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What you need to know about the March 19 school tax vote

Cullman County Revenue Commissioner Barry Willingham breaks down the issue



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Cullman County Revenue Commissioner Barry Willingham **» PAGE 7**

SPRING FORWARD!

Daylight saving time in Alabama will begin at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 10. Don't forget to set clocks forward one hour before you go to bed Saturday night. This is also a great time to check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



CULLMAN CARING FOR KIDS

New CASA child advocates sworn in

Candace Lingo, W.C. Mann

CULLMAN, Ala. – On Feb. 20, Cullman County District Judges Kim Chaney and Rusty Turner swore in four new volunteers for Cullman's Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program: Charlotte Libbee, Justin Lynch, Jan Peterson and Joyce Sedlmayr will serve as advocates for children who have come into the Cullman County court system due to abuse, neglect or family custody issues.

CASA is a third-party entity which helps to make sure that a child's best interests are being served and that permanency is being achieved as quickly as possible. Trained personnel are assigned to specific cases by courts and conduct independent investigations into cases of abuse, to do whatever is in the child's best interest.

Cullman County CASA is under the umbrella of Cullman Caring for Kids (CCK).

According to CCK Director Javon Daniel: "Volunteers, strictly volunteers, are trained, screened very thoroughly, and then after that is done, then they are sworn in by the district court judges, and they become court officials on a case that they are assigned to. Their job, in those instances, is to do their own investigation to determine the facts about a particular case. They are assigned to a case of a child who is in court for abuse or neglect, and they do their own investigation. When they're finished with the investigation, they write a report to the judge, and in that report they state the facts that they learned during the investigation and make recommendations to the judge, based on those facts.



CASA

Shown left to right are Judge Kim Chaney, Joyce Sedlmayr, Jan Peterson, Justin Lynch, Charlotte Libbee and Judge Rusty Turner.

Daniel continued, "What we usually say is they become the eyes and ears for the judge, because the judge cannot get out and do that in every case. But, more importantly, I think, is that they become the voice for the child, because children have very little to say about custody cases and abuse cases. It's just important that they know that they have somebody who, their only purpose is to be there for that child. We don't work **» PAGE 8**

PET OF THE WEEK

Hey, it's a feline pet of the week! Meet Moggie

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman County Animal Shelter volunteer Donna Ruttkay said the shelter's had a good week for dog adoptions, including The Tribune's Tuesday pet, so we asked her to share something new. Meet The Cullman Tribune's very first feline Pet of the Week, Moggie, who's out to prove how good your luck can be with a black cat!



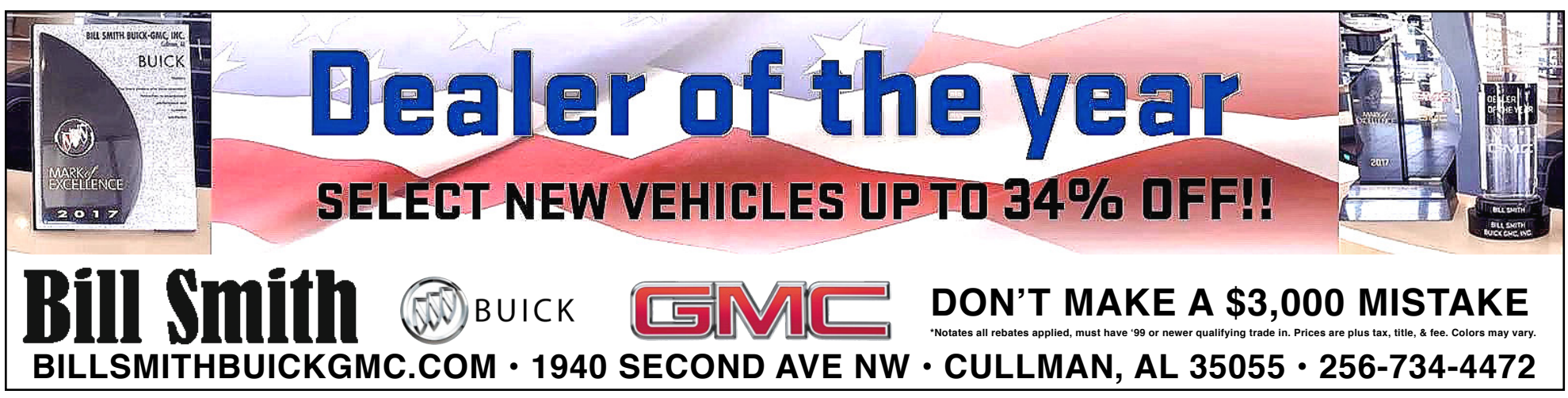
CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Moggie

"Moggie," by the way, is a British term for the domestic shorthaired cat.

Despite the name, she's an all-American domestic shorthair of unknown age. Ruttkay describes her as a "kind-hearted girl who likes to be fussed over; she's vocal when she sees you; she's grateful for your attention."

Moggie's adoption fee is $65, which includes: spaying, current inoculations, worming and a general exam. Please consider adopting to give a rescued pet a chance at a happy and healthy life. Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or visit them at 935 Convent Road NE. Reach them by email at cullmancountyanimalshelter@gmail.com.



Arrests and incidents reported on March 7-8

Maggie Darnell
maggie@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported on March 7-8, 2019. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

REPORTED ON MARCH 7
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INCIDENTS
March 4
- domestic violence; CR 143
- domestic violence; CR 1222
- domestic violence; CR 1422
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance, carrying a pistol without a permit; CR 617
- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 222
- domestic violence; Fairpark Ct
- theft of property; CR 1194
- harassment; CR 206
- violation of protection order; Heatherly Dr.
- theft of property; CR 1162
- unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; Hwy. 69 N
- unlawful possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 157/CR 1188
- theft or property; Hwy. 157/CR 1188

March 5
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 490/CR 715
- harassment; CR 46
- theft of property; Hwy. 278 W
- theft of property; CR 1545
- theft of property; CR 842
- criminal mischief, theft of property; CR 1428

March 6
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 222
- domestic violence; CR 1386
- theft of property; First Ave. S Garden City
- unauthorized use of a motor vehicle; Hwy. 157
- domestic violence- menacing; CR 109
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 231

ARRESTS
March 4-5
Ballard, Austin Tyler, 21
- FTA- DUI- .08 BAC or greater

Bates, Mary Ellen, 53
- drug court sanction- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Bentley, Jonathan Matthew, 42
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Brown, Wendy Gail, 37
- drug court sanction- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Davis, Michael Jacob, 29
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Dozier, Kellie Lynn, 27
- judge's order- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Greenhaw, Israel Blaze, 21
- driving without first obtaining a license
- DUI- .08 BAC or greater
- no tag/tag not plainly visible

Harvey, Lauren Alexandria, 22
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hayes, Zachary Charles, 35
- contempt of court

Helms, Sarah Ashley, 32
- drug court sanction- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Hill, Jonathan Christopher, 55
- FTA- public intoxication

Johnson, Heath Kerry, 32
- carrying a pistol without a license
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

King, Dewey Wayne, 42
- second-degree bail jumping- public intoxication
- FTA- failure to obey lawful order
- FTA- public intoxication

King, Shunta Annesia Ann, 32
- third-degree theft of property

Martin, Olivia Danielle, 26
- drug court sanction- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

McAlpin, Delaney Ross, 30
- FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

McCraw, Thomas Matthew, 34
- second-degree bail jumping- harassment
- FTA- harassment

Miller, Andrew Joseph, 23
- third-degree domestic violence

Nunnery, Trevor Alan, 30
- drug court sanction- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Pennington, Christopher Brett 34
- public intoxication

Perdue, Andrea Lynn, 25
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Powell, Melissa Anne, 41
- contributing to truancy

Pridgen, Keith Roberts, 37
- second-degree bail jumping- possession of drug paraphernalia

Reeves, Brenna Hope, 29
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Smith, James Randall Jr., 30
- drug court sanction- unlawful distribution of a controlled substance

Spradlin, Larry Joe, 60
- probation violation- failure to register/establish-SORNA

Thomas, Stephen Robert, 69
- harassment

Vences, Raul Flores, 23
- drug court sanction- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Wood, Glenn Evanlee, 23
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Woodard, Jennifer Beth, 44
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

March 6
Bentley, Amanda Dawn, 41
- public intoxication

Black, Geneva Darline, 64
- FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Darnell, Sherri Lynn, 51
- third-degree domestic violence- menacing

Hallmark, Roger Matthew, 41
- GJ- second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument (3 counts)
- GJ- third-degree forgery (3 counts)
- GJ- obstruction- using false ID

Holcomb, Harley Shannon, 20
- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument (3 counts)

Naramore, Jeffrey Randall, 55
- attempting to elude
- FTA- driving while revoked
- giving false name to law enforcement

Ohls, Stephen Harvey, 63
- second-degree sexual abuse

Simmons, Joshua Byron, 42
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Swafford, Christopher James, 41
- FTA- third-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument
- FTA- third-degree forgery

Turner, Franklin Jason, 40
- judge's order- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENTS
March 6
- fourth-degree theft of property, third-degree criminal mischief; person; Laurel Lane SW; bicycles; $315

ARRESTS
March 6
Hopper, Christina M., 30
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Brown, Rebecca A., 28
- FTA- insurance violation

Hale, Timothy L., 23
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Stafford, Jeremy P., 38
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance

Johns, Taylor N., 21
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Reid, Jason M., 39
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Whitaker, Brian K., 37
- public intoxication

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No arrests or incidents reported.

REPORTED ON MARCH 8
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
No incidents or arrests reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENTS
March 6
- theft of lost property; person; Hwy. 157; bag and contents

March 7
- attempted burglary; North Alabama Dive Center; 2nd Ave SW; damaged door; $150
- fourth-degree theft of property, third-degree criminal mischief; Belk; Cullman Shopping Center; general merchandise; $395
- fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; general merchandise; $59
- fourth-degree theft of property; ABC Store; Cullman Shopping Center; alcohol; $139

ARRESTS
Cobb, Judy C., 65
- fourth-degree theft of property
- public intoxication
- resisting arrest

Wren, Daniel R., 23
- fourth-degree theft of property

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
ARRESTS
Feb. 9-15
Scarborough, Autumn R.
- obstructing governmental operations

Busbin, Kellis H.
- FTA- operating vehicle without insurance

Watford, Heather R.
- DUI

Wilson, William D.
- FTA- no proof of insurance

Raymond, Brandy Nicole
- harassment

Drummond, Tiffany A.
- FTA- unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia

Bentley, Danno
- FTA- expired tag
- FTA- no driver's license

Lanier, Mikeal
- FTA- driving while suspended

Hall, David R.
- public intoxication

Moore, Tammy R.
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Shelby, Christopher C.
- FTA- expired tag

Duke, William T.
- DUI

Whitehead, Anita F.
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Cofield, Caleb C.
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Smith, D. Roger
- reckless endangerment
- attempting to elude
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- DUI- controlled substance

Feb. 16-22
Lancaster, Jordan L.
- FTA- no tag registration

Hyde, James E.
- FTA- striking fixtures on highway

Hinman, Lauren P.
- public intoxication
- illegal possession of prescription drugs

Hill, Cade E.
- FTA- driving while suspended

Blevins, Dustin B.
- FTA- second-degree criminal mischief

Goodlett, Jennifer N.
- FTA- operating vehicle without insurance

Scott, Barry M.
- public intoxication

Quick, Terrie L.
- DUI

Keller, Shane R.
- public intoxication

Cole, Mark V.
- illegal possession of prescription drugs

Martinez, Ramon Santiago
- FTA- speeding

New, Billy J.
- FTA- switched tag

Danecker, Linda M.
- public intoxication

Feb. 22- March 1
Totman, Michael L.
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Cooper, Phillip
- first-degree criminal trespassing

Cook, Nathanael J.
- third-degree domestic violence

Paxton, Tony L.
- FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Millwood, Joshua E.
- disorderly conduct
- third-degree domestic violence

Wasp, Jacob M.
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Sears, Bridget N.
- FTA- expired tag

Ragelin, Ronald A.
- FTA- second-degree criminal mischief

Danecker, Linda M.
- public intoxication

Montgomery, Christopher E.
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Cook, Nathanael J.
- third-degree domestic violence

Paxton, Tony L.
- FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Millwood, Joshua E.
- disorderly conduct
- third-degree domestic violence

Wasp, Jacob M.
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Sears, Bridget N.
- FTA- expired tag

Ragelin, Ronald A.
- FTA- second-degree criminal mischief

Danecker, Linda M.
- public intoxication

Montgomery, Christopher E.
- possession of drug paraphernalia

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
March 9 - 11

Cullman Lions Club Fish and Ham Dinner- Saturday, March 9
March 9 is the day for the Cullman Lions Club annual Fish and Ham Dinner. Fish/ham with all the trimmings, including homemade desert and drink all for a donation of $10. Cullman Middle School cafeteria from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.. Dine in with your friends, carry out or drive through. The donations will be used for community and eyesight projects.

Senior Outreach Organization Dinner and Entertainment- Saturday, March 9
The Senior Outreach Organization meets on the first, second and third Saturday of each month at The Link of Cullman County. (It is not affiliated with The Link of Cullman County, it is only renting the building.) The meal begins at 5 p.m. and the entertainment starts at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 8:30 p.m. 708 9th St SE, Cullman

Gospel Singing- Saturday, March 9
A gospel singing will be held on Saturday night, March 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the Commission on Aging building, at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road in Cullman. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 256-796-6072.

St. Bernard Open House- Sunday, March 10
St. Bernard Preparatory School in Cullman is hosting Spring Open House - Sunday afternoon, March 10, 2019 from 1-4 p.m. Families are invited to tour the school and find out more information about St. Bernard Prep. St. Bernard Prep is operated by the monks of St. Bernard Abbey. Alabama's only Catholic boarding school, St. Bernard offers a quality education to students in grades 7-12. For more information visit www.stbernardprep.com or call the admissions office to schedule an appointment at 256-739-6682.

Good Hope City Council Meeting- Monday, March 11
The Good Hope City Council meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Good Hope City Hall.

UPCOMING....
Free Heart Disease Screenings- Thursday, March 14
Cullman Regional is offering free heart disease screenings on Thursday, March 14. to the community on Thursday, March 14. Screenings include the following: lipid panel, body mass index, EKG, blood pressure, ABI, bone density Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. To schedule an appointment, call 256-735-5600. The Heart Screening Clinic will be open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Cullman Regional's Colonel Cullmann Room, located in Professional Office Building 2 (1912 Alabama Hwy 157, Cullman, AL 35058).

2020 Distinguished Young Woman Informational Meeting- Sunday, March 24
An informational meeting for the 2020 Distinguished Young Woman of Cullman County Scholarship Program (formerly Cullman County Junior Miss) will be held on Sunday, March 24 at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Cullman. High school girls in their junior year who are residents of Cullman County are invited to attend this meeting with a parent. We will go over the program details and give out applications for the June 29, 2019 program. If you have any questions or if you are interested but unable to attend the March 24 meeting, please contact Felicia Carden at 256-385-5287 or at cullman@distunguishedyw.org.

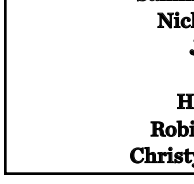
Smith Lake Park Spring Yard Sale- Saturday, March 30
Join us on Saturday, March 30 for our Smith Lake Park Spring Yard Sale! It's free to the public! Set up begins at 6 a.m. and sale begins at 7 a.m. Vendor grass spots are $10 and pavilions are $35 and $55. Vendors will pay at the gate on the day of the sale. Reservations only needed for pavilions. For more info, call 256-739-2916.

Relay For Life March Madness Golf Tournament- Saturday, March 30
The Wallace State Relay For Life team will hold a March Madness Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 30, at Cross Creek Golf Course. Check in will begin at 11 a.m., with a 12 p.m. shotgun start. The two-player scramble is flighted and includes a couple's division. Entry is $120 per team, and includes green fees and cart with GPS and club cover, team range balls, tournament gift, one attempt for longest drive, one attempt for closest pin, one attempt for closest second shot, dinner, prizes/photo. Team options include skins game, chipping and putting contest and mulligans. Cash prizes will be awarded. Register by March 23 at www.wsccalumni.org/marchmadness19 or contact Debra Young at 256-352-8334 or debra.young@wallacestate.edu. Facebook event: www.facebook.com/events/473493976509964/

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Obituary Announcements: March 2 - 8

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Hilda Marie Paden, 97, of Cullman passed away Saturday, March 2, 2019. She was born May 2, 1921, in Ohio to Samuel and Gladys Hughes. She was preceded in death by her parents; son John Edward Paden; brother, John Hughes; and sister, Marjorie Pike. Survivors include her loving husband of 78 years, Lew Paden; daughter-in-law, Eileen Paden; granddaughter, Karen (Don) Farley; great-grandsons, Bryant (Lexi) Farley, Brandon Farley, and Maddox Farley; and great-great-grandson Brycen Farley.

Robert David Mayhall, 61, passed away March 4, 2019, Alamogordo, New Mexico. Born Oct. 8, 1957 in Cullman, Alabama to George E. and Patricia (Grace Heinl) Mayhall. Robert is survived by one brother, August (his wife Virginia) Mayhall of Alamogordo, one sister, Rachel Marie Mayhall, of Alamogordo. Three Nephews: Jonathon Basinger and family of Cullman, George Griffin of Cullman and Adam Mayhall of Alamogordo. Two nieces: Beth Chamblee of Cullman, and Amber Mayhall of Alamogordo. Robert was preceded in death by his father and mother, one brother; George (Sonny) Mayhall and one sister; Gracie (Lisa) Griffin. Funeral service is at 2 p.m., 9 March 2019 at Moss Service Chapel. Interment will be afterwards at Cullman City Cemetery. Please visit mossservicefh.com to leave condolences for the family. Moss Service Funeral Home Directing.

Jose Luis Hernandez, III, 48 of Hodges, Alabama, passed away on Monday, March 4, 2019. He is survived by his parents: Jose Luis Hernandez, Jr. and Grace Morales Hernandez; sister, Grace (Jaime) Hasting; niece, Sophia Corliss and nephews: Cody Hasting and Conner Hasting. His family will receive friends at Moss Service Funeral Home on Monday, March 11, 2019 from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The Rosary service will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel of the funeral home. His Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Ms. Shelley Jo Auletti passed away March 5, 2019 at Cullman Regional Medical Center, after a very long battle with Crohn's disease. She was born April 16, 1966 to Jack Huffman and Donna Davenport Huffman in Good Hope, Alabama. Shelley spent most of her life in the Ft. Lauderdale, Florida area before deciding to return to Cullman to raise her two children. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Barry Huffman. She is survived by her daughter, Shianne (Donald) Marlar; son, Dustyn (Tamela) Auletti; four sisters, Shirley (Bobby) Looney, Shawn McGraw, Ann (James) Wilbranks and Faye (John) Edgemon; five brothers, James (Barbara) McGraw, Allan (Peggy) McGraw, Bruce (Jo) McGraw, Randy (Jeanette) McGraw, and Ronnie Huffman. Countless nieces and nephews and great nieces and great nephews. The family will be holding a celebration of life/memorial ceremony for Shelley to be announced at a later date.

Edward R. Ward, Jr., 81, of Huntsville, Alabama passed away on March 6, 2019. The Funeral Service with Military Honors will be held at 1:00pm on Sunday, March 10, 2019 at Valhalla Funeral Home, 698 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, AL 35811 with First Baptist Church of Huntsville officiating. Visitation will be held from 12:00 - 1:00pm Sunday, March 10, 2019 at Valhalla Funeral Home. Ed was born in Baileyton, Alabama on August 29, 1937. He graduated from St. Bernard College and continued on to receive a Master's degree and a PhD from Ohio State University. Ed was married to Mary Norwood on November 27, 1958; they were married for 60 years. Ed retired from the United States Air Force as a Lt Col. after serving his country for 20 years. He later became a Professor at Alabama A&M University in the Biology Department where or taught for 23 years. He was an avid lifelong Alabama football fan, Roll Tide! Ed is survived by his wife, Mary; sons, Mark (Rhonda) and Mitch (Karen); grandchildren, Gary (Sara), Matt (Ashley), Josh, and Savannah; six great grandchildren, along with nieces and nephews and other family and friends. Ed is preceded in death by his parents and his four siblings. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to Alzheimer's Association, St. Jude's or your favorite charity. Roll Tide!

Funeral services for Mamie Jukes, 91, of Colony, will be Saturday March 9 at 1 p.m. at the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. Visitation is on Friday March 8, 2019, 5:30 p.m. at the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church with Reverend James Twilly officiating. Burial will follow in the Colony Cemetery. Born on March 4, 1928 in Hatchechubbee, Alabama and passed away on March 6, 2019 in Cullman, Alabama. Mamie is survived by a daughter Flora (Henry) Aplin of Columbus, Georgia. Grandchildren include Jackie Kindrex, Greta Kindrex, Vera Sherman, Tameka James. There are twelve great grandchildren and eighteen great-great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her daughter Annie Kindrex.

Funeral services for Mr. Shannon Johnathon Corley, 44, of Cullman are noon Saturday, March 9, 2019 at Cullman Funeral Home, Rev. Tim Holder officiating, with interment in Blair Methodist Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Saturday from 10 a.m. until noon. Cullman Funeral Home directing. Mr. Corley passed away on Wednesday, March 6, 2019. He was born on Nov. 20, 1974. He is survived by his father, Windol Corley; mother, Earline Posey Corley; aunts, Milda Laney and Glenda Dunlap and a host of cousins, other family and friends.

Carol Ann Taylor, 76, of Baileyton, passed away on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at Cullman Regional. She was born July 28, 1942, to Chauncey and Geraldine Shaffer. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Junior Leroy Taylor; and daughter Linda Sue Neice. Survivors include her daughters, Tammy Jean Johnson, Roxanne Elaine Raymond, Emma Ann Morris, Lisa Kay Ula Taylor, and Theresa Lynne Taylor; sons, James Wilbert Leroy Taylor and Jerry Allen Taylor; 25 grandchildren; 67 great-grandchildren; brothers, Jerry Shaffer, Johnny Shaffer, and Terry Shaffer; sisters, Lynda Stafford and Margie Funk; special companion, Taz; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Funeral Service for Shirley Jane Veigl, age 80, of Vinemont, will be at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 10, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Don Froelich officiating; burial at Cullman Heritage Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Veigl passed away on Wednesday, March 6, 2019, at her residence. She was born Monday, July 4, 1938, to Elza and Mary Kitchel. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Veigl, Sr.; son, Kevin Veigl; and parents. Survivors include her sons, Robert (Renae) Veigl, Jr., and Joe (Julie) Veigl; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; brothers, J.C. (Dorothy) Kitchel and Herman Kitchel; and numerous nieces and nephews. Visitation will be from noon until 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 10, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Funeral services for Estelle Moore Leonard of Hanceville are Monday, March 11, 2019 at 11 AM at Valley View Baptist Church. Interment will be in the adjoining cemetery. She passed away March 7, 2019 at the age of 82. She was born in Cullman April 30, 1936 to Robert and Tressie Cauldwell Moore. She is preceded in death by her parents, son Perry Culver, sister Christine Ballard. She is survived by her husband John L. Leonard, daughter Shelia C. Crane, son Tim Culver, sister Catherine Garmon, 14 grandchildren and a host of great grandchildren and other family. Visitation is Sunday beginning at 5:30 PM at Valley View Church.

Free Obituary Listings

HAVE YOUR FUNERAL HOME CONTACT US

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LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
SHIRELL CLYDE HYATT * CASE NO PC 2018-340
Deceased *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to **SHIRLEY JEAN ROBERTS,** as Executrix of the Estate of SHIRELL CLYDE HYATT, deceased, on the 22nd day of February 2019, 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.

Shirley Jean Roberts
Executrix

Nickolas R. Heatherly
Attorney for Estate
223 East Side Square
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
(256) 534-5049

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 *
ALMA JEAN HYATT * CASE NO PC 2018-339
Deceased *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to **SHIRLEY JEAN ROBERTS,** as Executrix of the Estate of ALMA JEAN HYATT, deceased, on the 22nd day of February 2019, 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.

Shirley Jean Roberts
Executrix

Nickolas R. Heatherly
Attorney for Estate
223 East Side Square
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
(256) 534-5049

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

Legal Ad

The Alcohol Review Committee of the City of Cullman will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 14th, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the administrative conference room at City Hall located at 204 Second Avenue NE. The Committee will receive public comments for and against the alcohol license applicant listed below:

Shrimp Basket Intermediate Holdings LLC – 1716 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055 – Restaurant Alcohol License
B & B Bartending LLC (Rock the South Event) – 1872 County Road 469, Cullman, AL 35057 – Special Event Alcohol License

Logan Volunteer Fire Department

4225 County Road 818
Logan, Alabama 35098

Date: February 19,2019

INVITATION TO BID
COMMUNITY SAFE ROOM

Sealed Bids shall be received for one (1) Community Safe Room by the Logan Volunteer Fire Department, until noon on local time by March 22, 2019 at 325 2nd Street SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. The bids will be opened on March 25, 2019 at 10 a.m. at the Cullman County Economic Development office, located at 325 2nd Street SE, Cullman, AL 35055. At this time bids .will be opened and publicly read for an above-ground, pre-engineered, pre-manufactured, 1/4" steel plate safe room, with two (2) standard bathrooms, and an 8 KW generator and generator cover that complies with FEMA 361 (2015) and ICC 500 Community Shelter Design Criteria. The contract, if a bid is chosen, will be awarded at the regular Logan Volunteer Fire Department meeting after the March 25, 2019 opening.

The Community Safe Room shall meet the specifications in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Publication 361 and be able to house 86 people during inclement weather. Each bid must certify that the bid meets or exceeds FEMA 361 specifications. The successful bidder will also be required to provide a notarized Contractor/Installer form certifying this upon completion of the job, as well as an engineering peer review.

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

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

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

All bidders **must** use the attached form for submitting their bid. All bids must be sealed and marked - in the lower left-hand envelope **"BID #0319- Community Safe Room", with opening date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. All Bids must be submitted to Logan Volunteer Fire Department at 325 2nd Street SE, Cullman, AL 35055. The proposal package includes specifications, a copy which is available for examination from, Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:30pm at the Cullman County Economic Development Office, 325 Second Street SE, Cullman, AL 35055. For questions regarding this invitation to bid, please email, Ashley Graves, Project Coordinator at ashley@cullmanecondev.org or call at 256-775-6258 or contact Chief Toby Bates at logan01toby@gmail.com**

CRIME

Garden City fire chief charged with sexual abuse

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

GARDEN CITY, Ala. – The chief of the Garden City Volunteer Fire Department has been charged with second-degree sexual abuse. Stephen Harvey Ohls, 63, was arrested on Wednesday, March 6.

According to the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), investigators obtained a warrant for Ohls' arrest "due to the belief there was sexual contact between the suspect and a juvenile.

"Ohls had an association with the victim before the crime occurred."

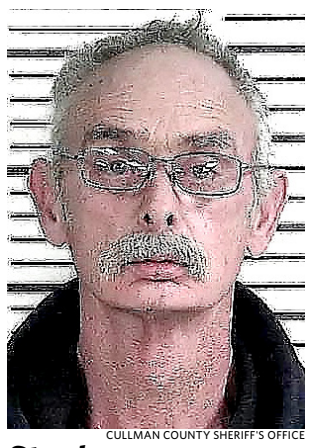
Ohls was arrested for second-degree sexual abuse, which is a Class A misdemeanor.

Garden City Mayor Tim Eskew said Ohls has been placed on administrative leave and that assistant chief James Johnson has been named acting fire chief in Ohls' absence.

He said Johnson planned to meet with the rest of the fire department Thursday night.

"The CCSO would like to thank DHR and Brooks' Place for their assistance in this case," said a statement from the sheriff's office.

Ohls has made bond.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Stephen Harvey Ohls

ALABAMA CODE TITLE 13A. CRIMINAL CODE § 13A-6-67

(a) A person commits the crime of sexual abuse in the second degree if:

(1) He subjects another person to sexual contact who is incapable of consent by reason of some factor other than being less than 16 years old; or

(2) He, being 19 years old or older, subjects another person to sexual contact who is less than 16 years old, but more than 12 years old.

(b) Sexual abuse in second degree is a Class A misdemeanor, except that if a person commits a second or subsequent offense of sexual abuse in the second degree within one year of another sexual offense, the offense is a Class C felony.







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Good Hope pageants set for March 22

GOOD HOPE, Ala. – Good Hope High School will hold its Fair Queen Representative and Miss Heritage Pageants on Friday, March 22 in the school gymnasium. The Fair Queen Pageant will be at 4 p.m. and the Miss Heritage Pageants will start at 7 p.m. Admission is $10.



GOOD HOPE HIGH SCHOOL

Miss Heritage Princess contestants are, (left to right): Cassie Overton, Lona Shelby, Victoria Hassler and (not pictured) Zoe Vincent.



GOOD HOPE HIGH SCHOOL

Miss Heritage contestants are, back row (left to right): Sidnie English, Violet Owens, Bethany Bynum, Jesse Kent, Haillie Hand, Emma Brock; front row (left to right): Julee Turner, Riley Smith, Alexis Perry, Bella Davis.



GOOD HOPE HIGH SCHOOL

Good Hope High School Fair Queen Representative contestants are, back row (left to right): Sidnie English, Jesse Kent, Hanna Hancock, Bethany Bynum; front row (left to right): Julee Turner, Alexis Perry, Brooklyn Ward.



GOOD HOPE HIGH SCHOOL

Ushers will be, back row (left to right): Zayne Welborn, Andres Aguilar, Lucas Hill, John King, Caleb Williams; front row (left to right): Dawson Turner, Justin Crumpton, Tripp Taylor, Billy Halbrook.

Hanceville pageants set for March 16

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – Hanceville High School's Enhancer Pageants will be Saturday, March 16 at 1 p.m. at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theater at Wallace State Community College. Admission is $6.



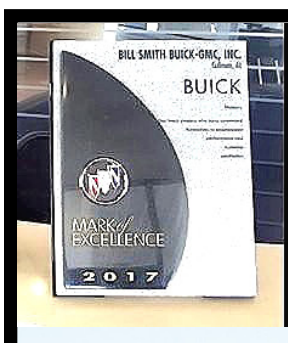
HANCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Junior Miss Enhancer are, front (left to right): Rachel Sweeney, Hannah Teeter, Haliey Farley, Jasmine McDonald and Kyra Bales; back (left to right): Zoe Pitts, Haley Guthery, Haylee Nethery, Josie Radcliff, Makenzie Fowler and Koley Grace Patty.



HANCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Miss Enhancer contestants are, front (left to right): Anna Tidwell, Savannah Wimberly and Ella Absher; back (left to right): Josey Brown, Chandlar Brown and Katie Lee.



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Bill Smith

BUICK GMC



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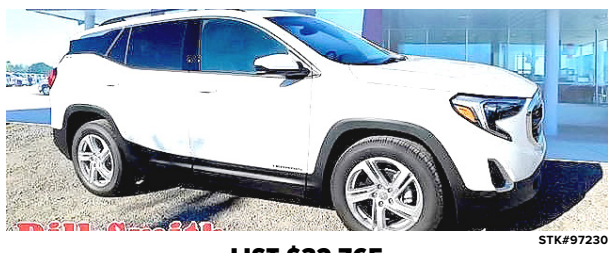
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Preferred AWD



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LIST ~~$37,100~~
SALE $24,995

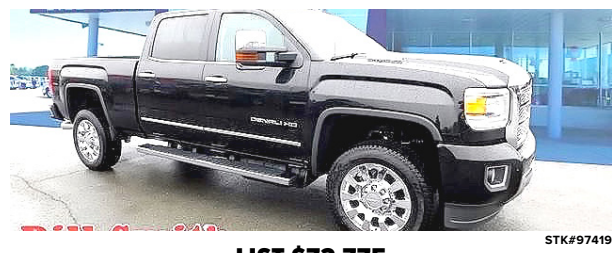
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FWD SLE



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2019 GMC SIERRA 2500HD
Crew Cab Standard Box 4-Wheel Drive Denali



STK#97419

LIST ~~$72,775~~
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FWD SLE-1



STK#97017

LIST ~~$33,795~~
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2019 BUICK ENCORE
Preferred FWD



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Crew Cab Short Box 4-Wheel Drive SLT Premium Plus Package



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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE • ALABAMA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

"THE 67-COUNTY, ALABAMA GARDEN PARTY"

BIBB COUNTY

Plant explorers, the Indiana Joneses of the botanical world, travel from all over the globe to Bibb County, Alabama. This is a place of tremendous plant diversity and exquisite beauty that a plantsman's diary recorded as a "lost world of botanick species."

The Cahaba River, Alabama's longest stretch of free-flowing water, is almost 200 miles long. It reaches from above Birmingham and lazily meanders through ancient and mysterious land of great beauty all the way to Selma. The uplands surrounding the river are forested with mountain longleaf and loblolly pine. The most treasured part of this natural wonder is in Bibb County, and the most treasured plant for many to discover is the ethereal wildflower, "Hymenocallis coronaria," the Cahaba Lily.

The Cahaba Lily, also called the shoal lily, or Cahaba Shoal Lily, is like the Hope Diamond or a Michelangelo drawing, valued for its gorgeousness and rarity.

This plant is celebrated on Alabama vehicle license plates and has its own popular celebration, The Cahaba Lily Festival, the third Saturday in May in West Blocton. This big, annual Alabama garden party in Bibb County is about both the thoughtful stewardship of natural gifts and about our state's appreciation for beauty.

PLANTING AN IDEA

The Bibb County native Cahaba Lily is an aquatic perennial and could point the way for a thriving future of hydroponically-grown plants in the area.

Imagine how popular, nutritiously superior, yummier tasting Bibb County Bibb Lettuce could be in America's grocery stores.

I'm already imagining the story with the photograph of a Bibb County lettuce farmer in Whole Foods, Publix and Wal-Mart.

What Vidalia, Georgia is to onions, Bibb County, Alabama can be for lettuces.

Some plants thrive more with hydroponics than others. Lettuces love to be grown in water so let's not just limit our vision to iceberg but to better-grown romaine and arugula.

For the best, think of any plant that squooshes when you squeeze it, bruises when you muddle it: tomatoes, cucumbers, spinach, mint, basil, berries.

Someone get Gwyneth Paltrow and GOOP on the line, Bibb County needs a "green food" sponsor to get Alabama's hydroponics industry thriving.

Here are more pleasurable and positive ways that PLANTS + PEOPLE come together in Bibb County, Alabama:

• **BIBB COUNTY FARM PRODUCE**—Several local farmers sell their fresh vegetables and fruits; if you have a special hankering for some Bibb County-grown offering, call Rita Dunn (205-926-4310) at the Extension Office.

• **BIBB COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE**—Every county in the state is part of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, which supports farmers, growers, arborists and gardeners with training and advice; Bibb County has a future-thinking agent, Matt Hartzell, who values plants and progress and understands agribusiness and plant tourism and what they can mean to the people he serves in his part of Alabama; He is a great resource; all ideas are welcome and Matt is happy to explore them with you.

• **BIBB COUNTY 4-H CLUBS**—These groups of students have fun learning about everything from chickpeas to chess; you'll find future farmers and plants people at these 4-H Clubs: Brent Elementary, West Blocton Elementary, Woodstock Elementary, Centreville Middle School, West Blocton Middle School, Bibb County High School (Centreville) and West Blocton High School.

• **CAHABA RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**—It's 3,689 protected and managed acres and one of the newest designated plant and animal sanctuaries in the U.S.; hunters are required to obtain a William R. Ireland/Cahaba River Wildlife Management Area permit and license. Alabama is grateful for future-thinking philanthropists like Bill Ireland and groups like The Nature Conservancy for helping save our natural resources for the next 200 years.

• **KATHY STILES FREELAND BIBB COUNTY GLADES PRESERVE**—It's home to 61 rare plant species, a botanical wonder that is currently "THE MOST BIOLOGICALLY DIVERSE SITE" in Alabama.

• **BIBB COUNTY NATIVE PLANTS AND PEOPLE**—The original name for Bibb County was Cahawba County when it was established in the Alabama Territory on Feb. 7, 1818. "Cahawba" means "above water" in the native Choctaw language; the name was changed to honor William W. Bibb, governor of the Alabama Territory and the first governor after statehood.

• **BIBB COUNTY LAUNCHED ALABAMA'S BIGGEST NEWSPAPER**—The Woodstock community was an early settlement on the old Huntsville to Tuscaloosa stagecoach line; what would become Alabama's biggest newspaper, "The Birmingham News," (part of AL.com) began here in the early 1800s; the most-read newspaper in the county today is The Centreville Press.

• **BRIERFIELD IRONWORKS STATE PARK**—The Brierfield Furnace originally produced decorative wrought iron popular in Antebellum architecture, but during the American Civil War the furnaces were converted for naval armaments. Now a 486-acre state park, its visitors are welcomed to hiking and nature trails, swimming and a West Alabama Birding Trail. Of special interest are the Mulberry Church built in Bibb County near Centreville in 1897 and relocated to the Brierfield Park, as was the Historic Ashby Post Office now available as a conference center and meeting space. Historic cabins and farmhouses are also available for overnight rental.



The Alabama honeysuckle border was inspired by an 18th century, Southern applique quilt.

• **PLANTING AN IDEA:** Bibb County farmers produce a variety of superb vegetables, fruits and flowers, but there is currently no central spot where sellers and customers congregate. Using the 67 unique-per-county "quilt block" designs like the one on this page of the Bibb County Cahaba Lily, we are exploring an "Alabama Garden Party Quilt Trail" as a visual icon in each county for plant tourism. Local 4-H Clubs throughout the state will be creating and painting their "quilt blocks." One idea would be to agree on a central location for a multi-grower farm stand and mark the spot with the Bibb County Cahaba Lily quilt block sign.

Y'ALL COME to Bibb County on your 67-COUNTY, ALABAMA GARDEN PARTY tour!

Many thanks to Matt Hartzell and Rita Dunn of the Bibb County office of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, and to Rick Edmunds for the Twix-And-Tween Barbecue Sauce recipe.

The Cullman Tribune is celebrating the Alabama Bicentennial (1819-2019) with statewide field reporting by Alabama Master Gardener/Botanical Artist Ben Johnson South. This year-long feature, "The 67-County Alabama Garden Party," will spotlight different counties each week. Each county will get its own "quilt block," along with a historical profile, and we'll share a recipe specific to the area. At the end of the year, all 67 counties will be put in a book to commemorate the Bicentennial.

BIBB COUNTY LETTUCE WRAPS WITH TWIX-N-TWEEN BARBECUE SAUCE

This delicious garden party entrée salutes Bibb County, Alabama. The classic, Alabama-concocted barbecue sauce was created by the famous Twix-N-Tween Restaurant which was a "must eat" friendly place on the Bibb County stretch of highway between Montgomery and Tuscaloosa. For more than 50 years, the Twix-N-Tween only closed on Christmas Days. The Twix-N-Tween (now CLOSED) was owned by Hugh and Margaret Ann Edmunds and started in Centreville in 1952. Their fun-loving son, Rick, who shared this recipe, claims to have "the best taste buds" in the family. The Edmunds closed the business just a few years ago, but the sign is there and is a great, VERY ALABAMA place for a cellphone selfie or an Instagram photo.



TWIX-N-TWEEN BARBECUE SAUCE

Ingredients

- 2 cups ketchup
- 1 cup dill pickle juice
- ¾ cup yellow mustard
- 3 tbsp. hot sauce
- 3 tbsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire Sauce
- Pinch of garlic salt

Instructions

1. Combine all ingredients in a pot on medium heat.
2. Bring to a boil, stirring occasionally.
3. Remove from heat and let cool.
4. Pour into jars and refrigerate. Will last for several months.

BIBB COUNTY LETTUCE WRAPS

Ingredients

- 6 leaves of Bibb County lettuce
- 4 oz. grilled chicken, chopped
- 1 stalk of celery, chopped
- 2 tbsp. Bibb County pecans, chopped

Instructions

1. Stir the chopped chicken, celery and pecans in a bowl.
2. Drizzle those ingredients with Twix-N-Tween Barbecue Sauce and stir.
3. Divide the mixture among the lettuce leaves.
4. To eat, wrap the lettuce leaves around the mixture.

Enjoy with lots of stories about Bibb County and stops at the Twix-N-Tween to and from the ball games in Tuscaloosa. **Serves 6.**

FUNNY THINGS FROM YESTERDAY

A none-shopping trip

Robert N. Tidwell, Sr.
Tribune Contributor



I wrote before about a shopping trip. This story is about a none-shopping trip.

This is another true incident of the age-old conflict of wives and husbands and shopping.

A few months ago, Rudene brought some clothing items home.

They either did not fit or did not match or something, so she wanted to carry them back to the store one Friday night.

She told me that we would definitely not do any shopping, only take the clothes back and eat out.

I reluctantly agreed to go, only because I did not want to miss having an evening meal.

We ate our meal first - before we went to the clothing store.

Now this should have told me something was wrong, because it should only take about five minutes to return a few Items to a clothing store.

I have mentioned before how scheming women are to get their husband to go shopping, and wouldn't you know it - the wool was pulled over my eyes once again.

Four hours later, dog tired, with my feet hurting, my eyes tired from having looked at a million things and $ 150 in debt, we arrived back home.

I have decided that Rudene has a problem - she does not know the difference between shopping and none-shopping.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

We never know what each new day may bring

Bill King
Tribune Contributor



Last Saturday evening, a large group of us gathered together for an enjoyable evening at Providence Baptist Church, in Beauregard. Beauregard is a bedroom community of Opelika/Auburn. The occasion was an annual fellowship of Alabama Baptist District-Four Disaster Relief teams. Some call us "The Yellow Shirt People." The only time we wear those yellow shirts, and matching caps, is when we have a meeting, when we are in route to a disaster area, or when working after a disaster had struck somewhere. We had no idea we would need to wear those shirts again the next day.

Our district is comprised of five Baptist associations in eastern Alabama, including the one I am privileged to lead. We had enough bowls of chili Saturday night to give me heartburn for at least two weeks.

Since I have sworn off sugar, I didn't even tempt myself by looking at the long table filled with desserts.

During the evening, pictures from the places our team has ministered this year showed on the screen. Over the past several years, our teams have ministered across much of the nation.

Our teams have been to numerous places this past year, including North Carolina, after Hurricane Florence blew in, dumping over thirty-five inches of rain. We made multiple trips to Dothan and the Florida panhandle after Hurricane Michael. Michael was the third worst hurricane to land in the Florida panhandle.

The people there are still greatly in need of our prayers as they try to rebuild and put their lives back together. We had no idea Saturday evening that our next place of ministry would be in our own back yard, in less than twenty-four hours, and only a couple of miles down the road from where we fellowshipped that evening.

Sunday morning started like most Sunday mornings for us, but by time I left after church it had begun to rain.

The weather-men had forecasted the strong possibility of severe weather in our area for the afternoon. We feared that thunderstorms, hail and tornadoes might be in store for us, so Jean and I headed home immediately after church, just in case. Not for my family, but for many in Lee County, it turned out to be worse than anyone could have imagined. Two of the worst tornadoes in our county in the last fifty-years touched down that afternoon, leaving a path of death and destruction a half-mile wide.

By the time you read my column, I'm afraid the numbers will be worse than at the time of my writing on Monday. At this point, there have been twenty-three confirmed deaths there. Numerous other

victims remain in the hospital. Search and recovery teams are still working at the time of my writing. Other parts near us were hit too, but with no reported fatalities. One tornado touched down on the East side of our county, in Smith Station and another one in Eufaula, in Barbour County.

On Monday morning we set up our Disaster Relief Command Center, in that same room at Providence Baptist Church we had fellowshipped in on Saturday. The church is also serving as a clearing house for donations, and a shelter for displaced families. Our Southern Baptist Disaster Relief chainsaw teams from our association and others too, are on the ground at this point. The amount of clothing, water, and other material donations has been almost overwhelming at this point, but we are most grateful for the generosity and concern. Thank you for your concerns, donations, and most of all prayers, especially for those families who have lost loved ones and homes.

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

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1950

Fairview West News

Mrs. G.M. Purdy, who has had double pneumonia, is slowly improving. Mr. and Mrs. R.V. Baldwin and children, of Birmingham, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Ballard and her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson Quick and family, of Center Hill, recently.

Mrs. A.W. Dowdy and daughter, Maxa Jean, of Birmingham, visited the W.W. Dowdas, recently.

Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Quick and sons, of Hanceville and Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Quick and children, Patsy and Donald Richard visited Mr. and Mrs. John Quick last Sunday afternoon.

Reverend and Mrs. Roscoe Wilhite attended the singing at the courthouse, in Jasper, on Sunday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Z.B. Harris spent the weekend in Gardendale visiting Mr. and Mrs. J.M. West, Junior and children. Mrs. Velma Moore, of Birmingham, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Ballard and her son, Edward Moore, Junior, last Saturday.

Mrs. Cornelius Quick is home from the Cullman Hospital, doing nicely. Mr. and Mrs. Charley Gamble and son, Mickey David, of Keytona, visited relatives here, recently. Mrs. Roy Self spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A.V. Holt, in Vinemont. Joyce Moore spent last week in Birmingham visiting her grandmother Moore. Mr. and Mrs. E.H. Quick and sons, of Keytona, were here last weekend visiting relatives. Mrs. A.N. Bradford visited Mrs. Floye Norris, on Wednesday afternoon.

Faye Phillips Elected President West Point Troop

The Senior Girl Scout Troop of West Point recently elected their officers for the coming year, including: Faye Phillips, president; Jackie Hicks, vice-president; Lyla Aris, secretary; Jo Tankersley, treasurer and Iola Graham, reporter. Leader for this year is Miss Thelma Long.

Piney Grove News

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas (Dod) Bonds and girls, Jane and Myra, of Eva, visited relatives here on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. R.E. Bryant and Sonja visited the A.W. Kelleys on Sunday afternoon. Penn York, who has been ill, is improved. Howell Pope, who is in military service, has been visiting home folks at Upshaw.

A.W. Kelley has been ill, but is better.

Pentecost News

Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Dennie were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Mullins.

Mr. and Mrs. Harve Maze and children called on Mr. and Mrs. Murel Hall, on Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. James Bryant and children were Saturday night guests of Mr. and Mrs. Garlin Benefield and children. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Hall and Mrs. Dan Collier and children were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hall. Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Waldrop, of Cullman, visited Mr. and Mrs. Perrie Waldrop, on Sunday.

Poet's Corner

Love's Philosophy

By: Percy Bysshe Shelly

1792 - 1822

The fountains mingle with the river
And the rivers with the ocean,
The winds of heaven mix for
ever With a sweet emotion;
Nothing in the world is single; All things by
a law divine In one spirit meet and mingle.
Why not I with thine?—

See the mountains kiss high heaven
And the waves clasp one another;
No sister-flower would be forgiven
If it disdained its brother;
And the sunlight clasps the earth
And the moonbeams kiss the sea:
What is all this sweet work worth
If thou kiss not me?

The value of 'third places' to a thriving Cullman

Ron Pate, PhD
Guest Editorial

While it sounds simple, creating places where neighbors get to know neighbors is the key to growing a thriving place to live.

That's what Dr. Ray Oldenburg, an urban sociologist, describes in his book, "The Great Good Places."

If first places are our homes, and workplaces are second places, then "third places" are where we gather together to get to know, enjoy and learn from each other.

I like to call this kind of informal gathering a stories telling place - absent of a pressing agenda, and open enough to become mutually meaningful.

There are several "third places" in Cullman, including coffee houses such as Karma's, Berkeley Bobs and Starbucks as well as Mae's Food Hall and potentially the Cullman Farmer's Market.

There are four important features of a third place: 1) An establishment is intentional at organizing and designing itself to be a welcoming hang out space for everyone. 2) All who patronize the establishment feel welcome to be there. 3) Everyone who shows up to mingle with friends is also open to meeting strangers. 4) There are multiple conversations and lots of laughing.

This kind of informal social connectivity is a rich soil where relationships are formed and deepened, ideas are created, solutions are discovered and visions are seeded.

It's when we gather together in the spirit of camaraderie that we discover indirect ways of solving problems.

And, while this kind of social connectivity is itself one of the biggest solutions to the kinds of problems that many suffer with today, including depression and substance abuse, it is also a critical factor in the economic development of any city.

If all of this sounds too easy - it's not. While critically important to the life of a city, many establishments with third place potential are populated by people captured by their electronic devices.

Other places are not designed well enough to be the third place they could be. But, with the above benefits in mind, maybe we can be better at establishing, designing and attending third places- for the greater good of Cullman.

Ron Pate, PhD (Portland State University), lives in Vinemont, AL & Roswell, GA. Ron consults with various organizations on processes for Getting to Good. Projects he has led in Alabama include, West Homewood Farmer's Market and Woodlawn Stories. (ronalddavidpate@gmail.com)

Vote (from Front)

W.C. Mann
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CULLMAN, Ala. – On March 19, voters across Cullman County will head to the polls to vote on the continuation and renewal of an existing property tax allocation for schools. The tax is not new or an increase. State law requires the allocation be renewed through a referendum every 30 years.

The current school tax portion of property taxes in Cullman County is confusing because it's not one tax. There are six different taxes that support one or more public school systems in the county. Additionally, due to several parcels of land along the Cullman/Marshall County line having been annexed into the city of Arab, and up to two percent of that system's student population coming from Cullman County, even that school system gets money from two Cullman County taxes and a separate one of its own which will be on the ballot in the upcoming election.

You'll need to know before proceeding: What's a "mill" in tax terms?

A property tax "mill" equals one tenth of one percent of the value of a piece of property. For property valued at $1,000.00, for instance, one mill equals one dollar.

Taxes on this referendum's ballot include:

- 3 mill county-wide tax to be divided among all city and county schools, plus the Arab city system
- 1 mill county-wide tax to be divided among all city and county schools, plus the Arab city system
- 3 mill district tax specifically for the county system, school district 1, to be voted on by county residents not within Cullman or Arab city limits
- 3 mill district tax specifically for the Cullman city system, school district 2, to be voted on by residents within Cullman's city limits
- 3 mill district tax specifically for Cullman County students attending Arab city schools, school district 8, to be voted on by residents in the portion of northeast Cullman County that lies within Arab's city limits

The city of Cullman has an additional and separate 10.5 mill school tax that is not up for a vote in this referendum. Because the state of Alabama requires a minimum tax millage that is above the current total of county-levied taxes, residents pay an additional 3 mill tax that is not currently subject to a vote.

Voters will vote on three of the taxes: the two county-wide and the tax for their specific district.

State law requires 10 mill school tax, regardless of local vote

The State of Alabama requires each county to give a minimum of 10 mills of its property taxes to education. Counties and municipalities can exceed that amount, but if their local taxes fell below the minimum when Alabama constitutional amendment 778 passed in 2006, a special tax had to be enacted in order to bring the local amount up to the 10-mill minimum. Cullman County Revenue Commissioner Barry Willingham explained:

"There's a law that says we have to have a minimum of 10 mills of tax locally to go to education. Back in '04, we only had seven mills, so when the statewide referendum passed, it kicked in an automatic three additional mills. So we have 10 mills in the county that goes straight to education. Again, the three mill and the one mill, which we call the four mill county-wide, is distributed based on enrollment.

"So roughly 77 percent of that tax goes to the county board of education. The remaining portion goes to the City of Cullman, and then you've got just less than two percent, I believe, goes to Arab right now.

"You have then the three mill that goes straight to the city board of education. And since we have-there's a 10.5 mill tax that's a city tax that was passed by the City of Cullman, they don't get that additional three mills special tax because they've already reached their minimum of ten mills. So we collect, in the city of Cullman 17.5 mills. Now, all that 17.5 mills does not go to them, because the four mills is based on enrollment."

If all of the school tax renewals are voted down...

Because the state requires a 10 mill tax anyway, failure to renew the local tax will not affect the amount of tax paid by county residents outside the city of Cullman.

Said Willingham, "The tax that you pay in the county, or if you live in Hanceville or Vinemont, or any of those--because all of those are considered county school systems--you won't actually see a difference of taxes you pay, at all. If you vote against it, it won't be any difference."

While the amount of taxes paid will not decrease, according to Willingham, the amount of funding received by the school systems will drop.

Willingham shared, "The City of Cullman would lose about $1.3 million if it fails, because that's what they're getting on the 3 mill. But they'd actually lose more than that, because they're getting 20-something percent of the entire 4 mills . . . They'd lose (approximately) $700,000 on that, so they'd be losing about $2 million probably, if it fails."

The commissioner added that the amount may be a conservative estimate, and the final loss total could be even higher.

As to the county system, Willingham said, "I think the county board of education would lose close to $1.5 million if it doesn't pass. The City of Cullman would lose a lot more than that."

What does it all mean?

Due to the state minimum requirement, failure to renew the taxes would not lower the amount paid by residents in the county but, according to the commissioner, it would lower the amount of money reaching county schools.

In the city of Cullman, a no vote would actually lower property taxes.

Willingham said, "Right now they're at 38.5 (mills) total. So it would actually go down to 31.5 mills. So their property (tax) would go down $70 per hundred thousand dollars, or $140 on commercial property."

The lowering of the property tax in the city would, though, be accompanied by a reduction in the amount of money sent to the schools.

According to Willingham, "If you vote yes, everything stays the same. If you vote no, what you pay in the county-everything stays the same; what you pay in the city would be a loss, but everybody would lose money."

The vote will take place on March 19.

See a full sample ballot at www.cullmancourts.org/assets/probatecourt/PDFs/sampleBallot.pdf.

CASA (from Front)

for DHR (Cullman County Department of Human Resources); we don't work for the attorneys. We are there as volunteers to help that child to get into a safe, permanent home as soon as possible."

The new CASA volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds:

• Joyce Sedlmayr, who retired in 2011 after working for 24 years as a tax compliance auditor in Cullman County, said, "I want to know that I helped a child."

• Jan Peterson is a retired physical therapist from Florida. Jan's husband, Doug, is also a CASA volunteer. She said, "We want to help these children and their families to make a better life."

• Justin Lynch is a family man who is the founder of Preventive Action in Cullman and the pastor of Church 212. He said, "I want to volunteer with CASA because there are children in need of help and I want to do everything I can to make sure I am helping as many people as I can. As a Christian, I believe it is my responsibility to help those in need."

• Charlotte Libbee, a former paralegal from California, said, " I just want to know that children are safe and families are being helped."

For more information about CASA, visit www.cullmancaringforkids.com/casa.html or call 256-739-1111.



Tony Serra Nissan

MEET DANIEL COOMBS
USED CAR MANAGER



Daniel Coombs served as the New Car Manager at Tony Serra Nissan of Cullman before being named Used Car Manager of the Used Car Supercenter lot this past February. Daniel says this Used Car Supercenter is something that is new to Cullman and that he is glad that Tony Serra Nissan is able to help customers find the perfect car, whether new or used.

"In the past we have carried an inventory of 40 to 50 pre-owned cars on the lot. We have spent the past year moving earth and paving a new parking lot just south of our main store. The new lot is located at 301 Broadway Drive SW.

This lot will allow us to stock over 100 pre-owned vehicles in addition to the 300 new vehicles we keep in stock.

We will have a bigger selection of trucks, SUV's and cars."

Daniel said they do their research to ensure they are giving their customers the best deals possible

"We try to set a fair price and eliminate the need for customers to feel like they have to be a good negotiator to get a good deal."

Come meet Daniel Coombs at the Used Car Supercenter, located at 301 Broadway ST. SW, and see what he can do for you!



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