



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

July 22, 2024

### Program

Lion Randy Kraft introduced our speaker, tonight, Mr. Rusty Roden, Agri-Science instructor at Holly Pond High School. Rusty explained that agriculture has been his life from boyhood. His dad was a cattle buyer (and Lion who worked at our Fair), while his mom kept hen houses. As a youngster he participated in Future Farmers of America (FFA) and 4-H Clubs. He has been an Agri-Science teacher for 34 years at West Point High School, then back at his Alma-mater at Holly Pond High School. His wife is an elementary school teacher at Holly Pond and his son is a senior at Holly Pond.



Mr. Rusty Roden, Holly Pond Agri-Science teacher, showed off an arm-full of award banners that his students achieved at the FFA State Convention this year.

Rusty explained that the agricultural subjects he teaches can really be called “Life Skills,” since these are subjects that one can use to make themselves independent and thrive in practically any situation. Not only does he teach truck farming & agricultural and animal science skills (horses, cows, sheep, chickens & pigs), but welding, plumbing, carpentry, automotive and mechanical skills, electrical wiring, smoking meats, public speaking and leadership, and canning fruits and vegetables. These classes extend to outside activities through FFA and 4-H; this is seen at their displays and exhibits at our

Cullman County Fair. At Holly Pond, the Ag classes are divided into four areas that are basically the 9<sup>th</sup> (foundational classes), 10<sup>th</sup> (intermediate), 11<sup>th</sup>(advanced), and 12<sup>th</sup> (applied Agri-science classes). These classes also offer a hunter’s education course that enables them to earn a hunter’s Safety Certificate which allows them to get a hunter’s license when they turn 16. About the only similar Agri-science classes available at most city schools might be wood shop classes.

Mr. Roden talked about the accomplishments of his students. He mentioned that several students had moved forward with their welding skills, one of whom is now welding on space craft for NASA at Cape Canaveral. His students just returned from Montgomery, participating in the Alabama Jr. Round-up with over 200 cattle from across the State. At the last FFA convention, Rusty carried 18 students who entered into 5 competition areas. The nursery landscape team finished 4<sup>th</sup>, the orchard team finished 4<sup>th</sup>, livestock judging finished 3<sup>rd</sup>, extemporaneous speaking finished 3<sup>rd</sup>, sheep production was 1<sup>st</sup>, meats judging was 5<sup>th</sup> , and landscaping management was 3<sup>rd</sup>. His students built a huge cooker as one of their class projects that Samuel Tucker ordered; it will cook 100 Boston butts at a time. They have a greenhouse at the school that annually supports a project whereby students produce and sell plants across the community every spring.

He thanked or Club for supporting them through our Fair; it is something important that they look forward to participating in every year. Consider the song by Hank Williams, Jr. – “A Country Boy Can Survive,” --- and you can understand why that’s true if they are fortunate enough to have an instructor such as Mr. Rusty Roden.



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### Other Business

Updates on Lions with health issues are as follows: Lion Wendell Copeland at home with dizzy spells and is not driving; Lion Gordon Boyd at Woodland Village and is doing well, visitors welcome; Lion Ron Seybold at ER with abdominal pain; Lion Gary Murphree is back at Westminster in room 105 after a hospital stay; Lion David Goodwin on second round of Chemo, he is doing good; and Lion Dewayne Wilson is recovering from out-patient back surgery and is doing well.

Lion President Chris Brooks expressed his thanks to Lions offering support in his family issue last week.

Fair board met and the Club BOD met. Lion Frank Odell – new roundtable for new members was cancelled tonight. Lion Javon Daniel encouraged the club to recruit members, we need more to continue to serve Cullman. Lion Herman (Bill) Ruehl and Lion Bill Wilt recognized for work at the fairground. Lion Bill Ruehl asked for volunteers for the Mobile Eye Clinic on Wednesday, and he got all he needed. Lion Don Smith gave an update on the Fair website and Facebook page, including a tentative schedule; let him know what you think.

### **Upcoming Programs and Events**

July 29: Speaker will be Dist.11, Alabama State House Representative, Mr. Randall Shedd.



**Dist. 11 Rep. Randall Shedd**  
**AL State House of Representatives**

August 5: Speaker will be Mayor of City of Cullman, Mr. Woody Jacobs.



**Mayor of Cullman, Mr. Woody Jacobs.**

### **Tale Twister Input**

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister*, see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings. Lion Carey can be reached at 256-739-0580 (H) or 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).