CULLMAN
Chrysler~Dodge~Jeep~Ram
WWW.CULLMANDODGECHRYSLERIN.COM

2019 RAM 1500
LARAMIE LONGHORN
CREW CAB 4X4 6'4 BOX

STK#K0101
$16,136 DISCOUNT | WAS $68,555
NOW $52,419

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 146 • 50¢ PER COPY | JUNE 22, 2019 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 76

JUST PLAY!

Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism encourages kids to visit neighborhood playgrounds with free activity program



HEATHER MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center Health and Wellness Coordinator Kayti Murphree speaks to some attendees at a Just Play event at Stiefelmeyer Park Friday, June 21, 2019. **» PAGE 4**



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The fire happened Friday, June 21, 2019. There were no injuries.

FIRE DESTROYS HOME NEAR BREMEN

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. – Good Hope, Bremen and Dodge City fire departments responded to a house fire Friday afternoon at 140 County Road 234 (Misty Harbor Road) between Dodge City and Bremen. The owners of the residence were not home at the time of the fire, and no injuries were reported.

Lt. Phillip Bray of the Cullman County Sheriff's Office said, "All we really know right now is that there is a fire. We have no idea as to what caused it. There are no indications of anyone being inside."

Bray said dogs living inside the home were able to escape as first responders entered the structure.

By 1:30 p.m. the main fire had been extinguished, but firefighters continued to battle hot spots.

Dodge City Fire Chief Matt Weaver confirmed, "Nobody is inside. We can confirm that."

The home appeared to be a complete loss as Weaver described the scene as a "salvage and overhaul."

The owners of the home arrived shortly after the fire was extinguished. They were not available for comment.



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

STATE

Record low 3.7% unemployment rate in Alabama; Cullman County rate drops to 2.5%

Tara Hutchison
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The Alabama Department of Labor on Friday released the state's unemployment data for May 2019. Alabama's preliminary, seasonally adjusted May unemployment rate is 3.7%, down from April's rate of 3.8%, and well below May 2018's rate of 4.1%. May's rate ties with March and February 2019's rates for the lowest unemployment rate in Alabama history. Cullman County's preliminary, seasonally adjusted May unemployment rate is 2.5%, down from April's rate of 3.0%, and well below May 2018's rate of 2.9%.

The number of people counted as employed in May rose to 2,150,481, another record high. The count represents a yearly increase of 40,720 people.

"Since day one, my administration has sought the best ways to make our state business-friendly for small businesses and attractive to world-class industry. It is certainly paying off because in May, each of Alabama's 67 counties saw their unemployment rates drop," Gov. Kay Ivey said. "Alabama is breaking record after record! I am proud of the footing we are making; however, we will not tire our efforts. It remains our goal to ensure every Alabamian who wants a job can get a job."

"What great news we have to share this month," said Alabama Department of Labor (ADOL) Sec. Fitzgerald Washington. "We've been consistently posting positive economic news, and this month is more of the same. More people are working, employers are hiring, and we've once again dropped to a record low unemployment rate. The job market is great in Alabama!"

Over-the-year job growth (May 2018-May 2019, not seasonally adjusted) in Alabama measured 1.9%, while job growth in the U.S. over the same time period measured 1.5%.

Over the year, wage and salary employment increased 38,800, with gains in the professional and business services sector (+8,900), the leisure and hospitality sector (+7,300), and the construction sector (+6,700), among others.

Wage and salary employment also increased over the month, growing by 7,100. Monthly gains were seen in the leisure and hospitality sector (+2,600), the trade, transportation, and utilities sector (+2,000), and the government sector (+1,000), among others.

Additionally, the civilian labor force increased to 2,233,045 in May, representing its highest level ever. The civilian labor force represents the number of people, aged 16 and over, who are either working or looking for work, excluding the military and those in institutions.

All 67 counties experienced both over-the-month and over-the-year unemployment rate decreases.

"Once again, Alabama's job growth has surpassed the nation's," continued Washington. "Our economy is supporting more jobs than ever before, and Alabama's employers are continuing to hire. It's our hashtag, but it's true: We Have Jobs!"

Counties with the lowest unemployment rates are: Shelby County at 2.1%, Marshall County at 2.3%, and Morgan and Elmore Counties at 2.4%. Counties with the highest unemployment rates are: Wilcox County at 6.6%, Greene County at 5.7%, and Lowndes County at 5.6%.

Major cities with the lowest unemployment rates are: Vestavia Hills at 1.8%, Homewood at 1.9%, and Alabaster and Hoover at 2.1%. Major cities with the highest unemployment rates are: Selma at 6.2%, Prichard at 5.4%, and Anniston at 4.1%.



Meals on Wheels- volunteers are needed

Kristie McCarn
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Volunteering for Meals on Wheels is a great way to make a huge impact in a short amount of time. By delivering meals you bring nutritious food and a friendly visit to eight to 10 seniors in your community.

Anyone can deliver meals, and it's a great volunteer opportunity for families and teams of employees, as well. Sign up today and find out how easy and rewarding it is to bring nutrition and independence to your neighbors!

Cullman Senior Center has openings for routes in the city of Cullman. Please call 256-734-0145 to learn more about our program, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

New Nature Day Camp for kids will focus on native tribes of Alabama

Jordan Rodriguez
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – In celebration of the Stories of Alabama, the North Alabama Agriplex; Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism; Alabama Mountains, Rivers & Valleys Resource Conservation & Development Council; Echota Cherokee Tribe; and Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District are hosting Nature Day Camp this summer, July 18-19.

Nature Day Camp will focus on native tribes of Alabama especially the Echota Cherokee Tribe, who will host the camp at its Falkville tribal lands. Messages of conservation will tie the camp together through stories, hiking, native crafts, canoeing and more.

Targeting ages 10-14, the camp will drop off and pick up at the Cullman Civic Center.

The campers will travel to the WaterWorks Center for Environmental Education in Hartselle, Hurricane Creek Park and the Echota Cherokee Lands.

The cost of camp is $35 and includes lunch, snacks, T-shirt and all supplies.

To register, visit: https://cullmanrecreation.recdesk.com/Community/Home

For more information, call 256-297-1044. There is limited space.

Arrests and incidents reported June 20-21

Maggie Darnell
maggie@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported June 20-21, 2019. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

REPORTED JUNE 20
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
June 17
• domestic violence; CR 1466
• criminal mischief; CR 1094
• unauthorized use of a motor vehicle; CR 216
• domestic violence; CR 1094
• theft of property; Hwy. 278 E
• unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; CR 601
• theft of property, trespassing; CR 715
• domestic violence; Young Rd.

June 18
• domestic violence; CR 747
• illegal possession of prescription drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1545
• possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1179
• theft of property; CR 946
• unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; CR 715
• burglary; CR 437
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia; 3rd Ave. SE
• harassment; CR 222

June 19
• theft of property; Reid Rd.
• domestic violence; CR 1592
• possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1545
• criminal mischief, trespassing; CR 1269
• criminal mischief; CR 601
• harassment; CR 617
• harassment; CR 1338
• burglary; Hwy. 31
• theft of property; CR 616
• harassment; Schwaiger Rd.
• burglary; Willingham Dr.

ARRESTS
June 17
Allen, Jennifer Renae, 44
• FTA- driving while suspended
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Antonio Santiago, Ivan, 27
• FTA- third-degree burglary

Douglas, Samantha Lucille, 25
• public intoxication

Evans, Karlaton Shelton, 34
• third-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument
• third-degree forgery
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Isbell, Priscilla Gail, 38
• first-degree criminal trespassing

Kimbril, Kevin Heath, 34
• third-degree domestic violence – harassment

McCay, Chelsea Michelle, 21
• third-degree domestic violence – harassment

McClernan, Brenda Lee, 51
• negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument (2 counts)

McClure, Charles Brian, 43
• third-degree domestic violence

Pickering, Joshua Braxton, 23
• FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Roland, Kayla Kimbril, 29
• third-degree domestic violence – harassment

Satterfield, Larry W., 65
• third-degree criminal trespassing

Twilley, Sharlene Whitney L., 23
• third-degree burglary

June 18
Conn, Jake Alexander, 21
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Kidder, Taylor Clayton, 32
• third-degree domestic violence – harassment

Moore, Scott Alvin, 34
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• illegal possession of prescription medicine
• third-degree promoting prison contraband

Smith, Curtis Wayne, 45
• carrying a pistol without a license

Stricklin, Keith Edward, 44
• court appearance
• GJ- illegal possession/use of a credit/debit card (old charge – 2 counts)

Watson, John Steven, 72
• failure to update required registration info SORNA

Woods, Russell Dan, 44
• unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle (without theft) (2 counts)
• first-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument
• illegal possession/use of a credit/debit card
• fourth-degree theft of property

June 19
Ballenger, Jonathan Clifford, 30
• GJ- leaving the scene-fixture
• GJ- third-degree theft of property

Cooper, Cassandra Hope, 32
• illegal possession of alcohol in a dry county

Hann, Barbara Jean, 49
• third-degree domestic violence – harassment

Jackson, Jadon Maliak, 22
• FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Keeton, Charles Louis, 57
• FTA- DUI - .08 BAC or greater
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Little, James Eric, 36
• FTA- first-degree receiving stolen property

Stewart, Angela Denise Holt, 48
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Ward, Barbara Nixon, 57
• FTA- third-degree forgery

Woods, Russell Dan, 44
• first-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENTS
June 19
• third-degree forgery, fourth-degree theft of property; Hobby Lobby; Town Square SW; forged check; unknown amount of property value

ARRESTS
June 19
Hamilton Jr., Rickey J., 38
• FTA- third-degree domestic violence
• FTA- disorderly conduct

Taub, Katherine A., 19
• fourth-degree theft of property

Tucker Jr., Timothy W., 40
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Durham, David J., 43
• FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Martinez, Manuel D., 21
• attempt to commit a controlled substance crime
• unlawful distribution of a controlled substance
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• third-degree theft of property

Smith, Jonathan K., 45
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance

Boyd, Tyler E., 28
• public intoxication

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No incidents or arrests reported.

REPORTED JUNE 21
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
No incidents or arrests reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENTS
June 20
• identity theft; person
• third-degree assault; person; Olive St. SW
• harassment; person; 7th Ave. SW, 26th St. SW
• fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $79
• duty upon striking an unattended vehicle; Olive St. SW; damage to '04 GMC Yukon; unknown amount of property value
• second-degree criminal mischief; person; Katherine St. NW; damaged property; $675

ARRESTS
June 20
Thursby Jr., Terry W., 31
• first-degree theft of property

Hawkins, William S., 60
• GJ- third-degree forgery
• GJ- third-degree possession of a forged instrument

Hamby, Justin D., 26
• FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• FTA- third-degree criminal trespassing (2 counts)
• FTA- third-degree criminal mischief
• FTA- public intoxication
• FTA- harassment

Baker, Mary M., 35
• fraudulent use of a credit/debit card (4 counts)
• promoting prison contraband

Horton, Bill C., 49
• violation of a protection order

Moody, Nicholas C., 20
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• carrying a pistol without license

Dennis, Treasure L., 29
• third-degree robbery
• fourth-degree theft of property

Evans, Karlaton S., 34
• unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle

McCormick, Ethan D., 25
• unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle (5 counts)
• fraudulent use of a credit/debit card (2 counts)

Pugh, Ashley C., 19
• unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle (3 counts)
• fraudulent use of a credit/debit card
• third-degree criminal trespassing

Wise, Dustin R., 26
• fourth-degree theft of property

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No incidents or arrests reported.

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


A-1 Battery Supply
AUTO – TRUCK – TRACTOR
Quality Batteries For Every Need
Since 1979
2172 Co. Rd. 1169 • Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: (Office): 256-734-9438

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
June 22 - 24

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

Saving Forgotten Warriors Inaugural Pitmaster Challenge
• OPEN TO PUBLIC/ FREE ADMISSION! BANDS, BIKES, MUSIC & FOOD!
• Public is encouraged to come and enjoy a day of great music, food and fellowship! Kid-friendly!
• Admission is FREE! Donations to taste the food and food tickets are $6.
• Smith Lake Park, 403 County Road 386, Cullman, AL 35057, 6 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Jeremiah Castille Character Camp
The 12th annual Jeremiah Castille Character Camp will be hosted by Good Hope High School Saturday, June 22, and boys and girls ranging from the first grade to the 12th grade are invited to come participate free of charge. Participants can register early for the camp at the Cullman County Board of Education's central office, www.ccboe.org or www.castillefoundation.org/events. Those who register early will receive a free T-shirt, but participants can also register at the field before the camp at 7:45 a.m. The football camp, only for grades 7-12, will be held from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. while the speed and agility camp for grades 1-6 runs from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The speed and agility camp for grades 7-12 will be held from noon to 2:30 p.m. For more information, call 256-734-2933 or visit www.castillefoundation.org.

Redeeming Grace Church Vacation Bible School
Jungle Safari, June 22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Family Day June 23, 12:30 p.m. at Terri Pines

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

Cullman County Historical Society Meeting
The Cullman County Historical Society will meet Sunday, June 23 at 2 p.m. at the Cullman County Museum. Program - Quilts and Quilting by Hazel Ruehl. Everyone is welcome.

Special Needs Free Swim at the Aquatic Center
• 3-5 p.m. Free Swim Hosted by Cullman Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism
• Free swim is for those with special needs and immediate family members. All guests must sign in at the CWAC front desk before entering the pool. Parents/guardians/caregivers must stay in the pool area at all times during the therapeutic recreation swim time.

Vacation Bible School
• Center Grove Baptist: In the Wild, June 23 – June 26, 6-8 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 24

Vacation Bible Schools:
• Mount Nebo Baptist Church: In the Wild, June 24 – June 28, 6-8:30 p.m.
• Center Hill Baptist: Roar, June 24 – June 28, 6-8 p.m.
• St. Andrew's United Methodist: Big Heart Farms, June 24 – June 28, 6-8 p.m.
• Lake Catoma Baptist: In the Wild, June 24 – June 28, 6-8:30 p.m.
• East Side Baptist: Roar, June 24 – June 28, 5:30-8 p.m.
• Sardis Baptist Church: The Incredible Race, June 24 – 28, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Good Hope City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m. at Good Hope City Hall

Cullman City Council Meeting
7 p.m. at Cullman City Hall

UPCOMING....

Cullman City School Board Meeting
June 25 at 7:30 a.m. in the boardroom at the Cullman City Board of Education

Cullman Woodworkers Meeting
The Cullman Woodworkers will meet Thursday, June 27 at the North Alabama Agriplex at 5:30 p.m. Program presented by David James. Everyone is welcome.

Outlaw DJ Services Benefit Dance and Auction for Savannah Wallace
Outlaw DJ Services will host a benefit dance and auction for 17-year-old Savannah Wallace from Hartselle, who is fighting a battle with cystic fibrosis. She is at UAB and needs a double lung transplant. The family has to relocate to Houston, Texas. Her parents are both visually impaired. We are reaching out to the community to help keep the family together. The dance and auction will be June 29 from 4-10 p.m. in front of Duchess Bakery along First Avenue Southeast in Cullman. $5 donation at the gate with all proceeds going to the Wallace family. Food and drinks for donations. Auction will be cash only. For more info, contact Outlaw DJ Services at 256-735-6986.

Blair Church Yard Sale
Friday, July 5 from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, July 6 from 7 a.m.-noon; 5131 County Road 1082 in Vinemont; children's clothes, men's and women's clothes; toys, household items, baby items, etc. Free blood pressure check on Saturday.

Vinemont High School Class of 1972 47-Year Reunion
The Vinemont High School Class of 1972 will hold its 47-year reunion Saturday, July 13 at 11 a.m. in the Florida Room at The Shrimp Basket in Cullman. Call Jolene Gamble Bethke at 256-612-7201 or Linda Williams Skinner at 256-595-7808 for more information.

85th Annual Sandlin Reunion
• Cold Springs Community Center; 8821 County Road 109, Bremen, AL 35033
• Saturday, Aug. 3, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
• Bring covered dish and drinks; plates, cups, napkins, forks and ice provided.
• Invite your Sandlin relatives.
• Chairman: Dr. Randall Sandlin; Secretary: Patsy Sandlin Medlock
• Contact: Anita Sandlin Glover, 1283 Highland Lakes Trail, Birmingham, AL 35242, patsymedlock@bellsouth.net, 205-995-7988 (home), 205-915-1870 (cell)
• Let's conserve postage! Please email me your email address. If you don't have an email address, invitations will be sent via U.S. mail. Thanks!
• Directions: Interstate 65, Exit 299 toward Dodge City/Jasper, take AL-69 South (approximately 14 miles). Turn RIGHT on CR-54. At 1st STOP sign, turn RIGHT on CR-109. At the STOP Sign at Cold Springs High School, turn RIGHT. Less than 1/4 mile, Cold Springs Community Center is on the RIGHT!
• Sandlin Chapel & Cemetery are off AL-69S.

THE BARN
Portable Storage Buildings
Hanceville, AL
352-2737

EARL'S BODY SHOP
2251 Decatur Ave., N.W.
734-2406

The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874
Publication Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422
Humble Roots, LLC
Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: robin@cullmansense.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES
Cullman.....$75.00
Outside Cullman.....$85.00

NoahGalilee–Publisher
DustinIsom–Editor
Wendy Sack – Newsroom Editor
Loretta Gillespie-Lifestyle/Religion
Christy Perry - General Reporter
Maggie Darnell- GeneralReporter
W.C. Mann - General Reporter
Sammy Confer-Youth/JVSports Editor
Nick Griffin -Varsity Sports Editor
JoeMcElroy - Photographer
Bill Piper - Photojournalist
Howard Cole - Photojournalist
Robin Winton - Newsroom Manager

Cullman Chamber officially closes door on lodging tax for CCBOE projects after superintendent withdraws request

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on Tuesday voted to rescind its previous commitment of the lodging tax to the Cullman County Board of Education (CCBOE) for projects including the sports complex development known early on as "Project X." The move was, however, mostly a formality for Chamber record-keeping, as CCBOE Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette had already submitted a letter to the Board back in April, withdrawing his request for the money.

Barnette told The Tribune Wednesday, June 19 that highly-publicized conflicts between the City of Cullman and the Chamber over the lodging tax led him to remove CCBOE from the equation.

Said Barnette, "I knew there were issues between the City of Cullman and the Chamber of Commerce, and I know the City of Cullman did not agree with how the Chamber of Commerce were allocating that lodging tax, so I just sent them a letter and withdrew my request for their tax money.

"And I guess just now they kind of acted on that letter, but that's nothing new and it's not like they're taking anything from me, because I already told them two months ago that I didn't want their money."

On Wednesday, Chamber Chair Dr. T.J. Franey acknowledged that Barnette had withdrawn the CCBOE request in April, and told The Tribune that the Board of Directors is working on developing new allocation policies for future uses of the lodging tax.

On March 19, 2019 Barnette announced that Project X would be a $30 million sports complex to be built on the north side of the retail corridor along Alabama Highway 157 on Cullman's north side.

At the same event, Barnette announced that the Chamber had committed 2% of the lodging tax to the project (to go along with the monies from the recently imposed half-cent sales tax approved by the Cullman County Commission).

According to Chamber President Leah Bolin at the time, the decision to support the project was made by vote of the Chamber Board.

Project X began stirring controversy almost immediately.

In April, the Cullman Hospitality Association denounced the Chamber's lodging tax reallocation, and asked the Cullman City Council to separate the lodging tax and Cullman Tourism Board from the Chamber.

Wallace State Community College and Cullman City Schools withdrew their membership from the Chamber over the issue. Around the same time, the Cullman County Commission rescinded a half-cent sales tax it had approved in March to support the CCBOE's projects.

Could development still happen at the "Project X" site? Maybe later.

Barnette told The Tribune, "Roy Drinkard assured me the last time I talked to him-which was a few weeks ago-that if we decide to move forward or when we decide to move forward, that land is still there and it's available for us to use.

"We have many local school projects to do before we ever look at doing a big sports or arts complex, and that's the way it was to begin with until it was blown out of proportion."

Announced plans for the lodging tax revenue and half-cent county sales tax included substantial improvements to campus security at all county schools, along with numerous facility upgrades.

Barnette said at the time, "These needs will include, but are not limited to, asphalting, replacing some old buildings, fencing, updating and expanding some lunchrooms, updating HVAC, replacing and adding awnings where needed, and work toward providing more opportunities for our students through career tech and STEM."

When the County Commission approved the sales tax, Commissioner Garry Marchman told The Tribune, "When we went into this, we knew the Project X was something they wanted to do with a portion of the tax, but that's not necessarily what sold me on the half-cent tax.

"What sold me on the tax was the fact that it was going to help with the security."

In his conversation with The Tribune Wednesday, Barnette concluded, "We've got many things to do on our local campuses before we ever do a big complex like that, and, right now, we can't even do all those local projects because the half-cent sales tax has been rescinded.

"So, right now, we don't have the money to do the big project or all the other ones that we need to do on our local campuses right now, but we're working on it."

Statement sent to multiple media outlets Wednesday by Franey

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors at its monthly meeting Tuesday, June 18, 2019 passed a motion to rescind the Chamber's action of March 19, 2019 concerning the lodgings tax.

Further, any and all prior commitments associated with the lodgings tax, if any, are null and void, and the board is under no obligation to any projects beyond its current commitment to the 222 exchange.

(Cullman County Schools Superintendent) Dr. Shane Barnette had previously submitted a letter informing the Chamber board that Cullman County Schools was turning down the percentage of the lodgings tax previously pledged by the Chamber.

The Chamber board is in the process of establishing new procedures to determine future allocations of the lodgings tax.

EDUCATION / ARTS

Wallace State Dance offering Summer Intensive training session

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – The Wallace State Community College Dance program is offering a Summer Intensive session for dancers 14 to 19 years old.

The four-day training workshop will be held July 15-18 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and will include sessions in ballet, pointe, variations, modern and Pilates. Session fees are $160 per person.

Sessions will be taught by Wallace State Dance instructor Brooke Desnoës. For more information, contact Desnoës at 256-352-8153 or brooke.desnoes@wallacestate.edu.



WSCC

Wallace State Dance Instructor Brooke Desnoës leads instruction during a master class held last year. Desnoës will lead a four-day Summer Intensive training session July 15-18 for dancers 14 to 19 years old.

Obituary Announcements: June 19 – 21

presented by



Cullman Funeral Home
"Sincere Compassionate Care"

100% Locally Owned & Operated by the Steve Rodgers Family
(256) 734-3144
461 U.S. Highway 278 East
Cullman, Alabama 35055
www.cullmanfuneralhome.com

Andrew Joseph Simmons III, 61, of Holly Pond, entered into the presence of our Lord and Savior on Wednesday, June 19, 2019. He was born February 7, 1958, in New York, to Andrew Joseph Simmons II and Wanda Jean MacCheyne Simmons. Andy worked in the construction industry from the time he was eighteen until he retired. Mr. Simmons loved his work and he advanced in the industry. Upon retirement, he was a Construction Superintendent with Morgan Construction Company Inc. in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Andy loved the outdoors. He could often times be found out on his boat or just working in his yard. Mr. Simmons also enjoyed spending time with his friends. He loved an afternoon with the guys, just doing what guys do. Andy married the love of his life, Ashley, in 2010. They loved spending time together, along with their little dog, Sadie. Andy became a child of God a month ago and we know that he has found rest in the arms of our Father. Mr. Simmons is preceded in death by his sister, Dawn Getman. Survivors include his beloved wife, Ashley Simmons; father, Andrew Joseph Simmons II; mother, Wanda Jean MacCheyne; brothers, Thomas Simmons, Daniel Simmons; nephews, Zack Simmons, Dylan Simmons; a host of friends; and his little dog, Sadie. They family will hold a private memorial for Mr. Simmons. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Simmons family.

Bonnie Lee Taylor, age 72 of Hanceville, died Thursday, June 19, 2019. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Rhonda Skala; grandson, Dylan Taylor; her parents: Kennith and Marge Lewman and sisters: Barbara Lewman and Beverly Mueller. Bonnie is survived by her husband, Arlin Newton Taylor; daughters: Tammy Jenkins (Rodney), Doris Taylor, Sherry Taylor Reid (Reese), Dawn Taylor Smith (Destry), Susan Taylor Quick (Shane) and Robin Taylor Parrish (Rick); son, Arlin Newton Taylor Jr. (Linda); brother, Billy Lewman; 13 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. The family will receive friends on Sunday, June 23, 2019 from noon until the Celebration of Bonnie's life, which will begin at 2 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. Please visit mossservicefh.com to leave condolences for the family. Moss Service Funeral Home Directing.

Funeral services for Faye McAlpin, 80, of Riverside Community will be 1 p.m. Saturday June 22, 2019 at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel in Hanceville, AL. Burial will follow at Riverside Community Cemetery. Reverend Jimmy Martin will be officiating. Mrs. McAlpin is survived by her daughter Donna (Paul) Brown of Holly Pond; grandchildren Brandi Trimble and Kevin (Kelsey) Trimble; great grandchildren Anna-Kaitlyn Shea, Nick Shea, Jayden Trimble, and a sister Carolyn Fulmer of Holly Pond. Mrs. McAlpin is preceded in death by her mother Essie Dodson; husband Ottis McAlpin; daughter Debbie Trimble; and her grandson Jay Trimble.

Barbara Bernice Golden of Cullman passed away June 19, 2019 at the age of 76. She was born in Cullman January 3, 1943 to Joseph Emmitte and Maxine Benefield Golden. She is preceded in death by her parents and a sister Mary Elizabeth Golden. Funeral services are Saturday, June 22, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Center Grove Baptist Church with Dr. Stanley Kilgore and Rev. Tony Tidwell officiating. Interment will be in the adjoining cemetery. Survivors are: brother Joe (Teresa) Golden, nephew Bradley (Robin) Brannan, nieces Bonita Thompson, Beverly (Cecil) Kynard, Jane Benefield (Keith) Daniel, a host of great nieces and nephews. Visitation is Friday, June 21, 2019 from 6-9 p.m. at Moss Funeral Home.

Funeral Service for Michael Kenneth Frazier, age 80, of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, June 24, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Jeremy Calloway officiating; interment in Cullman Heritage Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Frazier passed away on Thursday, June 20, 2019, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. He was born Tuesday, May 16, 1939, to Mike K. and Sara Kinney Frazier. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Bobbie Coleman; and daughter, Miki Frazier. Survivors include his wife, Wanda Frazier; daughters, Cathy (Jackie) Yeager and Mara (Mike) Swaika; son, Michael Frazier, Jr.; sister, Naomi F. Watkins; grandchildren, Trion (Stacy) Yeager, Kristen Yeager (Kevin) Pamplin, and Anna Swaika; four great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews. Visitation will be from 1-2 p.m. on Monday, June 24, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Vera Mae Key, age 80 of Houston, entered into rest on Thursday, June 20, 2019, at her home surrounded by her loving family. She was born February 18, 1939 to Luther and Eva Massey. Vera was a 36-year member of Houston Congregational Church, and also attended Pleasant Hill Church. She enjoyed church activities and spending time with her grandchildren. Visitation will be Monday, June 24, 2019 from 2-4 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Double Springs, where the service will be held at 4 p.m. Burial will be in Poplar Springs Cemetery. Brother Bobby Smith and Brother Homer Jones will officiate. She is survived by her son, Ralph Key; daughter, Lilly Key; sisters, Frances (Don) Vincent, Doris Garrett, and Vonda (Steve) Roberts; five grandchildren, Kenny (Haley) Key, Charity Watts, Shian (Andy) McDonald, Ralph Woods, and Chris Spain; 14 great-grandchildren; and special friends, Ricky and Chris Moody. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Kenneth Key; sons, Kenny Ray, Donnie Ray, Billy Joe, and Charles; daughter, Rebecca; and grandson, Terry Ratliff.

Funeral services Elouise "Bee Dee" Boles, 89, of Cullman will be Sunday June 23 at 2 p.m. in Hanceville Funeral Home. Reverend Steve Miller will preside. Her family will receive friends at the Hanceville Funeral Home on Saturday evening beginning at 6 p.m. Interment will be at Cullman Memorial Gardens. Mrs. Boles is survived by daughters Rebecca NN (Wayne) Wolfe of Fairview, Marcella Susanne (Keith) Creel also of Fairview. Grandchildren include, Cortney Brown, Ivan Wolfe, Mark Creel and Julia Frost. Great grandchildren include Jada Alexandra McCullough, Tyler Lynne Brown and Shelby Ann Wolfe.

Free Obituary Listings

HAVE YOUR FUNERAL HOME CONTACT US

Email: robin@cullmansense.com • Fax: 256-739-4422

Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanTribune.com/obituaries.

THE TOMBSTONE COMPANY

Custom Granite Headstones and Monuments
Date of Death Engraving in Cemeteries
Locally Made and Locally Owned
Low Cost, High Quality
30-Day Delivery, Guaranteed
We Use Only American Granite

2117 US Hwy 278 West
Cullman, AL 35057
(2 miles West of I-65)
256-734-2005
Saturdays by Appointment
www.thetombstonecompany.com

BUSINESS

Downtown merchants plan to 'put on the dog' in July event

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Members of the Cullman Downtown Merchants Association (CDMA) on Thursday night met at First Community Bank to discuss last Friday's social event held in conjunction with the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's and Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism's 2nd Friday celebration and street fair. They talked about "bugs" that needed to be worked out after the season's first event including barricades, signage and pointing visitors to businesses like 412 Public House and Carlton's outside the immediate festival zone.

And then they began to plan the next event, which will be held Friday, July 12, also in conjunction with 2nd Fridays. The CDMA's Ron Pierce laid out a preliminary plan that will focus on "animal attraction," including possible visits by Cullman County Animal Shelter staff with pets available for adoption, special needs therapeutic equestrian group Hope Horses, Inc., Happy Tails Groom & Board, Lee's Veterinary Hospital and others. Special features of the celebration could include a dog parade, dog "beauty" contests (that might include Ugliest Dog, too), puppy races and an emphasis on animal-themed merchandise in stores.

The popular Ferris wheel will, of course, return along with other rides and games. Pierce plans to combat the July heat with onsite misters. In a twist on the theme of the antique and custom car shows that typically accompany the CDMA's and Chamber's events, planners hope to fill the south end of the celebration zone this time with off-road vehicles, from ATVs to trucks. Music planner and recruiter Cliff Fountain hopes to expand the event's live entertainment with more street musicians located at businesses around the celebration area.

Get involved!
The CDMA is seeking sponsors for this and its Celebrate Cullman event in August, as well as volunteers to help with planning and putting on the events. If you are interested in helping, and especially if you are a downtown merchant not currently a member of the association, email Pierce at rpierce@mmg-inc.com, or message the association through its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CullmanDowntownMerchantsAssociation/.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Representatives of dining, service and retail establishments from across downtown Cullman gathered Thursday evening to make plans for next month's Cullman Downtown Merchants Association 2nd Fridays event.

Cullman Regional Healthy Life program hosts safety seminar with Sheriff Matt Gentry

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman Regional's Healthy Life program on Thursday hosted Sheriff Matt Gentry for a lunch seminar on personal, family and financial safety for area seniors, as well as common issues faced by area law enforcement.

He addressed:

• **Scams via social media, telephone or mail**- Gentry said criminals often pose as relatives asking for money by social media or phone, make threatening calls posing as government agents demanding money, send emails which lock up a person's computer when opened and demand ransom to unlock it, or appeal to a person's emotions by posing as a charity. He also addressed incidents in which criminals gather personal information from a victim's social media profiles and use that information to manipulate the victim. Gentry touched on the popular foreign "send us some money to get some money" scam, before concluding, "If it's too good to be true, then it is (a scam), and nobody's going to give you anything for free."

• **Drugs** - Gentry told the crowd that the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) averages five drug arrests per day, and that more than 90% of the inmates in the county jail are there for crimes related to drug use. Said Gentry, "That's what's going to cause somebody to write bad checks. That's what's going to cause somebody to break into your house, you know, commit a burglary, steal." The most prevalent drugs in the county are methamphetamine and heroin. According to Gentry, one of the most important means of dealing with the drug crisis is to educate children openly and honestly about what drugs can do. He also touched on the 33 rehabilitation programs currently operating in the county jail, saying that helping inmates change their lives can stop the cycle that lands people behind bars again and again.

• **Mental health** - Gentry said the CCSO receives an average of three calls per day regarding suspects expressing suicidal or homicidal ideations, and that, at any given time, an average of more than 30 Cullman County inmates are receiving outpatient mental health services at the jail, in large part because there are so few residential mental health treatment facilities in the state due to budget cuts.

Gentry called on listeners to get to know their neighbors, establish a sense of community in their neighborhoods, and look out for each other.

Along those lines, he advocated the formation of neighborhood watch programs, and commended existing programs in the New Canaan, Sulfur Springs, and Lake Catoma communities.

He told the crowd, "We really have to get back to the roots of being a community and take care of each other."

He also took a little time to talk about various community education and support classes offered by the CCSO.

For more on these, visit www.cullmansheriff.org/ and look under Community Projects.

Cullman Regional Healthy Life
Cullman Regional's Healthy Life program offers services to people from young adults to seniors, helping them learn how to deal with the many circumstances of life, good and bad, and maintain a healthy lifestyle through them all.

For more information, call 256-737-2600 or email news@crmchospital.com. For more on all of the hospital's programs, visit https://cullmanregional.com/community/wellness-programs/.

Just Play (from Front)

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Since 2016, Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism (CP&R) has hosted summer activities at local parks and playgrounds to help keep kids active and showcase areas that may be less well-known in the community. Known as "Just Play!," the program features free games and activities at a different park each Friday in June.

During a Just Play period, kids can play with bubbles and sidewalk chalk, do some yard bowling, play disc golf (if the parks has the equipment for it) and enjoy the playground equipment at each of the featured parks.

This year's program has already visited Carroll Acres and Culpepper Parks, and was at Stiefelmeyer Park Friday.

Kayti Murphree, health and wellness coordinator at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center (CWAC), was there to give a few words about the free program.

"We like to change things up and feature our neighborhood parks.

"That way we can show off different areas of Cullman that aren't necessarily on the main path," said Murphree.

"We really want to feature the new playground equipment that we've put in the neighborhood parks and the updates that we're trying to do around the community."

The program has averaged around 25 kids each Friday, and Murphree hopes that the last day will bring a big crowd to close out the year.

"We really hope it continues to grow, because we love that everyone discovers a new playground every year and new people hear more and more about it."

For those who haven't gotten to participate this year, the last Just Play will be at Ingle Park (1625 Cleveland Ave. SW, Cullman AL 35055) to feature the Connected Playground Friday, June 28 from 10 a.m.-noon.

Murphree said CP&R also has some upcoming events for movie lovers.

Dive-In Movies at CWAC will be Thursday, July 18 ("Inside Out") and Thursday, Aug. 1 ("A Bug's Life").

Both movies will start at 8:45 p.m. by the outdoor pool.

Admission is $7 for non-CWAC members and free for CWAC members.

A Drive-in Movie at Nesmith Park will be Friday, July 26 ("Mary Poppins Returns") and is free.









CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

West Elementary School Principal Dr. Jay Page accepts his school's 2019 Cullman County PALS Beautification Award from Cullman County PALS Chairperson Cherrie Haney Thursday at Camp Meadowbrook.

Cullman County PALS presents annual beautification awards

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The 2019 Cullman County People Against a Littered State (PALS) Beautification Awards were presented to several area businesses, schools and civic organizations Thursday afternoon at a luncheon at Camp Meadowbrook. This year's winners were selected by PALS, based on the scores tabulated by the Jefferson County Master Gardeners.

Cullman County PALS is a nonprofit organization with the goal of "helping to make our community a pleasant place to visit, shop, play and live." The purpose of the awards themselves, according to PALS, is to "recognize the efforts of the many businesses that work hard to make the Cullman area a beautiful place for everyone to enjoy."

Cullman County PALS Chairperson Cherrie Haney thanked the Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District for hosting the awards ceremony and Freddie Day for catering the event. This is the fourth year PALS has managed the Beautification Awards since taking over the tradition previously run by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce.

The 2019 PALS Beautification Award recipients are:

- Buena Vista
- Camp Meadowbrook
- Cullman City Board of Education
- Cullman County Museum
- Cullman County Courthouse
- Cullman Electric Cooperative
- Cullman High School
- Cullman City Primary School
- Cullman Regional
- East Elementary School
- Cullman County Master Gardeners
- Merchants Bank- main branch
- Peoples Bank- Dodge City
- Peoples Bank- drive-thru
- Peoples Bank- main branch
- REHAU
- St. John's Evangelical Church
- West Elementary School
- Webb Wheel Products, Inc.
- Wallace State Community College

Haney explained, "We don't get the same judges each year. Tony Glover with the (Cullman County) Extension Office gets our judges for us. They do an excellent job. They critique things to a T, though. You gotta remember, they are master gardeners. They do brag on the drive-thru, but the top score was Peoples Bank main office and REHAU. They were within points of each other."

Clean Campus Awards

PALS Clean Campus Awards Coordinator Rhonda Van Zandt presented the 2018-2019 Clean Campus Awards.

Said Van Zandt, "The Clean Campus Program is a part of PALS that offers a program to city and county schools and it involves not just keeping the campus clean but beautification and environmental education. Hopefully we can educate the children to the point that we'll quit having to pick so much up off the side of our roads."

Cullman County has had a Clean Campus Award winner at the state level for at least the past 15 years. For 2017-2018, Parkside School was awarded first place, Cullman City Primary School was awarded third place and Hanceville Elementary School received an honorable mention from the Alabama PALS.

The 2018-2019 Cullman County PALS Clean Campus Awards winners in the Elementary School Division are:

- First place- Hanceville Elementary
- Second place- Cullman City Primary School

The 2018-2019 Cullman County PALS Clean Campus Awards winner in the Middle School Division is Parkside School.

The overall trophy for all divisions was awarded to Parkside School.

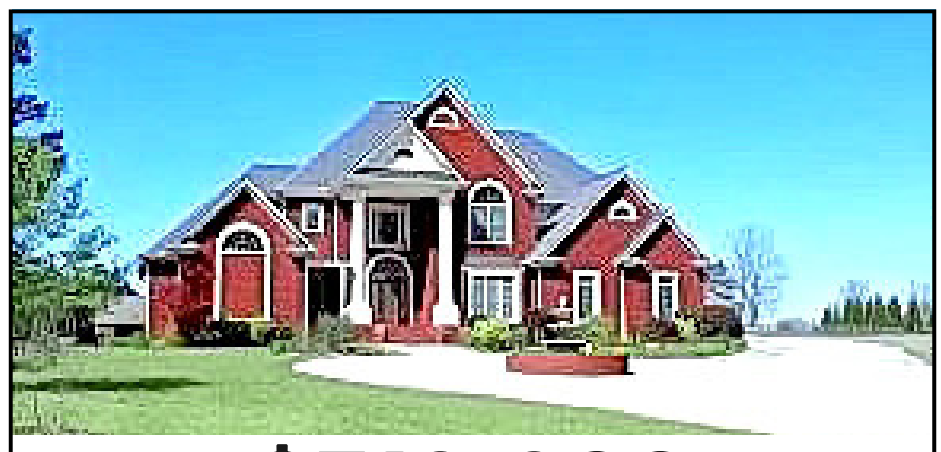
Librarian April Smith accepted the awards for Parkside, saying, "We have a lot of people who help with it and we are really excited. Last year we won the first place for the state and I had never dreamed... This past year it was students and teachers. We just all got together and did little projects.

"The community has helped. Some volunteers from the church have come out and planted rose bushes and flower gardens. This is really important."

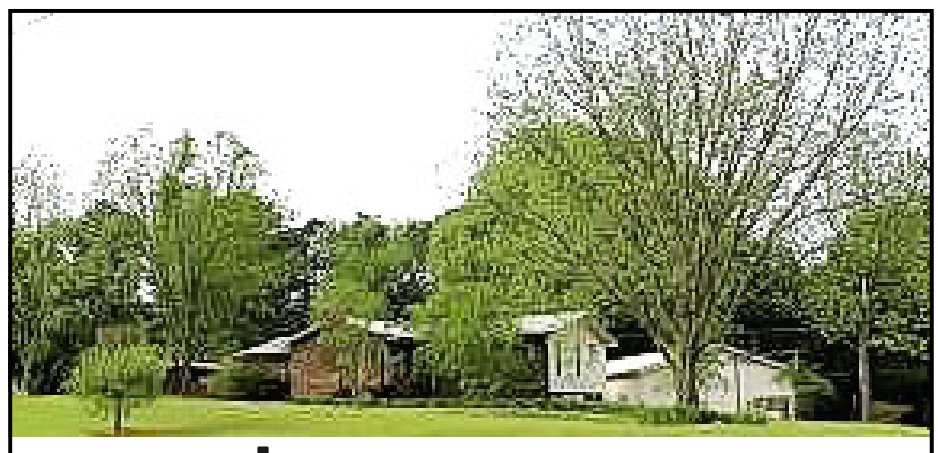
Learn more about Cullman County PALS at www.facebook.com/Cullman-CountyPALS. PALS meets on the third Thursday of each month at 8 a.m. at the Cullman County Economic Development office.

CULPEPPER REAL ESTATE
EST. 1970

FAMILY OWNED FOR 48 YEARS
OFFICE: 256-739-1389



$719,900
289 CO RD 1414 CULLMAN, AL
STATELY AND ELEGANT HOME WITH VIEW OF BEAUTIFUL LAKE CATOMA FEATURES 6 OR 7 BEDROOMS 4 1/2 BATHS; GRAND ENTRYWAY; HUGE MASTER SUITE WITH SITTING AREA ON MAIN LEVEL; CUSTOM KITCHEN WITH CASUAL AND FORMAL DINING AREAS, BUTLER'S PANTRY;FORMAL LIVING ROOM AND DEN WITH SOARING CEILINGS; THEATER ROOM, GAME ROOM, HOBBY AND SAFE ROOMS IN BASEMENT AND SO MUCH MORE! MUST SEE! SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. MLS 102682
For appointment to view Call Tammy Roden 256-338-6612



$245,000
611 ROLAND JOHNSON PKWY, GARDEN CITY, AL
3 BEDROOM, 3 FULL BATHS, OPEN FLOOR PLAN, ALL BEDROOMS ARE ON MAIN LEVEL, WALK-OUT BASEMENT WITH KITCHEN THAT WILL MAKE A GREAT FAMILY ROOM OR IN LAW SUITE. 40X60 WORKSHOP WITH CONCRETE FLOOR, HYDRAULIC CAR LIFT, OFFICE, WATER & POWER – THE SHOP IS ON SEPARATE METERS. OUTSIDE OFFICE OR PERSONAL EXERCISE ROOM BUILDING HAS POWER BUT NO WATER. GARDEN SHED, ABOVE GROUND POOL. 2.90 ACRES CLOSE TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE, RESTAURANTS, GREAT FOR COMMUTERS TO BIRMINGHAM. MLS 102140
For appointment to view call Becky Flack 256-385-5764



With the Citizens Mobile App,
On-the-go banking is at your fingertips.

CITIZENS BANK & TRUST
223 2nd Ave SE | Cullman
256-941-4600
citizensbanktrust.com
Member FDIC
*Third party fees for data, messaging, Internet may apply.
Download on the App Store
Download from Google Play

P. Diana Wilhite
CRNP
(256) 531-2784
Quality healthcare in your hometown.
Here you are family.
West Point Family Medical Practice
4131 County Road 1141 – Vinemont, AL 35179
Open Mon–Fri 8–5



Younique Sophistication Boutique LLC
105 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055
256.735.4074
Located Across From Sacred Heart Front Entrance
Tues. & Thurs. Noon – 6 p.m., Wed. & Fri. – 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat. – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Closed Sunday and Monday
youniquesophistication@gmail.com www.facebook.com/youniquesophistication
Women's Clothing – sizes small-3X, Jewelry and Accessories

•1874• **Alabama Tribune** •2019•

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

"THE 67-COUNTY, ALABAMA GARDEN PARTY"

JACKSON COUNTY

Ben Johnson South
Tribune Correspondent

"We got married in a fever, hotter than a pepper sprout. We been talkin' bout Jackson, ever since the fire went out." Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash could have been talkin' bout Jackson County, Alabama. This is a hot, hot, hot place to celebrate how PEOPLE + PEPPERS and other plants have come together across our state the last 200 years.

Jackson County is the puzzle piece of Alabama in the upper right corner that connects Georgia and Tennessee. Even though it was established in 1819, this remote, hilly county wasn't much known outside the state until the Great Depression when a federally-funded community farming experiment called Skyline Farms raised it to the nation's attention.

Skyline Farms had these hard-working and hard-playing Alabamians, plowing and plucking produce during the work week, then, plucking fiddles and buck dancing come Saturday night. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and her hubby hosted the Skyline Farms String Band at a garden party on the White House lawn and Mrs. R shared a recipe for one of her favorite "budget-stretching" dishes—Stuffed Peppers.

The Tennessee Valley region of Alabama is ideal for growing a variety of peppers on the chile heat index which is called the Scoville scale. The most popularly grown are milder bell peppers and banana peppers, but here are other iterations of the genus Piperaceae for innovative gardeners, like those at Jackson County's Graham Farm, and creative cooks to explore:

• **HABANERO**- These are super-spicy with a bit of a sweet, fruity taste; the intensity can stand up to grilled meats. These peppers came to Alabama with the early Spanish explorers. They are native to the Amazon River region of South America and then spread to Mexico.

• **PIQUILLO**- Mild like bell peppers, these pointed reds are often found roasted or pickled on tapas menus; try them stuffed with ground meats or cheeses. They have little heat but much flavor and can be grown easily in containers.

• **SCOTCH BONNET**- Similar to habaneros though slightly sweeter, these peppers add that distinctive kick to Caribbean jerk chicken; the name comes from the resemblance to Scottish tam o' shanter hats; these are ideal flavoring for beans and rice dishes and ceviche.

• **BELL PEPPERS**- Most popular among Jackson County growers, the green ones are enjoyed for their slightly bitter taste while yellow, orange and red are sweeter; cooking releases a sweetness for stews and pizzas.

• **POBLANO**- These mild, heart-shaped peppers have a thick skin and are ideal for stuffing; different fruits from the same plant may vary greatly in heat intensity, like playing Mexican pepper roulette.

• **SHISHITO**- Wrinkled, sweet and a bit delicate, these native Japanese peppers are best roasted in a hot pan and served with a bit of lemon juice and sea salt; they are delicious in salads, and because of the sweet flavor East Asians call them "ground cherries."

• **JALAPENOS**- Hot sauce is a common, long-standing condiment in Alabama kitchens and this pepper is a major reason why. It's also used in salsas. To really notch up the heat, sriracha is made from red jalapenos; for less heat, remove the seeds and pith.

• **SERRANO**- Slightly hotter than jalapenos, these slim, green peppers deliver an extra kick.

Jackson County peppers could be a key to living a longer life. In a recent study of 16,000 adults done over a 12-year period, those who ate chili peppers at least one time each month were 13% less likely to die than those who eschewed the spicy fruit. One reason may be that the hot chilies aid proper blood flow and protect against obesity.

Here are some other positive, pleasurable ways PLANTS + PEOPLE come together in this tip top, northeast corner of Alabama, including a recipe for JACKSON COUNTY PEPPER MEDLEY NACHOS:

• **JACKSON COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET**- 218 Bob Jones Road, Scottsboro, AL 35768; Tues.-Sat., May-November, 6 a.m.-12

• **SECTION FARMERS' MARKET**- 73 Dutton Road at City Park, Section, AL 35771; Fridays 2-5 p.m., June-October

• **JACKSON COUNTY FARMSTANDS**- Joseph and Brenda Holladay Farms (Dutton); Robert Deutscher (Fackler); Thompson Farms (Dutton)

• **JACKSON COUNTY U-PICK FARMS**- Bill Beard (Pisgah) blackberries, blueberries, muscadines; Sheerlark Farms, 367 County Road 327, Flat Rock, AL 35966

• **GRAHAM FARM AND NATURE CENTER**- 420 County Road 27, Estillfork, AL 35745; a wonderful example of big-hearted, Alabama generosity, this 491-acre farm was donated to the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (via the Jackson County office) by the family who farmed it for decades. This popular preserve was developed to teach people of all ages about natural resources, ecology, historic preservation and animal science.



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

Graham Farm is interested in heritage farming of the past but also the future of agriculture in this part of the U.S. If you have ideas to explore, contact Mike Sims, Jackson County coordinator, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, 27115 John T. Reid Parkway, Suite 2, Scottsboro, AL 35768, 256-574-2143.

• **CROW MOUNTAIN ORCHARD**- 6236 County Road 39, Fackler, AL 35746; 150 acres of apples, peaches, nectarines, pears, berries and cherries (this part of Alabama is far enough north to grow 'em). Starting each September, they press apple cider. This is nearly a 24/7, 365 farming operation, but to check on fruit that's freshly available call 256-437-9254; Crow Mountain Orchard also sells at farmers' markets in Jackson, Marshall and DeKalb counties.

• **UNCLAIMED BAGGAGE CENTER**- 509 West Willow St., Scottsboro, AL 35768; "YOU FOUND WHAT?!!" 95% of baggage from airlines in the U.S. is claimed in the airports, but about 5% is lost. The airlines try for three months to find the rightful owners, then much of the remaining unclaimed baggage ends up here with this unique, award-winning, national retailer. You never know what you'll find here and that's part of why it's such a popular destination. As for plant-centric unclaimed finds there have been walking canes, an ancient Egyptian burial mask made of reeds, and, always mountains of cotton and linen clothes; www.unclaimedbaggage.com.

• **WALLS OF JERICHO**- It is 25,376 acres of grass coves and riparian (riverbank) forests protected by the cooperation of The Nature Conservancy and by Alabama Forestry. Enjoy hiking, horseback riding and wildlife observation in this "Grand Canyon of the South."

• **1,500 CAVES**- Filled with botanicals like fungi, mosses and algae in their cool, moist ecology; Jackson County has more charted caves than any county in the nation.

• **HOLLYWOOD**- Named for the ever-green-blessed forested hills, Hollywood is a real town incorporated in this part of Alabama in 1897, years before that fake place in California.

• **PAYNE'S SODA FOUNTAIN**- 101 East Laurel St., downtown Scottsboro on the Square, 35768. This is not a repurposed anything; it's authentic, classic, must-do delish; get the fresh Jackson County Egg Salad or the Sand Mountain BLT. Just trust me on this: you'll also want to get a Mr. Potato Head Sundae. Now hush, just order one and Payne's will make a believer out of you.

• **McCUTCHEN'S MAGNOLIA HOUSE**- 303 East Willow St., Scottsboro, AL 35768. This is superb, Southern comfort food which tastes like owner Gene McCutchen plucked it from his grandmama's garden, fresh this mornin'. This part of Alabama gets awards for historic preservation and Magnolia House is a great example. The house was built in 1890 by Mayor Snodgrass, who was the town's mayor for 40 years, and his wife, Miz Hattie. The meat entrees (great chicken salad) are tasty, but a vegetable plate is quite satisfying with heapin' helpins of okra, squash, fried green tomatoes and Jackson County peppers.

• **MEEK'S GRAIN AND GIN**- 2259 County Road 58, Pisgah, AL 35765- This cotton gin and warehouse built in 1947 and operated until 1975 by Lloyd and Ruby Meeks has been repurposed by the Meeks family as a popular event venue overlooking Little Bryant Creek. It can accommodate 350 guests.

• **PLANTING AN IDEA**- Espelette peppers are "cult favorites" among upscale chefs who appreciate the complexity of the dried and ground spice called "piment d'Espelette." Until recently, espelettes were grown only in the hilly, Basque region of France, which shares some geographic similarities to Jackson County, Alabama. These mild, smoky-but-sweet peppers want hot days and cool nights. The only large-scale producer in the U.S. is Signal Ridge Farm in northern California. Signal Ridge Farm only started with 50 piment d'Espelette pepper plants in 2010 and now grows 50,000 annually with a yield of approximately 5,000 pounds of spice. Some enterprising grower in Jackson County could heat up the competition. This could be an agricultural jobs-producing idea Mike Sims and the future-thinking folks at Graham Farm would welcome exploring.

Y'ALL COME to Jackson County on your 67-County Alabama Garden Party tour. Even if it's midwinter in these snow-capped hills, you'll be warmly welcomed and served something piping, peppery hot.

Many thanks to Mike Sims and his staff at the Jackson County office of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System for sharing the many PLANTS + PEOPLE recommendations. Also, thank you to "super cooks" Laurie Johnson and Wren Manners for the delicious, multi-pepper recipe they created.

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.



Jackson County
Pepper Medley Nachos

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 lb. ground beef, turkey or chicken
- 1 small chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chunky salsa
- 1/4 cup diced tomatoes with green chilies (such as RO-TEL)
- 1/3 cup rinsed and drained black beans
- 1/3 cup roasted corn
- 2 tbsp. taco seasoning (such as chili powder, cumin, red pepper flakes, salt and black pepper)
- 26 mini sweet peppers – multi-colored
- 1 cup shredded Mexican cheese
- 1 avocado, diced
- 1/4 cup diced green onions
- 1/2 cup diced tomato
- 1 jalapeno pepper – sliced very thin
- Cilantro for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a skillet, brown the beef and onion; drain off the grease and return to the skillet.
2. Add the salsa, RO-TEL, black beans, corn and taco seasoning and simmer 5 minutes.
3. While the meat is simmering, cut the peppers in half and take out the seeds.
4. Preheat the oven to 400F.
5. Lay the peppers, cut side up, on a baking sheet. (You can char the peppers on a grill for a couple of minutes before filling and baking.)
6. Fill each pepper with the beef mixture and top with a sprinkle of cheese.
7. Bake for 5 to 7 minutes, until filling and cheese are bubbly.
8. Garnish with jalapeno slices, green onions, tomato, cilantro and avocado.

OPINION

Letter to the Editor: Why should I join the VFW?

Ken Brown
Contributor

I'm a combat veteran but I've got a job, two kids in sports and I'm busy, or, I'm retired with grandkids and church and keeping up my place, I'm BUSY!!! I just don't have time to join, and besides, what's in it for me?

According to the VA reps at the Cullman County Courthouse, we have over 7,000 veterans living in our county, but, because of the Privacy Act, organizations like the VFW and American Legion cannot be given their names or contact info. So, we are left to trying to spot a bumper sticker on your car or a cap on your head and then ask you to join. But, back to the question at hand, why join?

• **Reason #1.** We need your membership to add to our strength to lobby Congress to hold the VA accountable for better care and to keep our benefits coming.

• **Reason #2.** There is no other place in Cullman County where you can hang with guys and gals who have also experienced what you have been through/Band of Brothers!!!

• **Reason #3.** This is your chance to help your fellow vets with moral support, physical support and in so many other ways.

• **Reason #4.** You can help us promote patriotism in our schools and community and help educate the 99 percent who haven't served on what being a vet is all about.

It costs $30 a year and you can put in as little or as much time as you wish. We would be proud if you would drop by the post at 112 Veterans Drive ($5 hot lunch at 11:30 each Tuesday) and check us out or call us at 256-739-6611.

C'mon guys and gals, we need you and now you have been personally asked.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW). NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!

Ken Brown, Colonel, USAF (RET)
VFW Post 2214, Cullman
256-507-1121

FUNNY THINGS FROM YESTERDAY

The moan that came out of the heat vent



Robert N. Tidwell, Sr.
Tribune Contributor

I have written before about our daughter, Robin, and how she liked to have her girlfriends over for a Friday spend-the-night party. They would always stay up most of the night, sleep late on Saturday morning, and then visit the rest of the day.

One Saturday morning, I was in the back bathroom and heard talking and giggling very plainly. Upon investigation, I discovered that these sounds were coming through the heat duct vent. As it turned out, Robin's bedroom was across the house from this bathroom, but the sound carried with surprising clearness through the vent.

As you know, my nature is to put a little excitement in people's lives now and then. So, I thought how funny it would be to send a long, weird-sounding moan through the heat vent to Robin's room. I got down next to the heat duct vent, cupped my hands around my mouth, so as to give better volume, and sent a long moan across the house. I then sat back to listen for the results of my efforts.

Sure enough it created some excitement for the girls. I heard the bedroom door slam back against the wall and almost come off the hinges as half a dozen scared young girls ran screaming down the hall to the kitchen where Rudene was preparing breakfast for them. They were so excited they could hardly speak, yet all were trying to talk at the same time.

They were finally able to say, "There is something wrong in Robin's room; there is a weird sound coming out of the heat vent."

I laughed all the way to the kitchen where I encountered a bunch of girls with eyes as big as saucers, pale faces, and their hair standing up. I assumed teenage girls usually looked that way in the morning, but nevertheless, I was fussed at for having fun.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

We went night hunting with a light



Bill King
Tribune Contributor

Now, before you call a game warden or get yourself all worked up in a lather (without being in the shower), please read on. I'm not advocating any unlawful activity. Night hunting is illegal in Alabama, except I think for hunting coyotes. Hunting season is over anyway, but there are a few things that are in season all year. We were hunting those things.

About the time turkey season ends, mowing season begins. I'm not a turkey hunter, but I am a grass cutter (not by choice).

I don't especially enjoy cutting grass, but I don't like to lose my truck in my yard either, so I cut grass. We say Memorial Day is the unofficial start of summer, but the first official day is this week.

This year, I think the heat recognized the unofficial start and my grass shot up long before summer arrived. Most days have been too hot to mow grass in the middle of the day. I could cut mine early in the morning, but it is usually too wet.

I try to mow late in the day, so I finish right before dark. Sometimes I push the limits and it is too dark to see where I have cut by the time I finish. I have finished close to the house by the light of my flood lights. My mower is a self-propelled push-mower. I bought the stripped down model with no head lights.

I sold my riding mower when I moved twelve years ago. Since my lawn is much smaller than the last one, I decided pushing a mower would be good exercise. I have concluded that exercise by racquetball or swimming is much more fun.

Drew has gotten old enough to help. He usually operates the weed-eater while I mow. Sometimes, as dusk falls he becomes more interested in hunting than in mowing. He also wants me to hunt with him, rather than me mowing. Did I mention that hunting is more fun than mowing too? The other night we bagged about a dozen or so before the darkness overtook our ability to see.

Oh, I didn't tell you what we were hunting, did I? There is no limit on lightning bugs and they have no open and closed seasons, but they do only show up in summer.

They show up quite well when they turn on their taillight. The problem is when they turn off their light they are hard to see. By the time they turn it back on they have already flown away and out of reach.

This coupled with the fact that my vision is not great really hampers my hunting. Even with the outside flood lights on those little flying flashing lights are difficult to locate in the dark. I may not be the smartest person in the world, but I do own a smart phone. I, probably like you,

use my phone for almost everything – even hunting lightning bugs in the dark with my grandson. With the click of an icon, my phone transforms into a bright flashlight.

We've discovered we can see those little flying bugs with my phone-light, even after their light goes out. We don't always end up finishing the grass but we do usually end up with a jar full of bugs. Yes, we do catch-and-release. We turn them all loose so we could catch them again the next time, instead of finishing the grass.

The Bible says that Christians have a light too. In fact, Jesus said we are the light of the world. Of course we can't fly like lightning bugs, but we can and should, let our lights shine to give light to all. (Matthew 5:14-15).

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 1954

Picnicking at the swinging bridge on Tuesday were: Nell Ann Durham and Jack Perkins, Mary Ann Speer and Bill Martin, June Carr and Jim Edwards, Ellen Shaw and Jerry Fuller, Shelby Fuller and Bertis Roscoe and Carolyn Smith and Jim Link.

The $100,000 armory, long promised to Cullman, will definitely be built. In a letter received this week by Cullman's Representative, Henry White, from Governor Gordon Persons, plans were revealed for the modern building. The bids for which will be let on March 23rd. The building will be 100 feet wide and 150 feet long. There will be a 74 x 102 foot auditorium for the drill and gym floor. Also included will be an indoor rifle range, two supply rooms, three offices, three classrooms, kitchen, shower, laundry, restrooms and a vault.

From The Files Of 1994

DAR

Regent Janice Gentry and Chaplain Cherrell Creel Burkett opened the September 11th, 1994 meeting in the First United Methodist Church Parlor with the Ritual. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Paula Waldrep Henry, the Star Spangled Banner, led by Organizing Regent, Bettina P. Higdon Burns, the American's Creed, led by Regent Smith and the Preamble to the Constitution, led by Melinda Day Hunt and the President General's message was read by Ex-Regent. Rhonda Burks Van Zandt. Mrs. Van Zandt introduced the speaker, Mrs. Sarah Phillips Thomason, who explained "Our Constitution – Continuing the Commitment." Mrs. Thomason is a lawyer with Saint John and Saint John and a recent graduate of the University of Alabama Magna Cum Laude. After a brief history of why the first Ten Commandments were added to the Constitution, shortly after its ratification, Mrs. Thomason explained the changes in attitude brought during the 1930's and subsequently.

Mrs. Van Zandt and Miss Lisa Coleman were hostesses. The guest speaker, Daughters and Valerie Opacity and Lauren MacMilliar were served refreshments.

The business meeting, which followed, included minutes of the former meeting, treasurer's statement, report of officers and committees. A fact sheet on World War II was distributed to the Daughters by the Regent. Jimmy Caretti from Veterans of Foreign Wars gave a large American Flag and staff to the Chapter, which was on display.

Other than the ones mentioned above, those present were: Opal Boschung, Myrtle Launius Glaze, Ex-Regent, Athalene Lee Goodwin, Mary E. McAfee Jones, Myram Sandlin McClendon, Secretary, Magdalene Roberts Payne, Elva Robert Smith and Ex-Regent, Jean Bryan Waldrep.

Regent Janice Smith and Mesdames Burns, Goodwin, Henry, Dorothy Grimes Lytle, McClendon, Van Zandt and Waldrep attended the Northern District ALDAR meeting at Guntersville State Park, on September 16th. State Regent Ann Briglia, State Officers and State Committee Chairpersons outlined the activities and responsibilities to their counterpart.

Poet's Corner

I Found A Feather From A Cardinal

By: Rita Aiken Moritz
Pell City, Alabama

I found a feather from a cardinal

Inside my house today; I don't know why.

It set amid some seedlings and a hull.

Might he have left it there as he passed by?

Or did he leave it when he stopped by for a visit,

Perching on the woven wicker basket on the deck?

Was it just his scarlet calling card, reminding me

how teaming, vibrant life returns

again each spring?

He stayed there fifteen minutes, maybe more,

And I was sure he tried to catch my eye.

Then he when he went about

his crimson business,

I found a feather from a cardinal.

PURCHASE A HOME IN THE MONTH OF JUNE AND RECEIVE
$1,000 OFF SINGLEWIDES
$2,000 OFF DOUBLEWIDES
660 COUNTY RD. 437, CULLMAN
256-775-8794 | DREAMHOMEOUTLET.COM
DREAM HOME OUTLET
You Can Afford the Home of Your Dreams
#1 IN SERVICE | #1 FLEETWOOD DEALERSHIP IN THE NATION
LET US WELCOME YOU HOME

Stereo Center
1652 Town Square S.W.
Cullman, AL 35055
phone: (256) 734-8053
Rex
Roy
Max
Dan
Dalton
RadioShack Dealer
We install home and car stereo systems.

LEGALS

PB WIL BK 91 PG 187 - 06/20/2019 08:13AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
)
WILLIAM CLAUDE PICHELMAYER,) **CASE NO.: PC-2016-155**
)
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING MOTION TO CLOSE OUT ESTATE

TO: **JESSIE EVANS** **ERCIE BAKER**
JEFF CHILDERS **LILLIE MAE WOLFE**
RONALD JOHNSTON **SHIRLEY NIMS**

ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS

The Motion of Freddie Donald Smith, to close out Estate of **WILLIAM CLAUDE PICHELMAYER**, deceased, has been set for hearing on the 20th day of August, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

All persons having interest in, residing or being without the state are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Done this the 20th day of June, 2019.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

MICHAEL D. HAYNES
Attorney for Petitioner
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 100
Cullman, AL 35055
(256)737-5068

PB WIL BK 91 PG 188 - 06/20/2019 08:26 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
TOMMIE WAYNE REAVES) CASE NO PC 2019-138
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: SHERRY A. REAVES BRAZELTON AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS
ADDRESSES UNKNOWN

The Petition of Linda Kay Bailey Reaves to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Tommie Wayne Reaves, deceased, has been set for hearing on the 11th day of September, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

All persons in interest residing or being without the state are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Done this the 20th day of June, 2019.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper

Alex Chaney
Berry, Berry, Little, Brunner & Chaney
P.O. Box 1052
Cullman, AL 35056
(256)734-6330

TRIBUNE EDITORIAL

To audit or not? A chamber of misdirection

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

For several months there has been discussion and downright controversy surrounding the use of lodging tax dollars by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce. It's time for a formal audit to disclose exactly how and where the lodging tax money is spent.

Secrecy and mistrust are two words you never want to hear when discussing expenditures of public tax dollars, yet those two words have been very common in talks about the Chamber of Commerce this year surrounding Project X (which would have seen 2% of the lodging tax allocated to this Cullman County Schools endeavor), the resignation of the chamber president, resignation of four Chamber board members, failure to disclose projects and expenditures to the tourism committee and a lack of transparency with the hotels that generate the money.

Many past and present board members have said there is no accountability for the lodging tax and claim when they ask for reports they are denied. A former local elected official – now serving at the state level – said multiple requests have been made to see how the lodging tax has been spent in previous years.

Three months later that elected official is still waiting on ledgers which should have been made easily available. At the time of the request a high-ranking Chamber of Commerce board member told The Tribune the documents would "all be turned over within a few days," but that was months ago and as of Friday, no documents have been recovered.

The Cullman County Revenue Commission is obligated by state law to turn over the lodging tax to the Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of tourism and promotion of the county. This money cannot be placed in a general fund nor can it be allocated to other programs, employee salaries, or any act outside of tourism.

The lack of transparency leads to notions that the money has been mismanaged, used for purposes other than those stipulated by law, with those at the top trying to hide something.

One Chamber of Commerce employee said, "If we get audited, we are in serious trouble."

Opening the books to the public for inspection shines the light on the true picture. If it shows no wrongdoing, rumors can be put to rest. If misdeeds are discovered, then appropriate actions to prevent them from happening again are warranted.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars are collected every year.

In 2014-2015, the money was always being lumped into the general fund with the former tourism director only allotted a small portion of the tourism budget. Questions from the director about where the money was going went unanswered.

The only logical decision is the simplest and the one too many have been afraid to call for: a complete audit followed by the removal of the lodging tax from the control of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce.

The secrecy and apparent unwillingness to disclose the information is causing concern in the community. Public statements by the Cullman Hospitality Association calling for removal of the funds from Chamber control only adds fuel to those flames.

The audit would give Sen. Garlan Gudger and Representatives Randall Shedd, Corey Harbison and Scott Stadthagen justification to purse legislative action to put the lodging tax money under the control of a newly created tourism group comprised of all the stakeholders like the CHA suggests, if that is warranted.

Open your books, Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce.





