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County schools closed remainder of week due to flu; city schools monitoring situation

1,000 absences reported Wednesday



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

W.C. Mann
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CULLMAN – On Wednesday morning, Cullman County Board of Education (CCBOE) Superintendent Shane Barnette made the decision to close all schools in the county system for the remainder of the week, due to excessive numbers of absent students and the lack of substitutes for the high number of absent teachers and staff. The high number of absences is attributed to the flu.

The CCBOE central office issued the following statement:

"Today we have 1,000 students absent. We are struggling to find subs for faculty and staff, including bus drivers. (Superintendent Shane) Barnette (did) an all-call to parents at around 10 a.m. letting them know that we will be closed for the remainder of the week. The teachers are cleaning and mopping their rooms thoroughly before they leave today. Teachers will be dismissed Thursday and Friday as well. Today's PD should still take place and teachers should not leave school today before 3:15. Hopefully this will allow us to turn the curve on this epidemic. Twelve-month employees should work their regular schedule on Thursday and Friday. Extracurricular activities may still take place, but good judgment needs to be used when requiring students to practice or participant in other activities. Only sports that are having games this week should even try to practice; other out of season sports don't need to practice."

In an interview broadcast on The Tribune's Facebook page, Barnette said, "While I acknowledge that it creates hardships any time that we turn school out--because I know a lot of our students are not sick, and those parents have to find places for those kids to stay and so forth--I completely understand that, and I do not want to create any hardships for anyone. But at the same time, when it comes to what's best for the health and safety of our students, we've been weighing this option for a little while, and we've tried not to do this, but we're to the point now that we have so many students that are absent, and now we're having a lot of teachers that are affected by it--faculty and staff, that we're struggling to have enough teachers to be in the classrooms. And with that, we're at a point that we've got to try something."

Barnette has been in touch with the Alabama Department of Public Health and said his decision has its support. His plan at present is for all schools to reopen on Monday, after staffers spend Thursday and Friday thoroughly cleaning all school buildings.

See the full interview with Barnette at https://www.facebook.com/CullmanTribune/videos/1634847643243591/.

Additionally, Barnette told The Tribune that this epidemic is considered a state of emergency, and he will apply » PAGE 4

Cullman Police investigating Tuesday night home invasion on city's southwest side

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Cullman Police are investigating a home invasion that happened late Tuesday night on the city's southwest side. The incident occurred at a residence at 1011 Sheraton Road between 10 and 10:30 p.m.

According to Cullman Police Department Capt. of Investigation Becky Boyd, two suspects entered the home through an unlocked door. There was at least one handgun brandished, and one of the two homeowners was injured.

"The homeowner was pistol whipped," said Boyd. "The injured homeowner was treated and released."

Boyd said the two suspects did take property, although information about exactly what was taken is not being released.

"We feel like there was a reason that those homeowners were targeted, like there was a connection," said Boyd.

"We don't feel like there is an active threat to the community."

She stressed that even though there is no active threat, residents should always keep their doors locked, both in the home and in vehicles. Also, Boyd said, record the serial numbers of property so that if your home or vehicle is burglarized, there's a better chance that property can be recovered.

Boyd said the CPD is working now following up on leads. Sgt. Eric Cole is the lead investigator. Anyone with any tips or information should contact Cole at 256-775-7170.

Visit www.CullmanTribune.com for the latest on this developing story.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Berlin incorporation vote less than a week away

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

BERLIN – In less than one week, the unincorporated community of Berlin, a few miles east of Cullman along U.S. Highway 278, may become the county's newest municipality. On Tuesday, Feb. 13, 300 or more voters living within the 500 acres of the proposed township will be given the opportunity to come to the Berlin Community Center and vote on whether or not they wish to incorporate.

At a community information meeting this week, Patrick Bates, who has headed up the incorporation effort for two years, said he felt like he and his partners have done all they can and are ready to see the results.

"It's been going on for two years this month, actually," said Bates.

"You know, we've done some online methods, we've done direct mail, we've done word of mouth, had some people knocking on doors even. I think we've done the best we can to get the word out."

This Saturday, Feb. 10, Bates will host the last pre-vote event, a voter turnout rally, at the community center. Visitors will be treated to free food, will have one more chance to ask questions about incorporation plans and will be encouraged to come back with their neighbors on Tuesday to vote.

Said Bates, "I think the best thing for the community, no matter which way the election goes, is that we have good turnout.

"It'd be better in the long run that as many people as possible put their input into this, regardless of whether it passes or fails."

Bates has been encouraged by verbal commitments he has received from residents who have said that they are coming, and even from some who cannot come Tuesday and have filled out absentee ballots ahead of time.

For supporters of incorporation, the ideas of local control of tax money and access to other government funds are paramount.

According to Bates, "The big advantage is that it'll give us some direct » PAGE 4



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The southern portion of the proposed town of Berlin, with U.S. Highway 278 running east to west through the middle. Organizer Patrick Bates hopes residents in the unshaded areas will join later.

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Arrest report: Feb. 5-6

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported for Feb. 5-6. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

MONDAY, FEB. 5

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Basinger, Timothy Lee, 50
• public intoxication

Bullard, Eric Monroe, 23
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• first-degree theft of property

Callahan, Jeffrey Dale, 25
• probation violation- first-degree theft of property

Edwards, Shelia Renee Carlee, 54
• harassing communications

Farr, Carles Matthew, 34
• harassment

Goodwin, Myrriah Leigh Ivory, 20
• contributing to the delinquency of a minor

Harris, Kent Lee, 36
• permitting dogs to run at large

Jones, Melissa Ann, 38
• failure to appear- giving false name to law enforcement
• failure to appear- possession of drug paraphernalia
• failure to appear- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Lindsey, Regina Anne, 40
• failure to appear- DUI- influence of alcohol

Malone, Zachery Wayne, 19
• second-degree bail jumping- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

McCart, James Ray, 42
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Roberson, Justin Paul, 31
• negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Sears, Bridget Nichole, 32
• failure to appear- possession of prescription medicine
• failure to appear- speeding- reasonable and prudent

Spicer, Carlos Alberto, 38
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Whisenhunt, Kimberly Dawn, 29
• failure to appear- liability insurance required

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Gill, Christopher A., 28
• failure to appear- driving while revoked
• failure to appear- driving without a license
• failure to appear- insurance violation
• failure to appear- DUI

Bryant, Tonya L., 35
• unlawful distribution of a controlled substance

Smith, Justin M., 32
• failure to appear- possession of drug paraphernalia

Riggs, Kevin D., 55
• unlawful distribution of a controlled substance (2 counts)

Brock, Collin M., 19
• DUI- under 21

Davis, Chesley B., 36
• failure to appear- expired tag

Wallace, Chad T., 43
• third-degree forgery
• third-degree possession of a forged instrument
• possession of a forgery device

Wallace, Gregory W., 47
• third-degree forgery
• third-degree possession of a forged instrument
• possession of a forgery device

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests reported.

TUESDAY, FEB. 6

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Addison, Byron Timothy, 43
• failure to appear- driving while revoked

Bennett, Laura Elaine, 44
• negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Cook, Samuel Austin, 39
• third-degree domestic violence- third-degree assault
• third-degree domestic violence- menacing
• interference with a domestic violence emergency
• first-degree unlawful imprisonment

Duke, Randall Joseph, 35
• failure to appear- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Guthrie, Anthony Wayne, 25
• failure to appear- liability insurance required

Hayes, Shelia, 46
• negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument (6 counts)

Laney, Brandon Christopher, 22
• probation revoked- unlawful possession of a controlled substance (4 counts)

Lovell, Anthony Ray, 43
• public intoxication

Roden, Joshua Michael, 32
• failure to appear- driving while suspended

Ross, Brandon James, 24
• writ of arrest- child support

Scruggs, Ben Cody, 30
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Steele, Jacob Webster, 27
• failure to appear- driving while suspended

Vaughn, Robert Lee, 48
• failure to appear- driving while revoked

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Farr, Lacy C., 38
• defrauding secured creditors

Childers, Matthew E., 19
• first-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• carrying a pistol without a license

Johnson, Angel D., 24
• possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Gilley, Samantha B., 19
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance

Helms, Sarah A., 31
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Sanders, David E., 29
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
• failure to appear- possession of drug paraphernalia
• failure to appear- insurance violation

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests reported.

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

Cullman Regional 'goes red' for American Heart Month

Mary Beth Sellers
Cullman Regional

CULLMAN – February is American Heart Month, and Cullman Regional has gone red by lighting up the front of the hospital in red to raise awareness and support the fight against heart disease.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), cardiovascular diseases claim more lives each year than all forms of cancer and Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease combined. American Heart Month was first proclaimed in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. At the time, more than half of the deaths in the U.S. were caused by cardiovascular disease.

American Heart Month is meant to increase awareness and promote healthy lifestyle changes. It is also a time to remind Americans to focus on their hearts and encourage them to get their families, friends and communities involved.

Cullman Regional is also offering FREE Heart Screenings on Feb. 8 and 22 in order to help community members identify any potential risk factors they may have in order to reduce their risk for heart disease. Appointments are required, and you can sign up by calling 256-735-5600 or register online at www.cullmanregional.com.

For more information about American Heart Month or the American Heart Association, visit www.heart.org. For more information about Cardiovascular Services at Cullman Regional, visit www.cullmanregional.com

Chamber seeking historic Cullman memorabilia, artifacts

Rob Ketcham
Contributor

CULLMAN – The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center is seeking the public's help as it puts together a "Hall of History" for its 75th Annual Meeting & Gala on March 8 at Stone Bridge Farms. The Hall will take attendees on a stroll through the past with decade-by-decade displays featuring local memorabilia and artifacts from each one.

Anyone with items or materials representative of the Cullman area from 1943 to the present is encouraged to contact Roger Steele, the Chamber's interim director of tourism, at 256-734-0454 or rsteele@visitcullman.org.

See below for an overview of the memorabilia and artifacts sought for the "Hall of History." Please note this list is not complete and that any other ideas or suggestions are welcome.

• Items related to Cullman industry (products made, etc.)
• Agricultural implements (no big tractors, please!)
• Memorabilia from World War II, Korean War or Vietnam War
• Magazines/programs/brochures/booklets specific to the Cullman area
• Sports keepsakes or materials (fishing tourneys, athletics, local parks, etc.)
• Anything from when Smith Lake Dam was built in the '60s
• Tornado damage from April 2011 with interesting story to tell
• Memorabilia from Oktoberfest, Strawberry Festival, Rock the South, or any past or present local festivals
• Office equipment (adding machine, etc.)
• Items from old department stores (cash register, etc.)
• Anything from the days of King Edward Cigar, Americold, etc.
• Old fashions from '40s, '50s, '60s and '70s
• Healthcare-related items (stethoscope, surgical mask, medical equipment, etc.)



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Breast Cancer Research Foundation of AL presents $950K to UAB

Largest donation ever from BCRFA to UAB

Sabrina Balch
Contributor

BIRMINGHAM – On Friday, Feb. 2, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama (BCRFA) presented its largest donation ever of $950,000 to the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. Since its inception in 1996, the BCRFA has made an annual donation to research proceeds from all its fundraising efforts during the prior year, including sales of the specialty breast cancer research license plate, BCRFA events, and from individual and community support. This year's contribution brings the Birmingham-based organization's cumulative total for research at UAB to more than $7.7 million.

Fundraising done in Cullman to help make this donation possible included the Bow-Up Against Breast Cancer 3-D Archery Tournament and sales of more than 100 Cullman County Breast Cancer Research car tags, raising a combined total of more than $37,000 for the BCRFA during 2017.

"The Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama has been central to providing the critical monies for the development and maintenance of the breast cancer research program, making our program one of the most prominent breast cancer programs in the country," said Michael Birrer, M.D., Ph.D., the new director of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center.

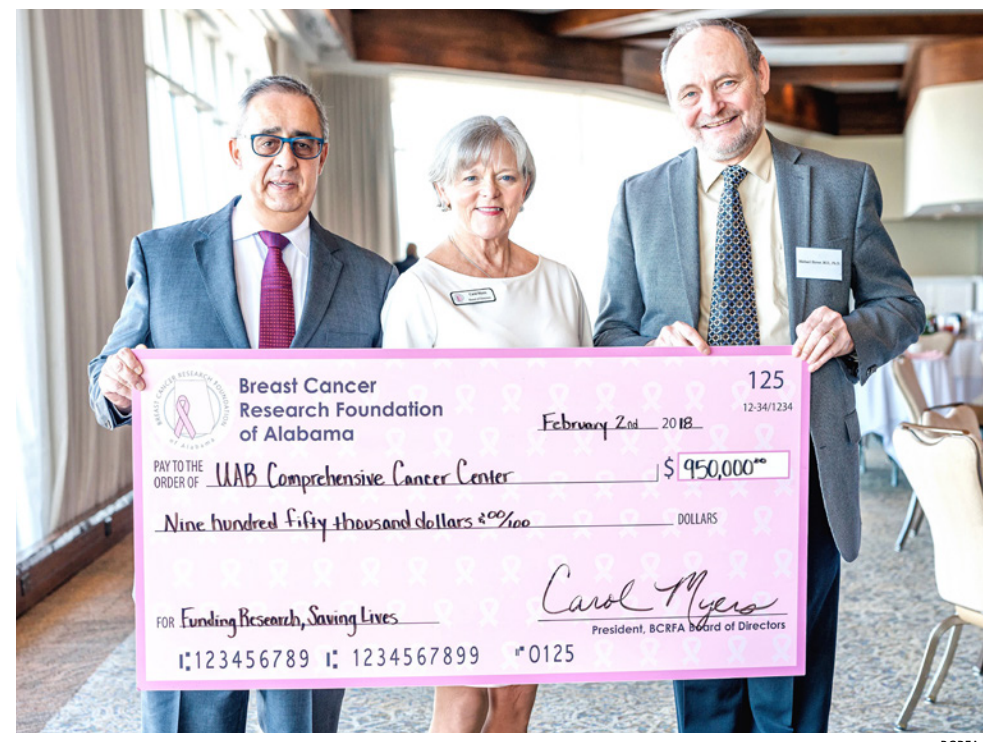
"BCRFA is a perfect example of motivating the community to support new and evolving research."

Half of the total donation of $950,000 was raised through the BCRFA specialty car tag sales. Available at DMVs across the state, the Breast Cancer Research tag is the ninth most popular specialty tag in the state, with more than 11,500 vehicles sporting the tag.

The BCRFA supports a comprehensive approach to battling breast cancer through collaborative and innovative research to help diagnose, treat, prevent and eradicate the disease.

All the funds raised remain in Alabama, supporting local research, which in turn makes a national impact.

For more information, visit www.BCRFA.org.



BCRFA

Andres Forero, M.D., head of the UAB breast cancer research program, left, Carol Myers, president of the BCRFA Board of Directors, and Michael Birrer, M.D., Ph.D, director of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center

Free heart screenings at Cullman Regional Feb. 8 and 22

Mary Beth Sellers
Contributor

CULLMAN – In recognition of National Heart Month, Cullman Regional is offering FREE heart screenings to the community on Feb. 8 and 22. Visits are by appointment only. According to the American Heart Association, cardiovascular disease accounts for nearly 836,546 deaths in the US. That's about 1 of every 3 deaths in the US. Cullman Regional's screenings offer opportunities to check your risk for heart disease and more.

Screenings include the following for all participants at no charge:

1. Lipid Panel
2. Body Mass Index
3. E K G (Electrocardiogram)
4. Blood Pressure
5. ABI Screening
6. Bone Density Screening

"The goal of these screenings is to help community members identify any potential risk factors they may have in order to reduce their risk for heart disease," said Lindsey Dossey, executive director marketing & community outreach.

"We want to help our community catch potential risks and get them under control before it becomes an emergency." Do you have high cholesterol? Do you have high blood pressure? Does your family have a history of heart disease?

If so, call to schedule your appointment TODAY. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 256-735-5600. For a complete list of upcoming events at Cullman Regional, visit cullmanregional.com.

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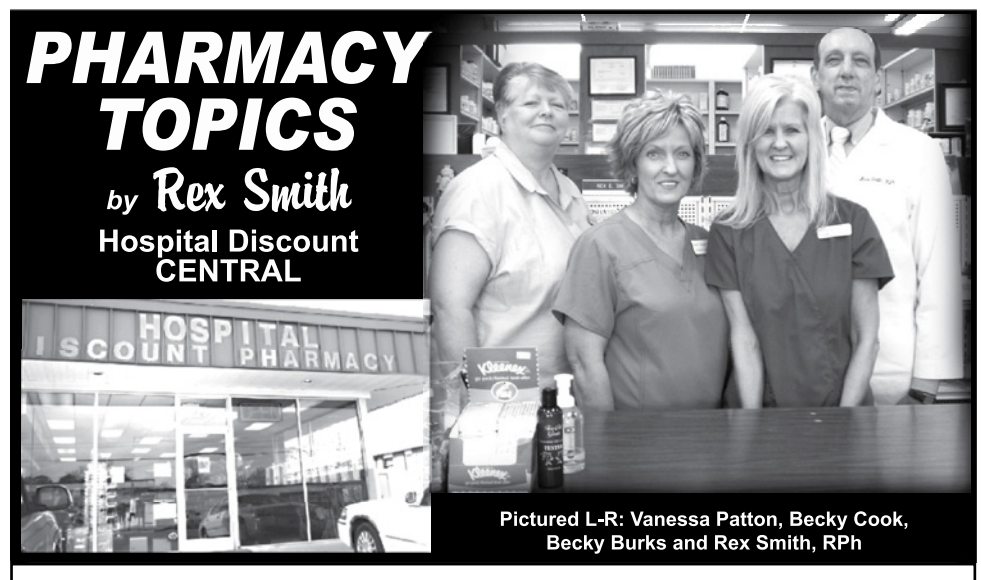
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PHARMACY TOPICS

by Rex Smith
Hospital Discount CENTRAL



Pictured L-R: Vanessa Patton, Becky Cook, Becky Burks and Rex Smith, RPh

The fact that vaccines typically don't work as well in older people presents a challenge to influenza vaccine makers, particularly because the illness often results in serious respiratory infections in frail patients such as elderly nursing home residents. A large, randomized clinical trial tested whether a flu vaccine with four times the antigen of a standard vaccine could reduce the risk of hospitalization among those especially vulnerable seniors. The results, published in *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine*, reports that it did so significantly. The relative risk of hospitalization for respiratory illness was 12.7 percent lower for the high-dose group.

***

An existing medication, FDA-approved Alzheimer's drug "galantamine," slashes inflammation and insulin resistance in patients with metabolic syndrome, a potential therapeutic intervention for a highly dangerous condition affecting 30 percent of adults in the United States, according to a new study published in JCI Insight. The drug cut key markers of inflammation – a hallmark of metabolic syndrome – by more than 25 percent, leading to reduced insulin resistance. A cluster of four risk factors – increased blood pressure, a high blood sugar level, excess body fat around the waist and abnormal cholesterol levels – comprise metabolic syndrome, which greatly raises risks for cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes.

***

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a major cause of disability and death globally, but medications have generally failed to benefit patients. A new study published in The Journal of Clinical Pharmacology found that memantine, a drug that is used to treat dementia associated with Alzheimer's disease, may be a promising therapy.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
FEBRUARY 8, 2018

Planning commission recommends one 1 annexation, rejects another

W.C. Mann
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CULLMAN – The City of Cullman Planning Commission had a quiet meeting this week, the only excitement a short lesson on the prerequisites for property annexation.

The commission first approved a request from ForeSite Towers to remove three old antennas and replace them with three new ones on a cell phone tower located at 1910 Second Ave. SW.

The commission approved a request for the annexation of 2 acres located at 1405 County Road 1466.

The property contacts current city property, so the commission sent a favorable recommendation to the Cullman City Council.

The next annexation request, for property at the intersection of County Roads 703 and 706, led to a discussion on what qualifies for annexation.

The property owner, John Montgomery, argued that the easement over a city water line running under part of his property should be treated as city property in contact with his.

Planning and Zoning Director Rick Fulmer explained that easements are access agreements similar to rentals and not a type of property.

He said that one of two prerequisites must be met to qualify for annexation: physical contact with existing city property, or an act of the state legislature.

The commission voted to send an unfavorable recommendation on the request to the Cullman City Council.

The City of Cullman Planning Commission meets at 5:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month in Cullman City Hall auditorium. The public is invited to attend.

Ball fields, storm shelters and a new town hall

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

BAILEYTON – Baseball fields, storm shelters and a new town hall. Those were the top three items on the agenda at Monday night's Baileyton Town Council meeting.

Mayor Johnny Dyar and the council spent a fair amount of time discussing work that needs to be done on the town's baseball fields. No official decisions were made, but the council is mulling adjustments to the field's drainage system, infield grass and finding a way to build something to shield the batters' eyes from the sun during certain times of the day.

The council approved resolution no. 2018-01 to request a grant for two new storm shelters for Baileyton.

Dyar said he has seen the need for some added shelter space for several years and the problem becomes magnified when severe weather comes through the area.

"We've got one up here right behind the town hall, behind the senior center, and it's full during every storm. A lot of times people have to stand outside," Dyar said.

"That's the reason why we thought we should build two more. We're going to build one over here at the cemetery, on Cemetery Road, and we're going to build the other one up at the park so that if there's a ball game or anybody at the school up there they can use our storm shelter."

Dyar said he believes that by having several storm shelter locations, the town will be able to provide for multiple groups of people that may have different needs. He said his biggest concern is trying to make everyone as comfortable as possible when the shelters become necessary.

To wrap up the meeting, the council reviewed the specs for the new town hall project.

The new building will have updated security features like motion-sensing lights on all four corners of the structure and video surveillance. It will also feature more space in several areas like the foyer, offices and in the main conference room. After going over the dimensions of some of the new rooms and paying all the unpaid bills, the council adjourned for the evening.

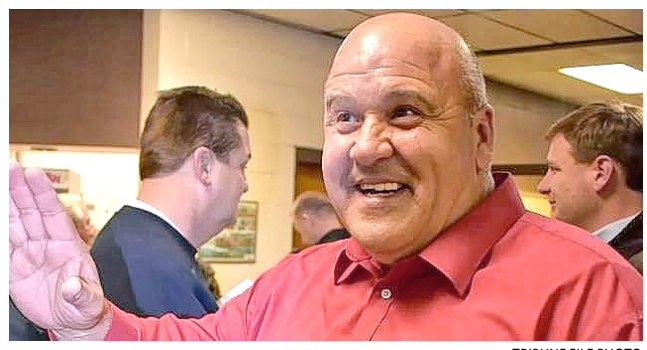
The Baileyton Town Council meets at Baileyton Town Hall, located at 95 Fire Station Road, on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

Town hall meeting set for Feb. 12 in Vinemont

Garry Marchman
Contributor

VINEMONT – Cullman County Commissioner Garry Marchman, Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview, Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope and Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry will welcome residents to a town hall meeting at the Vinemont-Providence Volunteer Fire Department on Monday, Feb. 12.

The meeting will kick off at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served. The department is located at 60 Ridgeway St. Cullman, AL 35058.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Cullman County Commissioner Garry Marchman

Vote (from Front)

local control over some tax moneys that we're already paying. It will give us (the) opportunity to take control of our own roads.

"That's a responsibility, but it's one that I believe we can manage here. That would also be opening up some grant opportunities, you know: perhaps a storm shelter and some other services."

Bates also noted that an incorporated Berlin could take care of its own roads without having to wait on a county list, that it could build amenities like parks, and that it could get its own storm shelters like those that have appeared in towns around the county since the April 27 tornadoes of 2011.

Opponents of incorporation are concerned that claimed sources of funding (including sales tax, gas tax, beer tax, and TVA payments, along with accessible grants) might not materialize, leaving the fledgling town to enact local taxes to generate money.

Bates pointed out that Cullman County's other small townships draw from these sources without problems. By law, all municipalities have access to a portion of the funding, based on population.

"My biggest concern," concluded Bates, "is that we actually have turnout and participation in this. I'm less concerned with whether somebody wants it to pass or not, and more concerned that they actually show up and put their opinion in, in the election on Tuesday. I think it would be a great thing for us to have the town, but if that's not what the majority wants, that's perfectly fine. We just need to have our say."

Flu (from Front)

to the Alabama State Department of Education for a waiver so that students should not have to make up the days.

A personal appeal

The superintendent said that schools will benefit from a little extra parental help at this point, in the form of cleaning supplies.

"If parents want to donate any cleaning supplies, that'd be great," said Barnette.

"We'd be glad to take them. There'll be administration at the schools Thursday and Friday. If (parents) want to donate Germ-x or Clorox wipes, or disinfectant spray--anything like that, we'll be sure and use it."

City schools remain open at this time

For now, Cullman's city schools remain open, as they have not been hit as hard by absences. Dr. Susan Patterson, superintendent of Cullman City Schools, released the following statement:

"We are monitoring our attendance rates daily as the flu epidemic continues. Currently our daily absences are within range of our normal daily rate. We strongly encourage parents that if their child has a fever, to make certain they are fever free without medication for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

"Our administrative staff are working with each student case to help with absences. As of now we will continue school as scheduled, but if the daily absence rate increases we will re-evaluate."

In order to avoid the flu, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends:

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.

The CDC recommends that anyone who is sick visit a physician and take antiviral (not antibiotic) medications as prescribed, starting as soon as possible after the onset of symptoms.

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Cullman Middle School's Jessie Godbee wins 2018 County Spelling Bee

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Monday evening, Cullman County Schools hosted the 91st annual Cullman County Spelling Bee at Temple Baptist Church, crowning Cullman Middle School's Jessie Godbee the winner in a field of 22.

Cullman area schools suffered through the effects of the flu, forcing a few changes to the field. Holly Pond Elementary's entry Darla Fredrick had to back out at the last minute, and both Harmony and Welti sent alternates.

The following students competed (listed with bee entry numbers):

- Cold Springs Elementary - Reba McCarn, 2
- Cullman Middle - Jessie Godbee, 16
- East Elementary - Allie-Michelle Stewart, 1
- Fairview Elementary - Nicolas Gregory, 18
- Fairview Middle - Jackson Babb, 9
- Good Hope Elementary - Ace Stricklin, 11
- Good Hope Middle - Kaliana Lee, 3
- Hanceville Elementary - Karys Henderson, 4
- Hanceville Middle - Brady Cleek, 12
- Harmony - Olivia Curtis for Cass Baron, 8
- Holly Pond Middle - Abigail Kusz, 19
- Parkside - Reagan Dunkin, 20
- Sacred Heart - Madilyn Clair Kerber, 15
- St. Bernard - Joey Ruse, 7
- St. Paul's - Carter Daily, 6
- Vinemont Elementary - Breanna White, 21
- Vinemont Middle - Mason Fitzgerald, 10
- Welti Elementary - Olivia Stallings for Haley Tyree, 13
- West Elementary - Willa Smith, 17
- West Point Elementary - Mary Beth Penn, 22
- West Point Intermediate - Kilona McClure, 5
- West Point Middle - Carter Duke, 14

Cullman County Schools Reading Specialist Renee Chambers and Athens State Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Development Elizabeth Pruett served as pronouncers.

Cullman County District Judge Rusty Turner and Cullman County Circuit Judge Gregory Nicholas, along Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce President Leah Bolin and attorney Champ Crocker were the judges.

Sacred Heart School Principal Gregory Hughes and Cullman County Schools Director of Instructional Programs Dr. Anita Kilpatrick served as proctors.

After multiple rounds of spelling and vocabulary, the bee came down to Godbee, Brady Cleek, Willa Smith and Abigail Kusz.

The four students matched each other evenly for a few rounds, until finally only Kusz and Godbee were left. After Kusz missed "flotilla," Godbee smiled through her spelling of "artichoke" to win.

According to her parents David Godbee and Tanya Davis, the CMS student is no stranger to spelling bees.

This was her second county-level match as a Cullmanite, and she competed in four county tournaments in Winston County before her family moved to Cullman. This will be her third trip to the state spelling bee.

CMS Principal Lane Hill came to cheer his school champion, and afterward to celebrate his school's second consecutive county victory.

He told The Tribune, "She's a great student, always does well in school. The great thing about it is, she's a seventh grader, so she has an opportunity to come back next year and do this again, so we're looking forward to it.

"Second year in a row Cullman Middle School has won the spelling bee in the county, so we're proud of our kids and all that they do, and our teachers, too--got a great group of teachers teaching these kids."

Godbee advances to the state spelling bee on March 10 at First United Methodist Church in Alabaster, for a chance to compete at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Oxon Hill, Maryland, near Washington D.C. on May 29-31.

The overall winner of the national competition will receive a $40,000 cash prize plus a savings bond, along with reference works from Merriam-Webster and Encyclopedia Britannica.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Jessie Godbee with her parents David Godbee and Tanya Davis.

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Ivey expedites signing of bill as part of Toyota-Mazda incentives package

Office of Gov. Kay Ivey
Contributor



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, HAL YEAGER

Rep. Danny Crawford, R-Athens, Gov. Kay Ivey and Sen. Arthur Orr, R-Decatur during the signing of Senate Bill 98

MONTGOMERY – Gov. Kay Ivey on Tuesday signed into law Senate Bill 98, providing authority to counties to abate rollback ad valorem taxes for certain projects that qualify for the incentives under the Alabama Jobs Act. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Arthur Orr, R-Decatur and Rep. Danny Crawford, R-Athens and will allow Limestone County to offer tax abatements as part of the Toyota-Mazda local incentives package.

"Alabama is a business-friendly state, and this bill is further proof that we want companies who chose Alabama to thrive," Ivey said.

"I am proud of the hard work that went into bringing Toyota and Mazda's $1.6 billion-dollar investment and 4,000 new jobs to Alabama. Bringing the Toyota-Mazda plant to Alabama is a testament to our state's leadership and to the high quality of our workforce."

"I appreciate Gov. Ivey signing SB 98 and for her constant efforts in leading our team, along with Commerce Secretary Greg Canfield, to land the Toyota-Mazda project," Orr said. "Economic development takes everyone, and I am proud of the working relationship between the Governor's Office and the Legislature which brought about these new jobs for the Tennessee Valley."

"The Toyota-Mazda plant is one of the largest economic development projects in our state's history," Crawford commented. "This bill ensures that local governments can live up to the commitments they made to attract this important venture."

The law became effective immediately upon receiving Gov. Ivey's signature.

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Obituary Announcements: Feb. 8 - 25

Funeral service for Richard Allen Garner, 66, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m., Thursday, February 8, 2018 at Fairview Methodist Church with interment in the adjoining cemetery, Pastor Scott Haygood officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Garner passed away Monday, February 5, 2018 at Cullman Regional Hospital. He was born July 15, 1951 to James Hubert & Thelma Elizabeth Berry Garner. He was preceded in death by his mother, Thelma E. Garner; daughter, Amanda Michelle Garner; sister, Sandra Stephens. Survivors include his father, James H. Garner; wife of 43 years, Jeanette Garner; Daughters, Monica (Brandon Hardin) Smith, Amy (Craig) Howard; sisters, Patricia (Harold) Carr, Cindy (Mike) Davin; ;brothers, James E. Garner, Michael Garner; five grandchildren, Jessica Lynn (Jared) Smith, Brittany Howard, Nick (Savannah) Smith, Kennedy Howard, Blake Howard; three great-grandchildren, Jordan Lee Blackmon, Aubrey Kate Smith, Atticus Cade Morgan; host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, family and friends. Visitation will be Thursday at the church from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Funeral Service for Priscilla Mann Hodge, age 79 of Cullman, will be at 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Bro. Randy Sellers officiating; burial at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Hodge passed away on Sunday, February 04, 2018 at Cullman Medical Center. She was born, January 20, 1939 to Albert and Julia Mann. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, Euell Hodge and sister Kay Kreshka. Survivors include her daughter, Donna (Phil) Jeffers, son, Mark (Darlene) Hodge, 4 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, nieces, Darlene (Jim) Souder, Karen Tunis and a host of family and friends. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Kimberly Ann Wilson, 48 of Haleyville, entered into rest on February 6, 2018 at Lakeland Community Hospital. Mrs. Wilson was born on January 15, 1970, in Jasper. She attended Winston County High School. She enjoyed spending time and watching her grandsons play sports and traveling to watch them. She loved those boys. She was given the nickname "Kymbo1012@yahoo.com" by her daughters as a joke and "Ber", but her favorite was "Nana". The family will receive friends on Friday, February 9, 2018 from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville, where a memorial service will be held at 6pm. Brother Daniel Donaldson will officiate. Kimberly is survived by her husband of six months, Todd Wilson; mother, Rebecca Lolley; stepdad, Don Lolley; son, Jacob Williams and his wife Tara; daughters, Whitney Gravitt, Chasity King, Tiffany Donaldson and her husband Daniel; step brother, Mark Lolley and his wife Nicole; sisters, Dede Vickery and her husband Rick; she was "Nana" to 8 grandchildren, Hayden, Wyatt, Taygen, Jensen, Easten, Brody, Samuel and Eden; nieces, Dusty Eward and her husband Jacob, Deandrea Washington and her husband William; nephews, Derick Vickery, Dalen, Cody and Braylan Lolley. She was preceded in death by her father, Bobby Wallace; grandparents, Odell and Pearlene Wilson, Martly and Will H. Wallace; and an infant son. In lieu of flowers, family requests donations be made to Joe Lee Griffin Hope Lodge, 1104 Ireland Way, Birmingham, Alabama 35205.

Nella Fayteen Johnson, age 84 of Cullman, went to her heavenly home Monday, February 5, 2018. She was preceded in death by her husband, H.M. Johnson. Fayteen is survived by daughters: Janet Calloway (Jackie), Karen Johnson, and Regina Thayer (Scott); sisters: Bobbie Johnson, Dairlene Lipsey (Charles), and Mechelle Baker (Mike); brother, Pete Johnson (Linda); grandsons: Jared Calloway (Amanda), Jeremy Calloway (Jennifer), and Michael Thayer; and great grandchildren: Abby, Emma, Hanna, Emily, and Eli Calloway.The memorial celebration of Fayteen's life will be Sunday, February 25, 2018 at 2 p.m. at Longview Church of God. The family request in lieu of flowers donations be made to your favorite charity in memory of Mrs. Johnson. Please visit mossservicefh.com to leave condolences for the family. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

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PREP BASKETBALL AREA TOURNAMENT

Aggies knock off Warriors, 74-64; area roundup

Nick Griffin, Sammy Confer

HAYDEN – The Fairview Aggies knocked off the West Point Warriors 74-64 at Hayden High School Tuesday night to advance to the 5A Area 12 championship game.

The Aggies got off to a slow start offensively, scoring just seven points in the first quarter and being badly out-rebounded by the Warriors.

West Point's Rylan Jones pulled down four boards in the first quarter alone and led the game with 10 to go along with six points and two steals.

The Aggies quickly adjusted in the second quarter, scoring 27 points and taking a 34-30 lead into the locker room at halftime. Fairview continued to put up points in the second half and never gave the lead back to the Warriors.

Bryson Fletcher and Luke Yarbrough did a lot of work for the Aggies offensively. Yarbrough finished with 14 points and six rebounds, while Fletcher led the Aggies in several categories, scoring 18, coming up with three steals and collecting seven rebounds. Fairview pressed the Warriors defensively for a lot of the second half and although they weren't able to create a lot of turnovers until late in the game, the pressure slowed West Point down enough for the Aggies to pull away.

West Point came up short but was still able to find some success on the offensive end, particularly from guard Coby Sullins, who led all scorers with 21, knocked down three shots from beyond the arc and came up with eight rebounds.

The Aggies will travel back to Hayden Friday night at 6 to face the Hayden Wildcats for the 5A Area 12 title.

Other scores

Class 1A, Area 12: Meek 75, Addison 61

The Meek Tigers were victorious over Addison in the semi-finals and advance to the championship game for the third straight season, looking to clinch their second title in three seasons as they will take on Marion County on Friday at 6 p.m. in a rematch of last year's area championship game.

Class 2A, Area 13: Falkville 41, Cold Springs 40

Cold Springs looked to start off on the right foot in hopes of defending their area championship as they took on Falkville, but they fell just one point short at the end, ending their season. The Eagles will lose five seniors to graduation, but they will have a young talented squad who will look to get better and better next season under coach Tim Willoughby.

Class 2A, Area 13: St. Bernard 43, Winston County 36

The Saints, the hosts of its area tournament, took down Winston County in the semi-finals and will face off against Falkville on Friday at 6 p.m., looking to win their first area championship since the 2014-2015 season.

Class 3A, Area 11: Holly Pond 79, Susan Moore 37

Broncos defeat Susan Moore to advance to the area finals. They will play Locust Fork Friday at 6 p.m.

Class 3A, Area 12: Hanceville 78, Vinemont 32

Hanceville will host Carbon Hill Thursday night at 7 for the area title. The Lady Bulldogs will also play Carbon Hill Thursday night; that game will start at 5:30.

Class 4A, Area 10: Good Hope 56, Dora 41

The Raiders beat Dora 56-41 to advance to their first area championship in seven years. Good Hope will face off against Cordova, the number one team in the state, Friday night in Cordova at 6.

Class 6A, Area 14: Cullman 76, Fort Payne 58

The Bearcats advance to the area championship Friday night at 6 in Albertville against Albertville.

Auction Notice

Contents of storage **Unit 310**, rented by **Tracy Jo Thomas**, 41 Mayfair Lane, Cullman, Alabama 35057, will be sold at public auction on Tuesday, **February 20th** at 9:30 a.m., at, 1298 County Road 715, Cullman, Alabama 35055. Consisting of: furniture, household items, etc.

Gold Star Storage

Legal Notice

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

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These vehicles will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Smith's Body Shop and Wrecker Service, LLC, 11597 US Highway 278 East, Holly Pond, Alabama, 35083, on Saturday, March 31, 2018, at 8:00 a.m.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

JESSICA MOON,
Plaintiff

Vs. Case Number: **DR-2018-000008.00**

JAMES MOON,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

James Moon, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Jessica Moon's Complaint for Divorce by March 19, 2018 or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-DR-2018-000008.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 12th day of January, 2018.

Lisa McSwain
Clerk of Circuit Court

PETITIONER'S:
JESSICA MOON
377 CO RD 438
CULLMAN, AL 35057

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE:)
M.L.,)
A Minor Child, 07/08/2000) CASE NO. JU 2000-411.06

NOTICE

The Petitioner having made a Motion for Service by Publication in the above styled action, it is

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Mother, Louann Lawson, of M.L. born on or about 07/08/2000, respond to the Petition by the 8th day of March, 2018, or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioner.

Contact may be made: Attorney for Petitioner: J. Bradley Wilson, 206 Ninth Street SW, Cullman, AL 35055, (256) 737-0740 or Clerk of Court: Lisa McSwain, 500 2nd Ave SW Cullman, AL 35055.

DONE this the 25th day of January, 2018.

STATE OF ALABAMA, CULLMAN COUNTY
I, Lisa McSwain, Clerk of Circuit Court in and for said County and State, hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy as the same appears of record in this office.
Witness my hand and official seal, this 29 day of Jan, 2018.
Clerk of Circuit Court

WELLS R. TURNER, III
JUVENILE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

FILED IN OFFICE
JAN 25 2018
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE:)
M.L.,)
A Minor Child, 07/08/2000) CASE NO. JU 2000-411.06

NOTICE

The Petitioner having made a Motion for Service by Publication in the above styled action, it is

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Father of M.L. born on or about 07/08/2000 to Louann Lawson, respond to the Petition by the 8th day of March, 2018, or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioner.

Contact may be made: Attorney for Petitioner: J. Bradley Wilson, 206 Ninth Street SW, Cullman, AL 35055, (256) 737-0740 or Clerk of Court: Lisa McSwain, 500 2nd Ave SW Cullman, AL 35055.

DONE this the 25th day of January, 2018.

STATE OF ALABAMA, CULLMAN COUNTY
I, Lisa McSwain, Clerk of Circuit Court in and for said County and State, hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy as the same appears of record in this office.
Witness my hand and official seal, this 29 day of Jan, 2018.
Clerk of Circuit Court

WELLS R. TURNER, III
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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
LARRY D. MOON,) CASE NO.: PC2017-311
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION

Letters of Administration having been granted to **PATRICIA ANN MOON,** Personal Representative of the Estate of **LARRY D. MOON**, deceased, on the 22nd day of November, 2017, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge of said County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law, or the same will be barred.

DONE this 22nd day of November, 2017.

Patricia Ann Moon
Personal Representative

C. Blake West
Alabama Estate Planning Attorneys, LLC
1701 Main Ave SW Ste 5
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-734-0026

TO THE PUBLISHER OF: THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

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

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
FEBRUARY 8, 2018

LIFESTYLE

Give your home the farmhouse look

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Correspondent



LORETTA GILLESPIE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Signs, both vintage and reproductions, are a hallmark of the farmhouse look.

Gone are the days of country blue kitchen cabinets or the 90s look when everything was hunter green and mauve. Today's new looks incorporate the best of a bygone era, a day and time when everything had a purpose and rooms were decorated austerely, from whitewashed walls to plank tabletops, board shelves and open cabinets, everything was simplicity itself.

Today's bathrooms and kitchens are decorated, but unlike the "country look" of yesterday, in farmhouse décor everything is utilized. Displays are creatively arranged, with things we used to hide in drawers, like Q-tips and cotton balls, prominently displayed in Ball jars, while open cabinetry and plain shelves fitted with wire baskets serve as places to store and display everything from food in a pantry to sheets and towels. And the predominant color? White, in about 50 shades, from ecru to alabaster and everything in between.

Long before "shiplap" was a buzzword, and everything seemed to go white, some people were finding that "chippy paint" furniture, window panes, mirror frames and rustic farm tables could turn just about any style of décor into an amazingly interesting vignette or work with practically any period or style from traditional to shabby chic, making bold statements or subtle nuances in any room.

Now, everyone seems to be gravitating toward the white and whitewashed look. If you are a real bargain shopper, you can often find the neatest things at flea markets, or yard sales and frequently, just along the side of the road. You know what they say – one woman's trash is another woman's treasure!

This trend gives any style home a warm and inviting ambiance. You can work wonders with a dull screened-in porch, transforming it into a bright sunroom filled with family memorabilia, lush plants and favorite collectables - wooden cutting boards and crockery can be changed with the season or on a whim. Those of us who were raised in a real farmhouse probably have a knack for finding things that other people would pass over because they can see what the trinket or piece of furniture might become when painted. By using white or a light, neutral color, almost exclusively, you can use furniture for more than one purpose and in more than one room. This trend often has people painting over the original finish of a vintage piece of furniture, something no one would have dared to do 15 years ago, when "original finish" was an antique dealer's favorite phrase.

When Lori Black Crumpton got ready to build her dream house she headed straight for the source of the farmhouse look, HGTV's iconic farmhouse decorators, Chip and Joanna Gaines, who have a thriving remodeling business in Waco, Texas. Their famous home goods store, Magnolia Market, is located in a shopping mecca called the Silos. Magnolia draws people in from all over the world to buy up things we have always taken for granted, like galvanized minnow buckets, tin pales, old metal light fixtures and just about anything you can think of that once spent time in a barn.

"I got inspired when I was in Waco," Crumpton laughed. "I got so many ideas!" She has incorporated several of them into her new home's décor. "I've used two white enamel pendent light fixtures above my island, and an old green one that I found is now my bathroom light fixture," said Crumpton.

She has used the Gaines' trademark shiplap siding from the mantle all the way up to the vaulted ceiling in her dining area. The mantle is really a salvaged rough-hewn beam with ax marks still showing from an old church near Priceville.

Crumpton's living areas are open concept, with rooms open to the front door, making them flow into one another unfettered by traditional walls. It gives the space a larger than life atmosphere, and the neutral color scheme gives it even more presence. She used Sherwin Williams "Alabaster" on her interior walls, and "White Dove" on the exterior of the house.

The farmhouse look, made even more popular by the Gaines' HGTV series, "Fixer Upper," has replaced the cluttered look that most baby boomers were accustomed to. Now, spaces are used more wisely and with less fuss. Tables that were once filled with picture frames, figurines, old crockery and collections of every description, are now showcases for small vignettes, maybe a few old books, a clock and some greenery, making dusting much easier!

Those old books have mostly been relieved of their covers, letting the spines show, with pages torn and care-worn, then tied with jute or burlap ribbons. Lamps are also changing from sporting elaborate silk shades with fringe that belonged to our grandmothers, to lamps with no shade at all, just naked, oddly-shaped bulbs.

Other elements frequently found in farmhouse décor are old shutters, mirrors of all kinds, old postal scales, rag garlands, farmhouse sinks, wire baskets and boxwood topiaries. Another popular style, the steamboat punk look, utilizes old lamps, cogs, gears and pulleys to make bold statements throughout homes, restaurants and businesses. Both forms of decorating, farmhouse and steamboat punk, have one thing in common: the use of functional everyday items.

Yet, all of today's farmhouse rooms are not equal. Some are truly what yesteryear's farmhouses really looked like. Others are more traditional, with nods to farmhouse whites, or sparing use of farmhouse finds like the blades of windmills or the use of more tailored furniture, like dining room chairs with neutral slipcovers. Blending traditional and vintage looks is another advantage for those opting to decorate in the farmhouse style - you don't have to wipe your previous slate clean- the farmhouse look can be a unique blend of treasures and flea market finds as well as traditional. Anything goes, except dark and dreary!



LORETTA GILLESPIE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A small nook behind the garden tub holds white essentials in a wire basket.

For those wanting a fresh white kitchen with modern touches, or to blend farmhouse with Southern style, you are in luck, try using Alabaster paint on a new shiplap wall and kitchen cabinets. This will tie your two looks together, adding simple flea market finds, like old bottles or vintage signs helps to unify the look.

If your kitchen feels outdated, just remove some cabinet doors and store what's inside in a wire basket or mismatched jars. Give your tired old bathroom a lift with some shutters beside your mirror, and a fresh flower arrangement in a gallon jug tucked into your granddaddy's old minnow bucket, or use old metal washtubs as lamp shades, they probably have holes in them anyway.

We've provided you with plenty of inspiration in this segment, now let your creativity and imagination do the rest!

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