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Chief Culpepper celebrates 40 years with Cullman Police



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Police Chief Kenny Culpepper, right, received a custom-made 40-year pin from Councilman and Public Safety Committee Chairman Andy Page, and a standing ovation from the room, at this week's Cullman City Council meeting.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – If you grew up or have lived in Cullman from the 1980s until now, you know the name Kenny Culpepper. A generation or two of kids remember him from classroom visits. He's the mostly-quiet, definitely-humble, man in charge of the Cullman Police Department (CPD). On Monday evening, Chief Culpepper was honored by the Cullman City Council for a rarely-heard-of 40 years of service. For 30 of those years, he has served as chief.

After studying criminal justice at Auburn University (including an internship with the CPD), Culpepper joined the department in February 1978.

During the award ceremony, Assistant Chief Craig Montgomery said, "I can count on two fingers the number of chiefs in this whole state who have been on the job as a chief longer than him."

CPD Office Manager Rita Bailey worked with the department's insignia supplier to create a custom pin for the chief, since the company simply had nothing in its inventory to honor 40 years of service.

Before the council meeting, Culpepper recounted for The Tribune his first night with the CPD, along with a few other choice tidbits.

What does 40 years with the Cullman Police Department mean?
"A lot of good memories, a lot of good people."

How did it » PAGE 6

Holly Pond Fair Queen contestants named



HOLLY POND HIGH SCHOOL

Pictured are the contestants for the 2018 Holly Pond Fair Queen Representative Pageant. Seated: Kirsten Campbell, Leah Tarvin and Molly Gambrill; standing: Abrey Norman and Lili Harris

Holly Pond High School
Contributor

HOLLY POND – The Holly Pond Fair Queen Representative Pageant will be held on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. at the school.

The Senior Miss Bronco and Junior Miss Bronco Pageants will be held on Friday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m.

Admission to each pageant is $5. The money raised will go toward special projects around the school.

2 arrested on drug distribution charges

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Cullman Police this week arrested two people on drug distribution charges. The cases are unrelated.

On Monday, the CPD Crime Suppression Unit arrested William Leroy Sturgeon, Jr., 50, of Hanceville. Sturgeon was charged with three counts of unlawful distribution of a controlled substance for allegedly selling methamphetamine.

Sturgeon was also arrested the day before on outstanding failure to appear warrants. He remains incarcerated in the Cullman County Detention Center.

Also on Monday, CPD Crime Suppression Unit officers arrested Jennifer Leigh Guthery, 47, of Cullman. She was charged with two counts of unlawful distribution of a controlled substance. Guthery was placed in the Cullman County Detention Center but has since made bond.



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

William Sturgeon, Jr., left, and Jennifer Guthery, right

County schools see increase in attendance after flu shutdown

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN COUNTY – Cullman County Schools Superintendent Shane Barnette reported on Wednesday that attendance numbers are up system-wide for both students and staff after schools took a four-day weekend to battle the flu.

While students stayed home Thursday and Friday, administrations, maintenance staff and many teachers returned to their schools to clean and disinfect facilities and equipment as much as possible.

Barnette reported, "I haven't checked the numbers today, but our first two days back, every school was in the 90 percent or higher attendance rate, so it seems to be doing better now.

"I don't guarantee that it will continue or anything, but we've had more kids attending school than we have in a long time."

At the time last week when the decision was made to close the schools, attendance in some was down to 73 percent.

Both students and staff were affected. Weighing into Barnette's decision were not only ill kids, but a shortage of substitutes for all the teachers and bus drivers who were out sick.

He told The Tribune that available faculty and staff are now sufficient to handle normal operations.

Said Barnette, "While I don't guarantee that this will make a curb on the flu, I think it has helped us get some kids healthy and get our schools clean and everything, and our attendance is much higher this week."

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Arrest reports: Feb. 12-13

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported for Feb. 12-13. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

MONDAY, FEB. 12

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Coots, Tyler Steve, 23
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Holt, Tammy Witcher, 50
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Lovell, Anthony Ray, 43
• second-degree bail jumping- public intoxication (2 counts)

Mooney, Angela Gale, 46
• failure to appear- driving without a license
• failure to appear- improper passing within 100 feet
• failure to appear- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Morris, Matthew Cambron, 32
• second-degree bail jumping- possession of drug paraphernalia

Morton, Alexander Scott, 19
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Ogle, Harold Jason, 44
• public intoxication

Tatum, Kathleen Opal, 27
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Tatum, Phillip Sean, 45
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Eason, Gary J., 23
• failure to appear- third-degree criminal trespassing

Hudson, Felisha N., 31
• failure to appear- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• failure to appear- possession of drug paraphernalia

Guthery, Jennifer L., 47
• unlawful distribution of a controlled substance (2 counts)

Sturgeon, William L. Jr., 50
• unlawful distribution of a controlled substance (3 counts)

Crawford, Anthony B., 44
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
• first-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Smith, Justen M., 23
• failure to appear- driving while suspended

Jernigan, Dustin S., 28
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
• possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests reported.

TUESDAY, FEB. 13

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Bartlett, Michael Shawn, 40
• third-degree domestic violence- harassing communications

Chadwick, Joshua Vann, 38
• permitting dogs to run at large

Cox, William Gerald, 46
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Cunningham, Trey Joseph, 19
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Dauksza, April Maranda, 31
• harassing communications

Eddy, Sandy Delaine, 35
• failure to appear- possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)

Evans, Grady Lloyd Jr., 56
• failure to appear- 20 days to register a vehicle
• failure to appear- fishing without a license
• failure to appear- proof of liability insurance required

Hasenbein, Sherre Elizabeth, 43
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Heatherly, Raymond Christopher, 42
• public intoxication
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Laningham, Kevin Lee, 40
• failure to appear- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

McDonald, Steven Scott, 32
• failure to appear- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• first-degree theft of property
• third-degree theft of property (2 counts)
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance
• possession/use of a credit/debit card

Mooney, Angela Gale, 46
• first-degree theft of property

Tucker, Kristi Lynn, 41
• failure to appear- second-degree forgery
• failure to appear- third-degree theft of property (old charge only)
• failure to appear- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Wade, Kailee Marie, 18
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Wiley, Austin David Ray, 24
• failure to appear- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Woods, Jamie Heath, 47
• probation revoked- first-degree theft of property
• probation revoked- first-degree receiving stolen property

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

McDonald, Wendy D., 37
• fourth-degree theft of property

Holt, Tammy W., 50
• failure to appear- driving without a license
• failure to appear- insurance violation
• failure to appear- expired tag

Bartlett, Michael S., 40
• harassment
• third-degree criminal trespassing

Mooney, Angela G., 46
• failure to appear- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• failure to appear- possession of drug paraphernalia
• failure to appear- no seatbelt

Dauksza, April M., 31
• failure to appear- possession of drug paraphernalia

Laningham, Kevin L., 40
• failure to appear- third-degree domestic violence

Armstrong, Jessica L., 37
• failure to appear- possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
• failure to appear- expired tag

Stutts, Frank J., 33
• possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests reported.

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

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Residents vote to establish town of Berlin

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

BERLIN – On a foggy and slightly soggy Tuesday evening, polls closed on 12 hours of voting at the Berlin Community Center, and three poll workers began hand-counting ballots in Berlin's incorporation vote. Of 309 registered voters within the proposed town limits, only 68 turned out. All it took, though, was a majority vote, and the majority voted in favor of incorporation, 45-23.

The vote was the outcome of a two-year effort by resident Patrick Bates, who began distributing information brochures and hosting information meetings early in the spring of 2016.

He himself had begun as an opponent of incorporation, when he first encountered the idea in 2015 at a community meeting with members of the Cullman County Commission.

"I left this meeting thinking this shouldn't be done, this couldn't be done," Bates said.

"But I had some lingering questions that, when I did my own research on it, I found out that, no, we actually can make this work. We probably should give a go of it. Through my research and looking into things, I ended up kind of taking over the effort. I don't know how that happened, to be honest."

With incorporation, Berlin will receive a portion of county sales tax and other revenue. All municipalities in Cullman County get a share of the County's sales tax revenue, based on population. According to an estimate by Bates last year, in 2016 an incorporated Berlin with a population of 750 could have seen $308,440.36 in revenue, with more than 80 percent of that coming from county sales tax.

"Whether or not we have a town," said Bates, "we're still paying the taxes that support towns. We're just seeing that money leave the community and go to these other places, to support them. If we incorporate, that money will come back to us, with no additional taxes on anyone in the area."

He estimated that in 2017, about $400 per Berlin resident left Berlin, being distributed to incorporated towns. An anonymous resident at an April 2017 community information meeting seemed to sum up several conversations buzzing around the tables after Bates's revenue presentation: "It's our money! It should stay here!"

The exact amount Berlin will receive is not known, and will be based on the results of a Cullman County Probate Office census of the incorporated area over the next few weeks. The money the town receives, according to incorporation advocates, could fund a park, walking trails and improvements to the community ball field. Most importantly, though, it could allow Berlin to repair and repave its own roads without having to wait on a county list.

Said Bates last year, "The primary advantage (of incorporation) is the sole responsibility of towns under our state law, and that is that you're responsible for your own road maintenance. We have sample budgets that show that we can take care of our own roads. The County does as good a job as it can with what it has, but it appears that we will be able to do a better job of resurfacing with our own funds."

According to Bates, the proposed municipality has fewer than 10 miles of roads (excluding US Highway 278, which would not fall under the town's jurisdiction), with some subdivision roads not having been resurfaced since their initial installations more than 25 years ago. Under a sample budget, up to $90,000 per year could be dedicated to roads, allowing all roads in the proposed municipality to be repaved or chip sealed every 10 to 12 years.

What now?

On Tuesday evening, Bates and two other incorporation supporters waited outside the community center while election officials Tony Duke, Marie Sanford and Mary Sue Freeman hand-counted the ballots. The results were posted quietly: handwritten numbers on a pre-printed form, taped to the center's glass door for the outside observers to see. Bates immediately took to his cell phone to get the word out.

Afterward, he came inside, a little overwhelmed and trying to take the moment in. After a short exchange about the two-year process, his statement was brief:

"The main thing is, I guess now the real work begins. Like you said, it's been two long years, but I'm ready to get started."

When congratulated, Bates responded, "Thank you, I think."

After Tuesday's successful incorporation vote, the County Probate Office will shortly begin a census of the incorporated area to determine the exact population of the new town. This process, which will determine Berlin's slice of the county revenue pie, could be completed in as little as two weeks, after which the town can be officially incorporated. Once everything is official, the town will have 30 days to elect a mayor and town council.

According to Bates, who plans to run for mayor, the probate office has indicated that it hopes to have the process concluded ahead of the June 5 general election primaries.

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Front L-R: Sonja Sewell, Launne Reid, Sue Miller.
Back L-R: Kathryn Striker, Eddy Hoenig, RPH

In a study published in *JAMA Psychiatry* researchers found an elevated risk of intellectual disability (ID) in children born to mothers treated with antidepressants. The risk was not statistically significant, however, and is likely due to other factors, including parental age and the parents' psychiatric history.

***

Cancer stem cells, which fuel the growth of fatal tumors, can be knocked out by a one-two combination of the antibiotic Doxycycline and Vitamin C under laboratory conditions, according to research published in the journal *Oncotarget*.

***

A new study published in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* has found links between certain antibiotics during pregnancy and major congenital malformations in newborns. Clindamycin, doxycycline, quinolones, macrolides and phenyxymethylpenicillin were linked to organ-specific malformations, although the absolute risks for birth defects were small. Amoxicillin, cephalosporins and nitrofurantoin were not associated with birth defects.

***

Children exposed to antidepressants during pregnancy seem to be at a slightly higher risk of autism than children of mothers with psychiatric disorders who were not treated with antidepressants during pregnancy, finds a study published in *The British Medical Journal*, although the absolute risk of autism was small.

***

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
FEBRUARY 15, 2018

City of Cullman honors police, firefighters and CHS Theatre

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – At its regular meeting Monday evening, the Cullman City Council had honors to spare as it recognized the achievements of two police officers, multiple firefighters, and the Cullman High School Theatre Department.

Cullman Police Department

Councilman and Public Safety Committee Chairman Andy Page, on behalf of the council, presented officer Bill Pagan his 10-year service pin, noting that he is one of the department's school resource officers.

Assistant Chief Craig Montgomery said, "He plays such an important role in our community. If you read the papers and listen these days, with the opioid epidemic, he is such an integral part in getting information out to the young folks in the community.

Page and Montgomery then presented Police Chief Kenny Culpepper a unique award, a 40-year service pin that had to be custom made, since the department's usual insignia supplier had no such pin available.

"I knew the chief probably for 10 years before he hired me, and I've been here 25 years," said Montgomery. "We were in the National Guard together; so we have parachuted together, we have swam together, we have rappelled together. And I'm here to tell you that I have never met a more humble leader. He believes in giving credit to the men and women of our department."

Council President Pro Tem Jenny Folsom told the chief, "The city of Cullman owes you a gratitude that there are no words to describe."

(Look for a separate article on Chief Culpepper.)

Cullman Fire Rescue

Page and the leadership of Cullman Fire Rescue recognized Jimmy Wade Miller as the recipient of the VFW's Gold Medal Award as Outstanding Firefighter of the Year. Miller is a Marine Corps veteran and holder of numerous decorations, including the Marine Corps Achievement Ribbon, Combat Action Ribbon for service in Iraq, and Purple Heart.

With CFR, he is a firefighter and advanced EMT whose certifications include Alabama Smoke Diver, Apparatus Operator, Fire Instructor I, Hazardous Materials Operations, Rapid Intervention Team and Rope Rescue.

In addition to his duties with the fire department, he also serves as a tactical medic with the Cullman Police Department SWAT team.

His commendation noted that he "has been a dedicated and excellent firefighter. He excels during emergency situations, and often responds off duty and for special assignments."

Brandon Wayne Dawson was recognized for winning the VFW's Gold Medal Award as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) of the year. His certifications with CFR include Firefighter I and II, Apparatus Operator, Emergency Vehicle Driver, Hazardous Materials Technician, Fire Instructor I, Rope I Technician and Rapid Intervention Team.

His commendation noted, "He has not only shown support for the ongoing improvement of Cullman Fire Rescue's EMS division, he has also steadily mentored other firefighter/EMTs, helping them to improve their knowledge of emergency medical care . . . Brandon excels during emergency situations, and continues to strive for excellence through advanced training and certifications."

The council and CFR leadership also commended members of Engine Co. 1 for their rescue, in a joint operation with Cullman EMS, of three residents trapped in a house by a fallen tree.

Certificates were presented to Cpt. Walt Reichwein, Lt. Gary Mikus, Lt. Tim Martin, Lt. Jason Lamb, Eng. Jon Tucker, Eng. Tyler Parker, Eng. Chris Edwards and Firefighter Paul Gadihle.

Mikus and Edwards, along with Firefighter of the Year Wade Miller were additionally commended for their efforts during a mutual aid call to rescue two victims trapped in a fully-involved house fire. The crew from Engine 1 entered the burning structure initially without hoses or a water supply, then with support from the Johnson's Crossing and Berlin departments, locating both victims and delivered them to Cullman EMS.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Members of Cullman Fire Rescue were among those honored at Monday night's Cullman City Council meeting.

Cullman High School Theatre Department

The council presented a resolution to CHS Theatre Director Wayne Cook, accompanied by CHS Choral Director Sarah Jane Skinner, to the school's theatre department, recognizing the team's recent "Best in Show" award for their one act presentation of "Scrooge" at the State Walter Trumbauer Secondary Theatre Festival at the University of North Alabama. The award is the highest honor a theatre group can receive in the state.

The resolution also commended several students who received individual awards at the festival:

- Justin Weygand - Best Actor in a One-Act; first place, Male Musical Theatre; Superior Medal
- Rutland Turner - Alabama All-Star Cast, two Superior Medals
- Graffin Shaddrix - second place, Male Dramatic Monologue, Superior Medal
- Jady Pipes - Alabama All-Star Cast
- Laci New - two Superior Medals
- Olivia Noblett - Superior Medal
- Mary Claire Page - Superior Medal
- Kayla Watts - Superior Medal
- Alyssa Sandlin - Superior Medal
- Tiffany Dotson - Superior Medal
- Abby West - Superior Medal

Saint Bernard students bake king cakes for Fat Tuesday

Joyce Nix
Saint Bernard

CULLMAN – Fat Tuesday was in full swing at Saint Bernard Prep School as Father Bede Marcy took his classroom to the Abbey Kitchen for a lesson in making king cakes.

Since the 1800s, New Orleanians have celebrated the beginning of the Carnival Season with a "King's Cake" on Twelfth Night. A small plastic baby is baked in the cake, and the lucky reveler who discovers it is said to have good fortune for the year. The recipient then continues the festivities by having another party and providing a king cake.

Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras, Carnival, Shrove Tuesday ... all refer to the day preceding Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Lent, the 40 days preceding the celebration of Easter, is a time of fasting and prayer. Christian families, therefore, needed to empty the house of the items from which they would abstain - traditionally, all animal products including meats, eggs, fats and dairy - although fish was permitted. Because of this need to clear out the pantry, from the close of the Christmas season till the beginning of Lent families would gather together to share their foods and celebrate festive meals together. The various names for the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday reflect the various ways that Christian communities mark the last hurrah before Lent.



SAINT BERNARD

Left to right: Andrew Sweeney, Ben Swalley, Eva Barck and Irena Biedenstein

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City moves closer to more loft apartments; new traffic lights going up on Hwy. 31, Hwy. 157

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman City Council on Monday voted to amend the city's zoning ordinance, paving the way for more loft apartments in the city. It also took measures to have a new traffic light installed on US Highway 31 South, in front of the old Cullman Chrysler Dodge dealership.

Loft apartment ordinance
After a public hearing, the council had the first reading of Ordinance 2018-22 to amend the zoning ordinance related to loft apartments in Cullman, which received a favorable recommendation by the City of Cullman Planning Commission. The existing ordinance required that all hybrid business/apartment buildings in city business zones have at least 50 percent of their space dedicated to business/retail use.

The proposed new wording of Ordinance 62-517 read:
In all business zoning districts: B-1, B-2, B-3, and CBD – apartments, loft apartments, efficiency apartments, and similar residential occupancies may be constructed in new and existing business occupancies as a secondary use. All such uses must be approved by the planning commission under rules established by the board. These occupancies shall also strictly comply with all building and fire protection related codes in their construction. The primary use of all commercial buildings located in the B-1, B-2, B-3, and CBD zoning districts shall be those uses listed as permitted uses and conditional uses in the zoning district in which the property is located. The ground floor of the structure must be used for business or commercial purposes and not residential use. Spaces above or below the first floor may be either business or residential use subject to compliance with all adopted codes and ordinances.

This modification allows the construction of multi-storied buildings with only the ground floor used for business. Basements and multiple upper floors could be developed as living spaces. Though this was the first reading of the ordinance, the council voted to suspend rules of order, and then approved the measure.

As many as three developers may already have plans in the works for multi-story business/apartment hybrids in the city.

Traffic signal on Hwy. 31
The council approved two resolutions related to Ming Enterprises' development of Cullman Row East and Cullman Row West at the sites of the old Cullman Chrysler Dodge dealership and Sticks N Stuff on Highway 31 South.

Resolution 2018-26 to enter into an agreement with ALDOT for the installation of a traffic signal on US Highway 31 at the entrance of the Old Dodge dealership. This light would allow a pedestrian crosswalk to be created between the two related shopping/dining centers.

Resolution 2018-28 to award a bid for the installation of a traffic signal on Highway 31 at the Old Dodge dealership to the lowest responsible bidder, Inline Electric Supply Company, Inc., in the budgeted amount of $33,895. Inline was the only company to submit a bid.

Ming Enterprises purchased the two properties, the site of the old Cullman Chrysler Dodge dealership and the property across the street, which was home to Sticks N Stuff and Trader Bob's Flea Mall, in January.

Owner Bill Ming said the first three new tenants, after renovations are complete, will be Firehouse Subs, Marco's Pizza and Diablo's Southwest Grill.

"What we're going to be doing is redeveloping both of those buildings to where they look brand-spanking new and have kind of a unique architectural style that's popular with redevelopment projects now," said Ming.

"We're calling the projects Cullman Row East for the Chrysler building and the one across the street, we're calling it Cullman Row West."

The three new restaurants will be in Cullman Row East.

See more at www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2018/01/25/ming-enterprises-bringing-3-new-restaurants-cullmans-south-side

The council approved several special event requests, including:
- A request from Melissa Aaron of East Elementary PTO for a special event permit to hold a 5K run and 1-mile fun run in the neighborhoods surrounding East Elementary School from 7-11 a.m. on Saturday, March 17 to raise money for playground equipment at the school. The 5K will be a color run, and both runs will start and finish at East Elementary.
- A request from Louise Cole of Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation for a special event permit to hold a Colors of Cancer 5K run or walk from 7-11 a.m. on Saturday, April 7 at Sportsman Lake Park and the Cullman County Fairgrounds. The council passed the motion on contingency, noting that Sportsman Lake Park is County property and that the foundation must get permission from the County to use that facility.
- A request from Louise Cole of Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation for a special event permit to hold a charity motorcycle ride with registration starting 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 7 at POB 2 on the back side of Cullman Regional. The route will be approximately 110 miles, and will take riders through the Bankhead National Forest.
- A request from BreeAna Goodwin of 909 Ave. D SE for a special event permit to hold a wedding at the Festhalle and a reception on First Avenue Northeast in the Warehouse District, from the current Rumors Deli location to Flavors Bakery, starting 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 27 and ending at noon on Sunday, Oct. 28.
- A request from Cali Tidwell of Desperation Church for a special event permit to hold the annual fireworks festival in Heritage Park on Wednesday, July 4. The festival will include games, inflatables, food vendors and music.
- A request from Trent Dean of Cullman High School's cross-country track program for a special event permit to hold the Bearcat March Mile starting at the Festhalle on Saturday, March 10 from 7-11 a.m. This will be a cross-country event with categories geared toward younger runners.

The council also approved the following ordinances and resolutions:
- After a public hearing, the council had the first reading of Ordinance 2018-21 to vacate and surplus a 50-foot right-of-way beside 1816 Teakwood Drive SE, which received an unfavorable recommendation by the City of Cullman Planning Commission. The unfavorable recommendation was based on a statement from the owner of adjacent property that the right of way would be necessary to create access to his land. According to Councilman John Cook, that property owner subsequently withdrew his objection, so the council approved the ordinance.
- Ordinance 2018-23 to annex property located at 1405 County Road 1466 at the request of the property owner, Neil Rainwater, into the city limits of Cullman as B-2 Business District, which received a favorable recommendation by the City of Cullman Planning Commission.
- Resolution 2018-25 to award a bid for building improvements at Fire Station No. 1 to the lowest responsible bidder, Murphree's Unlimited Installation, Inc., in the budgeted amount of $16,912.65. Two other companies submitted bids: O.F. Richter & Sons, Inc. Cullman, $28,008 and Walker Brothers, LTD Baileyton, $28,315.
- Resolution 2018-27 to enter into an agreement with ALDOT for the installation of an emergency traffic beacon on Alabama Highway 157 at the Waldrop Street Northwest intersection for the city's new Fire Station No. 3.

The Council also voted to reappoint Peggy Harris and Jan Barnett to the City of Cullman Tree Commission.

The Cullman City Council meets in the Cullman City Hall auditorium on the second and fourth Monday evenings of each month at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

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Culpepper (from Front)

start?

"Here's the deal: I was a senior at Auburn, and I did my internship here. So, I remember the first call I went on with the police department as a college intern. I wasn't even an officer.

"And I walked in, and Chief Roy Wood said, 'You got a gun?' I said, 'Yes, sir.' And I'm a college student. He goes, 'Well, go over there and get you a uniform out of the closet.' 'Okay.'

"So I went, and the first call we went on, we went right over here (gesturing southwest of city hall): it was a doctor's office that the alarm was going off. And back then they had the magnetic tape alarms on the windows, where if somebody breaks the window it breaks the tape. And what would happen: somebody would come in the lobby for a call or something, and scratch the tape to where it wouldn't connect. The alarm would go off, the alarm would go off; then (the owners would) turn it off because they'd get frustrated with it. And then (the robbers) would come and burglarize or do something.

"Actually, I was riding with Officer Ron Burrow. So we were like a stake-out, in case they came and broke in.

"Well then, the second call: they called and said they needed backup at this house, because a guy had pulled a shotgun on two officers that had walked up to the door. Keith Brown and Russell White were the two officers that went up to the door.

"So we go flying over there, and Sgt. Bill Mickle was there. So he told Officer Burrow to go around back with the other two officers, and he looked at me, and he said, 'Grab that shotgun out of the car.' So I got the shotgun. And I'm a college intern; I'm not even a police officer, but I'm in uniform. Been with them for two hours or three hours, total.

"And he said, 'Get behind this pine tree there.' He says, 'He's got a shotgun; he's inside that house. I'm gonna walk up to the edge of the porch and try to talk him into giving up.

"If he comes to that window behind me with that shotgun,' he says, 'you kill him. Don't let him shoot me.' I said, 'Yes, sir.'

"So I'm behind this pine tree with a 12 gauge shotgun aimed at a window, thinking, 'Oh, my gosh: my first night as a college intern doing a ride-along, and I'm gonna have to shoot this guy!'

"Well, anyway, the guy eventually passed out on the couch, and they were able to go inside and get him and everything. Nobody got hurt.

"And they came back over there, and Sgt. Mickle looked at me, and he said, 'Now be sure and unload that shotgun.' And I went (gesturing the racking of the shotgun slide), and I go, 'There's not even one in the chamber!' And he said, 'You mean you were covering me with an unloaded shotgun?!!' Well, I just grabbed it out of the rack. I didn't know; I thought they kept them loaded. I mean, it had some in the magazine, but not in the chamber.

"So I was hooked: you know, the adrenalin rush and the excitement; you know, the camaraderie of being in those kinds of situations had me hooked from that first get-go."

What's the biggest difference in law enforcement between now and 40 years ago?

"There's just too many of them to really talk about, but the biggest thing now is just the technology. You think about, over the last 40 years, just in any business, all the different technological advances just in society, just with cell phones and computers, and all that.

"Back then, we didn't have take-home cars. I think we had eight or nine patrol cars, and you would hot rack them. You know, you'd come in, and somebody else would get their stuff and put in it, and when you came in--you'd just share the same car over and over again.

"And the same thing on walkie talkies; we had enough to where the guys on duty had (one), and you just hoped you'd get enough of a charge to where you could make it through a shift. And no cell phones.

"When I started out, we had just a single bubble light on top, kind of like Andy (Griffith).

"And then we went to a double bubble; and we thought that was cool, because we had one on either side."

How has Cullman changed?

"Just the growth. You know, when I started, up on (Highway) 157 you had Red's Gulf and Joe's Exxon--the two service stations--on the far side of the interstate, and there was nothing until you got to (Highway) 31, and 157 stopped right there. It didn't go any further. And so, from there all the way to the interstate was just pasture."

The final word

"My job's always been easy, because number one, you've got a great community with great people, and number two, I've worked with great people and had great people in the department, and it's made my job easy."

Chief Culpepper was emphatic in stating his desire that people understand that 40 years is a milestone, not a destination. He has no plans to retire, yet.

"Just getting a pin," he said, "just like everybody else."

Obituary Announcements: Feb. 15- 25

Funeral service for Margie Ann White Burns, 68, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m., Thursday, February 15, 2018 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Springhill Baptist Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Burns passed away Saturday, February 10, at Cullman Regional. She was born April 22, 1949 to Archie Lewis & Mildred Caldwell White. She was preceded in death by her father; her husband, Fred Burns; special friend, James Murphree. Survivors include her mother, Mildred White; brother, Alan (Connie) White; sister, Charlene (Jimmy) Harris; step-daughter, Teresa; step-sisters, Edna, Kathy, Debbie, Betty, Ann; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. Visitation will be Thursday at the funeral home from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Funeral Service for Sandy Fenske, age 59 of Hanceville, will be at 1 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Wyndell Peterson officiating. Burial will be at Riverside Baptist Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Ms. Fenske passed away on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. She was born May 12, 1958 in Turlock, CA to John and Mary Jo Fenske. Survivors include her parents, sister, Linda Denney, brothers; John (Kim) Fenske and Charles Denton, friend, Gloria (Jim) Wise, and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Funeral services for Donald Gene Stewart, 71 of Hanceville, will be 2 p.m. Friday, February 16, 2018 at Mt. Grove Baptist Church at Hanceville, with a viewing one hour prior to the service. Jerry Scott will be officiating. Interment will follow in the adjoining cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Stewart passed away Tuesday evening, February 13, 2018, at Cullman Medical Center. He was born January 22, 1947 to his mother, Francis Crawford Stewart. He was preceded in death by his mother; wife, Nell Stewart; son, Christopher Coats Stewart; daughter, Daphney Stewart; two brothers, J.L (JoAnn) Stewart, W.J. Stewart; and sister, Jeweline Barrett. Survivors include two daughters, Felicia (William) Buchanan, Donna Stewart; sister, Karen Hill; sister-in-law, Karen Stewart; and grandchildren, Web and Fisher Buchanan, and Kayla Hines (Ryan) Smith. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday evening at the funeral home.

Charles Warren Cordes of Cullman passed away on February 9, 2018 at the age of 96. He was born in Cullman on March 10, 1921 to Cord Henry and Laura Russell Cordes. He was a veteran of The United States Army. Funeral services are Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 1 p.m. at Moss Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Good Hope Cemetery. Survivors are his daughter Carol Hulgan, son Tony Cordes, grandchildren Garry and Barry Hulgan and Brandon, Mitchell and Jordan Naramore.

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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ORDINANCE NO. 2018 – 21
TO VACATE AND SURPLUS PROPERTY NOT NEEDED FOR ANY PUBLIC OR MUNICIPAL PURPOSE
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:
1. The City of Cullman is the owner of a 50 foot right-of-way located adjacent to 1816 Teakwood Drive SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055.
2. The Cullman City Council finds and determines that this property is not needed by the City of Cullman for public or municipal purposes and hereby vacates the property and declares it surplus.
3. The City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to sell this property for its fair market value.
4. This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication as required by law.
ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 12th day of February, 2018. /s/ Garlan E. Gudger, Jr. - President of the City Council
ATTEST: /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk
APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this the 12th day of February, 2018. /s/ Woody Jacobs - Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 2018 – 22
TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:
1. Section 62-517 of Division 2 Loft Apartments is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:
Section 62-517. Approved as secondary use in business zoning districts. In all business zoning districts: B-1, B-2, B-3, and CBD – apartments, loft apartments, efficiency apartments, and similar residential occupancies may be constructed in new and existing business occupancies as a secondary use. All such uses must be approved by the planning commission under rules established by the board. These occupancies shall also strictly comply with all building and fire protection related codes in their construction. The primary use of all commercial buildings located in the B-1, B-2, B-3, and CBD zoning districts shall be those uses listed as permitted uses and conditional uses in the zoning district in which the property is located. The ground floor of the structure must be used for business or commercial purposes and not residential use. Spaces above or below the first floor may be either business or residential use subject to compliance with all adopted codes and ordinances.
2. This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication as required by law.
ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 12th day of February, 2018. /s/ Garlan E. Gudger, Jr. - President of the City Council
ATTEST: /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk
APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this the 12th day of February, 2018. /s/ Woody Jacobs - Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 2018 – 23
TO ANNEX CERTAIN PROPERTIES INTO THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:
SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Cullman finds that Neil Rainwater has petitioned the City under the provisions of Section 11-42-21 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, that the following described property, which property is owned by the petitioner, be annexed into the City of Cullman: PPIN: 013055. PARCEL: 17-01-01-0-000-002.002. ADDRESS: 1405 County Road 1466, Cullman, Alabama 35058.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: A tract or parcel of land containing 2.02 acres of land, more or less and being situated in the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter, Section 1, Township 10 South, Range 3 West, Cullman County, Alabama and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a set rebar marking the Northeast corner of the above said quarter-quarter and run North 86° 43' 19" West a distance of 312.31 feet to a set rebar marking the point of beginning; thence run South 1° 45' 06" West a distance of 210.00 feet to a set rebar; thence run North 86° 43' 19" West a distance of 420.00 feet; thence run North 1° 45' 06" East a distance of 210.00 feet to a set rebar; thence run South 86° 43' 19" East a distance of 420.00 feet to the point of beginning.
SECTION 2. That the Council has before it a map showing the relationship of the property proposed to be annexed to the corporate limits of the City of Cullman, and that said map is on file in the office of the City Clerk along with an acknowledgment by the property owners that they want it to be annexed into the City of Cullman.
SECTION 3. That the City of Cullman does hereby annex as a part of its corporate limits the above described tracts or parcels of land as B-2 Business District.
SECTION 4. That a copy of this ordinance after its adoption, which ordinance includes a description of the property annexed to the City of Cullman, be filed in the office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, the county in which the municipality is located.
SECTION 5. That this ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication as required by law.
ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 12th day of February, 2018. /s/ Garlan E. Gudger, Jr. - President of the City Council
ATTEST: /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk
APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this the 12th day of February, 2018. /s/ Woody Jacobs - Mayor

Legal Notice
Pursuant to Alabama Code 32-13-1 Earl's Body Shop Inc. will offer for sale at public auction the following vehicles on March 21, 2018.
1989 WINN, Vin. #1GBKP37W9K3313005
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2004 DODGE NEON, Vin. #1B3ES56C34D540585
1995 NISSAN XGU, Vin. #1N4AB41DXSC732599

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
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.,) CASE NO. JU 2000-411.06
A Minor Child, 07/08/2000)

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.

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMA COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
W.S. RUSSELL, * **CASE NO.: PC2018-050**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Shirley Anders Karl, as Personal Representative of the Estate of W.S. Russell, deceased, on the 9th day of February, 2018, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

NOTCE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all personas having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same be barred.

DONE this the 9th day of February, 2018.

Personal Representative:
Shirley Anders Karl

TO: Publisher
The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for 3 successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Attorney for Personal Representative:
J. Bradley Wilson
Baggett & Wilson, LLC
206 Ninth Street Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256) 737-0740

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

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

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.

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

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

FILED IN OFFICE
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LISA McSWAIN
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CULLMAN COUNTY

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Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
REBECCA L. MOSLEY * CASE NO PC2018-052
Deceased *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED

Letters Administration of said deceased having been granted to **D. WADE RAMSEY,** as Administrator of the Estate of REBECCA L. MOSLEY, deceased, on the 9th day of February, 2018, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

D. WADE RAMSEY
Administrator

D. Wade Ramsey
Attorney for Administrator
Ramsey & Associates, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 382012
Birmingham, Alabama 35238

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE GUARDIANSHIP and *
CONSERVATORSHIP of * CASE NO: PC2018-038
MARSHALL SHARP *
An Incapacitated Person *

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP

TO: TERESA NICHOLSON, CHRISTIE SHARP, JASON SHARP AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT OF KIN

Please take notice that a hearing on the Petition for Letters of Guardianship and Conservatorship for **MARSHALL SHARP** has been set for **the 30th day of April, 2018, at 9:30 A.M.** before the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, Alabama, at this time you may appear or if you have an objection to the petition for Guardianship and Conservatorship you must make your objection known in writing and file said objection with this Court before the day and time of said hearing.

Done this 12th day of February, 2018.

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

To the Publisher Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks in said newspaper.

Perry Knight
Attorney for Petitioner
412 First Avenue SE Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

County dismisses 2 companies from pending litigation

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – The Cullman County Commission on Tuesday morning authorized County Attorney Chad Floyd to dismiss two parties from the County's pending litigation against three companies it alleges have been illegally providing garbage pickup and renting Dumpsters within the county.

Back in December, the County authorized Floyd to file a complaint against Republic Services, Arab Rental and Sales, and Hyche, LLC based on a resolution passed several years ago that names Cullman County as the only provider of solid waste collection services in the county.

Floyd explained the circumstances, saying, "Approximately six weeks ago the county filed a suit, a declaratory judgement action against three parties, Republic Services, Arab Rental and Sales, and Hyche, LLC. We've been able to reach an agreement with two of those companies, them being Republic Services and Arab Rental and Sales, and because of those agreements I would request that the commission authorize me to dismiss both of those parties from that litigation, as well as authorize the chairman to sign a settlement agreement with Arab Rental and Sales."

The action will move forward against Hyche, LLC.

The commission also did the following at its Tuesday meeting:

• authorized Chairman Kenneth Walker and EMA Director Phyllis Little to sign off on an Emergency Management Performance Grant from the state in the amount of $2,342. The grant will provide operating funds for EMA.

• authorized repairs to the weather siren at the agricultural center in the amount of $12,238. The costs will be split evenly between the County and the City of Cullman. According to Assistant EMA Director Scott McDonald, the siren has been having problems for the last several years and requires a front panel upgrade.

• tabled the renewal of the RAVE message call system with AT&T for $9,100. RAVE is a mass notification system that is used to alert people of incoming severe weather and hazardous situations. McDonald and the commission agreed that with all of the news and weather apps available now, the RAVE system has become a little redundant.

• authorized Walker to sign the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, for the sheriff's office's new K-9 unit in the amount of $24,000.

"We put in for it," said Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry earlier this month. "We've bought K-9s in the past, our drug K-9s, using grants. We'd already purchased one K-9, from the sheriff's office, from our funds, and we put in for this grant to purchase a K-9 vehicle and a K-9 for narcotics enforcement in the county. That's one of my top priorities is going after drug traffickers, distributers, anybody using or selling drugs. So it was a good opportunity."

The grant will be matched with funds from the CCSO's budget.

The CCSO currently has four drug K-9s and one tracking K-9. This new K-9 will be used for narcotics detection. (See more at www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2018/02/01/sheriff-s-office-receive-new-k-9-unit-and-patrol-vehicle-kennel)

• awarded professional services contracts for consulting and engineering for the RTP grant for the Stony Lonesome OHV Park project. The commission selected Community Consultants for the consulting role on the project and St. John and Associates for the engineering work.

• adopted the revised substance abuse and drug and alcohol policy for CARTS. The FTA required policy updates with the addition of four new drugs that are not mentioned in the current policy.

• approved resolution no. 2018-14 to request the attorney general's opinion. Floyd explained the process required to request the opinion. "Any time we seek an opinion from a corporate body like this, a resolution has to accompany that request for opinion so that's why we need a resolution to support this attorney general opinion request." The commission did not discuss what opinion they were seeking from the attorney general.

• authorized the director of Cullman County Animal Control, Capt. Tim McKoy, to sign a memorandum of understanding with the police chief of the City of Jasper to allow a Jasper police officer to ride along and train with Cullman County Animal Control.

Sgt. Chris Westmoreland further explained the arrangement with the Jasper Police Department. "Jasper's police chief reached out to our agency in reference to training one of their new animal control officers. There is an upcoming class in April here in Cullman, but to get him some education and training, both me and Captain McKoy are certified field training officers in animal control and they wanted to have their unit come over and train with us for about a week to get him some on-the-job training."

• approved an addendum to the video services agreement with BellSouth Telecommunications. The County entered into a franchise agreement with AT&T/BellSouth in September of 2008 for a 10-year period. The franchise agreement entitles the County to three percent of the gross revenue generated by AT&T video services within Cullman County. The addendum will extend the current agreement for 10 years.

• approved a change to the pay date for County employees, moving it from Wednesday to Thursday. HR Manager Judy Bradford explained the need for this change.

"Historically, Cullman County used to pay its employees on Fridays and then it got moved back to Thursdays way back and then several years ago it got moved up to Wednesdays, so it puts a strain on the payroll being able to meet that Wednesday deadline. We have to have the direct deposit file to our bank no later than Monday at 3 p.m. so that it can be transmitted from our bank to individual banks so that it can go in employees' bank accounts and be available at 12:01 Wednesday morning because technically pay day is Wednesday so it's got to be available then." Bradford said.

"Well, anytime we have a Monday holiday, we can't meet that deadline so what we have to do is back up payroll. We can't run it on a Tuesday because we wouldn't meet the Wednesday direct deposit deadline, so we have to run it on Friday which means everyone has to have their time in on Thursdays and it's always an estimated payroll because things will come up on Friday after payroll has been done so there's always a lot of adjustments that have to be done on that next pay day," said Bradford. "We have that issue now, but we are going to be going to a new financial system and a new payroll system and with all the interfaces between time-keeping and payroll, there's a good chance we're not going to be able to meet that Monday 3 p.m. deadline and so rather than wait till those issues happen and then spring it on people at the last minute, what we'd like to do is go ahead and move that pay date back to Thursday like it used to be."

• approved the Child Advocacy Center's request to use Sportsman Lake Park for the Safe Kids Expo on April 14.

• approved the surplus of the old health department building for demolition. The commission agreed that the building has become very out of date and that the building is not handicapped accessible, has a problem with leaks and has become unsafe and unusable.

• approved the surplus of an ice machine from the Cullman County Detention Center to be disposed of as scrap.

• approved the surplus of various discarded pieces of office furniture, file cabinets, chairs and other items that are currently being stored in the basement of the courthouse to be sold as scrap or for disposal.

• approved the transfer of a 2004 Ford Ranger from sales tax office to the county commission with a payment of $3,000.

• approved the purchase of a security alert system for the courthouse from Response Technologies in the amount of $21,265.14. The system will replace the current button system at the courthouse that is failing and has aged beyond repair.

• approved the purchase of a 2018 Ford AWD utility vehicle off the state bid list through Stivers Ford for the sales tax office for the amount of $25,148. The vehicle is for the use of one of the sales tax office's inspectors.

• approved the payment for emergency repairs to the sewer pumps at the agricultural center with Bark-Ley Plumbing Contractors in the amount of $16,863. The cost of the repairs is being split between the ag center and Cullman SportsFit next door.

• approved the purchase of a truck mounted one-man pothole patcher from the Alabama County Joint Bidding Program through Coblentz Equipment & Parts Co. at the cost of $209,721. County Engineer John Lang believes the machine will pay for itself in four to five years by reducing overhead costs.

• approved the surplus of six 2018 Mack dump trucks from the road department to be auctioned by JM Wood. The trucks are to be sold in late May or early June to JM Wood at a profit and will be replaced with 2019 Kenworth Trucks.

• voted to extend bid no. 1228 with Bear Concrete, Inc. for poly pipes. Bear Concrete is the only local vendor that provides this product.

• voted to extend bid no. 1257 with Good Hope Contracting for bituminous plant mix.

The commission's next work session will be Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 8:30 a.m. followed by its meeting at 10. The public is welcome to attend.

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