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SUSPECT SOUGHT AFTER SHOOTING IN HOLLY POND P4

Human Trafficking Awareness Month in full swing



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Karma's Coffee House owner Katie Fine and Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force Chairwoman Kathy Wilson at the task force's table at the coffee shop Thursday

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, and Thursday, Jan. 11 was Human Trafficking Awareness Day in the United States. The City of Cullman issued a proclamation supporting both the significance of the day and the work of the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force.

On Thursday, the City issued the following press release:

On Thursday, January 11, 2018, Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs officially proclaimed January 11, 2018, "Human Trafficking Awareness Day" in the City of Cullman. On hand to accept the proclamation from Mayor Jacobs were Kim Chaney (Task Force member and Cullman County District Court Judge), Kathy Wilson (Task Force Chair and Cullman County Juvenile Probation Officer), and Jacob and Katie Fine (Owners, Karma's Coffee House).

"The work the Task Force is doing is very important in bringing awareness to human trafficking and to helping prevent this terrible crime from happening in Cullman and Cullman County," said Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs.

Also, for the second consecutive year Karma's Coffee House is partnering with the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force to help raise awareness and educate the public on the warning signs of human trafficking. The task force is set up at Karma's today (January 11th) with information on what they do and how we can all help. Also, Karma's is donating 10% of all sales on January 11th to the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force.

Human trafficking, often referred to as "modern-day slavery," involves the use of coercion, force, or fraud to get victims to perform labor or commercial sex acts against their will. The majority of victims are pre-teens or teenagers. Human trafficking is a large and thriving criminal industry that can be found throughout the world. The Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force was organized to work with local law enforcement and other agencies to help prevent human trafficking in our community. They strive to increase awareness by holding public meetings and sponsoring community events designed to educate the public on human trafficking. » PAGE 7

HOLIDAY HOURS

- **Cullman County offices** will be closed on Monday, Jan. 15, 2018 in observance of Robert E. Lee Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. County Sanitation will run normally.
- **Cullman City offices** will be open.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

How new Toyota/ Mazda plant will benefit Cullman



TOYOTA

Toyota CEO Akio Toyoda and Mazda CEO Masamichi Kogai announced that their companies will partner to develop a $1.6 billion plant in Huntsville.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – After this week's announcement that Huntsville has been chosen as the site for a new, $1.6 billion, dual automotive facility that will house Toyota and Mazda production plants with a shared research center, attention quickly moved to the question of what this means for the local economy. The facility, scheduled to be running by 2021, is expected to create 4,000 new jobs.

The plant will make Alabama the fifth largest producer of automobiles in the United States. Mercedes-Benz, Honda and Hyundai manufactured more than one million automobiles in the state in 2016. Adding to those three, Toyota's current Huntsville plant that produces engines for its north American vehicles, 1.7 million engines were produced here in 2016. Including parts suppliers like Cullman's Topre, REHAU and Yutaka, the industry supports approximately 57,000 Alabama jobs and adds $9 billion dollars annually to the state's economy.

Confusing location

Early reports by multiple news agencies offered confusing details, some saying that the facility would be located in the city of Huntsville and others saying it would be built in Limestone County. It turns out that they were both right.

The joint venture plant will be » PAGE 7

Growing in faith: Desperation Church expanding to new location

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – Desperation Church has become a fixture within the community at its current location next to Depot Park, but the congregation has expanded and created a need for a new facility. Motorists in south Cullman may have seen the sign marking the future location of Desperation Church on Old Hanceville Highway (Third Avenue Southeast) at King Edward Street.

There isn't an exact timetable in place for breaking ground or starting the move right now, and Pastor Andy Heis said he would prefer to keep it that way for the time being while the church continues to » PAGE 7



ANDY HEIS

This architectural rendering shows the future Desperation Church building that will be located on Old Hanceville Highway (Third Avenue Southeast) at King Edward Street.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 13, 2018

Man, in U.S. illegally, busted for trafficking meth in Cullman County

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE – A man who the Cullman County Sheriff's Office said is in the United States illegally was arrested last week near Hanceville for trafficking in methamphetamine.

According to a media release from the CCSO, on Thursday, Jan. 4, agents with the Cullman Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) arrested Juan Carlos Jimenez-Alcarez, 32, of Mexico.

The sheriff's office said this is Jimenez-Alcarez's second time to re-enter the United States illegally and be arrested for trafficking in methamphetamine.

The suspect allegedly sold "large amounts" of meth to CNET and DEA agents during a two-month investigation.

He was arrested near Hanceville off Alabama Highway 91, at which time the CCSO said 1.5 pounds of meth, approximately $3,000 in cash and a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado were seized.

In searching the home of Jimenez-Alcarez, agents allegedly seized 2 pounds of meth, about $35,000 cash, a 2016 Chevrolet Tahoe LT, a Bersa 40 caliber semi-automatic, a Mossberg 12 gauge shot gun and a Century Arms semi-automatic.

The arrest, in total, led to the seizure of 3.5 pounds of meth with a street value of $200,000, $35,000 cash, two vehicles and three guns, said the sheriff's office.

"We are a very proactive sheriff's office and we are always trying to prevent these drug dealers from coming into our community to sell their drugs.

"I'm grateful that we intercepted this large amount of drugs before it was able to make it into our county," said Sheriff Matt Gentry.

"I also believe we are continuing to send the message if you come to Cullman County to sell your drugs you will be arrested, and you will be held accountable for your crime. I would also like to thank CNET and the DEA for the great job they did on this case."

Jimenez-Alcarez is currently being held in the Cullman County Detention Center by the Department of Homeland Security without bond.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Juan Carlos Jimenez-Alcarez

4-way stop coming to notorious Hanceville intersection

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansenes.com

HANCEVILLE – After multiple deadly accidents, the latest on Jan. 4, 2018, and a wave of community action reaching out to state authorities from the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) to the office of Gov. Kay Ivey, ALDOT has announced that Hanceville's Alabama Highway 91/Edmondson Road intersection will become a four-way stop.

ALDOT North Region Engineer Curtis Vincent told The Tribune Thursday morning:

"The seriousness of those accidents made us look at that intersection closely. The first thing people usually say in situations like this is 'Put up a traffic signal,' but a traffic signal isn't always the answer, and in this case wasn't warranted.

"We feel strongly enough that we need to do something that gets everyone's attention, so we're putting in stop signs, and we'll also be putting in advance signage ('Stop Ahead' warnings) and we'll be putting lights on the signs to call more attention to them."

Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail told The Tribune that ALDOT has not set a date for construction, but has already come to take measurements around the intersection.

Nail added, "We appreciate Mr. Vincent and (ALDOT Transportation Director) Mr. (John) Cooper's quick action, and that of the governor's office. Based on discussions we've had, I think the (Hanceville City) Council will be glad to see this happen. I would rather have had a red light, but I'm happy with what they've done, and I hope and pray that this solves the problem."

Cullman man killed in single-vehicle wreck on Eva Road

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT – One person was killed in a single-vehicle crash in Vinemont Wednesday night. Cullman County Coroner Jeremy L. Kilpatrick said Randy Joe West, 40, of Cullman was pronounced dead at the scene.

The wreck happened in the 900 block of County Road 1435 (Eva Road) at approximately 10:30 p.m.

West was traveling south in a 1989 Ford van, left the roadway and hit a tree.

The Vinemont-Providence Fire Department responded to the scene. Alabama State Troopers are investigating.

Arrest reports: Jan. 10-11

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported for Jan. 10-11. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Bevington, Brian Alan, 50
- second-degree criminal trespassing
- unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle (3 counts)

Duke, Donna Marie, 34
- failure to appear- driving without a license
- unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle

Hill, Clyde Junior, 38
- third-degree burglary

Miller, Jan Denise, 46
- failure to appear- aggravated child abuse
- failure to appear- third-degree burglary

Shockley, Clayton Dale, 34
- failure to appear- failure to file/pay sales tax

Smith, Rickey Kalee, 34
- failure to appear- first-degree theft of property

Sparks, Zackery Allen, 26
- judge's order- possession of drug paraphernalia
- judge's order- unlawful distribution of a controlled substance (2 counts)

Wiley, Robin Denise, 33
- parole violation/ revocation- second-degree arson

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Pate, Cody W., 31
- failure to appear- DUI
- failure to appear- driving while revoked
- failure to appear- driving without a license
- failure to appear- failure to yield right of way
- failure to appear- public intoxication

Smith, Rickey K., 34
- failure to appear- switched tag
- failure to appear- driving while revoked
- failure to appear- illegal possession of prescription drugs
- failure to appear- possession of drug paraphernalia
- failure to appear- third-degree theft of property

Tucker, Mark A., 46
- third-degree burglary

Criscoe, James M., 30
- failure to appear- third-degree criminal trespassing
- failure to appear- public intoxication
- failure to appear- possession of drug paraphernalia

Watson, Jasmine M., 19
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Wilson, Garry M., 33
- failure to appear- third-degree criminal trespassing
- failure to appear- public intoxication

Hendrix, Sabrina L., 43
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests reported.

THURSDAY, JAN. 11

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Boatright, Joshua Allen, 39
- third-degree domestic violence- third-degree assault

Cox, Calvin James, 27
- public intoxication

Hagghard, Joseph Franklin, 28
- failure to appear- possession of drug paraphernalia
- failure to appear- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Hill, Natasha Beth, 37
- failure to appear- possession of drug paraphernalia
- failure to appear- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Hill, Wendi Nichole, 34
- writ of arrest- child support

McDonald, Joshua Blake, 27
- reckless endangerment

McElduff, Adam Lee 26
- unauthorized use/ unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle

McKinney, Howard Wayne, 57
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Mentzer, Joshua Robert, 21
- failure to appear- liability insurance required
- failure to appear- reckless driving

Newton, Laura Lee, 55
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Riggs, Timothy Shawn, 50
- failure to appear- driving without a license
- failure to appear- liability insurance required
- failure to appear- possession of drug paraphernalia

Sharp, Marshall Clay, 24
- obstructing government operations

Turner, Jerrime Clyde, 35
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance
- probation violation- second-degree theft of property

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Padgett, Mairejo B., 33
- fourth-degree theft of property

Farr, Jason E., 31
- defrauding secured creditors

Hines, Timmy L., 55
- failure to appear- third-degree domestic violence (2 counts)
- public intoxication

Swafford, Jeffery S., 39
- fourth-degree theft of property

Cunningham, Tonya F., 41
- failure to appear- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hill, Natasha B., 37
- failure to appear- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Thompson, Destiney K., 20
- first-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- failure to appear- third-degree theft of property

Graves, Steven K., 28
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance

Turner, Jerrime C., 35
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Robinson, Vanessa M., 36
- failure to appear- third-degree theft of property
- failure to appear- public intoxication

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests reported.

Find arrest reports online Monday-Friday at www.CullmanTribune.com.

Chamber's State of the State Luncheon set for Jan. 19

Rob Ketcham
Contributor

CULLMAN – The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's annual State of the State Community Luncheon is set for Friday, Jan. 19 at the All Steak Restaurant. The event will be in the banquet room from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

The luncheon will feature updates from Montgomery from Cullman's state legislative delegation:
- Sen. Paul Bussman, R-Cullman
- Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview
- Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope
- Rep. Ed Henry, R-Hartselle

Tickets for the luncheon, which is presented by Shirley Quattlebaum – State Farm Insurance and sponsored by Weichert Realtors – Carter & Company, are $15 for Chamber members and $20 for future members.

Contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or info@cullmanchamber.org to reserve your seat.

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Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1938

Kelton Whaley, of Vinemont, tells that his brother-in-law, Tom C. Thomason, who is a salesman in the Carolina region, happened upon some excitement, recently. In Winston-Salem, North Carolina, he picked up an extra passenger, who desired a free ride to Greensboro, North Carolina. Arriving in Greensboro, the hiker stated that he was broke and Mr. Thomason, big-heartedly invited him to have lunch.

The hitchhiker waited in front of a hotel, while his host-to-be parked his car. When Thomason returned, he found that his guest was in the custody of two cops. The cops relieved the hitchhiker of two pistols, two knives and $340.00 in cash. He was charged with robbing a filling station. Mr. Thomason was saved the price of a meal.

J.M. Bright, well-known and beloved citizen of Cullman, died at his home, late Monday morning, following a heart attack, suffered in the early morning hours.

The deceased was born in Henry County, Georgia, on January 15th, 1871. He came to Alabama at the age of 16 and lived at Eidson's Chapel, near Baileyton. He was graduated from Blount College. At the Blount Military School he served as captain. While teaching in the College at Blountsville, he married Miss Ella Barclift. He also taught in several of the rural schools in Blount County.

Leaving the teaching profession, Mr. Bright moved to Albertville, where he became engaged in the mercantile business. He moved to Cullman thirty-seven years ago and entered the livery and sales stable business and continued in this business, until his death.

Mr. Bright was active in the church, educational and political fields. He was one of the runners up in the first Democratic Primary in May for the office of Tax Collector.

He was a highly esteemed, as well as a serviceable Christian citizen. He was a member of the Board of Stewards at the Methodist Church for 36 years. For many years, he served as superintendent of the Church School. He had the courage to fight for temperance and the majority of the citizens respected his convictions.

For eighteen years, he untiringly served on the Cullman County Board of Education. He was ever willing to assist the youths in their problems. His many years of service in the education field bespeaks the confidence the voters of this county had in his ability.

Surviving Mr. Bright are one daughter, Mrs. Clifford Gladney, of Jasper; one son, Kellet Bright, of Cullman; one granddaughter, Miss Madlyn Bright Gladney, of Jasper; one brother, George, of Arab; two sisters, Mrs. Jane Barnett, of Gadsden and Mrs. Dora Albritton, of Albertville.

Funeral services were conducted from the Methodist Church at 4:00 p.m., on Tuesday, August 23rd, with Reverend L. G. Sturdivant, of Florence, Reverend K.N. Matthews, of Cullman, Reverend M.E. Lazenby, of Decatur and Reverend W.G. Bartee, of Albertville, officiating.

The active pallbearers were: Doctor W.J. Cottingham, Doctor E.D. McAdory, Superintendent of Education, R.E. Moore, Richard Brown, A.F. Stinson and T.F. Gladney.

The honorary pallbearers included: Judge A.A. Griffith, Judge S.J. Griffin, Probate Judge, Homer F. Mitchell, Professor Gilbert Patrick, Doctor T. Arthur Robinson, Doctor H.G. Dowling, M.L. Robertson, Doctor C. Stewart, F.W. Hurston, L.L. Thompson, D.T. Kinney, John Kilgore and Joe Sapp.

Interment was in the Protestant Cemetery, with Fischer and Son in charge.

Miss Jean Gantt entertained at a watermelon cutting at Kinser's Camp, in Garden City, on Monday evening, in honor of her guest, Miss Rubye Anderson, of Prattville.

Those present were Rubye Anderson, Rubye and Ruthella Ashwander, Harriett Robertson, Elinor McGlawn, Lorene and Era Ann Gray, Nina, Jean and Edith Gantt, Paul Jernigan, of Ozark, Harold McGlawn, Fred Lewis Rimel, Frank and Robert Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. Guyles Combs and Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Gantt.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

I've seen some cold winter nights

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



By the time you read this we may be having a heat wave, but at the time of my writing it has been freezing cold. How cold has it been? It's been so cold the smoke coming out of my chimney froze, my kitchen faucet spat out ice cubes and my Keurig made frappuccinos! Area dairy cows were doing jumping jacks to stay warm and giving milkshakes!

I have lived in the south all of my life, or at least the part I've lived so far. We don't get much bitterly cold weather, especially as far down as Opelika, but I have experienced some. I've been in Wyoming when the temperature was fifteen below, not including wind chill. I saw a lady put ice cream on her back porch instead of her refrigerator. I'm still not sure why she served us ice cream in that weather. I have been in Minnesota when the wind chill was thirty-five below. That was cold! We don't get that kind of cold down here, and I give thanks, but I thought I might freeze to death on New Year's Eve.

I can't remember being that cold since I was a kid. Back in those days that was not uncommon. I grew up in an old house that had central heat. We had one coal heater in the central part of the house!

That thing would get so hot it that it ran us out of the room, but we didn't stay gone long because we'd almost freeze to death in the rest of the house. My bedroom was as far away from that coal heater as you could go and still be inside the house. The walls didn't have any insulation in them, so there was not a tremendous difference between inside and outside, except for the lack of wind. It got so cold in my bedroom at night that I woke up one morning to find mice ice skating in a bowl of frozen milk I had left on the dresser the night before! Okay, I'm teasing. We didn't have mice because we had cats. Would you believe I found three cats with their tongues stuck to the milk one morning? I didn't think so, but I really have found ice particles the next morning in a glass of water.

Two things kept us from freezing to death back then. One was approximately thirty-four hand-made quilts on each bed. I woke up tired every morning from holding up all that weight! The other thing was electric blankets. I turned mine on before I went to bed so by the time I crawled in under all those quilts it was nice and toasty and comfortable for the rest of the night. Crawling out the next morning was a different story.

I promised myself I would never have a coal heater when I grew up. So far, I have managed to keep that promise. We have real central heat in our house now, with one unit for the downstairs and a separate

one for the upstairs. Because hot air rises, sometimes we can even turn off the upstairs unit. In fact, a few days before Christmas we ran the A/C upstairs. When the cold front came, we cranked up the upstairs thermostat to seventy-something. Do you know when the unit is set on A/C, you can run the thermostat on up to ninety but the heat still won't come on?

I am reminded that sometimes we can find ourselves in uncomfortable situations, sometimes even painful ones, as a result of our own doing. Then we have no one to blame except guess who.

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

Poet's Corner



Hummingbird

By Randy C. Hale

Artist: Samantha Weems

(for my daughter Erica)

You are the humming bird,
the first to stagger me with awe
I cradled you in the nest,
careful not to crush you beneath
You grew and so did my heart
to suffice a place needed
for your busy little wings
that flew

and flew.

Unemployment compensation tax forms now available online

ADOL
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Alabamians who received unemployment compensation benefits in 2017 can now view and download their form 1099-G online at www.labor.alabama.gov.

The Form 1099-G details how much unemployment compensation claimants received during the calendar year in addition to information about taxes withheld from unemployment benefits.

This information must be reported each year.

The forms are also available for years 2010-2016.

"This convenient access to important tax forms is available to all Alabamians who received unemployment compensation benefits," said Labor Sec. Fitzgerald Washington.

"Claimants should note that if they access their form online, no forms will be mailed to them, so they should print them for their records."

These forms are password protected and must be accessed with a claimant's Social Security number.

If a claimant views his or her 1099-G online BEFORE Jan. 31, 2018, a printed form WILL NOT be mailed to them.

If the form is not viewed online, a printed form will be mailed to the address of record on Jan. 31, 2018.

Updates to addresses can be made at: https://labor.alabama.gov/uc/ICCS/default.aspx.

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FAX (256) 796-1306

Council Members Paul Brown, Michelle Bell, Lou Thomas, Carla Hart, Gladys Wisener

Date: January 5, 2018
State of Alabama
County of Cullman
Town of Holly Pond

INVITATION TO BID
COMMUNITY SAFE ROOM

Sealed Bids shall be received for one (1) or more Community Safe Room(s) by the Holly Pond Town Council, until noon on local time by January 29, 2018. The bids will be opened on February 1, 2018 at noon at the Town of Holly Pond Town Hall, Holly Pond, Alabama. At this time bids will be opened and publicly read for an above-ground, pre-engineered, pre-manufactured, 114" steel plate safe room, with bathrooms, generator and generator cover that complies with FEMA 361 (2015) and ICC 500 Community Shelter Design Criteria. The contract, if a bid is chosen will be awarded at the regular Town of Holly Pond council meeting after the February 1, 2018 opening.

The Community Safe Room shall meet the specifications in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Publication 361. Each bid must certify that the bid meets or exceeds FEMA 361 specifications. The successful bidder will also be required to provide a notarized Contractor/Installer form certifying this upon completion of the job, as well as an engineering peer review.

The Holly Pond Town Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities in awarding this bid to the best responsive bidder. The bid award will not be based solely on price. Quality, conformity with the specifications, purpose for which required, terms of delivery, and past service and experience are among the factors that will be considered in determining the best responsive bidder. Other factors such as compliance with Qualifications for Safe Room Design Acceptance, value, conditions and past performance will be considered in determining the best bid. Bidders must show proof of a minimum of five (5) years' experience in successfully completing community safe room projects of this size and type. Provide at least three (3) references from previous community safe room projects, with photos.

Bids submitted are firm and no claims for errors will be considered after bids are opened and subsequent thereof.

The bidder shall use domestic products and labor and if domestic products are not used, there shall be a downward adjustment in the contract price equal to any realized savings or benefits to the contractor/installer.

All bidders **must** use the attached form for submitting their bid. All bids must be sealed and marked - in the lower left-hand envelope **"BID #1139- Community Safe Room", with opening date and time. Late bids will not be opened. All Bids must be submitted to the Town of Holly Pond at 10885 US Hwy 278 E (PO Box 9), Holly Pond, AL 35083. The proposal package includes specifications, a copy which is available for examination from, Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:30pm at the Cullman County Economic Development Office, 325 Second Street SE, Cullman, AL 35055. For questions regarding this invitation to bid, please email, Tanya Sears, Project Coordinator at tanya@cullmanecondev.org or call at 256-736-2434 or contact Mayor Bill Oliver at townofhollypond@outlook.com or call at 256-796-2124 or 256-796-6180.**

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 13, 2018

Suspect sought after shooting in Holly Pond

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND – As of press time Friday night, the Cullman County Sheriff's Office was looking for Tei Ti Taimi, 36, a suspect in a shooting that happened around 4 p.m. near County Road 783 and U.S. Highway 278 Friday. He was believed to be in the Walter/Alabama Highway 91 area as of 6 p.m. He was last seen wearing a black motorcycle jacket and gray hoodie.

According to a source within the CCSO, a deputy was allegedly shot at, but was not hit.

Deputies chased the suspect, who was on foot off of Alabama Highway 91 and was reported to have his 10-year-old daughter with him. The source said it is unknown why the suspect fired; the deputy had been on the scene for a follow-up interview. The source also said that dogs were en route to track the suspect.

Check www.CullmanTribune.com for the latest.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Tei Ti Taimi

Bonsai for beginners: Dr. Bob Wendorf to teach class Jan. 18

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Correspondent

Maybe you really should put more thought into the gifts you give. You never can tell when a gift will turn into a hobby that leads to a fascination for that gift which broadens the mind and enriches the life of the recipient beyond measure.

Such was the gift of a little bonsai (the name means "tree in a pot") which was a gift to Dr. Bob Wendorf by his sister-in-law about 25 years ago. His mother's family had lived in the Philippines in the mid-1930s, and had absorbed much of the Asian culture there, bringing home with them Oriental rugs and other Asian influenced décor. "I grew up with a Japanese woodblock in my room," said Wendorf.

Over the time, the little tree would be the inspiration for a book ("Make Someone Happy") and lead to a Bonsai collection carefully shaped by the hands of Wendorf.

His interest would even lead to a keen talent for Japanese Landscaping. He has done two back gardens in homes he was occupying; one of them is an ongoing project in his current garden. He notes that one of the reasons he so admires this form of gardening is because the trees have such longevity, usually, and that he can create odd and interesting shapes, often mimicking nature.

"For most people who have tried bonsai, their first tree is a little juniper," said Wendorf. "Then they go out and kill it by overwatering it or keeping it in the house," he concluded. "That tree might have lived a lot longer if it had been kept outdoors."

Maples also make great bonsai subjects, and like junipers, are easily come by in our Zone 7 area. However, unlike junipers, maples lose their leaves at the first sign of frost, while junipers almost seem to love getting out in the cold weather.

According to Cullman County Extension Service Coordinator, Tony Glover, "Brother Jude Johnston of St. Bernard approached me last year about hosting a Beginning Bonsai program and we are very pleased to have Dr. Bob Wendorf speak and demonstrate on this topic. I want to encourage anyone interested to join us for this free event hosted by the Cullman County Master Gardeners. Also, we want to let everyone know it is not too late to sign up for the upcoming 2018 Master Gardener course, but time is short," Glover cautioned. "Please contact our office soon for details about the Master Gardener Class at 256-737-9386."

On Jan. 18, the Cullman County Extension Service will host Wendorf, who will teach a beginners' class in the art of creating bonsai. Students will leave the class knowing how to pot a bonsai, what kind of containers are best suited for the little trees, and the basic styles of the bonsai. No materials are required.

About Wendorf

Dr. Bob Wendorf has 25 years in the art of bonsai. He is also a board member and president of the Alabama Bonsai Society, has served two years as curator of bonsai exhibit at the Birmingham Botanical Garden (BBG) and is co-founder and long-term president of the Japanese Garden Society of Alabama.

In addition, Wendorf holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, with 36 years in practice and 12 years teaching in Illinois and at UAB, has published three books and written articles for the BBG Japanese Garden in "Alabama Heritage" magazine, and is the author of two published letters in Bonsai Clubs International Newsletter.

At a glance

What: Bonsai for the Beginner

When: Thursday, Jan. 18 at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Cullman County Extension Office, 402 Arnold St. NE (basement)

This is a regular Master Gardener meeting, but the public is encouraged to come to attend this free event. For directions or for more information, call 256-737-9386 or visit www.aces.edu/counties/Cullman.

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Cullman Regional responds to Ivey's State Public Health Emergency declaration

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey on Thursday declared a State Public Health Emergency due to this season's widespread outbreak of the influenza virus. Cullman Regional's Lindsey Dossey on Friday responded, saying, "The best thing we can all do in order to stop the spread of flu is to stay away from each other, and if you have been exposed to anyone with the flu, stay away from others even if you don't show signs and symptoms."

Dossey said staying away from others is important because oftentimes people are sick for 24 hours before they exhibit signs or symptoms.

"The governor's proclamation really creates more awareness of the severity of flu throughout our state," she said. "We continue to have high volumes of patients present to the ER with flu-like systems; however, those numbers appear to be decreasing (see below). Again, those patients continue to be treated and released with instructions to manage their illness at home. Our inpatients continue to be sick with a multitude of other health issues."

According to Cullman Regional:

• During the first week of January (7 days): 310 people were tested who presented with flu-like symptoms, with 78 testing positive.

• This week (only 5 days so far); 178 people were tested who presented with flu-like symptoms, with 37 testing positive.

"Now, this could be that people have gone to urgent care facilities or to their primary care providers to receive care rather than coming to the emergency department, and certainly doesn't mean that the chance of getting the flu is decreasing," Dossey stressed.

"Many hospitals have banned visitors to keep their patients from being exposed. We are not banning visitors at Cullman Regional," she stated, "but we are strongly discouraging visitors as our patients are already immunocompromised due to other illnesses, and being exposed to the flu could be detrimental to their health."

Ivey's declaration reads as follows:

WHEREAS the State Health Officer has reported that an outbreak of the influenza virus has occurred in the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS this outbreak poses a high probability of widespread exposure to an infectious agent that poses significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people in the affected population; and

WHEREAS the health care facilities and personnel of the State are overwhelmed by the number of ill patients and taxed to such an extent that care of patients may now no longer be provided in the traditional, normal, and customary manner nor is the utilization of traditional, normal, and customary standards of care possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama, pursuant to relevant provisions of the Alabama Emergency Management Act of 1955, section 31-9-1 et seq., Code of Alabama (1975), on the recommendation of the State Health Officer, do hereby declare that a State Public Health Emergency exists in the State of Alabama. I direct the appropriate state agencies to exercise their statutory and regulatory authority to assist the communities and entities affected. I also direct the Alabama Department of Public Health and Alabama Emergency Management Agency to seek federal assistance as may be available.

FURTHER, I direct the following:

Health care facilities that have invoked their emergency operation plans in response to this public health emergency may implement the "alternative standards of care" plans provided therein, and such are declared to be the state approved standard of care in health care facilities to be executed by health care professionals and allied professions and occupations providing services in response to this outbreak.

These "alternative standards of care" shall serve as the "standard of care" as defined in section 6-5-542(2), Code of Alabama for the purposes of section 6-5-540 et seq. The "degree of care" owed to patients by licensed, registered or certified health care professionals for the purposes of section 6-5-484 shall be the same degree of care set forth in the "alternative standards of care." To the extent that the provisions of section 6-5-540 et seq. are inconsistent with this order, the said provisions are hereby suspended.

All health care professionals and assisting personnel executing in good faith under the "alternative standards of care" are hereby declared to be "Emergency Management Workers" of the State of Alabama for the purposes of title 31 of the Code of Alabama.

The State Health Officer shall inform members of the public on how to protect themselves and actions being taken in response to this public health emergency.

FURTHER, I declare that this Proclamation and all subsequent orders, laws, rules or regulations issued pursuant hereto shall remain in full force and effect for the duration of the State Public Health Emergency unless rescinded or extended by Proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal to be affixed by the Secretary of State at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on this 11th day of January, 2018.

Meanwhile, the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) on Thursday said that due to widespread flu activity, many hospitals are at or over normal patient capacity due in large part to the number of patients presenting with seasonal influenza-like symptoms. It said emergency departments and outpatient clinics are also seeing very high volumes of patients.

To avoid getting and spreading the flu, the ADPH urges the general public to:

• Get flu vaccine; it is not too late
• Stay at home if you have a fever
• Wash your hands
• Cover your cough and sneeze
• Clean and disinfect
• Learn home care

The ADPH said flu can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The flu is different from a cold. The flu usually comes on suddenly.

People who have the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms:

• Fever or feeling feverish/chills
• Cough
• Sore throat
• Runny or stuffy nose
• Muscle or body aches
• Headaches
• Fatigue (tiredness)
• Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, although this is more common in children than adults.

The ADPH advises people with mild to moderate flu or flu-like symptoms, "Please do not go to your doctor's office without calling first and do not go to the emergency room.

"Please call your doctor to see if you are eligible for antivirals without an appointment.

"Many insurance companies now have a "call a provider" service to help with mild to moderate illnesses; please take advantage of this service before going to a doctor or hospital.

"Mild to moderate cases of the flu usually do not require a hospital visit. Patients who do visit an emergency department or outpatient clinic should be aware of long wait times."

Employers and schools that require doctor excuses for absences are asked to waive this requirement during this time to encourage those who are sick to stay home and not spread disease.

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Hanceville annexes Hopewell Church, cemetery; fire department issues addressed

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – It was a busy evening during a protracted meeting of the Hanceville City Council Thursday with topics on the table from Hanceville's northern city limits all the way to Blount County, and issues related to the city's fire department as prominent subjects.

Financial audit
During its work session, the council received a report on the audit of the City's fiscal year 2016 financial records. Auditors found an issue with retirement fund contributions that is not an immediate concern but could lead to large deficits down the road, so council members discussed ways to protect retirement funds. Overall, the audit was declared clean.

Annexations
The council unanimously approved the annexation of Hopewell Baptist Church (zoned I-D: Intensive Development) and the Hopewell Cemetery (zoned A-1: Agricultural) into Hanceville's city limits. The move will add 39.91 acres to the city, and will open access to residential areas to the north of the church to seek annexation as well.

Telephone and internet
The council recently put out a request for bids to update the city's telephone systems and internet access. The only bid received came from Smartfox IT Solutions, the company currently providing Hanceville with computer hardware and software maintenance services. As council members had several questions and the bid proposal was not clear to some, the matter was tabled for a later meeting when a Smartfox representative can come.

Fire department
The meeting shifted to a tight focus on issues related to Hanceville's emergency services, beginning with a request from Fire Chief Rodger Green that the council approve the use of JMCM Consulting to help the Fire Department get a grant of up to $750,000 to purchase a new engine to replace a 20-year-old truck that is requiring increasing amounts of maintenance and repair. Previously used grant writers have not been successful for several years, and, according to Green, JMCM Consulting has a good track record in landing fire department grants. The grant being sought would require a five percent City match, plus five percent for the grant writers; meaning that the $750,000 purchase would cost the City $75,000. Should the consultants be unsuccessful in getting the grant, there would be no charge to Hanceville. The council approved Green's request.

Assistant Chief Bart Absher gave a report on the fire department's 2017 activities, including 1,155 total calls:

- 914 medical calls
- 114 fire calls
- 80 motor vehicle accidents
- 41 special duty calls - lockouts, assisting disabled, installing 911 signs, etc.
- 6 hazmat calls
- 5 mutual aid calls
- 27 instances in which the fire department assisted other departments

As talk came to aid to other departments, Mayor Kenneth Nail took time to address a remaining issue with the Blountsville fire that devastated J.B. Pennington High School last March. The fire burned into the attic of one building, making normal access unfeasible due to the danger of collapsing ceilings. Instead, firefighters had to gain access by cutting through the building's roof. When no ladder trucks were available in Blount County to get firefighters to the top of the building, Blount County 911 contacted Cullman County 911, which dispatched Hanceville's ladder truck, along with other vehicles and crews.

Over the course of the three-day incident, Hanceville's fire department claimed around $11,500 dollars of costs associated with their services during the out-of-county event. The department submitted a bill to the Blount County Board of Education, as did other responding departments. According to Nail, more than nine months later, even after Hanceville offered to lower the amount to $10,000 and the Blount County superintendent agreed to present the reduced figure to his board, that bill remains unpaid.

After council discussion about options, the mayor asked City Attorney Dan Willingham to make contact with the Blount County Board of Education by means of a "cordial but firm" letter, to attempt an amicable resolution.

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

Obituary Announcements: Jan. 13-14

Debra June Shedd Hicks was born August 24,1956 and passed away January 8, 2018. Diagnosed in 2012, Debra proceeded to fight and win against metastatic breast cancer until she decided THE CANCER had had enough. Debra, a loving wife, mother, sister, daughter, aunt, and friend decided to end her journey after spending the holidays with friends and family. She is joining her brother Ronnie Julian Shedd, her father, Franky Julian Shedd, and both sets of her grandparents who all proceeded her in death. She is survived by her loving family to include husband of almost 30 years: Bill Hicks, children: Jillian Dale and Jeremy Dale, mother: Beulah Shannon Shedd brother: Danny Shedd, sisters: Kathy Wilson, Linda Williams, and Tammy Newman. Mother-in-law: Annie Ruth Nabors, Brothers-in-law: Bruce Wilson, James Williams, Carrey Hicks, Brian Zabelle, Jim Green, Archie Hicks, sisters-in-law: Betty Carol Shedd, Cindy Hicks Zabelle, Rebecca Hicks Mizelle. Many nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews. According to her wishes, she will be cremated and there will be a celebration of her life at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home at 1 p.m., Saturday, January 13. As her favorite color was magenta, please feel free to wear something in that or other shades of pink and purple if you have it. In lieu of flowers or plants, the family asks that you donate to Hospice Family Care in Huntsville Alabama which staffs people who provided nothing but the best care and comfort.

Ellen M Kelso, 91, passed away January 8, 2018. Visitation will be held Saturday, January 13, 2018 from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held Saturday, January 13, 2018, beginning at 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Martha Dodd Shirey, 84, of Muscle Shoals, formerly of Haleyville, was surrounded by her loved ones when she entered into rest on January 10, 2018 at Helen Keller Hospital. Martha was born on September 5, 1933, in Double Springs, Alabama. She graduated from Winston County High School and then went on to graduate from the University of Alabama. Martha was a social worker and retired from the State of Alabama Department of Pension and Securities. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Haleyville. Visitation will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2018 from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville, where services will be held at 2 p.m. Brother Gary Wakefield and Walt James will officiate. Burial will follow in Winston Memorial Cemetery. Martha is survived by her sons, David Lee and his wife Elizabeth, George Paul and his wife Sharon; sister, Mary Katherine James. She was "Memaw" to 5 grandchildren, Garrett Shirey, Whitney Shirey Owens, Austin Shirey, Reese Shirey, Mara Shirey Robbins; and 7 great grandchildren, Arlie Robbins, Rylan Shirey, Hudson Owens, Aulcie Kate Shirey, Rayce Shirey, Toxey Robbins and Harrison Owens. She was preceded in death by her parents, Lee and Maud Dodd; sisters, Geraldine Howser, Jeanette Taylor, Jimmie "Tingle" Epperson, and Cecelia Snoddy; brothers, Frank Dodd, Paul Dodd and Lee "Pert" Dodd.

Peter Alden Tackett, 76, of Good Hope, formerly of Mulvane, Kansas, died Tuesday, January 9, 2018. "Pete" was a retired master sergeant of United States Air Force. He was a lifelong member of the Church of Christ. Pete was a devoted fan of the Alabama Crimson Tide. He was preceded in death by his son, Peter Alden Tackett Jr.; parents, Elvin and Ola Hitchcock Tackett; and brothers, Elvin "Jack", Billie Wayne, Bobby Lee, Paul Ray, and his twin brother, Richard Allen Tackett. Pete is survived by his wife of 55-and-a-half years, Rosalee "Rosie" Key Tackett; daughter, Hollie Tackett Criswell (Dan); son, James "Tack" Tackett (Kristy); and his grandchildren, Alex Criswell, Jillian Jonas, Emalie Lindsey, Rachel Criswell, Ashley David, Paige Tackett and Jamie Tackett. The celebration of Pete's life will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Corinth Church of Christ, County Road 15, Bremen, with burial to follow in the church cemetery. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Funeral services for Floyd Connell, Sr., 92 of Cullman, will be 9 a.m. Saturday, January 13, 2018, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Chapel, with interment in Cullman City Cemetery. Rev. Larry Duke will be officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Connell passed away Thursday, January 11, 2018, at Cullman Long Term Care. He was born November 18, 1925, to parents Alfonsa and Annie Bell Hatcher Connell. Survivors include three children, Rick (Brenda) Connell, Floyd (Jane) Connell, Jr., and Linda Sandlin; grandchildren, Jason Connell, Luke Connell, Chris Bates, Mike Bates, Anna Reed-Stephenson, John Connell, Tom Connell; and great-grandchildren, Wynter Connell, Patrick Reed-Stephenson, Norah Connell, Jane Connell, and Jonathan Bates.

Funeral service for Erin Reya Miller, 35, of Vinemont will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, January 13, 2018 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in New Prospect Cemetery, Chaplain Sidney Aaron and Bro. John McKoy officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Ms. Miller passed away January 10th, 2018. She was born July 4, 1982. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Arlis & Norene Aaron and Bobby & Jean Miller. Survivors include her mother, Kathy (Kelley) Milligan; father, David D. Miller; Grandparents, Kenethy & Thelma Milligan; sister, Terri (Brian) Cordes; niece, Gracie; aunts, uncles, cousins, family and friends. Visitation will be Saturday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Nelda F. Parker age 94 of Crane Hill, died Wednesday, January 10, 2018. Mrs. Parker was preceded in death by her husband, Lloyd Parker; her daugthers: Pamela Sue Parker and Kimberly Parker Plylar; her sons: Phillip Parker and David Lee Parker; and her granddaughter, Gretchen Gardner. She is survived by her daughters: Rhonda Maciejewski, Elisa Abad (Mike), Cindy Gardner (Tim); her sons: Keith Parker (Sonya) and Gary Parker; very special friends: James and Sandra Edge; and 12 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild. The family will receive friends on Saturday, January 13, 2018 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. The Celebration of Mrs. Parker's life will be Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 2 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home with burial to follow at Logan Baptist Church Cemetery. Pall bearers will be: Adam, Kevin, and Joseph Gardner; Joshua and Justus Parker; P.J. Parker, Brayden Gardner. And Brian Smith. Please visit mossservicefh.com to leave condolences for the family. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

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Plant (from Front)

located on a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) "mega site" in a portion of eastern Limestone County that has been annexed into the city of Huntsville. TVA offers the following description of the site on its web page:

"The North Alabama region provides immediate access to major Southeast U.S. markets with the Huntsville, Alabama Mega Site located on Interstate I-65, a major North/South corridor connecting Chicago to the Gulf of Mexico.

The site is also minutes from the Tennessee River with port access to the Gulf via the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway. Travel times and trucking routes are convenient and provide access to the South's growing automotive, aerospace and manufacturing markets."

For more on the location of the plant, visit http://huntsvillemegasite.com.

Potential impact on Cullman County

With the facility being located on I-65, a straight shot from Cullman County, and with the Cullman area's already established presence in the automotive parts industry through Rehau, Topre and Yutaka, the region is highly likely to benefit from the venture.

On Thursday, Cullman Economic Development Agency Director Dale Greer said, "I would certainly expect Cullman to experience supplier interest from companies looking for new production facilities to serve the Toyota Mazda facility. There will also be great potential for existing Cullman manufacturers to have an opportunity to expand production because of (Wednesday's) announcement.

"Cullman has successfully recruited Tier 1 suppliers for Mercedes and Honda that are 100 miles away, so it stands to reason that a new OEM in Huntsville only 40 minutes north will offer us a lot of opportunities."

Topre America has existing production contracts with Toyota, and REHAU is rumored to be in negotiations with Toyota as well.

Greer continued, "In addition to potential for new business for local manufacturers, Huntsville-Limestone County is an easy commute for Cullman County residents interested in employment there.

"Thirty percent of the local labor force drives out of Cullman for employment in other counties, and Toyota-Mazda are advertising a wage rate that will entice some of our people to commute."

Greer pointed out that a construction project with a scope this size ($1.6 billion dollars) could translate into business for numerous general contractors, suppliers and other local vendors.

Greer concluded, "An entire region benefits economically from a project with the capital investment and job creation of an announcement like this."

From the manufacturers

After the joint press conference on Wednesday featuring Gov. Kay Ivey, Mazda CEO Masamichi Kogai Mazda, Toyota CEO Akio Toyoda and Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, Toyota issued a press release, stating in part:

The new plant will have the capacity to build 300,000 vehicles annually, with production split evenly between two lines for each company to produce Mazda's crossover model that will be newly introduced to the North American market and the Toyota Corolla.

The joint venture represents a $1.6 billion investment that Mazda and Toyota plan to make with equal funding contributions. The site for the new plant is in Huntsville, located approximately 14 miles from Toyota's Alabama plant (Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Alabama, Inc.). The facility is expected to create up to 4,000 jobs. Production is expected to begin by 2021.

"The partnership between Mazda and Toyota will expand innovative automotive manufacturing in Alabama," Gov. Ivey said. "Their decision to locate this new facility in Huntsville is a testament to the talented workforce in our state. We are proud that this partnership puts Alabama on the forefront of technology in this dynamic global industry."

"With this announcement, our world changes overnight," said Tommy Battle, mayor of Huntsville. "Mazda and Toyota, two of the world's most innovative automakers, have created a legacy project that will provide jobs for decades to come for Huntsville and Alabama. It vaults Alabama to the top as an industry leader in producing the next generation of cars that will power our nation."

Mazda Motor Corporation President and Chief Executive Officer Masamichi Kogai and Toyota Motor Corporation President Akio Toyoda joined Gov. Ivey and Mayor Battle for the announcement.

For Mazda, the plant comes on line in a significant year that will mark the start of the company's second century of operation and second half-century of sales in the U.S. The automaker is enhancing its commitment to the U.S. market and will focus efforts on manufacturing and increasing sales in the country.

"Mazda makes cars with a clear vision of how we want to inspire people, contribute to society and help preserve the beauty of the earth. By making such cars here in Alabama, we hope that over time our plant will come to occupy a special place in the hearts of our employees and the local community. By making this plant a vibrant part of that community, we hope to work, learn and grow together with the people of Alabama and Huntsville," Kogai said.

For Toyota, this joint-venture plant will be its 11th U.S. manufacturing facility and represents its continued commitment in the U.S., in addition to the $10 billion dollar investment over the next 5 years that was announced in January 2017.

"Our investment to establish a new vehicle assembly plant with Mazda builds on the strong success we have enjoyed in Alabama where we produce engines for the North American market," Toyoda said. "Starting from 2021, I'm confident that we will run a highly competitive plant, by bringing together the expertise of Toyota and Mazda as well as the excellent Alabama workforce. We are committed to being another 'best-in town' company in the city of Huntsville and the state of Alabama, a new hometown for Toyota and Mazda."

For more information on Alabama's automobile industry, visit http://www.edpa.org/key-industries/automotive/.

Location (from Front)

focus on ministry.

"We don't have a specific day right now; we're getting a lot of things done like the drawing, getting a lot of tests ran. We have to go before the (City of Cullman) Planning Commission still, so we've got several things that we need to get done before we can ever break ground," Heis said.

"We would love to be able to break ground this year, but we don't want to get ourselves behind in our main passion which is the ministry," he continued. "We want to do as much as we can to be able to pay as much of it off up front before we really dive in. Our goal is this year, but we've got a little work left to do. I've had several conversations with several different pastors and they've all said to just be careful putting all of your finances into a building to where you can't do ministry, and that's who we are, that's what we're called to do."

While the ground breaking and building may still be a little farther out on the horizon, Heis and his staff have a lot of the design plans for the new location already hashed out. The new building will not only be larger, but also have several features designed to fit Desperation's growing congregation.

"We feel like we've kind of outgrown our current campus. We've been doing five services and went portable to do two more services at the civic center," Heis said.

"What we're going to have is first we're going to have a lot larger kids' area, our parking lot is going to be a lot bigger, our foyers and hallways are going to be places where people can actually move, and there will be a lot of places for people to connect. We'll have café and coffee shop type of place and places like those for people to come in and be able to connect. We're working on getting a walking trail/prayer trail around the whole property so people can come and walk and we could put Bible verses and benches and stuff on the trail, but really we just (want) nature around the building.

"It'll be a bigger place where we can host conferences and events and our sanctuary is going to be much bigger. It's going to fit about 1,000 people, but we'll have chairs that you can pull up so we'll be able to make it as small or as large as we need to."

Heis said he and all of the crew at Desperation Church feel blessed and excited to see their ministry grow and never thought that they would outgrow their facility so quickly. Heis has gotten a lot of experience starting ministries in new locations over the years; he and his staff are excited to get started in a new place.

"I never thought about that happening at all, definitely not this quickly anyway," he smiled. "The Lord has really blessed us to be in this area in this region of people and seeing so many people come to be a part of us. We were talking about moving a couple of years ago but we've had a passion of planting other campuses so we planted in Jasper and Arab.

"To be honest with you, if it was up to me I'd just go plant churches in different places, but I know that we need a building here. We get here at six in the morning on Sundays to set up and when church is over we tear everything down so that can't be sustainable forever."

Find out more about Desperation Church at http://desperationchurch.tv.

Trafficking (from Front)

They also advocate for changes in local, regional, and state policies related to human trafficking. The volunteer task force is made up of individuals from various departments and agencies throughout the community.

The Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force cautions people to understand that young victims are often lured into traps by people they consider friends, or even by family members. Also, because of our close proximity to the Interstate and other major highways, Cullman is a prime location for perpetrators of human trafficking.

The City's proclamation was task force chairwoman Kathy Wilson's second of the week; she received a similar statement from the Cullman County Commission Tuesday morning during its meeting.

After Wilson received the proclamation at Cullman City Hall Thursday, she made her way to Karma's Coffee House to work the group's table, speak with interested visitors, and distribute information. There, The Tribune caught up with her to get an update on the task force.

She shared, "January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, all month long. Today is actually Awareness Day, nationwide. So Karma's Coffee House partnered with us last year to do the exact same thing: they allowed us to come into their facility, bring our booth, our information, and this year they have generously donated 10 percent of their profits today to our task force. (Owner) Katie (Fine)'s a great partner; she is a great community partner. She cares about her community.

"We've had two arrests this past year for human trafficking. I attribute that to the fact they we're raising awareness.

"Because of this event, I was contacted by Hampton Inn, who has asked me to come and train their employees. So we've got more and more trainings that we're starting to do.

"Judge (Kim) Chaney and I will be on the radio, speaking at the end of this month, just raising awareness. We've got a lunch session with The Link coming up in February. I will be going to Moulton to do a panel discussion on a human trafficking awareness event that they're having in February, also.

"The State Human Trafficking Summit is Feb. 8 and 9 in Montgomery; a $75 registration fee, open to anyone who wants to attend, and it's always very, very good.

"Lynn Caffery, who runs Tennessee Valley Youth Services--it's out of Huntsville; it is actually a home that she runs for homeless teens and trafficked teens--she is actually a survivor (of human trafficking). She is going to come on Feb. 28 to our noon meeting and tell her story." (That meeting will take place in Judge Chaney's courtroom on the second floor of the Cullman County Courthouse.)

"We stay busy. We're going to go with Brooks' Place into the city school system and train some of their parents. Because of Aaron's Law, they're required to go. Brooks' Place does that, and they've asked us to go with them. It's about sexual abuse, and then we're tagging human trafficking along with it."

When asked about the people she works with, Wilson exclaimed, "The people that are on the task force are incredible! Any time we have an event, they volunteer; just like today, I've got volunteers to sit all day. We do the fair, 10 days . . . 10 long days! I've got volunteers that work that booth the entire time.

"They're very busy people also. They have their own jobs, but they've committed to help us to raise awareness and help educate people, and they're a great, great group of people.

"Judge Chaney is a huge supporter, a huge supporter. He was with us this morning signing proclamations; he was with us Tuesday at the county commission. He goes out with me, we speak in public together. He's always there. (Cullman County District Attorney) Wilson Blaylock helped start the task force, so hats off to him for helping us get it started.

"And we've been in business now about three years. All of the money raised goes right back into the community for education purposes and awareness events."

For more information about the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force, visit www.facebook.com/Cullman-County-Human-Trafficking-Task-Force, or email endtrafficking25@gmail.com.

For more information on human trafficking in Alabama, visit www.enditalabama.org or www.stnow.org.

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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
BETTY W. MAYO,) **CASE NO: PC-2017-353**
Deceased.)
)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: ROBERT DALE MAYO AND ANY AND ALL NEXT OF KIN OF BETTY W. MAYO WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN

Please take notice the Petition for Probate of Will of BETTY W. MAYO, deceased, filed by petitioner, HAROLD GREGORY MAYO, by and through his attorney of record, Andria Richter, has been set for hearing on the 8th day of March, **2018, at 9:30 a.m.** before Probate Judge, TAMMY BROWN, Probate Court of Cullman County, Room 101, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman Alabama.

DATED this 8th day of January, 2018.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

Andria Richter
Attorney for Petitioner
300 First Ave SE Suite 104
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256) 775-7757

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2017-291

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF IRA JERREL WILLIAMSON, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Brenda H. Williamson on the 9th day of January, 2018, by the Hon. Wells R. Turner III, Special 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.

Brenda H. Williamson
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *Cullman Tribune:*

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

Wells R. Turner III, Special Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Personal Representative
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Dodge City Town Council met on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018.

Dodge City approves raise for Town employees

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

DODGE CITY – The Dodge City Town Council met at Dodge City Town Hall Thursday night to address several pieces of business within the community at its regular monthly meeting.

After approving the minutes from last month's meeting, the council got things started with a vote to approve the annual raise for Town employees. Dodge City Mayor Tawana Canada said the Town's employees usually see a 2-5 percent salary increase each year and the council voted to continue you that.

Next, the council discussed the salary for a new part-time city maintenance and grounds keeping position. Canada said the job will be 28 hours per week and the council approved a starting salary of $9.50 per hour with a review for a potential raise after 90 days.

The final vote of the night was to approve the purchase of storage building for Perry Ray Park located just behind the town hall. The council approved the purchase of the $2,900 12x20 house-style storage building before adjourning for the evening.

The council will have its next meeting Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. in Dodge City Town Hall.

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