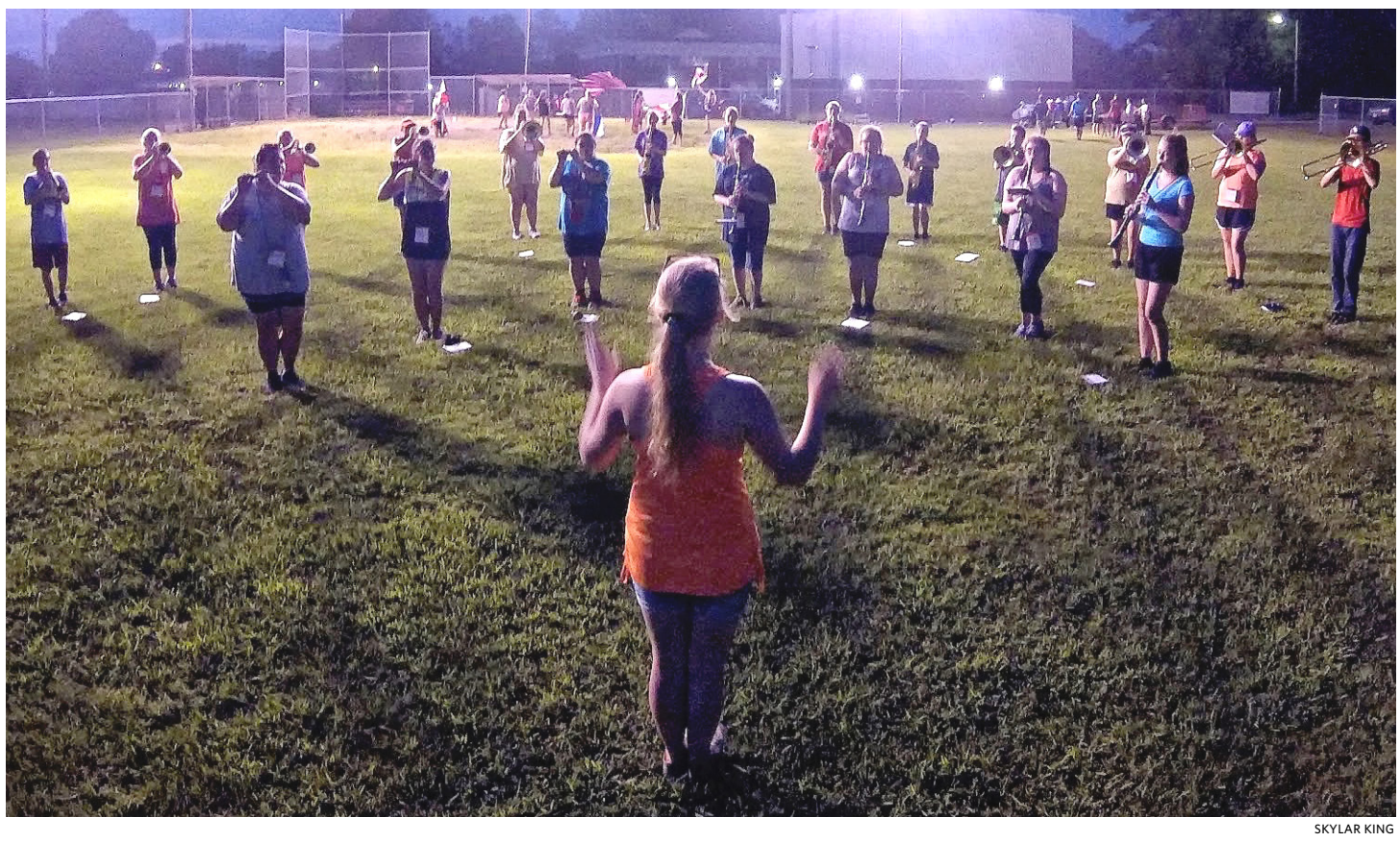
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The Cullman Tribune
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Rhythm of the fall: area marching bands prepare for 2017 season



SKYLAR KING

The Vinemont Eagle marching band prepares for the 2017 marching season.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN COUNTY – As the new school year cranks up, many are looking forward to the kick off the 2017 high school football season. Football teams have been busy for weeks, working out and preparing for their first games. But others have been preparing as well: our area high school marching bands, who have been working through the stifling heat of late summer, learning drills, memorizing music and getting pumped for the new season.

The Tribune is spotlighting all our area bands, city and county, and will present two at a time in the coming days, sharing a little sneak peek at what band fans can anticipate this year.

In this first installment, we hear from Skylar King and Steven Porter, band directors at Vinemont and Hanceville, respectively.

Vinemont High School Marching Band, led by director Skylar King

Members:
38 members from grades 9-12; five 8th graders by audition

Drum Major:
Skye Graham, senior alto saxophone player and second-year drum major

Musical theme:
"Fright Night" - "Phantom of the Opera," "Thriller" and "Hall of the Mountain King"

What was the big challenge of band camp?
"Weather. (It was) very humid and rained out our end-of-camp performance."

What's the wow factor this year?
"The show design. (It's) very entertaining and contains some very thrilling moments."

What do people need to know about your band that no one may have asked yet?
"These are the most disciplined, hardworking kids we've had yet. They come ready to learn and eager to improve each day, giving 110 percent."

Hanceville High School, led by director Steven Porter
Members:
"We have 41 members. Numbers are down a bit, but with 41 people giving 100 percent, it makes a difference."

Drum Major:
Senior Jasmine Quick

Musical theme:
"Our theme is 'Latin Up! with a Twist of Life!' Latin music has always been a source of mood-changing, fiesta-time music. And with our line-up, it is no different.

"Con Slancio' by Earl J. Fox, Jr., lives up to its meaning: with momentum (or enthusiasm). Trumpet soloist, Ethan Ayers, will get people to their feet with this great opener.

"Tio Macaco' by Snarky Puppy, is an upbeat cha-cha that will have the band on the field moving as much as the people in the stands. It means 'uncle monkey.'

"Echano' by Chuck Mangione; this tribute to his manager Ozzie Cummins (mangionemagic.com) is a blast of a percussion feature. While the sticks are flying, our band has a fast-paced drill to set this number on fire!

"Brazil' by S.K. Russell and Ary Barroso; this is a standard among Latin Jazz. Beautifully arranged by Michael Brown, this closer will have the crowd wanting more."

What was the big challenge of band camp?
"Our biggest challenge this year (and every year) is year-round activity. We have three weeks of camp, one week for just rookies and two with full band, so that we can 'get back in shape.'

"With this we do massive amounts of physical training to meet the demands of Friday Night Lights and a competition the following day. Marching band is active.

"It has 3-4 minutes of constant aerobic demand with 5-10 seconds

» PAGE 7

ATF, sheriff's office seek public's help in firearms theft

ATF offering reward in Pawn Your Bond burglary



ATF

Persons of interest in the theft of firearms from Pawn Your Bond, 1506 County Road 437

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in conjunction with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the trade association for the firearms industry, are offering a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction for those responsible for the theft of firearms from Pawn Your Bond, a federal firearm licensee (FFL).

On Aug. 6, 2017, Pawn Your Bond, located at 1506 County Road 437 in Good Hope, was burglarized

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BUSINESS

Rumors Deli: state award and new location

» PAGE 4



ANDREW CRYER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Rumors Deli is moving to as-of-yet undisclosed location in early January 2018. Its current building was sold and Rumors' lease is up Dec. 31.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
AUGUST 12, 2017

2 arrested for selling meth to undercover cops

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Two Berlin residents were arrested this week after they allegedly sold methamphetamine to undercover cops. The operation was conducted by Cullman City Police Department Investigator Justin Craft and Lt. Jody Martin.

On Aug. 9, CPD Narcotics Investigators Craft and Scott Sanford arrested Jesse Dean Thomas, 34. Ronnie Regina Millar, 35, was arrested by Craft on Aug. 10.

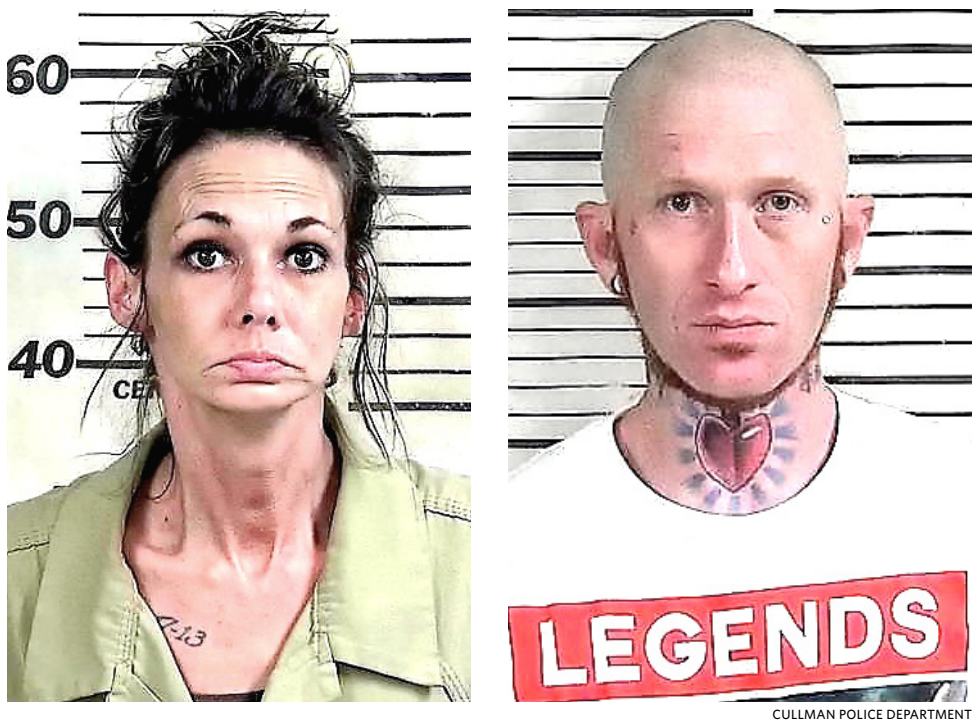
Both Thomas and Millar were charged with unlawful distribution of a controlled substance.

According to the CPD, both subjects were previously arrested for drug charges in late June.

Following this week's arrests, Thomas was jailed on a $30,000 property bond and bonded out after three hours.

Millar, also given a $30,000 property bond, is still being held at the Cullman County Detention Center at the time of this report.

Craft and Sanford encourage anyone with illegal drug information to call them at 256-775-7179 or 256-775-7183.



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ronnie Regina Millar, left, and Jesse Dean Thomas, right

Cullman Electric Co-op's annual meeting set for Sept. 9

Brian Lacy
Contributor

CULLMAN – Registration cards and ballots for the board of trustees election have been mailed to all Cullman Electric Cooperative members in advance of the 81st Annual Meeting, set for Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017. The event will be at Northbrook Church from 8 a.m. until noon, with registration closing at 11 a.m.

Included with the Annual Meeting packet are a registration card, ballot, postage-paid return envelope and voting instructions with profiles on each of the board candidates as well as information on all of the events and activities at this year's annual meeting.

Members can register and vote by mail or on the day of the annual meeting. Members who register and vote by mail must return their card and ballot by Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017.

Members who register and vote are entered into a drawing for one of 20 $100 bill credits.

Members who register and attend the annual meeting receive a $15 bill credit and can enter to win the grand prize drawing for a 2006 Chevy Colorado truck.

Activities at this year's annual meeting include a concert by the Mark Trammell Quartet (9-11 a.m.), inflatable games and activities for children, bucket truck rides, a free health clinic by Cullman Regional as well as free hot dogs, popcorn and drinks for members and their guests.

The business meeting (11 a.m. to noon) will feature comments and a video presented by President & CEO Grady Smith, election results and prize drawings. Members do not have to be present for the drawings in order to win.

Board of trustee positions for District 7, District 8 and At-Large are on this year's ballot. David Hembree (District 7) and Chad Alexander (District 8) are running unopposed. Lynda Carter, the current trustee for District 2, is running for the At-Large seat along with Steve McSwain.

Board Candidate Bios

Trustee District 7 Candidate

David Hembree — David Hembree, a self-employed cattle and hay farmer in Cullman County since 1972, is the incumbent trustee from District 7. Hembree is a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Credentialed Cooperative Director and serves as chairman on the Alabama Rural Electric Association's Board of Directors. He has also earned his NRECA Board Leadership certification. Hembree is a member of the West Point Masonic Lodge and volunteers for the Juvenile Justice System for first-time offenders. He served 22 years as a trustee of Jones Chapel School. He holds an Associate Degree in Business Administration from Wallace State Community College, with further studies at Athens State University. The Logan resident says he hopes to help Cullman Electric Cooperative remain one of the best electric cooperatives in the state. Hembree and his wife, Diane, have three sons: Heath (Lesley), Jay and Dustin (Lonna). They also have 11 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Trustee District 8 Candidate

Chad Alexander — Chad Alexander currently represents District 8 on the Cullman EC Board of Trustees. While serving on the board, Alexander has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director certification and his Board Leadership certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. A lifelong resident of Addison and graduate of Addison High School, Alexander has owned and operated businesses since 1991. For 18 years he owned and operated the Addison Chevron Food Mart and Café. Today he owns Alexander Auto Sales as well as several retail fireworks stores. When not busy keeping up his store, Alexander enjoys spending time with his family. He and his wife, Tabitha, have three children: Allison Macy (17), Gabe (15) and Conner (13). "Owning and operating a business for more than 20 years, I understand the importance of management. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve the members of Cullman Electric Cooperative again," said Alexander.

Trustee At-Large Candidates

Lynda Carter — Lynda Carter retired from teaching after 25 years and now works part-time for Cullman County Schools as a homebound teacher. Carter has a B.S. degree from the University of Alabama in home economics and a M.A. degree from UAB in elementary education with a concentration in supervision and administration. Carter has successfully completed the curriculum of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to become a Credentialed Cooperative Director, has earned her NRECA Leadership Credential, and recently earned her Director Gold Credential. "As the cooperative continues a tradition of growth, financial stability and enhanced member services, I would like the honor and privilege to again represent the member-owners of Cullman Electric Cooperative on the board of trustees," said Carter.

Steve McSwain — Steve McSwain is a senior operations manager at Wal-Mart Distribution Center where he has worked since 1984. He is a 1983 graduate of Good Hope High School, and attended Wallace State Community College. For the past two years McSwain has served on the Wal-Mart Foundation State Advisory Council. Other civic activities include the Lions Club, United Way, PALS, Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, Cullman High School Booster Club and youth sports coach. Steve has been married to Lisa McSwain for 30 years. They have two sons, Kyle (Brooke) and Dylon, and three grandchildren. "I am a life long resident of Cullman County. I have worked in the community for over 34 years, and would consider it an honor and privilege to serve the community on the board of Cullman Electric Cooperative," McSwain said.

Poet's Corner

At The Beach

By: Randy C. Hale

I love to feel the ocean breeze.
To see friends gather and strangers meet.

A young mother sets her toddler
near the oceans edge.
She takes her own hand, lightly splashes
water and brushes the child's face.
The child catches her breath
in slight shock, slinging her arms
experiencing the first of things.

Seagulls fly, parasails sail,
My daughter makes herself a mermaid tail.
The jet skis ride the brave upon the sea.

An older lady sits alone
in the waves as they swell and swish to shore.
She is gathering shells carefree
and doesn't need a thing.

The Lord calls and I say hear am I,
like my mother calling me to supper time.
The echo distinguishable and
sweet here reclined upon
the beach.

I would love to hear from you if you enjoy Poets Corner or read your poems: randyhale62@yahoo.com

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Claude was prickly, but he was still part of our family



Bill King
Tribune
Contributor

We lost Claude Senior last week and Claude Junior isn't doing too well. He had been in our family for over thirty-four years. He had been with Jean and me for most of our married life, except for the first few years. He was four years older than Ashley, our daughter. He lived longer than any of our pets. He outlived six dogs, four or five cats, several gold fish and one huge hermit crab named Hoss. Claude was just a little sprout when a family member brought him to us.

I must say, Claude was not human. He was not a pet, and trying to pet was not advised, because it usually proved to be quite painful. He came from somewhere in Arizona.

During the years since Claude first arrived at our house in Fort Payne, Alabama, we have lived in Marietta, Georgia, Rainbow City, Alabama, Southaven, Mississippi and now Opelika, Alabama.

No matter where we went, he made every move without uttering a single word of complaint, but he stuck it to me almost every time I moved him. Through the years, we watched as he grew and blossomed.

I suppose you could say we've been Claude's primary caretakers, but in all honesty, we really haven't done much for him, but then he didn't expect anything at all from us.

He lives outside. In fact, even though he has lived in all of those places with us, he has never been inside any of our houses. We've never had to feed him or even give him anything to drink. He has always appeared to be healthy, but a few days ago we became concerned about his future. I'm not sure if it was his advanced age or if he was sick. We found him lying on the ground and covered with dark spots. I moved him to a better location, or so I thought, but he did not make it.

We didn't spend a great deal of time with Claude, but we saw him almost every day. I cannot honestly say that we loved Claude and I'm certain he didn't love us, but we had grown quite fond of him through all those years.

I don't believe Claude was capable of feeling anything, but he was quite capable of inflicting pain on others.

No one, including Jean and me, was able to get too close to Claude. I'm not sure anyone ever considered picking him up and holding him. I know I never did and I advised others not to even touch him. He had an exterior that was more than tough, he was painfully prickly. Some people probably would not have tolerated Claude for so long, but he was perfectly harmless as long as we kept a safe distance.

In case you are still wondering what kind of creature Claude was – well, he wasn't a creature at all. Before I string you along any further, I should tell you that Claude was a plant. He was a prickly pear cactus. Oh, you had already figured it out? You skipped to the end of the story, didn't you?

My description of Claude may have reminded you of some people and perhaps a few pets. If you get too close, they will hurt you. Claude was pretty, but he did not set a good example to follow. God is not that way. The Bible says, "Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you." I pray that I am never like Claude. How about you?

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

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

Brought to you by Billy Ray Taylor Auto Sales

From The Files Of 1964

Darnell Rites Held

Nevil Linford "Don" Darnell, age 28, of Route One, Falkville, died on January 21st, at Cullman Hospital and funeral services were held at Duck River on January 23rd, with Reverend George Helms directing interment.

Survivors include: his wife, Mrs. Thelma Darnell; one son, David Darnell and his mother, Mrs. Desday Entrekin.

Milk production per cow has followed an upward trend since 1944, with an unbroken series of new record highs each year.

From The Files Of 1953

Pioneer Lady Dies Here

Mrs. Dan Heck, age 82, one of Cullman's pioneer citizens, died here this week, after being in ill health for the past year.

Mrs. Heck, the former Rosellen Parker and her late husband celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1946.

Surviving are: five children, Mrs. Luther Sterling, Mrs. John Sterling, Mrs. J.H. Edwards and Louis Sterling, all of Cullman and Athol Heck, of Lynn; eight grandchildren, Mrs. G.V. Legg and Edigna Edwards, of Cullman, Miss Betty Rose Sterling, of Gadsden, Mrs. C.V. McElroy, of Bridgeport, Mrs. W.E. Segrest, of Shorter, Johnny Edwards, of New Orleans, Billy Heck, of California and Jerry Heck, of Lynn; one great- grandchild and three sisters, Mrs. W.P. Patterson, of Falkville, Mrs. Mary Owens, of New Orleans and Mrs. Emily Minter, of Birmingham.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday afternoon, at Seventh Street Baptist Church, with Reverend J. Gilbert Speake officiating. Moss Service directed interment in the City Cemetery.

Guthery's Cross Roads

Technical-Sergeant and Mrs. Luther Williams, of Selma, visited Mrs. Williams parents, the I.A. Speegles, over the weekend.

Mrs. Howard Harbison and children, of Birmingham, attended Sunday School at Prospect on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gentry, of Gadsden, spent the weekend with the M.L. Millers and Sharon.

Aunt Lizzie Harbison is ill with the flu.

Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Bailey and Myra, of Mobile, spent the weekend with the Weaver Sinyards.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Still have received news that Airman Second Class and Mrs. Frank Still, of Andrews Air Base, Maryland, are the parents of a baby daughter, named Anita Gail.

Misses Eathil Bonner, of Logan, Hilda Alvis, Lelonia Speegle, Janice Guthery and Janice Wells were dinner guests of Hilda Still on Sunday, on her 12th birthday.

Serviceman, Hubert Moore, of Atlanta, Georgia, called on Myra Bailey on Sunday, at the home of her grandparents, the Weaver Sinyards.

Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Bailey, of Birmingham, spent Sunday with the Kert Baileys.

Mr. and Mrs. Cortez Speegle, Dora, Dona and Dean, of Brushy Creek, spent Sunday with the Weaver Sinyards.

Joppa News

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold King spent the weekend, in Birmingham, with her mother, Mrs. Rainwater and Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Law.

Douglas Hooten and family have moved to Birmingham. He works at T.C.I.

Ruby Nelle Nix spent Sunday night with Audrey Parmer.

Betty Hill was home for the weekend.

She works in Birmingham.

Howard Corbin, from Birmingham, came home to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Corbin, last weekend.

STATE OF ALABAMA
CULLMAN COUNTY

IN THE PROBATE COURT
CASE NO. PC2017-219

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ESSIE MARIE ROWLAND, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Daniel Edge on the 4th day of August, 2017, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Daniel Edge, Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

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.

2003 Chev Silverado, VIN # 1GCEK14V13Z108834

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, September 15, 2017, at 8:00 a.m.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

SASHA CAMPBELL EASTERWOOD
Mother of N. P. C.,
Petitioner.

Case No.: PC 2017-212

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE

TO: THE UNKNOWN FATHER OF N.P.C. WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN

A PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY SASHA CAMPBELL EASTERWOOD. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS NAME CHANGE, 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, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS IS SHOWN BELOW, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, POST OFFICE BOX 970, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35056.

DONE THIS 31st DAY OF July, 2017.

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

ANNETTE IRONS-PARKER
Attorney for Petitioner
PARKER AND PARKER, P.C.
215 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256)775-4444

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
IRENE ZOLINDA KEBER,) CASE NO.: PC-2017-127
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION

Letters of Testamentary having been granted to GARY JOSEPH DESLAURIER, Personal Representative of the Estate of IRENE ZOLINDA KEBER, deceased, on the 4th day of August, 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 4th day of August, 2017.

GARY JOSEPH DESLAURIER
Personal Representative

Beverly Poston
Attorney for Petitioner
200 First Ave 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
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
AUGUST 12, 2017

Applebee's to close between 105-135 restaurants this year

Cullman Mgmt.: 'I'm sure we are fine here'

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

GLENDALE, Calif. – DineEquity, Inc., the parent company of restaurant chain Applebee's announced in a statement Thursday that it will close between 105 and 135 restaurants in 2017. The locations of the stores affected have not been released.

DineEquity said in the statement that it had previously expected to close only 40 to 60 restaurants this year.

The closures will be based on several criteria, including franchisee profitability, operational results and meeting the brand's quality standards.

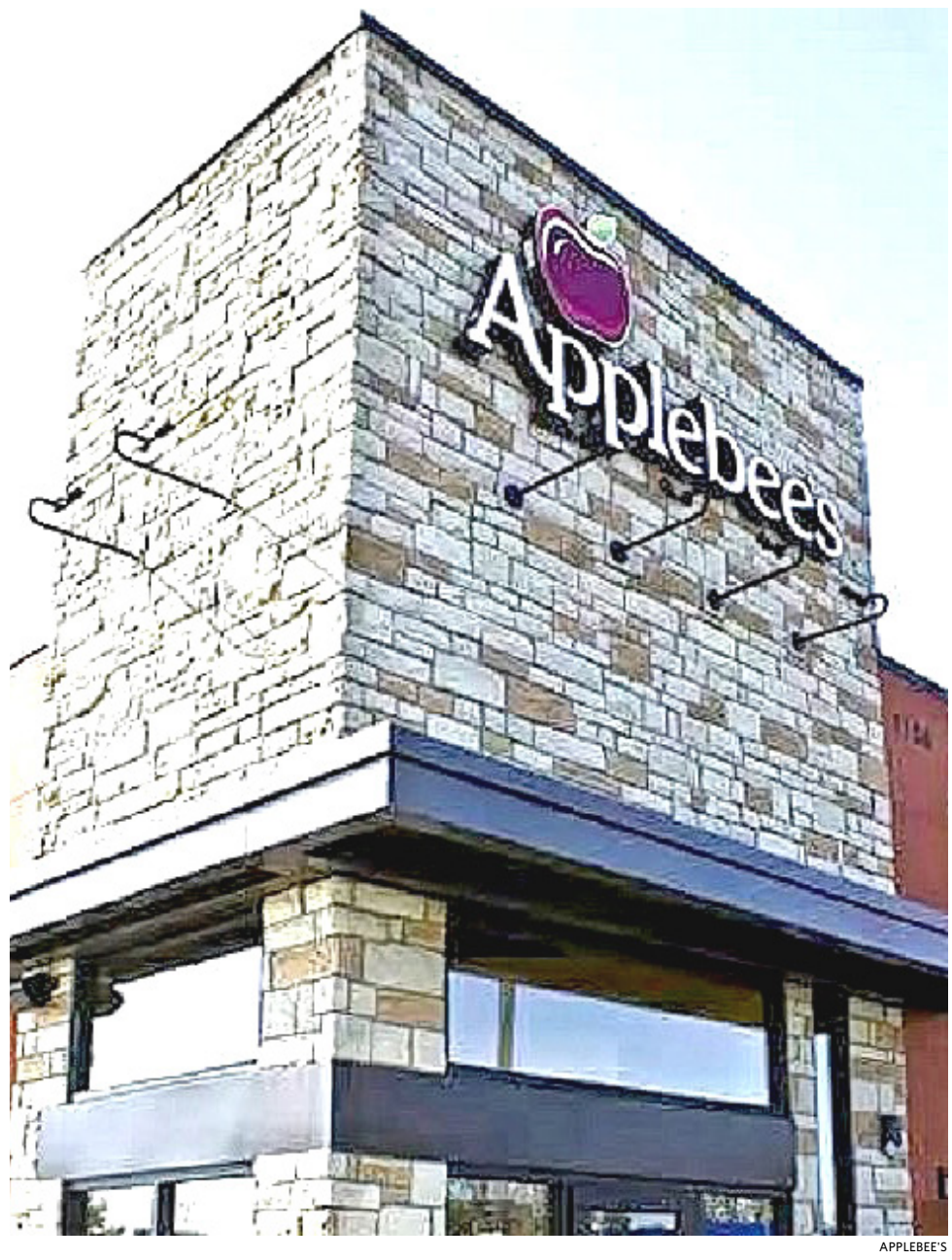
"We are investing in the empowerment of our brands by improving overall franchisee financial health, closing underperforming restaurants and enhancing the supply chain. We are focusing on operations and elevating the guest experience, whether in our restaurants or off-premise," Richard J. Dahl, chairman and interim CEO of DineEquity said in the statement.

"We believe 2017 will be a transitional year for Applebee's and we are making the necessary investments for overall long-term brand health and expect to see improvement over the next year."

The Tribune spoke with a member of the management team at the Cullman Applebee's, located at 2106 Cherokee Ave. SW.

He stated that he had not heard anything about any closings, saying, "I'm sure we are fine here. We have plenty of business."

DineEquity also owns the IHOP restaurant chain.



APPLEBEE'S

Rumors (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Alabama Retail Association and University of Alabama at Birmingham Collat School of Business have issued their list of nominees for Alabama Retailer of the Year, and this year it includes Cullman's own Rumors Deli. The award is given out at gold, silver and bronze levels to a wide variety of retail establishments categorized not by types of products or services, but by sales volume. The awards honor retailers who have demonstrated good sales performance, innovation and active community involvement.

On Thursday, The Tribune sat down with co-owner Annette Harris to find out about the nomination, and catch up on what is shaping up to be an eventful time for the Warehouse District eatery.

What does it take to get nominated?

"That's a good question; I don't know," began Harris. "I was nominated by Margaret Hamm from Monograms Plus. Then they take that, and they give me all these forms to fill out: it's based on your sales, things you do for the community. Gosh, it's very detailed: your products, your growth, your plans for the future. Just a lot of things go into that.

"Then we got a notice that we were one of the finalists, and we were really shocked, you know, because it's a pretty big deal. We don't know if we got gold, silver or bronze, but we get one of those."

The awards will be announced at the Alabama Retail Luncheon on Oct. 17, at Vestavia Hills Country Club in Birmingham.

Have you heard? Rumors Deli is moving. But where?

Harris guarded her secrets, saying, "We're not going to tell a lot about that, because there's still a lot of things in the works, a lot of decisions going back and forth, but we do have a location, we will have a pick-up window. We'll have more room there, and it's going to be a great place."

Customers will be able to call ahead to order, and pick up at the drive-through window. The restaurant will maintain its current hours, offering breakfast and lunch.

"We have breakfast now," said Harris, "but a lot of people don't know that; and we haven't really pushed it, because we've just been in here doing what we can do to get ready for the day and all. So we're really going to have to kick it up. I've got some ideas for breakfast sandwiches like no other here in Cullman, and just some different things: some basic ones, but also some really neat breakfast sandwiches. And I think that's going to go pretty good.

"And then we'll have our usual lunch. We're not going to extend our hours or anything like that. We're going to keep exactly what we've got, just like what we had, and just try to keep what we can handle.

"We're having a lot of trouble right now, as well as a lot of other businesses, finding employees. You know, we could use about three more. We're trying to get everybody in here, get them trained, because we hope to open back up around the first of the year, because our lease ends Dec. 31. We're hoping to open back up the very closest to the beginning of January we can."

Harris and her husband Ralph have not decided on a specific date to close down the current location.

"We really don't know what the procedure's going to be," continued Harris, "as far as what we're going to move over there, what they have to do as far as plumbing. We're hoping and planning to have outdoor dining, too; kind of like what we've got, just something simple like that. But it's going to look really good; it's going to be sharp.

"We wouldn't have thought we'd be moving, but when our building sold, we were a little upset, because we didn't know what to do. We never thought we'd be doing anything else. This time, we're going to buy something; it'll be ours. We're really excited; it's going to be a good thing.

"It threw us for a loop, for a little bit, for a couple of months. Then we kind of got our thoughts together, and thought, 'Okay, what are we going to do? This is our chance now. Since we're going to own something, we're going to move one time. What are we going to do?' So we just put together ideas of what we really wanted this time, and we tried to find out what our customers wanted.

"And we're finding out that our business will increase, because of the pick-up window. And I'd like to get some help with some technology things about online ordering, or letting them do that through an app. We're going to add things like that a little at a time. And our social media is kicking up some; we're learning how to do that. We have Instagram and Facebook, and a website.

"We're just excited now. Now it's like, we're just going to have to close our eyes and jump, just like we did 17 years ago."

No matter the location...

Harris emphasized that, wherever the restaurant reopens its doors and whatever its new amenities might be, Rumors customers ultimately will recognize the same hometown eatery they knew before, operating under the same vision.

"This is our passion," said Harris. "We are not a chain type restaurant. We have worked really hard ourselves. We are here; we don't just walk out and leave it at the end of the day. We are here. We are different, because we want our customers to feel it's personal. You know, it's like when they come in here, this isn't just another place to eat where you don't get anything personal. We try to get to know their names, and we try to figure out what they like and help them find something, and we remember their favorites. We feel like that makes us special."

Theft (from Front)

and approximately seven firearms were reported stolen to the CCSO. ATF industry operations investigators are in the process of conducting an inventory to determine the exact number of firearms stolen.

On Friday afternoon, Sheriff Matt Gentry gave addressed the media at the CCSO.

"The burglars, who stole four long guns and three pistols from Pawn Your Bond, appear to be part of a group that has been targeting gun shops, pawn shops and pharmacies located near I-65," said Gentry. "They are traveling the interstate, and have hit businesses along the entire I-65 corridor through the state. This is the first time they have struck in Cullman County."

Said Gentry, "Working with ATF and other agencies, we feel that this is not an isolated crime, as far as in the state of Alabama. This is isolated to Cullman County, and there is no danger for the citizens with regards to this incident.

"But what we researched and found over the last several months, it looks like a group or individuals are running the interstates, and they're looking for easy targets. They're looking for easy targets off the interstate where they can break into a building and steal firearms or, in different times, we've had them steal medicine if it's a pharmacy, or something like that. Currently, this group is targeting pawn shops or gun stores, where they are stealing firearms."

Gentry went on to explain that stores near the 20-mile interstate corridor in Cullman County are routinely targeted by criminals using the interstate as an escape route. The burglars prefer to hit at night, when no one is in the stores and few people are around on the road outside.

Gentry recommended that such businesses install high-quality security cameras and audible alarm systems, and stated that security bars for windows and doors probably offer the best deterrent to this type of crime.

The Pawn Your Bond break-in involved the breaking of a window, followed by rapid entry and exit.

The burglars did not stay in the building long enough to pick and choose the weapons they stole; instead, they simply grabbed whatever they could get their hands on the quickest, then fled. They were only inside the store for around 30 seconds.

Anyone with information should call the ATF at 1-800-283-4867 (Information can also be sent to ATF via the mobile app www.reportit.com by using the Nashville field division as the location.) or the CCSO at 256-734-0342. Currently, a $5,000 reward is being offered. The CCSO is also working with Crime Stoppers of Metro Alabama; tipsters can call 205-254-7777 to report any information on this crime.

The ATF is offering the reward in the amount of up to $2,500, which will be matched by the NSSF for a total reward of up to $ 5,000, for information regarding this crime.

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PLANT IT

Buckeye bush

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Correspondent



I knew that buckeye bushes grew in Alabama, and that they had beautiful red flowers, but I never would have seen them up close, in the wild, if it hadn't been for an interview I did in Limestone County last year.

Aesculus pavia, known as red buckeye or firecracker plant, is a species of deciduous flowering plant. The ones I saw were growing along the banks of a little tributary of the Elk River. There were so many that I couldn't count them. They ran in a meandering line on either side of the water, hanging down gracefully, just blooming their hearts out in the middle of nowhere, not caring one bit that no one was around see the show, although they would have stopped traffic on a city street, they were so striking.

The red buckeye is a large shrub or small tree. It reaches a height of 16–26 feet, often growing in a multi-stemmed form. Its leaves are opposite, and are composed usually of five elliptical serrated leaflets, each 4–6 inches long. It bears 4–7-inch-long clusters of attractive dark red tubular flowers in the spring.

It has many local names, such as scarlet buckeye, woolly buckeye and firecracker plant.

The two varieties are:

- *Aesculus pavia var. pavia:* typical red buckeye
- *Aesculus pavia var. flavescens:* yellow-flowered red buckeye

The flowers are attractive to hummingbirds as well as bees. The fruits are rich in saponins, which are poisonous to humans.

The buckeye- the official tree of the state of Ohio, and known botanically as aesculus- is a genus of trees in the horse chestnut family.

They are prized for their shade canopy, spring flowers and large leaves that provide shade in the summer and then bright fall and winter color.



LORETTA GILLESPIE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Buckeye bush

It grows successfully when transplanted carefully. Buckeye trees readily reproduce by seed and have approximately a 50 percent germination rate with proper planting and cultivation. They are also great for shady gardens, for beginning gardeners and for people who love naturalized gardens.

Starting from seed; Buckeye seeds will ripen and start hitting the ground in September and October and should be collected and planted immediately. The longer you wait, the lower your chances of successfully germinating the seed.

Loosen the soil in the buckeye planting area by digging into it with a shovel or garden fork to a depth of 10 inches.

Plant the buckeye seed into the soil, to a depth of about 2 inches. Add a 3-inch layer of straw over the mesh* to keep the soil and the seed in place over the winter.

Rake the straw back when the soil thaws in the spring, being careful not to disturb the seed.

Keep the soil moist until the buckeye tree seed germinates. Once it sprouts, supply the seedling about an inch of water per week.

Shade the seedling during the hottest part of the summer to prevent leaf scorch.

As with most plants, you should discontinue fertilizing in mid-August to discourage new growth that could be damaged by an early frost.

**If squirrels and gophers are a problem, you can cover your seed with soil then top it with a screen mesh to protect it.*









Obituary Announcements: Aug. 12

On Wednesday, August 9, 2017, Will Franklin Lee went to be with his Lord whom he loved. He was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on September 4, 1934. He graduated from Male High School in Louisville where he played several sports and was first trombonist in their renowned band which was recognized as one of the best in the nation. In 1952, he left college and joined the army. He served as a paratrooper in Korea in Company D, the 38th Infantry Regiment where he gained the name of 'Wild Bill' by his fellow soldiers. Using heavy weaponry, he fought on the front lines of battle in the Korean War and served as a military policeman. After honorable discharge from the Army, he joined the Louisville City Police Department where he served for 20 years. At the beginning of his policing career in Louisville, the Louisville City Police Department named him 'Rookie of the Year'. Thereafter, the police department used him regularly to train new rookies. During those 20 years, he served as a beat officer, in homicide, in stolen cars, for years as an undercover narcotics agent, and was one of the few men to start the department's Bomb Squad. On August 20, 1955, Will married Sandra Ann Evans of Shively, Kentucky. Because a seasoned policeman was needed, who was both respected by officers on the Louisville City Police Department and on the Jefferson County Police Force in Kentucky, after retiring from the City Force, he was chosen to start and lead a completely new, third police department which had special jurisdiction over all the Jefferson County Schools in Kentucky. After heading up this unique police force and retiring a second time, in 1978 he and Sandra moved to a small cabin on beautiful Smith Lake in northern Alabama where he perused his passion for art work and fishing. He was a serious fisherman, but he was also an accomplished artist in a variety of mediums including, oil and acrylic paints, water colors, stained glass, china paints, and even quilting. Being a narcotics agent who could, on one hand, crash dope parties and arrest hardened criminals; yet, on the other hand, enjoy quilting, Will was rather complicated. He had many facets to his personality. As Sandburg once wrote of Abraham Lincoln, Will. F. Lee was, in every respect, both a Man of Steel and Velvet. He is survived by his lovely wife of almost 62 years, Sandra; brother, Thomas (Barbara) Lee of Louisville, Kentucky; sister, Lola Mary Lee of Atlanta, Georgia; children, Timothy Will Lee of Jasper, Alabama, David Franklin (Karen) Lee of Birmingham, Alabama, Teresa Lee (Joe) Collins of Eva, Alabama; grandchildren, Jonathan David Lee, Timothy Paul Lee, Brighton Leslie Collins, Baxley Pierce Collins, Bristol Lee Collins; and a host of family and friends. Funeral services for Mr. Lee will be Saturday, August 12, 2017 at 1 p.m., at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, with burial in Bethany Baptist Cemetery. Visitation will be from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. before the service.

Lillie Gwen Baker, 68 of Haleyville passed away on August 9, 2017 in Florence. She was born on November 14, 1948 in Haleyville. Gwen graduated from Winston County High School, and loved taking care of her grandbabies; they were her life. Funeral service will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2017 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home where service will be held on Saturday at 2 p.m. Burial will be at Fairview Baptist Church Cemetery. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Buckey Baker; sons, Danny Young, Terry Young, James (Tina) Baker, Justin (Medina) Baker and Buckey Ray Taylor; daughter, Cassie (Chris) Garrison; brothers, Dale Bonds, Dennis (Jeannie) Bonds and David Bonds; sister, Patsy (Johnny) Bailey; she was Grandma to 15 grandchildren, Steven, Bradley, Bonita, Amber, Zack, Trent, Brianna, Sky, Kody, Corey, Keisha, Buckey, Rickey, Daniel and Dalton; and 2 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Authony and Irene Bonds; sons, Buckey Ray Baker Jr. and Jonathan Baker.

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- Applied for disability and are awaiting a decision
- Have a doctor's declaration of disability
- Currently in the 24-month Medicare waiting period

-OR-

3) You have Medicare and reached your Medicare Part D coverage gap (donut hole)

CALL THE CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING TODAY

256-734-1241



Rev. commissioner to visit senior centers ahead of homestead tax deadline

Darla West
Cullman County Revenue Commission

CULLMAN – It's time for the annual registration or renewal of homestead exemptions for folks older than 65. Property owners older than 65 can qualify for an extra ad valorem tax discount on their homesteads, but they must register for it per Alabama law. To explain it all, Cullman County Revenue Commissioner Barry Willingham will be speaking at all area senior centers this fall.

Following are the dates and times at which seniors can hear more about age 65 and older homestead exemptions:

• Cold Springs Senior Center: Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017 - 10:30 a.m.

• Hanceville Senior Center: Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017 - 9:45 a.m.

• Center Hill Senior Center: Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017 - 10:30 a.m.

• Baileyton Senior Center: Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017 - 10:30 a.m.

• Colony Senior Center: Monday, Sept. 11, 2017 - 10 a.m.

• Brushy Pond Senior Center: Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 - 9:45 a.m.

• Dodge City Senior Center: Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 - 10:30 a.m.

• Crane Hill Senior Center: Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017 - 9:45 a.m.

• Jones Chapel Senior Center: Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017 - 10:30 a.m.

• West Point Senior Center: Friday, Sept. 15, 2017 - 10 a.m.

• Cullman Senior Center: Monday, Sept. 18, 2017 - 9:45 a.m.

• New Canaan Senior Center: Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 - 10:30 a.m.

•Good Hope Senior Center: Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017 - 10:30 a.m.

• Holly Pond Senior Center: Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017 - 10 a.m.

• Hill Top Senior Center: Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017 - 9:30 a.m.

• Fairview Senior Center: Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017 - 10:30 a.m.

• Senior Day at the Fair: Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2017 - 10 a.m.

• Simcoe Senior Center: Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017 - 10:30 a.m.

Hanceville council tables pay raises, IT maintenance contract

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Hanceville Police Explorers received a $400 check from Karen Cook of Cook Ministries.

HANCEVILLE – The budget was centerstage at Thursday night's Hanceville City Council meeting. A security and maintenance contract for city computers, a renegotiation of the city's water contract with Blountsville, as well as raises and benefits for the mayor and council members themselves were among the topics discussed.

Mayor and council compensation

The council and Mayor Kenneth Nail discussed at length the prospect of raises for their own positions under a modified version of City Ordinance No. 616, emphasizing that they were not talking about giving themselves raises.

Under the law, any raise approved by the council and mayor would not go into effect until after the next election. Only those who run and are re-elected would benefit from such a raise.

According to Ordinance 616, the mayor receives an annual salary of $31,000, and council members are paid $350 per month.

Nail said, "I'm going to tell y'all, I do think some of this needs to be redone. I've got no issues with that. And I think that the last time the mayor and council got a raise was at least 15 years ago, probably, at least. I know it's been the same since I've been here, and I think the council's pay should be raised some. And I do think, I'm not talking about a whole lot, but the mayor's salary would be adjusted some."

Nail took exception to a recent change in wording in the third section of the ordinance, which provides the mayor with a city automobile.

To that provision had been added the phrase "for city business."

Nail stated emphatically, "The mayor is just like the police chief; we've talked to the ethics commission about this; the police chief and the fire chief, we're on call 24/7 if there's an issue. I do not, along with the fire chief, along with the police chief, drive our cars on vacation. We don't do that; we've never done that, to my knowledge.

"But I'm going to tell you, even if you put this in here, it's not going to change with me, because I'm going to continue to do what I've always done, if I'm mayor four years from now. So I just want to get that out there to start with.

"If I need to go by Warehouse Grocery store, I'm not going to go home and get my personal vehicle to come back and go to Warehouse Groceries."

City Attorney Dan Willingham affirmed the mayor's position on that matter, noting that both the state ethics commission and the state attorney general have issued opinions allowing for what are known as "incidental" vehicle uses, such as stopping by a store on one's way home from work.

Nail further argued that the ordinance allows mayors the same benefits as full-time city employees, and noted that he has never received certain benefits.

In the end, the mayor and council decided that more time was needed to work out the details of the ordinance, and the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Computer system maintenance

Smart Fox Solutions, a Decatur-based information technology company, presented the council a proposed contract for maintenance and security services that would include remote monitoring of systems, immediate removal of malware and other dangerous programs, setup and maintenance of computers, and other tasks.

The contract would cover computers in Hanceville City Hall as well as the police and fire departments, and would cost $875 per month with an initial $400 set-up fee.

As a question existed about the number of city computers, representatives offered to add coverage to any computer not listed in the initial proposal for $25 per month, per unit.

Not knowing the exact number of computers, and not wishing to take on such a contract until the start of the new budget year on Oct. 1, the council voted to table the matter for now.

City water contract

Councilman Charles Wilson reported that the city's water department had renegotiated its contract with the City of Blountsville for three more years, at a rate of $1.85 per 1,000 gallons of water ready to drink.

This represents a 20-cent increase of the previous rate of $1.65 per 1,000 gallons, but according to Wilson stays well below the cost of purchasing water from the Cullman Utilities Board.

Other council business

The council recognized Karen Cook of Cook Ministries, who came forward to present the Hanceville Police Explorers a check for $400.

The money was given in memory of Cook's brother Johnny Cook, and his son Jake Cook. The donation was not earmarked; the Explorer post will use the money for any project or expense they wish.

Lucille Powell brought a request to the council and all present, to donate plastic shopping bags to the Hanceville Senior Center to be woven into sleeping mats for the homeless. Nail agreed to gather bags at city hall and deliver them to the center.

Nail announced that, with a recent $12,000 Cullman County Community Development Commission grant, Hanceville is set to resume work on the sidewalks connecting the downtown to Wallace State.

The Mud Creek Marching Band Festival is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 14, and the Mud Creek Arts and Crafts Show will follow on Oct. 21.

Nail announced that the show will include a contest for members of the area's various rock hunting groups to present their painted rocks.

The Hanceville City Council meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in Hanceville City Hall, with a work session at 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Bands (from Front)

rest, for a total of 8-10 minutes per show. It has no bench for when someone gets tired. (It's 100 percent, all the time."

What's the wow factor this year?

"We have several things planned for audiences to walk away with a feeling of wanting more. People will have to come to a show to see.

"Hate to give away the specials. One thing I will say, is that we are the Smallest Band with the Biggest Sound."

What do people need to know about your band that no one may have asked yet?

"The Bulldog Band is full of #PURPLEPRIDE (No Excuses, Just Results). We work hard. We play hard. The goal to is make lifelong learners of music. Always enjoy and respect the show."

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Sheriff thanks 2017-2018 CCSO School Resource Officers

Brad Williams
CCSO

CULLMAN – Sheriff Matt Gentry met today with this year's Cullman County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officers to thank them for their work in keeping our children safe.



CCSO

2017-2018 Cullman County School Resource Officers: Front row, l-r: Deputy Shane Chambers, Deputy Chad Whaley, Deputy Matthew Rutherford, Deputy Boyd Posey; Back row, l-r: Sgt. Arvel Allison, Deputy Jeff Lawson, Lt. Erik Ryan, Sheriff Matt Gentry, Deputy Kevin Folds, Deputy Jim Butts, Deputy Eric Robertson, Sgt. Randall Chambers

TOPS -Take Off Pounds Sensibly- elects officers for 2017- 2018

Candy Wachter
Contributor

CULLMAN – TOPS is a group of men and women who support each other on their journeys to good health.

For more info, please go to the Facebook page- TOPS Cullman 0073- or call Candy Wachter at 256-338-1272.



CANDY WACHTER

Pictured from left are Jo Shaffer, assistant weight recorder; Doris Walker, weight recorder; Shirley Springer, treasurer; Jimmie Abbott, secretary; Candy Wachter, co-leader; Linda Elsmore, leader.





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