Series 2, Issue 3 Monday, January 16, 2012
Cullman's Monday Newspaper
CULLMANSENSE
Community Matters
50¢

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Truffles: More than Meets the Eye

By: Natalie Bonner
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qrnews/nbonner



Truffles serves a variety of awe-inducing desserts. *Photo Contributed*

The quaint décor and vintage feel inspire thoughts of stepping foot into an antique dollhouse, complete with coveted china and a variety of cherished tea sets every young girl has dreamt about.

I guess that would make Amy McCracken and Carla Crimm the dolls we always wanted. Friends for over 30 years, these multi-gifted ladies can cook, decorate, plan, cater and did we mention, cook? The two combine to form the backbone of the only Tea Room available in Cullman called Truffles, where one can plan a bridal tea, book catering for an event or just stop by for lunch.

Their stock served daily includes: chicken salad; strawberry pretzel salad; and something elusive and tantalizing called glorious morning muffins. A muffin baked with a little bit of everything in it ranging from nuts and carrots to apples and raisins (kind of like a breakfast bread of some sorts.)

Of course, they serve a hot lunch Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Items that have previously been on the menu are chicken divan, pot roast, ham, an assortment of casseroles and all sorts of vegetables.

And don't forget dessert. Crimm lowers her eyes and gives me a top-secret look. "This is the Jim Walker coconut cake," she says, while handing me a snapshot taken of a decadent looking white cake delicately covered in what looks like frosted white snow. Of the variety of awe-inducing desserts available, (among them favorites such as red velvet cake and German chocolate cake,) the most infamous would have to be the treasured namesake favorite. A cake both dear to their hearts for its delicious decadence and for the person whom inspired it.



Truffles is the only Tea Room available in Cullman. *Photo by Jessica Norrell*

According to Crimm, Jim Walker has dearly touched both her and McCracken's lives. Walker started the music program at Wallace State Community College and served as the Minister of Music at First Baptist Church. Later he became Minister of Music at St. John's Evangelical Saint Protestant Church.

The cake is named in honor of him. There was a scholarship fund started in Walker's honor, and Crimm and McCracken explain that they donate a part of the proceeds from the coconut cake sales to that fund.

Truffles is absolutely a place to celebrate an occasion and to just unwind. It was intended to be comfortable and cozy, inviting its visitors to kick back and stay. McCracken says that she hopes when people come in, time stands still for them and that they get the chance to sit down, relax and enjoy good food in an atmosphere that endears itself to

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Lifestyle - Religion

Linda Stone – Linking People to their Passions

By: Dawn Owens
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qrnews/dowens

Desperation Church has a staff of five, among them is a Small Groups Pastor named Linda Stone who gave me an hour of her time to talk about her roles at Desperation.

Stone has been on staff since the church's inception, but has worked with Pastor Andy for the last 10 years in the young adult ministry he was leading at Gardendale Baptist.

"The model that Desperation Church (DC) follows for small groups," according to Stone, "offers the opportunity to do life with people who are passionate about the same things they are, while serving the community."

Small groups range from as small as 3 to as large as 40, depending on the group's passion.

Some small groups are formed to make arts and crafts projects together while



Linda Stone, Pastor of Small Groups at Desperation Church *Photo Contributed*

others build or fix things. There are some groups who are studying specific bible topics, while others are geared towards singles, young professionals, or teen-age moms. There is a group that helps with financial wellness while another one is does a little bit of everything. They also have women-only and men-only groups.

Every small group is also charged with going out and serving the community as well. One year groups did a "give it away" yard sale where they collected things they wanted to give away to the community. Those who attended the sale were given those items for free.

"You may feel like in life you don't fit in, but in small groups, you fit in." smiled Stone.

Small groups are how people are ministered to at Desperation. Typically DC serves 700-800 people at their three weekend services each Sunday.

According to Pastor Andy Heis, "It would be really difficult for me to make it around to see everyone who has a need. With small groups, the group makes food for the family who needs it or visits their group member

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Camp2540: Making a Week of Camp Free for Kids in the Local Area

By: Dawn Owens
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CAMP2540 was birthed under the guise of Matthew 25:40 which says "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

According to Camp Director, Mika Marcum, who is also the pastor of Stoney Creek Church, the least of these can be defined in a variety of ways. They can be an orphan or a child who has grown up in an underprivileged household. But they may also be children of a single parent who is never at home or they may be in a situation where their parents have lost their jobs.

"We wanted to give one-week to honor the local children (within a 50 mile radius) to make sure they can go to camp as well," confided Marcum.

CAMP2540 is hosted at Stoney Creek Christian Camp in Vinemont which services groups of up to 200 in the summer and 100 in the winter on a 75 acre campground off of Highway 157 which has a pool and waterslide, designated boys and girls lodges, an amphitheatre, and a fishing pond.

Several years ago, Randy Hinkle and his wife Shauna, bought the land with the intention to build a house. The Hinkles already had a home on the lake, but were interested in building a subdivision for log homes.



Girls gather to lead the group in activity. *Photo Contributed*

"I'm a builder, I've been doing this forever and I just could not get any interest. That's never happened before, " explained Hinkle. One day he drove by the acreage and thought to himself, "That would be a great location for a camp for kids."

After a conversation with his wife, it became apparent to both of them that God may have bigger plans for that property than what they had originally thought. Not long after, the Hinkles and another couple, Perry and Donna Bennett, who had partnered with them, founded the "Stoney Creek Christian Camp."

Through a grant and individual sponsorships, 67 children (split between a girls week and a boys week) were offered the opportunity to attend CAMP2540 last summer. Of those 67, 21 of them heard the salvation message and entered into a relationship with Jesus.

"Their lives are going to be changed forever," remarked Hinkle.

Hinkle shared a story about one young girl who was dropped off by her grandmother. "When she arrived, she didn't have any shoes on. No bathing suit. She basically had what she had on."

Shauna Hinkle wasn't going to allow this young girl to go without, so she went to Walmart and picked up enough clothing, shoes, and personal items for her to get through the week.

CAMP2540 can take up to 100 children per week, but only had enough money last year for 67. They are hoping that the number of sponsorships will grow this year so that they are able to host more children.

"You can see the change that happens with them from the beginning of week to the end of the week," shared Marcum. "If they didn't feel accepted at home before they came, they feel accepted when they leave."

Last year's theme was the "Beatitudes", from Matthew 5. According to Marcum, teaching on the beatitudes offered them the opportunity to encourage each child and instill confidence in them.

The children will typically participate in three activities each day and then something special like horseback riding or canoeing. During the boy's week last year they had them participate in a shooting range and also taught them how to build birdhouses. The fire de-

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No(ah)-It-All: Have a Nice Day!

By: Noah Chandler
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qrnews/nchandler

Let me preface this column by saying that back in the day I was a moderately enthused fan of wrestling, or as we in the south refer to it, "Wrastlin'!" so it was a treat to meet the one and only Mankind, or was it Cactus Jack…no, it was Dude Love!

Either way, this past Thursday night CS Sports Reporter Josh McBrayer and I took a little trip down I-65 to the wonderful Comedy Club Stardome to see hardcore wrestling legend Mick Foley pick up the mic to try his handicraft at stand-up comedy.

As a personal fan of sweatpants, hoodies, and t-shirts I was quaintly surprised to see the hardcore legend come out in some of my favorite apparel. Honestly, nothing says confidence quite like a pair of generic grey sweats.

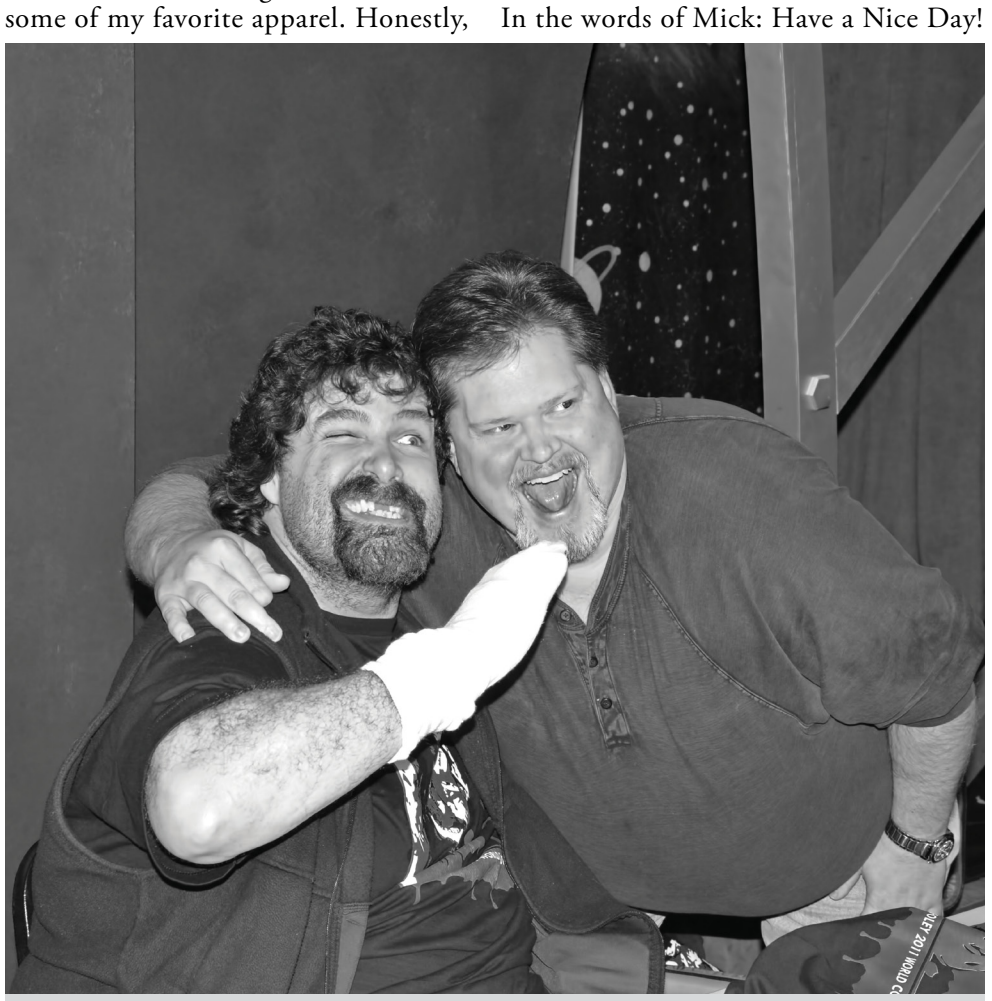
The show began in a faux-diva manner that left many wondering if it was comedy or just a spoiled wrestler flexing his muscle. Once the lights dimmed for a second time it became quite evident that it was definitely just a rouse to catch everyone on their heels.

The large imposing force I saw as a child was quickly transformed into someone familiar. Mick appeared to be almost like my uncle who rocked out to Sabbath, partied hard, but drove 15 mph wherever he went for safety reasons.

Of course, over the years Foley has switched between three alter egos, so it only serves correct that he would gravitate towards comedy.

Overall the show was a spectacular delight for myself, but don't take my word for it. Read Josh's article today on CullmanSense.com and watch our special video interview.

In the words of Mick: Have a Nice Day!



A happy fan gets up-close-and-personal with Mr. Socko.

Weather

Source: NWS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Hi: 55	Hi: 63	Hi: 48	Hi: 52
Lo: 43	Lo: 31	Lo: 28	

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near **55**.
Monday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around **43**.
Tuesday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cloudy with a high near **63**.
Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around **31**.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near **48**.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around **28**.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near **52**.

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

Jordan Melton: Vinemont High School

By: Josh McBrayer
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qrnews/jmcbrayer

The Spotlight has once again found its way to Vinemont High School, but this time it falls on junior Jordan Melton. She is a spark plug and catalyst for her team.

Through the first 16 games this season Jordan is averaging 14.3 points and 5.6 assists a game. She also picks up better than one assist a game.

Jordan took a time-out from preparing for the Cullman County tournament to answer these questions:

Josh McBrayer: Tell our readers a little bit about yourself.

Jordan Melton: I am 17 years old and I am from Vinemont. I play basketball for the Vinemont Lady Eagles.

JM: How long have you been playing basketball and what got you started in the sport?

Melton: I have been playing basketball for seven years.

I got started playing basketball when I was young by playing in the recreational league.

I now play for Vinemont High School, plus I also play travel ball in the offseason.

JM: Tell our readers about your favorite sport and why it is your favorite.

Melton: Basketball is my favorite sport. It is my favorite because of the challenge it poses and the intensity in which it is played. I also love the fact that it is played at such a fast pace.

JM: Talk a little bit about what you believe to be your greatest accomplishment in sports.

Melton: Being named both All-County and All-Area over the years I have played.

It means a lot to me that others notice what I do on the court and nominate me for these prestigious awards.

JM: Tell us about your biggest inspiration and describe why.

Melton: Jesus Christ definitely because he gives me all the ability and talent I need to be successful on the court and in life. Without Him I would be nothing.

Head coach Lance Lay had this to say about his stand-out point guard:

"Jordan is a very hard worker on the basketball court and she spends countless hours in the gym," said Lay.

"She thinks nothing about getting out on the court and playing with the boys in pickup games and doesn't shy away from them. Jordan really has a good basketball IQ and basketball instincts."

With Jordan Melton being only a junior, it is no doubt that coach Lay will continue to look toward her for leadership as long as she is at Vinemont High School.



Vinemont's Jordan Melton, center, plays tough defense against the Hanceville Lady Bulldogs.



Cullman County Basketball Schedule

Monday, January 16, 2012

St. Bernard @ Meek Boys & Girls

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Holly Pond @ Cold Springs Boys & Girls

Bethel @ Cullman Christian Boys & Girls

Ft. Payne @ Cullman Boys & Girls

Good Hope @ Fairview Boys & Girls

Hanceville @ Addison Boys & Girls

St. Bernard @ Coosa Christian Boys & Girls

Winston County @ Vinemont Boys & Girls

Thursday, January 19, 2012

Good Hope @ Hanceville Boys & Girls

West Point @ Hartselle Boys & Girls

Friday, January 20, 2012

Cold Springs @ Good Hope Boys & Girls

Cullman @ Holly Pond Boys & Girls

East Lawrence @ Fairview Boys & Girls

Hayden @ West Point Boys & Girls

Saturday, January 21, 2012

County Tournament Schedule Boys JV

3 Vinemont vs. # 6 Cold Springs 2:15 p.m.

4 Fairview vs. # 5 Hanceville 4:45 p.m.

2 Holly Pond vs. # 7 Good Hope 7:00 p.m.

County Tournament Schedule Girls JV

4 Good Hope vs. # 5 Fairview 1:00 p.m.

2 Cold Springs vs. # 7 Hanceville 3:30 p.m.

3 West Point vs. # 6 Vinemont 6:00 p.m.

For more on the 2012 Cullman County Basketball Tournament, visit cullmansense.com/sports for an in-depth look at the brackets.

CullmanSense wishes the best of luck to all the teams participating in the tournament.

Desperation Church Recognizes There is More To Life

By: Dawn Owens
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Photo Contributed

There isn't a person on planet Earth that hasn't either thought it or asked the question, "There has got to be more to life than this?"

On the evening of January 2, 2012 Desperation Church launched a website, thereismore.tv, in order to help people find the answer.

That same night two people saw the link on Facebook, watched the video and contacted people attending Desperation. Both of them began a relationship with Jesus that night.

They were just the beginning. There are stories, almost daily, of people who are sharing with church leaders and regular attenders about how that video is changing their lives.

According to Pastor Andy Heis, "Everyone is searching for purpose in life. I'd been hearing people ask the question over and over again for years. Heck, I've asked that question before, there has just got to be more?"

One day Heis was in the post office and he started to notice that the people standing around him had "hollow eyes." I looked outside and noticed that there was a guy walking down the street, moping along with a look of despair.

"I wanted to just walk up to them give them a big bear hug and say, 'I love you and Jesus loves you.' But I realize that might freak people out," shared Heis laughing.

"I questioned God that day, asking Him, 'What is wrong with these people?' I felt like I heard him say, "A lot of these people have tried everything and it doesn't work. And they try church thinking that was going to bring hope, but they were just as empty going to church as they were without it. They never discovered Jesus."

Heis was determined to figure out how to communicate that Jesus was the answer to their question. He shared the experience with his staff and they brainstormed an idea.

"What if we didn't market our church, but instead marketed Jesus," thought Heis.

With that they decided to launch a marketing campaign that may last the next three months or it may last a year. "It's whatever God decides to do with it," remarked Heis.

"We thought about hiring a company to do the video for us, as we wanted it to be done with excellence, but we couldn't afford it. We decided to do it ourselves and it's turned out pretty well."

The church has sent out mailers to the city of Cullman, launched a marketing campaign on Facebook and Twitter, will be distributing 300 yard signs, and will soon have t-shirts to hand out with the thereismore.tv logo.

"Nothing is going to offer you satisfaction, except Jesus," explained Heis. "It's not the church, it's Jesus. I don't feel like I am here to play games. We (DC) want to see a city turned upside down. We want God to use us to lead a city and then to lead a nation."

He continued to explain that they want to do that by being the hands and feet of Christ. "The greatest leaders are those who serve. God has called us to be an impact and not to just exist. We want to pump life into people and you do that on more than just Sunday."

The thereismore.tv website offers several videos of staff and other church members sharing their story of how they realized that Jesus was the answer to how there is more to life.

Service times are Sundays at 9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m. or 6 p.m. They also host a dynamic prayer experience called "Converge" on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Desperation Church is located at 202 Elizabeth St. NE, Cullman, AL 35055.

You can follow Desperation Church on Facebook or @DCCullman on Twitter. Contact them by phone at (256)255-5979 or by e-mail at keithv@desperationchurch.tv.

Truffles - Continued

those who wish to hangout and stay as long as they would like.

With a variety of foods and services available, just how did the name Truffles come to be? Both ladies sigh in unison and laugh as they recall the origin of their business name.

"We bounced a million ideas around," McCracken said, tucking a stray strand of hair behind her ear.

"We made lists and lists of what we knew we wanted to do—goodies and gifts—and it just kind of hit us . . . Truffles!" Crimm said.

"And then we realized that we had to try to make some now," McCracken said with a knowing look at Crimm.

Truffles carries a few different kind of their name-inspired goodies—even one called heaven in a piece of chocolate—a truffle that is chocolate all the way through. Good thing both women were blessed with the ability to cultivate culinary creations that are right on the mark. They developed one truffle receiving the copious and downright envious title of "signature truffle."

Upon my inquiry of what exactly this truffle was made out of, McCracken disappears into the kitchen and retrieves a sample for me. Bestowing upon me the chocolate shelled wonder, I eagerly swipe it from my plate holding it a safe distance away from my mouth should I drop some crumbs and try a tentative bite.

Insert exploding fireworks.

A mouth-watering, smooth taste similar to cookie dough rips through my taste buds. The sweet sensation lingers, inducing a slightly unprofessional "Mhhmmmm, Yum!" verdict to escape my lips. McCracken and Crimm tell me it's not cookie dough, though, but that it does contain chocolate chips and nuts.

The barely four-year old business is quickly becoming a staple of Cullman. As you drive past the brightly colored sign, curiosity eventually overwhelms you—until one day, without intention, you will magically find yourself in the presence of the Tea Room.

Truffles truly does fulfill a unique niche in Cullman because it functions as a multi-faceted business literally catering to many callings. They cater a lot of family reunions, after rehearsal luncheons, bridal showers, bridal teas, and breakfasts to name a few.

In fact, their slogan says it all: "Making special occasions more special!"

"I don't really think we compete with other caterers. We are more into smaller functions. Our niche is more intimate settings, doing creative things like with decorating and food. Cullman doesn't have a place like this," Crimm said.

While the duo has no professional culinary background, their food speaks volumes in preparation and taste. Both come from families whose cooking genes run deep. Their traditional, coveted family recipes have been passed down for generations. The homemade fixings are prepared fresh, made from scratch and can be ordered on a whim for easy dinners and surprise parties that arise.

The ladies tell me about an entertaining phone call they received where the caller prefaced their conversation with "I hear you save people's lives!" in reference to Truffles' efficient turn-around time on orders and pick-ups.

When asked where the concept for the company came from, McCracken cleverly quips, "It was reckless abandonment."

In reality, they worked a seemingly impossible number of man hours to get moved into a vacant building that needed to be fully inspected and approved, plans drawn up and built to add on a kitchen, and everything set in motion—all in one month prior to catering one of their biggest events ever—the grand opening of the Cullman Wellness & Aquatics Center.

The most entertaining stories seem to emerge in the wake of prepping for an event. "If only these walls could talk," Crimm said, with a shake of her head. Were the good friends scared to enter into a business partnership together?

They were, especially in light of a difficult economy, but the two decided they had to give it a go for two very special reasons: they knew people would have to eat and people would still be getting married. While they are busy over the summer because of many weddings and family reunions, their busiest time of the year is not surprisingly from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

They have been so busy they have had to hire an Event Coordinator, Lindsay Heatherly, whom they describe as a wonderful planner who does it all and has the time of her life with each event.

As busy as Truffles gets, many often wonder what their package offerings are and in what kind of price range they fall.

They explain that they have a price list they go by, but what they really prefer to do is to sit down with whomever is planning the event, suggest ideas and then price the package per person.

Much like its name-inspired title, Truffles lives up to the beloved, multi-layered nature of the delicacy where there is an unforgettable impression and more than meets the eye all wrapped up in an attractive, unforgettable shell.

Rediscovering Cullman
Village Furniture and Gifts

By: Meghan Nelson
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qrnews/mnelson

Having recently built a new house (and by 'built', I actually mean selected various materials and colors for someone more knowledgeable than myself to put together), I've begun to develop a fondness for home décor. While my college years consisted largely of hand-me-downs and a few questionably-constructed bits of homemade furniture, owning a home seems to require a bit more decorating finesse than fashioning a desk from a piece of plywood precariously propped on a large speaker.

In my home décor scouting endeavors, I've discovered a variety of shops in Cullman that carry fun and unusual pieces (and I am not referring to Hobby Lobby). Perhaps the most interesting of these shops is Village Furniture and Gifts, self-described as “Cullman's most unique store”. Though passersby often assume it to be small corner store, Village Furniture is actually a rambling, forty-room shop stocked with an ever-changing assortment of furniture and home accessories.

In an effort to learn more about this intriguing store, I met with owner Perry Warren, a tall, friendly man who's been in the business of furniture and gifts for over forty years. Perry shared that he first began selling furniture in the seventies when he sold handcrafted pieces to various retailers around the state. Then, in the early eighties, Perry decided to open his own retail and warehouse location. He quickly found himself needing more room in which to expand his growing inventory, and in 1985, he bought the building in which Village Furniture currently resides.

Perry shared that the building has been a wonderful site for his shop, not only because of its convenient location on Highway 278, but also because of its rich history and slightly mysterious appeal. “The old building is quaint and fun,” he said. “There's a lot of history in the walls.”

According to Perry, the building was constructed in 1904, and the second story was actually the location of Cullman's first school. He went on to add that the building has housed as many as twenty different business, including several offices and a hardware store.

As I climbed the creaking stairs that lead to the second floor, traipsed across the hardwood hallways, and browsed a surprising number of different rooms, I realized that Perry was correct. The building's sprawling nature and, at times, charmingly squeaky floors only serve to add to the shop's appeal. Its multiple rooms beg to be explored,



Perry offers several pieces made of reclaimed wood from India. *Photos by Meghan Nelson*



Each of the forty rooms in Village Furniture and Gifts are stocked with interesting pieces.



Perry Warren, owner of Village Furniture and Gifts has been in the furniture and gift business for over forty years.

Rediscovering Cullman

and Perry has made sure that each one contains something worth finding.

Perry revealed that he orders his pieces from several countries around the world, including India, China, Indonesia, and Malaysia and that his inventory changes every month. "We keep a mixture of styles, designs, and textures to make the shop more unique and eclectic," explained Perry. "We want our customers to have fun...our goal isn't necessarily for them to buy anything, but we want them to have fun looking and to come back again."

Spying everything from a credenza made out of reclaimed wood from India to a pop-art-inspired painting, I could see that Perry truly does strive to keep the store fresh and unique.

It was also apparent that he carries a wide range of products at Village Furniture. Perry shared that the store is a full-line furniture shop and also offers upholstery (the shop's best seller), mattresses, lamps, bedding, gifts, and even its own line of wooden furniture built at Perry's factory in Russellville, Alabama.

Having ordered one of Perry's Alabama-made tables, I asked him what other types of furniture his factory builds. He said that they produce about fifty different items, including buffets, bookcases, credenzas, hutches, and cabinets, with tables and kitchen islands being their most popular pieces.

All of the furniture made at the factory is constructed of solid wood and can be finished in ten different colors. "The kitchen islands are a lot of fun," reflected Perry. "They are a different niche that we didn't originally expect."

The items that aren't built at Perry's factory are instead carefully selected by Perry, his wife, Kitty, who is an interior decorator, and his son, Wade.

Perry explained that he and his wife both watch HGTV continuously to keep up to date on current home trends and that they travel to shows in New York, Atlanta, North Carolina, and Texas throughout the year.

The shows, which Perry described as "tiring, yet fun" include vendors from around the world and are the source of many new items and ideas for Perry and his wife. Perry shared that staying ahead of the trend curve is probably the most challenging aspect of the business, but he claimed that finding new products is actually more fun than it is challenging.

Lately, Perry has been mixing contemporary pieces with rustic items. Pointing out a coffee table made from old wood and metal legs, he said, "It's nice to mix old lines with clean, contemporary lines." He added that items made from reclaimed wood are very popular right now.

Perry enjoys finding new designs, colors, and looks for the shop, but his favorite part of owning Village Furniture is meeting new people. "We have many people travel from Birmingham and Huntsville to shop at the store," he shared, "though most people from out of state are usually related to someone who lives nearby and has referred them to us."

Aside from its unique collection of décor, Village Furniture also offers a delivery service and a full design team. The shop owns two trucks and frequently delivers their products to areas such as Birmingham and Huntsville, as well as several local destinations.

Its design team, consisting of Kitty Warren and Donna Richter, can help customers choose colors, furniture, and designs for their homes and is also available for consultation appointments at the store or in a client's home.

Perry's philosophy for his business is to "enjoy work, enjoy the customers, and make the customers happy." His relaxed and helpful attitude most assuredly contribute to this goal, as does the unique charm of Village Furniture, itself.

Whether customers are searching for the perfect addition to their homes or simply enjoying a relaxing Saturday morning of browsing, they are sure to enjoy the eclectic style, quaint experience, and positive attitude that can be found at Village Furniture.



Furniture made from restored wood is very popular right now.



Village Furniture and Gifts is a quaint building with nostalgic charm.

Mirroring History

Looking Back: Exploring Historic Cullman at Childhaven

Childhaven, originally The Odd Fellow's Home, was built in 1910 by the Rebekah Assembly of the International Order of the Oddfellows of Alabama as a home for women and children. "Odd Fellows" was a term used to refer to an organization of fellows of particular trades who didn't have a large enough number for their own society. The Odd Fellow's Home closed in 1937 and was later bought by the Church of Christ and re-opened in 1950 as a home for homeless children.

Circa 1947-51



Contributed by Cullman County Museum

2011



Photo by: Jessica Norrell

Local Events Calendar

Send your Events to: calendar@cullmansense.com

Monday, January 16, 2012

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.

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.

Aqua Zumba Classes at CWAC

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

Water Coolers Concert

The Cullman Community Concert Association is presenting the Water Coolers. "It's your life--but killer funny."

That's how the members of this award-winning comedy troupe make everybody laugh. With original music and parodies of familiar songs, on-point material about life and work, and superior comedy writing, this cast of five NYC comics and singers celebrates the insanity of everyday life. The Concert starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Betty Leeth Haynes Auditorium at Wallace State Community College. For more information or tickets contact them at 256-708-0068 or visit http://www.cullmancommunityconcertassociation.com

Tuesday, January 17, 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 information can be obtained by calling Lesia at 256-734-2720, extension 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.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group Meeting

An Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group meeting will be held tonight at Cullman Regional Medical Center's Ave Maria Room beginning at 5:30 p.m.
Those attending will benefit from learning meaningful advice and support from others going through similar situations. Further information can be obtained by contacting the group coordinator Jane Farley at 256-737-2038 or through email at jane.farley@crmchospital.com.

Friendship Squares Square Dance Club

The local Square Dance Club, Friendship Squares, is holding beginners square dance lessons for the next three Tuesday nights beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the East Point Community Center. Everyone who is interested in square dancing is invited and urged to come participate. For additional information, please contact Hulda and Tommy Schaefers at 256-734-3566.

Wednesday, January 18, 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. Come start the New Year off with water exercises!

Thursday, January 19, 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 and fish, vegetables, and drinks.

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.

Town Hall Meeting

The Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee will host two Town Hall Meetings featuring the Cullman area's state legislative delegation. These meetings will provide area residents with the opportunity to meet with the County's state legislative delegation prior to the State Legislature's next session scheduled to begin in February.

The meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. each evening and feature a brief presentation followed by a "question & answer" period for attendees. The Town Hall Meetings will be held: Thursday, January, 19 at Daystar Church in Good Hope and Thursday, January, 26 at First Baptist Church in Cullman.

Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 2212 Meeting

Members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 2212 meet the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at A.J's Steakhouse. Dinner is first, followed by their regular meeting. Further information can be obtained by calling John Gissell at 256-734-9637. All military who have received the Purple Heart are cordially invited to attend these meetings.

Lunch & Learn Program - Minimally Invasive Surgery for Women

Join obstetrician/gynecologist Randy Yarbrough, MD, with Cullman Obstetrics & Gynecology as he discusses hysterectomy options for women and shares more on the differences between the minimally invasive laparoscopic and robotic procedures.
Cost of this lunch and learn program is $5 for WomenFirst/SeniorChoice members and $8 for all others. To reserve your spot, register online at www.crmchospital.com or call 256-737-2600.

Friday, January 20, 2012

Swamp John's Catfish Dinner

There will be a Swamp John's Catfish Dinner at Trimble Community Center sponsored by the Sharon Grove United Methodist Church Youth Group. Plates are $10.00 each and include choice of catfish, shrimp or chicken, or a combination of two along with fries, hush puppies, cole slaw and tea!! Walk-ins are welcome, carryout meals are available, and the meeting room will be set up for indoor dining. Come meet your friends and enjoy a delicious meal to boot! Call Sonny at 256-338-6888 or Kristi at 256-385-5451 for information.

Retreat on Introduction to Centering Prayer

The Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery are sponsoring a Retreat on the Introduction to Centering Prayer from January, 20 through January, 22. Registration begins January, 20 at 6 p.m. and ends at 7 p.m., when the retreat will commence. The weekend program will end after the noon meal on Sunday. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Benedictine Sisters at 256-734-8302 or through email at retreats@shmon.org.

Saturday, January 21, 2012

Natural Childbirth Classes

This class is for those who are considering having natural childbirth. Your education, desires and personal support network greatly influence a positive outcome.

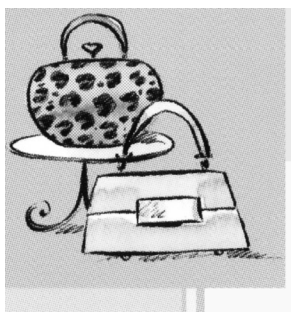
In this class you will learn: details about stages and phases of labor, relaxation techniques & comfort measures, how your birth partner can help you during labor, physiological positions and movements for labor, about medical interventions, the role of hormones during labor &birth, and much more. There are two class locations in the city; please call (256) 962-0975 for directions and registration. Visit http://www.birthingbeautiful.com for more.

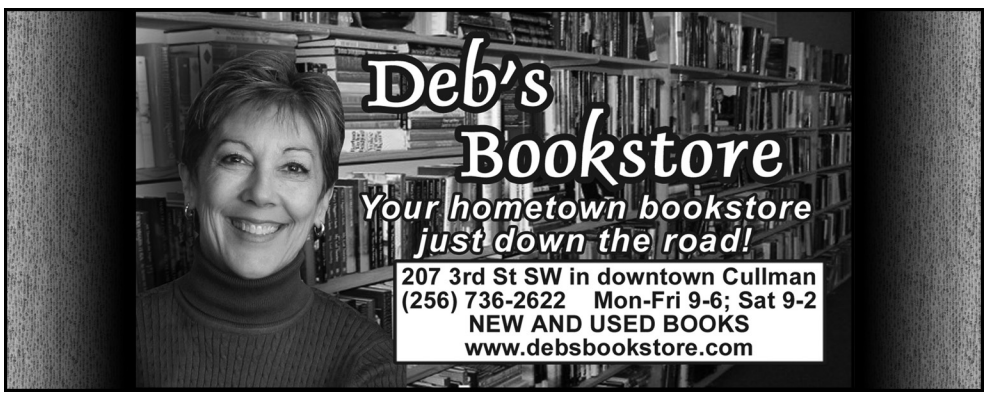
Flavin Glover & Delwyn Skinner Trunk Show

Jones Chapel United Methodist Church is sponsoring a Trunk Show, featuring nationally known artists Flavin Glover and Delwyn Skinner showing their wares. This event will be held from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Church and will include quilt piecing & exhibit, needlework & crafts, cross stitching and crocheting, and stuffed toys. Everyone is invited to this event, which also features refreshments!

"The Secret Garden" by Missoula Children's Theatre

Many local performers will take to the stage today as they participate in Missoula Children's Theatre's presentation of "The Secret Garden". Two shows will be performed, one at 2 p.m. with the second scheduled for 6 p.m. This event is open to everyone, so come on out and cheer for your favorite actress or actor.





Puzzles and Comics

Visit CullmanSense.com to view our Relay for Life coverage.

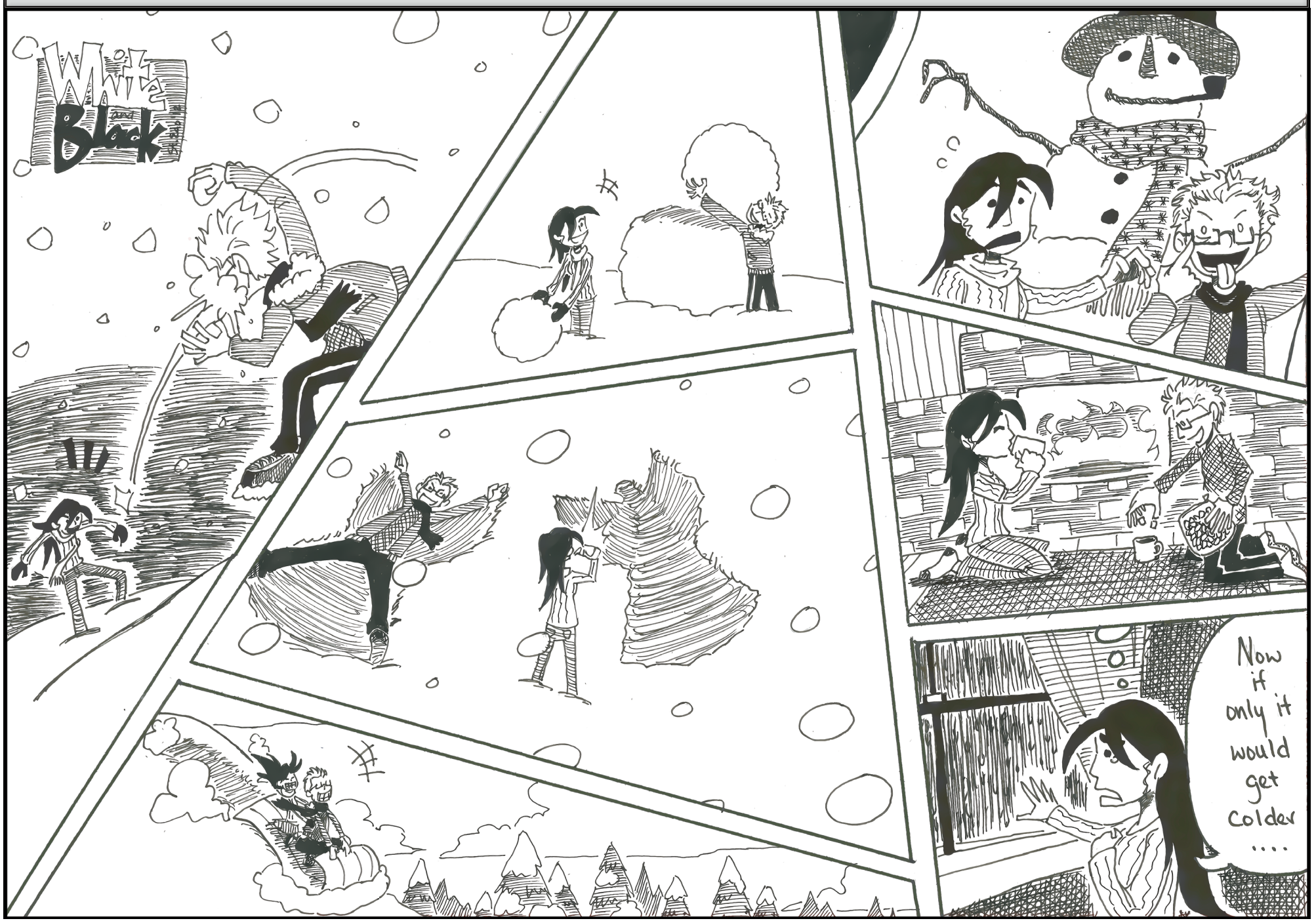
THIS WEEK'S WORD SEARCH TOPIC IS: RELAY FOR LIFE

BY: DUSTIN ISOM

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American Cancer Society
awareness
cancer
chemotherapy
diagnosis
donation
early detection
family
hope
loss
luminaria
mammogram
persevering
radiation therapy
relay
remembering
research
saving lives
searching for a cure
stop smoking
survivor
teams
volunteers

Comics by St. Edo | Anthony Saint | st.edo@cullmansense.com



Community Matters

Stone - Continued

in the hospital."

Stone agreed and said, "It would be really difficult for a staff of five to minister to everyone, every day. It's just not possible."

"Besides that we aren't passionate about what some people are passionate about. I mean, could you imagine if I asked Pastor Andy to lead a crocheting small group?"

Stone is a jack-of-all-trades, when it comes to ministry at DC as she is involved in a lot of other areas at the church as well. "She does so much more than just small groups," remarked Heis.

Stone also leads up the Dream Team. The Dream Team are the hands and feet of DC. It helps people to learn their passions and get plugged into an area where they can serve in that area of passion.

For Stone, helping people find freedom is her passion. "I want to help people find their passions and then operate in the area that they are gifted in. That is what freedom looks like to me."

Stone is also involved in the women's ministry and is currently in the beginning stages of planning a women's conference in March called "Inside Out." It will focus on learning how to be beautiful from the inside out.

Stone is a commuter to Cullman from Kimberly, Alabama, "until her house sells." She's been married to her husband Mike for 20 years and has three daughters, Amber 19, Hailey 15, and Savanah 5.

In her free time Stone loves to read and write. "I love just hanging out with girls. We really have such a great time together."

Anyone who is interested in attending small groups is welcome and does not need to be a member or regular attender at Desperation Church.

Small groups are set to launch January 22nd so this is a perfect time to get involved. You can find a list of their small groups at http://www.desperationchurch.tv/index.php/connect/small-group-registration.

You can follow Desperation Church on Facebook or @DCCullman on Twitter. Contact them by phone at (256)255-5979 or by e-mail at keithv@desperationchurch.tv.

Service times are Sundays at 9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m., or 6 p.m. They also host a dynamic prayer experience called "Converge" on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Desperation Church is located at 202 Elizabeth St. NE, Cullman, AL 35055.

Camp - Continued

partment also participated by teaching the kids about fire safety and the importance of respecting authority.

"We like to keep them busy each day," shared Marcum. "They have adult volunteers with them at all times. We find most of the kids don't understand what it looks like to have healthy adult relationships on a daily basis and we want to model that well during their camp experience."

The camp counselors last year were volunteers from the local Baptist Association but CAMP2540 does have the opportunity for others to get involved. You can find a counselor application on the CAMP2540 website.

The cost for one child to attend CAMP2540 for one week is $200, which includes 4 nights, 5 days of lodging, personal toiletries, all meals, snacks and drinks, and a new bible. There are no paid staff members for that week, it is all volunteer-driven therefore all the money donated goes towards the kids.

Marcum explained that the cost of sponsoring a child is an investment. "We want these kids to be productive in our society. They will grow up and we want them to be good Dads and good Moms. I often share with folks, 'None of them are going to raise their hand and say, I want to go to jail when I grow up, but the reality is some of them may end up there.' That's where we hope CAMP2540 can dramatically change their life."

The 2012 dates for CAMP2540 are not yet listed on their website but have been planned for July 2-6 for boys ages 7-11 and July 9-13 for girls ages 7-11.

They are also considering doing a week at the end of July for middle school students, but details will be forth coming as they nail down the details.

People or organizations that are interested in sponsoring children to attend camp can make monetary donations payable to Stoney Creek Camp, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

They can be sent to Stoney Creek Camp (Home of CAMP2540) 15729 Alabama Highway 157, Vinemont, AL 35179. You can contact Mika Marcum via e-mail mikamarcum@gmail.com or by phone at (205)266-0800.

Stoney Creek Camp is also in need of year round volunteers to help with landscaping, maintenance, and cleaning. For more information about Stoney Creek Christian Camp, including booking details go to:

http://www.stoneycreekalabama.com/.

You can contact Park Director, Randy Hinkle at (256) 338-5583 or via email at rphinkle@hughes.net.

Short Story - *Clare Tales*

By: Gabriel Manuel

Clare glided over the stone street with an easy glide that was sensuous, but utterly inhuman. Pedestrians in the busy night streets parted before her path.

The passers by gave her a wide berth, as if she were something to be avoided because it was vile, or at least dangerous. Nothing about her appearance should not have elicited such a strong response.

Though she was taller than most of the other pedestrians, nothing else was striking about her appearance.

The most visibly outstanding feature about her was the fact that she was entirely covered by an emerald cloak that brushed smooth cobblestone as she glided across the street.

The emerald cloth seemed to dance about her slender figure as if a curtain before an open window.

She should have appeared well at home with the upper class-men that loitered on the street eating pastries and sipping coffee.

Though none of the humans were sure why she did not fit in, she definitely was not a part of the lazy storefront environment.

The only hint at her lack of humanity was her startlingly grey eyes, though they were hidden in the shadows of her cloak's hood.

A valet dressed in the classic suit with red vest pulled around some exotic sports car and parked just in front of The Rose Cafe.

Across the street, at Betsy's Delights, an elegant horse and carriage awaited a couple that must have been in the shop.

The two horses stood tall, arrogant, and bored as the coachman leafed through a magazine. The pair were both white and elegant; so manicured that they were as much a spectacle as the elegant buggy with it's silver and gold trim.

The white, white wheels seemed to be too clean to have ever been used, and the fenders did not have even a spec of dust on them.

The horses became suddenly still as Clare came within a few yards of them. As she approached, their eyes followed her as if she were a lioness twice their size.

By the time she was walking in front of the horses, their breath was coming fast, and faster; as if they were about to have heart attacks from fear.

Clare rounded the corner of a far street to the sounds of panicking horses, but never cast a backwards glance.

Her silver eyes peered from the shadows of her hood, but did not see the people hurrying out of her way.

To continue reading *Clare Tales* go to http://qrne.ws/claretales

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