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The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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Duck River Reservoir set to open for recreational use July 17; pipeline ahead of schedule



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The pipeline route runs along the north side of U.S. Highway 278 (left side in this photo) through Oak Level, then angles through the woods toward the reservoir and dam, visible at top.

» PAGE 8

A half-century of service

Meet Cullman Police Officer Jack Springer



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Police Officer Jack Springer recently marked 50 years with the department. Springer, who has been married to his wife Shirley for more than 50 years, has two adult sons. The younger is a Birmingham police officer who is set to retire this fall. Springer plans to outlast him.

» PAGE 6

EDUCATION / ARTS

THE BEAT GOES ON

Cullman High School percussionists prepare for upcoming season

Hayden Hyatt
hayden@cullmantribune.com



HAYDEN HYATT/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Doug Teuscher, assistant director of bands at Cullman High School and Cullman Middle School, instructs students during a pre-band camp practice with percussionists at Cullman High School on Thursday.

CULLMAN – On Thursday, members of the percussion section of the Cullman High School Band met at Cullman High School (CHS) to practice and prepare for their upcoming band camp. Doug Teuscher, assistant director of bands at CHS and Cullman Middle School, instructed the group of percussionists on some of the news songs for this year's halftime show.

The Tribune spoke with Teuscher about the "pre-drum camp."

"It's a head start to band camp. We did two days this week, right around the Fourth of July, just to shake the cobwebs off," explained Teuscher. "A lot of kids haven't drummed very much all summer, so this is just our little head start to get rolling. Next week starts drum camp on Monday, so this is our little pre-drum camp."

Teuscher also talked about this year's halftime show. "We don't have a title for the show yet but it's about the elements," said Teuscher. "Not the periodic table, but earth, wind, fire and water. I think that's about it for now. Just the big picture elements."

Teuscher continued, "This first thing that we're playing is called 'Earth Song.' It's a pop tune. Fire is the end of the show and the song were playing is called 'Incantation.' It's like a tribal, evil-sounding thing. The two middle tunes - one of them is called 'Journey of Man;' it's a light piece and not as aggressive."

The CHS band will be sporting new uniforms this season. Teuscher spoke about the changes.

"They've been raising money for about 10 years to get (new uniforms). Our old ones were getting a little aged, so we finally could afford to get the new ones, and this will be the first group to wear them," he said.

"We kinda kept it similar to the old uniform, but we changed a few parts of it. It's a little bit less white, a little bit more black. It's just a subtle, fresh version of our old one. It's not too different from the old one, but it's definitely not the same. It's going to be cool."

The CHS percussion section has grown in size this year, which Teuscher is excited about.

"We've went from 18 to 25, so we lost a few seniors, but we got a bunch of new freshmen and we had a few kids move in from other places," he explained. "We've got some really good former eighth graders coming up, so we're excited for that."

There will also be a preview of this year's CHS halftime show later this month.

"We're doing a public performance at the stadium on July 27. It's the end-of-band-camp performance. If people want to come get a little sneak peek of it, we're going to play as much of the show as we can. We give out awards and stuff. It's a big deal," smiled Teuscher.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Singers filled the district courtroom during last year's convention.

Courthouse singing convention, last in the nation, in Cullman today and tomorrow

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

At a glance
126th annual Cullman Courthouse Singing Convention

- Saturday and Sunday, July 7-8, 2018; from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. both days
- Cullman County Courthouse, 500 Second Ave. SW, Cullman
- For veteran singers: Bring your 1991 Denson book.
- For rookies: They've got spare books.

CULLMAN – Saturday and Sunday, July 7-8, Cullman will celebrate what has become a unique tradition in Alabama: the state's last courthouse singing convention. Singers from all over the state and even other parts of the country will fill the Cullman County Courthouse's district courtroom for the 126th installment of the convention that began in 1893. Singers, listeners and the public are invited to attend.

Once a common occurrence in courthouses all over the South, Cullman's is now the only one of its kind in the nation. Last year, event chairman and fourth-generation convention singer Henry Guthery told The Tribune, "At one time, every county had singings at the courthouse: in Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, all over. It was really widespread, then things changed. Cullman('s) is the last active courthouse singing in the United States."

» PAGE 7

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McKoy: 'Call 911 immediately' if you see an animal in a hot car

Christy Perry
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – On the morning of July 4, a dog left in a hot car at a Trussville Wal-Mart died in spite of rescue efforts. The incident led to the arrest of the dog's owner, Stephanie Shae Thomas, of Trussville, on a felony aggravated cruelty to animal charge. The dog's death sparked outrage and has many asking questions regarding protocols and laws and what they should do if they were to find an animal in a similar situation.

Alabama does not have a law protecting citizens who attempt to free an animal from a hot car. HB524, which was introduced in Montgomery in the spring of 2017, would offer immunity from liability to a person who entered a vehicle to save a life. The bill is listed as suspended indefinitely but is expected to be reintroduced next spring.

The Cullman Tribune spoke with the director of Cullman County Animal Control (CCAC), Capt. Tim McKoy, who stated he would "support this bill 100 percent."

McKoy urged people to never leave a pet in a parked car.

He explained, "Temperatures outside can cause heat stroke in as little as 10 minutes on a hot day. On a 95-degree day, temperatures inside a vehicle can reach 110-135 degrees within that short amount of time.

"The average body temperature of a dog is 101-102.5 degrees. Once the temperature exceeds a dog's body temperature, the dog is in extreme danger. The same dangers exist for pets left outside with no shelter and water. "

An animal experiencing heat stroke will experience swelling of the brain and shutting down of kidneys and other vital organs. The blood also begins to coagulate.

McKoy shared, "Once the dog is removed (from a hot vehicle), it needs to be placed in a cool area, such as an air-conditioned car. Just as you would a person, the dog would need legs massaged to help the blood circulate and offer water. Depending on the stage of heat stroke, they may not drink.

"Even a bag of frozen vegetables can be used to cool the head and neck while using water to help cool the body.

"However, do NOT use ice water due to the risk of shock and do NOT place the dog on hot asphalt. Seek veterinary care as soon as possible."

He continued, "If a citizen encounters a dog left in a car, call 911 immediately. The appropriate officers will be dispatched to the location."

Although McKoy did not speak specifically of the Trussville case, he did say, "My immediate actions would be to do what it takes to save a life."

He said that while law enforcement is also not immune from liability of breaking a window or entering a vehicle, they are far less likely to be sued in these situations.

CCAC officers, including McKoy, were recently certified by the American Animal Cruelty Investigation School (AACIS) in Infrared Thermometry.

Their vehicles are equipped with infrared thermometers which allow the officers to quickly and accurately determine temperatures of surfaces and areas within a hot car.

McKoy explained, "Once a dog is removed from a hot car, we would use the equipment to record temperatures on the floor, ceiling, seat, area the dog was located, the dash, and the dog in order to build a cruelty case. The readings will stand up in the court of law."

McKoy's best advice?

"Leave your dog safe at home and never in a parked car. Even on 70-degree days, temperatures can reach over 90 degrees in a car."

CCAC has not been faced with any cases involving dogs left in cars, but officers are trained and equipped to respond if they are. The CCAC does have cases each year of pets suffering heat stroke from being confined outside with no shelter of fresh water.

"I love animals. I chose to work in animal control because I love them. We take animal cruelty seriously," McKoy said.

An emphatic Cullman Police Officer Rodney Bannister, who deals with animal control cases for the City, stressed, "Leave your pets at home!" He said there are no city ordinances regarding dogs in hot cars.

What to do?

If you see a pet in immediate danger, call 911. If you suspect an animal is not being provided adequate shelter and water, contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448. If you live in the city of Cullman, call 256-734-1434; those in the city of Hanceville should call 256-352-9811.

Arrest reports: July 2-5

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported for July 2-5. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; **FTA** = failure to appear

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, JULY 2-4

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Reports from the Cullman County Sheriff's Office will now only be provided on Mondays and Thursdays.

This report covers July 2-4.

Bagwell, Donny Ray, 61
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Duckett, Morgan Alyssa, 23
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Flores-Vences, Raul, 22
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Harris, Steven Paul, 39
• FTA- illegal possession of prescription medicine

Hill, Lyman E. III, 19
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Hooper, Monica Michelle, 42
• FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Hopkins, James Daron, 51
• FTA- driving while suspended

Howland, Jennifer Leanne, 39
• FTA- liability insurance required

Kidd, Jacob Aaron, 21
• probation violation- third-degree burglary

Lee, Justin Blake, 34
• probation violation- unlawful possession of a controlled substance (2 counts)

McAlpin, John Burt, 50
• FTA- violation of a domestic violation protection order (2 counts)
• FTA- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Padilla, Luis Gustavo, 18
• public intoxication

Parker, Chad Stephen, 34
• FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance
• attempting to elude
• FTA- pistol on other's premises
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Quick, Justin Blane, 26
• public intoxication

Self, Cody Lowell, 27
• public lewdness

Shearin, Amanda Nichole, 27
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Turner, David Franklin, 42
• FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Walker, Jackie Lee Jr., 22
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Wilson, Jeremy Matthew, 40
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

This report covers July 3-4.

Henderson, Sheila A., 50
• FTA- third-degree theft of property

Armstrong, Jessica L., 37
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
• unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia

Mahathy, Haley S., 23
• FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Wynn, Serena R., 36
• FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Fuller, Cregary A., 41
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
• unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia

Watts, Annmarie, 32
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
• unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia

Collins, Brenda D., 36
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
• unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia

Overstreet, Destiny M., 27
• giving false information to law enforcement

Winfrey, Robert E., 64
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
• unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

White, Stephen H., 53
• unlawful distribution of a controlled substance
• possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Powell, Nathan A., 27
• unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia

Cray, Shane R., 31
• unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia

Farr, Larry D., 57
• unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia

Lowery, Jordan T., 25
• unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia

Cunningham, Tonya F., 41
• unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia

Little, Beverly, 64
• DUI

Hayes, Philip S., 23
• DUI

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No report provided.

THURSDAY, JULY 5

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Reports from the Cullman County Sheriff's Office will now only be provided on Mondays and Thursdays.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sansing, Jeremiah N., 23
• FTA- driving while revoked (2 counts)

Stiefelmeyer, Carl A. III, 53
• public intoxication

Boyles, Danny W., 51
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No report provided.

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

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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF **CASE NO: PC2018-207**

Y.E.A..,
D.O.B. 12-13-2011
A MINOR CHILD.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR MINOR NAME CHANGE

TO: **ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, UNDISCLOSED PERSONS OR THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER.**

A PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE OF MINOR CHILD WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY LIZBETH PINEDA, BIOLOGICAL MOTHER. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS NAME CHANGE, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE. THE RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS ARE SHOWN BELOW, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, 500 2ND AVENUE SW, ROOM 101, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055.

DONE THIS 22nd DAY OF June, 2018.

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

MELVIN HASTING
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER
P.O. Box 517
Cullman, Alabama 35056

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA
CULLMAN COUNTY **CASE NO.: AD2018-027**

IN RE: THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF A.D.D.,
A MINOR CHILD.
D.O.B.: 02/07/2001

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: **MELISSA MCQUEEN**

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of A.D.D., a minor child born on the 7th day of February, 2001, in Panama City, Florida, to biological mother Misty Virginia Skinner Daily, was filed on the 21st day of March, 2018, in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Joseph Michael Walker and Tehbetha Shayne Walker, Petitioners. Please be advised should you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama, 35055.

DONE THIS 21st DAY OF June, 2018.

Joseph Michael Walker &
Tehbetha Shayne Walker
Petitioners

Robert Sapp, JR.,
Attorney for Petitioners
P.O. Box 2185
Cullman, AL 35056
(256) 739-1583

TO: CULLMAN TRIBUNE

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR (4) SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.
Send proof of publication to the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

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

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Chamber seeking ambitious young entrepreneurs for Year 2 of YEA! program

Rob Ketcham
Cullman Chamber

CULLMAN – The Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is going places in Year 2 of the local program.

To end Year 1, it literally took a couple of Cullman area students all the way to Rochester, New York for the opportunity to secure scholarships and start-up funds at the 10th Annual Saunders Scholars National Conference & Competition.

As winners of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center's inaugural YEA! Investor Panel in early April, Cullman High School's Parker Van Dyke and Zane Manley were the pair who earned the all-expenses paid trip to New York to present their student business to an impressive slate of judges and potential investors.

Together, the two braved the spotlight and introduced the panel to Instruct Inc, their idea for a website and search engine that connects individuals looking to learn skills or hobbies with those who are qualified to teach them — face to face, not just another how-to video on YouTube.

Though a favorite of several YEA! program directors from across the country, Van Dyke and Manley ultimately didn't crack the finalist cut. Their biggest win, however, came on the way back home to Alabama.

While sitting at the airport with Chamber Director of Entrepreneurship & Education Wesley Smith and chaperone Chris Van Dyke, the Cullman High duo turned to Smith and asked a question that immediately brought a smile to his face, "So, where do we go from here?"

Here were two teenagers, who, for all intents and purposes, were finished with the year-long YEA! program and easily could've chosen to never give Instruct Inc another thought.

But instead, they made it known to Smith that they were serious about taking their business idea and turning it into a full-blown business.

That's what YEA! is all about — and those are the type of ambitious students the Chamber is seeking for Year 2 and beyond. More students like Cullman High's Lindsey Lowery, whose scrumptious Pixie Fudge already has her business in the black and primed for more profits as a 2nd Fridays food vendor under the Festhalle the rest of the summer. Or students like Holly Pond's T.J. Fallin, who's taken strides this summer to beef up his Lawn Defenders lawn mowing business.

While the 2017-18 YEA! program was taught as a class at only two area high schools, it's being opened to ALL of them for the upcoming year. Cullman City Schools Superintendent Dr. Susan Patterson and Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette have both expressed their support and excitement for the new format.

"I truly believe this program could be a game changer for some of our students," said Barnette.

After several productive talks between the Chamber and YEA! Corporate, a YEA! pilot program unlike any other across the United States has been developed solely for the Cullman area. The class will now be taught once a month for 10 months, similar to the Chamber's longstanding Youth Leadership Cullman County program.

Students will meet at the Chamber in the morning and spend the day learning the tools to become a successful entrepreneur.

Over the course of the school year, YEA! students will:

- Brainstorm business ideas
- Write business plans
- Interact with business professionals
- Pitch their business plans to potential investors (think Shark Tank meets The Apprentice)
- Legally register their businesses
- Participate in a YEA! Trade Show
- Actually launch their own businesses or social movements

There are 22 available spots — enough for each area high school to ideally have two representatives — for the YEA! 2018-19 class. Students must be in grades 10-12 and preferably have access to reliable transportation and a laptop. While YEA! tuition can cost up to $1,000 in some communities, the Chamber has made it completely free for all students in the Cullman area.

YEA! applications are available at the Chamber or can be found online at cullmanchamber.org/yea-application. Deadline to apply is Tuesday, July 31.

For more information on the application process or YEA! program in general, contact Wesley Smith at 256-734-0454 or wsmith@cullmanchamber.org.

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1994

Those issued marriage licenses during the month of August were as follows: Rodney Lee Banister and Lorie Allison Barnett; Christopher Allen Boatright and Kristi Jean Stapp; Jason Wesley Morgan and Katherine Sue Reiley; Joe Don Castleberry and Mary Grace Presto; Jeffery Louis Parker and Jane Carpenter Yeager Dobbs; Gregory Darren Bishop and Joyce Ann Reid; Ronald Eric Bevington and Catherine Leake; David Robert Fuller and Tina Sheriee Holmes; Dewey Jerome Huffstutler and Gennia Faye Givens; Jeffery Pascal Tolbert and Marye Elizabeth Stiefelmeyer; James Harlis Hestla and Angie Day Ryan; Tommy Duane Twilley and Ginger Callie Baty; Anthony Wade Pack and Laura Susan Howard; Joey Wayne Pickering and Amanda Janel Whitehead; Robert Earl Bailey and Teresa Ann Ponder; Frederick Timothy Watson and Arisara Niamnarong Hogan; David Wayne McDonald and Daphne Annette Hill; James Jeremy Bryant and Windi Marie Self; Phillip Anthony Purdy and Shelley Harris Duke; Charles Steven Ainsworth and Carolyn Sue Peek; Douglas Michael Danford and Sammie K. Self; Stephen Hutchens and Laquita Todd Bailey; Tony Joel Alexander and Bonnie Quinn Thursby; Robbie Ray Chambers and Melissa Ann Alexander; Buddy Wayne Hagemore and Shirley Joyce Key; Jerry M. Simmons, Senior and Tammy D. Kelley; Keith Thremayne Whitehead and Anita Faye Bradley; Jimmie Lee Howard and Sherry Lynn Garner; Michael Edward Gober and Gloria Dean Russell Hunter; Chad Evan Duke and Stephanie Carol Lipsey; Syres Calvin Lamber, Junior and Carol Thomas Gordon; George Carlton Grund, Junior and Leslie Diane McClendon; James Rodney Beard and Tanya Amanda Ashley; James Lee Boyd and Tracey Denise Thomas; Jason Darrell McClure and Stephanie Kay Sutter; Michael William McLeod and Joyce Frances Green; Richard Sewell Griffin and Alicia B. Roberson; Danny Edward Shuford and Amanda Gail Taylor; Albert Sidney Puckett and Charlotte Dean Jacobs; Scotty Wayne Couch and Stephanie Leigh Ann Dye; Ricky Lee Williams and Kristie Marie Stephenson; Winfield Moon, Junior and Caryl Haynes; Christopher Lee Logan and Terri Elaine Hale; James Ronald Parker, Junior and Tammy Moody Dobson; Anthony Javon Daniel and Rachel Nell Nelums; James Kevin Bryant and Kelcy Deanne Robertson; Timothy Wayne Collins and Kanitha Mize; Edward Keith Cagle and Mischelle Dawn Nelson; Kenneth Jerry Mobley and Edith Coan Mobley; Stephen Wayne Brown and Julie Carol Hayes; Russell Lamar Barbee and Robin Lee Richard; James Forrest Rooker, III and Nena Renee Brown; Christopher J. Andrews and Lisa Renee White; Shannon J. Bell and Leigh Ann Quattlebaum; William Jason Davis and Janet Renee Cook; Jackie Martin Edge and Shelba Annette Laursen; Keith Al Dijaili and Tina Yvonne Cofield; Deron Ferris Patrick and Sharon Denise Freeman; John Jay Dee Phillips and Erin Melissa Lyle; William Rhett Stafford and Nellie Jean Holt; Richard Alan Barrett and Sharon Elizabeth Hicks; Jason Richard Scott and Amanda Leanne Chambers; Terry Lynn Cook and Pamela Jean Williams; Patrick Eudon Bates and Vivian Marie Bradford; John Brian Barker and Lisa Michelle Gable; Ludie Leeth Plunkett and Peggy Sue Mount; John Franklin Stephenson, Junior and Tanya Renae Burks; Anthony Virgil Lambert and Jennifer Marie Laney; Danny Lee Evans and Julie H. Alexander; Bruce Wayne Campbell and Mary Kathryn Demarco; William David Butler and Sonja Annette Hubbard; Phillip Gregg Burney and Debbie Johnson Wilson; David Brian Springer and Rhonda Amelia Culver; Timothy Brett Gammon and Brandy Michelle Waters; Michael Alan Nail and Jennifer Jane Hayes; Michael Jos Graveman and Tina Haynes Capps; Royce Lee Zweck, Junior and Catherine Jean Phillips; Keith Wayne Knight and Amy Smith Freeman; Larry Bryan Pugh and Bethany Jane Horton; Lance Eric Burton and Brandy Michelle Navarro; Tracy Wayne Hulsey and Julie Luchelle Bobo; Kevin Oneal Pentecost and Lee Ann Wilson and Marty Dwayne Crawford and Sherri Gail Lancaster.

From The Files Of 1937

Doctor R.B. Dodson is Commander of the American Legion.

Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Kirtt, who formerly lived at West Point, have moved to the Willingham Community.

This is the first year for typing to be offered at Hanceville School. Miss Dixie Christian is the teacher.

Mr. Bud Gibbs and Dick Casey are the new owners of the One Stop Service Station.

Reverend Harvey R. Edwards is pastor of New Prospect Church.

Mr. Cord Scott is the hair cutter and neck-shaver at Oden's Store, at Vinemont, on Saturdays.

Hats - $1.98 and up at C.A. Stiefelmeyer's – Ad.

Cordia Bates, of Oak Level, recently underwent a tonsil operation, but is improved enough to start school.

Several Flat Rock people attended the Bethel baptizing on Rock Creek, near the steel bridge on Sunday evening.

All-star softball players are as follows: American League – Roy Cameron, W.D. Copeland, Frank Byer, H. Alldredge, C. Daniel, Ben Holmes, Bob Young, Ellis Burns, Red Holmes, Lorine Trimble, Red Styles, Ellis Calvert, Claburn Glasscock, Paul Wright, Garth Brindley, Charlie Glasscock, Buell Cobb and Rahfel Cooper. National League – Jess Wood, Roy Ragland, Aubrey Gleen, A. Speegle, Pinehardt, Fred Alldredge, H. Wells, Pierce Williams, Onnis Green McMinn, Howard Hart, Reno Lowery, Morris Estes, Sonny Burk, Less Green, B. Jetton, Herman Speegle and Onnie Calvert.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

My middle name is Go

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Rick and Bubba, syndicated radio hosts, once did a contest for a free vacation trip for two to Los Angeles. The winner was a woman named Wanda, who took along Willie, her boyfriend. Rick and Bubba went to pick up Willie and Wanda in a limo, at her home, to take them to the airport.

With great excitement, Willie ran out of the house, with his shoulder length hair flapping in the wind from underneath his Richard Petty cowboy hat. As he attempted to jump over the porch railing, he tripped and fell head first into some bushes. He hopped up, ran and slide into the back seat of the car and loudly (perhaps even proudly) proclaimed, "I ain't never been nowhere!" That was apparently obvious.

I have been on the go most of my life. In my younger years, Mama used to tell me that my middle name must be "Go."

I knew she was mistaken because my middle name was Wayne. Besides that, much like ole Willie, I felt like I had never been anywhere - not even to the beach. By the time I reached the age of fifteen, I had set foot in only three states, other than my own native Alabama. Those were Georgia, Tennessee and Florida. Honestly, the only reason I had been to those others was because we had kin who lived there.

The only vacations we took were to visit them. My oldest brother moved to Avon Park, Florida and Dad had two sisters, who lived there too. For the record, Avon Park doesn't have a beach.

In fact, the nearest beaches are Vero Beach, 86 miles to the east, and Bradenton Beach, 80 miles to the west and I never saw either one of those. We did, however, stop at Silver Springs once and rode the glass bottoms boats. I was about ten and pretended I was on the high seas – minus the waves.

Finally, at the age of fifteen, I went with a buddy and his mom and her sister to Williamsburg, Virginia. We even rode over to Virginia Beach and for the first time I saw a body of water bigger than Patton's Pond. On the way home we came through the Great Smokey Mountains, where I discovered Gatlinburg and pulled taffy. I believe it was then and there that I decided I liked traveling and that I wanted to see as much of this world as possible.

I was in my mid-thirties the first time I went outside the country. I went on a mission trip to Paraguay and Brazil. Since then I traveled to several foreign countries but somewhere along the way, I set a goal to set foot in every state in our nation.

It has taken a while, but I am close to reaching that goal. I have lived in four states, all in the south. These include

Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana. I have lived so close to Tennessee, that I almost nearly, but not quite hardly, said "Go Vols!" As of a couple a weeks ago, I have been in every state except four, including the District of Columbia. I have worked in many of these states on mission trips and disaster relief trips. I have visited others during vacations.

I have been blessed to have seen many of the most beautiful places in our nation. As we celebrate our 242nd national birthday this week, I'm singing, "Oh beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea!

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

Poet's Corner



Beach Trips

By: Randy C. Hale
randyhale62@yahoo.com

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EDUCATION

Good Hope High's Skylar Tucker passes 1st 'bill' at Girls State

Heather Mann
Tribune Correspondent

GOOD HOPE – Every year, high schools in Alabama have the choice to send two 11th graders (one boy and one girl) to Boys State and Girls State, programs sponsored by the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, respectively. The prestigious programs allow students to participate in a "model state," complete with governing bodies and elected officials.

This year, a Good Hope student named Skylar Tucker was responsible for the very first bill that was passed during Girls State, held in June on the campus of The University of Alabama.

Tucker's bill proposed that the state of Alabama hold a lottery to pay for college tuition and fund resource officers in public school systems, with college tuition being offered to underprivileged students first.

"My lottery bill would be funded in arrears, which means it would bring in money for a year before it started giving out money so that each year we knew just how much we had to give," Tucker said. "This bill would start in 2020 and would start giving out money in the year of 2021. Seventy-five percent of the money would go to college tuition and 25 percent would go to the resource officers."

The bill was the first of this year's program to be passed through the House and the Senate.

According to Tucker, being nominated for the program is a high honor.

"While I was down there, the speakers would tell us that we were the top of the top or the cream of the crop. They would tell us that we were the future leaders for Alabama," she said.

Nominations had to be made by the school, and nomination criteria required "being a great student with a great attitude and showing great leadership skills."

For those lucky enough to be nominated, Boys State and Girls State can be the start of incredible friendships as well as a lesson in politics.

"Every morning we woke up and did a flag ceremony and prayer. Then we started our day with a speaker and then we split up into either House or Senate or Federalist and Nationalist Party. We held meetings and did debates using the parliamentary procedure," Tucker recalled. "I met four amazing girls that were so talented, and they ended up becoming my best friends. We met on the second day and we automatically connected in ways that I never have connected with a friend. Till this day we still all have a group chat and are planning to meet up in a couple of weeks."

Tucker believes that Girls State is a wonderful learning opportunity - not just for learning about government, but also life lessons.

"I learned that no matter who you are, you have a voice and your voice deserves to be heard, but you have to remember that others have a voice and their opinion is just as important as yours. So I always say now: listen first and then speak," she stated. "I also learned that as young adults, and even as kids, we need to have a good support system. This support systems helps you get through what you think is impossible. Normally this support system starts at school with your administration, teachers and friends. Teachers make such a huge impact on kids and how we view the future. I heard from the teacher of the year in 2015, and she said she always tried to get to know her kids and she was like a second mom to them. This is what kids need!"

Find out more at www.alabamagirlsstate.org and http://alboysstate.org.



SKYLAR TUCKER

Good Hope High School's Skylar Tucker participated in Girls State in Tuscaloosa in June. Hers was the first bill that passed during the mock session.

EDUCATION

Wallace State students win 3 silver medals, two bronze at 54th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College students had a strong showing at the 54th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville over the weekend, bringing home three silver medals and a pair of bronze awards.

Wallace State Electronics Technology students Steven Ballard and Landon Warnock collected their second straight national medal. A year after earning a bronze on the big stage, the Wallace State duo won a silver medal in the Robotics and Automation Technology competition.

"Steven and Landon have worked hard all year. They had just completed the robotics class when they competed at nationals last year, so they were a bit more seasoned this year. They were fired up and ready to go," said Wallace State's Keith Tolbert, the Mechatronics and Electronics Technology program chair. "I'm very proud of their accomplishment. They're already employees of Kamtek in Birmingham and will finish up their degrees this summer."

Ernesto Rivera, a Salon and Spa Management student, won silver in the Cosmetology competition for Wallace State, becoming the highest national finisher for the program.

Meanwhile, Byre Forbes achieved the same in Culinary Arts after becoming the program's first gold medal winner at the state level.

Winning bronze medals for Wallace State were Tara Manastero in Technical Computer Applications and Zack Sloan, Roger Sikora, Darana Campbell and Mackenzie Golden for Chapter Display. Manastero is a Computer Science major. Sloan, Sikora and Campbell are Wallace State Machine Tool Technology majors, and Golden is a Mechatronics/Electronics Technology major.



WSCC

Ernesto Rivera, left, won a national SkillsUSA silver medal in the Cosmetology completion, while Brye Forbes accomplished the same feat in the Culinary competition.

"We're happy our students had a strong showing on a national stage. It's great for Wallace State and Alabama, and it's a testament to the high-quality training we offer here," said Wallace State's Dean of Applied Technologies Jimmy Hodges. "This was the first year for us to compete in computer science and the first time in history for Wallace State to place nationally in cosmetology and culinary arts. This is a tribute to the momentum we already have with SkillsUSA, and we anticipate even bigger things to come."

At the state SkillsUSA state competition in April, Wallace State had 31 students win a gold medal. The college featured 55 winners overall, winning the Highest Participation and Highest Membership Award.

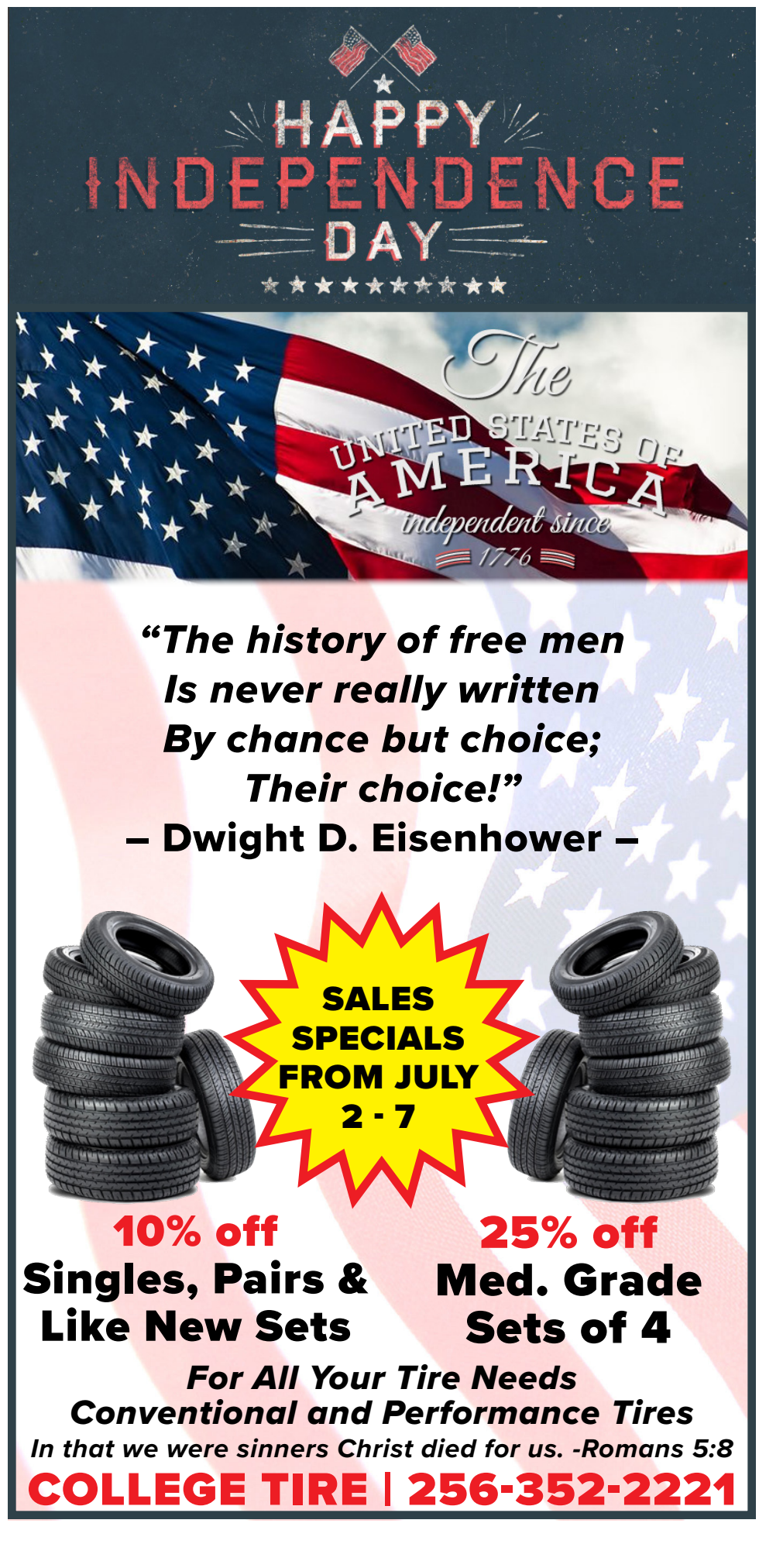
Wallace State sent 24 students to the national competition. In addition to the silver and bronze medal winners, the college finished fifth in Automated Manufacturing; sixth in HVAC; seventh in Crime Scene Investigations, Mechatronics and Electronics Technology; eighth in Related Technical Math; 10th in Interworking and 14th in Computer Programming.

Wallace State graduate Maci Key completed her appointment as a SkillsUSA National Officer. You can watch her interview with a Louisville-based television station here: www.wave3.com/clip/14443475/skillsusa-returns-to-louisville-for-54th-year

SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations. SkillsUSA serves more than 300,000 students and instructors annually. The organization has 13,000 school chapters in 54 state and territorial associations.

For more information about Wallace State, visit www.wallacestate.edu.





Fun, family and fireworks at Smith Lake Park

Hayden Hyatt
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CULLMAN – Thousands of revelers gathered to celebrate America's independence Wednesday at the annual Smith Lake Park Fireworks and Music Festival. The event featured food, live music and a huge fireworks show among other festivities.

Doug Davenport, director of Cullman County Parks and Recreation, spoke to The Tribune about some of the unique events at the festival.

"We've had entertainment all day since 8 this morning to 9 this evening," Davenport said. "We had the golf cart parade at 3 o' clock - that was the most we've ever had. I would have hated to have been a judge there were so many and very well decorated."

The festival also featured bouncy houses and other rides for children, vendors for everything from leather belts to toe rings, a Pepsi chugging contest, and various types of food including funnel cakes.

Joe Brown, owner of Devil Dawgs Concessions, provided funnel cakes and other food during the event.

"We're the exclusive vendor for funnel cakes," said Brown. "(The festival) has been pretty good, a little stormy looking, but it's been good. It's great because all during the day it's just the local campers that come out here and they all seem to appreciate it a lot during the day. Then at night you have the community come out to enjoy all the food and fireworks. I think it's really good."



HAYDEN HYATT/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Gary Newby, an attendee of the Smith Lake Fireworks and Music Festival, holds his dog.

Event safety was a priority for organizers.

"Typically, we have about 5,000 or 8,000 people come in," Davenport explained. "Everybody's had a safe time. We haven't had issues other than a couple of breakers going out, but that's a normal thing when you have this many people using power. I haven't seen anybody acting out of order or the police have to carry anyone (out), and that's always a good thing, too."

Cullman County Parks and Recreation organizes the festival every year, and according to Davenport, it's a way to give back.

"Every year we do things like this to give back to our community," said Davenport. "It doesn't really reflect or change any of our staff's salary or our pay, but we do it because we get to see the kids having a great time on the bounce houses and families coming out and spending the whole day with each other cooking out. It's fun."

David Melvin, who camped at the park and attended the festival, seemed to appreciate it.

"We've been coming here the last couple of years," Melvin said. "It's good, it's always good. They have a good fireworks show and that's what everybody comes for."



HAYDEN HYATT/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Revelers watch as fireworks light up the sky during the Smith Lake Park Fireworks and Music Festival.







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Springer (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Cullman Police Department (CPD) Chief Kenny Culpepper and Reserve Officer Terry Heaton received custom made 40-year pins this year, for their service to the city since 1978. The insignia manufacturer had never received a request for a 40-year pin before. Now, for the second time this year, the company has had to come up with an entirely new pin design for a Cullman policeman: a 50-year pin.

Officer Jack Springer joined the CPD on June 1, 1968. Fifty years and a month later, The Tribune sat down with him in his office at the west precinct station to talk about his career.

Springer is a Cullman native, in his own words, "Born and raised. Only time I was ever gone was when I was in the military."

After graduating from St. Bernard, he joined the Air Force for four years and served in assignments with Air Training Command and Security Services (Air Force Intelligence) in the U.S. and Turkey.

Given an option to come home a few months before his enlistment officially ended, he returned to Cullman in 1964.

After a few years with the Cullman Power Board, Springer joined the CPD. He served as a full-time officer long enough to retire from the department, then returned as a part-time reserve officer.

On 50 years of law enforcement in Cullman

Springer shared, "When I first started, they didn't do any paperwork. You arrested somebody, filled out a jail card, and put them in jail. Then, when Bascom Miller, the first chief I worked under, he left, Roy Wood came . . . He brought in the state stuff about arrest reports, I/O (incident/offense) reports, and all that we started filling out. And after that, it all went on computer.

"You know, it's hard changing. You know, if you've done something a certain way for 10 years or more, then you change completely to something new, and then 10 or 15 or 20 years later you change to something completely new. If you've never done it, it's hard to get adapted to it and get used to it.

"It's changed a lot, and a lot of it hasn't changed for the better; that's just my opinion. You know, when they started all the PC stuff--20 years ago, you wouldn't dare talk to a policeman like you do now. People had a lot more respect.

"I would like to see more respect for the officers. I understand; I would not deny that there are some bad officers. That's true. But I would say that for every one that's bad, there's thousands that are good.

"People tend, not just here--it's everywhere, they tend to want to lump everybody together. Not 'You're you and I'm me,' but 'You're all alike; every one of you are alike,' and that's not true.

"Everybody ought to ride or work (at a police department) for a month, just to see what you have to deal with in the public.

"I'm not saying police officers are perfect, but if people see what you have to go through and what you have to put up with--it's getting to a point that, any time you make an arrest, you stand a better chance of going to jail than the people you arrest.

"And I understand, years ago, a lot of it they brought on themselves. I'm not saying that they didn't, but the thing about it is, a lot of it is undeserved. But that's just my opinion.

"It's better in a lot of ways, but I mean there's some ways--I guess it's because you're from the old school--you know, it's not as good as it could be.

"All in all, it's been good, and if I do decide to retire, it's not because I don't like it or am not happy. It's just because, after a while--it's just like your kids growing up--there ain't nothing you can do about it, but it's time to hang it up."

Springer recounted memories of police escort details for dignitaries like then-candidate Ronald Reagan and governors George and Lurleen Wallace and Guy Hunt.

He also recalled the awful tension felt through the city when the trial of Tommy Lee Hines, a mentally-disabled black man accused of raping a white woman in Decatur, was moved from Morgan County to Cullman.

Both black rights groups and organizations like the Ku Klux Klan converged on the city and used the event as a recruiting drive.

Organized protests, multiple arrests, national media attention, and a bomb threat at the courthouse all accompanied the trial.

On being a lifelong Cullmanite

"Well, I'll tell you what," said Springer, "I've been overseas: I've been to Turkey, Germany, England. And then, when we got mustered out, we went to McGuire (Air Force Base) in New Jersey to get cleared out.

"I'd never been to New York--in New Jersey, you're in New York--and to get out at night and walk up and down the streets--and it sounds like I'm being critical, but I'm not--if you wasn't in the plush, if you wasn't on Fifth Avenue, they had garbage stacked up and down the streets. I hadn't ever seen anything like that.

"And I said of all the places, I've never seen a place that as clean and unique (as Cullman). And I know it's a little one-horse place, but still, I never have had a desire to go nowhere else.

"I've lived here all my life, and I've been gone for the time I told you, and I've never had a desire to go anywhere else. I might be small-minded, but I'm happy with it."

On the CPD

Springer said, "I would say, basically, it's a good department; probably above average for training and equipment. I can truthfully say I've never let an officer down, and I've never had an officer let me down. And I don't think that I've ever mistreated anybody, or if it was, it was unintentional, but I don't recall any.

"Ninety-five percent of the people here always been good, upstanding people. It's just like the military: there's people you run into you don't ever forget, and there's things that happen you don't ever forget.

"I know there's several things I don't want to remember, like car wrecks and fires; I don't even want to remember it. It's like being in the military: it's hard to describe it unless you've been there and done it.

What makes someone be a police officer for 50 years?

"You're not going to get rich; never. You've got to love it, and you've got to love the people. You're not doing it to be wealthy and you're not doing it for glory. I'm speaking again for myself.

"Some policemen are like that; they think they're here to punish people, but they're not. They're here to help people. I understand you've got a job to do, you know.

"You've got write a ticket, you've got to arrest somebody; it's not your choice. But you can have a little compassion.

"I've always wanted to just be a beat cop or street cop. Being in charge ain't always everything! I understand investigation is important, but the beat cop or the street cop is really the heart of any police department.

"There was so many people, and I could sit here and name you 20 of them, you know, that I worked with, and most of them are gone, I mean gone, you know. And you know, they're unforgettable; they're unique unto themselves.

"And you know if you named that 20, there'd still be another 20 if you had sat down and thought half a day.

"I have no regrets. If I could do it again, I probably would."

After 50 years, Springer has a career exit strategy, but he's playing that hand close to the vest, saying, "I still feel good, and I really enjoy the police department. I really enjoy it, and I always have enjoyed it.

"Like I say, there's been some tough times and things you don't want to remember, but all in all, yeah, it's been great."

Springer has been married to his wife Shirley for more than 50 years, and the couple has two adult sons. The younger is a Birmingham police officer who is set to retire this fall. Springer plans to outlast him.

Culpepper said of Springer, "For anyone to put in 50 years anywhere is truly amazing, but to put in 50 years as a part-time reservist with a police department, to where you're still to this day--he's putting on the uniform and the gun and the badge and going out and working--is a testament to his dedication to the community and to the people that he serves, and the fact that he loves what he's doing."

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Obituary Announcements: June 29 -July 9

George M. Hale, of Hartselle, passed away on July 2, 2018. He is preceded in death by his wife, Louise Hale; parents: George L. and Dorotha Hale; and daughter, Sheila Myatt. He is survived by his son, Jeff McClellan (Kim); grandchildren: Justin McClellan, Shelby Gregory and Christopher Bell; great grandchildren: Jacob, Jordan, Sierra and Kaiven; sister, Sharon Faircloth (John); uncle, Fred Hale and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins. His family will receive friends on Sunday, July 8, 2018 from noon until 2 p.m. at Blair Congregational Methodist Church. The Celebration of Life for Mr. Hale will begin at 2 p.m. at the church with burial in the adjoining cemetery.

Brenda Geri Wesley, age 77 of Louisville, KY, formerly of Cullman, died Wednesday, July 4, 2018. She was preceded in death by her husband James Darrell Wesley; son James Daniel Wesley; parents: Cortez A. Abbott and Lucille Knopp Abbott; brothers: Cortez "Sonny" Abbott Jr. and Gary W. Abbott. She is survived by her sister Jackie Upchurch and nieces, nephews and other family members. The family will receive friends on Saturday, July 7, 2018 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. Graveside Celebration of Ms. Wesley's life will be at Mt. Olive Congregational Church at 2 p.m. Please visit www.mossservicefh.com to leave condolences for the family. Moss Service Funeral Home Directing.

Oscar Eugene Butler was born on June 27, 1950 and passed away on July 3, 2018.

Gerald Dale Brock was born on December 4, 1953 and passed away on June 29, 2018.

Funeral service for Ruby LaBelle Stapp will be at 1 p.m. on Monday, July 9, 2018, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home, with Don Froelich officiating. Interment will be at Cullman Memory Gardens. Mrs. Stapp passed away Thursday, July 5. She was born August 29, 1920 to Wayman and Evie Henderson Stapp. She is preceded in death by her parents, her brothers and sisters; Dorothy Petite, Geneva Holmes, Iree Dooley, JC Stapp and Victor Stapp. Survivors include her sisters Retha Taylor and Arzell Danley and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends. Visitation will be Monday from noon until 1 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Funeral Service for Barbara Jean Hicks, age 85 of Vinemont, will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 08, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Burial at Jefferson Memorial Gardens on Monday. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Hicks passed away on Thursday, July 5, 2018 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. She was born, August 2, 1932 in Birmingham, AL to William Johnson and Stella Rice Johnson. She is preceded in death by her husband, James Wheeler Hicks, her parents, 2 brothers and 1 sister. Survivors include her daughter, Fran (Ron) Busbey, son, Jim Hicks, daughter, Bonnie (Andy) St. John, son, Rodney (Holly) Hicks, brother, Bud (Janey) Johnson, grandchildren, Kelly Stewart, Aimee Miller, Misty Draper, Chrissy Bush, James Hicks, Matt St. John, Mark St. John, Vann Hicks, Will Hicks, Jay St. John, 9 great grandchildren and a host of nieces nephews and friends. Visitation will be from noon-2 p.m. on Sunday, July 8, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Memorial services for Mrs. Macie M. McBrayer, 78, of Cullman are Sunday, July 8, 2018 at 3 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, Rev. Steve Rodgers and Bro. Curtis Smith officiating. Mrs. McBrayer passed away on Monday, July 2, 2018 at UAB Hospital. She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter Z. Smith and Nettie Riggs Smith and her daughter, Sandra Darlene Trussell. She is survived by her sons, Bobby Dewayne McBrayer and Jamie Lamar McBrayer; daughter, Annette (Daniel Ray) New; sister, Mary Jane Hopper; grandchildren, Rodney Chaney, Billy Joe (Belinda) New and Dustin Blake (Stephanie) New; great grandchildren, Jaden Brylie New, Brileigh Marie New, Jaxon Wyatt New and Janna (Wesley) Donaldson and great great grandchild, Laney Donaldson.

Funeral services for Ms. Ellen Louise Drummond of Cullman are Friday, July 6, 2018 at 11 a.m. at Oak Level Baptist Church, with interment in the adjoining cemetery. Visitation on Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home and on Friday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the church. Cullman Funeral Home directing. Ms. Drummond passed away Tuesday, July 3, 2018 on her 74th birthday. She was preceded in death by her parents, Clifford and Altie Wise Duke, her brother, Harvey C. "Buddy" Duke; her son, Joe Holden and brother-in-law, Jack Freeman. She is survived by her daughters, Bernicea Gerstman and Mary Drummond; her son, Terry Holden; brother, Willie Horace (Sarah) Duke; sister, Geraldine Freeman; grandchildren, Candice Gerstman (Jonn) Grochowalski, Charity Gerstman (Matt) Body, Gaea Hood, Autumn Drummond, Auron Drummond, Serenity Holden and Lance Holden and four great grandchildren, Chloe Body, Hudson Body, Henley John Grochowalski and Rylynne Grochowalski.

Funeral services for Bervil Delone Davis, 87, of Madison are Monday, July 9, 2018 at 2 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, Rev. Steve Rodgers officiating, burial with military honors at Central Baptist Cemetery. Visitation on Monday from noon to 2 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home, 461 U.S. Highway 278 East, Cullman, is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Davis passed away Tuesday, July 3, 2018. He was born January 14, 1931 to Dewey Eli and Zora Bell Ragland Davis. Mr. Davis, a native of Cullman, graduated from West Point High School in 1949. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War and retired from NASA in 1990. He was an engineering graduate of the University of Alabama and earned a Ph.D from the University of Oklahoma. He also served as an Adjunct Professor of Administrative Science and Budget Director at UAH. In 1997, Mr. Davis retired as Vice President and General Manager of Pace & Waite, Inc. Since retirement, he was active in both the Huntsville and Madison Senior Centers where he served on the RSVP Advisory Council, line danced, worked as an AARP Tax-Aide Instructor/Counselor, served as a volunteer for TARCOG, and was a member/President of the Huntsville Senior Center Board of Directors. He was preceded in death by his wife, Freda Sims Davis of Madison, his parents and his brother, Lee Edward Davis of Cullman. Survivors include; one daughter, Renee Davis Nichols (Stanley) of Atlanta, Georgia and one son, Dan O. Davis (Sandy) of Savannah, Georgia; three grandchildren, three great grandchildren and a host of family and friends.

Mr. Anthony G. Tudisco, 70, of Cullman passed away on Thursday, July 5, 2018. No services are planned at this time.

Free Obituary Listings

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DRAFT

PROPOSED
ORDINANCE NO. 621
Zoning

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 510 AND ORDINANCE NO. 608.

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 510 is the City of Hanceville Zoning Ordinance; and

WHERAS, some restrictions, regulations, and allowances are burdensome and/or in conflict with other current ordinances and it is in the best interest of the City to amend Ordinance No. 510 again.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Under the authority of Chapter 52, Articles 1 through 4, Section 11-52-1 through 11-52-84, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, Zoning Ordinance No. 510, is hereby amended as follows:

Section 2. ARTICLE III ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICTS
Section 3.4 USE CATEGORIES
3.4.2 CONDITIONAL USES
D. Deleted

Section 3. ARTICLE IV USE PROVISIONS FOR ZONING DISTRICTS
Section 4.4 FLOOR SPACE REQUIREMENTS IN THE B-1 LOCAL SHOPPING DISTRICT is deleted.

Section 4.5 TABLE OF USES
- Dwelling unit above the first floor of a business establishment (Loft Apts) is permitted in zones B-1 and B-2.
- Fireworks stand is permitted in zones B-1 and B-2 only
- Home occupation subject to the provisions of Article 8, Section 8.7.2 of this article is permitted in all zones.

Section 4. ARTICLE V USE PROVISIONS FOR SPECIAL ZONING DISTRICTS
Section 5.1MHP MANUFACTURED HOME PARK DISTRICT
Section 5.1.6 LICENSE REQUIRED FOR MANUFACTURED HOME PARK
It shall be unlawful for any person to establish, operate or maintain, or permit to be established, operated or maintained upon any property owned, leased or controlled by them, a manufactured home park without having first secured a license for each such park form the City of Hanceville pursuant to this Article. The annual license fee shall be as set forth in the City of Hanceville's current fee schedule.

Section 5. ARTICLE VII GENERAL REGULATIONS
Section 7.4 NECESSARY REPAIRS PERMITTED is deleted.

Section 7.9 ZONING OF NEWLY ANNEXED LAND
All land hereafter annexed to the City of Hanceville shall be zoned in accordance with the following procedure:
7.9.1 The Planning Commission at their next scheduled meeting following the annexation of a property must draft a preliminary report of the area involved including the proposed zoning, schedule a public hearing on the proposal, giving notice to the public of such hearing by posting in four (4) conspicuous places in the municipality at least six (6) days prior to the hearing and as required by Alabama State Law. After holding the public hearing, the commission drafts a recommended zoning ordinance and map to be considered by the governing body.

7.9.2 The City Council upon receipt of a recommendation from the Planning Commission, gives notice and holds a public hearing prior to adopting a zoning ordinance. The notice must be published along with the ordinance in full in a newspaper published within the municipality. The notice must state the time and place that the ordinance is to be considered by the municipal governing body and stating further that at such time and place all persons who desire shall have an opportunity to be heard in opposition to or in favor of the ordinance. One week after the first insertion the ordinance must be published for a second time (or a synopsis, including the date and name of the newspaper in which the ordinance was first published). Both insertions must be published at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the passage of the ordinance.

7.9.3 Deleted

Section 7.11 Burial Plots
7.11.1 Bodies must be buried in an established cemetery.

Section 7.12 Unattended Donation Bins
7.12.1 Unattended donation bins/boxes are not permitted in any district or zone.

Section 6. ARTICLE VIII SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS
Section 8.1 ACCESSORY USES OR STRUCTURES
8.1.2 Detached accessory buildings in residential districts shall not be nearer than five (5) feet to any side or rear lot line. Detached automobile garages located in a side yard must maintain the side yard and front yard setbacks for the applicable zoning district.

Section 8.7 HOME OCCUPATIONS
8.7.1 Deleted

Section 8.11 SWIMMING AND WADING POOLS
8.11.1 Swimming pools and wading pools not located within a permanently and completely walled structure shall be constructed no closer than ten (10) feet of any property line and shall be completely fenced off from the ground up to a height of at least four (4) feet.

Section 7. ARTICLE XIII ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Section 13.2 BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED (paragraph 1)
It shall be unlawful to commence earthwork; the excavation for the construction of any building or other structure including accessory structures or signs; installation of any mobile home or house trailer; store building materials or erect temporary field offices; or commence the moving, alteration, repair, or improvement (except repairs/improvements not exceeding the City of Hanceville's current minimum cost policies) of any structure, until the Administrative Officer of the City of Hanceville has issued a building permit for such work.

Section 13.5 EXPIRATION OF BUILDING PERMIT (paragraph 2)
If the work described in any building permit has not been substantially completed within one (1) year of the date of issuance thereof, said permit shall expire and be cancelled by the Administrative Officer and written notice thereof shall be given to the persons affected, together with a notice that further work as described in the cancelled permit shall not proceed unless and until a new building permit has been obtained.

Section 13.8 PENALTIES
Any person, owner, agent, lessee, tenant, contractor, firm, corporation, or any other person violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be punished by a fine not to exceed more than one thousand dollars ($1000.00) and cost of court for each offense.
A separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues.

Section 8. ARTICLE XV AMMENDMENTS
Section 15.2 APPLICATION FOR REZONING BY PROPERTY OWNER (paragraph 1)
15.2.1 Application. The applicant shall submit a complete zoning amendment application, on a form provided by the City, to the Administrative Officer at least five (5) days prior to the Planning Commission meeting at which the amendment is to be considered including a site plan, if required by Section 10.1.1, subparagraph D of this Ordinance, or if a site plan is not required, the application shall include, as a minimum, the following:

Section 15.4 PUBLIC HEARINGS AND NOTICES
The following procedures for hearings and notices shall be followed for the rezoning of specific property. The following procedures for hearings and notices shall be required for amendments or revisions to the Zoning Ordinance. Such amendments or revisions shall follow the following requirements and the requirements of the Alabama State Law regarding notices and hearings.

15.4.1 Deleted

15.4.2 Deleted

15.4.3 Planning Commission Hearing. The planning commission must hold a public hearing, giving notice to the public of such hearing by posting in four conspicuous places in the municipality at least six (6) days prior to the hearing. After holding the public hearing, the commission drafts a recommendation to the governing body. If the commission recommends rezoning the recommendation must include the proposed zoning ordinance and map to be considered by the governing body.

15.4.4 City Council Hearing. Upon receipt of a recommendation from the Planning Commission, the council gives notice and holds a public hearing prior to adopting a zoning ordinance. The notice must be published along with the ordinance in full in a newspaper published within the municipality. The notice must state the time and place that the ordinance is to be considered by the municipal governing body and stating further that at such time and place all persons who desire shall have an opportunity to be heard in opposition to or in favor of the ordinance. One week after the first insertion the ordinance must be published for a second time (or a synopsis, including the date and name of the newspaper in which the ordinance was first published). Both insertions must be published at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the passage of the ordinance.

Section 9. ARTICLE XVIII EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately after its adoption by the City Council of the City of Hanceville, Alabama.

ADOPTED on the _____ day of _____, 2018.

(Seal) _____
Kenneth Nail, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Tania C. Wilcox, City Clerk

I, Tania Wilcox, City Clerk of the City of Hanceville, Alabama, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. _____, which ordinance was adopted by the City Council on _____, 2018. This Ordinance was duly advertised as required by Title 11, Chapter 52, Article 4, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.

_____
Tania C. Wilcox, City Clerk

Convention (from Front)

Factors ranging from shifting cultural tastes and lack of interest in old-fashioned things to concerns about church-state separation led to a decline in courthouse singings over the years.

Though it may not draw crowds of thousands like it used to, the tradition has managed to stay alive in Cullman.

"We have such cooperative politicians here," said Guthery, "and the people at the courthouse are so helpful."

Convention singers follow a long-standing form, singing from a modern edition of a songbook that dates back to the 1840s in a style known by several names:

• Shape Note Singing - The notes in the sheet music have different shapes depending on the note in the scale: round, square, triangular.

• Fa-So-La Singing - The names given to three note shapes. When the singers warm up at the beginning of a song, they're not singing in a foreign language or speaking in tongues; they're singing the notes by name.

• Sacred Harp - from the title of the most popular songbook used

At a fellowship gathering after day one of last year's convention, a few singers talked about what Sacred Harp and the singing convention culture.

Butch White (Good Hope)
"I've been around Sacred Harp singing since I was just a boy. There was an old wood-frame church house, Valley Grove Church, adjoining our property. They had a meeting there once a month, on the fourth Saturday and Sunday. They'd have Sacred Harp singing there once or twice a year. We'd be out working in the field, and we'd hear that singing across the woods.

"It's sacred music to most of the people that have sung it all their lives. It's got kind of a folk thing about it now, and a lot of people follow it because it's old-timey. But it's sacred music to a lot of people in this part of the country. It does something for your soul if you like it."

Tom Booth (Simcoe)
"The words just strike home. There's an awful lot of scripture in these songs. To me, it's worship; it's a way of praising God for all that He does for us on a daily basis. Every breath is a gift, as far as I'm concerned, and it's a way of returning thanks."

Gail Doss (Nashville)
"For me, it's contemplative, it's soothing, it's communal, and it's just a good thing to do. It feels good. It's sharing with other people and being part of something that matters."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF HANCEVILLE
Planning Commission

Pursuant to the instructions of the Planning Commission of the City of Hanceville, notice is hereby given that Proposed Ordinance No. 621, set forth, will be considered by the Planning Commission on Monday, July 23, 2018 for a recommendation of passage to the City Council of Hanceville. A public hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m., Monday July 23, 2018, at the Hanceville Civic Center, located at 902 Commercial ST NE, Hanceville, Alabama, 35077, all interested citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard for or against the passage of Proposed Ordinance No. 621.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JULY 7, 2018

Reservoir (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – On Tuesday, July 17, the Utilities Board of the City of Cullman will officially open the Duck River Reservoir to recreational activities, including boating and fishing.

Utilities Board Manager Mike Manning told The Tribune that 22 miles of trails around the reservoir will officially open, and that the reservoir itself will be open for pier fishing and to boats and watercraft of 25 horsepower or less.

Duck River Reservoir Manager Tim Scott said that the lake is stocked with Florida Bass and Alabama Bass, which are also known as Spotted Bass. The two populations are being monitored and DNA tested and are expected to cross breed. Other fish have been introduced, as well.

The reservoir stock includes (including current fishing limits):

- Florida and Alabama Bass - catch and release only
- Bluegill and Redear Bream - maximum 20 fish of any size
- Black Crappie - maximum 30 fish which must be 9 inches or longer
- Channel Catfish - no limit. This is a young population that is considered not large enough to catch, yet.

Scott insisted that, because the lake and its fish populations are still maturing, fishing limits will be strictly enforced.

Reservoir recreation areas

According to a 2013 plan prepared for the Utilities Board by St. John & Associates, "The landscape surrounding the proposed Duck River Reservoir is comprised of rolling hills that are deeply incised by streams with exposed sandstone cliffs. Land above the reservoir is largely farmland and forest with moderate to steep slopes in the range of 20 percent to 30 percent near the full pool water elevation. Acquired property downstream of the proposed dam features steep, deeply shadowed cliffs and a broad bend in the river surrounding mixed forest and meadow land cover. This rich physical geography and varied landscape result in a scenic setting for the proposed Recreation Area and many potential uses that do not conflict with the overall water supply purpose of the reservoir. Recreation use of the property is proposed to be focused at three primary areas linked by a multiuse pedestrian and bike trail."

Also from the plan, the areas are:

- Downriver Use Area – "Natural river and canyon landscape downstream of Duck River dam. Uses include environmental education, wheelchair accessible pedestrian access, wildlife observation, outdoor recreation and hiking."
- Henderson Branch Landing – "Existing cleared meadow and abandoned road bed North of Henderson Branch and adjacent to proposed Duck River Reservoir. Uses include boating, wheelchair accessible pedestrian access and shore fishing, primitive camping, and hiking." This area will be the primary access point for visitors with boats and other allowed watercraft, with parking provided for cars and boat trailers. According to the plan, "The proposed boat launch features concrete construction and an ADA-compliant courtesy pier for boarding. A wheelchair accessible paved trail meeting ADA standards will lead from handicapped parking to a pedestrian crossing of the reservoir at County Road 1651. This pedestrian crossing will be sized to allow wheelchair accessible fishing while providing room for users of the multi-use trail to cross the reservoir."
- North Boat Launch – Located at the western terminus of County Road 1651 at the reservoir. "This area is expected to be a secondary access point for boaters due to the limited area available for parking and longer travel distance from US HWY 278."

The plan also described the multi-use trail:

"A pedestrian and bike trail is proposed to encircle the reservoir and link the recreation use areas. Trail construction would utilize native materials exclusively and follow sustainable International Mountain Bicycling Association and Appalachian Trail Conservancy guidelines that minimize erosion and required trail maintenance. The trail would be constructed so that clearing of trees will be minimized, and no powered vehicle or equine use of the trails will be permitted.

"Two prefabricated pedestrian footbridges are proposed to be installed along the trail: one crossing the reservoir at the northern extent of the trail near County Road 1669 and the second crossing Duck River within the Downriver Use Area."

St. John & Associates' plan included provisions for picnic pavilions, primitive camping sites and interpretive signage along trails. According to Manning, these are possible future developments not included in the current stage of development.

Said Manning, "The original recreation plan that had been submitted to the Corps of Engineers had everything that we could possibly or may possibly do within the restricted area ever, really, because it's a complicated process to get all that approved by the Corps. And so, some of those things may or may not be added as time goes by, but the reservoir and trails are what will be open at this time."

Pipeline project ahead of schedule

The Tribune toured the route of the Duck River Reservoir pipeline by air and road, and since then has been speaking to people involved in various portions of the project for an update on progress.

St. John and Associates project engineer Wes Dawsey talked about the pipeline:

"The pipeline is about 68 percent complete and, as far as the schedule goes, we are about 270 days elapsed on the schedule. And it's supposed to be complete in November--mid-November--so we're actually a little bit ahead of schedule.

"It's going pretty smoothly. We're ahead of schedule, under budget, contractors doing a good job. Hopefully, we'll continue that way for the next three or four months, and then we'll be finished."

According to Dawsey, construction has not been straight through from the water plant to the reservoir. During the wet past winter, crews worked in the driest areas, then, with the onset of warm weather, have gone back to fill in the gaps.

The pipeline project will end at County Road 1640 on the western side of the Duck River Dam, where a separate project will construct a pumping station to move water from the reservoir via the intake tower just north of the dam.

From County Road 1640, the route of the pipeline runs to the southwest where it reaches U.S. Highway 278 in the Oak Level community, near the intersection of the highway and County Roads 781 and 1635. At that point the most visible evidence of the pipeline project can be seen along the north side of U.S. Highway 278, where construction crews are currently laying pipe. The line crosses south of the highway before reaching Berlin, where a stretch of County Road 735 got freshly repaved after pipe was laid beneath it. From there, it works its way to the south side of the water plant.

When complete, the pipeline will be capable of transporting 24 million gallons of water per day, matching the approximate existing flow rate at the plant.

At normal rates, the reservoir pipeline will double the amount of water available to the city water plant. According to Dawsey, this will not double the amount of water coming out of the plant to the city but will act as a backup to the existing system.

Said Dawsey, "The plant will only treat so much water, so you really can't double the volume coming through it. But what it gives you is a completely redundant source of water, so if you had something happen to the pump station at Catoma--one of the pumps go down and need to be rehabilitated--you could then feed from Duck River to completely run the plant. Or, you know, the real concern is drought . . . now you've got another alternate source. You could take half the water from Duck River and half from Catoma, and it would last that much longer."

Pump station going to bid

The pump station, which will be located on the southwest (downriver) side of the dam and will move water from the reservoir to the water plant via the pipeline, will go to bid soon. According to Manning, construction is expected to take up to a year after that. Water is expected to begin flowing sometime in the latter part of 2019.

Duck River Dam lawsuit still pending

In 2017, after the Duck River Dam was found to be leaking well beyond allowable limits into the dam's gallery where electronic equipment is housed, the City began investigating the cause. ASI Constructors, Inc., who built the dam, blamed the leakage on a faulty design, while designer CH2M Hill Engineers, Inc. blamed faulty construction. Cullman filed suit against both, not to seek a financial settlement, but to determine the responsible party and make them cover the repairs.

According to Cullman Economic Development Agency Director Dale Greer, the City is still awaiting a judge's ruling in the case.

For more on the lawsuit, see our previous story at www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2017/07/28/cullman-utilities-board-files-suit-against-duck-river-dam-engineers-construction.

For an earlier update and general overview of the reservoir and dam projects, including a link to the original St. John & Associates recreational use plan, see our story at: www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2017/08/08/deeper-dive-duck-river-dam.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Stacks of pipe await placement along the pipeline route along U.S. Highway 278 at Oak Level. The route is north of the highway, to the right in this photo, and appears similar to a dirt road in the center.

