn't have to be intimidating, no matter what you've heard.

First off, choose good stock; make sure the rose you buy is suited for your location; in other words, if you purchase a climbing rose, do you have a strong support for it to climb? If you are purchasing a Knock Out rose, do you have the space it requires? Or, if you want to grow hybrid teas, or just about any variety of rose, do you have a place that receives, at the very minimum, six hours of sun per day?

Choosing the most well suited site is important to their overall health and vigor of your roses, especially when it comes to watering. Roses require at least an inch of water weekly throughout their growing season, beginning in spring or following spring planting. While overhead watering is suitable before the onset of new growth, it is often better to water these plants at the soil line using soaker hoses or similar means. Rose bushes are very susceptible to fungal diseases, such as black spot and powdery mildew, especially when their foliage is kept too wet.

Use a special fertilizer for roses, applied in spring, following the label instructions carefully. However, with the addition of well-rotted manure, also in the spring, this is usually adequate.



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Knock Out roses

Mulching your rose bush will help retain moisture and may also offer some winter protection. Be extremely careful that when you mulch you don't cover the knotty looking growth near the bottom of the trunk of the bush.

This is the graft union, and your rose will revert back to one of its parents if that is ever covered.

Pruning is another aspect to consider when caring for rose bushes. This often takes place once leaf buds appear in spring. Make cuts about a quarter inch above the bud eyes and prune out any twiggy or unhealthy branches.

But you can actually prune a rose at any time. If you see that it is in distress right now due to the heat, cut it back!

You can cut it back to one-third of its size and it won't hurt it one bit, in fact, you are saving it from having to use so much energy by taking that much off of it. It will be better able to withstand drought conditions, as well.

Prune your roses by looking for the outward facing buds, make your cut just above that bud and you will have a better-looking rosebush; make it with the bud facing inward and you'll have a zigzagging confused looking bush.

When pruning take out all dead wood. Pruning is a great time to check your rose for insects.

You might notice a small, white, cottony substance; these are mealy bugs. If you see white, powdery looking foliage, that's a fungus, mainly caused by humidity and water standing on the leaves.

You can purchase one product that will help with diseases, fungus and insects. Look for products that list all three.

Here's a tip to keep cut flowers fresher: Drop one quarter teaspoon of bleach for each quart of vase water to ensure the water stays clear and free of that nasty smell that starts to brew about a week after the flowers bloom.

You're supposed to change the vase water every day, but anyone who has time for that deserves a medal or probably doesn't have kids.

Bill Smith
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Camp (from Front)

from ages 5-17, though next year she plans for her camp to focus on older students (8-15 years old).

Walker says her main goal with the camp is to encourage artistic creativity in children, which she does by letting the kids create art through several different mediums: watercolors, pencils, pastels, acrylics, oils, mosaics, and several glass jar projects.

In addition to the individual projects they worked on this year, the kids all contributed to a group mural depicting an eagle.

The mural was presented to Cold Springs High School at the art show on Friday that concluded the camp.

Said Walker, "My art philosophy, my teaching with the children, is that I don't want to ruin it (art) for them. I think kids naturally are creative and naturally enjoy themselves until some adult tells them they didn't do well enough, or they criticize them enough that they quit.

"I don't ever ever ever want to be that adult. I talk to adults all the time who say, 'Oh I used to love art until my teacher told me it wasn't any good, so I stopped' or '-until my mom kept correcting me until I quit.' I don't wanna be that person, I just wanna help them enjoy what they're doing."

Anyone who wants to check out Walker's work can find her at Cullman's 2nd Fridays, on Facebook (Laura's Shop), on Instagram (artwithasoul), or on Etsy shop (cullmanlaurasart).

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JULY 29, 2017

Sheriff's office taking applications for citizens' academy

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) is taking applications now for the next session of its popular Citizens' Academy. The academy is a nine-week course and is free to the public; however, class size is limited.

The academy begins on Tuesday, Aug. 22 at 6 p.m. and will meet weekly on Tuesdays from 6-9 p.m.

"Participants will learn about virtually every aspect of a deputy's job," said CCSO Director of Communications Bradley Williams, "including patrol, administration, dispatch, communications, criminal law, SWAT, crime scene investigations, jail operations and many other areas."

Here's how Capt. Mark Persall has explained the academy. "We will have presentations on the criminal justice system and the courts, including classes taught by our judges, district attorney and federal agencies including the FBI, DEA, Secret Service and ATF.

"We will have demonstrations on crime scene investigation, sex-offender registry and compliance and a tour of our courts and the Cullman County Detention Center and communications center," said Persall. "We will explain the Sheriff's Office's responsibility to conduct secure elections. Our investigators will cover the investigation process for violent crimes, property crimes, fraud, scams, credit card offenses, child abuse and animal cruelty.

"We will talk about illegal drugs and profile major cases prosecuted in north Alabama. The Joint Terrorism Task Force (FBI) will highlight terrorist ties to people in Alabama. We will talk about our School Resource Deputies protecting our schools and their instruction of the D.A.R.E. program. We will teach self-defense, personal protection, use of force and firearms instruction including a day of live-fire shooting.

"We will also have demonstrations of SWAT techniques and building entries. We will also highlight community projects like Neighborhood Watch, Telephone Senior Assurance Programs, Safety Plans for faith-based organizations, Active Shooter training and the Cullman County Sheriff's Office Rodeo and Special Needs Children's Rodeo."

This session will be the fifth so far.

"Our purpose," said Persall, "is to let the people of Cullman County know that the sheriff's office belongs to them. The Alabama constitution sanctions that each county will elect a sheriff to administrate services for the district, circuit and probate courts, to maintain a county jail and to provide law enforcement services to their citizens. Sheriff Gentry wants participants to see our total operation and even ride with the deputies on patrol to see the challenges and dangers they face and understand how they protect their communities.

"We also want to teach the historical origins of the office of sheriff, which goes back to ninth-century England. Civilization has recognized the office of sheriff to represent the people for over 1,100 years!" continued Persall.

The academy will take place at the CCSO's new training facility next door to the Sheriff's Office at 1920 Beech Ave. SE.

To obtain an application, visit the CCSO at 1910 Beech Ave. SE, contact Persall at 256-734-0342 or mpersall@cullmansheriff.org or Williams at bwilliams@cullmansheriff.org.

For more information, see http://www.cullmansheriff.org/citizens-academy.php.

Obituary Announcements: June 27-29

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.

Emalee Elizabeth-Ann Alexander entered into rest July 27,2017, surrounded by her family. Complete obituary and arrangements will be announced at a later time. Nichols Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Memorial services for Debbie Renee Wilson, 54, of Bremen, will be 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 29, 2017 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Ms. Wilson passed away Tuesday, July 25 in Bremen. She was born January 4, 1963 to parents James and Betty Henderson Johnson. Survivors include her parents; one son, Kevin Wilson; one daughter, Dixie McClendon; four grandchildren, Madison Self, Mason Conner, Maggie Wilson, and Amari Gaddis; one brother, David Johnson; one sister, Joanne (Pete) Barnett; two nieces, Jessica and Courtney Nickles; and a host of family and friends. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Saturday prior to service.

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Good Hope holds annual back-to-school bash

Heather Mann
Tribune Correspondent

GOOD HOPE – To celebrate the start of a new school year, the City of Good Hope threw a back-to-school bash for new and returning students Thursday evening. The park, working with the city council and student volunteers, offered guests free refreshments, face painting and water slides to beat the heat.

Attendees received free T-shirts, and Good Hope Mayor Jerry Bartlett said there were enough door prizes to give one to nearly every student who came. One grand prize winner received a $100 gift card from Eva Bank and another a week of free daycare from Kids Turf.

Dana Dunagan, park director for the city, said the bash usually brings a good crowd every year, especially as temperatures start to cool down for the day. She said that the three big events the town holds throughout the year (the back-to school bash, the community Thanksgiving dinner, and the Christmas parade and park celebration) all draw big crowds, helping to bring the community together.

Both Dunagan and Bartlett said they think of the bash as a way to give back to the community. Everything they do at the event is meant to help other people have a good time.



HEATHER MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Good Hope Mayor Jerry Bartlett, second from right, and his crew working at the 2017 Back-to-School Bash put on by the City of Good Hope.

Suit (from Front)

what. More importantly, Greer hopes that whatever needs doing will actually get done.

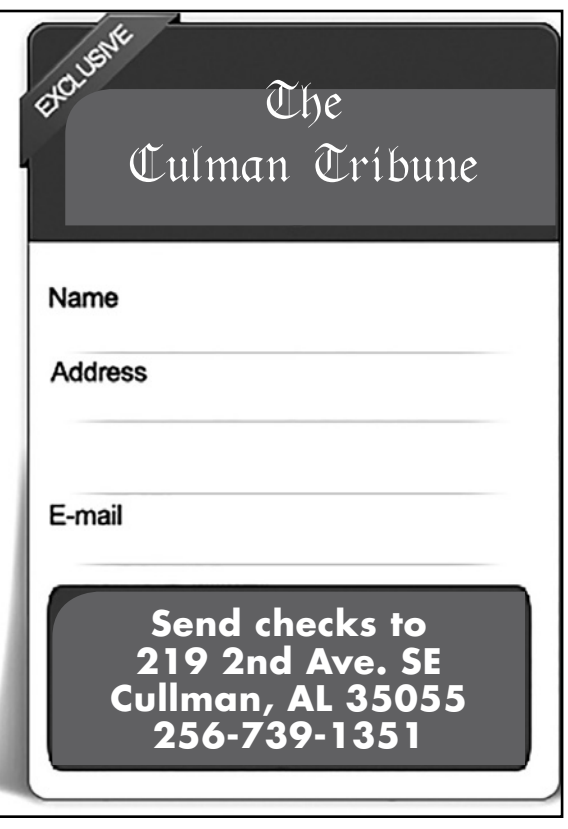
Said Greer, "The utilities board and the water customers don't build dams, they don't do construction, they don't do design engineering.

"The two of those should not be responsible for making sure that you have a quality product. It should be done by those others (CH2M, ASI).

"What we're asking the court to do, and it's filed in Cullman County Circuit Court, is not award us money, not do any of those things; but to help us identify which of those is actually in breach of contract, whether it's the general contractor or whether it's the design engineer, or it's the insurance bonding company for us; and to direct whichever one of those it is to correct that problem for us, so that we end up with the product that we were intended to have, and that we're able to provide the water and generate the things that we need."

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, will hold a public hearing on August 28th, 2017 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the Lucille N. Galin Auditorium at City Hall, 204 Second Ave NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. At this time, anyone wishing to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-23 (set forth in full below) will be given an opportunity to speak.

Ordinance No. 2017-23
TO DECLARE CERTAIN PROPERTY SURPLUS WHICH IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC OR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES BY THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

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

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

"A tract or parcel of land containing 0.11 acres of land, more or less and being situated in the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 32, township 9 south, range 3 west and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the southeast corner of lot 8 of the resurvey of lot 4b of the resurvey of lot 4a of the resurvey of lots 3 and 4 of Hays property subdivision as recorded in cabinet b, slide 357h as recorded in the office of the Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama; thence run south 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds west, along the north right-of-way line of Northcrest Drive, a distance of 113.35 feet to the point of beginning and being the point of curvature of a curve to the right, having a central angle of 75 degrees 14 minutes 51 seconds, a radius of 25.00 feet, a chord bearing of north 52 degrees 22 minutes 34 seconds west and a chord length of 30.52 feet; thence run along the arc of said curve an arc distance of 32.83 feet to a reverse curve to the left, having a central angel of 144 degrees 19 minutes 42 seconds, a radius of 50.00 feet, a chord bearing of north 86 degrees 55 minutes 00 seconds west and a chord length of 95.19 feet; thence run along the arc of said curve an arc distance of 60.31 feet to a point of being a reverse curve to the right, having a central angle of 42 degrees 58 minutes 50 seconds, a radius of 25.00 feet, a chord bearing of south 26 degrees 43 minutes 23 seconds east and a chord length of 18.32 feet; thence run along the arc of said curve an arc distance of 18.75 feet to a point; thence north 02 degrees 36 minutes 57 seconds west, a distance of 65.65 feet to a point; thence south 72 degrees 24 minutes 56 seconds east, a distance of 54.23 feet to a point; thence south 72 degrees 24 minutes 56 seconds east, a distance of 4.87 feet to a point; thence north 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds east, a distance of 44.28 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.

Wesley M. Moore, City Clerk

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY

STATE OF ALABAMA
CULLMAN COUNTY **CASE NO: AD-2017-024**

IN THE MATTER OF:
H.N.B.
A minor child.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: ANY KNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNDISCLOSED PERSONS, OR THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER

A PETITION FOR ADOPTION WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY, SCOTT ROAT. THE BIRTH MOTHER OF THE MINOR CHILD IS LIZA BLIZINSKI ROAT. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE LAST NOTICE OF PUBLICATION. YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, POST OFFICE BOX 970, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35056.

DONE THIS 14th DAY OF July, 2017.

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

NATHAN A. BROCK
Attorney for the Petitioner
223 2nd Ave SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-841-4331

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby give to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80.

2002 Chrysler PT Cruiser, VIN #3C8FY68B62T389601.

This vehicle will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Smith's Body Shop and Wrecker Service, LLC, 11597 US Highway 278 East, Holly Pond, Alabama, 35083, on Friday, August 25, 2017, at 8:00 a.m.

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby give to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80.

1997 Honda VFR750FV, VIN # JH2RC3606VM700118

This vehicle will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Smith's Body Shop and Wrecker Service, LLC, 11597 US Highway 278 East, Holly Pond, Alabama, 35083, on Thursday, August 31, 2017, at 8:00 a.m.

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby give to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80.

1997 Chevrolet Lumina, VIN 2G1WL52M1V1122594
2002 Chevrolet Cavalier, VIN 1G1JC524027162397
2007 Chevrolet Equinox, VIN 2CNDL63F476067581
1999 Toyota Corolla, VIN 2T1BR12E2XC145859
2002 Ford Taurus, VIN 1FAFP55U52A176950
1997 Nissan Altima, VIN 1N4BU31D0VC270261
2006 Dodge Caravan, VIN 2G4GP44L46R834859

These vehicles will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Restorations and Rods, LLC, 18615 US Highway 31, Cullman, Alabama 35058, on September 1, 2017.

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on September 22, 2015 by Donnie R. Weaver and spouse Cara L. Weaver, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1771, Page 27 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 8, 2017:

A tract or parcel of land being situated in the locally accepted NW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 23, Township 10 South, Range 2 West, and being a part of that certain tract as conveyed to Richard P. Northey and wife, Kathleen L. Northey by deed recorded in Deed Book 394, Page 441 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the northwest corner of said Section 23 and run S 01°18'03" W and run along the west line a distance of 558.73 feet (from which point a found bar marking the southwest corner of said Section bears S 01°18'03" W 4,479.85 feet); thence run S 88°41'57" E a distance of 2652.40 feet to a set rebar on a fence line, same being the west line of said Northey tract as agreed and the point of beginning: thence run S 89°32'42" E a distance of 209.74 feet to a set rebar marking the westerly right of way line of County Road No. 730; thence run S 26°17'13" W a distance of 113.08 feet to a set rebar marking the point of curvature of a curve to the right having a central angle of 27°53'28", a radius of 221.61 feet and a chord bearing of S 40°14'00" W; thence run along the arc of said curve a distance of 107.88 feet to the point of tangency; thence run S 54°10'48" W continuing along said R.O.W. line a distance of 133.88 feet to a set rebar marking the southwest corner, of said Northey tract, same being on an old fence line; thence run N 03°53'33" E a distance of 263.55 feet to the point of beginning. Including a 2011 Kabco MD0004SP DW manufactured home, VIN # KB026350A11 AND KB026350B11 located thereon.

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 15, 22, 29, 2017

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on January 11, 2008 by Edna J. Driver, an unmarried woman, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1551, Page 72 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 8, 2017:

A parcel of land lying and being in the west half of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 31, Township 11 South, Range 3 West, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of the west half of said forty; thence north along the east line of the west half of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter 512.26 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue north along said east line of said west half 380.0 feet; thence west 349.8 feet to the center line of a 60 foot road right-of-way; thence south along said center line of road right-of-way 380.0 feet; thence east 349.8 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 3.0 acres, more or less.

LESS AND EXCEPT: From the southwest corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, Section 31, Township 11 South, Range 3 West; thence east along the south boundary of said forty a distance of 123 feet to a point in the center of County Road 13; thence northeasterly along the center of said road a distance of 109.65 feet to the center line of a 60 foot deeded road; thence north along said road a distance of 595 feet to the point of beginning; thence east a distance of 349.8 feet to a point; thence north a distance of 125 feet to a point; thence west a distance of 349.8 feet to a point in the center of said 60 foot deeded road; thence south a distance of 125 feet to the point of beginning. Lying and being in the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 31, Township 11 South, Range 3 West, and containing 1.0 acres, more or less.

SUBJECT TO Restrictive Covenants, as set forth in instrument dated February 7, 1986, and filed February 7, 1986, in Fiche 29, Frame Al in the Office of the Judge of Probate of 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 15, 22, 29, 2017

WSCC NEWS

WaLLi members beat the heat with ice cream contest

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – More than a dozen members of the Wallace State Lifelong Learning Institute (WaLLi) found a way to beat the heat recently when they held a homemade ice cream contest at the college.

Four members brought containers of their favorite recipes to be judged and then enjoyed by everyone, with two receiving top honors. Bobbie Bradford's No Churn Cherry Cheesecake brought the top prize, with John Thomas coming in next with his Cinnamon Black Walnut ice cream. Other flavors in the competition included peach from Charles and Betty Heaton and vanilla by Wanda Creel.

A fifth flavor of peanut butter ice cream was brought in by WaLLi staff member Sandy Seibert. Brownies, cookies and even peanut butter fudge were available to pair with the cool treats.

Bradford said she found the recipe for her award-winning ice cream on Pinterest. Thomas joked with her it wasn't fair she won since she didn't have to churn her ice cream. The two each earned gift certificates to Dairy Queen.

WaLLi is open to area residents 50 and older, and offers many opportunities and activities each semester. Along with access to the Wellness Center Gym, WaLLi members can take advantage of various classes, activities and events. Trips, entertainment, games, potluck socials and more are offered each semester.

Membership is $40 per person each Fall and Spring semester, $30 for Summer semester, or $99 for the year (August through July). Registration is currently being accepted for the 2017-2018 year.

For more information, visit www.wallacestate.edu/lifelong-learning, call 256-352-7826 or mandi.perkins@wallacestate.edu.



WSCC

WaLLi members dig in to containers of homemade ice cream during a contest held recently at Wallace State.

Wallace State biology instructor Connie Briehn participates in 2017 Mountains to Gulf expedition

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State biology instructor Connie Briehn recently had the opportunity to participate in the 2017 Mountains to Gulf: Helping Teachers Make Connections expedition, hosted by the Montgomery-based Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education.

Briehn was one of 20 high school or college instructors selected across Alabama to explore the state's watersheds and popular environmental sites.

"It was amazing adventure. It felt like I was on a National Geographic special about our wonderful state," Briehn said.

"It was an opportunity of a lifetime and right up there with getting married and having babies for me. That's how impressed I was with the expedition and the people of Alabama."

Participants began the eight-day adventure at Camp McDowell in Winston County.

From there, the group visited Cheaha State Park – Alabama's highest point, kayaked at the Coosa River and paddled/tubed down the Tallapoosa River.

The group then visited the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center in Andalusia before making a final stop at Dauphin Island, where they assessed the Gulf's shoreline and ecosystem.

The expedition was led or presentations were made by multiple scientists and geologists, including Jim Lacefield, Bill Deutsch, Heather Montgomery, Doug Philips and Jimmy Stiles.

"We listened to a lot of great speakers and learned so much about the ecosystems in our state. Legacy did a great job all the way around," Briehn said.

Briehn added she plans to incorporate her Legacy expedition experiences into her upcoming BIO 104 classes.

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



WSCC

Connie Briehn, second from right, and her fellow participants visited the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center in Andalusia.

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