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Cullman's Monday Newspaper

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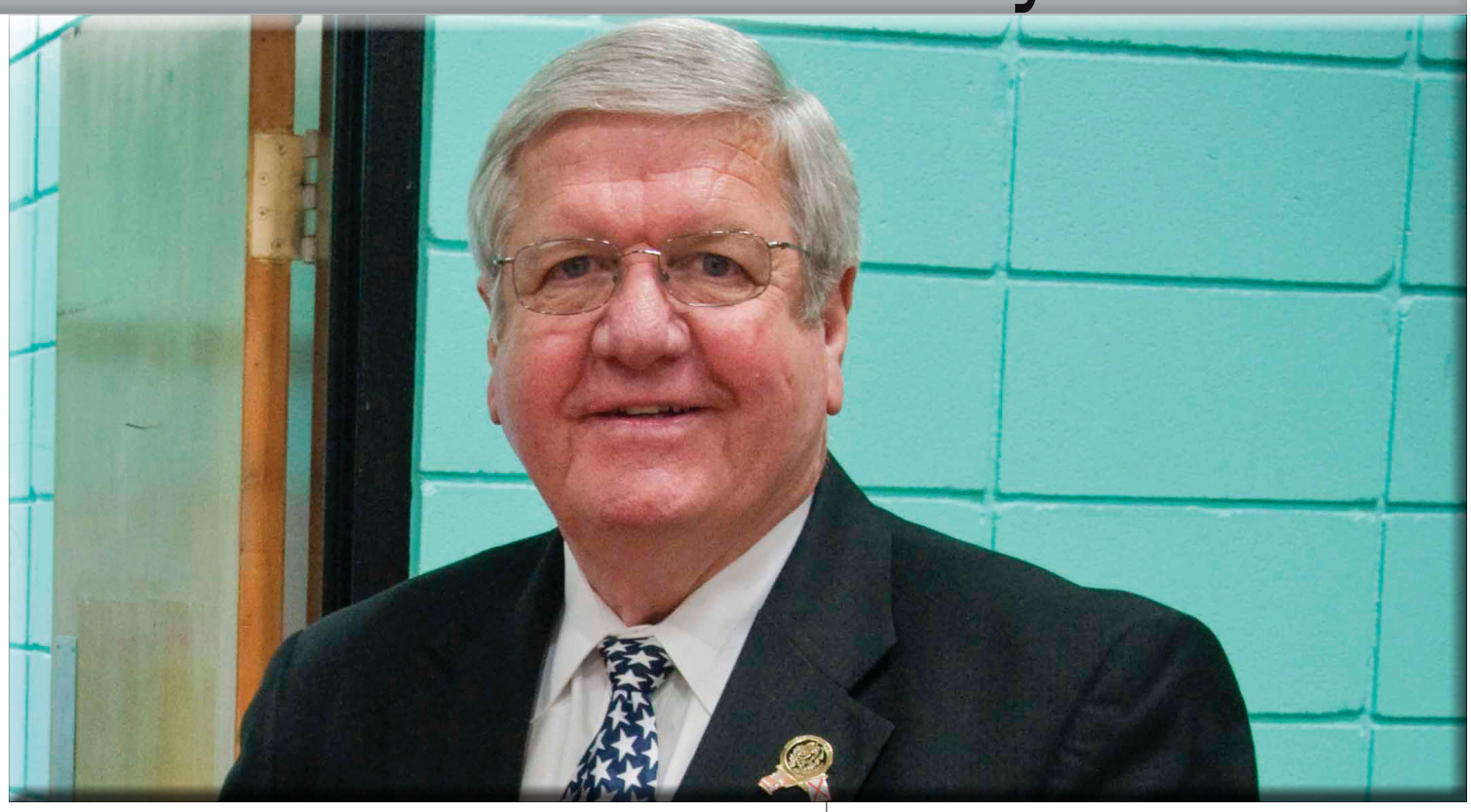
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS

Day in the Life of: The Mayor

By: Meghan Nelson
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qrnews/mnelson



Job titles are intriguing. They are little names that tidily sum up a person's entire living, and they often seem to be accompanied by a stereotypical image. For example, when you hear the word nurse, you likely accompany it with a mental picture of a woman in a white uniform administering a shot to a crying infant. If you hear 'postman', you probably envision a guy in blue being chased by a dog, and upon the mention of 'farmer', you are apt to think of a middle-aged man driving a tractor. However, as anyone in the previously mentioned occupations or any other career can attest, jobs encompass an enormously wider array of activities than their titles seem to convey. Unless you have actually experienced a certain line of work, it is almost impossible to envision what any one job includes on a day-to-day basis. Therefore, inspired by the mystery behind the job title, I will spend the next few months living a day in the shoes, boots, or high heels of a variety of different professionals. Whether they are welders, police officers, bankers, or baristas, everyone's occupation possesses a mixture of unseen elements that once discovered can enable us to better understand and appreciate the job that each person does. An appropriate place to begin such an exploration was obviously with the man who represents our city - Mayor Max Townson. Before beginning my day with the mayor, I was more than a bit foggy about what a mayor actually does. Admittedly I possessed a few stereotypical images of government officials, and upon the thought of 'mayor', my mind automatically generated an image of Arnold Schwarzenegger wearing a suit and sitting in a leather chair smoking a cigar. (I am after all, a politically-apathetic twenty-five-year-old, right?)



Photo By: Emily Durden

Color Guard presents during CHS Veteran's Day ceremony.

After arriving at City Hall, the administrative assistant to the Mayor, Leanne West, directed me to the Mayor's office. Once there, I discovered that while Mayor Townson was wearing a suit and did, in fact, have a leather chair, he was busier with much more pressing business than previously imagined.

The Mayor began his day in a similar fashion to many Americans as he sat down at his computer to check and respond to emails and also to review the Daily Duty Reports from the various city departments – a program which he implemented upon election. As the Mayor pointed out, "It helps keep [him] aware and up-to-date on what's happening in the city."

When the morning neared 9:30, we prepared to accompany Mayor Townson to Cullman High School where he was scheduled to participate in the school's Veteran's Day Program. Since my imagination insisted that the Mayor followed typical Hollywood movie portrayal and was driven by a mysterious man in a black car to all of his engagements, I was pleasantly surprised when we hopped into a nondescript city vehicle and were chauffeured by the Mayor himself to CHS.

After taking his designated seat on the stage, Mayor Townson proudly watched as his grandson Landry, who has already enlisted to serve our country, presented the American Flag to the tune of the National Anthem. Later in the ceremony, all of the veterans, including Mayor Townson, who served in the Air Force, were presented with a small American Flag. As the Air Force's official song was played, the Mayor waved his miniature flag to the music with a spirited sense of enthusiasm and a good dose of appreciation from the audience. Conveniently seated behind the Mayor's wife, I overheard her state amid the enjoyment that "that's just him."

Upon leaving the high school, Mayor Townson made a brief stop



Photo By: Emily Durden

Mayor Max Townson shows his support for veterans during the Veterans Day ceremony.

Continued DITL - Page 3

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Religion

A Passion to See the Gospel

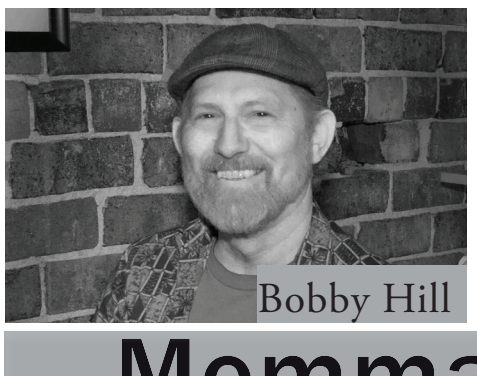
By: Dawn Owens
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dnews/dowens

This past week Bobby Hill, pastor of New Life Church joined me at Berkley Bob's for some coffee. The scheduled half hour interview slowly grew into an hour and then to an hour and a half as we sat and talked about him, his church, Cullman and all of the ways in which God is revealing Himself more fully to Him in them. Hill started of speaking a bit about himself, but unlike most people he did not begin with his past, but rather about whom he believes he is and who he believes he is becoming.

"I am growing in Him through sonship, and because of that my passions are growing and therefore those things that drive me are being revealed," Bobby said reflectively. "What I am finding is the more that I understand who I am in the context of sonship of Father God the more I am able to define myself. I am learning that Father God is most important and me discovering my identity in sonship is the greatest part of my life so far." These were some very deep thoughts for a Monday morning meeting. The interview came on the tail end of what was a one month hiatus from New Life. Hill said it was a time to study, reflect, ponder and pursue further truth and understanding from God.



Bobby Hill

This pastor had been doing some deep thinking and it was refreshing to be privy to his thoughts. Hill opened up about his background as the conversation continued. He has lived in the Cullman area for most of his life. "I grew up in Eva," he said with a smile. "Well, technically it's about 4 miles from Eva, in the country, but I went to school in Eva. I lived in the country on a small family farm and we always went to church. So I was oriented to church and to God. But during my teenage years I rebelled and went as far away from church, God and ministry as I could possibly go." "I distinctly remember being 8 years old and being out in the middle of a field with my friends, getting up on a stump and preaching to them. And though I sensed that God had preaching in mind for me, I was living two different lives when I was eight years old. I was going to church with my family, who were strict Christians, but at the same time I was stealing cigarettes, smoking, and getting into all kinds of trouble I shouldn't have been doing at that age." At the age of 27 he had an encounter with God that changed him forever. "It was at that moment I realized I had purpose and so I immediately surrendered my life over to Him."

For Bobby, his reason for becoming a pastor was not because he felt called to a general pastoral role. Instead he sensed God urging him to specifically pastor New Life Church as a lifelong commitment. "So there is no next pastor position for me. If I am not pastoring at New Life Church, then I am probably not pastoring," stated Bobby. Thus far Hill has been the lead pastor at New Life for 12 years.

"At New Life there are a few things that we emphasize very passionately. The gospel. We are passionate about what the truth is, not our own interpretation, what our experience might say, but rather on what God would say about the truth. We are on a pursuit/journey of all the gospel is and all that it implies. This causes us to focus intently upon the person and the work of Jesus Christ. We approach everything from a Christo-centric approach."

Hill went on to explain that Christo-centric places Christ at the center of everything as, "the way we interpret scripture, relationships, all aspects. Everything that was created, all of creation was created by, for, and through Jesus Christ." It's important to Hill for people to understand their relationship with God as Father. "I would like to see in Cullman a group of people committed to such an intimacy with Father that there is nothing more important to them than the proclamation of the gospel and all of its implications in the person and work of Jesus Christ."

"That they are discovering truth in a way that leads them deeper into their relationship with Jesus so that they can manage life to its fullest through Him. And that they are engaging others around them in ways that drives people to the gospel and understanding their destiny through it. All of this, resulting in a transformation of our community."

This pastor of deep thoughts, big smiles and a passion for the gospel that reveals truth, ended his time with a quick picture. "I wish I had worn my other hat," he said while pointing to his hat. "This one is my casual hat; I should have worn my cowboy hat. I just got a new one that is yellow."

New Life Church is a non-denominational Church on Welti Road that meets has a Sunday service at 10:30am, or you can come early for sausage and biscuits in the lobby.

Momma's Purse Still Needs Your Help

By: Dawn Owens
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There is still time for you to give women in our community a purse filled with goodies for Christmas. Momma's Purse, a ministry of West Point First Baptist Church, is in its second year with a mission to touch the lives of 500 women who may feel forgotten this holiday season. With only 86 purses filled thus far, there is still opportunity to you to donate items by the December 2nd deadline.

Kim Campbell, wife and mother of three, felt God tugging on her heart last year to minister to women who feel left out during the holidays.

"I wanted to find a way to reach out to them while bringing them a bit of joy and encouragement," said Campbell. "The purpose behind every purse we give away is to let them know that God loves them, they are not alone, and that there is hope."

As a hair stylist she recognizes the way a haircut or color can make a woman feel and how a nice purse and knowing there are things in there that are their own, can give a woman confidence.

"Many women don't get the opportunity to shop for new things like clothes or get their nails or hair done, so this is a way to give something new to them this Christmas that a woman will treasure. But we don't want to just give them nice things, we want to introduce them to the One whose gift is far greater anything of earthly value," she said.



With 86 purses collected so far, Momma's Purse organizer at West Point First Baptist Church Kim Campbell displays one purse containing many necessary items.

Photo By: Jessica Norrell

"It's just been amazing to see how the women in this community have embraced the idea. I think everyone can relate to a need for a purse and being able to put things in it. For many of these women, it may be the only thing that they will receive this year."

Women from all different denominations, facets of business, ages, and socio-economic backgrounds have supported this common cause. Campbell realizes this project is bigger than her.

"I have no idea what God wants to do with this ultimately," she said. "All I know is to be faithful to what He has shared with me to do for now."

Campbell's received many calls, e-mails and Facebook messages asking what items she'll take to put in the purses. "I always suggest to women who ask what to give to look in their own purses. What kind of things do they like to carry with them. If they are carrying it, someone else probably would too," she said.

"Donations we have received and will continue to need include new purses, wallets, nail polishes, pens and small pads, deodorants, hair brushes, combs, hair ties, barrettes, other hair accessories, jewelry, toothpaste and toothbrushes, feminine products, tissues, makeup, cosmetic bags, small bibles, gum/candy, razors, scarves, gloves, etc. Not everyone will get everything but it gives us a number of items to put in there. Just keep in mind, these are Christmas gifts and so we like to give new items rather than used."

Items can be trial or regular sized. Campbell suggested look for deals and sales in the area.

"I found a great deal on purses at Rue 21 not too long ago. They were on sale for $3 a bag, so I picked up a bunch." She's hoping she can find more like it to help supplement the donations that are coming in from all over Cullman. "This is a great opportunity for us couponers to pull from the stockpile we've been working on this year to donate brand new items that we got for next to nothing."

If you are interested in donating new purses and items to go in them, you can drop them by J. Drake Salon Monday through Friday from 8am-5pm or her home church West Point First Baptist Church between the hours of 8am and 5pm. Make sure to check out the Momma's Purses Facebook page for updates and if you have questions feel free to e-mail Kim at mommaspurse@yahoo.com.

DITL

by the funeral home, and during the drive back to City Hall, we began to spea of how we cannot predict or expect what will happen in a year or

even a day. Mayor Townson admitted that he certainly did not foresee the snow storm, the tornadoes, or several other of the events that have occurred during his time in office. He believes that being prepared for the unexpected is a fundamental requirement for the position of mayor.

Once we returned to his office, the Mayor resumed his never-ending office work of signing checks, replying to emails, returning calls, and meeting with city employees. While these tasks seemed a bit mundane to my adventure-seeking self, Mayor Townson insisted that they were not a bother to him as they helped keep him abreast of the latest expenditures and news.

He divulged that the most difficult part of his job is not the paperwork but is actually the many late-night meetings that are a part of his position. "At my age, you tend to want to get home a little earlier...and my wife and I enjoy being home in time to watch 'Dancing with the Stars' if we can."

After making a respectable dent in the pile of papers on his desk, Mayor Townson prepared for his presentation at a lunch meeting with ASCPA , an educational foundation focusing on future CPAs. As he gathered his materials, he shared that his thirty-five years in pharmaceuticals had effectively accustomed him to public speaking and that during a speech it wasn't unusual for him to simply 'shoot from the hip'.

Later, as he spoke at lunch, I realized that the Mayor was quite correct in his self-assessment. Having no podium for his notes, Mayor Townson had no choice but to 'shoot from the hip', and admittedly he did an impressive job of it.

Once the CPA meeting adjourned, we drove across town to the Senior Center, where Angie Jochum was hosting their Annual Veteran's Day Celebration. Angie revealed that the celebration had included around 250 attendants, 53 veterans, 50 veteran's widows, and a live gospel group, as well as a huge selection of food and an impressive dessert table. During the drive back to City Hall, Mayor Townson's pride in Angie's accomplishments was obvious. While he enjoys the community-oriented requirements of his job, his favorite activity as mayor is the opportunity to work with the schools. He explained, "Education teaches you how to make a living, but it also teaches you about freedom, and once you know about freedom, you don't want to give it up."



Mayor Max Townson speaks with Meghan Nelson following a full day of events, lunch meetings and an seemingly endless stack of paperwork.

Photo By: Emily Durden

Back at his office once more, Mayor Townson continued his stack of paperwork and prepared to make phone calls and communicate with the various department heads and the Chief of Police before the day ended. While observing the Mayor's computerized calendar, I could see that his schedule appeared to be just as busy in the upcoming days as it had been on this one. With Council Meetings every other week, economic development meetings, and planning committees, Mondays are his busiest day of the week, but the work load can vary depending on what happens and when it happens. Reflecting on how unpredictable day-to-day life can be, Mayor Townson said that his current position truly is a 24/7, 365 days-a-year job and that he always has to be prepared for what might happen next. Mayor Townson also feels that the position of mayor calls for someone with a well-rounded education, an ability to relate to people, and an outgoing personality. My day with the Mayor convinced me that he possesses these characteristics. After all, in his own words, and as I discovered earlier in the day, the Mayor "is not one to sit back...[he's] one to wave that flag."

As I drove home from my journalistic adventure, I contemplated the day spent with Mayor Townson. Despite my somewhat skeptical attitude toward the government as a whole, I discovered that my preconceived ideas about the Office of Mayor were rather inaccurate. Mayor Townson fills a difficult and demanding role, and he works quite diligently for our city. I now feel that it is important to separate the idea of 'the government' from the actual people who are in office. As with anybody else, we must evaluate them on an individual basis, and it is clear to me that Mayor Townson is performing his job with dedication and a true appreciation for our city.

Raising Awareness One Grain at a Time

By: Noah Chandler
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qrnews/nchandler

After having their product on the market for just two months the young entrepreneurs at KSW Colored Salts have figured out that success can come quickly when stumble across something fun and new.

Kelsey Crawford, Sam Crowder and Waid Harbison recently began selling salt at Rumor's Deli, located in the Warehouse District. But not just any salt. This granular garnish does not come in just plain white. Instead KSW Colored Salts is bringing a new flair to a table near you.

"Sam Crowder and I were taking a marketing course and one of our projects in the class was to create a new invention, bring a prototype for it, and create a pitch for the item," Harbison said. "A few periods earlier in Chemistry, we were working with a blue powder in the lab. My lab partner Kelsey Crawford jokingly said that it looked like colored salt, and how cool it would be if salt was colored. A few periods later in Marketing, Sam and I knew what our idea would be."

KSW Colored Salts has a simple formula that they hope will help those who must watch their sodium intake. Harbison said the goal for KSW is to venture past the local markets, hopefully selling the product throughout the region.

"The long term goals for KSW Colored Salt are to spread it not only through the community, but locally, regionally, and eventually nationally," he said. "KSW Colored Salts will be offered starting in Cullman and locations in the near future include Auburn and Tuscaloosa.

Over the past nine-weeks patrons at Rumor's have been greeted with a basket of the glistening salts at the front counter. Annette Harris, owner of Rumor's, said the she was overjoyed to be the first restaurant to offer the salts.

"I think what Waid has done is just amazing," Harris said. "They came up with a great product so we are excited to be able to offer it first for our customers to try and also purchase."

"We love being able to support local upstart businesses, especially when they have such a great product like KSW," Harris said. "Come down to Rumor's and try them out for yourself. They are fun, colorful and allow you to see exactly how much salt you are eating."

A variety of colors from pink, blue, green, red, purple and a special blend named pepper are just a few of the many versions of salt KSW is producing. Harbison said the color possibilities are limitless.

"All colors are offered by KSW Colored Salt; primary colors include Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Lime Green, Blue, Pink, Purple, and our novelty Pepper Colored Salt," he said. "Any color can be custom made at no additional cost, so virtually every color is available. We also serve mixed colors such as orange and blue, red and green, and "Rainbow Salt" with every color in it."

The salt keeps the same sodium based flavor despite the coloring process. Harbison said it will not color the tongue or taint the flavor of favorite foods. "No, the coloring does not affect the taste. Only three ingredients are used in KSW Colored Salt; table salt, food coloring dye, and rice," he said. Because the dye has no taste, colored salt has the exact same taste as salt."

Even though KSW Colored Salts is a business, Harbison said it is important to the company to give back to the community as much as possible. Each month KSW will donate a portion of their profits to a different charitable organization, including the American Cancer Society.

"Each month KSW Colored Salts is going to be doing a program called "Colored Salt for a Cause" in which 50% of proceeds from a certain color of salt will go to a charity, awareness groups, or research groups for such things as Cancer, AIDS, and other pressing issues," he said. During the months of November & December KSW Salts will be supporting the National Eating Disorder Association.

"Daily many women and men, old and young alike struggle with eating disorders in the United States," he said. "Eating disorders range from anorexia, bulimia, and many others. Eating disorders captivate the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in America, not only affecting their physical health, but also affecting their daily lives. This month through December 10th, all sales of Blue and Green salt will go to the National Eating Disorder Association in support of the many people in America struggling with eating disorders today."

The cost for salts ranges in price from .50 cents for ¼ of a cup, enough to fill a salt shaker, to $5.00 for 3 cups. Harbison said he hopes that people will take to the new version of the old salt shaker.

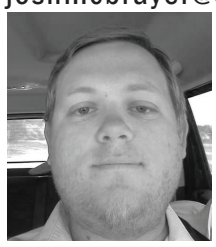
"It is good for easy culinary crafting, to add some color and jazz up the performance of foods. We also hope everyone will really help out the causes we are supporting as well by displaying colors for causes in their restaurants, homes, and businesses."

Any interested businesses, stores, pharmacies, restaurants or any individuals interested in KSW Colored Salt can contact us at waid.harbison@hotmail.com or by phone at 256-636-2565. The salts may be purchased at Rumor's Deli, which can be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/rumorsdeli. Additional information can be found at KSW Colored Salt website, www.kswcoloredsalts.webs.com.

Sports - Alabama Spotlight

Green Bay Packers Great & Hall of Fame Quarterback, Mr. Bart Starr

By: Josh McBrayer
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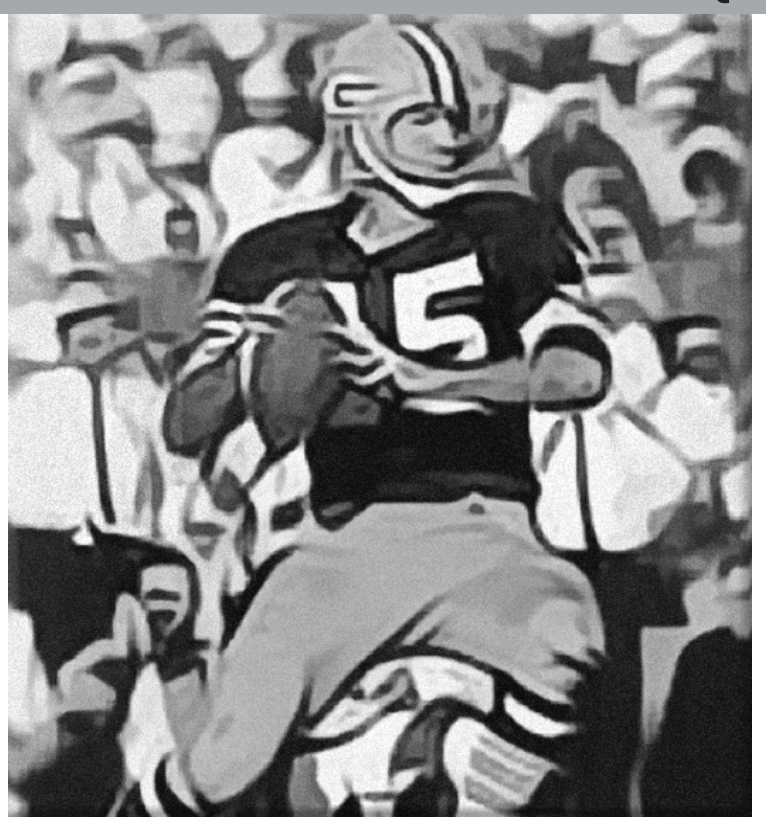
qrnews/jmcbrayer

24,718 passing yards
152 touchdown passes
5 time NFL Champion
2 time Super Bowl Champion
2 Super Bowl MVP
Pro Football Hall of Fame - Class of 1977

As impressive of a list this is, it pales in comparison to the man that is Bart Starr. CullmanSense Sports Reporter Josh McBrayer was afforded the opportunity to interview Mr. Starr via phone. Josh said it is an experience he will not soon forget and hopefully it will be memorable read. Five simple questions, five amazing answers.

Josh McBrayer : Mr. Starr, thank you so much for taking the time to speak with me this morning
Bart Starr : You are welcome, and please call me Bart.

JM: Please describe what it was like signing with the Green Bay Packers right out of college.



BS : It was a tremendous thrill. After a couple of mediocre years in college with injuries and a coaching change, I didn't have much of a resume. I was fortunate to be drafted by a great organization like the Packers.

JM : Playing in the first ever Super Bowl, did you ever think it would balloon to what it is today ?

BS : We had no idea. We didn't even have a unique name for it. It was just called the AFL-NFL World Championship, but we did have a feeling it was going to be special because of the amount of media coverage. We had never seen so much coverage at a Championship game before.

JM : What led you to call a run play on third down with sixteen seconds left and no timeouts in the famous NFL Championship game known as "The Ice Bowl" ?

BS : Preparing for the game, we knew we could run the ball in that area of the field. On defense, Dallas used a "submarine" technique where their charge was so low that you couldn't push them back, all you could do was fall on them. All of them but one. We had run the wedge play a couple of times before for a MINIMUM of two yards, so we knew it would work. The only thing was the ground had become so frozen and slick because of the shadows that the running backs were slipping. I called time out and asked the offensive line if they could get their footing for one more wedge play. They said they could. I told Coach Lombardi that they could block for a wedge but with me keeping it because I was standing upright, and could shuffle my feet and lunge in. Coach Lombardi said 'Then run the ball and let's get the hell out of here!' His quotes will stay with me for as long as I live."

JM : Did you have any aspirations of becoming a coach or was that something that came along later ?

BS : It was something that happened after I was finished playing, when the Green Bay Packers offered the job to me. It was a big mistake because I had not had time to prepare for it. Like anything, to be good you have to prepare. That is why it was so disappointing.

JM : Please describe what it was like being inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

BS : Obviously it was the greatest thrill at that time. It means that you are at the pinnacle. I knew going into this interview that Mr. Starr was one of the greatest to ever step onto the gridiron, but getting to talk to him personally makes me even more of a fan.

Cullman County High School Basketball Schedule

November 22-29
Tuesday, November 22
Falkville @ Vinemont (Boys & Girls)
Holly Pond @ West Point (Boys & Girls)

Wednesday, November 23
Good Hope, Cold Springs, Hanceville in Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament @ Wallace State (Boys)
Cold Springs, Good Hope, Holly Pond in Danville Girls Tournament (Girls)

Thursday, November 24
West Point, Fairview, Cullman, Vinemont, Holly Pond in Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament (Boys)
Good Hope, Cold Springs, Hanceville in Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament @ Wallace State (Boys)

Friday, November 25
Cold Springs, Good Hope, Holly Pond in Danville Girls Tournament (Girls)
West Point, Fairview, Cullman, Vinemont, Holly Pond in Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament (Boys)
Good Hope, Cold Springs, Hanceville in Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament @ Wallace State (Boys)

Tuesday, November 29
Cullman @ Fairview (Boys & Girls)
Hanceville @ Vinemont (Boys & Girls)
Good Hope @ Priceville (Boys & Girls)
Winston County @ Holly Pond (Boys & Girls)
West Point @ Hayden (Boys & Girls)



Deer Hunting Regulations for Cullman County

Antlered Bucks

Stalk and Dog : Nov 19th - Jan 15th

Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs) : Jan 16th - Jan 31st

Unantlered Deer

Privately Owned or Leased Land Only : Nov 19th - Jan 31st

Open Permit - Public Land : Dec 17th - Jan 1st

Antlered Bucks and Unantlered Deer

Special Muzzleloader Privately Owned or Leased Land National Forest Service Land Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs) : Nov 14th - Nov 18thv

Bow and Arrow - Spear Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs) : Oct 15th - Jan 31st

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Meet the Crew

What it is and what it do to all you fine readers out there supporting this genuinely authentic locally owned and operated news outlet, because they are rare these days.

My name is Noah Zebulon Chandler and I am the founder of CullmanSense, website and print edition, which is now Cullman's Only Monday print edition. I have been in the journalism racket for six years, and yes, I call it a racket because the profession in general is nothing more than that.

What Dustin Isom, my business partner and co-owner, and I have put together does not fall into any specific category. We don't fall into news because we tend not to report every petty drug crime that comes down the pipeline nor do we fall under the blog title because our stories actually carry merit and weight. The best way to describe us is as a neutral platform for our community and her residents to express their opinions and creativity.

We at CS care about our community, hence Community Matters. Most of the crew were born, raised and plan to stay in Cullman County for the rest of their lives. We have assembled a stellar crew of talented individuals dedicated to bringing you the stories that you care about that have not been exposed in our area for many decades; so no more following the status quo.

The Crew consists of Jessica Norrell and Emily Durden, two photographers who also double as our main graphic design team; Josh McBrayer, our full-time Sports Reporter who will bring more to your breakfast table besides MLB scores; Tracy Handley, our Advertising Representative, who is migrating from Jasper to follow the CS path with us; and of course our reporters, some of which double as columnists, Meghan Nelson, Natalie Bonner, Dawn Owens, Blake Thompson and Dustin McSpadden.

We have numerous sports correspondents including Gary McGriff, Johnny "The Flash" Thornton and Tony Sisk, who brought you the best local football coverage this season on our website. They will be venturing into other sports as we continue to grow.

Also in our lineup is Cullman's own tremendously talented cartoonist, Anthony Saint. This young man is working hard to bring original cartoons to the reading public, not the traditional reruns most everyone is accustomed to. With this solid lineup of contributors, the CS website stays fresh each day.

Now that the crew has been introduced I just want to tell you a bit more about CS and what we plan to accomplish over the coming years. We have several great original sections, "A Day in the Life Of…" and "Rediscovering Cullman", both written by Meghan Nelson. Her "A Day in the Life Of…" column allows her to walk in the shoes of the working public here in Cullman and to tell the story from her perspective. The "Rediscovering Cullman" pieces allow Meghan to, well, do just that–Rediscover Cullman!

Another alternative angle CS is taking is Josh McBrayer's series entitled "Alabama Spotlight." This allows CS to interview Alabama residents who have made an impact at home and also across the southern region, country and in some cases, the world. This is an intriguing section that gives a fresh perspective on what our residents are doing in our community and communities abroad that we are all proud of.

To round out the equation we have video game reviews, covered by Dustin McSpadden. This young man can take the hottest game of the year, break it down in a matter of hours then be able to appropriately give the pros and cons of the game. For you gamers, this section is definitely for you. Of course, I will pick up where I left off so many years ago with a much better weekly movie review titled, "The Review." Yes, it is a little dry but the content, well the content is much more potent.

As we unfold our entertainment blanket here in Cullman, Wes Smith will be there to cover the concerts, comedic performances or local theatre productions with skill and precision. Smith, a Cullman native, has many years of experience in the entertainment field including live concert setup, so we are than confident in his abilities.

Since CS is produced by Cullman residents we rely on you, the reader, to supply us with story ideas, let us know what you like and do not like about the paper and most importantly what you want from CS. We have accomplished many great milestones in just 11 months. One of our proudest moments came at the September 11 Ceremony honoring local rapid responders, police and fire officials. We were blessed to broadcast the event live, giving those who wanted to be there in person the opportunity to participate in the event from afar.

CullmanSense currently offers free apps on both the Android Marketplace and iTunes Store. These were launched several months back and they make it easy to keep in tune with what is going on in and around Cullman. Our electronic version of our print edition will be offered at a very low subscription rate and we are anticipating its launch within a matter of weeks. Stay tuned to the website for more details.

Thank you for picking up the very first issue of CullmanSense print edition. Our goal is to showcase the community, her people and the places which make Cullman a great place to live. We look forward to serving Cullman residents for many years to come.

CULLMAN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
www.crmchospital.com (256) 737-2000



The CS Crew beginning on front row, left to right: Emily Durden, Dawn Owens, Meghan Nelson, Noah Chandler, Wes Smith, Josh McBrayer, Dustin Isom, Jessica Norrell, and Natalie Bonner

About Us

CullmanSense is a weekly print publication based out of Cullman, Alabama. The online site, CullmanSense.com is a six-day a week publication, which includes arrest/incident reports from Cullman City Police and the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, Obituaries and other timely information. The site is completely free and does include stories not found in our print edition.

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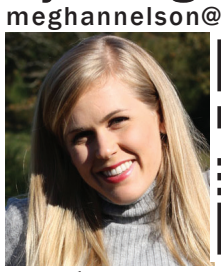
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Lifestyle

Rediscovering Cullman: Mary Carter Paint Store

By: Meghan Nelson
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qrnews/mnelson

Raised on a six-generation family farm just outside of Cullman's city limits, I am what some might refer to as a Cullmanite. I will admit that during my young adult years, this little fact was fairly irksome to my delicate adolescent sensibilities. With typical teenage apathy, I had dismissed my hometown as being old-fashioned, overly quaint, and completely in-conducive to a rocking social life.

Needless to say, upon graduating high school, I quickly relocated to a college town and resolutely decided not to settle in Cullman again for a considerable amount of time. Of course, life being the ironic and unpredictable beast that it is, after completing college, I promptly moved myself back to nowhere other than Cullman itself.

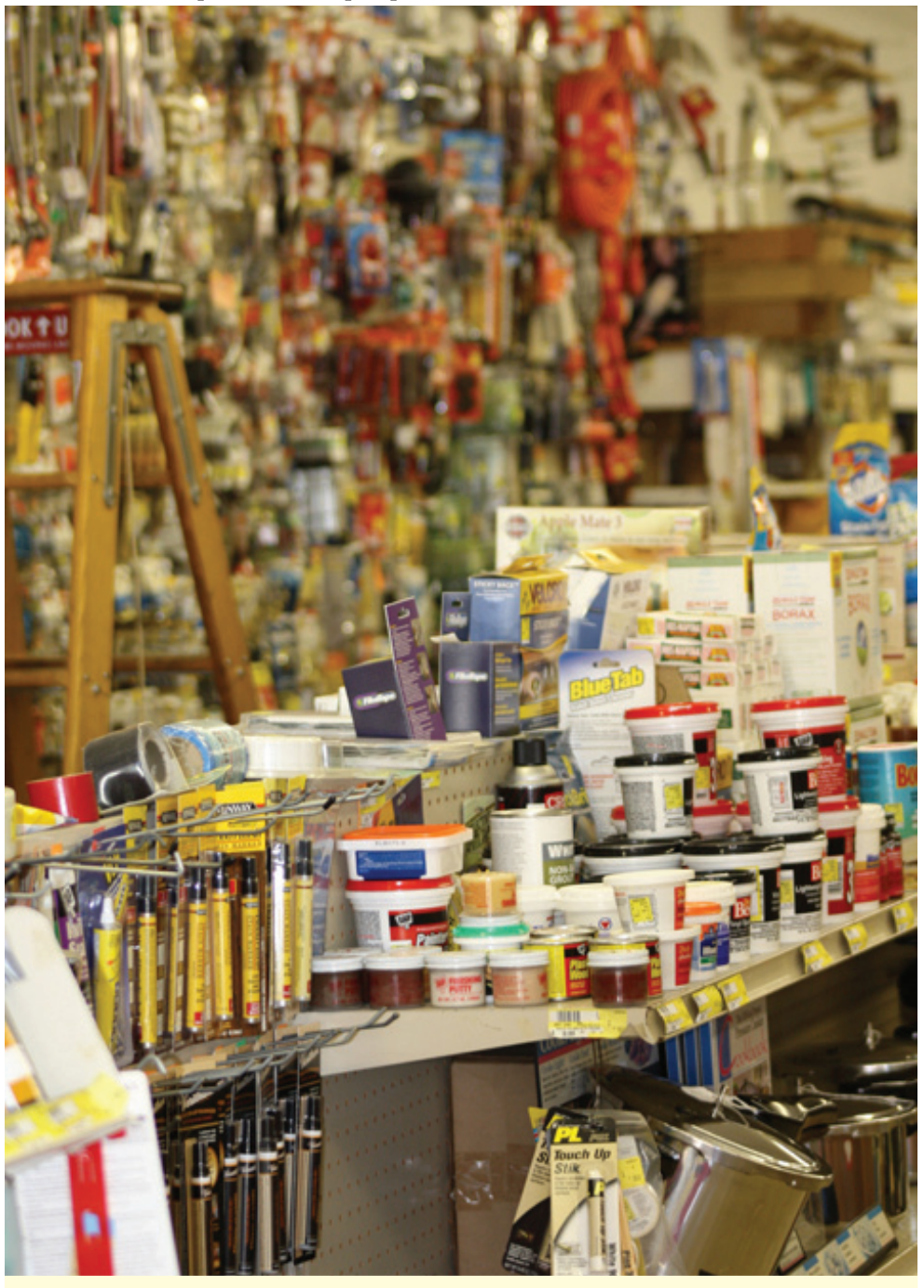
Luckily, by that point in my existence, I had relatively overcome my earlier disposition toward indifference, and I began to experience Cullman with a new and more open-minded perspective. I have since realized that Cullman possesses a variety of creative entrepreneurs, a hefty dose of Southern hospitality, and a rich historical background and that these unique aspects combine to create an intriguing city that beckons to be discovered – or in my case, rediscovered.

Now, if one is rediscovering a city like Cullman, logic only suggests that such a person should, of course, look to country music for guidance. Therefore, taking the advice of Hank Williams, Jr., I 'went down to the Mary Carter Paint Store', but unlike the famous country crooner, I went for a story rather than a 'Magnum Forty-Four'.

As a native of Cullman, this was not my first visit to the self-described 'biggest little store in downtown Cullman'. I had visited Mary Carter on multiple occasions throughout my life – usually in search of a Father's Day gift or a hard-to-find home gadget, and I had even attended high school with two of the owner's sons, Jeff and Jeremy. However, I had never taken the time to discover the true nature of this eclectic shop.

Wandering through Mary Carter's multiple aisles, I almost felt as though I were perusing a modern-day Old West general store. As anyone who has been in the

Continued on Page 9

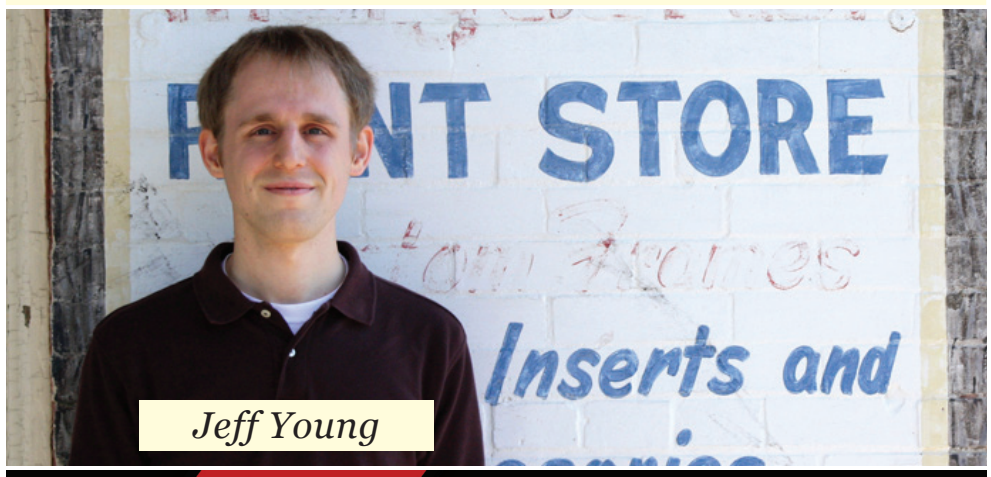


A hodgepodge of items ranging from glues to shoes and wagons to keys can all be found at Mary Carter.



File Photo

Following the April 27th tornado, the famous Mary Carter Paint Store Cupola laid right side up in front of the store.



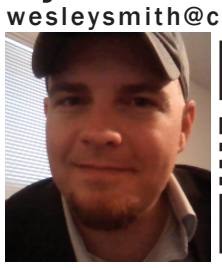
Jeff Young



Entertainment - Concert Review

Listening Helps

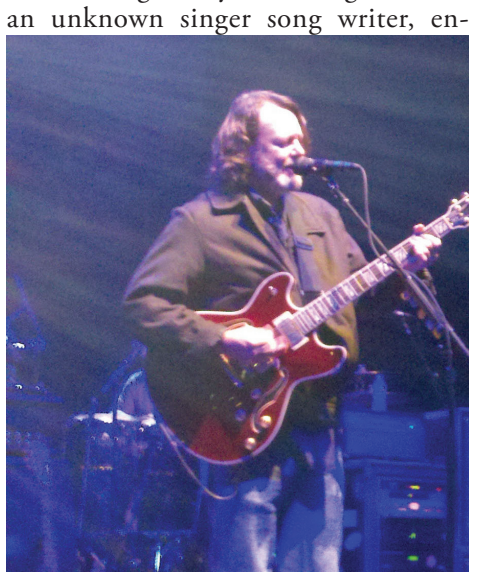
By: Wesley Smith
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qrnews/wsmith

It was 60 degrees with clear skies in Tuscaloosa when I got to my seat on September 30th. It was absolutely perfect football weather. But this was a Friday and besides that, the Crimson Tide was in Gainesville, FL preparing to beat up on the Gators. I was at the new Tuscaloosa Amphitheater to see Widespread Panic play their first show there.

We all remember what happened on April 27th. While the storm was no doubt tragic, it was amazing to see everyone help each other with the cleanup and recovery. One part of the recovery that was unexpected was the tremendous amount of support the entertainment industry has shown our state after April 27th. Whether it was a legendary recording artist or an unknown singer song writer, entertainers have lined up to help out.



Widespread Panic is a favored band of many, including myself, so it was a pleasant surprise when it came to my attention what they were doing to help with tornado relief. The day of their show the band held a food drive giving all collected food to displaced storm victims. They also donated a dollar per every ticket sold for their show, to the Disaster Relief Fund.



One dollar doesn't sound like much until you take into account the amphitheater holds 7,500 folks and it was a sold out show. It was a generous donation from a band that really has no ties to the area except for their concern for local fans.

The Tuscaloosa Amphitheater has played host to several tornado relief events since late April. From country music star, Kenny Chesney, to the extremely popular rock band My Morning Jacket, the amphitheater has been filled to capacity multiple times for the purpose of giving back. The Tuscaloosa Amphitheater is a nice place to see a show, but it's even nicer knowing it's been used for a good cause many times since it's construction.

While Cullman may not have an amphitheater to host such events, the town has felt an economic boost from the entertainment biz. The Cullman Downtown Merchants Association in conjunction with the Cullman Chamber of Commerce, and myself, put together the city festival, Celebrate Cullman.

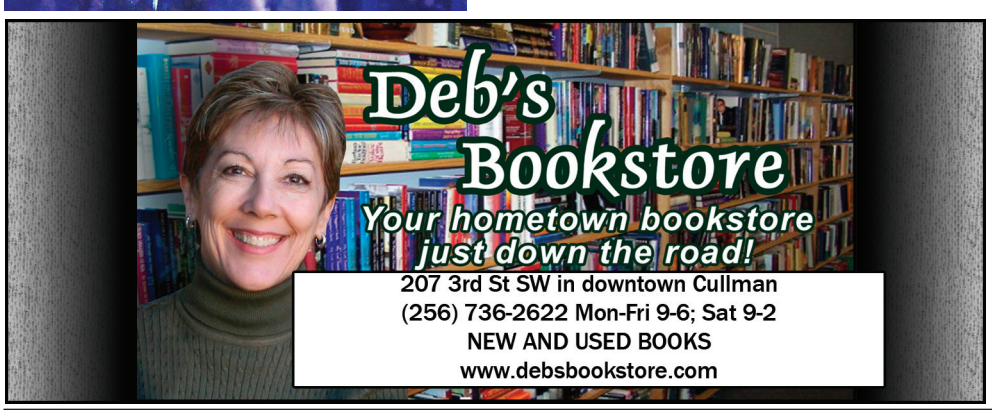
The festival had four stages spanning six city blocks, with the Traditions Bank Main Stage in Depot Park. The festival featured mostly local musicians with headliners, The Little Memphis Blues Orchestra and Noah Guthrie. The main objective of the festival was to bring people back to downtown Cullman, and show that merchants and their stores located downtown were open for business. The festival succeeded in its goal, as most every shop owner reported record sales.

While many bands and events have helped in the tornado relief effort, the biggest money producer was no doubt the Bama Rising benefit concert at the BJCC on June 14th. The event featured nearly five hours of music from nearly twenty artists including Alabama, Sheryl Crow, Brad Paisley, Martina McBride, Sara Evans, Montgomery Gentry, the Blind Boys of Alabama and many more. Ticket prices for the event ranged from $25-150 and were sold out within one hour of going on sale. When it was over, the concert itself had raised $1.3 million. After merchandise sales and various corporate sponsorships were factored in, this one-night event raised a grand total of almost $2.3 million. The money raised went to the Bama Rising Fund, which was dispersed to all areas hit by the storms.

It wasn't only musicians from the show-biz that showed their support. Like him or despise him, actor Charlie Sheen was one of the first to visit after the storm. He even set up a website for donations called "Torpedoes Against Tornados" (www.torpedosagainsttornados.com). Comedian, Daniel Tosh from the Tosh.0 television show promoted various websites for tornado relief donations. If you've ever seen his show, you'll know it's rare for him to promote anything but himself. Future NFL Hall-of-Fame QB, Brett Favre made his way to Hackleburg, AL to help lift the spirits of the many folks who were affected there.

One thing that makes us human is the enjoyment of the fine arts. Whether painted on a canvas, acted on a stage or cranked up to eleven through a speaker, the arts produce a human emotion. Since April 27th, some musicians have played to raise money and some have played just to take our minds off of everything. Either way, musicians have stepped up and helped out.

We've all been through a lot since the storms; there is no doubt about that. Just remember - Music has a way of making you feel good, even when things look bad.



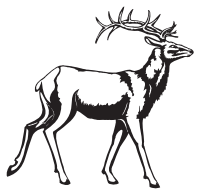


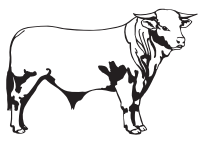
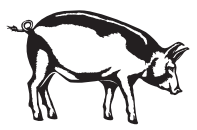


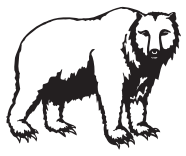
Puzzles and Comics

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD TOPIC IS: ANIMALS

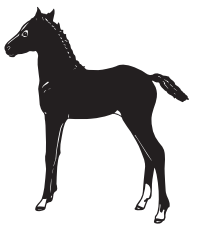
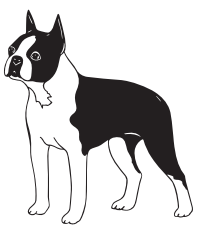
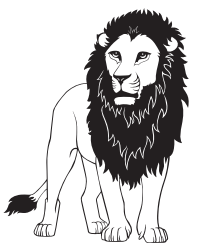
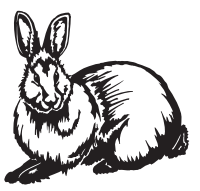
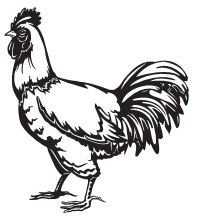
BY: DUSTIN ISOM





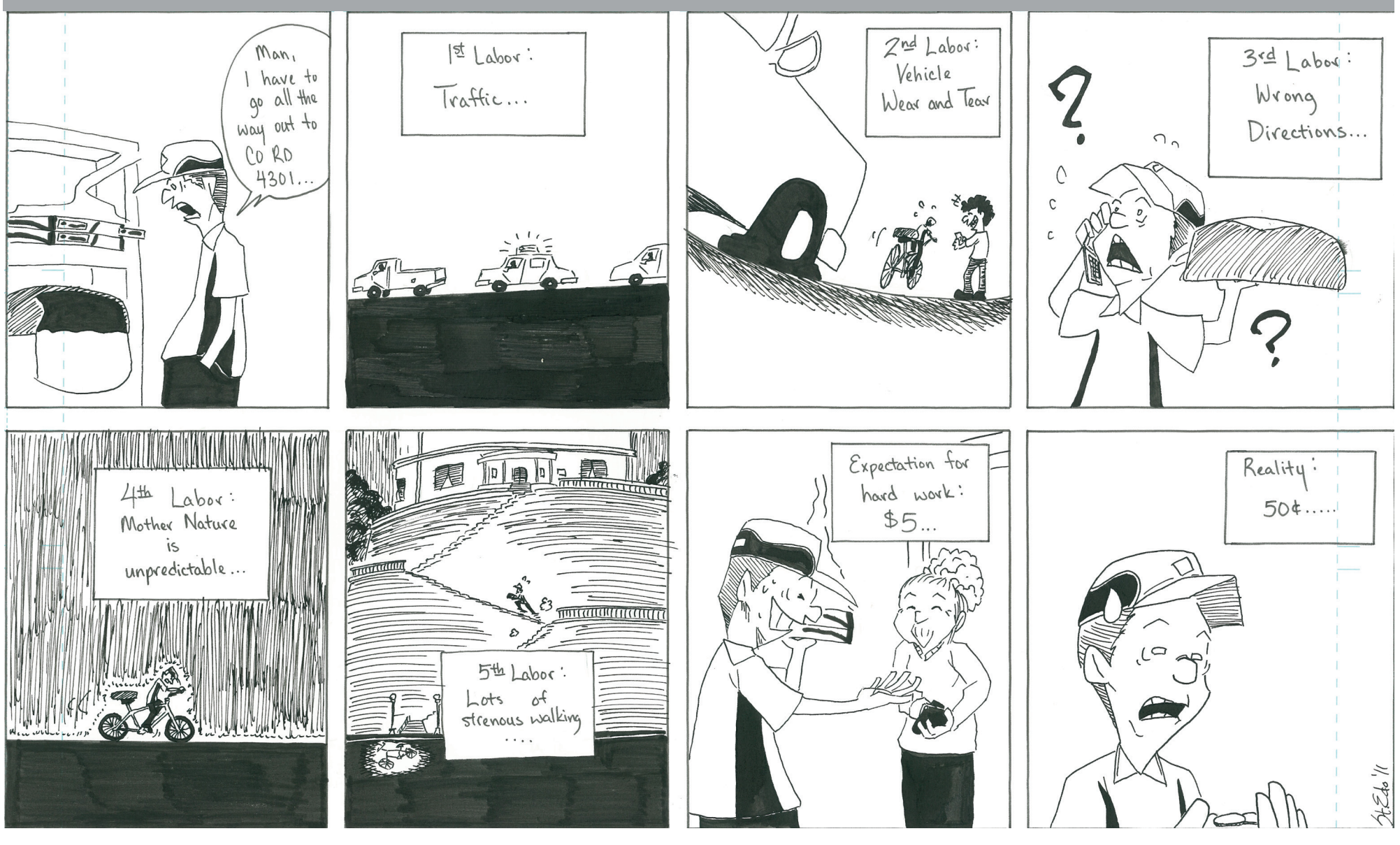
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dolphin	donkey	duck	frog	goat	gorilla	rabbit	rooster	sheep	
turtle	tiger	chicken	giraffe	goose	lion	lizard	fish	fox	
horse	porcupine	seal	snake	rat	pig	skunk	cat	raccoon	

Comics by St. Edo

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Digital Domination
Assassin's Creed Revelations

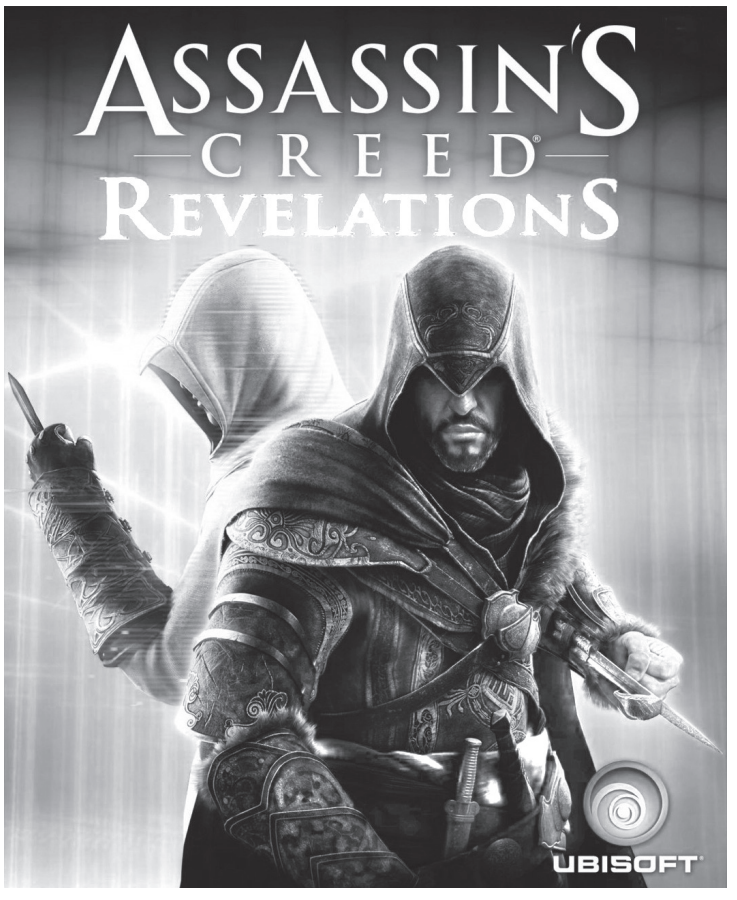
By: Dustin McSpadden
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qrnews/dmcspadden

I looked forward to this title with nearly as much vim and vigor as I had Skyrim. If it had been released a few weeks earlier, I might have liked it better. As Ubisoft ramps up for the movie adaptation of the original Assassin's Creed, they seemed to forget that they were still producing a game to be played. Fully two thirds of the first hour was consumed by some kind of cut scene or other, as if to say that the time spent with actual gameplay was just thrown in for filler.

In light of these things, the gameplay hasn't changed much at all. They swapped a few buttons around and added a few new gadgets, but all in all it is pretty much the same as Brotherhood, and I and II before that. The visualization is still amazing, when you aren't seeing the funky animus code in the way. The blood effects look blocky at times, and you can still dive with parts of your anatomy shifting right through solid stone. The free run mechanics are still as clunky as before; jumping three feet to the right of the haystack, turning in mid run to jump out into the middle of the street, or just running face first into the wall when attempting to climb a ladder to escape the guards.



None of which changed at all since the release of the original 4 years ago… After one sequence where Ezio is on a cart heading one direction bashing up against a carriage driven by a Templar, there appears yet another cut scene and the cart and carriage are heading in a different direction. Ezio's cart started out with the mountain on his left and the Templar and his carriage to the right with the carriage towards the cliff. Then the cut scene appears and Ezio is the one with the cliff to his side. The cut scene is powerful enough to move mountains!!!

The story isn't nearly as ensnaring as previous iterations of the franchise, I found myself often thinking that I just don't care enough about this story to get into it. Maybe it's just hangover from the awesome sauce that is Skyrim, but I keep thinking that there are better games to spend my time on. If you are a fan of the series, pick it up and play through at your own leisure, who am I kidding you'll do that regardless.

If you've never played one of the Assassin's Creed games before, you should be ashamed of yourself… The PS3 version comes with the original on the disc to be copied straight onto your HD, assuming you have enough room, so you could get a start there if you've been under a rock, without power and eating your own intestines for the past half a decade.

All in all a good game despite my many complaints, but nowhere near as good as expected. I'd like to thank the good people of Blockbuster for providing me with the game, I will be taking a break next week (editor's note: What kind of lazy bum goes on vacation the third week after starting a job?), and then coming back in order to review Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword.

Mary Carter - Continued from Page 6

shop can attest, Mary Carter's shelves are stocked with items ranging from pocket knives to pressure cookers and from Radio Flyers to Rooster Tails. Presented with such a varied assortment of goods, my curiosity demanded that I ask Jeff and his father, Raymond Young, exactly how Mary Carter became so exceedingly diverse.

The answer is straightforward, yet inspiring. Simply put, Raymond enjoyed selling things as a young man, and what better item to sell than paint? Not being able to afford starting his own business, Raymond initially worked as a teacher until he had raised the funds required to open a Mary Carter Paint franchise. In 1964, he officially opened his doors, renting a section of the old German Bank building for a storefront.

As time progressed, the national Mary Carter brand died out, but Raymond's local store continued to expand. Guided by his customer's requests, Raymond gradually began adding various items and departments to his original store, and as he rented enough sections to eventually occupy the entire ground level, he bought the building. These days, upon entering Mary Carter, a curious consumer can start in the shoe store, traverse through the hardware, paint, and housewares department, explore the lure-packed shelves of the sporting goods, and wind up admiring the shiny red Radio Flyers in the heating and picture framing section.

With such an enormous variety of items in stock, it is only natural that in the 47 years of owning Mary Carter, Raymond and his family have experienced a respectable amount of unusual customers. So, as Jeff was doling out some live crickets to a couple of young fishermen, I asked Raymond who his most memorable patrons have been.

Hank Williams, Jr., better known to Raymond as 'Hanky Panky', was, of course, a strong contender. While living in Cullman, Hank frequented the Mary Carter store to buy pistols and ammo and also, apparently, to earn a fantastic nickname.

Raymond also recalled selling quite a few fishing supplies to the Argentinean soccer team who practiced at St. Bernard during the 1996 Olympics. While I have never specifically associated Argentina with fishing, according to the amount of high-end fishing poles Raymond sold to the team, they had a rather large affinity for the sport.

Although not all of their customers enjoy such a level of fame as Hank or Olympic athletes, Raymond, his wife Brenda, Jeff, and Jeremy agree that interesting patrons visit the store every day. Aside from native Cullman residents, the family welcomes visitors and sightseers from other areas to their store. Raymond explains, "There are not many old-time stores left in existence...it's a dying art."

It may be a dying art, but while I study a wall of faded photos depicting the Mary Carter building throughout the decades, I realize that this family plans to keep that art form not only alive but thriving.



Mirroring History

Looking Back: Exploring Historic Cullman at the Corner of Cullman County Courthouse and Highway 31

1949



Contributed by Cullman County Museum

2011

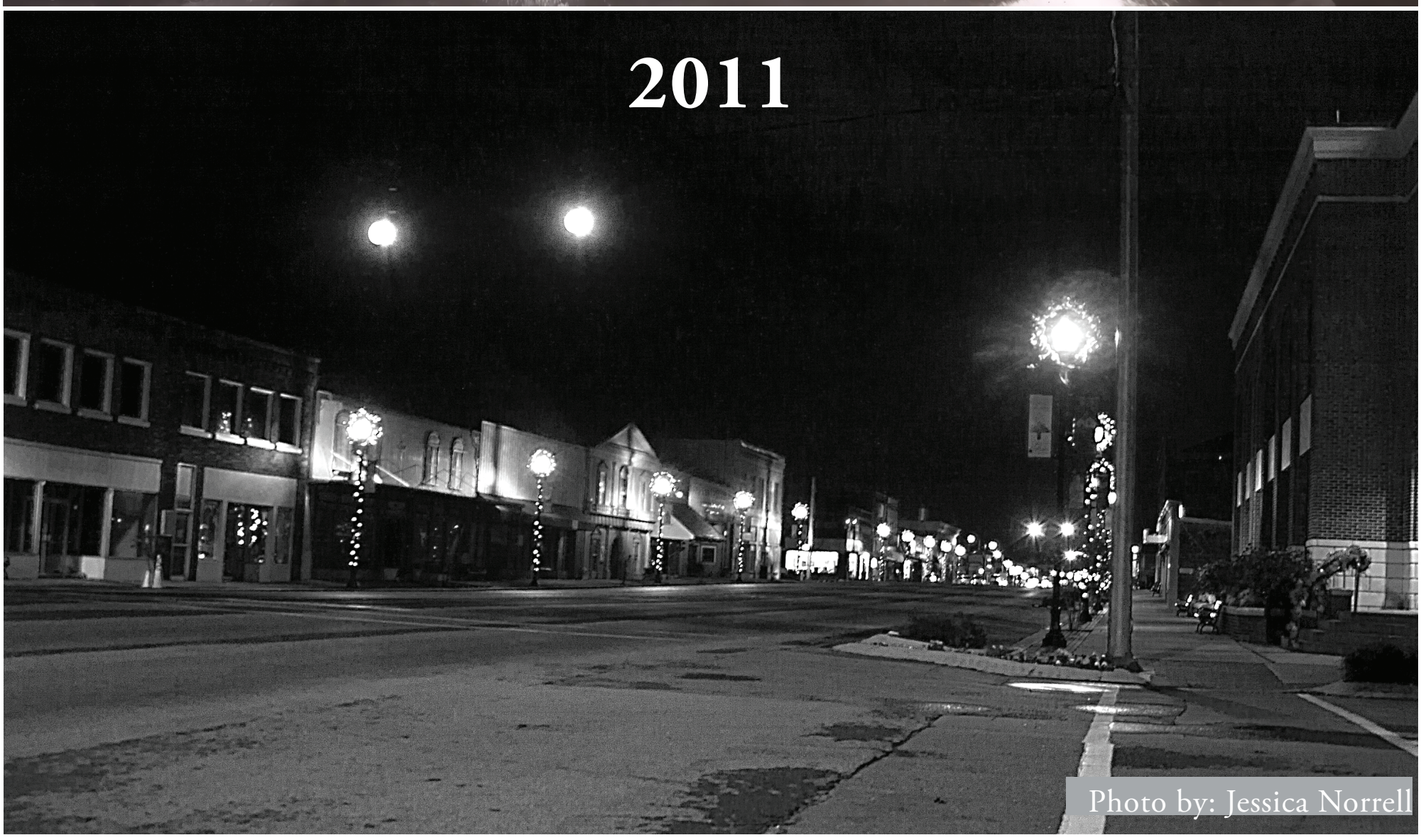


Photo by: Jessica Norrell

Put a Little Christmas Love in Your Heart

By: Dawn Owens
dawnowens@cullmansense.com

"What's not to love about giving a child a Christmas morning they never thought they would have had," said Nancy Bryant, member of the Board of Directors of Christmas Love of Cullman. "I absolutely love everything about Christmas Love from receiving and reviewing the applications to shopping for their gifts. I love the outpouring we see from the community and wrapping gifts with our staff and volunteers. I love thinking about the excitement that will ensue upon opening these presents on Christmas morning. But most of all, I love meeting with the families the week before Christmas and seeing how blessed there are to be able to provide their children with gifts for Christmas."

Christmas Love of Cullman first began when the Board of Directors were on a mission to make sure that no child went hungry or without presents on Christmas morning. Now, 24 years later with the current Board of Directors Christmas Love of Cullman is still pursuing that mission while serving the families that need it the most.

"This is a particularly difficult year for people who were victims of the storm. Some of them have lost homes, jobs, and insurance," said Bryant. "They have a lot to provide for this year. Being able to take care of their children's Christmas takes a load off their shoulders."

Christmas Love of Cullman hopes to give each child at least three gifts, a full set of new clothes from the bottoms of their feet to the top of their heads, a meal, and any other basic needs they indicated on their application such as sheets and/or blankets. In past years they have been able to provide most of these items through monetary donations from individuals, families, and organizations around the community.

"Last year, we had many families and businesses decide they wanted to adopt a family. It was amazing to see how generous our community could be," said Bryant.

Participating businesses set out donation boxes for items such as scarves, gloves and toboggans this year to help accept more items. Check out the Christmas Love of Cullman Facebook page for a list of participating businesses.

"One of my favorite Christmas Love stories is of a fifteen girl who couldn't hold in her excitement about receiving a new pair of shoes and coat for Christmas," Bryant shared. "She was beaming from ear-to-ear, so proud of her new items. She even went on to list all of the items that she received for Christmas this year. That little girl had no idea she was blessing me, as she was one of the teens we were able to provide for through Christmas Love of Cullman last year."

If you are interested in donating toys, sheets, and/or food for our Christmas Love of Cullman families please drop them by Cullman Caring for Kids at 402 Arnold Street NE, Suite W-1 no later than Friday, November 28, 2011. Monetary donations are also accepted. Please be sure to make your checks out to "Christmas Love, Inc." and send them to P.O. Box 1172 Cullman, AL 35056. For questions you can contact Nancy Bryant at 256-739-9100.


Contributed

Top: Tables full of donations await to be delivered to area children
Bottom: Volunteers sort through shoes



Winterizing Your Home Tips

By: Natalie Bonner
nataliebonner@cullmansense.com



qrnews/nbonner

Winter Weather Awareness Week introduced us to its cold counterpart as we bid farewell to the festive fall weather.

As winter approaches, homeowners prepare for the most essential element of the forthcoming winter—making sure they and their homes stay warm. This process is called winterization.

Winterization simply means to prepare one's home for the upcoming winter season. The true term of winterizing a home may ignite thoughts of proofing one's summer home versus one's permanent residence for the winter.

Brian Lacy, Communications Manager of Cullman Electric Cooperative, says the best thing one can do to prepare a home for winter is to make it more energy efficient. He explains three easy ways this can be achieved. The first step is to seal air leaks. Lacy says, "Use caulk around windows and weather stripping around doors to seal any air leaks. Even tiny cracks can allow hot air (that you paid for) to escape outside or allow cold outside air to enter your home, forcing your heating system to work longer and harder, which costs you more money."

The second step is to check insulation levels. Lacy says, "We recommend having insulation in the attic with an R-value of 38. (R-value is a term used to describe insulation's ability to resist the transfer of heat, so the more insulation you have = higher R-value.) If you cannot afford to add that much insulation, any additional insulation will benefit."

The third and final step Lacy assures will help ensure your home to be more energy efficient is to consistently replace air filters. He explains that by changing the air filter on your heating system every month, it runs more efficiently, which in turn, saves you money.

For those who do not have central heating and air and are using either window units or space heaters, Lacy advises to only run a space heater if you are present in the room as they use a lot of energy and only heat a small area, which can result in a very high electric bill if kept running all night, every night.

Lacy advises the following simple tip for helping cut energy costs, "Open up the shades and blinds on your windows during the day, especially south-facing windows. The direct sunlight will help keep your home warm without costing you anything. At night, makes sure to close the shades and blinds to block the cold air."

Further tips for prepping one's home for winterization include insulating pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allowing faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing. Running water, even at a trickle, helps prevent pipes from freezing. Winterization must be covered on every front. Phyllis Little, Director of Cullman County EMA, says, "Preparing for winter weather is as important as preparing for sever spring weather. Because heavy snow falls so seldom here, we are not as prepared as the states to our north."

Little emphasizes that winter weather can strike anywhere, at any time. She says that everyone should prepare an emergency winter weather kit for one's car should they ever be stranded on the roadway. The required essentials for this kit should consist of: a small shovel; ice scraper; granola bars; water; cell phone; etc.

Just as your car and home should be prepared for the winter, Little addresses the issues of pets. She says to have extra supplies on hand for them in case travel has to be curtailed for an extended period of time due to hazardous road conditions. She also recommends bringing any outdoor pets/companion animals inside during winter weather.

Little suggests, "Stock up on extra medication and food that can be eaten without cooking. For those who have outdoor grills, ensure that your grill has fuel and never bring the grill inside your home. Many die each year due to carbon monoxide poisoning from using grills insides homes."

Installing carbon monoxide alarms in central locations on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas can help alert homeowners of accumulating carbon monoxide.

She further recommends having the following items handy in case a winter storm approaches: rock salt or more environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways (Visit the Environmental Protection Agency for a complete list of recommended products); sand to improve traction; snow shovels and other snow removal equipment; sufficient heating fuel as one may become isolated in their home and regular fuel sources may be cut off (a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove is a great option); and adequate clothing and blankets for warmth.

Of course, there is no fail-proof plan to winterize one's home for the winter, but many of these tips and tricks can be employed in your own home to not only save energy but cut down on costs. Just as the famous adage goes, "To fail to plan, is to plan to fail." Don't let winter get the best of you—prepare your home for the upcoming season while you can.



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