

Rural Route 4 Southern October

I saw a bumper sticker the other day that read, “American by Birth, Southern by the Grace of God.” I like the sentiment of that expression. I’m a fourth-generation southerner, born and raised in northern Alabama, and have never lived north of the Mason-Dixon Line. (But many folks in Alabama think that if you live north of Montgomery, you are a Yankee).



Phillip Burgess

There are many things to like about living in Dixie. Our hospitality and home cooking with lots of comfort foods come to mind. But what really sets us apart is our vernacular and those odd phrases that non-southerners find difficult to understand. I remember my daddy talking about a man who got “drunk as Cooter Brown.” Legend says Cooter Brown lived on the Mason-Dixon Line during the Civil War. To avoid the draft on either side, Cooter Brown decided to stay drunk throughout the war, making him ineligible for battle during the conflict. Drunken southerners have measured their drunkenness by him ever since.

Many years ago, I was helping my granddaddy with repairs to his barn. We had nailed several boards on the outside wall when my granddaddy looked at our work and declared, “that thing is all catawampus.” He meant the boards had been nailed at an angle and were not straight. And a “catawampus” board has to be fixed.

Once at Rip’s Needmore Grocery on Rural Route 4, I casually asked one of the farmers sitting around the pot-bellied stove in the back of the store how he was doing. He replied, “I’m finer than a frog hair split four ways.” Translation: He was feeling good. Of course, frogs don’t have hair, so to be finer than an imaginary hair on a frog means you’re having a heck of a day.

After chopping cotton all day, I carried my weary bones to the back porch, where Mama B met me and said, “You look rode hard and put up wet.” In other words, I was a pitiful sight. Everyone knows when a horse runs for a lengthy period it works up a sweat, especially under the saddle. A good horseman knows to walk the horse around so it can cool off.

Speaking of cotton, when my aged granddaddy wasn’t able to live alone, Daddy Grand bought a mobile home for Pa to live in near our house so we could take care of him. Pa didn’t like the idea of leaving

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Energy Saving Trees

At TUA, we are committed to a greener, healthier world. Trees around homes will not only help reduce the amount of energy your home requires, but they also add to your property value, reduce your carbon footprint, improve the air quality, and more effectively catch stormwater runoff. It is our intention that the free trees we provide be a gift to you and to our community.

In conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation’s Energy-Saving Trees program, TUA will be giving trees away to the first 100 TUA electric customers who sign up.

Customers may choose one of the following: Frontier Elm, Kousa Dogwood, Shumard Oak or Sun Valley Maple.

Visit

www.arborday.org/TUA
through November 15

Trees will be delivered to TUA for distribution in November.



Watts Happening

New Fee Schedule

The TUA Board of Directors voted in August to update a number of service and connection fees, many of which had not been adjusted in more than a decade. The new rates, listed below, will go into effect January 1, 2022.

Water Tap Fees

- 3/4" Water Tap, Inside City: \$1,000
- 3/4" Water Tap, Outside City: \$1,200
- 1" Water Tap, Inside City: \$1,200
- 1" Water Tap, Outside City: \$1,400
- 1.5" Water Tap, Inside City: \$2,700 or actual cost
- 1.5" Water Tap, Outside City: \$2,900 or actual cost
- 2" Water Tap, Inside City: \$2,700 or actual cost
- 2" Water Tap, Outside City: \$2,900 or actual cost
- 2" Compound Tap, Inside City: \$3,700 or actual cost
- 2" Compound Tap, Outside City: \$3,900 or actual cost

Cross Connection Inspections/Device Testing

\$5 per month, per device

Water/Sewer Service Line Inspection Fee

\$20 for each service inspection

Connection Fee

- Before 2 p.m.: \$40
- After 2 p.m.: \$60

Reconnection Fee

- During working hours: \$50
- After working hours: \$120

Collection Charge:

Overdue bill paid on site to halt a disconnect: \$30

Connect/Reconnect by Line Crew at Pole

- Paid before 4 p.m.: \$150
- Paid after 4 p.m.: \$350

Returned Check Fee: \$35

Call out After Hours for Non-TUA issue

- Fiber after hours: \$100
- Water/Wastewater after hours: \$200
- Electric after hours: \$350

(Continued from front)

his home and fought the move for weeks. But finally, he relented, and after moving in, I heard him say, "I guess I'm living in high cotton." His new digs were better than he first thought, and Pa was expressing his surprise. Farmers like cotton stalks that are tall and full of fluffy bolls because they are easier to pick. Hence, tall cotton.

And just how happy is a "dead pig in the sunshine?" Not to be too gross, but when a pig dies in the sun, the effect pulls the pig's lips back to reveal a toothy "grin" that makes it look happy even though it is not. A person who's "happy as a dead pig in the sunshine" is one who's blissfully ignorant of reality.

Have you ever been "madder than a wet hen?" That's pretty mad. Anyone who has tried to get the eggs from beneath an ornery old hen who is sitting on them knows exactly what this means. The harder you try to steal the eggs, the more agitated the hen becomes. I've been told that some farmers used to dunk their hens in cold water to break their broodiness.

And finally, has anyone ever said to you, "Bless your heart?" You may think it's a kind gesture. Maybe. But more than likely it's not. It's usually directed at folks who have done something really dumb and don't know it.

Bless their hearts!



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Christmas Parade

The Tullahoma Christmas Parade will travel down Jackson Street on Friday, December 3. If you can't be there, you can watch it **LIVE** on LightTube Channel 6 and on our TUA LightTube Facebook page. Replays will air throughout the month on LightTube Channels 6 and 15.



For every degree lower you turn down your thermostat, you'll save up to 3% on heating costs.