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Colony Mayor Donnis Leeth talks hometown and new job



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Colony Mayor Donnis Leeth, right, with Colony Councilwoman Ethel Alexander, in July

W.C. Mann
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COLONY – The town government of Colony has faced some challenges this year, but Mayor Donnis Leeth seems as upbeat as ever. On Tuesday, The Tribune sat down with Leeth and Councilman Curtis Johnson to catch up on community events and plans, and to talk about the mayor's latest professional achievement.

Cullman County Mayors and Commissioners Association

Last week, Leeth was elected by the Cullman County Mayors and Commissioners Association (MCA) to serve as its 2018 vice president, marking the first time that a Colony mayor or an African-American has held an officer's post in the association.

"It means a lot," said Leeth. "It let me know that people in Cullman County, they're changing. If you be good to everyone, treat them like you want to be treated, they'll treat you like you want to be treated. So that's what I try to do.

"That was a great honor to have that done, because it means a lot to me to be put in a position like that in Cullman County, because Cullman County is a unique place to stay.

"You've got to meet people; you've got to get out and talk to people. Then let them see you're about doing something great for your town or your city."

Leeth continued, "They had been mentioning to me about different things, like putting me on different boards. I'm really one the first ones they had (from Colony) to go to everything, and go out of town to meetings, and they said I'm showing them that I want to develop Colony into something.

"Yeah, I want Colony to be on the map, with different things for the kids and the senior citizens. I know it's going to take a while to get that done, but in my four years I hope I have something accomplished for the Colony started, and whoever follows me if I don't re-run, they can keep it going right and put Colony out there," he smiled.

As vice president of the MCA, Leeth will be in charge of scheduling association meetings and notifying members of dates, letting members know what will be covered at meetings and working with the president to secure guest speakers for meetings.

Among the MCA's first plans for the new year is a trip to Montgomery to meet with the area's legislative delegation before the start of the new session on Jan. 9.

What's happening in Colony

Colony's town council has not held a meeting since October, when Councilwomen Jamelle Dimbo and Tam Malcom resigned their seats. Town leaders have been quiet about what exactly happened, but friction had existed within the council since Councilwoman Myra Twitty retired in June.

In filling that vacancy, Dimbo and Malcom backed a candidate who lost to Ethel Alexander, » PAGE 8

New Year's closings and sanitation schedules

Cullman County

Cullman County offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 1, 2018 for New Year's Day. County Sanitation will run its normal routes.

City of Cullman

City offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, in observance of New Year's Day. Both Monday's and Tuesday's residential sanitation and recycle routes will be run Tuesday, January 2, 2018. Commercial routes will be unaffected by the holiday closing.

NEW YEAR'S 2018

Remembering

2017

Anticipating 2018

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CULLMAN COUNTY – As the new year is upon us, The Tribune is taking a little time to ask some of the county's well-known personalities what they'll remember most about 2017, and what they look forward to in the new year.

Colony Mayor Donnis Leeth

What is your fondest memory of 2017?

"That I was voted to the vice president of the mayor's association of Cullman County. That's always going to be stuck in my mind, and already lets people know what I've done since I've been in office in '17."

Is there anything you'd like to forget about 2017?

"No."

What are you most looking forward » PAGE 5

Strange New Year's traditions from around the world

Tribune File
Contributor

New Year's Day is just around the corner, and before you know it, people from all over the world will celebrate its arrival by doing some pretty strange things. While people here in Alabama might chow down on black-eyed peas, collard greens and ham hocks, others will be doing their own thing, depending on where they live. Nearly every country has its own special tradition for celebrating the first day of the year, but no matter what those rituals are, everyone does them for the same reasons. They do them in hopes of having a happy, healthy and wealthy New Year. Some of the traditions can be very simple, like eating a specific meal, but others can be rather, well, weird. Here are just a few of the customs from different parts of the world.

People in the Philippines like round things. To them, the custom is all about the money. They believe everything should be round on New Year's Day to represent coins, which bring wealth. They will eat round food, wear round clothes and use round objects. The sky's the limit - as long as it's round.

In Japan they ring all of their bells 108 times because of the Buddhist belief that doing so brings cleanness. The Japanese are also all smiles as they go into the New Year because they believe smiling will bring them good luck.

In Romania they throw their spare coins into the river for good luck. (This reporter has to wonder if divers go to the river later to scavenge all the coins. It would be pretty good luck to find all that loot!)

Belgium, like Cullman County, takes its livestock seriously. The only difference is, they take their seriousness to a whole new level; farmers in Belgium actually wish their cows a Happy New Year! Does anyone around here that do that?

The French like to keep things simple and delicious. Every New Year they eat stacks and stacks of pancakes. How about a pancake pig-out over here?!

People in Colombia must love to travel. On New Year's Day they carry their suitcases around with them all day in hopes of having a travel-filled year. That seems like a lot of work, huh?

Denmark's tradition is pretty interesting. People climb on top of chairs and literally "jump" into the New Year to bring good luck. Besides throwing buckets of water on each other, folks in Thailand also smear each other with gray talc. Maybe they use the buckets of water to wash the talc off after they have been smeared?

How about a sleepover in the cemetery? In Chile, families get together and actually spend the night in the company of their long gone loved ones by sleeping in cemeteries.

Just like the farmers in Belgium, Romanian farmers try to communicate with their cows. The twist is, if they succeed it means bad luck for the year. Who wants to eavesdrop on one of those conversations!

This is a good one! In Ireland, they actually hit the walls with bread to get rid of evil spirits. Bread!

In some parts of South Africa people throw furniture out their windows. Now that's an expensive tradition!

Frozen tree trunks are a hot item this time of year in Siberia. People there jump into frozen lakes carrying them!

In Panama, statues are made of anyone and everyone famous. Then they are burned as a way to start the New Year off with good luck. Why famous people and not just the average guy down the street?

The Scottish people are rather competitive. Scotland's New Year tradition consists of people racing through their houses, headed for the door. They believe the first person to cross the threshold of the home in the New Year should carry a gift for good luck. No word on what that gift is.

Most of us have never heard of such oddball New Year's activities, but eating black-eyed peas surely sounds weird to those in other parts of the world. To each his own!Happy New Year, and pass the peas please.

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Monograms Plus owner Margaret Hamm named to Alabama Retail Association board

Alabama Retail Association

MONTGOMERY – Margaret Hamm, co-owner and operator of Cullman's Monograms Plus, was recently elected to the Alabama Retail Association's board of directors.

Hamm's term begins Jan. 1, 2018. Monograms Plus, a jewelry, gift and apparel shop that offers onsite monogramming, has been an Alabama Retail member for nearly 19 years.

Hamm's passion for embroidery came from her grandmother, who taught her the art when she was just 5-years-old. Over the years, that skill set expanded into both smocking and embroidering clothing for her two daughters, Sarah and Ellen.

In March 1999, Hamm left her job in the medical human resources field to open the store with her husband, Mark, in a 300-square-foot garage workshop.

It wasn't long before Monograms Plus opened a larger store in Cullman's budding Warehouse District. Over the years, the store continued expanding, including the addition of commercial personalization equipment. Today, it is a 9,000-square-foot store that anchors the district.

Hamm graduated from Auburn University in 1982. The Fort Deposit native and her husband live in Cullman. Their daughters Sarah and Ellen are adults and married now. Hamm and her husband have three grandchildren. Hamm is also active in the local business community; Monograms Plus has been a member of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce for 17 years.



ALABAMA RETAIL ASSOCIATION

Margaret Hamm

West Point awarded grant for new store, gas station, restaurant

Funds will provide infrastructure needed for the construction

Wendy Sack
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WEST POINT – The Town of West Point has been awarded a $120,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), according to a statement from the office of Gov. Kay Ivey.

The CDBG funds will provide infrastructure needed for the construction of a combination convenience store, gas station and fast-food restaurant. Dale's Market, which will include a Subway sandwich shop, will employ 20 people when the complex is built off Alabama Highway 157.

"This development will provide new retail options in West Point and create additional jobs for the area," Ivey said. "I am pleased to assist in this project, which also will provide additional income for the town."

Dale's Market is headquartered in Hanceville, where the company operates another convenience store.

CDBG funds will also be used to aid in the construction of the long-awaited deceleration lane and access road off Highway 157 to enable a safe flow of traffic in and out of the development. The lane is planned for the eastbound side of the highway as it approaches the County Road 1242 intersection where Jack's is located. The entire project is expected to cost $200,000, with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) committing $100,000 and other sources committing $60,000. All other costs are the responsibility of the developer. The Town of West Point will have to cover engineering and permit costs associated with the project, which is currently estimated to be $20,000.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Pictured is West Point Mayor Kenneth Kilgo.

Ivey awarded the grant from funds provided to the state by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is administering the grant.

West Point is providing $107,776 in local funds for the project.

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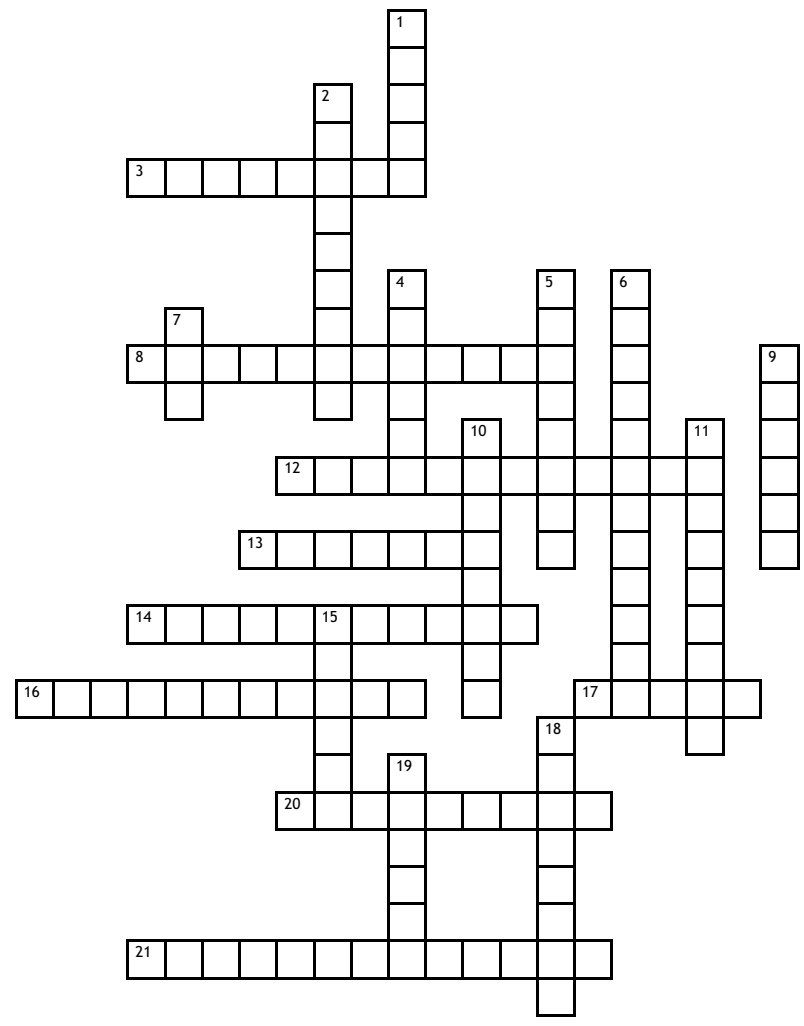


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Happy New Year!



Across
3 Irish pastry
8 He designed the first "Big Ball" for Times Square in 1907
12 Woody Allen might celebrate this
13 Traditional English drink
14 NYE destination
16 Most people make these
17 I'll _ to that!
20 Most common resolution?
21 Southern supper staple

Down
1 "Auld Lang Syne" poet
2 He was our host for many years
4 Hope for the new year?
5 You might wear a _
6 3, 2, 1....
7 Possible NYE spot
9 Should auld acquaintance be _
10 It's watched by millions across the world
11 Midnight drink
15 I want a _ at midnight
18 A Scot's New Year's Eve
19 In Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, it's not a ball, but a _

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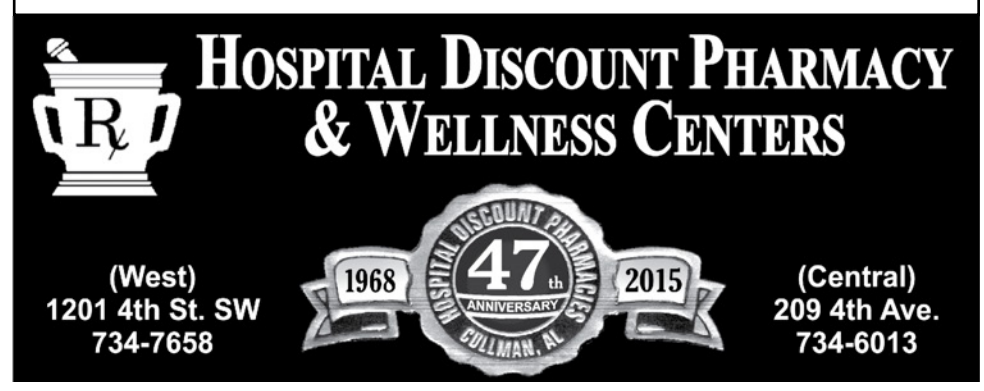
The American College of Physicians (ACP) recommends in an evidence-based clinical practice guideline published in *Annals of Internal Medicine* that physicians treat women with osteoporosis with bisphosphonates (alendronate, risedronate or zoledronic acid) or denosumab, a biologic agent. The American Academy of Family Physicians has endorsed ACP's guideline. Osteoporosis is a systemic skeletal disease characterized by decreasing bone mass and deterioration of bone tissue that leads to an increased risk for bone fragility and fracture, especially in the hip, spine and wrist. An estimated 54 million men and women in the United States have low bone density or osteoporosis. About 50 percent of Americans older than 50 are at risk for osteoporotic fracture. ACP's guideline focuses on the comparative benefits and risks of short and long-term drug treatments for low bone density or osteoporosis, including prescriptions, calcium, vitamin D and estrogen. The evidence suggests that physicians should treat women with osteoporosis with drug therapy for five years. Continuing treatment after the initial five years may be beneficial for some patients and may be appropriate after reassessing the risks and benefits of continuing therapy.

***

A new study presented at the Heart Rhythm Society's 38th Annual Scientific Sessions has found that dementia rates increase when anticoagulation treatment is delayed for patients with atrial fibrillation, the most common heart arrhythmia in the world that affects more than 2.7 million American adults. Anticoagulants or blood thinners, like antiplatelets and warfarin are powerful stroke-prevention interventions and are now being prescribed to millions worldwide. However, there's often a delay in starting anticoagulants after an initial diagnosis of atrial fibrillation for a variety of reasons, including low risk of stroke, exploration of other treatment options like aspirin, older age, multiple comorbidities and more.

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Insurance checklist for 2018: 5 policies to review as you start the new year

Jennifer Bowen
Alabama Department of Insurance

MONTGOMERY – The start of a new year is a good time to re-evaluate your insurance coverage needs. Changing circumstances may require updated policies. Did you have a baby? Get married? Purchase a new home or car? If so, you'll want to check whether you have the right protection.

Talk with your agent and review your policies to see if they meet your current needs. Even if you haven't experienced a life-changing event, you could be eligible for discounts or new insurance products that may better serve your needs.

1. Life insurance
Changes such as a birth, divorce, remarriage or even a new mortgage or new job are indicators that you might need to make changes to your life insurance policy, or at the very least review your policy.

Read your policy carefully and answer these questions:
- Do premiums or benefits vary from year to year?
- Do the total benefits grow over time?
- Are there benefits that are not guaranteed?
- Do premiums change over time?
- What happens if I quit paying premiums – do I maintain some of the benefits?
- Are there any impacts associated with interest earned on the policy?
- In what situations and through what procedures can you access cash values?
- Can the policy be converted into another form of insurance or annuity?

In the case of the birth of a child or a new marriage, you may want to consider increasing your death benefit. Check with your agent to see if your insurance company requires a physical exam before increasing your coverage levels.

Alternatively, events like paying off your mortgage, retirement or children finishing college might mean that you can lower your life insurance coverage and premiums. Ask your life insurance company whether you have the option of "conversion privileges" from your current term life insurance policy to a new whole life insurance policy. You may also be able to expand your death benefits so they can be used while you are still living. Ask your insurance agent or company about these options.

2. Homeowners/rental insurance
This past year we witnessed a significant number of natural disasters. If you were impacted by a catastrophe or live in an area prone to floods, earthquakes or wildfires, make sure you're properly covered. These disasters can be costly, and may not be covered under a standard policy. Discuss the possibility of adding coverage for these perils with your agent or insurance company.

The start of a new year is also a great time to update your home inventory and make sure your homeowners or rental policy is up-to-date. Take photos or video of your prized possessions. Remember to note valuable antiques, artwork or jewelry so your agent or insurance company can help determine if they are properly covered. Creating a home inventory from the NAIC's free smartphone app, myHOME Scr.APP. book, takes some of the headache out of this process. Download the app from iTunes or Google Play. You can also download a paper version.

Remember to add any new expensive or sizable gifts to your home inventory, too. Include as many details as you can and take photos of each item. Most basic home insurance policies have standard limits for big-ticket items like electronics, art, jewelry or sporting equipment. You may need special coverage, so call your agent to discuss changes for your policy.

3. Auto insurance
Have you had any changes to your driving habits? If so, tell your agent to ensure your auto policy will cover you in case of an accident.

Also take some time to check your auto insurance policy by following the guidelines below:
- Make sure your coverage is appropriate for your life situation. Liability is the part of the policy that pays for any injury or damage if you cause an accident. If your liability insurance is too low, you may be legally exposed for any damages above your liability limits.
- Review your deductibles for comprehensive and collision coverage. This is the amount you will pay if your car is damaged or totaled without fault of another driver. Raising or lowering this amount can affect your premium.
- Make sure you have a copy of your insurance card and your insurance agent or company's number in your vehicle at all times.
- It is a good idea to accurately record details of an accident if you are in one. The NAIC smartphone application WreckCheck assists you through the process of gathering information following an accident. It allows you to easily email your notes directly to your agent to assist with the claims process. Download the free app from iTunes or Google Play.

4. Health insurance
You may have recently enrolled or changed your health insurance through your employer, Medicare or your state exchange. Make sure you have new insurance cards and paperwork before you visit a doctor.

- Check your provider lists to make sure visits to your doctor and any specialists are still covered by your policy, as in-network or preferred provider lists change from year to year.
- Read through your documents and make note of co-pays for in-network and out-of-network providers to avoid surprises.
- If you're planning a vacation check with your insurance carrier to identify urgent care centers and hospitals that accept your insurance coverage. Ask your carrier about applicable co-pays and deductibles if care is needed. Here's an explanation of health insurance terms you may find on your paperwork.

5. Protect yourself from identity theft and fraudulent activity
The Equifax data breach of 2017 exposed the personal information of more than 145 million people. A data breach can potentially expose a consumer's data putting them at risk for identity theft or other fraudulent activity.

There are some things you can do to protect your identity in the coming year and beyond by following the tips below:
- Don't give out any personal information like your social security number or bank information over the phone.
- Consider purchasing identity theft insurance. Several companies offer identity theft insurance, which generally costs between $25 and $60 per year.

When purchasing an insurance policy:
- Ask for copies of everything you sign and keep a copy of the initial policy payment receipt or check you gave the agent or company.
- Call the insurance company if you don't receive a copy of the insurance policy outlining your coverage and its limitations within 30 days of your purchase.
- The best way to protect yourself from insurance fraud is to research the agent and company you're considering. Before writing your check or signing the contract, call your state insurance department to verify they are licensed in the state they are selling

More information
Find more information about your insurance needs and tips for choosing the coverage that is best for you and your family at www.InsureUonline.org.

For more from the Alabama Department of Insurance and links to content, see http://qrne.ws/adoi.

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This year's flu virus could be worse than usual — and the vaccine may not help

Alice Park
TIME Health

WASHINGTON – You have to hand it to the influenza virus. For something that's invisible to the human eye, it certainly has a way of grabbing our attention and anxiety–not just once in a blue moon but every year, winter after winter.

This season the potentially deadly virus is in rare form. Public-health experts are predicting that this year's flu will be severe for several reasons. Cases are starting up early, which is one indicator of an aggressive virus. Another worry: Australia's flu season typically augurs that of the U.S., and so far this year, Australia recorded 2½ times as many cases, compared to the same period last year.

What's more, experts report that the flu vaccine, designed to inoculate hundreds of millions of people, may not be as effective as they'd hoped.

Normally in severe flu seasons like this one, the reasons for the suffering are pretty straightforward. Flu vaccines have long been manufactured in a decades-old process that involves growing the influenza virus in millions of chicken eggs, over a period of about four months.

That means flu-shot manufacturers need a head start. Every year in the spring, influenza experts at the World Health Organization (WHO) make their best educated guess, based on the previous year's flu cases, about which strains of the virus will make the rounds in the coming winter.

Sometimes they nail it. But sometimes they don't–and entirely different strains circulate that make people sick.

The virus can also mutate quickly, so by the time the vaccines are doled out, the bugs people are spreading through sneezes and coughs may be different from the ones you were vaccinated against.

That leads to more people catching the flu, even if they are immunized, and getting sick. (Flu-related illnesses can also be deadly, claiming up to 600,000 people per year globally.)

This year, there seems to be something else going on. The viruses in the vaccine are similar to the virus that people are encountering from other sick people. Theoretically, it should then offer good protection against catching the flu.

But it isn't. Why? For the first time, there is evidence that the way flu shots are made may be contributing to lower effectiveness.

Because public-health officials have to guess which versions of the flu will cause disease, they hedge their bets and include several strains in the shot.

This year's shot includes H1N1, H3N2 and an influenza B. Flu viruses are not easy to grow in chicken eggs, so to help the process along, researchers make minor changes to the virus.

Those changes, says Brendan Flannery, an epidemiologist in the influenza division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), may be making the H3N2 strain in particular less potent–which would limit the immune response it triggers in the body. Since that immune response is critical to how vaccines work, this could lead to people remaining susceptible to that particular strain of flu going around–even if they got their flu shot.

"There is evidence that growing the vaccine virus in eggs resulted in changes that altered the vaccine's effectiveness," he says. When researchers compared the H3N2 strain from infected people with the original H3N2 reference strain designated by the WHO, they did not find many differences. But when they compared the virus in infected people to the vaccine virus that was grown in eggs, they saw changes. Says Flannery: "The take-home message is that vaccine production, growing the virus in eggs, can cause some of the problems we are seeing."

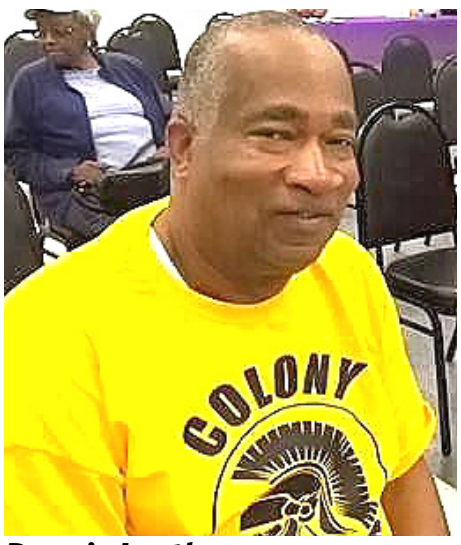
Scientists are trying to shift away from egg-based vaccine production, but they haven't found a reliable alternative method yet. Even a new form of vaccination, a nasal spray that was introduced in 2003, is no longer recommended by the CDC, after it seemed to offer less protection against another strain, H1N1, compared with the shots.

So should you try to survive the season without getting vaccinated? That's not a good idea, say leading experts, since even if the vaccine is not effective against one strain, it will still protect you against other strains that may be making the rounds.

And that's important, especially for preventing transmission of flu among people with weaker or less developed immune systems, such as infants, the sick and the elderly.

When it comes to viruses, the science is clear: some protection is better than none.

2018 (from Front)



Donnis Leeth



Woody Jacobs



Kenneth Nail



Garry Marchman

TRIBUNE FILE PHOTOS

to in 2018?
"Trying to get a Dollar General down to the Colony. I've been working on a Dollar General, and I hope we get it. With the Lord standing by us and following us, it's going to happen."

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs
What is your fondest memory of 2017?
"Watching the Christmas lights go up along Highway 31, and seeing how beautiful the streetscape looked."

Is there anything you'd like to forget about 2017?
"Being my first full year as mayor, I was very blessed in 2017. There's nothing in 2017 that I'd prefer to forget. It was a good year."

What are you most looking forward to in 2018?
"I am looking forward to seeing the Technology Village develop and grow. I'm excited to see how many local entrepreneurs we have. I am very excited about this program." (See http://qrne.ws/tech)

Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail
What is your fondest memory of 2017?
"On a personal note, the birth of my new grandbaby, which tickled me!

"In the city, all our projects have progressed well. The thing I may be most proud of is recruiting Met-South to come to Hanceville.

"And they should be open in the next two or three weeks. Another high would be getting accepted into the ACE (Alabama Community of Excellence) program. We were the first city in Cullman County to be named an ACE community, and I'm proud of that."

Is there anything you'd like to forget about 2017?
"You always have challenges, but I can't really think of anything big. We did have a lot of good citizens who passed on this year. I hate to lose friends and neighbors."

What are you most looking forward to in 2018?
"Continued steady growth. We haven't had explosive growth like Cullman, and I'm not sure we'd want to, but we've been steadily growing. I'm proud of what our downtown's doing, and I'm looking forward to more improvements."

County Commissioner Garry Marchman
Commissioner Marchman took a little more time to email in his thoughts, and responded:

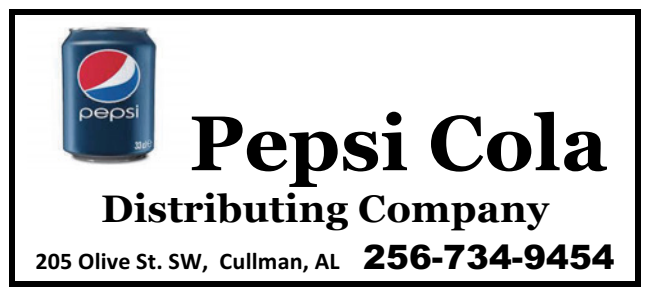
What is your fondest memory of 2017?
"Happiest memory of 2017 - Always God and family. I have received far more from my God and my family than I have given.

Happiest memory of 2017 with the County:
- Able to help a few. Able to work towards long term solutions.
- Completed the Hay Program in Feb. 2017. We moved approx. 3,000 rolls of hay and helped over 200 farmers. We did not advertise the program with lots of media attention, but it was very rewarding.
- Was recognized as Public Servant of the Year by our local Soil and Water Board. No idea this was going to happen.
- Was recognized by Governor Kay Ivey for Community Service. No idea of this until I received the award.
- Made some small steps in economic development.
- Was able to build a better relationship with some of the County employees.
- All of these gave value to the work I do."

Is there anything you'd like to forget about 2017?
"County budget, Senate race."

What are you most looking forward to in 2018?
"Another opportunity to serve. I have projects I feel will have an impact on this County.
- Reaching out to technology companies
- Supporting our local industry that has been faithful to Cullman and its communities.
- Enhancing training for employees. Visiting other government entities to refine what we do and how we do it. Looking at more equitable options for long-term retention.
- Roads; we have to put more of the taxpayers' (County) monies into roads; next year's budget I hope I can have more active solutions to offer.
- Commission election being over with.

My plate is full with ideas and concepts, that are proven, but I have to figure out how to incorporate those ideas."









PREP BASKETBALL

West Point Christmas Tournament: Day 1 Recap

Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmantribune.com

WEST POINT – The West Point Christmas Tournament tipped off Tuesday afternoon, making for a full day of round ball.

Brewer 52, Good Hope 46 (Varsity Game 3)
Success running the floor coupled with good inside shooting led to the Brewer Patriots jumping out to a 12-7 lead over the Good Hope Raiders in the first game of the 2018 West Point Christmas Tournament.

The Raiders shot the ball well in the second quarter, tripling their first-quarter output, but the Patriots kept pace and extended their lead, 28-21, going to the half.

The Patriots took over, going on a 10-0 run to open the third and push the lead to 17. Good Hope fought back but was still down 14 going into the final eight minutes.

Brewer went into the fourth looking to put the game away, but Good Hope had a different idea. The Raiders were able to pull to within four thanks to a mid-quarter 6-0 run that forced a Brewer timeout. Coming out of the break, Brewer was content to hold the ball and force Good Hope to foul. The Patriots hit just enough shots from the charity stripe to hold off the surging Raiders to take the game 52-46.

Brewer's Zach Kodra got nine points, with by Tyler Peck and Landon Nelson with eight and Desi Burrows and Levi Kelley with seven.

Drew Maddox led the game with 20, followed by Cole Maddox with 16 and Isaac McDonald with eight.

Corner 54, Priceville 48 (Varsity Game 4)
It was a nip and tuck game the whole way through in the contest between the Corner Yellow Jackets and the Priceville Bulldogs.

Corner had its shots fall early in the first to establish a 14-10 lead. Priceville came storming back in the second and overtook the lead 28-21 at the half.

The second half was back and forth, but free throws down the stretch proved to be the difference as Corner took the game 53-48. Corner's Tyler Barrett paced all players with 21 points in the game. Caleb Brasfield netted 10, and Jason Manning got six.

Brock Payne led Priceville with 15, followed by Brandon Speegle with 13, Tyon Jones with 10 and McClain Thompson with seven.

West Point 60, Danville 50 (Varsity Game 1)
The first quarter was back and forth as the West Point Warriors and the Danville Hawks matched each other shot for shot, until the last two minutes of the frame. West Point was able to close the first on a 4-0 run to take a 19-15 lead early in the game.

Danville fought back in the second, outscoring the Warriors 15-8. The quarter of good shooting gave the Hawks a 30-27 lead going to the halftime break.

West Point came out firing in the third, erasing the three points they were down and playing even with the Hawks to make the score 43-43 going to the final frame.

The final eight minutes belonged to the Warriors; they controlled the pace of the game and hit their free throws when put on the line. West Point came out victorious, 60-50.

Rylan Jones paced the Warriors with 14, followed by Austin Dubberly with 13, Whitt Laney with 10, Dalton White with 10, Kolton Sapp with seven and Coby Sullins with six.

Danville's Wren Cole got a game-high 15. Preston Shelton got 10, Garrett Robinson six and Adston Compton five.

Meek 55, Cold Springs 39 (Varsity Game 2)
After going down 4-0 early, the Meek Tigers clawed their way back to take an 11-9 lead over the Cold Springs Eagles after the first quarter of play.

Meek kept the pressure on in the second, causing turnovers that resulted in transition points and gave the Tigers a 23-16 lead at the half.

It was all Tigers in the second half as they stormed out of the locker room on their way to a 16-0 run that caught Cold Springs off guard. The Eagles were never able to recover and fell to Meek by a final of 55-39.

The Tigers were led by Payton Key with 14, Jacob Woodard with 11, Caleb Aaron with 10, Luke Sherer with nine and John Mark Abercrombie with five.

Hunter McClendon had a game-high 18 for the Eagles, while Matthew Peed got seven.

Coming up on Thursday for varsity:
- Good Hope vs. Priceville 4 p.m.
- Danville vs. Cold Springs 515 p.m.
- West Point vs. Meek 6:30 p.m.
- Brewer vs. Corner 7:45 p.m.

JUNIOR VARSITY SCORES
- West Point 63, Danville 45
- Muscle Shoals 62, Brewer 32
- Fairview 63, Priceville 30
- Cullman 52, Good Hope 42

FRESHMEN SCORES
- Brewer 37, Good Hope 25
- Muscle Shoals 36, West Point 29
- Cullman 42, Danville 37
- Fairview 35, Priceville 25

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 28 - Jan. 6

Cheryl Mae Joslyn, age 62 of Hanceville, passed away on Monday, December 25, 2017 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. She was born September 10, 1955 in Sterling, CO. She is preceded in death by her father, Theodore Peterson and mother, Velva (Robert) Ergle. Survivors include her children; BJ (Lisa) Joslyn, Danielle Joslyn, Troy Joslyn, and Eli (Lexi) Joslyn, grandchildren; Sadie Eddy, Lizzie Parker, Zachary Joslyn, Ben Raley, Kaylee Joslyn, Scarlett Joslyn, Siena Joslyn, Zeke Joslyn, Joseph Joslyn, Hunter Joslyn, Jac-Jac Joslyn, Karsyn Joslyn, and Jasper Joslyn, brother, David (Rikki) Peterson, sisters; Deliah (Lawton) King and Carol (Paul) Adkins, step-brother, Teddy Peterson, step mother, Sandra Peterson and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Funeral services for Mr. Abraham River Harris, 22 of Cullman, will be at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 28, 2017 at Jones Chapel UMC church, burial will follow in the adjoining cemetery, with Bro. Mark Mayo officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is directing. Mr. Harris was born on May 8, 1995; and passed away on Sunday, December 24, 2017. Survivors include his Mother – Tabitha (Johnny) Vaughn; Father – Glenn (Cathy Berry) Harris; 3 – Brothers – Tracy (Ariel) Harris, Kristopher Harris & Jacob (Julia) Harris; 2 – Grandmothers – Betty Duncan & Patricia Harris; Grandfather – Earl Malone; Niece – Narissa Dover; 2 – Nephews – Ethan Harris & Tyler Harris; and a Host of other Family & Friends.

Funeral service for Marjorie Maybell Kelley, age 90 of Cullman, will be at 12 p.m. on Thursday, December 28, 2017 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Doyle Creel officiating. Burial will follow at Cullman Heritage Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Kelley passed away on Monday, December 25, 2017 at Cullman Folsom Center. She was born November 1, 1927 to her parents, Preston and Ola Mae Jones. She is preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Shirrell Kelley. Survivors include her daughter, Galea (Joel) Brown, granddaughter, Kelley Nicole Hetrick, great grandchildren; Jackson Carroll and Maggie Hope Hetrick, brothers; Billy Ray (Louise) Jones and Robert Jones, and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until 12 noon on Thursday, December 28, 2017 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

William Terry Clay of Double Springs Alabama passed away on December 23, 2017 at the age of 40. He was born in Haleyville Alabama on July 29, 1977 to Steve Terry and Betty Clay. He is preceded in death by his father. Funeral services are on Thursday, December 28, 2017 at 2 p.m. at Moss Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Barbara Trussell and Rev.Wesley Garrison officiating. Interment will be in Fellowship Cemetery at Spring Hill. Survivors are: Daughters: Michelle Mann, Mary Beth Clay, Sons: Terry Wayne Clay, Austin Clay, Tyler Clay, Mother: Betty Clay, Brothers: Christopher Young, Kenneth Clay, Stevie Clay and Robert Clay. Visitation is Thursday at Moss Funeral Home from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Mildred Wade Wilson, 84 of Addison, formally of Houston, entered into rest on Tuesday, December 26, 2017 at her home surrounded by family. Mildred was born on May 4, 1933 to Amon and Edna Burdick Wade. She attended Addison High School. She was a lifetime member of the Houston Baptist Church. Mildred loved gardening, sewing, cooking and loved her kids, grandkids, and great grandkids. Visitation will be held on Friday December 29, 2017 at Houston Baptist Church from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m., where services will be at 2 p.m. Burial will follow at the adjoining cemetery. Brother Kenny Sudduth and Brother Donnie Carroll will officiate. Mildred is survived by her son, Phillip Earl Wilson and Wife Djuna; daughter, Deeretha Wilson Preuitt and husband Alton; She was "Maw maw Mildred" to 4 grandchildren, Clete Wilson, Josh Preuitt, Julie Preuitt Nix, and Jessica Preuitt; 3 great grandchildren, Braxton Preuitt, Ella Reese Nix, and Max Preuitt Nix. She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Earl Max Wilson; parents, Amon and Edna Burdick Wade; brothers, Hollis Wade, Russell Wade, Ellis Wade Sr., Beason Wade, and Edward Wade; sisters, Gladys Wade Knight, Sue Wade McCormack.

Funeral services for Roy Gene Leonard, 73 of Cullman, will be 2 p.m. Saturday, December 30, 2017, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home Chapel, with Dr. David Chambers officiating. Interment will be in Center Grove Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Leonard passed away Friday, December 22, 2017, at his residence. He was born January 2, 1944, to parents, James Leonard and Jennie Turney Leonard. He was preceded in death by his parents. Mr. Leonard is survived by a daughter, Bobbie Jean Leonard of Gadsden, AL. Visitation will be 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, December 30, 2017, at the funeral home. A special thanks to Kay Burks, Southern Beacon Hospice, and a host of caregivers.

Logan Wayne Trammell, age 22 of Cullman, passed away Monday, December 25, 2017. Logan's passion was music and writing songs. He was an accomplished musician and songwriter. Logan also worked in construction. He is survived by his parents: Wayne and Tonya Trammell; sister, Natalie Trammell; grandparents: John and Geneva Sellers; and Donald and Carolyn Trammell; aunts and uncles: John Sellers Jr. (Flor), Keith Sellers, Brent Sellers (Julie), Tammy Jacobs (Tommy), and Stacey Tankersley (Kyle); a multitude of cousins and extended family members and a great host of friends. The family will receive friends at Missionary Grove Church on Saturday, December 30, 2017 from 10 a.m. until the Celebration of Logan's life which will begin at 2 p.m. Burial will follow in Missionary Grove Cemetery.

Graveside services for Mrs. Martha Ann Andrews, 75 of Cullman, will be at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at East Point Cumberland Presbyterian cemetery, with a Celebration of Life service immediately following at St. John's Church in the Ruehl Building. Cullman Funeral Home is directing. Mrs. Andrews was born on May 1, 1942; and passed away on Friday, December 22, 2017 at Woodland Village Health Care Center. Survivors include two – Sons – Jim R. Andrews & Scot (Lisa) Andrews; one Granddaughter – Bailie Andrews; one Brother – Robert Zinsmeister; and a Host of Loving Nieces & Nephews. The family request in Lieu of Flowers, donations be made to the Scleroderma Foundation or the United Way in her memory.

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Governor awards $2.3 million to assist low-income residents

Russell Sellers
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Gov. Kay Ivey has awarded grants totaling $2.3 million for programs that help low-income residents take steps to secure gainful employment and improve their quality of life. Community Action Partnership of North Alabama Inc., which serves Cullman, Lawrence and Morgan Counties, received $104,223.

The Community Services Block Grants will enable 20 Community Action Agencies throughout the state to help low-income residents achieve self-sufficiency and address barriers to success through a variety of programs and services.

The specific needs of the communities served determine which programs are available, which can include job search assistance and short-term employment skills classes, parenting classes, transitional housing, summer youth programs, financial literacy programs and emergency food and shelter.

"Community Action Agencies provide important services help to low-income residents as they work to create a more stable foundation for a successful life," Ivey said. "I commend these agencies for their goal of reducing and eliminating poverty by helping families in need, and I am pleased that these grant funds will support projects and programs to help reach that goal."

Residents seeking assistance should contact their local community action agency. Full contact information for each agency can be found at www.caaalabama.org/agency-list.php

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) is administering the grants from funds made available by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Alabama's Community Action Agencies recently scored in the top 25 percent of all community action agencies in the United States, according to a recent study to measure customer satisfaction for the Community Services Block Grant program.

"Gov. Ivey is committed to assisting some of Alabama's most vulnerable citizens through the Community Services Block Grant program," ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell said. "ADECA's partnership with these agencies over the years has helped many individuals and families achieve better stability and create more opportunities for success."

Ivey awarded grants to the following agencies:

- Community Action Partnership of Huntsville/ Madison and Limestone Counties Inc. (Madison and Limestone) - $141,849
- Community Service Programs of West Alabama Inc. (Bibb, Choctaw, Dallas, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Perry, Tuscaloosa, Sumter) - $222,625
- Walker County Community Action Agency Inc. (Walker) - $36,790
- Pickens County Community Action Committee Inc. (Pickens) - $15,766
- Organized Community Action Program Inc. (Bullock, Butler, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Lowndes, Pike) - $108,330
- Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama Inc. (Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale) - $89,785
- Community Action Agency of Northeast Alabama Inc. (Blount, Cherokee, DeKalb, Jackson, Marshall, St. Clair) - $181,922
- **Community Action Partnership of North Alabama Inc.** (Cullman, Lawrence, Morgan) - $104,223
- Montgomery Community Action Committee Inc. (Montgomery) - $122,537
- Mobile Community Action Inc. (Mobile, Washington) - $238,286
- Marion-Winston Counties Community Action Committee Inc. (Marion, Winston) - $30,441
- Macon-Russell Community Action Agency Inc. (Macon, Russell) - $50,400
- Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity (Jefferson) - $295,190
- Southeast Alabama Community Action Partnership Inc. (Barbour, Coffee, Geneva, Henry, Houston) - $111,257
- Etowah County Community Services Program Inc. (Etowah) - $51,009
- Eleventh Area of Alabama Opportunity Action Committee Inc. (Chilton, Shelby, Autauga, Elmore) - $106,685
- Community Action Committee Inc. of Chambers-Tallapoosa-Coosa (Chambers, Tallapoosa, Coosa) - $47,201
- Community Action Agency of South Alabama (Baldwin, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Marengo, Monroe, Wilcox) - $166,847
- Alabama Council on Human Relations Inc. (Lee) - $74,031
- Community Action Agency of Talladega, Clay, Randolph, Calhoun, and Cleburne Counties (Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Randolph, Talladega) - $137,141



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City of Cullman
Planning Commission

On Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M, at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Planning Commission, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. Short form Subdivision – 1635 Main Ave. SW – divide into four lots
2. Short form Subdivision – 2nd Ave. SW between Birmingham St. SW & Short St. SW
3. Short form Subdivision – Walnut St. & Brantley Ave. – Rusken Packaging

For further information contact Rick Fulmer or Amber Duke at the City of Cullman Building Department at 256-775-7203.

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

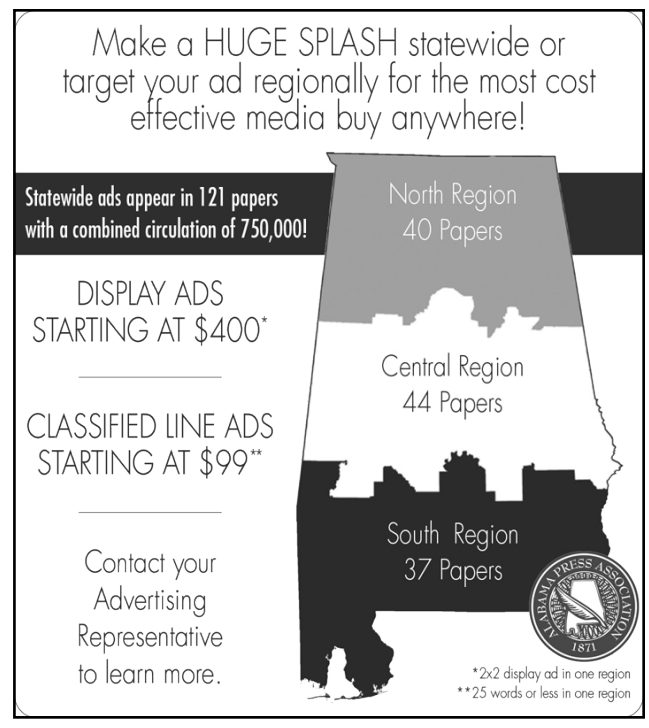
Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on December 13, 2013 by Corey Reeves, a single man, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1725, Page 887 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained 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 January 8, 2018:

One acre, more or less, in the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 19, Township 10 South, Range 4 West, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the point of intersection of the westerly right of way of Bethel to Logan public road with the .N forty acre line; thence southwesterly along the right of way line 210 feet; thence continue southwesterly along said right of way line 154 feet to the point of beginning of the lands herein conveyed; thence W 565 feet; thence S 77 feet; thence E 565 feet, more or less, to the right of way line of the said Bethel to Logan public road; thence northeasterly along said right of way line 77 feet to the point of beginning.
Source of Title: Deed BK 590 Pg 99; Deed Book 589, Page 749; MTG Bk 1535, Pg 401

Parcel II:
A tract of land in the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 19, Township 10 South, Range 4 West, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the point of intersection of the Westerly ROW of Bethel to Logan public road with North forty acre line; thence Southwesterly along the ROW line 210 feet; thence continue Southwesterly along said ROW line 77 feet, more or less, to the point-of beginning of the lands herein conveyed; thence continue Southwesterly along said ROW 77 feet, more or less; thence West 565 feet, more or less; thence South 77 feet, more or less; thence West to the West 235 feet; thence North 154 feet, more or less; thence East to the true point of beginning..
Source of Title: Deed Bk 585, Pg 713; MTG BK 1545, Pg 36

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

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Dewayne N. Morris
Attorney for Mortgagee
2131 Third Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
The Cullman Tribune-December 14, 21, 28, 2017





MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on January 24, 2002 by Barry Nixon, a married man and Carliea Nixon, a married woman, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book 1229, Page 179, a mortgage executed by Barry Nixon, a married man to EvaBank dated April 18, 2008 and recorded in Book 1563, Page 749, a Mortgage Modification executed by Barry Nixon, a married man, dated September 10, 2008, and recorded in Book 1576, Page 53 all 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 January 8, 2018:

Commencing at a found 5/8 inch rebar marking the Southwest corner of said Section 12; thence North 1 degree 18 minutes 49 seconds West a distance of 1321.34 feet to a found 2 inch pipe marking the accepted Southwest corner of said forty; thence North 88 degrees 51 minutes 35 seconds East along the accepted South line of said forty a distance of 386.90 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron and the true point of beginning of the property herein described; thence from said true point of beginning continue North 88 degrees 51 minutes 35 seconds East along South line a distance of 773.33 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence North 9 degrees 51 minutes 30 seconds West a distance of 339.76 feet to a found ½ inch rebar; thence North 9 degrees 42 minutes 04 seconds West a distance of 100.06 feet to a found ½ rebar; thence North 88 degrees 09 minutes 40 seconds East a distance of 149.76 feet to a found ½ inch rebar on the West right of way of County Road 447; thence North 9 degrees 48 minutes 48 seconds West along said right of way a distance of 20.00 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence leaving said right of way run South 88 degrees 11 minutes 44 seconds West a distance of 149.66 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar; thence South 88 degrees 08 minutes 50 seconds West a distance of 78.53 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar; thence South 76 degrees 58 minutes 14 seconds West a distance of 164.54 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar; thence South 85 degrees 14 minutes 02 seconds West a distance of 101.45 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar; thence North 82 degrees 11 minutes 24 seconds West a distance of 99.64 feet to a 5/8 inch rebar; thence South 2 degrees 37 minutes 53 seconds West a distance of 240.10 feet to the true point of beginning. Said property lying and being in Cullman County, Alabama.
Said property subject to all right of ways or easements of record.
Source of Title: Deed Book 551, Page 199.

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

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Dewayne N. Morris
Attorney for Mortgagee
2131 Third Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
The Cullman Tribune-December 14, 21, 28, 2017

Leeth (from Front)

who was backed by Leeth, Johnson and Councilman Julian Fields.

With two members gone, the remaining four (all of whom must be present to constitute a quorum) have struggled to get together for meetings.

In fact, the council has not yet voted to accept the resignations tendered by Dimbo and Malcom.

The town did not open its community center and game room this Christmas holiday like it was able to last year, but Leeth and Johnson remain optimistic about the coming year.

Among their current plans:

• Colony has qualified for a grant, and in the second week of January, will begin taking bids on the construction of a community storm shelter that can hold more than 85 residents. Currently, the basements of two local churches and the Colony Senior Citizens' Center serve as designated shelters.

• In mid-January, Jolanda Hutson of Good Samaritan Health Clinic is scheduled to come to Colony to enroll uninsured residents in the clinic's program, making healthcare more accessible to the area's low-income families.

• The Town is applying to the Cullman County Community Development Commission (CCCDC) for a grant to purchase a generator large enough to power the Colony Educational Complex in the event of a power outage. Such a backup will allow the Town to keep food refrigerated, provide a cool place in the summer and a warming station in the winter, as well as to provide local residents with hot meals.

• A second CCCDC grant application could fund the replacement of one of the Educational Complex's aging air conditioning units.

• Colony is already working on renewing its successful summer feeding program from last year. The federally-funded program, supported by the North Alabama Food Bank (NAFB), was the first to start and the longest running of multiple summer programs around the county, operating weekdays from June 1 through the end of July. More than 20 local kids were served per day, with single-day numbers reaching as high as 46. When reviewed, the program was commended by the NAFB's Laurel Moffat.

• The Town plans to reopen its community center and gym this summer.

• While not committing to a timetable, Leeth set a 2018 goal of securing a commitment from Dollar General to build a store in Colony.

Leeth concluded, "I just want to thank the folks for the opportunity to serve as mayor of the Colony, and show them what I can do if they just give me a chance, what I can furnish to the table for the Colony. Everybody should have a chance; it doesn't matter how your status is, or whether they like you or not.

"That don't mean nothing, but what you do to show people your status, that's what matters."

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