SERIES 2, ISSUE 2 MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012
CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS
50¢

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Rediscovering Cullman: Deb's Bookstore

By: Meghan Nelson
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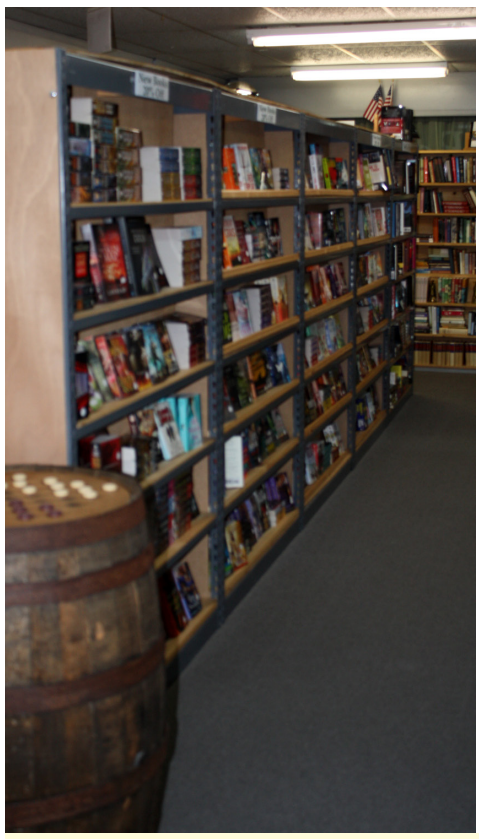
qrnews/mnelson



Deb sells a wide variety of used books, as well as a small selection of discounted new books *Photo Contributed*

As both an avid reader and a committed money-saver, I was recently surprised to find that Cullman is home to a venue which incorporates both of these activities into one thoroughly interesting shop, known as Deb's Bookstore. Upon learning this pertinent piece of information, I immediately wondered why I was not a patron of this place – it did, after all, combine two of my aforementioned favorite hobbies. Thus, I decided that the logical next step in my effort to rediscover Cullman would be Deb's Bookstore.

Arriving at the shop, I met Deb and her husband Fielden, and I also quickly learned why I was unfamiliar with their bookstore – Deb's Bookstore had opened in January of 2005, just a few months after I moved to college. For some inexplicable reason, events which occur while one is living elsewhere rarely seem to 'register', and I had apparently failed to realize that this intriguing shop was open and ready for business.



Deb's Bookstore is home to almost 90,000 books.

Wanting to learn more about her bookstore, I asked Deb how she became the owner of such a business. "I have always loved books," she replied. "The opportunity [to open the store] arose, and I took a chance."

She went on to add that preparing the business for its launch required quite a bit of work. For about eight months prior to opening, Deb and Fielden traveled around the Southeast and bought overstocked books from other used book stores. They opened Deb's Bookstore with a Blessing Ceremony and about 15,000 books – some of which were from their travels and some of which were from Deb's own personal collection.

Now entering her eighth year, Deb shared that her three-room shop currently houses around 80,000 to 90,000 books. "We are blessed to have done what we have here in Cullman," she said. Though the concept of the shop hasn't changed over the years, Deb did laughingly reveal that it requires at least an hour to vacuum the bookstore these days.

As we strolled through her vast collection, I asked Deb how she maintains such a large amount of inventory. She explained that although she does offer a small amount of new books, most of her books are generally trade-ins from her customers, making her business highly customer-driven. "I'm very proud of our selection and what people trade in," she added. "There's a story behind each book that I have."

Walking through the aisles of tightly-packed shelves (which, I was surprised to learn, were built by Deb's husband), I realized that Deb's pride is certainly justified. Her bookstore possesses an impressive selection of books and houses a number of genres, including Mystery, Politics, History, Paranormal, Art, Romance, Inspirational Fiction and Non-Fiction, and several more. According to Deb, Cullman boasts a very eclectic readership, and the trade-ins she receives are incredibly varied.

To my surprise, Deb shared that History is the store's best section, adding that the Sci-Fi and Fantasy section is also very popular among her customers. Deb said that though its popularity is beginning to fade, the Paranormal area was a recent favorite of her patrons. Pointing to an extra light in the ceiling, she revealed that due to the ever-present black covers of most paranormal books, she even had to install extra lighting to alleviate the dark-hued section.

During our trek through the shop, Deb expertly located some of her newest and most interesting books and also deftly rearranged any shelves that were out of order. Seeing her attention and care, it became obvious to me that Deb truly does love books.

Deb explained her passion for reading,



Deb, her husband Fielden, and their Miniature Schnauzer, Dee Dawg.

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PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

Lifestyle - Religion

Bobby Smith – "Anything But The Ordinary"

By: Dawn Owens
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qrnews/downs

Not far from the V & W Foodmart exists a church that believes in having God show up in a way that is anything but ordinary. Every Sunday Pastor Bobby Smith prays, "Anything but ordinary God. We want anything but ordinary from you."

Ridgecrest Community Church is a kingdom-minded church. It was founded in 1982 as a Southern Baptist Church, but in 1999 the church got baptized in the Holy Spirit and it's been changed ever since.

"What we are is what some folks would call "Bapticostal," explained Smith. "A Baptist preacher baptized in the Holy Spirit is a whole different preacher than anything you've ever heard."

Smith continued on to say that he thanks God for his Baptist roots. "I learned grace and I understand how I was saved and why I was saved. But I know now there is more to it than I had thought."



Pastor Bobby Smith *Photo by: Emily Durden*

They also believe in helping the people of their church grow.

J.D. Marcum, an elder of the church for the last 9.5 years commented, "We want to mature people so that they can do the work of God."

Ridgecrest is a charismatic church and they operate in all of the spiritual gifts.

Smith came to Ridgecrest in 1998 as their third pastor. He's been pastoring for the last 30 years.

In January of 1981, when Smith was 27 years old he "got saved." By the last Sunday in May he was preaching his first sermon.

In 1998, he tried quitting preaching. He wanted to find a place for him and his family to be able to attend church. They decided to visit Ridgecrest. Two weeks after he started attending, the pastor at that time, Jimmy Chapman, passed away.

"I never thought I would be pastoring again so soon," laughed Smith.

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King's Riders Making An Impact Wherever They Go

By: Dawn Owens
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It's not everyday that one has the opportunity to sit down with a group of motorcyclists and talk about Jesus.

Yet, this past week the leadership team of King's Riders, the Cullman County chapter of Christian Motorcyclists Association took a moment to clarify who they are, what they do, and why they do it.

The Christian Motorcyclists Association's main ministry is to the motorcycling community. According to the association website their vision is to "change the world, one heart at a time. "



Leadership Team members of King's Riders gather around the tool that God gives them to share Jesus *Photo by: Emily Durden*

The members of King's Riders of Cullman County spend their time on a variety of activities, local and otherwise, trying to accomplish that vision.

"We love riding our bikes, and we love telling about Jesus," shares Steven Reeves President of King's Riders. That pretty much sums it up.

Their 30 or so members of the chapter are heavily involved with the Foundry Farm, which is a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center, in Cullman and Royal Pines in Blount County. They visit them once a quarter to serve a prepared meal to the men at the farm.

The ladies, some of which ride on the back of their husband's bike or have their own, are the hands behind the event, preparing and serving the meal. The KR men will sit with the men of the Foundry to get into their lives, hear their stories, and when possible, share Jesus with them.

They'll also have a bit of a church service where a pastor from one of the member's churches will preach a sermon, they'll have worship, and a member will share their testimony. They always have an invitation, an opportunity for the men to respond to the message.

"I can't think of a time that there wasn't an alter response," shared Sherrie Guthrie Chaplain for King's Riders. "I also can't think of a time that there wasn't a salvation."

The group also travels to many CMA-sponsored events as well as bike rallies all over the United States. One bike rally that they are involved with year after year is the Panama City Thunder Beach Bike Rally. Typical attendance at the event is around 100,000 bikers and lasts for four days.

CMA sets up a booth and gives away free items to attendees. "We give away rag tracks (a rag to wipe your forehead or clean up a mess) with a track in it, a biker Bible, suntan lotion, and Chapstick. We give out all kinds of stuff," shared Reeves. "We've been there so many times, they're used to us now. They actually come looking for us."

CMA also hosts a church service for the bikers on the Sunday morning of the rally. A CMA-sponsored speaker will give the message and an alter call.

"In all the time we have been going, I've never not seen someone get saved," says Reeves.

Reeves explained, "A lot of times these bikers think, 'I am too big, too bad, I've done too much, Jesus doesn't love me.' But Jesus does loves them."

Everything this club does comes from their once a year fundraiser, Run for the Son, or money out of their own pockets.

"This is our ministry," explained Andy Guthrie, Assistant Road Captain. "Nobody pays us to do this.

The Run for the Son fundraiser is a CMA-sponsored fundraiser planned each May to support three partner ministries: The Jesus Film Project,

See Riders Page 11

No(ah)-It-All: Can't have rest without STRESS

By: Noah Chandler
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qrne.ws/nchandler

As many American's may be aware there is somewhat of an economic downturn occurring nationwide. However, Cullman seems to be the exception to this rule as so has been the occasion for many years.

We seem to encase ourselves in such a way that any outside unforeseen financial crisis will not disrupt the heavy bricks of economic stability our forefathers laid.

We have fought through blizzards, ice storms, hail and multiple tornados, but we stand more prosperous than ever.

But for many Cullman residents life is nothing more than a grind. Get up, brush the teeth, comb your hair, grab a bagged lunch then hit the door for another humdrum day that is the only thing keeping you from payday.

Many stressors can arise in this type of lifestyle and believe me when I say that this is subject I know all too well. Over the years I have not had jobs that paid well and really don't have any trouble admitting it.

For the longest time my purpose was to show up, do what work needed to be done then when the clock struck quitting time I hit the door like a whirlwind. Wasn't the best life, but on the same token it wasn't really the worst life either.

Nowadays it isn't quite the same. I come to work earlier, stay later and work just about every day of the year. Just last year alone this weary gent logged an easy 350 days' worth of work, which does include weekends and holidays.

It is still a grind but it finally has a purpose. There is actually a reason for me to wake up, spring out of bed (and yes, I do mean spring) and get to what I love most…work!

Over the extensive time span working, I have had many challenges with stress whether it be stress from unpredictable weather, a bout with a stomach virus, the need to work regardless, or just knowing that a whole host of people are relying on me each week to put a check in their bank account.

These are the things that stress me out from time to time, but at the end of the day I would not trade them in for anyone else's stressors.

These different stressors have made me realize that it is okay to ask for help. That is, if I need someone to do something then I just have to make a simple request and that stress can be lifted.

Now don't get it twisted thinking that I am just dropping my workload on another. We all have something unique that makes us who we are.

Mine is innovation. Coming up with ideas that will make for a better reading, viewing, or listening experience is what drives my innovation.

Don't ask me to put those ideas in to a practical form because by no means am I that guy, however I do know some people who can so it all still gets done.

But with innovation comes a new set of stressful situations. Will this work? Does it look right? Will they actually look at this?

These are just a few of the questions I had when starting CullmanSense a year ago, but over time it has proven that it is a viable product that people seem to enjoy.

So as I begin to get overwhelmed I just have to remember that without stress there could never be real rest.

Now it is time for some mind-numbing television at 2 a.m. to help lull this weary best to bed.

Just remember when you think it couldn't get any more stressful, look at a picture of me and be thankful that you are you and that stress that you have is no one else's but your own.

Weather

Source: NWS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Hi: 61 Lo: 48	Hi: 61 Lo: 48	Hi: 56 Lo: 37	Hi: 48

Monday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Cloudy, with a high near **61**.
Monday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around **48**.
Tuesday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near **61**.
Tuesday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around **48**.
Wednesday: A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near **56**.
Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around **37**.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near **48**.

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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Sports - Area Athlete Spotlight

Thomas Hays: Holly Pond High School

By: Josh McBrayer
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qrnews/jmcbrayer

This week's Spotlight makes its way to Holly Pond and falls on Thomas Hays, the big man inside for the Broncos. Over 17 games, Hays has averaged 15 points and 8 rebounds per game. He is also shooting 59% from the field. A week after scoring his 1,000th career point, Thomas had this to say:

Josh McBrayer : Tell our readers a little about yourself.

Thomas Hays : My name is Thomas Hays and I am a senior at Holly Pond High School. I am seventeen years old and I play basketball for the Broncos.

JM : How long have you been playing basketball?

TH : I have been playing basketball since I was in the second grade. I have played youth league through middle school and now I start for the Holly Pond Broncos in high school.

JM : What is your favorite sport ?

TM : Basketball is my favorite sport and it is the only one I play.

JM : What is your greatest accomplishment in sports?

TH : I would have to say that one of my greatest accomplishments is being recognized as All County during my tenth and eleventh grade year, along with making it to the Sweet 16 in the state tournament during my eleventh grade year.

JM : Who has been your biggest inspiration in sports?

TH : My biggest inspiration would have to be Scott Adams (Girls Head Coach at Holly Pond High School). Scott is a very Godly man along with inspirational motives. He has encouraged me for years and has pushed me to be the best I can be.

Thomas also had this to say after scoring his 1,000th point:

"I knew I was close, but didn't know how close until they announced it over the loud speaker. Everyone else knew and Coach Morris told the team, but not me. It is a great feeling and a great accomplishment."

Coach Mitch Morris had this to say about his starting center: "Thomas Hays is a very good young man who will do anything for you. He's dependable and very respectful. Thomas is really talented as a big man. He moves and shoots very well. Thomas is a work horse for us and we will ride him for the rest of the season."





Top: Thomas Hays puts up a defensive front during the West Point Christmas Tournament.
Middle: Holly Pond Bronco standout Thomas Hays.
Bottom: Thomas Hays sits with his family before taking to the court during the West Point Christmas Tournament.
Photos by: Tony Sisk



Cullman County Basketball Schedule

Monday, January 9, 2012
St. Bernard @ Addison Boys & Girls

Falkville @ Vinemont Boys & Girls

Brewer @ West Point Boys & Girls

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Cold Springs @ Sumiton Christian Boys & Girls

Cullman Christian @ Cornerstone Boys & Girls

Hartselle @ Cullman Boys & Girls

Holly Pond @ Hanceville Boys & Girls
St. Bernard @ Vinemont Boys & Girls

West Point @ Fairview Boys & Girls

Thursday, January 12, 2012
Fairview @ Brewer Boys & Girls

Friday, January 13, 2012
Cold Springs @ Fairview Boys & Girls

Cullman @ West Point Boys & Girls

Good Hope @ Priceville Boys & Girls

Winston County @ Hanceville Boys & Girls

Holly Pond @ Vinemont Boys & Girls

St. Bernard @ Ragland Boys & Girls

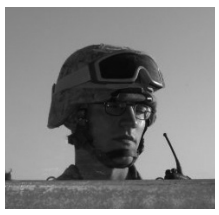
Saturday, January 14, 2012

West Point @ Holly Pond Boys & Girls

Game and Movie Reviews

Dark Souls

By: Dustin McSpadden
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qrnews/dmcspadden



I know I said I was going to review *Armored Core V*, but since the developer pushed back the release date I had to move on to another game.

This one has been out for a while now, coming out before I began reviewing games, but I still felt that it needed looking at.

Dark Souls is the follow up to *Demon's Souls*, which came out in 2009, but it is not a sequel.

Dark Souls may have the same style gameplay, a hack and slash game that requires impeccable timing and accuracy, but *Demon's Souls* is nasty and downright despicable at times.

In contrast, *Dark Souls* makes it seem like a nice stroll in the park with the sun shining down.

Instead of having a ton of exposition in the game manual, you are given the basics of the game and are left to struggle on your own after the introduction.

Both *Demon's Souls* and *Dark Souls* have some unique attributes.

If you login to either the PlayStation Network or Xbox Live, then other players can give you hints.

Player hints are shown as messages scrawled in flaming letters on the scenery.

If you find the messages useful, you can give the player who posted it help in return.

You can see where other players have died and view the last seconds of their lives in order to help figure out what they did wrong.

You can also join up to three others in taking down a major demon which gains much needed souls for everyone.

Someone decided a long time ago, about the time that *Onimusha* (*Demon Warrior*) released, that all of these type games should require you to absorb the souls of those you defeated.

It's a useful system, but can someone explain to me how, after a decade of gaming advances, all the games seem to run off the same idea?

Devil May Cry, *God of War*, *Darksiders*; the list goes on and on of games that all do the same thing.

Okay, enough time on the soapbox, now down to brass tacks.

Like any good RPG style game you get to personalize your own character.

Just be prepared to see your creation spend hours repeatedly dying as it is smashed into a fine paste over and over.

Unlike *Demon's Souls*, when you die you don't become a spirit with half of your life, instead you become an uglier version of yourself.

Since you are Undead, you no longer have to worry about death, as it's merely an annoyance.

As a result of not being alive, your health doesn't decrease and your body can be restored at rest areas.

There were no bonfires in *Demon's Souls*, and their appearance here seems a little strained.

Every time one is lit a giant "YOU HAVE LIT THE BONFIRE" message appears on the screen in flaming letters.

Seriously?

Why did the developers think that I needed that kind of reminder of something I just did? Were the "YOU DIED" messages not enough?

All-in-all the game is exactly what I thought, downright maddening.

The controls respond erratically, sometimes instantly and sometimes delayed.

Multiple uses are assigned to buttons, making which direction the sticks are pushed just as important as which buttons.

In one area I was pressing circle to exit from a pause, which doesn't really pause the game because everything keeps moving, and it wasn't exiting fast enough. So I mashed circle several times, and then back stepped right off of a cliff.

I can't count the number of times I thought I had dodged only to have various organs punctured and/or limbs smashed.

Demon's Souls gives you a sense of accomplishment whenever you beat just about anything, whether large or small.

Dark Souls only allows a sense of worth to manifest itself whenever you defeat something large. Minions feel like they're just that: something that should be crushed underneath your feet.

The minions in *Demon's Souls* could and would crush you, but the minions in *Dark Souls* all seem to be there just to distract you from the others that can and will crush you.

If you are up for an extreme challenge, and you haven't done so already, go pick-up *Dark Souls*.

I haven't decided what I'll do next week, as there is no new release planned until the 24th, so if you have anything in mind you want to read about then shoot me an email at:

dustin.mcspadden@cullmansense.com.

If you want a more in depth review check out our website, cullmansense.com.

You know you want to.

The Hangover: Part II (Or Did it Ever Really End?)

By: Natalie Bonner
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qrnews/nbonner



3/5 Stars

In this week's movie review, *The Hangover: Part II*, is the runner-up out of the two Hangover films (and not just because it was the sequel . . .)

What do you get when you mix a socially inept nerd, a hyper-sensitive dentist, a smooth dude, a high-profile International thug, an underage Thai teenager and a monkey with a unique profession?

The hangover that never ends.

I'm a huge fan of comedies, Bradley Cooper and even extreme situations, but absolutely nothing about *The Hangover: Part II* sold me on it.

As a sequel, it clings too much to the original's glory. The plot line is nearly identical in method and execution, albeit this time the journey takes place almost entirely in Bangkok, Thailand.

Set two years after the infamously outrageous Las Vegas adventure shown in The Hangover, the "Wolfpack" partiers Phil, Stu, Alan and Doug prepare to jet across the country to Thailand for Stu's wedding to a gorgeous Thai woman named Lauren.

Following the opening credits, the mayhem begins. Alan mispronounces Thailand, (instead saying thigh-land), and a million similar antics later it's hard to imagine anyone buying into Alan's over-the-top humor.

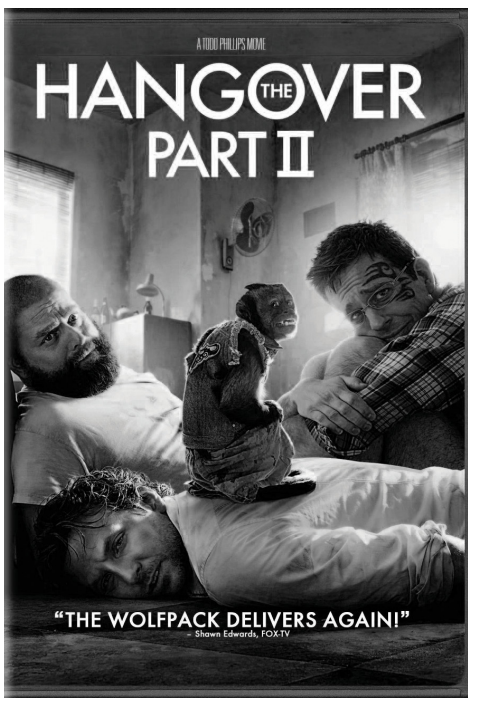
Another wedding, another missing person, another hunt to find out what happened as all members are now cursed with amnesic memories due, once again, to Alan's drug-induced oblivion. Except this time it's far from oblivion as Stu's anticipated Bachelor Brunch ends in a wildly absurd array of events ranging from Stu's facial tattoo to Doug's complete and total absence from all outlandish events just as in the original.

Mirroring its original extension to the fullest, even Leslie Chow and Mike Tyson make appearances. Their influences are rudimentary and recyclable at best, although Chow does highly entertain as a self-dubbed "International criminal" and even pops out of an ice chest slinging blows just as he pops out of the trunk of a car in the original.

The sequel's far-fetched schemes are ultimately too much to stomach, though, resulting in a literal hangover from watching too much of the same thing. It seems *The Hangover: Part II* overdosed on the original concept.

As Top Critic, Christopher Orr, from The Atlantic said, "The missing person, the seamy urban setting, the gradual accretion of clues: The Hangover films are, essentially, hard-boiled crime stories spun into comic depravity."

Still a fan of the comical cast and ironical events, I anticipate a third Hangover film where Alan gets married, thus ending the Bachelor "Wolfpack" and concluding the series.



Community Matters

Auditions for Missoula Children's Theatre "The Secret Garden"

By: Dawn Owens
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For several years, Missoula Children's Theatre Company has been returning to Cullman to allow children an opportunity to show off their theatrical talent in a family friendly performance.

This year is no different.

On January 16, 2012 the Missoula Children's Theatre will be sending a few of their tour staff to Cullman to audition children, ages kindergarten through twelfth grade for "The Secret Garden." Auditions start at 3:30 p.m.

Christy Turner, Programs Coordinator, commented on the event. "The experience is very laid back and relaxed. No stress. It's really meant to be a fun event for the kids."



Children prepare for last year's Missoula Children's Theatre performance, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.
Photo Contributed

According to their website, "Within each MCT cast, girls and boys are equal; the disabled become able; the shy experiment with bravery; the slow are rehearsed to perfection; and the gifted become part of the whole. The lesson they learn is that all of them are necessary for the show to go on. Few arenas exist where responsibility is taught and learned so clearly. MCT provides a unique opportunity to learn the lessons of group dynamics while excelling as an individual—a lesson from art that carries into life."

There is no cost to audition and costumes are provided for by Missoula Children's Theatre. Those auditioning will do a reading from the play and interact with the Missoula staff.

Children who would like to audition can do so in their casual, everyday clothing, no special attire needed.

Most of the children who attend the audition will be asked to participate.

They will then need to attend practice each night the following week from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.

It is highly encouraged for parents to send dinner and a snack with the child.

Those participating in the performance will then need to pay a $20 fee to cover ticket costs for both parents to the two performances the following Saturday.

Performances of "The Secret Garden" will take place on Saturday, January 21st at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Civic Center.

Tickets are $7 for adults, $5 for senior adults, and $3 for students. Children who are preschool age and under are free.

All tickets are for purchase at the door, the day of the show.

For questions, contact Christy Turner at (256)775-7946 ext. 14 at cturner@cullmanrecreation.org.

Deb's - Continued

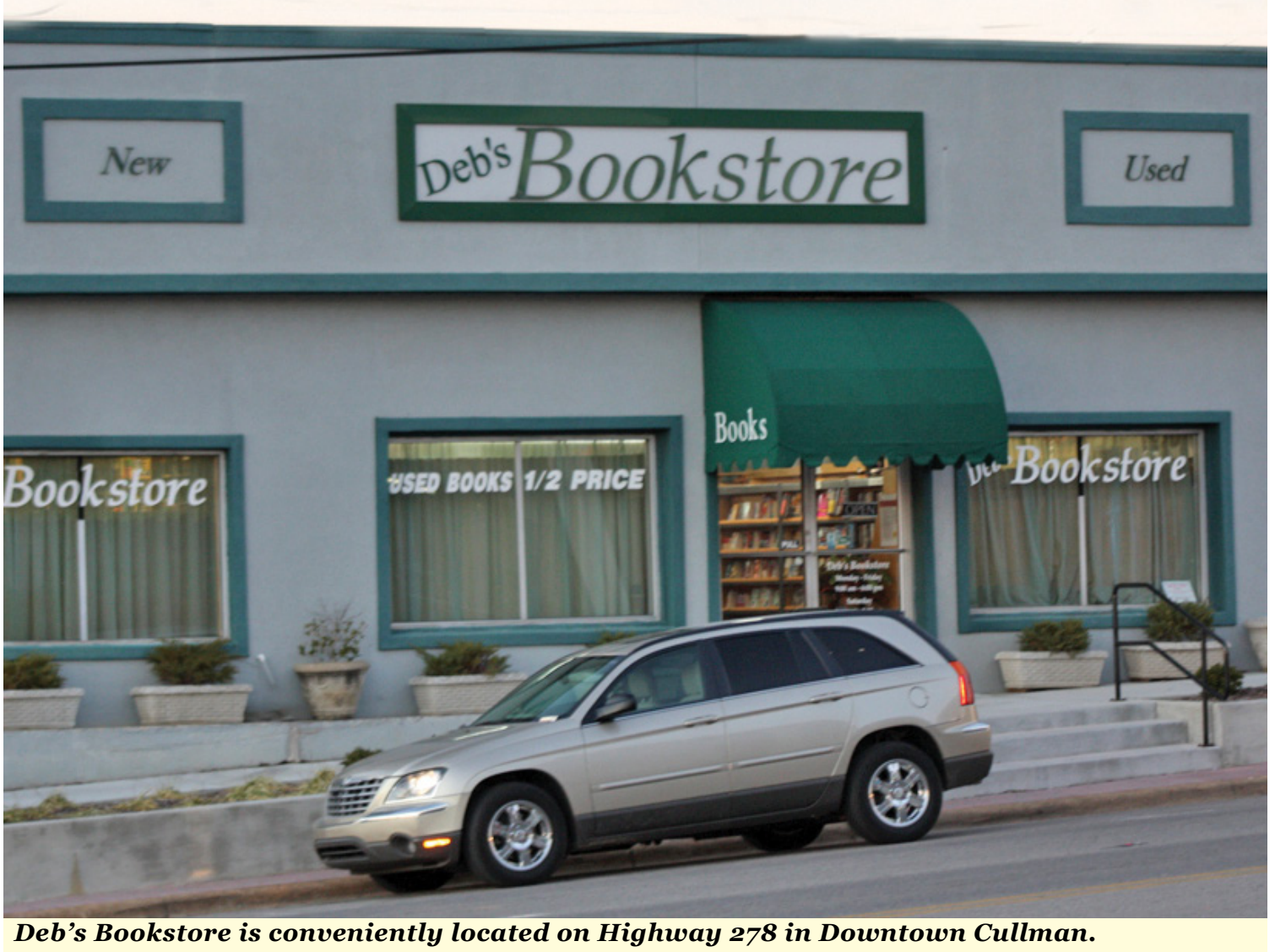
saying, "Once you start reading and enjoy the process, there's nothing like it. It satisfies all five senses...the smell of the book, its weight in your hand."

Deb added that her preferred genre is Mystery, but she also enjoys Historical Fiction. She said that her current favorite author is Penny Vincenzi, a British writer who focuses on the historical period between WWI and WWII. Though Deb enjoys reading Vincenzi's books, she strives to read new authors as well, following the advice she gives her customers to alternate between reading favorite books and discovering new authors.

As we returned to the front counter, Deb shared that one of the most challenging aspects of her business is actually getting the books on the shelves. Gesturing to several piles and boxes behind the counter, she said that just today, she received around one thousand books, a bit more than usual for a single day.

Before a book can be placed on a shelf, it must first be cleaned. Deb then enters it into the computer's inventory record and also makes a note of who brought it to the store. She keeps track not only of what each customer drops off to her, but also of what each customer buys. That way, she is better equipped to help clients choose new books when they need suggestions.

Though she enjoys working with books, Deb's favorite part of the business is her customers – a fact which became quite evident during our meeting as Deb easily answered shopper's questions, directed them to a certain book,



Deb's Bookstore is conveniently located on Highway 278 in Downtown Cullman.

or inquired after their families.

I must admit that during my time with Deb, I found several books for which I plan to return, and I wholeheartedly agree with her assertion that her shop has 'something for everyone'. In fact, Deb's selection of both hardback and paperback books include such variety that it would require several hours to fully browse the store.

With used books priced at half of their retail value, new books selling for a twenty percent discount, and on-sale books priced at five for one dollar, Deb's Bookstore is certainly affordable, as well. So, whether you prefer a thrilling drama, a factual reference book, or something in between, drop by Deb's Bookstore and discover a wonderful shop, a committed owner, and an amazing selection of books.

Deb's Bookstore is located in Downtown Cullman at 207 3rd Street Southwest. To learn more about the store and its Trade-in Program, visit www.debsbookstore.com or call 256-736-2622.

Community Matters

Kenya Relief in Need of Medical and Non-Medical Volunteers in 2012

By: Dawn Owens
dawnowens@cullmansense.com

Right now Kenya Relief is on a mission to find volunteers to fill several spots for their 12 scheduled team trips for 2012.

KenyaRelief.org is an Alabama-based charity organization created in memory of Brittney Anne James (1982-2001). It is a faith-based non-profit organization that offers opportunities for people of good will.

Their mission is to partner with Kenyans to meet the needs of the body, mind, and spirit.

Currently Kenya Relief has an orphanage in Migori, Kenya which cares for over 140 orphaned and disadvantaged children. They have sent container after container of supplies for the past 8.5 years that are used in medical clinics and other areas of need to provide health care for thousands of Kenyans every year.

They currently have many openings for RNs, CRNAs, CRNPs, PAs, pharmacists and various physician specialties. They are also able to offer a few spots to non-medical personnel and their spouses as well to go on short-term mission trips in 2012.

The 2012 trip dates are as follows: January 19-29, February 2-12, February 16-26, April 12-22, June 14-24, July 26–August 5, August 9-19, August 23–September 2, September 13-23, October 4-14, October 18-28, and November TBD.

Each trip lasts eleven days, starting on a Thursday and returning on a Sunday.

Interested volunteers will be sent an information packet with everything that they need to know when traveling to Kenya. Each team has the opportunity to care for the sick and provides surgeries, which allows them to get behind the scenes of what suffering in Kenya looks like.

"During the trip volunteers will visit the home of an orphan," shared Steve James President and Founder of Kenya Relief, "which is only one of the 140 that we care for."

The tour also takes the team to a local district hospital and on a tour of the city hospital. "Most of the people who are in there, are there to die with the HIV/AIDs disease," stated James. "Sometimes there are two to three patients in one bed. Sometimes they are on a cement floor."

James explained that many of the local healthcare workers risk their life to care for the patients because they don't have gloves or the proper supplies to keep them from transmitting the disease. The Kenya Relief clinic is well equipped with supplies to practice safely.

Another part of the eleven-day trip is a seven-hour drive across the Great Rift Valley. During which time volunteers have the opportunity to see the beauty of Kenya through its landscapes, they'll see some of the primitive lifestyles such as the Maasia Tribe, and of course, lots and lots of wildlife.

"If you have ever seen *Lion King*, you get a bit of an idea of what the safari ride can look like," shared James, "It's filled with giraffes, zebras, baboons, gazelle, impalas, crocodiles, and so much more."

Kenya Relief owns a 60-acre compound that is kept very secure. Within the compound walls, is the home of an orphanage of Kenyan children as well as lodging, called "Brittney's Home of Grace " for short-term missionaries who come to visit.

The compound offers full-time employment to 40 Kenyans. There are 10 security guards, dorm parents, several cooks and grounds keepers, a director, and teacher.

Once in the compound, team members will feel safe knowing that there is clean, hot water available on the compound for hot showers as well as free Internet access.

"When the team arrives at the compound the children will welcome them with singing and choreographed dance," shared James.



Emily Karwoski of Cullman prepares food with her teammates. ***Photos by: Emily Durden***

Sunday will include attending a Kenyan church, which will have a very lively worship service.

Clinics are on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Volunteers will see 300-400 patients in just one day.

James shared, "We have seen up to 800 a day, but we know we just can't do as good job on those days, which is why we try to cap each day with 400 patients."

Unfortunately, they see a lot of cases that they cannot do anything for. "Sometimes they just come to us too late," explains James. "They have had a goiter or tumor growing for the last 10 years and there is just nothing we can do to remove it. It would kill them."

Volunteers who are interested in going to Kenya in 2012 will need to raise money to pay for the costs of the ticket and other trip related items.

The cost includes the price of a ticket, which varies between $1,400-$2,000 (depending on time of year) and $1,350 for the safari, lodging, meals, evacuation insurance, background check, information packet, and extra security.

Immunizations that are required for the trip include hepatitis A and B, yellow fever, and typhoid. Medicine for malaria prevention is taken while in Kenya, and can be obtained at any of the local clinics.

Volunteers will also need to have an up-to-date United States passport for the trip.

Kenya Relief is a 501c3 sponsored organization and therefore is tax-deductible with the exception of the safari. If needed, fundraising letters can be requested.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Steve James, CRNA president and by calling 256-507-0217 or e-mailing sjames@kenyarelief.org. You may also contact Lisa Folsom, administration assistant, at 256-531-2535 or lisa@kenyarelief.org. For more information visit kenyarelief.org.



KR serves meals to over 1,000 children each year on their VBS teams.



American Eye Surgeon works alongside the Kenyan doctor from Tenwek Hospital.



These doctors averaged 80 cataract surgeries per day on a 3 day clinic.

Mirroring History

Looking Back: Exploring Historic Cullman at Sacred Heart Academy

Circa 1947-51



Contributed by Cullman County Museum

2011



Photo by: Jessica Norrell

Community Matters

Too Hip to Clip?

By: Natalie Bonner
nataliebonner@cullmansense.com



Some couponers like Missy, a Cullman resident, go to great lengths to save money.

Photo by: Jessica Norrell

It has evolved from a cute trend that others may snidely dub as being thrifty or cheap to a complete revolution in terms of savings.

The activity may be intimidating and down right scary for those whom have never clipped coupons before, but those addicted consumers who devote an incredible amount of time per week to their super savings hobby say they wouldn't have it any other way.

My own sister has dived head first into the madness.

"Extreme couponing is exactly that EXTREME! People will put couponing before anything and everything else," Candace Colegrove, a Cullman native and mom to three little girls, said.

After I swallowed the apple-sized gulp that followed her passionate statement, I bravely asked my sister why she indulged in such a surprising activity. Surely as a mom of three she has plenty of other things to keep her busy, why invest so much time into this hobby?

Investment is the keyword. It may be a tedious task, but sitting down and clipping coupons, organizing and arranging them according to grocery store aisle, and attacking newspapers with gusto are all a part of the required regimen for extreme couponers.

Following that devotion, this breed of super savers will acquire savings ranging anywhere from 50 to 100 percent.

Candace has shown me her own small store within her home, which includes stacks of various toothpastes, a plethora of candles, massive pyramids of toilet paper and a humongous pile of detergent.

In fact, this past Thanksgiving when she came to visit our family, she literally brought most of the meal with her—for free.

"I get eight Sunday papers, stack the store ads in a pile, and then start cutting all of the coupons. Even if it's an item I don't use, I will still keep them because I can donate those," Colegrove said.

Her dedication to her favorite pastime reaches a new level when she explains just how extreme she is about couponing.

"I have a huge binder that is organized by the aisles in the stores I shop. I then go through the store ads and look for the main grocers I shop at. Some places will match competitor pricing and can double the coupon up to 50 cents. Plus, all grocery stores will have specials."

Of course, Candace's passion is not even on the same playing field as TLC's show, "Extreme Couponing."

In an effort to better understand the infatuation with clipping coupons and super savings, I watched the latest episode to air this past week.

Meet Faatima and Carla, two very different women with the same goal—to save as much as possible, while spending little to no money.

These women know every single crevice of their hometown grocery stores and do not play when it comes to couponing.

On average, both women spend 20 to 30 hours a week cutting coupons and organizing their efforts.

In a 30-minute showdown, these women go head-to-head to battle it out as the latest "Extreme Couponer." In a battle of wits and guts, I watched these ladies dash down aisles and madly fling their pre-selected items into their carts, while simultaneously trying to keep a check on their sanity and an eye on the clock. I was stressed just watching.

With an overall amount of 99.96 percent in savings, newly declared winner Faatima bounced around the screen with more energy and excitement than I saw my three-year-old nephew show on Christmas morning.

Stephanie Ingram, of Cullman, said, "I have just recently started getting into couponing. I haven't done it too much, but I have saved some money for sure. I think that's where the obsession can come from, just saving money that you don't necessarily have to spend."

Perhaps Ingram and the others have it right. Maybe the extreme hobby falls into the "Don't knock it until you've tried it" category. I guess I can't blame people for wanting to save some money in this economy.

Of course, to every upside, there is most often some type of downside. In this league of super savings where every customer tries to increase his or her bottom line, someone else's bottom line is affected.

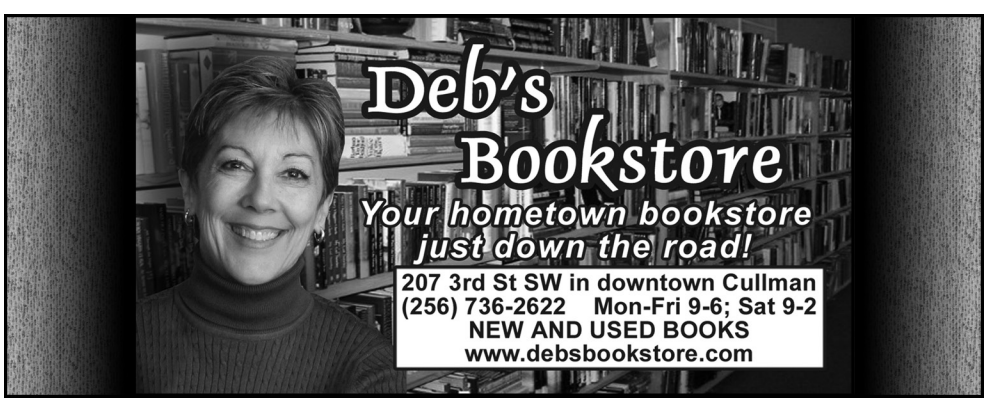
For some newspapers, this means they have had to bite the bullet. Many publications have reported an increase in missing Sunday papers as people attempt to catch an edge on the inserts and increase their savings by stealing multiple copies.

Perhaps for every newspaper thief, however, there is an extreme couponing donator.

"I think my favorite thing about couponing, next to saving money, is that every Wednesday my girls and I pack up boxes and donate them to my church's food pantry, which helps feed thousands of people. It's a great lesson to teach my girls."

Couponing and all its glory is definitely a pastime that requires devotion and passion. If you are interested in learning more information about couponing and where to begin, check out the website www.couponing101.com for basic beginner tips and tricks.





Puzzle and Calendar

THIS WEEK'S WORD SEARCH TOPIC IS: SAVING MONEY

BY: DUSTIN ISOM

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apply for a low interest credit card
buy in bulk
buy used or refurbished
consolidate loans
learn to be a handyman
shop after the holidays
start a garden
bring your lunch to work
buy quality merchandise
cancel unused services
cook at home
prepare a realistic budget
shop clearance items
use double coupons
buy generic brands
buy seasonal food
comparison shop
learn couponing
reuse old items
shop last year's fashion
winterize your home

Local Events

Send your Events to: calendar@cullmansense.com

Monday, January 9, 2012

GED Classes at Desperation Church

GED learning classes are held each Monday night from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Desperation Church. For additional information please contact Ed Oaks at 256-737-9564 or 256-735-6811. These classes are open to the public and everyone who wants to obtain their GED is welcome to participate.

Cornerstone Revival Ladies Prayer Meeting

A Ladies Prayer meeting is conducted each Monday night at 7 p.m. at Cornerstone Revival Center. For additional info, call 256-796-2899. All interested women are invited to attend.

Overeaters Anonymous Gather at Grace Episcopal

Members of Overeaters Anonymous meet every Monday, at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in the Carriage House located on Church premises. Further information is available at 256-747-6218 or 256-352-1143. Everyone is invited to attend these gatherings.

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Emotions Anonymous Support Group Meeting

An Emotions Anonymous Support Group meets each Tuesday at noon at Grace Episcopal Church Carriage House. Those interested are invited to attend these group sessions. Further information is available through the Group Director's office at 256-734-3605 or 256-796-8440.

Knifty Knitters Meeting

The Knifty Knitters group meets each Tuesday at 3 p.m. at Cullman County Library. Yarn, needles and instructions are provided free of charge and every one of all ages who are interested are invited to attend these sessions. Further info can be obtained by calling Lesia at 256-734-2720, ext. 23.

North Central Alabama Genealogical Society Meeting

Members of the North Central Alabama Genealogical Society meet every Tuesday in the basement of the Wallace State Community College Library for informal study and to help new researchers.

The meeting is from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and those interested are invited to this free gathering. Come learn about your 'roots'! Call Von at 256-739-2843 for more information.

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

Aqua Zumba Classes at CWAC

Everyone is invited to take part in the Aqua Zumba classes which are offered each Wednesday at Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center beginning at 7 p.m. in the center's indoor pool. Please call 256-775-7946 for additional information! This class also is offered each Monday night at 7 p.m. as well! Come start the New Year off with water exercises!

Thursday, January 12, 2012

Cullman Elks Lodge Serves Lunch to the Public Today

Cullman Elks Lodge members open their Lunch Buffet to the general public each Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., so come on up to their building which overlooks our lovely Cullman and enjoy the great culinary efforts of the Lodge members. For only $8.00 a person, their menu varies each week and includes meats, fish, vegetables, and drinks.

Cullman County Tea Party Meeting

The Cullman County Tea Party will meet at 6:30 p.m. tonight with guest speaker Dr. Tom Barnes who will speak on the immigration bill (HB 56). The meeting will be held at the Colonel Cullman Museum. Everyone is invited to attend.

Overeaters Anonymous Meeting

Overeaters Anonymous meets each Thursday evening at 4:45 p.m. in the Carriage House at Grace Episcopal Church. Everyone is invited to attend these sessions.

Further information can be obtained by calling 256-747-6218 or 256-352-1143. There also is a group which meets on Monday mornings at 9:30 am in the same place. Meetings are open to everyone interested.

Saturday, January 14, 2012

Cullman Saving's Bank Frosty 5K & Polar Bear Plunge

Everyone is invited to start the New Year off right by participating in Cullman Savings Bank's Frosty 5K and Polar Bear Plunge starting at 9 a.m.

Those taking part in the Polar Bear Plunge will dive into the outdoor pool at the Wellness and Aquatic Center, so come be a part of this hearty group of folks who dare to defy the cold and take the plunge! In addition to the 5K run there also will be a Kids' One-Mile Fun Run which will start at 8:30 a.m.

There will be goodie bags, door prizes and technical shirts (shirts for first 250 to register for the run) for all participants, with medals to the winners in each age division. Those who take part in the Polar Bear Plunge will be entered into a drawing for a free one year membership to the Wellness and Aquatic Center, a $780.00 value!

Further information can be obtained by calling Christy Turner or Waid Harbison at 256-775-7946. Entrants also can pre-register at the Civic Center (256-734-9157) or online at www.active.com. Come on out and start 2012 off with a bang!

Community Matters

Smith - Continued

He took the job as interim and then was the full-time pastor a year later.

Smith is also owner of Bobby's Fisherman Catch in Eva, Alabama. He's the father of three grown children: April Shadden, Brandon, and Yancey Smith. Smith and his wife are grandparents to 7 grandchildren, the oldest is 11 and the youngest is 4.

In 2004, Smith stepped away from Ridgecrest to follow a call to the mission field. His wife Patricia accompanied him during many of his short-term trips. He's been to Guatemala 22 times, once to Nicaragua, twice to Honduras, twice to Mexico, and once to Cuba.

Most of the trips were sponsored through Heartsprings International Ministries where he helped to furnish clean water systems in remote villages. A lot of his trips consisted of spending 3 days in a specific location, preaching the gospel, and then donating the water purifying system to the village.

"The clean water system was just a tool to share the gospel," revealed Smith.

Ridgecrest Community Church is the home of about 40-45 people each Sunday.

Smith shared, "We are not interested in building a church, we are interested in building the kingdom of God. The way I see it, our smallness can be a blessing. We allow people to express themselves through song, scripture and testimonies. But with a big church you can't do that. You might be there 'til Tuesday," said Smith giggling.

This coming year Smith is most excited about pastoring at Ridgecrest. "We are living in challenging times. We can bless people or we can back away. Our church is in a spirit of revival right now. We have seen healings happen. We are seeing people get saved and delivered."

Marcum explained how they like to give a lot of their stuff away to other churches as they need it. They have given their piano and other church resources to start up churches in the area to help them be successful.

"That's why we don't have anything," chuckled Smith.

Ridgecrest Community Church meets as a congregation every Sunday at 10 a.m. They are a casual attire church. They also meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights in their Fellowship Hall.

If you'd like more information about Ridgecrest Community Church you can contact Pastor Bobby Smith at (256)796-5284 and bobbysfishermans@bellsouth.net.

Riders - Continued

Open Doors, and Mission Ventures. A Run is a 100-mile ride. Therefore, the chapters raise money just like one would for a walk-a-thon to make that ride.

According to the CMA website, "In 2010 CMA donated $806,841.65 to each one of the three ministries as a result of the Run for the Son fundraiser."

The chapter is also involved with the Trail of Tears, a bike ride that is in remembrance of the plight of the Native American people that were ripped from their homes and lands and forced to endure the terrible hardship in that new land. The September 2012 ride starts in Chattanooga, Tennessee and goes through Florence, Alabama ending in Oklahoma. During the ride a gas station is rented that offers a free gas giveaway to bikers driving on the trail.

The chapter raises money to gives away $10,000 worth of gas. During the gas giveaway members of the chapter will pump gas for the bikers, ask for three minutes of their time in exchange, and share their testimonies.

The chapter is also involved in some of the state-sponsored prison ministries in Alabama. King's Riders will come to your church or organization to talk more about what they do, should you be interested in having your congregation get involved in their ministry.

Reeves also shared, "Any time a church or organization needs us to help out an event , we are more than happy to assist. We've done security at a lot of youth rallies. Not sure why they always want us to do security," Reeves shared with a wink and a smile.

"We also do VBS for the kids," shared Guthrie. "But we'll clean bathrooms, do set up, whatever you need us to do. We are happy to help."

The King's Riders is always seeking new born again Christians to join their group. The chapter meets the 4th Saturday of every month at the Iron Skillet, formerly the Dodge House, Exit 299 off of I-65. They'll eat together at 6 p.m. and then ride at 7 p.m. They'll also have a club-planned ride the first Saturday of each month.

If you are interested in supporting the efforts of King's Riders or any of the ministries they are involved with you can make a check payable to King's Riders and contact Steve or Dani Reeves at (256)739-6641 or ar1699@bellsouth.net. You can also send your donation to CMA. For information on how to donate go to http://www.cmausa.org/.

You can learn more about the goals and vision of the chapter by gong to http://cmaser6.org/al/kingsriders.

A Nip in the Air and a Chill in the Water



As temperatures finally begin to resemble what most in the south know as winter, hundreds of Cullman County residents are preparing to run in a 5K this coming weekend.

But not just any 5K. This one is guaranteed to be a frigid splash.

The 3rd Annual Cullman Savings Bank Frosty 5K & Polar Bear Plunge will be held next Saturday, January 14 at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center.

The event will have something for all ages, including a Kid's Fun Run and many door prizes.

There will be over $1,300 in cash prizes, door prizes ranging from 42" TVs to coffee makers, and one person will walk away with a free year's membership to the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center.

The event will start at 8:30 a.m. at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center with the Kid's Fun Run followed by the Frosty 5K at 9:00 a.m.

The Polar Bear Plunge will follow at 10:15 a.m. in which all participants will jump into the freezing outdoor pool for a chance to win a free year's membership to the Wellness & Aquatic Center.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top four finishers and top masters finishers, totaling over $1,300 in cash prizes; medals will be awarded to the top 3 in each age division. Door prizes include a 42" TV, a Kindle Fire, an iPod Nano, a GPS watch, and many more.

Registration is $20 for the race, or $25 for the race and plunge at active.com or at the Cullman Civic Center. For more information on the event, please contact Waid Harbison or Christy Turner at 775-7946.

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