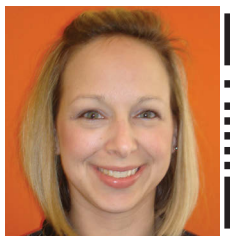
Monday December 5 2011
Series 1, Issue 3
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Cullman's Monday Newspaper

Randy Booth: A Pastor of Pastors PAGE 2
Rediscovering Cullman: A Touch of German PAGE 6
PLUS Local Comics, Game Reviews, and More! LOOK INSIDE

CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS

Brook's Place Needs Your Help

By: Dawn Owens
dawnowens@cullmansense.com



qrnews/downs



Family Waiting room provides a safe enviroment for families *Photos by: Jessica Norrell*

Brook's Place Child Advocacy Center, named after a local attorney, Len Brooks, is struggling to stay afloat with budgetary cuts hitting them from federal, state and local sources. Over the last four years Executive Director, Kim Bevis, has seen a decrease in over $85,000 in funding.

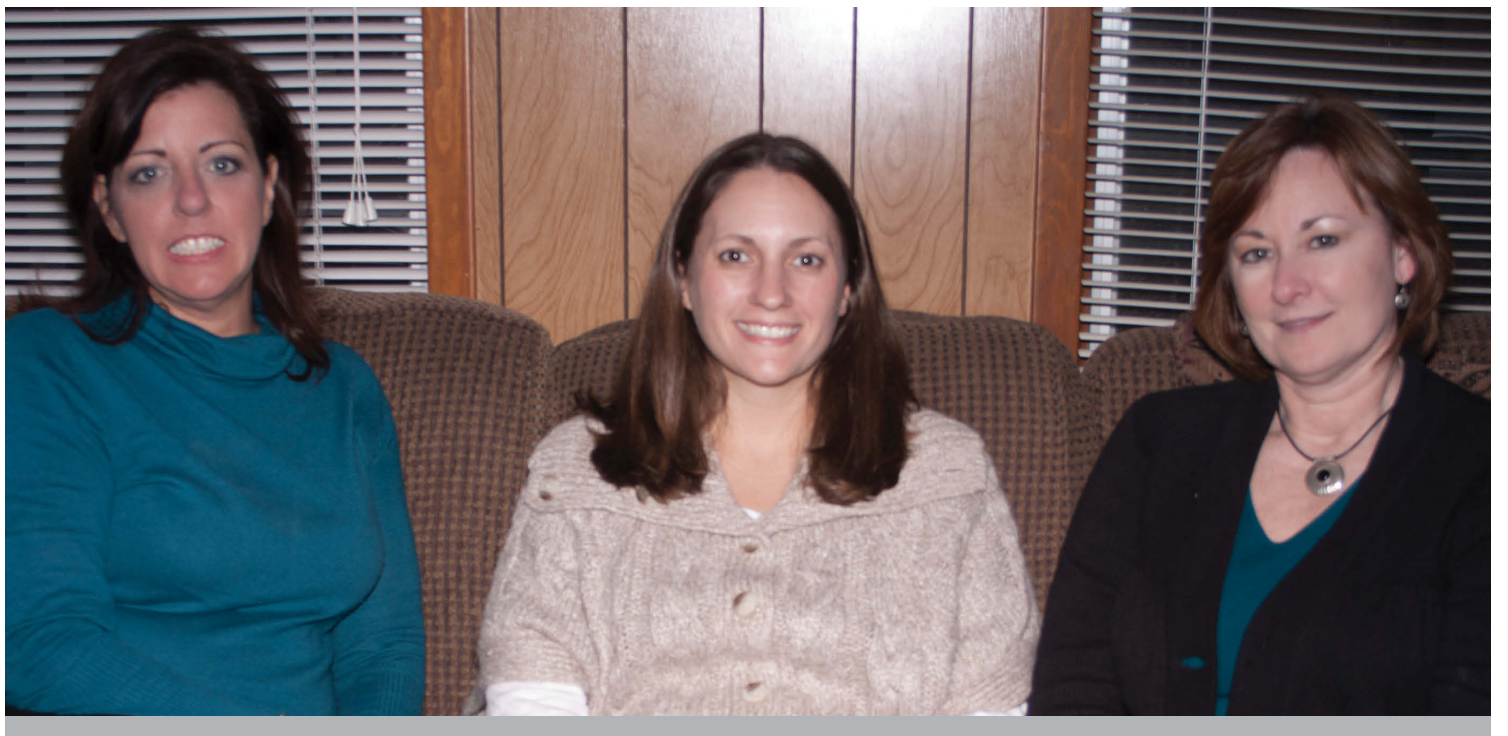
For years they have received much of their money through a Children's Trust fund prevention grant for prevention type programs. Other funding that was placed in the general operating budget was zeroed out through the state legislation. New legislation was introduced that moved the Alabama Network of Child Advocacy Centers (ANCAC) to the education line in the state budget. For the last 11 years they received approximately $21,000 a year from this source, but when ANCAC received budget cuts, the Cullman office felt it as well.

There is no doubt that this office plays a vita role in the welfare of families in our community. A CAC's main purpose is to conduct forensic interviewing, have a multi-disciplinary team (law enforcement, DA, DHR, mental health and the CAC and medical professionals that are well versed in the child sexual abuse realm) review and offer victim and family counseling.

For years, Brook's Place received more than enough funding to operate with a full staff, support their day-to-day activities, and any operating costs they had for their facility. But with the changes in the economy over the past few years, their funding has taken a hit and so has their staff.

The Brook's Place staff consists of a contracted Forensic interviewer and therapist. A full-time Clinical coordinator/ therapist who sees children who are victims of abuse, a part-time case manager who oversees adolescent offender program, called the J-SOAP (Juvenile Sexual offender treatment program which is a one of a kind treatment program in the state), and an intern from Liberty University who conducts school referral and victim therapy. The team has a steady case load of anywhere between 200-250 cases a year.

With such a small staff raising funds can be difficult. Bevis shared that the Parade of Trees, an annual silent auction at the Cullman Christmas Open House raised $5000 this year. A $1500 increase over last year.



Exective Director Kim Beeves, left, with staff members Blakely Hopper and Donna Dutton

"Every bit that we can make, will help, " said Bevis. She is hopeful that events like this and others will help to supplement their budget assisting them with purchasing some of the things they desperately need.

One of those items they need to replaced and soon if possible, is the camera in one of their interview rooms. These are specialty cameras that are designed to move with the child throughout the room. The law enforcement and DA's office, can experience the interview as if they are present with the victim. However, this scenario is less intimidating for the child. These cameras can cost around $6000 but are vital to their success."

On a tour of the office, Bevis explained how the interview rooms are designed to help the child be comfortable with their surroundings as well as the interviewer but not to encourage too many distractions.

Bevis brought out anatomically correct dolls and showed how the children are able to use them to share their story. These dolls have life-like features and "private parts" that the child can point, poke, or pull to explain what they experienced.

"The children we work with are any-

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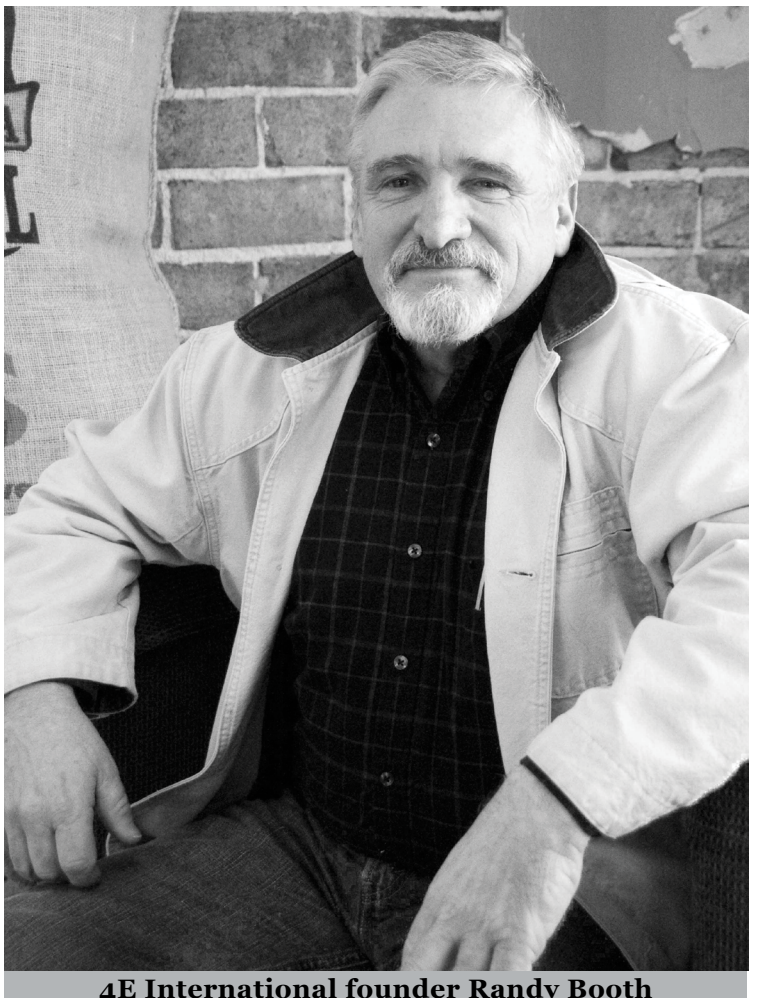
Religion

Randy Booth: A Pastor of Pastors

By: Dawn Owens
dawnowens@cullmansense.com

Randy Booth and his family, are fueled by a mission: to make disciples. They accomplish that by pastoring Pastors around the globe. Their primary focus is discipleship and training pastors to help them to in turn train others and to work with under reached, unreached, and hard to reach areas around the world. 4E International Ministry's mission is to encourage the church, equip the saints, evangelize the nations and exalt God in all things. Booth explained, "Sometimes I am asked why we put exalting God last. We figure if we are doing the first three than the last one is happening. God is exalted through those other items."

Booth was born in Cullman, AL as Thomas Randall Booth, and was raised on Stouts Mountain. His father was the first pastor at Stouts Mountain First Baptist Church. He lived there until about he was about 12 years old. "I announced that I had been called to preach", shared Booth. "Many of the adults didn't know how to take that and not sure I even knew how to take that. But I knew I had to desire to serve in that capacity."



4E International founder Randy Booth
Photo by: Emily Durden

I met my wife, Theresa (Connelly) while my Dad was a pastor in Tuscumbia, AL. She was still in high school when they met and she graduated later that spring. They got married the following November and have been married 41 years. "After we were married, three years, I was fully surrendered to the call to preach. At that time, most people said that if you are called to something you should be pursuing it.

But, my heart has always been for other pastors that needed help, that may not have the money. I wanted to make the gospel and discipleship more accessible to people."

Booth started pastoring full time in 1979 at Coleman Baptist Church in Coleman, GA. The Booths were married 16 years with no children. "The doctor said we couldn't have children." We adopted Randy and James and at about 17.5 years or marriage we had Nathaniel and then about two years after that we had John-Mark."

4E International is run by Randy Booth, founder and president. He has a working board of directors for accountability purposes, but Randy is the only one on staff full-time. "John-Mark, is my right arm, besides my wife. He'll be doing some medical work with me as well, this coming year. John-Mark is on staff at Cullman Regional Hospital."

According to Booth, "True discipleship happens when we let Jesus affect our lives in such a way that our minds, our actions and thoughts are changing us so that as we become more like Jesus others begin to respond to that in us. The only way this can be lived out is through sharing it with others. As they respond we can teach them what God is teaching us. Jesus did the same with his disciples in training them for three years. Instead of following that type of training, people followed the Greco-Roman way of training the mind.

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Tradition of the Tree

By: Natalie Bonner
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cnews/nbonner

It all starts with an evergreen or a fir tree. Then, layer by layer, it slowly builds into a mystical wonderment with stacked tinsel, family keepsakes, decorations, ornaments and a tree topper. The Christmas tree is alive with beauty and cheer. Cullman is certainly valued for its ability to keep traditions alive, but Cullman is also innovative enough to re-invent tradition in a creative way.

Every year, the Cullman County Museum sells wooden Christmas ornaments that are a part of a historical ornament collection. The idea for the collection was inspired by another series' success. Raymond Yost spearheaded the glass ornaments collection as a fundraiser for the Train Depot restoration project. They were so well received that the Cullman County Museum's Executive Director, Elaine Fuller, wanted to do the same for the museum.

After the Museum's release of the first ornament in 2003, the desire for other locations became evident. Fuller, along with the Museum's Board of Directors, decides on the next location for the ornaments. This year's ornament is the 9th edition in the collection. It features a carved version of the 1965 Cullman County Courthouse. Next year's ornament for 2012 is scheduled to be the last ornament released for this series.

The ornaments are made of carved wood. The back of the ornament explains the custom use for wood. It reads, "The fragrance and texture of wood has long been associated with the celebration of Christmas. From holly to fruit trees, from bushes to branches, the diversity of wood in its many forms has been a part of Christmas for nearly a millennium."

The ornaments are made from the Alder tree, which is found around the world in nearly 30 species. The wood is highly sought after for carving, millwork and interior furniture and carries a faint evergreen aroma. The rest of the ornament back reads, "The use [of wood] extends back to the Middle Ages, when the Paradise Tree was popularized in the Medieval passions plays. By early 1600's fir trees were used in German homes and decorated with flowers, fruit, wafers, sugar, and figures made from a variety of materials."

The Cullman County Museum has all of the ornaments in stock and they are sold year round. The ornaments sell for $12.50 and can be found at several locations around town, including The Mary Carter Paint Store and A Touch of German.

Julie Burks, with the Cullman County Museum, said, "They make great souvenirs for tourists and stocking stuffers for all ages that are cherished as keepsake ornaments."

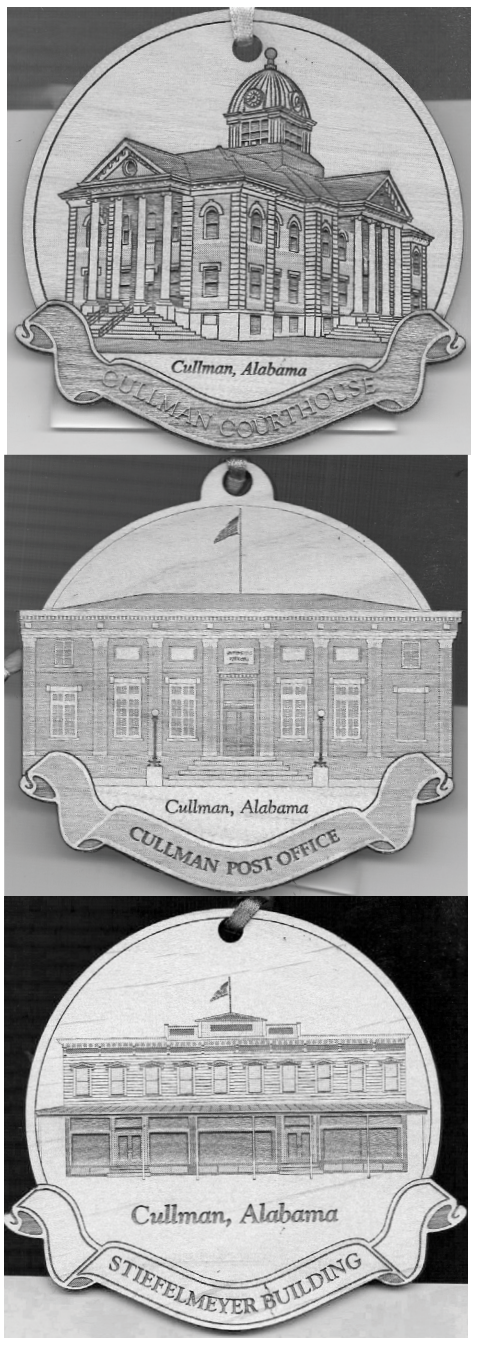
The original ornaments and their release dates are as follows: Museum, 2003; Train Depot, 2004; 2nd Courthouse, 2005; Post Office, 2006; German Bank, 2007; Stiefelmeyer Building, 2008; Weiss Cottage, 2009; the Ice Factory, 2010; and the 3rd Courthouse, 2011.

The historical landmarks that are carved into the ornaments are a reminder of our past, which helps us value our present.

Burks explained, "Even though the courthouse was built in 1965, the Cullman County Museum Board of Directors decided that the Museum needed to preserve what the courthouse looked like through most of our recent history."

Burks commented that the 2011 ornament carries special significance in regards to the tornado damage incurred to the courthouse earlier this year. She said, "With the damage from the tornado and the fact that the courthouse is receiving a face lift, this was the year to make it happen."

The Cullman County Museum understands the importance of keeping tradition alive. While ornaments may be pretty things to hang on trees, they have managed to pack a history lesson and a lot of Cullman pride into their incredible wooden ornaments. Now, that's something to hang on the tree.



Special Thanks to a Local Crew

By: Noah Chandler
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qrne.ws/nchandler

As we enter our third print edition I have had the luxury of watching our small, yet motivated, bunch of local talent grow into a well fashioned crew.

Since Dustin Isom and I began this venture a year ago we have done our best and have been able to keep our content strictly local.

This means we work with residents who, for the most part, have grown up or have lived in Cullman County much of their lives.

Keeping it all local is what makes CullmanSense a community based paper, and our website only expands on the great things happening in Cullman County.

We are grateful to be able to deliver compelling stories accompanied by vivid photos to you each week.

We are continuing to grow with every passing day which is mostly due to the word-of-mouth campaign that seems to have taken hold as of late. Everyone at CS looks forward to covering the stories that interest you, so we are always looking for your tips or ideas.

If you have a story idea for any of the crew at CS, please e-mail them to let them know what you want to see. And if you want, give the crew a an air high-five when you read their articles. Trust me, we know when there is an air high-five headed in our direction.

Other than that I just want to thank you for taking the time to read this issue of CullmanSense and I hope that the stories included in this issue were entertaining, thought provoking, and of course, fun.

How could I forget about the wonderful crew that has made this possible?

Thank you to Anthony Saint (Local Cartoonist), Dawn Owens (Religion), Dustin McSpadden (Local Game Reviewer), Emily Durden (Photography/Graphic Design), Jessica Norrell (Photography), Josh McBrayer (Sports Reporter), Meghan Nelson (Columnist/Reporter), Natalie Bonner (Entertainment/News Reporter),Tracy Handley (Sales), and Wes Smith (Entertainment Reporter) for your hard work in ensuring that these pages are filled with local content each week.

Then again, without the constant support from our local businesses -- who either advertise through us or who distribute our print edition each Monday -- we would not have made it this far. From all the crew at CullmanSense, we thank you.

Remember, this is a community publication that contains 100% local information. We are always looking for your input to continue improving CullmanSense each week.

CullmanSense serves as a platform for the community, so I encourage you to scratch that creative noodle and tell us what it is you would like to see more of. Is there a specific job you would like to see chronicled in our Day In The Life Of series? Or possibly a great local artists that just needs that one shot at exposure?

Let us know what interests you because this is your paper.

CullmanSense
Community Matters

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 and 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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Weather

Source: NWS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Hi: 59	Hi: 47	Hi: 46	Hi: 52
Lo: 41	Lo: 31	Lo: 28	

Monday: Showers likely. Cloudy, with a high near 59. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Monday Night: Rain likely. Cloudy, with a low around 41. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Tuesday: A 50 percent chance of rain. Cloudy, with a high near 47.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 31.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 46.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 28.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 52.

Check CullmanSense.com for the latest weather forecast.

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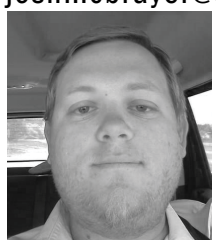
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Sports - Area Athlete

Sean Moriarty: St. Bernard Preparatory School

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com



qrnews/jmcbrayer

Welcome to CullmanSense's newest addition, Area Athletes, where instead of featuring professional athletes with ties to the state, I interview athletes from right here in Cullman County. Our first Area Athlete features St. Bernard Prep School's stand-out, 4-sport athlete, Junior Sean Moriarty.

Josh McBrayer: Please tell our readers a little bit about yourself.

Sean Moriarty: I am 17 years old and a junior at St. Bernard Preparatory School. I am from Virginia and participate in Soccer, Track, Swimming and Basketball.

JM: How long have you been playing basketball?

SM: I started playing when I was 7 and played until my 5th grade year. Then I came to St. Bernard in 9th grade and played in a few JV games before I started playing varsity in 10th grade.

JM: What brought you to St. Bernard?

SM: My parents were looking for Catholic Boarding Schools and my mom found St. Bernard on Google. My Great-Grandfather was also one of the first students to attend St. Bernard in the early 1900's. I came to visit the campus during open house in the summer of 2009. After the open house I decided I wanted to attend school at St. Bernard and enrolled that year.

JM: Tell us a little bit about your Thanksgiving weekend, about your travel home to be with your family and the long trip back to play in a Thanksgiving Tournament with your team.

SM: Last season I stayed with a friend during Thanksgiving break to participate in the tournament. This year I flew home on Thanksgiving Day so I could participate in the first two rounds of the tournament.

JM: Tell us a little bit about your nineteen hour bus ride during the summer.



SM: This past summer I attended a basketball camp with my teammates at Lipscomb University. I was already home for summer. My coach gave me the itinerary for the camp and I realized I would have to fly or drive a few hundred miles to the camp.

My parents were both busy and could not drive me that far. Plane tickets were very expensive on such short notice, however my parents did find a Greyhound bus ticket that was reasonable. I was all for it because I wanted to be there with my team.

The bus, however, did not take a direct route to the college, it took a roundabout path. I spent 19 hours in a seat that was not made for someone over 6 feet tall. After the camp I took the bus all the way back to Virginia.

JM: What has it been like not playing in front of your friends and family?

SM: The biggest challenge is my friends and family are the ones that always inspired me to play. The hardest is not playing in front of my dad. He was always the one that took me to my games and I do not recall him missing a single game. He also told me what I needed to hear to become a better player.

JM: What is your greatest accomplishment in basketball?

SM: It is hard to say because I have not been playing long enough to become the best player I can be but my favorite moment is when St. Bernard beat Gaston in the 2010-11 season.

JM: Who has been your greatest influence in sports?

SM: I would have to say my older brother. He grew up playing all types of sports and made me play them with him, even if I did not want too. He always gives me advice on how to get better whether I did great or poorly. He always had something positive to say to make me better.

JM: On average, how many hours a week do you spend playing basketball?

SM: I normally play about 14 hours a week. Most of my time is spent playing basketball with my dorm brother on the weekends and even after practice during the week.

JM: Where do you plan on attending college?

SM: There are a few places I think about when it comes to college. Since I can remember I have always dreamed about attending the University of Virginia, but since I have been attending school in Alabama, I have thought about other schools in Alabama and North Carolina but I still have another year to think about it.



Sean Moriarty plays hard from the opening tip-off to the final buzzer, no matter the score. He is a true player that truly loves the game and this is why he was selected for the Area Athletes.

If you know someone participating in sports in the Cullman area and think they would be a perfect fit for the Area Athletes feature, e-mail their name, school, sport played and contact information for yourself to sports@cullmansense.com

Cullman County High School Basketball Schedule

Monday, December 5, 2011

Holly Pond @ Good Hope Boys & Girls

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Glen Iris @ Cullman Christian Boys & Girls

Cullman @ Hartselle Boys & Girls

Fairview @ Priceville Boys & Girls

Randolph @ Good Hope Boys

Hanceville @ Corner Boys & Girls

Vinemont @ Holly Pond Boys & Girls

Coosa Christian @ St. Bernard Boys & Girls

Curry @ West Point Boys & Girls

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Brewer @ Cullman Boys & Girls

Vinemont @ Fairview Boys & Girls

West End @ St. Bernard Boys & Girls

Friday, December 9, 2011

Oakman @ Cold Springs Boys & Girls

Cullman Christian @ North River Boys & Girls

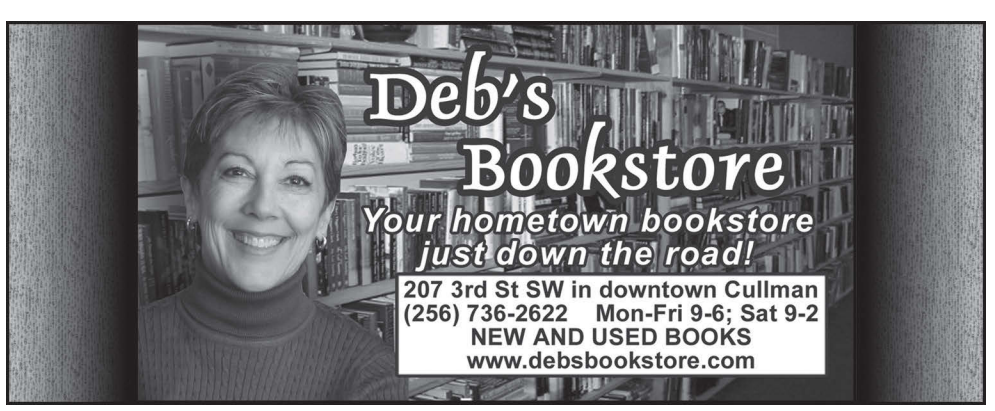
East Lawrence @ Good Hope Boys

Hanceville @ Winston County Girls

Ragland @ St. Bernard Girls

Vinemont @ Falkville Boys & Girls

Hartselle @ West Point Boys & Girls



A Day in the Life of...A Restoration Mechanic

By: Meghan Nelson
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qrne.ws/mnelson

The auto body world is most assuredly not my area of expertise. My vehicle-related skills include the minimum requirements that I begrudgingly learned from my father when I was in high school – how to change a tire, how to check the oil, and when to just give up and call him. Needless to say, when I learned that I would be experiencing a day in the life of a restoration mechanic, I truly had no inkling of what such a situation would entail.

I imagined a vague stereotype of a man dressed in blue coveralls, wielding a monkey wrench, and listening to classic rock as he mysteriously tightened and tinkered with random objects on an engine. However, given the common inaccuracy of stereotypes, I knew the day would be quite different from my expectations. Thus, with an open (albeit auto-body-impaired) mind I headed to Patty's Rod Shop (PRS) on Childhaven Road to meet my mechanic, Chris Edmondson.

Patty's opened in 2006 and offers a variety of vehicle-related services. The shop not only accepts insurance claims but also restores and customizes cars for auto enthusiasts. Chris, who has been part of Patty's Rod Shop for about a year, works primarily in the restoration side of the business.

I found Chris with a cup of coffee in the back of the shop, already at work on his latest project. Despite my non-too-creative preconception, Chris wasn't wearing coveralls but was outfitted in jeans, a PRS shirt, and a pair of work boots, and rather than classic rock, the shop's radio was playing the tunes of country singers like the Zac Brown Band.

Upon my arrival, Chris introduced me to his current automotive undertaking – a 1971 Chevelle. He shared that the shop was performing a frame-off restoration on the vehicle, a term that, at first, didn't impart much meaning to my untrained intellect. However, after Chris explained that a 'frame-off restoration' literally entails stripping a vehicle down to its skeletal, metal frame and then rebuilding it one piece at a time, I began to understand what a detailed and impressive endeavor a restoration can be.



Patty's Rod Shop mechanic Chris Edmondson buffs out the rough spots on a 1971 Chevelle *Photo by: Emily Durden*

In its current state of strip, the Chevelle was hardly recognizable. Consisting of just a minimal black frame and a big, orange engine, it had no body, tires, or other common car parts yet installed. As I watched (because, let's face it, nobody would want me to actually work on a vehicle), Chris began to install the car's brake drums, which had recently received a fresh coat of shiny, black paint.

While Chris was tightening the bolts, Patrick – the owner of PRS – arrived bearing a large, cardboard box that was every bit as tall as Chris. In it were the long, metal break and fuel lines for the Chevelle. As Chris opened the plastic packages containing the vital car parts vaguely resembling seven-foot spaghetti noodles, I asked him why he finds restoring vehicles so enjoyable.

"It's a challenge to understand the mechanics of how something operates, to be able to repair it, and in some cases, to make it better than it was when it came from the factory," he shares.

Chris also appreciates the laid-back camaraderie at Patty's. Having been in the air force, repaired tractors and large trucks, worked in construction, and most recently held a position as branch manager of a hydraulics company, Chris finds PRS to be a nice change. As he jokingly states, "Not being around a bunch of sore-tailed cats makes the day go a lot faster."

With the lines free of their packages, Chris then began to fit them into the frame. He explained that in restoration projects, parts often come from after market suppliers because the original manufacturers no longer make them. Because of this, they don't always fit correctly and often require light modifications, such as filing or reshaping, in order to fit into the car.

As he was working, Chris regularly referred to the car's assembly manual, which shows the different steps of the car's creation on the original assembly line. While this is a helpful tool, Chris explained that the level of help it provides often varies based on the class of the vehicle.

For example, he showed me the manual for a 1972 442 Oldsmobile, a high-end car that the shop is restoring. For each step in the assembly line, the manual showed detailed diagrams of every part, down to the type of screw used. However, some manuals, such as the one Chris was currently perusing, show only the most basic information and leave quite a bit to the imagination.

Chris says that this stage of the restoration process is very similar to putting a jigsaw puzzle together. "You find parts, put them together, and paint them one piece at a time."

As he searched for the needed pieces amid the shelves of tools, bolts, and random car parts, Chris shared that purchasing the appropriate tools for each vehicle is often one of the most frustrating aspects of restoration. Opening up a drawer, he showed me a $1000 wrench set featuring several heavy wrenches much longer than my arm. According to Chris, "You might buy an expensive set of tools and use them only once a year, but you must have the set to finish the job."

Amid his busy day, Chris took time to show me the body portion of the Chevelle, which was located in another section of the shop. Consisting of the main body, doors, and fenders, the body was being primed and prepared for a black and silver paint job. Seeing the varied and meticulous amount of work required to restore the Chevelle, I asked Chris how long such a job takes and what sort of cost it entails.

"A frame-off restoration is a one-year project; however, we're hoping to complete this one in February, which will be nine months. The cost really just depends on the preferences of the customer, if they want to use old or new parts, and the condition of the car."

Chris shared that PRS typically works on several jobs at a time. "We work on one project until we have to wait on parts to arrive, and then we switch to another vehicle...we accomplish whatever we can at that point in time."

For instance, Chris spent the morning installing the Chevelle's brake and fuel lines, but would spend the afternoon rewiring a 1977 Chevrolet truck while he waited on more parts to arrive for the Chevelle.

As I observed Chris's deep level of bespectacled concentration, I realized that a mechanic's job requires an enormously larger amount of knowledge, craftsmanship, and experience than I had imagined. People like Chris and the crew at PRS build and repair the vehicles that we automobile novices not only drive but entrust with our lives. As a result of my educational and car-packed day, the next time I drive my red Chevrolet pickup or see a shiny hot rod cruising down the street, I'll pause to appreciate the time and talent of the mechanics who make four-wheeled (and sometimes two-wheeled) transportation possible.

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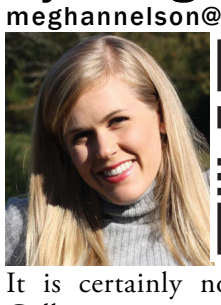
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Lifestyle

Rediscovering Cullman: A Touch of German

By: Meghan Nelson
meghannelson@cullmansense.com



qrnews/mnelson



An array of Cuckoo clocks greet all who pass through the doors at A Touch of German *Photos by: Emily Durden*



Nutcrackers can and will pop up at every turn at A Touch of German

It is certainly not a revelation that Cullman possesses a hearty amount of German heritage. In fact, considering my own solid constitution, obsession with frugality, and unfortunate stubborn streak, I'm fairly certain that my personal ancestry includes more than a few German genes. Therefore, the next destination in my venture to rediscover our fair city was, of course, an establishment that celebrates said Deutschlander identity – A Touch of German.

Neatly situated in downtown Cullman, A Touch of German is the shop on First Avenue sporting a miniature gazebo on its roof, which impressed the socks of off me when I was younger. In fact, I have several fond childhood memories of visiting the shop – especially around Christmas time. Until recently, though, I had never taken the time to appreciate the story behind A Touch of German and its owner, Peggy Grobe.

As I entered the supremely well-stocked store, I felt instantly transported into a small, European village that had somehow missed the recent passing of time. However, the sedately ticking cuckoo clocks lining the front wall insisted that time does, in fact, continue within the confines of A Touch of German.

Spotting Peggy and her sales associate, Evette Buettner, I wound through the tightly-packed aisle and to the front counter. After introducing myself and discovering (as is so common in Cullman) that Peggy and I actually know one another's families, I asked Peggy exactly how she came to own such a singularly unique store.

Peggy shared the she originally lived in Saginaw, Michigan, only a few miles from an old German settlement. After moving to Cullman, she became friends with Mary Carson Glasscock who had opened A Touch of German in 1979. Soon, though, Mary decided to sell the shop, and in 1985, Peggy along with Becky Riley, Clara Howard, Hubert Richter, and Jeannette Warnke, bought the store in an effort to preserve one of Cullman's most unique German attractions.

Within a year, the group had moved A Touch of German to its current location. According to Peggy, the move was quite a task. She remembers that the site had originally been a beauty shop and was embellished with a large amount of pink paint before the five owners refinished it. After its relocation, Peggy eventually came to be the sole owner of a Touch of German, although she laughingly admits that she's not exactly certain of how that happened. She now keeps store hours from 9:30 am to 5pm, Monday through Saturday.

As the owner, Peggy has most assuredly done an admirable job of keeping the shop diverse and interesting. As she explained "It's a touch of German, but also a touch of other countries."

Through the years of owning the eclectic shop, Peggy has built an impressive inventory of items. In addition to the nutcrackers, cuckoo clocks and Christmas ornaments from Germany, she offers porcelain from Holland. Limoges boxes from France, and teapots from England. She sells Austrian crytals,

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Merry Christmas from the City of Cullman

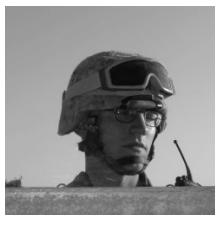
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Ruth W. Rose, City Clerk

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Garlan E. Gudger, Jr. (President)
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The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword

By: Dustin McSpadden
dustinmcspadden@cullmansense.com



qrnews/dmcspadden

Nintendo has released a new piece of technology, the Wii MotionPlus, and so they feel the need to showcase that with a new tale in the ever popular Zelda saga.

Twenty five years ago, the original Legend of Zelda was released and it was ground breaking. Not a side-scrolling-linear-jump-and-land-on-the-heads-of-the-enemies action game, but a no-nonsense actual action game.

Nintendo emphasizes the continuation of the struggle between a youth who can't talk and Gannon the "Evil Lord of Darkness" (has there ever been a "Good Lord of Darkness"?) by claiming this struggle to be Archetypical.

That is to say that no matter how the years move or what the face of Hyrule currently looks like there will always be a Gannon to screw up the entire world with the power of the Tri-force and a Link and Zelda duo to fix it all.

The story lines are all near identical, but after more than a dozen games over 25 years, that's what we want, no what we demand.

The music hasn't changed much, and the visuals continue to improve but that is again what we expect.

Much like the beginning to all of the predecessors, the hero is dreaming at the opening.

During this dream sequence I feared a return of Navi when I saw a flash of blue; I shuddered just to think of that annoying non-mutable voice from Ocarina of Time…

And like every game since Ocarina of Time, the camera refuses to stay centered on Link, instead looking one direction no matter where Link moves until you force it to center.

This has been my major complaint for about a decade, because when the camera is slightly off, much like Assassin's Creed, you can expect to miss half of what you jump towards.

Link is very temperamental when it comes to making jumps, either from land or swinging from vines, and if you are more than a fraction of a hair off of where he wants you to go, expect to fall. A LOT.

But don't get too worked up about it, because falling doesn't cost you any hearts, unless you fall in lava.

I personally miss the days where failure to complete the most mundane and simple task of moving about the landscape without attempting suicide was met with the loss of a heart every time.

I failed at one section where you must successfully jump from vine to vine a good 50 times because Link refused to grab the second vine that was within arm's length every time.

Yet I didn't experience a single lost heart, not a game over nothing. It's as if the game expected failure due to its own high standards, therefore my incompetence wasn't worth noting.

But despite all of this, and my hate for the motion sensor the Wii uses, I found myself enjoying the game.

I got a good laugh when I had Link look into the closet of someone at the opening area and was told that it was rude to go through other people's belongings without permission.

The MotionPlus finally gives the controller something that PlayStation has had for at least five years, the ability to tell precisely how you were holding the controller.

In order to make a diagonal cut with the sword, you swing the controller diagonally in front of you.

The direction of your swing is matched exactly by Link. And to charge up the sword you need to hold the controller straight up, and again the high expectations strike, if your hand wobbles just a little, you have to start over.

I believe that Nintendo is actively trying to make kids take breaks more often, because after one boss fight my shoulder was so sore I felt my arm was about to fall off.

All in all, this game is definitely worth playing for the Zelda fans and a good pick up for anyone with a Wii.

I'd like to thank Blockbuster again for providing me with the game.

Since there are no more releases before Star Wars: The Old Republic, I'm going to start on my backlog of games over the next few weeks.

I'll hit Uncharted 3 next week, so come on back and let's see what Drake has gotten into this time.



Santa Claus made a special visit at the tree lighting ceremony at Depot Park *Photo by: Emily Durden*

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Mirroring History

Looking Back: Exploring Historic Cullman at 1st Avenue East Looking North



Contributed by Cullman County Museum



Photo by: Jessica Norrell

German - Continued

Russian nested dolls, and Swiss music boxes, and shoppers can find carved wooden boxes from Poland, Fontanini sculptures from Italy, and whistles from Ireland in her shop.

Hearing the variety of countries represented in A Touch of German, I began imagining Peggy bargaining over the phone in Italian one day and ordering a box of chocolates in German the next. Realizing that she had most likely developed a better method, I was forced to ask her exactly how she acquires all of her goods.

"I order from importers here in the US," revealed Peggy. "They call when they receive a new line of items, and I choose new goods based on the available space that I have, their fit with the other items in the store, and customer requests. I am always looking out for new pieces."

In addition to its large array of imported items, A Touch of German also offers a variety of old-fashioned toys. These nostalgic playthings include such goodies as paper dolls, pick-up sticks, jacks, marbles, and spinning tops (which just so happen to be Peggy's favorite item in the shop).

The store attests that its charming toys "will bring back happy childhood memories", and ironically enough, such memories were recently revived for a seventy-year-old shopper and her friends. According to Evette and Peggy, the customer purchased a variety of paper dolls for a pajama party that she hosted at her home. Peggy shared, "They sat around the dining room table and played with paper dolls all night. The customer actually returned just to say what a great time she and her friends had playing with the dolls."

Of course, with such a specialized store, Peggy and Evette meet shoppers from across the United States and the world. They've welcomed customers from all fifty states, as well as from countries such as Germany, Holland, and South Africa, and several of their customers visit every year. One of Peggy's favorite parts of running A Touch of German is discovering people's hometowns or countries and "seeing those people that come every year and our repeat customers."

Peggy also enjoys being able to accommodate her customers. She reflected,"It's a great reward to make someone happy with his or her purchase and to help them afford different items when I can."

My time with Peggy reminded me of why A Touch of German seemed so magical to me when I was a child. The array of sparkling glass, solemn nutcrackers, and glittering Christmas ornaments, accompanied by the steady ticking of the clocks, can transport even the most serious of adults into a simpler time. A time where craftsmanship matters and every item has a story, and as they say at A Touch of German, "...das ist gut".

Booth - Continued

But rather Jesus trained the heart and when they made mistakes, he showed them how they made the mistake, corrected them, and then released them again to do it right. It's being willing to do something less as well as you, so that they can learn to do it better than you. "

Booth continued to share that the main thing people should understand is the ministry that they are trying to build does not have a lot of flash and glitter but it does have a long-term affect on the communities they are going into.

"There are a lot of times in which ministries go into foreign communities and they have many people come to Christ. That is good, but who is disciplining them afterwards? That's an important part as well. If you led them to Christ with no way to get discipled you leave them floundering, with no way of knowing what God would have them to do."

The past several years Booth has spent time in Intibuca, Honduras. Which is a mountainous region of the Linka Indians. Booth explained that they have been working with local evangelists that know where the villages are. "We try to find a home in each community that we can teach in, especially if they don't have a church there. We also work with pastors of established churches and teach them. We'll sometimes do conferences in the area to help train the pastors. But we always work through the Honduran people, rather than going in just as an American minister." Booth further explained that it was of utmost importance that they build those relationships with the people there and in most cases receive the invitation from them to come in and train.

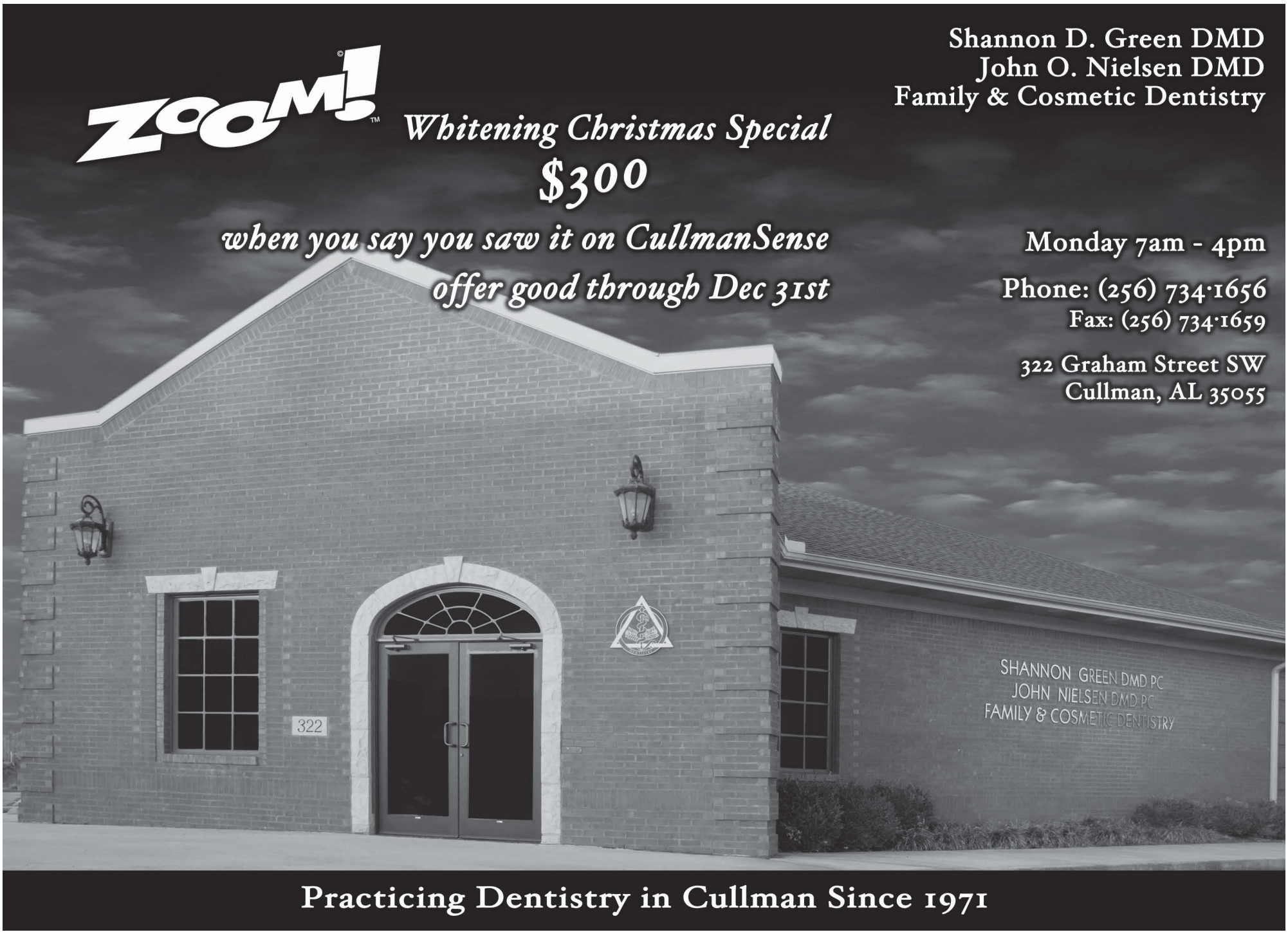
Booth has also been to other places around the world such as Romania, Russia, Morocco, China, Venezuela, and a bit closer to home, South Dakota.

When asked how the community could help, Booth identified two ways. "We always need people to pray. Making intercessions looses the power of heaven. We need personal prayer and prayer for those we work with." They can always use financial support. "The Lord has been gracious and has provided but we can always use the support. There is no cash cow that is funding the ministry, so all that people can do to help.

Booth has plans to return to Honduras for a few months in January.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, 4E International is a non-profit, 501c3 organization. You can send your donations to 5299 County Road 565, Hanceville, AL 35077

Booth is also accepting speaking engagements. If someone wants him to share about the ministry, can contact Booth directly via cell phone (256)962-3983. You can find Randy on Facebook at Booth T. Randy.



Puzzles and Comics

THIS WEEK'S WORD SEARCH TOPIC IS: MECHANIC

BY: DUSTIN ISOM

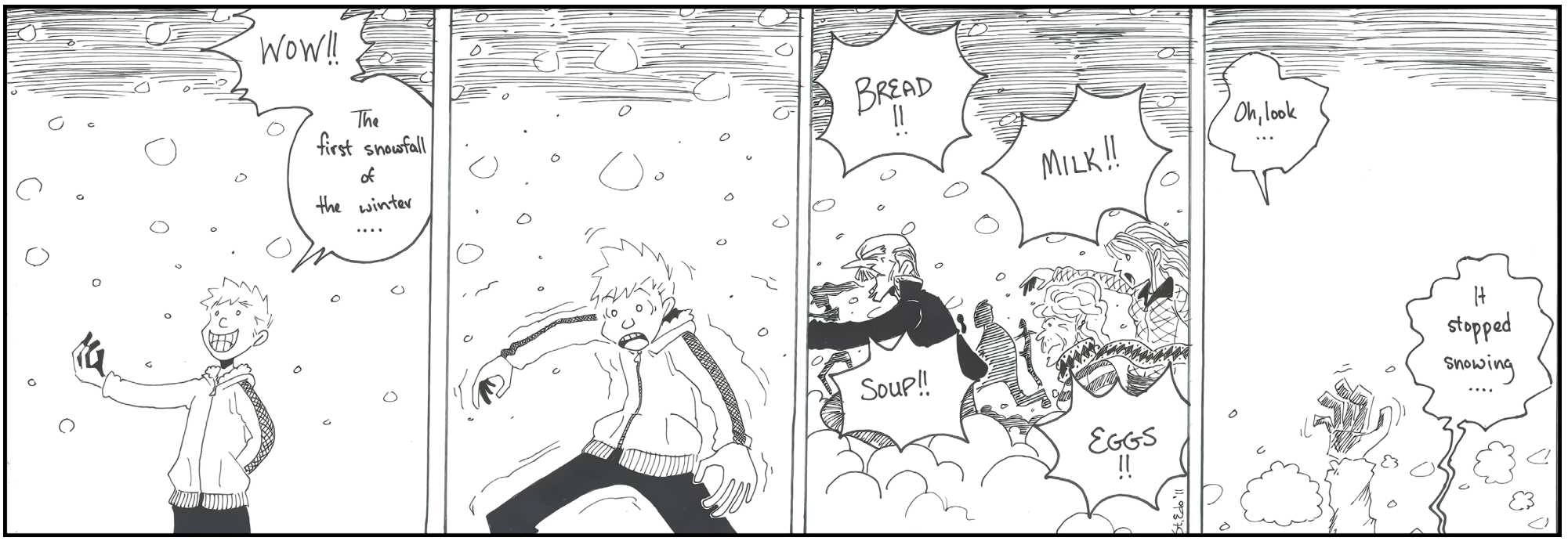
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Comics by St. Edo

Anthony Saint

st.edo@cullmansense.com



Brook's - Continued

where between the age of 3 and 18. Under 3 years olds, they aren't usually able to articulate what happened to them and may not even understand. More often than not, we see situations in which the children live at home with their mother and there is another non-related male that is present in the home that becomes the perpetrator. However, we are seeing an increase in women perpetrators as well. "

Bevis went on to explain, "In many of the cases there is a fear and intimidation piece introduced by the perpetrator that encourage the victim not to tell. The perpetrator threatens them with stories of killing a family pet, a parent, or removal of parts of their body. Some of these kids have enough courage to tell someone what is happening to them. We know that isn't easy."

After Brook's Place CAC conducts the forensic interview DHR comes in and



Interview room where children may share their story discretely

assures the safety of the child.

Brook's Place's office building is actually a split level home that is designed to help the children feel comfortable in their surroundings and allows law enforcement to have a secondary entrance to the building so children are not intimidated by their presence. Touring the building, one can see the care the staff has taken to do what they can to make it a kid-friendly environment. But more could certainly be done to assist them. Bevis identified rooms they were able to remodel with bright colors, such as the downstairs bathroom, but there are still others that could use some of that same flair.

"We would love to have some artists or an interior designer come and redo some of our rooms. It would be great to have kid-friendly, perhaps even kid-made, artwork to put on the walls or to decorate our drop ceilings. It would be awesome if one of the muralists in town could put a mural on the wall for kids to look at. And we desperately need some storage cabinets to hide some of the toys and stuffed animals that currently line most sides of the room. These are all of course wish list items", shared Bevis. "We don't really have the time or the resources to make that happen ourselves."

There are many ways the community could assist Brook's Place in keeping their doors open. Bevis mentioned they are currently seeking volunteers who could commit their time on a regular basis to cleaning the office, landscaping, or answering phones. They could use people with event planning skills or fundraising experience to take on some of their events.

Currently Bevis has to shoulder the burden of coordinating as well as running those events. "We have a Board of Directors who often shows up to our events, but many of them are spread thin as well. We appreciate all that they do and we know there are others in our community who are looking for ways to help. We are currently recruiting for 2, possibly three Board positions."

If you are interested in volunteering or making a monetary donation you can contact Brook's Place, who is a 501c3 organization, at 739-2243. They can also be found on Facebook.

Brook's Place staff is also available for community education and professional training. Please contact Bevis directly for booking.

Local Events

Send your Events to:
calendar@cullmansense.com

Monday, December 5, 2011

Board of Design Review
5:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Risk Management Conference Room
Cullman City Hall, 204 2nd Avenue NE, Cullman, AL 35055
Meets on the 1st & 3rd Monday nights, unless otherwise announced

Cullman Planning Commission Meeting
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
City Hall Auditorium

Winter Wonderland Light Display
Animated Christmas Light Display at Sportsman's Lake Park December 1-23 at 5:00 to 9:00 pm, weather permitting.
The attraction will be closed on the 5th, 6th, 12th, and 13th.

Admission charge is $5 per vehicle. Santa will be on location every night serving hot cocoa and candy canes. Victorian horse & carriage rides will be available for $4 person and train rides around the lake will cost $3 person. For more information, call 256-734-3052

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Free Community Meal by Living Waters Ministries
A free community meal is offered each Wednesday beginning at 5 pm at Living Waters Ministries. Everyone is invited to participate in this weekly gathering at the organization's location in East Park Plaza on Highway 278 East, across from Dollar General. Please contact James Moore at 256-338-9145 for further information. Donations are gladly accepted

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Christmas Concert featuring the Wallace State Concert Band and Choir
The Music Department at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville will be hosting a Christmas Concert featuring the Wallace State Concert Band and Concert Choir.

The concert will take place at 7:00 pm in the Burrow Center Recital Hall on the Wallace State Campus. Admission is free to the public For more concert information, contact Ricky Burks at 256-352-8287 or ricky.burks@wallacestate.edu

Soup Kitchen Open Today at Desperation Church
Desperation Church opens the doors to its Soup Kitchen every Thursday, from 11 am to 1 pm. Everyone is welcome to come have a warm meal and share fellowship with others.

For those who are home bound, volunteers will deliver meals to them once they have contacted Desperation Church to sign up for this special service. For further information on this project, please contact Crystal Herc at 256-739-4116. Volunteers are welcome to help out each week, and food donations of non-perishable items are gladly accepted for this special ministry.

Friday, December 9, 2011

Cullman County Sheriff's Rodeo
Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo featuring Lone Star Rodeo Company's 62nd Anniversary Finals Rodeo at the Cullman Ag Center Dec. 9-10. Gates open each night at 5:30. Advance tickets are on sale at Jack's Western Wear, Traditions Bank, and the Cullman County Sheriff's Office. For more information, call 256-734-0342.

Elvis Tribute Christmas Special
Elvis Tribute Christmas Special features Chris Wright, Caleb Brown, and the TCB Band. The event will be held at the Cullman Civic Center, with doors opening at 6:00 pm; dinner 6:30 pm; and the show at 7:30 pm.
For tickets call 256-734-9157. Dinner show tickets: VIP seating $40; floor seating $30. Balcony tickets $18 (balcony does not include dinner).
Cullman County Retiree

The Cullman County Retiree & Senior Christmas Party
The Cullman County Retiree & Senior Christmas Party will be held at the Cullman Civic Center. Doors open at 9 am and all seniors are invited and welcomed to attend this yearly festivity. Come on out and start the holiday with a rocking good time with all your friends! This event is free.

Saturday, December 10, 2011

Cullman County Sheriff's Rodeo
Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo featuring Lone Star Rodeo Company's 62nd Anniversary Finals Rodeo at the Cullman Ag Center Dec. 9-10. Gates open each night at 5:30. Advance tickets are on sale at Jack's Western Wear, Traditions Bank, and the Cullman County Sheriff's Office. For more information, call 256-734-0342.

Christmas in the Parks
The lighted hayride through Hathcock Park will begin at 2 pm. Santa will be in attendance. There will be a Gingerbread house contest, which is open to all ages, so anyone interested may contact Donna Hudson at 256-347-0547.

There will also be a Christmas tree decoration contest. If you would like to sponsor a tree, contact Danny Buchanan at 256-531-7180. All vendors welcome! For more information, contact Danny Buchanan.

Sunday, December 11, 2011

Holiday Music Events
The Music Department at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville will host two concerts. Events are free to the public and will be held in the Burrow Center Recital Hall on the Wallace State campus.

The Wallace State Jazz Band and Jazz Ensemble will perform at 2:00 pm Sunday, December 11. The Evelyn Burrow Museum at the Burrow Center will be open in the hour leading up to the concerts. For more concert information, contact Ricky Burks at 256/352-8287 or ricky.burks@wallacestate.edu.

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