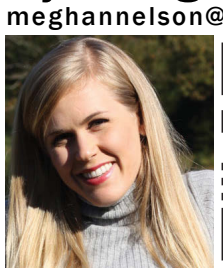
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PLUS Original Book Reviews, Comics, and More! LOOK INSIDE

CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS

Steve Carter ... Canvas, Caulk, and Creativity

By: Meghan Nelson
meghannelson@cullmansense.com



qrnews/mnelson

If you've ever had the opportunity to visit The Shops at Third Street Promenade, then you've probably met Steve Carter.

He's the tall guy behind the counter who's usually engaged in an interesting conversation with a Promenade shopper or discussing carrying a new line of artwork by a Promenade artist.

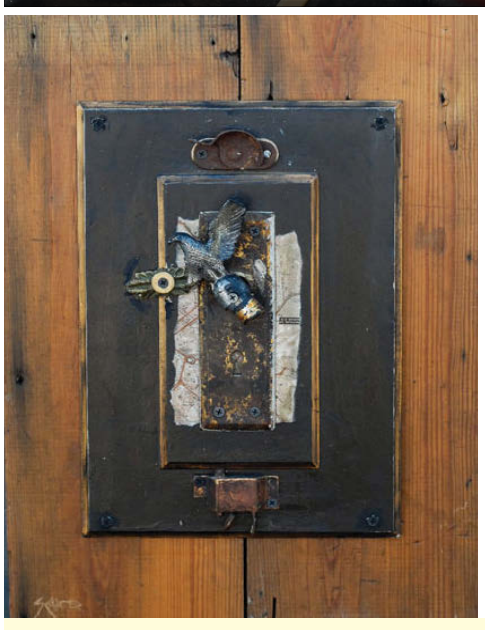
Not only does Steve(and his wife Stacie) own Third Street Promenade, but Steve also creates and sells his own artwork, which generally consists of bold mixed media paintings.

Steve graduated from Cullman High School and went on to earn a Degree in Film with a Minor in Art at Alabama University.

After living in various places around the country, he moved back to Cullman, and it was here that he finally decided to pursue art as a full-time career.











A collection of artwork by Steve Carter. Photo by: Stacie Carter

As Steve says, "I could not find a job that paid very much, so I decided to try and do art seriously. I finally just made up my mind that I was going to do it professionally no matter what it took."

Four years later, Steve has decidedly surpassed the title of 'starving artist', and has been quite successful in turning his passion for art into a full-blown career.

Steve gave me an hour of his time to answer some questions about what he does and what inspires him.

MN: What people or experiences have influenced your artwork?

Steve: I have traveled across the country about four times and have seen and experienced a lot of really crazy people and places.

I hope those experiences influence me on some subconscious level. But in a more practical sense I worked in construction remodeling and painting houses. I know that has influenced my process and how I work. a

As far as people go, I think every artist that I am associated with influences me in some way.

MN: Who is your favorite artist(s)?

Steve: I get a new favorite artist every 2-3 years. Banksy (a British street artist) from the documentary, "Exit Through the Gift Shop," is my new personal favorite.

MN: What is your preferred medium and where do you find the different materials that you use in your work?

Steve: For me - mixed media is an understatement. I have used anything from acrylic paint, house paint, dirt, wood, caulk, metal and old junk in my work. I find these materials just wherever I can get them.

MN: Aside from your career as an artist, what other jobs have you had?

See Page 11

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

Religion

My Joshua Project: On a Mission to Raise Up Leaders

By: Dawn Owens
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qrnews/dowens

Molly and Marty Hardin, along with their two children Mason and Drew, have a vision. Their vision is to raise up a generation of leaders that know who they are in Christ and what they have been put on this planet to do. Not far from the city limits lies their 72-acre ranch, right off of Highway 31 in Cullman. The ranch is a testament to that vision unraveling itself one day at a time, now known as 'My Joshua Project'.

'My Joshua Project' is a place where students ages 18-24 will live for a 9 month period to discover who God created them to be. They will learn life lessons, engage in team and confidence building activities, and build a foundation for lifelong spiritual development. It's based off of the scriptures in Numbers 27: 15-17, which is a prayer from Moses. "May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all mankind, appoint a man over this community to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the LORD's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd." According to the Hardins, this generation is desperate for someone to lead them.



Marty & Molly Hardin outside their Cullman farm home built in the mid-1800's. Photo by: Emily Durden

The project is in its infancy as the family has been working hard to make renovations to the land and its buildings to prepare for what God has in store for them next. Molly Hardin explained, "Sometimes God shows you a vision and you know that you are supposed to go after that but in the midst of it, there may be little things that pop up that lead you to think you may not have the complete picture just yet.

"We know we are to minister to the 'wanderers' of this generation. Those who are just wandering in the wilderness unsure of what is next for their lives and these typically tend to be the 18-24 year olds. We just don't know what that looks like as a daily agenda yet." The Hardins just moved to the ranch Memorial Day weekend after renting a home in Cullman since October.

Molly gave me a tour of her property showing us where youth groups had already been to do team building activities and hold campfires. She showed places where she dreams of offering canopy tours (landings and bridges built in the trees), ropes courses, zip lines, an Amphitheatre and creek walks. "The activities that the groups do offer them ways to build confidence, to hear God, and to funnel out the chaos in their lives," said Hardin.

They've already had groups camping out in their woods and hopes to see more in the future. Youth Group leaders are encouraged to contact them for information on how to set up events on their property.

Marty is the Director of Operations at Brasfield & Gorrie General Contractors in Trussville and still makes his way back and forth each day. His company has been instrumental in getting the Hardins some of the equipment they have needed to clear out trees and debris from the land as well as provide cheap labor to renovations they have needed. They'll be having a crew of men, starting in January, come out every Sunday from 2pm-4pm to help renovate their potato barn into a bunk house with the young adults will stay.

'My Joshua Project' was born out of a book that Molly felt led to write a curriculum for a group of young adults she was teaching at her church in Birmingham. You can find the book and study guide , 'A Joshua Generation' at www.myjoshuaproject.com. If you are interested in getting involved with My Joshua Project you can contact the Hardins through their website. They are also in the process of raising support to host groups on-site. Should you wish to make a monetary donation , you can either donate on-line through the website or contact them directly. You can also visit their Facebook page, A Joshua Generation.

Get a Free Meal at the Desperation Church Soup Kitchen

By: Dawn Owens
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Every Thursday from 11am-1pm volunteers at Desperation Church are poised and ready to serve up a hot meal to anyone who is hungry. According to Amy McClerren, Head of the Soup Kitchen at Desperation, they've been serving hundreds of people a week since June 12, 2011 when they launched.

"We'd love to be serving food daily," said McClerren a single mother of three. "We have about 7-8 volunteers right now, but we'll need more to be able to support the community with a daily meal. God has blessed us financially, so it's really volunteers that we need at this point. Anyone can come and volunteer and if there are stay-at-home mom's that would like to help out, we have some women who provide childcare for our volunteers while they serve."



Volunteers preparing meals for delivery Photos by: Jessica Norrell

The Soup Kitchen is the first step towards a larger vision for Desperation Church. Pastor Andy Heis shared that they would love to be apart of creating a Dream Center in Cullman some day. The original Dream Center was founded in LA and according to their website the mission "is to reconnect people who have been isolated by poverty, substance abuse, gangs, imprisonment, homelessness, abuse, and neglect to God and to a community of support to meet their physical and spiritual needs, and to help them develop a support system that will encourage them to make positive, long-term, God-honoring changes in their lives."

Heis explained, "This is not something we want to make happen. We believe that as God is willing. He will bring forth volunteers that are passionate about ministries that exist within a Dream Center. This is just one of the first steps in that direction. The soup kitchen is a great example of that. Amy and others were passionate about it, and so they are running with it and we fully support them, but this is not a staff initiated ministry. It is fully volunteer led."

Right now the soup kitchen serves about 50-100 people each Thursday at the church but another 100-150 get their meals delivered to them. "We currently deliver to Cullman Manor, the Foundry, Homebound individuals, and Viegl Village. We are only able to deliver inside the city limits. But with more volunteers we can expand that. I know that God has great plans for this soup kitchen. This is His heartbeat, His passion for people, to help those who are in need." If you are a homebound individual and need food delivered, please contact Crystal Herc at (256)739-4116 to set up a weekly delivery.

McClerren also mentioned that the community can make food donations as well. They'll take anything that can go into making a soup or chili, but non-perishable items only. Feel free to drop off food donations by the church during Wednesday night prayer service at 7pm and Sunday morning services at 9:30am, 11:15am, or 6pm. You can also stop by the church Monday through Thursday from 10am-2pm to drop off donations or speak with a member of the Desperation Church staff or a volunteer about the Soup Kitchen.

If you are interested in volunteering you can show up at 9:30am on any Thursday at Desperation Church located at 202 Elizabeth Street NE, right across from Depot Park. If you have questions you can call Amy McClerren at (256)736-3934 or e-mail her at lovethygod4@yahoo.com. You can learn more about Desperation Church by visiting their Facebook page or at www.desperationchurch.tv.



Deserts and drinks available for on-site attendees

Nomadic Nat
Adventures in Travel: The Extra Tale

By: Natalie Bonner
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qrnews/nbonner

It seems I'm always on the road, I live out of my car, and I never get any sleep. That is my life, though, and I love it. No matter where I travel, I end up with an interesting tale to tell. In fact, I experienced a whole different side of the film industry recently. . .

This past Wednesday I was selected to be an extra in the 20th Century Fox movie, Neighborhood Watch, filming in Atlanta, Georgia. The sci-fi comedy features a star-packed cast of household names, headlining Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn and Jonah Hill. What exactly is an extra? The terminology may be lost on you, but an extra is a necessary background person usually needed for a scene in a movie.

I wasn't sure what to expect as I have had more experience in featured, supporting or principal roles concerning my acting career, but like they say in the biz, "There are no small roles, just small actors." You take what you can get because for every one of you that is tall and good-looking, or petite with a great smile, there are another 10 of you waiting behind the door. It can literally be that competitive. Everyone wants their 15 minutes of fame after all, no matter how small or fleeting.

So exactly what does being an extra consist of? For most cases concerning extra work, the actor wouldn't submit his or her professional head-shot and actor resume because it is not required for background work. They require one to send in non-professional photographs.

Following my submission, the casting agency called and told me to expect more information via e-mail. I received an e-mail with detailed information concerning the time, location and what to bring and wear. So at 2 a.m. Alabama time, I hit the road for Georgia. My call time was 6:30 a.m.

I wasn't sure what to expect, how much to pack or what I would be doing, which resulted in epic amounts of anxiety and sleep deprivation, but tis always the case when I am pushed out of my comfort zone.

Amid driving through incredible amounts of torrential downpour, I serenaded myself to the beats of my XM radio and tried to keep my eyes open by continually chugging coffee. Exactly three hours later, I pulled onto the set and checked myself into the extras unit.

The smell of freshly squeezed orange juice, coffee and bacon filled the air as I entered the tent. I could hear everyone around me excitedly chattering as daylight finally broke through the sky. People ushered us forward to the extras table where we filled out a voucher verifying our identity and information. Following that formality, I checked into wardrobe.

I was told to dress like a teenager since I would be a high school student. I brought tons of clothing, shoes, accessories, etc. only to be changed by the wardrobe attendant into a whole different set of clothing. I suppose my fashion sense as a teenager was a little exaggerated. Either way, I was sporting a thin long-sleeve shirt over a tank top with some skinny jeans and dark brown boots.

Finally, it was time to start the scene. Excitement coursed through my body. Shivering in our thin "fall time" clothes as the scene required, all of the extras performed the same scene multiple times. I did the same movement and actions over and over, careful to keep it all the same for every shot. They have to shoot multiple angles, several times to ensure the most accurate shot possible.

As I walked past the same black truck I had walked past umpteen amounts before, I happened to glance over and realized that Vince Vaughn was sitting in the driver's seat of the truck. I nearly face-planted into the pavement. I prayed the director hadn't caught my awe-struck stare on camera.

Savana, a fellow extra of the day, entertained me for a great deal of our time together. She tells me of her time spent on the set of a TV show called Walking Dead. Whipping out her phone to show me pictures of her zombie makeup, she said, "It was so cold when we filmed these scenes. It was 28 degrees outside."

And I thought I was cold then, standing outside in the brisk morning air, tugging at my skinny sleeves and wishing they were a sweater or a parka.

Savana sighed and flipped her chocolate colored hair behind her. "I was in the hospital all day yesterday. I was begging the doctors to just let me go. I told them I had to film today. There's no way I could miss," Savana said. Her severe sinus infection resulted in a short hospital stay that rendered her a little paler and weaker than usual.

Her dedication is inspiring. Having been an extra before, she knows what happens if she calls out of a shoot. The casting agency can place an actor on a "Do Not Hire" list if he or she commits to the gig and does not show up for the day's work. This is called a NCNS, a no-call, no-show. Serious blacklisting can result from an actor's failure to appear.

"Rolling. Background. Action!" the director shouted. We walked our familiar journey across the lawn to the high school we didn't actually attend.

Shortly thereafter, the extras were wrapped for the day, and I began my three hour trek back to Cullman. Being an extra is a completely different experience than I could have imagined. It really illustrated the importance of every person's commitment, especially in terms of a team effort.

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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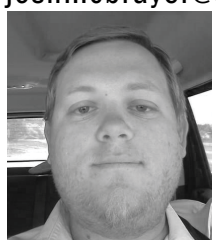
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Sports - Alabama Spotlight

Pat Sullivan: Auburn's First Heisman Trophy Winner

By: Josh McBrayer
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qrnews/jmcbrayer

I was afforded the opportunity to speak to Auburn great and current Samford University head coach Pat Sullivan via conference call a few days before he took his Sanford Bulldogs down to the Plains of Auburn to take on the Tigers.

This was to be a special trip for coach Sullivan. He played college football for the Auburn Tigers and under the tutelage of legendary coach Shug Jordanhe brought the first Heisman Memorial Trophy to the Plains.

Auburn honored their former quarterback before the game. Although coach Sullivan wanted the focus to be on his team rather than himself he answered some questions concerning his days at Auburn University for Cullman Sense.

Josh McBrayer : Please explain what it was like being honored with the Heisman Trophy.

Pat Sullivan : It was a great honor. Back then things were so different. There was no watching the media, and I believe the demand on my time was greater that it is on players today.

Auburn University put out one 5x7 pamphlet. Coach Jordan and I talked about it, and we decided that I would play my normal game and any end of the season award that came my way I would accept it. By the end I was just ready for everything to come to a head.

They announced the winner on Thanksgiving and I found out that I had won.

What made it so special was after the announcement I went to the Colosseum and the entire Auburn family was there.

We stayed until around midnight. The thing was, we had to play Alabama the next day.

I don't know if we would have beaten Alabama that year because they had some great talent, but I know I didn't play my best game.

JM : Was being a coach something you always had aspirations to be ?

PS : I always wanted to be a coach, but by the time I was finished playing, I had a wife and three children, and I wanted to settle down. I was happy with my family.

One day my wife Jean asked me why I didn't try coaching. She told me the only time she saw that special gleam in my eye is when I was coaching my son Pat's soccer team. I decided to give it a shot, and since then I have had the opportunity to coach some great players.

JM : Was Shug Jordan someone you tried to model your coaching career after ?

PS : He was definitely a mentor, and I miss him to this day. We developed a relationship when I was at Auburn, and we became very close after I graduated.

We would talk at least once a week. Even now, after he has passed away, there are still times I wish I could call and ask for advice.

Pat Sullivan, along with winning the Heisman Trophy as a player, won the Southwestern Confrence Championship and named the SWC Coach of the Year, both in 1994, as the head coach for the TCU Horned Frogs.

Sullivan was named to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1991.

If there is an athlete you would like to see covered, please send in your requests to joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com or send it to 101 1st Ave NE, Suite 230, Cullman, AL 35055.



Cullman County High School Basketball Schedule

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Cullman @ Fairview Boys and Girls

Hanceville @ Vinemont Boys and Girls

Good Hope @ Priceville Boys and Girls

Winston County @ Holly Pond Boys and Girls

West Point @ Hayden Boys and Girls

Friday, December 2, 2011

Hanceville @ Holly Pond Boys and Girls

Good Hope @ West Point Boys and Girls

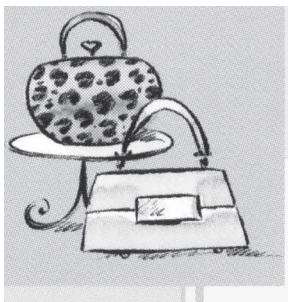
Cullman @ Walker Boys and Girls

Vinemont @ Winston County Boys and Girls

Appalachian @ St. Bernard Boys and Girls



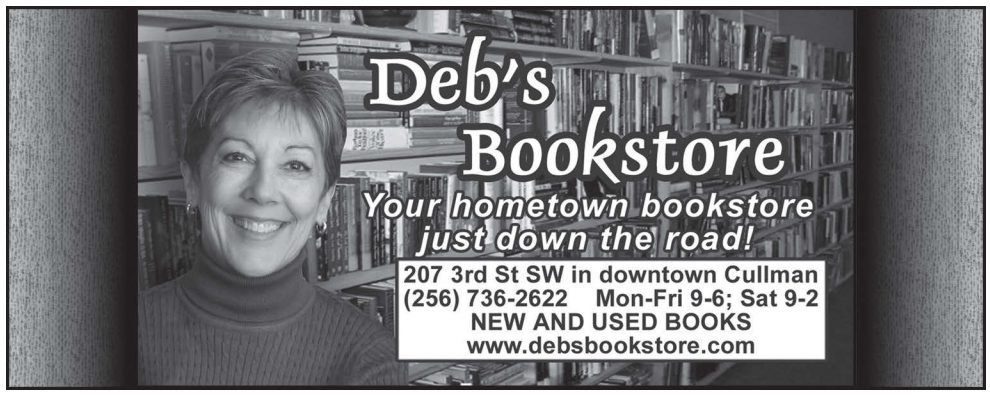
The Holly Pond Broncos defeated the West Point Warriors 71-55 to lay claim to their second consecutive Holly Pond Thanksgiving Classic title.



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Entertainment - Movie Review

Breaking Dawn Review

By: Nancy Womack
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qrnews/jmcbrauer

Amidst the shopping, eating, and football that come with the wonderful Thanksgiving holiday, many were also enjoying the long awaited fourth movie in The Twilight Saga.

Breaking Dawn part 1 released to theaters on November 18, 2011. Breaking Dawn satisfied many Twilight fans as the culmination of the romantic relationship between Edward Cullen and Bella Swan comes to life on the big screen.
This film definitely plays more on the romantic angle and the struggles of "loving a vampire". It is quite overly dramatic at times, playing on the teenage vampire romanticism craze.

The movie picks up where Eclipse left off, providing a picturesque wedding and honeymoon, which many fans will swoon over. The wedding scene is beautiful, portraying all readers' dreams of Edward and Bella's unity.

The result of this honeymoon is an unforeseen and quite unusual pregnancy. (The sexual content in this movie is shown in a tasteful manner.) This movie addresses the controversial topics of teenage marriage and pregnancy.

This is where the makeup and visual effects become astounding- the visualization of Bella Swan's health state as she is melting away from an incompatible fetus leaves one wondering just how they did it. I feel this paints the picture of the consequences that must be faced when making adult decisions at such a young age.

It also brings Jacob face to face with Edward, displaying his feelings over Bella's choice to embrace immortality. Jacob also faces struggles of his own in determining his alliances (as a werewolf) based on his feelings for Bella (married to a vampire).

There is a definite rivalry, based on boundaries and the concept of vampire offspring, between the pack and the Cullen family. Jacob is forced to decide where his allegiances stand as he veers away from the pack to take care of Bella in her distressed state.

As with all movies based on books, the movie lacked the detail found in the book, however the movie's portrayal of the characters is dramatic and accurate.

I found the movie to lack detail that many viewers (whom have not read the books) will find confusing. Only through reading the books can one truly grasp all the undertones and unspoken details that are not evident in the movie. The movie did meet my expectations regarding content based on the fact that I have read the books- I remain a book fan first… a movie fan second.

The ending of the movie sets the viewer up for Part 2 (stay during the credits for additional plot development). Edward is torn between the survival of his wife and unborn child. Bella, Edward, and

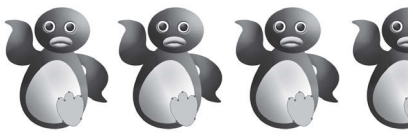


Jacob's futures are uncertain and lie in the balance.

They will have to answer for their actions in Part 2. Part 1 served its purpose to stimulate viewers' interest to want more of the story. Part 1 will have to temporarily appease the fans, because they will have to wait another year to see the end of this story- it is set to release November 16, 2012.

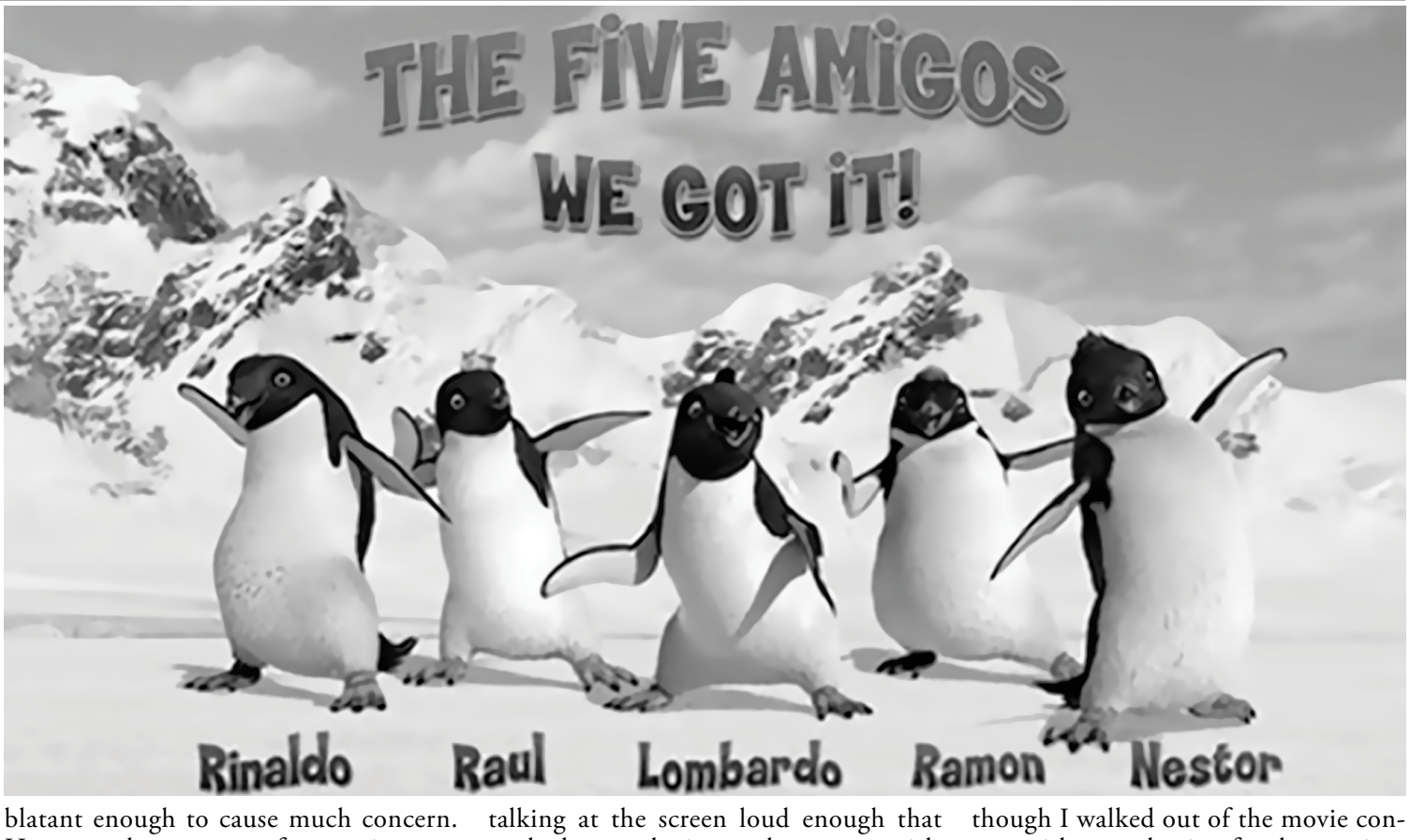
Happy Feet 2

By: Dawn Owens
dawnowens@cullmansense.com



Run time: 100 minutes,
3.5 out of 5 Feet

In an attempt to re-engage young audiences through the sequel of the Academy Award®-winning Happy Feet, Warner Brothers puts together a dual story-line that not only reminds the adult-viewer about the dangers of humans causing further destruction to the environment but, how very agile the rest of the animal kingdom can be to overcoming adversity. Happy Feet 2 tells a tale of Mumble's son, Erik's journey to find his voice/feet or the combination of the two in a world where singing and dancing are of high value.



The star-studded cast did an awesome job of being just funny enough, while not pushing the envelope too much for the younger audiences that this Momma felt comfortable enough with her two–year-old viewing alongside of her. Though there was, just like in Happy Feet, some adult themes, they were not blatant enough to cause much concern. However there were a few scarier moments that I hope don't cause too much harm to my son's sleep patterns.

As I sat next to my two year old son I watched as he danced with the music, "oh-no'd" in all the right spots, and was talking at the screen loud enough that we had to apologize to the teenage girls sitting in front of us. Lucky for my husband and I, he's just cute enough that they didn't mind...or so they said. But as a possibility for an Academy Award, I'll have to agree with the online reviewers in saying, more than likely, not. Although I walked out of the movie content with our selection for the evening, Happy Feet 2 didn't quite live up to its predecessor. I will probably find myself watching it over and over again in a few months, but not by choice and only by force (of one very special two year old).

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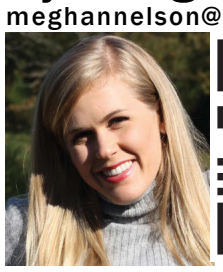
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Lifestyle

Rediscovering Cullman: Ave Maria Grotto

By: Meghan Nelson
meghannelson@cullmansense.com



qrnews/mnelson

Having lived in Cullman most of my life, I am, of course, familiar with the term 'Ave Maria Grotto'.

I even have a vague, flashing memory of a few small, gray, stone buildings from a field trip to the Grotto when I was in kindergarten.

However, aside from that one elementary school visit, I've never experienced the world-famous attraction that is nestled snugly within the woods surrounding St. Bernard Abbey.

Ironically enough, it appears that many Cullman residents are in the same position as I am.

While the Ave Maria Grotto has hosted visitors from countries across the globe, including China, Japan, Nigeria, Germany, Austria, and the Bahamas, it seems that most locals I have asked have never had the opportunity to experience the Grotto for themselves.

I decided that if people are willing to travel thousands of miles to see the Ave Maria Grotto, or as it is known internationally, 'Jerusalem in Miniature', I could at least drive the seven miles from my house for a visit. So, I put on my comfortable boots, grabbed my camera, and headed for St. Bernard.

Upon my arrival, I was introduced to Mr. Leo Schwaiger, Jr., who not only leads tours through the Grotto but also builds and repairs many of the structures featured in the park.

Sporting thick, black glasses, Mr. Schwaiger is likely one of the most interesting people I've met in quite a while, and I was intrigued to share a brief conversation with him as he awaited the next tour.

Mr. Schwaiger's family came to America from Munich, Germany. As both his grandfather and father were stonemasons and his mother sculpted concrete lawn ornaments, it was only natural for Mr. Schwaiger to follow the same path.

In fact, he built his first miniature castle at age 11, and he even helped build the base of the Colonel Cullmann statue with his brother.

As an adult, Mr. Swchaiger worked as a stonemason at St. Bernard Abbey where he quickly became acquainted with Brother Joseph Zoettl – the builder of the Ave Maria Grotto.

Mr. Schwaiger shared that Brother Joseph was a Benedictine monk who was born in Germany and came to St. Bernard Abbey in 1892.



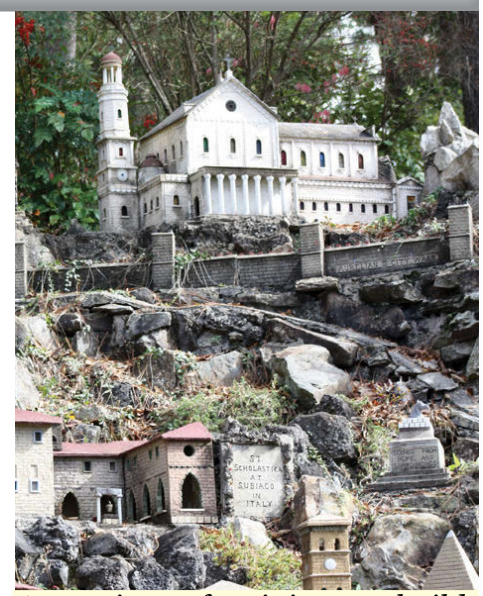
Leo Schwaiger stands behind his work table where he creates and repairs many of the Grotto's buildings
Photos by: Jessica Norrell



A group of buildings found in the Ave Maria Grotto



One of the many detailed reproductions in the Ave Maria Grotto



A section of miniature buildings from the Ave Maria Grotto

Although he had suffered an earlier accident that left him with a hunchback, Brother Joseph was still able to pursue his hobby of building miniature structures, and while at St. Bernard, he began to keep his buildings behind the monks' recreational house.

As Brother Joseph's creations became more popular, they drew an increasingly larger number of visitors, and the Abbot at the time decided that such an amount of people was interfering with the brothers' privacy.

To solve this problem, the Abbot told Brother Joseph to move the buildings into the Abbey's old stone quarry, which is where they currently reside.

After my short but interesting history lesson, it was time for Mr. Schwaiger to resume his role as tour guide, and he cordially invited me to tag along with the group he was leading.

I, of course, gratefully accepted his invitation, and we stepped out onto the sunny pathway that winds through the Grotto.

The tour began with a large rendition of Bethlehem, featuring a Nativity Scene that originated from Paris in the 1930s. We then rounded a curve to find an enormous array of tiny, but meticulously accurate buildings displayed before us.

Made from concrete, the buildings were decorated with a surprising assortment of various objects that had been donated from around the world, including green glass fisherman floats from Ireland, antique cold cream jars, colorful marbles, costume jewelry, and even old commode floats.

As we walked through the dappled sunlight, Mr. Schwaiger pointed out miniature sculptures of buildings ranging from Montserrat in Barclona, Spain to the Statue of Liberty in New York.

In fact, I was impressed to learn that the park includes 125 different reproductions of some of the most famous churches, shrines, and historic buildings in the world.

See Page 11

CHS Takes to the Silver Screen

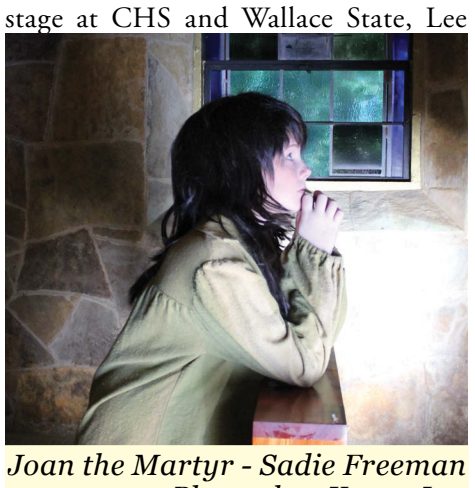
By: Wesley Smith
wesleysmith@cullmansense.com



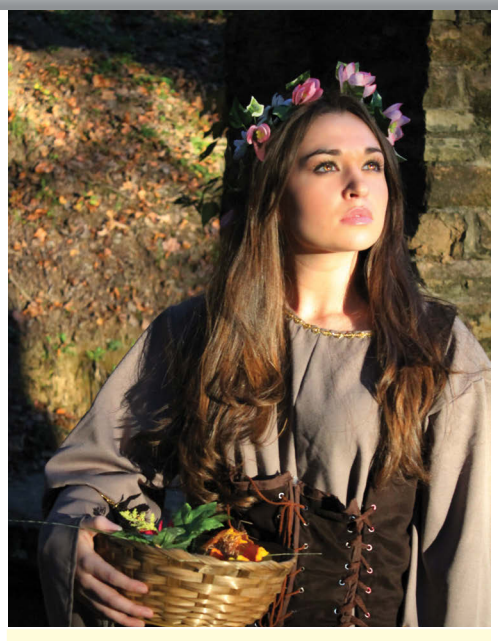
qrnews/wsmith

After Cullman High School's stage production of "Annie" last year, it left many folks asking - 'how do you follow that?' Well, you make a movie- that's how. I caught up with CHS Theater Director, Dillon Lee, to talk about the upcoming film project the CHS Fine Arts Department has planned.

A former stand-out on the theatrical stage at CHS and Wallace State, Lee came back to his high school alma mater a few years ago and has breathed new life into CHS Theater. While making a film is extremely different than a stage production, Lee is fully confident in the cast and crew. This production was originally planned for the stage, but after filming a very popular trailer for the play, they decided to make a movie.



Joan the Martyr - Sadie Freeman
Photos by: Karen Lee



Joan the Maiden - Lacy Trelles

The film is called "Joan: Maiden, Martyr, Warrior, Witch." The script is adapted from various plays and historical documents about Joan of Arc. The following CHS student actresses will play the different takes of Joan. Lacy Trelles- Maiden, Sadie Freeman- Martyr, Abby Adams- Warrior, and Erica Harris- Witch. There are many different stories throughout history of who Joan of Arc actually was, and this film will tell many of those stories.

Filming for "Joan" will begin sometime within the next two weeks. The filming locations will include many locales in and around Cullman, as well as a proposed set in Tannehill State Park. Other locations may be added if they are needed.

CHS Theater will collaborate with many other CHS programs. Some of the school programs that are on board to help are The CHS TV Production team, CHS Foreign Language, Language Arts, Choral Music and the campus technology coordinator.

The film will also receive help from friends and supporters of CHS Theater. Karen "Red" Lee will work as the Head Cinematographer/ Art Director. She will receive choreography assistance from award winning Ashanti Roach. The production assistants include Holly Boatwright, Candace Schaeffer, and Vonda Tankersley. All cinematic assistance is strictly voluntary.

The film will be premiered at a gala event at the CHS auditorium sometime in January or February of 2012. The premiere will play host to a mix of live performance and film viewing, showcasing new technological upgrades recently made to the CHS Auditorium. This event will be the first of its kind at CHS.

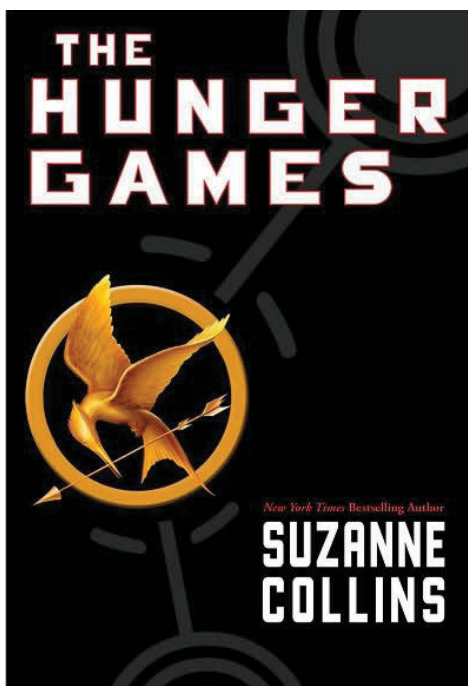


Joan the Warrior - Abby Adams

"Joan: Maiden, Martyr, Warrior, Witch" will be available for purchase on DVD during and after the premiere event.
The film's trailer is available to view on the CullmanSense website (www.Cullmansense.com).

Book Review - The Hunger Games

By: Natalie Bonner
nataliebonner@cullmansense.com



The Hunger Games is set in a post-modern, futuristic version of society in a place called Panem, what is left over after the world as we know it has died. Panem is made up of the Capitol and 13 districts, all of which focus on some sort of trade or ability.

Back in a period referred to as the Dark Days, the districts held an uprising, which resulted in District 13 being destroyed and a certain, unrequited fear instilled in the remaining districts.

Thereafter, the Capitol enforced an annual tradition known as The Hunger Games. In a selection process known as The Reaping, two tributes (a boy and a girl) from each district are pulled at random from a large pool of contenders and offered up to participate in the ultimate fight-to-the-death.

There can only be one victor in The Hunger Games and it is in a brutal territory inviting every kind of danger and fear available to mankind.

Not only do the other tributes attempt to annihilate each other, but the Capitol seeks to destroy them both mentally and physically as well.

The Hunger Games is a highly celebrated yet sore reminder of the districts' uprisings and serves as an example of what can happen if intolerable behavior exists in the districts. But for one young girl named Katniss Everdeen, she's bound and determined to change the system, no matter the cost.

When Katniss' younger sister, Primrose (called Prim), is pulled at The Reaping, Katniss volunteers in her sister's place. Little does Katniss know into what she has actually gotten herself.

Being named after a plant can have its perks, though, especially if that plant is known to survive in virtually any condition. And if there's one thing Katniss knows how to do, it is survive. The male tribute pulled from District 12 with Katniss is Peeta Mellark.

Katniss and Peeta, though terrified and unsure of their future, choose to band together and come up with an ultimately creative and successful plan to overthrow the Capitol. The two pretend to be star-crossed lovers pitted against one another as they ultimately become the last contenders.

In a Romeo & Juliet inspired move, they attempt to eat nightlock (a highly poisonous plant) at the same time so as to avoid the alternative of killing one another, but at the last possible second the Capitol intervenes. . .

The Hunger Games trilogy consists of the series intro, self-titled The Hunger Games, the second book, Catching Fire, and the final book, Mockingjay.

Author Carolyn McCormack said she was inspired to write the novel by channel surfing; upon changing channels, she clicked from a reality show competition to Iraq war footage, and The Hunger Games was formed in her mind.

The young adult, science fiction novel is a little hard to get into at first. The first three chapters lay out the groundwork for this novel and the series so it reads a little slower, but once you read past chapter three your mind will be made up.

As an avid Pretty Little Liars viewer and reader (don't judge me), I wanted something different to read and ventured out into science fiction once again. This book presents such extreme situations and circumstances that it seems one's mind would simply refuse to follow.

Not the case.

With every mind-warping move this novel illustrated, I was along for the ride. When I finished the book, I simply sighed, not realizing until the book's completion did it feel like I had held my breath the entire time.

The series has already inspired a film adaptation. Lions Gate Entertainment acquired film rights to the trilogy tale and has wrapped the first movie, which filmed in Louisiana, with an expected release date of March 23, 2012.

McCormack's book is gratifying and thoughtful in concept and execution. Though sci-fi in theory, The Hunger Games will never make you feel like you're out of your own realm.

Characters are beloved and bonds are encouraged as you root for their survival amid a reality where worst nightmares are born and bred.

If you have a book that you would like to be reviewed, e-mail:
entertainment@cullmansense.com

If you would like to submit a book review, please send it to:
entertainment@cullmansense.com

Puzzles and Comics

THIS WEEK'S WORDSEARCH TOPIC IS: WINTER

BY: DUSTIN ISOM

N S E S T S O R F S U M M F G D T K S Y V Z L I Q
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S N O W F L A K E I C I C L E S X N K H V A S K L

black ice, blizzard, boots, christmas, cold, fireplace
firewood, fog, freeze, frost, gloves, hail
heater, hibernation, hockey, holidays, hot chocolate, icicles
mittens, scarf, sled, sleet, slippery, snow plow
snowball, snowflake, snowman, soup, toboggan, wind chill

Comics by St. Edo

Anthony Saint
st.edo@cullmansense.com



Don't Forget About Your Pets

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com



qrnews/nchandler

With temperatures jumping up to the mid-70s then plummeting back down to below freezing, many residents are remembering to take care of the most obvious weatherizing but sometimes forget to take care of the members of the family that sleep outside…their pets.

Dr. Rebecca Dye of Compton's Veterinary Hospital said during winter months pets need more attention. She said that it is important to take care of the basics, from feeding outdoor pets more and keeping small dogs warmer by adding a layer of clothing.

"Outdoor dogs need their food increased and their water changed daily sometimes twice-daily when the weather reaches freezing temperatures," Dye said. "Indoor pets should have their food cutback during the winter months, simply because they are not as active during those months. A lot of overfeeding occurs during this time period. Also, do not feed your animals any table scraps or human food."

For those dogs that live outside year round, Dye said it is important to properly insulate their doghouse. Wood shavings, hay, or a dog bed are all great options. Dye encourages her clients to implement these methods during the colder months.

"The best precaution to take for your outdoor pets is to let them inside at night when it is the coldest. If that is not possible then I encourage dog owners to line the dog's house with a dog bed that the dog cannot take out of the doghouse," she said.

"For the exterior it is good to place pine straw or hay bales around the three walls to reduce the cold temperatures or wind from directly striking the doghouse."

While the temperatures plummet many residents will be winterizing their car, which includes replacing antifreeze.

"If you are changing your antifreeze at home please make sure that you carefully replace the fluids," she said. "Even though the new antifreeze is supposed to be less appealing to animals we still see cases of accidental poisoning, so if you are going to change it at home make sure to cleanup any spills."

A few signs to watch for if you think your pet has ingested antifreeze are; drunken behavior, euphoria/delirium, nausea/vomiting, excessive urination, diarrhea, rapid heartbeat, fainting, weakness, depression, seizures, convulsions or shaking tremors.

If you pet is exhibiting any of the warning signs Dye urges you to take your pet to your veterinarian immediately.

"When an animal has ingested antifreeze we do have a small window of opportunity to treat the symptoms and hopefully prevent any permanent damage or death," she said. "So it is imperative that you take your pet to your veterinarian immediately and not wait to see if they will get better."

Local Events

Send your Events to:
calendar@cullmansense.com

CRMC Foundation's Dr. Herman C. Ensor Lights of Love Tree Lighting Ceremony

Date: Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: Cullman Regional Medical Center
Col. Cullmann Room, Professional Office Building 2
1912 AL Highway 157
Cullman, AL 35055

The Cullman Regional Medical Center's Foundation's 20th annual Dr. Herman C. Ensor Lights of Love Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will once again benefit Hospice of Cullman County. This annual ceremony allows members of Cullman and the surrounding area to honor or remember family and community members. This year's event will be held on Thursday, December 1 at 5:30 p.m. in the Col. Cullmann Room at CRMC.

Your gift of $20, $40, $60 or more will place a light on the tree as a tribute to someone special to you. Your tax-deductible gift will help support CRMC's Hospice of Cullman County in its continuing effort to provide excellent end-of-life care to everyone in our community.

Christmas in Depot Park - Tree Lighting Tonight

Date: Thursday, December 01
Time: 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Location: Depot Park
2nd Avenue NE
Cullman, AL 35055

The Christmas festivities begin at 5:30 at Depot Park with the traditional tree lighting ceremony. Live entertainment will be provided by Blast from the Past and the Wallace State Singers. So bring the family to Depot Park tonight to start your holiday season off right!

Free food, beautiful lights and pictures with Santa are on tap for the evening. This is a free event sponsored by Cullman City Parks & Recreation. Further information can be obtained by calling the Cullman Parks & Recreation at 256-734-9157.

Jam Session at Town of South Vinemont

Date: Friday, December 2, 2011
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: Vinemont Scout Center
Ridgeway Street,
Vinemont, AL 35179

A 'Jam Session' will be held tonight at the Scout House in the Town of South Vinemont. Everyone is invited to attend this night of good music and fellowship, and it also is an occasion for supporting Cullman Caring for Kids by bringing non-perishable items to share. For more information, contact Town Hall at 256-737-5411 during office hours. Bring your own instruments and/or singing voices if you would like to join in the fun.

The Christmas Arts & Crafts Show

Date: Friday, December 02, 2011 at 9:00 AM
Time: Saturday, December 03, 2011 at 5:00 PM
Location: Cullman Civic Center
510 5th St. SW
Cullman, AL 35055

The Christmas Arts & Crafts Show sponsored by Cullman City Parks and Recreation will be December 2-3 at the Cullman Civic Center. Hours are Friday 9:00 am - 8:00 pm; Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm and admission is free. For more information, call 256-734-9157 or e-mail karens@cullmanrecreation.org.

Christmas Tour of Homes

Date: Saturday, December 03, 2011
Time: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Location: West Point and Cullman, AL

Tour ten homes in West Point and Cullman on Dec. 3, 10 am until 4:00 pm. Tickets are $10 and are available at J. Drake Salon and West Point Baptist office or by calling 256-737-0439.

The Cullman County Christmas Parade

Date: Saturday, December 03, 2011
Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Location: Hanceville

The Cullman County Christmas Parade will be held at 2:00 pm Saturday, December 3rd in Hanceville. There is no cost of entry fees and anyone may participate. Lineup will begin at 1:00 pm at Wallace State Community College. Mr. and Mrs. Santa will be at Hanceville City Hall to greet the children with gifts after the parade. For more information, contact Grace Potter at 256-352-6309 or Joann Walls at 256-352-9799.

'Holiday Run for a Cure' Today at Sportsman's Lake Park

Date: Saturday, December 3, 2011
Time: 8:00 am
Location: Sportsman's Lake Park
Address: 1544 Sportsman's Lake Rd. NW,
Cullman, Alabama 35055

A 'Holiday Run for the Cure' race will take place today beginning at 8:00 am at Sportsman's Lake Park sponsored by the Merchants Bank Relay for Life Team. Runners may pre-register at any Merchant's Bank location or late registration will be allowed the day of the race at 7:30 am that morning. Entry fee is $25.00. Those who have pre-registered will receive a free t-shirt. There is a 'Kid's Fun Run' which costs $10.00. Further information can be obtained by contacting Elizabeth Nicholas at 256-734-8110. Everyone is urged to support this event, either by participating or being on hand the day of the race to encourage your favorite runners!

Mirroring History

Looking Back: Exploring Historic Cullman at Ave Maria Grotto



Contributed by Cullman County Museum



Photo by: Jessica Norrell

Carter - Continued

Steve: I've worked in construction, as a carpenter and a painter, I've worked in a dental lab, on an assembly line in a packaging warehouse, worked as a busboy, server and barback in a restaurant, worked as a mover, worked as a lifty at a ski resort and probably have done some others that I can't think of right now.

MN: How have you grown as an artist over the years?

Steve: As an artist, you are always growing and feel like you are never there.

Starting out you just want to draw, paint or make something that looks good. Then you get into the meaning behind your work and what you, as an artist, are trying to say. But I think you can start to over think it.

Now, I just want to refine my style and distinctly make it my own. I don't worry about my art having some deep profound message anymore. If I have an idea, I just try to execute it and wait for it to become meaningful.

MN: You own the Shops at Third Street Promenade with your wife Stacie...what made you guys decide to open a shop?

Steve: Stacie and I were newly married and wanted to do something with my art and her photography in a business. The opportunity presented itself, and we decided to go for it. This is usually either a very long answer or a very short answer. I'll give the short one.

MN: What is the basic concept behind the Promenade?

Steve: This is our Mission Statement: Promenade provides a place for artists and creative people to sell their art and/or goods.

It also provides a setting for creativity and for any individual or organization to foster, grow and produce, which in part brings hope and inspiration to our customers and associates.

MN: How is it to run a shop that involves working with other artists?

Steve: It's good. I love learning from them and talking about things that only artists get or care about.

MN: What's your favorite part of what you do? Least Favorite?

Steve: Favorite part: Making cool stuff / Least Favorite: Selling cool stuff

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FUN FACTS

What do you like on your pizza? Canadian Bacon

What's music's on your playlist right now? Local radio station / a lot of old country and bluegrass

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Grotto - Continued

We saw the Mysterious Tower of Rhode Island, St. Martin's Church and Castle Trausnitz from Bavaria, and even Brother Joseph's rendition of Grimm's Temple of the Fairies. We continued on the path to arrive at the Roman Section of the park, which included startlingly accurate reproductions of structures such as the Pantheon, St. Peter's, the Basilica of St. Paul, the Colosseum, and the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

We next came to the park's namesake, the Ave Maria Grotto. In case you are as Latin-inept as I am, 'grotto' simply refers to a small cave or cavern, and it perfectly describes the rocky overhang sheltering a beautifully sculpted statue of the Virgin Mary holding Baby Jesus. The Grotto includes brightly decorated stalactites created by Brother Joseph and was actually the site of his funeral in 1961.

We then traversed through the Holy Land Section, which includes sites such as Mount Calvary, the Resurrection Tomb, and Herod's Gate. We saw the Shrine of St. Joseph, and continued up a hill to see Noah's Ark and the Tower of Babel. As we were walking, Mr. Schwaiger shared that he began working on the buildings of the Grotto in 1963, when the Tower of Babel needed repairing. He has since repaired many of the original structures and also added several new buildings to the collection.

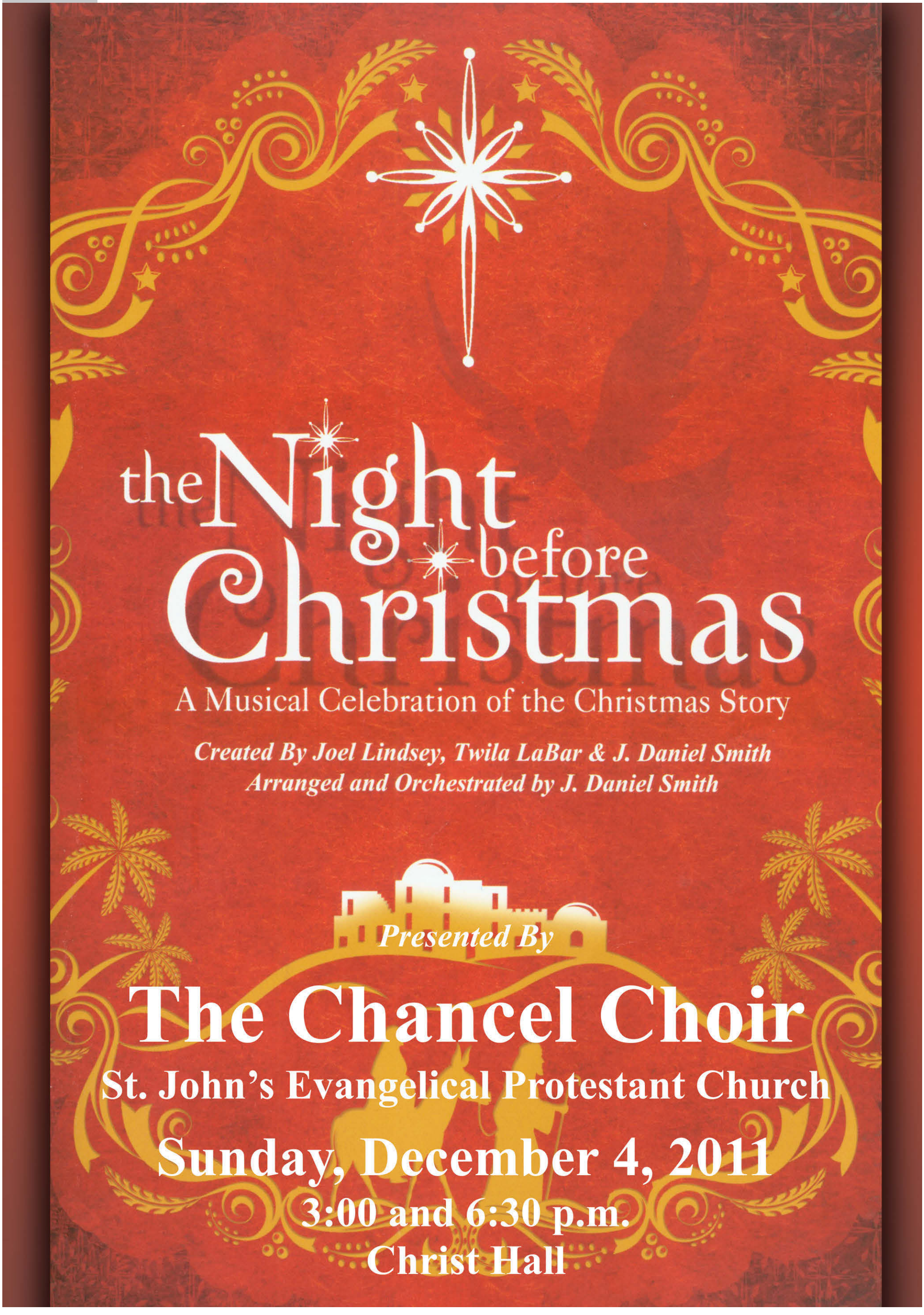
Looking at the tiny buildings sparkling in the sunlight, Mr. Schwaiger reflected,"I do the best with what I have to work with, which is what Brother Joseph did...I try to stay commiserate with what he would do."

As we climbed to the top of the slope, we emerged at the tribute to the men from St. Bernard who died in World War II, represented by twenty-nine white crosses, as well as a tribute to the soldiers of the Vietnam and Korean Wars. We also saw the World's Peace Church from Hiroshima, Japan, which Brother Joseph built after the first atomic bomb was dropped. The last building on our tour was the Basilica of Jasna Gora located in Czestochowa, Poland, which includes stones from around the United States, as well as a piece of rock from Czestochowa, itself.

Near the end of the path sits Mr. Schwaiger's workshop, a small building tucked neatly into the park. Inside the dimly-lit room, jugs of different materials line the walls and a large work table stands in the center. A picture of the Pope hangs on one side of the workshop, and a small American flag adorns the front door. Mr. Schwaiger shared that not only does he use his workshop to create and repair the park's buildings, but he also makes wooden toys for disabled children. Showing us a few pictures of his wife, Mr. Schwaiger divulged that she works at the Grotto, as well, tending the beautifully landscaped flowers and shrubs.

As our tour came to an end, I thanked Mr. Schwaiger for the wonderful morning and walked back to the Grotto's parking lot. I had finally seen Cullman's internationally-renowned attraction, and I began to understand why it draws so many people. The Ave Maria Grotto is not only an amazing example of creativity, dedication, and craftsmanship, but to me the tiny reproductions built of materials donated from around the world also portray a surprising spirit of community. So, if you haven't had the opportunity to visit the Grotto yet, grab your camera, hop in your car, and drive over to St. Bernard. After all, while many people travel great distances to see this miniature marvel, we need only take the time to drive a few miles in order the enjoy this beautiful part of our town.




the Night before Christmas
A Musical Celebration of the Christmas Story
Created By Joel Lindsey, Twila LaBar & J. Daniel Smith
Arranged and Orchestrated by J. Daniel Smith
Presented By
The Chancel Choir
St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church
Sunday, December 4, 2011
3:00 and 6:30 p.m.
Christ Hall