Series 2, Issue 17 Monday, April 23, 2012
Cullman's Monday Newspaper
CULLMANSENSE
Community Matters

50¢
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PLUS Mirroring History, Word Search, Comic, Community Calendar, & More — Look Inside

A New Day

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com



qrnews/nchandler



Photos by Noah Chandler

CULLMAN – Daystar House has been a refuge for homeless women and children in Cullman County since 1989.

On Saturday several musical acts came together at Sportsman Lake Park to help raise funds while lifting spirits for the Daystar House and its residents.

Brenda Thomas, Daystar House co-director, said the shelter is a very important piece of the community. Without the shelter, she said, many women would have nowhere to go.

"Daystar House is a shelter for homeless women and women with children in our area. We are a United Way agency and were founded by Sister Mary Hughes in 1989 and we've been in Cullman since then," Thomas said.

"When the families come to us we try to help them find what they need to get back into the community."

Bob Keefe has put his influence behind Daystar House for several years, assembling concerts and a folk festival to help spread the word about the importance of the shelter.

The shelter, Keefe said, is rare in Cullman, but vital in creating a more stable living situation for women who may be going through a rough time.

"Daystar is very important to our community because they fill a gap that no one else does," Keefe said. "They do a really great job with homeless women and women with children. But there isn't a shelter for men, which is something that needs to be addressed at some point as well."

One of the many attributes of Daystar is not found in the home itself but the opportunities they are able to offer women. Keefe said that the workplace training is necessary to help those in need gain the skills it will take to provide for their selves when the time comes.

"Not only does Daystar provide a place to live, but they provide training to help these women get back on their feet in a permanent way, not temporarily. What they do is critical and with the economy sliding like it has and the United Way not having the type of money to give out, it is important to do fundraisers like this one."

Among the musical acts performing at the Daystar House Music Fest were Bimini Road, Revelations, Day's Gap, Wayne Abbott aka-Willie Nelson, and Behind the Times.

Thomas was overjoyed by the response to this year's musical offering. In years past the musical fundraiser had not been successful, but this year was quite different. She said

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Alabama Stay-Cations: Birmingham Museum of Art

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com



qrnews/jmcbrayer

BIRMINGHAM – If you are looking for an educational experience not far from home this summer look no further than "The Magic City" of Birmingham, Alabama and the Birmingham Museum of Art. The sprawling museum houses over 24,000 examples of paintings, prints, video, sculptures, drawings, and decorative arts from across the globe and span a timeframe of more than 4,000 years.

The original Birmingham Museum of Art was founded in 1951. The current building was erected in 1959 and is roughly 180,000 square feet, with roughly 150,000 square feet within its three-story structure and 30,000 square feet in the museum's outdoor sculpture garden.

If you plan on taking photos, don't forget to stop by the information desk that is located directly to your right as you enter the museum. Here you will sign your name and be given a red-dot (on the day I went) sticker that shows that you have permission to take photographs. The photography policy is strict and the sticker is to remain visible at all times. Absolutely no flash photography is allowed because it could damage the ancient and delicate works of art.



Photos by Josh McBrayer

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From the Front

A New Day (Cont.)

the outpouring of support from the community was overwhelming.

"Today's event was fantastic! The committee came out to support us and it was a worthwhile event," Thomas said.

"Thank you for supporting Daystar House because it is an agency that is needed in Cullman County. Through your support we are able to supply shelter and items they may need when coming to the shelter."

If you would like to find out more on Daystar House or if you would like to make a donation or contribution you may contact either Brenda Thomas or Mary Leone at 256-734-4942.

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Cullman City Council Meeting
April 9, 2012



The Vintage Cowboys Perform
at the Local Standard

qrne.ws/video

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Kerry Neighbors is now at EvaBank!

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

No(ah)-It-All: : A Life Rebuilt? Probably Not...

By: Noah Chandler

noahchandler@cullmansense.com

Now that we are at the one year mark of the April 27th tornadoes that ripped through much of Alabama, with areas not directly impacted feeling the effects of statewide power outages, many are reflecting on the incident while others are trying to avoid it.

The tornado that tore through Downtown Cullman destroyed a lot of buildings, uprooted many well-preserved trees, shattered dreams of new homeowners, and left some questioning their own faith. I fell into the latter category.

Not only were houses I grew up playing in destroyed, but the church which my family called home was gutted that fateful April Wednesday afternoon. Taking with it was my widowed mother's job along with what inkling of faith that was left following my father's death, which was still fresh on my overburdened mind. The tornado left nothing but a shell of a man behind.

Shortly after the tornado moved through our area, the small CS crew was out snapping photos, capturing video, and assisting former co-workers back to their homes after becoming stranded. It was what we were all taught, trained, and bred to do, so we all did our jobs. While doing our job, some of the crew broke down with tears while others of us sat up that first night watching stupid movies as we attempted to forget the day.

The following days were full of walking from East Elementary to Cullman High School, lugging a laptop and camera wherever any of us would go, sending out tweets and updates letting residents know where food was available. Once the power was restored in my neighborhood some six days later, the full magnitude of the situation set in as news feeds flooded the television revealing images of destruction throughout the region.

As the images filled the ole brain, questions about why we were spared while others suffered greatly crammed it to capacity. Looking to God, as I had done so many times before, did not provide clarity to the situation, nor did it provide a sense of comfort. It only spurred anger; anger for lives lost, anger for needless destruction of livelihood, and anger for loss of security for my mother.

These forces combined with a pre-tornado stress load made life too much to deal with and my mind elected to take a little mental vacation. At a weight of 115 pounds standing just 6 feet tall, Dr. Jowers, for whom I hold great respect, knew it was time for something drastic to occur before I was no more. He encouraged me to self-admit, which I promptly refused. Two days later I barely made it into the doors of his office before being taken directly to CRMC.

At first they thought it was possibly cancer due to my poor medical and family history, but after a few exams and an overnight stay it was evident that I was merely experiencing stress on the highest plain. It was a horrid experience, lying in a hospital room because my mind decided it had enough was just an insult to injury. Weak, mentally shot, morally corrupt, and a self-worth valued at less than vapor was the only way to describe how I felt while I stared at my reflection in the glossy floor.

Once it was made clear that the lack of appetite that had been occurring for several months, along with the kidney, liver, and lung complications were due to stress, it was evident that a change was in order. So, like any level headed unstable person I checked myself out of the hospital against doctor's orders and went back to work. Well to be fair, I did work on several obituaries and arrest reports while in the hospital, which again did not make the doctors or the nurses very happy.

Following my 29-hour stint, I spent the next six months lost in my own mind wandering around questioning the death of my father, still not eating, yet making sure I stayed above 120 pounds. However, one morning I awoke feeling different; still apathetic, but more hopeful about the future. Questions which plagued me began being answered and unresolved issues were lifted.

That is but one. I have no church. It has been one year since my last service and I'm not sure how long it will be before my next. My faith has been restored in God, but with man, well that is still unresolved.

Weather

Source: NWS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Hi: 62	Hi: 69	Hi: 79	Hi: 76
Lo: 39	Lo:47	Lo: 58	Lo: 62

Monday: Sunny, with a high near **62**. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around **39**. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph becoming calm.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near **69**. Calm wind becoming west between 10 and 15 mph.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around **47**.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near **79**.
Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around **58**.

Thursday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near **76**.
Thursday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around **62**.

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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.

Editorial Crew

Publisher	Noah Chandler	noahchandler@cullmansense.com
Editor	Dustin Isom	dustinisom@cullmansense.com

CullmanSense Crew

Cartoonist	Anthony Saint	st.edo@cullmansense.com
Columnist	Annette Harris	annetteharris@cullmansense.com
Contributor	Lindsey Dossey	health@cullmansense.com
Contributor	Kristen Holmes	education@cullmansense.com
Entertainment	Wes Smith	wessmith@cullmansense.com
News/Entertainment	Natalie Bonner	nataliebonner@cullmansense.com
Photographer/ Graphic Designer	Jessica Norrell	jessicanorrell@cullmansense.com
Reporter/Columnist	Meghan Nelson	meghannelson@cullmansense.com
Sports Editor	Josh McBrayer	joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

Contact Us

Tip Hotline	256-297-1TIP
Fax	256-261-2439
E-Mail	cullmansense@cullmansense.com
Calendar Listings	calendar@cullmansense.com
Sports Tips	sports@cullmansense.com
Obituaries*	obituaries@cullmansense.com

CullmanSense is located at 101 1st Avenue Northeast Cullman, Alabama 35055
For past issues, e-mail cullmansense@cullmansense.com or call 256-297-1847

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SPORTS

AREA ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Bryant Powers: Fairview High School

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

For the first time this year, the Spotlight shines on Fairview High School and finds standout Bryant Powers.

The Aggie junior is a threat at the plate as well as a solid defender while in the field. Bryant took time out of his busy schedule to answer these Spotlight questions.

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

Bryant Powers: My name is Bryant Powers and I am 17 years old. I am a junior at Fairview High School and I have been playing sports since I was 5 years old.

JM: What sports do you participate in?

BP: I play football, baseball, and basketball.

JM: What is your favorite sport?

BP: My favorite sport to play is football. I feel like I'm on cloud nine every time I play.

The relationships that I have built from putting hard work into what I love on and off the field are unreal.

I also love playing against other great players who I also build a relationship with just due to mutual respect.

JM: Who has been your biggest inspiration?

BP: My biggest inspiration is for sure my Grandfather, Garry Powers. His love for sports has had a major impact on how I feel about sports.

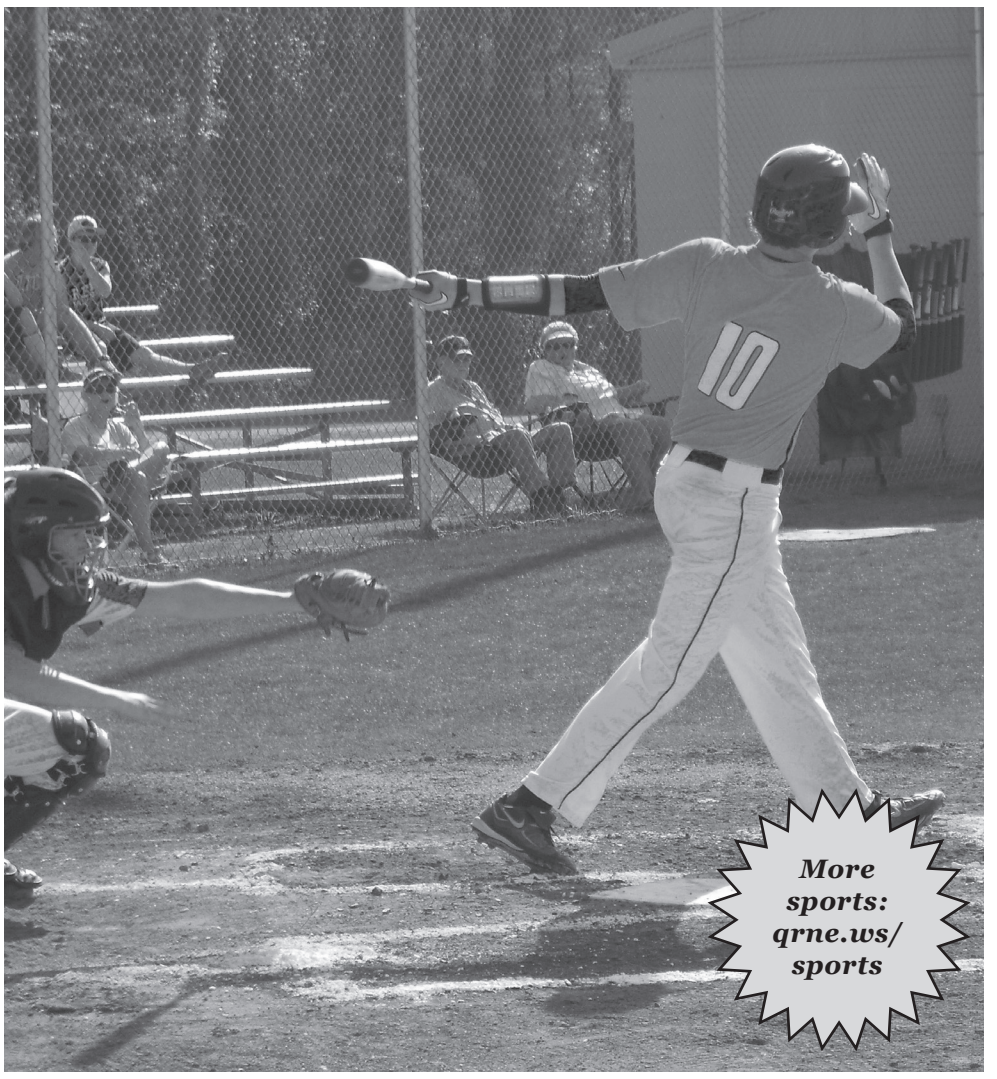
I wouldn't be the same without him and even if he isn't here anymore I know that spiritually he will be with me through anything.

JM: What has been your greatest accomplishment in sports?

BP: My greatest accomplishment in sports, I feel, is the friendships that I have built and the feeling that I get after winning a game and making a great play, but not for myself, but my teammates.

I came across a quote the other day that I feel goes right along with accomplishments:

"If what you did yesterday seems big, then you haven't done anything today." -Lou Holtz.



Bo Knows Bikes

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

Hypothetical question: You have won the prestigious Heisman Trophy and are the only player in history to be named the Most Valuable Player in both the MLB All-Star Game and the NFL Pro Bowl and you want to raise money for charity. What do you do?

Well if you are Bo Jackson you grab a bicycle and helmet and you start riding…300 miles to be exact.

Mr. Jackson will kick off his 300 mile trek on Tuesday, April 24th and conclude his journey on Saturday April 28th.

He hopes to raise one million dollars that will be donated to the Governor's Emergency Relief Fund.

He will be making various stops on his journey including one right here in Cullman on Wednesday April 25th at Hibbett Sports.

Jackson will be signing autographs, but space is very limited as Hibbett will be giving out only 100 tickets that guarantee you a spot in line.

Bo will only be signing merchandise related to "Bo Bikes Bama." Hibbett will have a selection of merchandise on hand for purchase including shirts and posters.

Limited spots are available to ride along with Mr. Jackson, including his ride from Cullman to Jasper, on various legs of his bike tour.

These spots can be purchased for a $200 tax-deductible donation. Registration is required.

For further information on riding with Bo, visit www.bobikesbama.com.

There will also be a ride that is open to the public when the tour concludes in Tuscaloosa.

This will start at Coleman Coliseum on the campus of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and conclude at the Tuscaloosa Amphitheater.

It will take place on Saturday, April 28th. The distance of the ride is 3.6 miles. Riders are urged to arrive no later than 2:30 p.m.

To end the event, there will also be a "Finish Line Celebration" at the Tuscaloosa Amphitheater after the public bike ride.

The event will run from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. and will be highlighted with a silent auction offering signed memorabilia that is up for bids.

Some of the athletes who donated signed memorabilia are: Bo Jackson, Cam Newton, Nick Saban, and Lance Armstrong.

Season parking passes for both Auburn and Alabama football as well as tickets will also be auctioned off.

Barbeque and concessions will also be available for purchase.

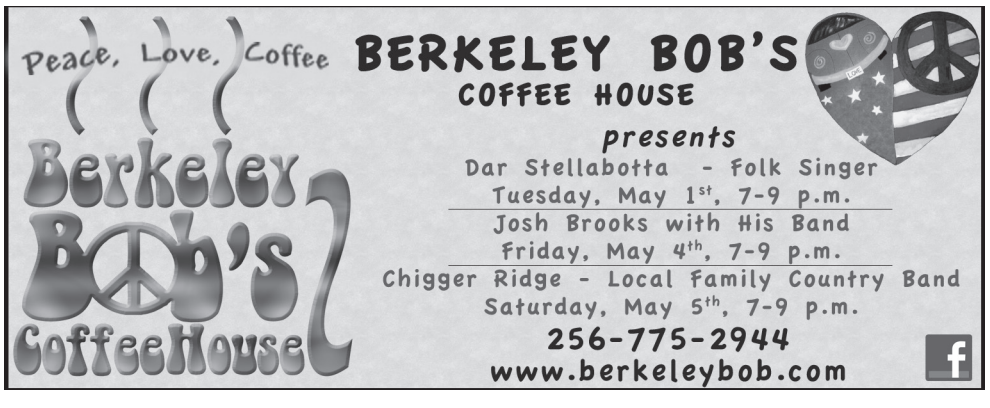
Please come out and support this worthy cause that has affected so many lives, including those right here in Cullman.

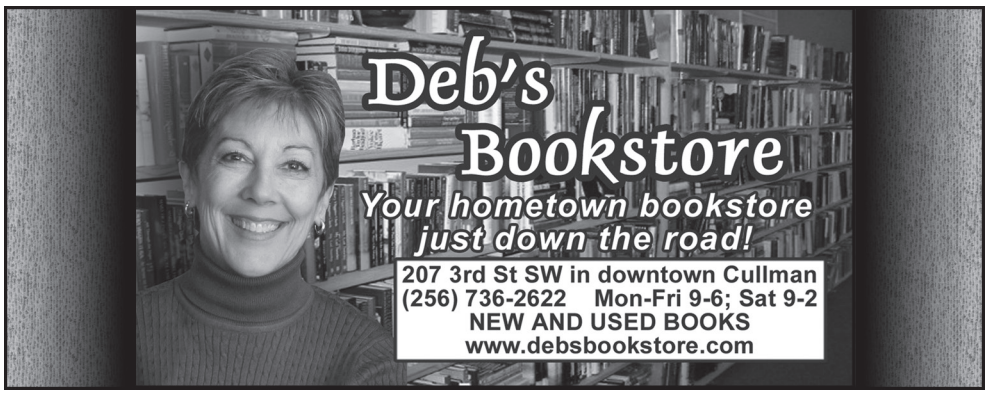
Stay tuned to **cullmansense.com** for more coverage on this great event.

> "The reason for this ride is for state unity and to pay homage to the great Alabamians who lost their lives on April 27th, 2011. I am my brothers' and sisters' keeper."
>
> -Bo Jackson









In Brief

EvaBank Welcomes New Loan Officer to Cullman Branch

By: Karen Foster
Contributor

CULLMAN – EvaBank recently welcomed Mr. Kerry Neighbors, to the Cullman, Alabama branch. In this new position, Neighbors will serve as a loan officer in the Cherokee branch on highway 69 in Cullman. He will assist EvaBank customers with any type loan like new home and refinance loans, auto, manufactured home, commercial, and land only investments.

Mr. Neighbors comes to EvaBank with 10 years real estate experience, and served on the 2011 Cullman Association of Realtors. He is also a graduate of the 2007 AAR Leadership Class.

A native of Good Hope, Alabama and a graduate of Good Hope High School, Mr. Neighbors is an active member of the Good Hope community. He has served on the Park Board for 6 years and is currently serving on the Planning Commission.

He and his wife Angela, who works as a nurse, have three children. Stop in today and welcome Kerry to our neighborhood.



Local Law Enforcement and Pilot Club of Cullman Working Together

By: Darla West
Contributor

Officers and staff from the Cullman County Sheriff's Department recently completed specialized training on new equipment built to quickly find adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer's Disease, autism, dementia, Down Syndrome, and other related cognitive conditions.

Pilot Club of Cullman works hand-in-hand with the Cullman County Sheriff's Department and the Cullman Police Department to fund, promote, and maintain the Project Lifesaver Program in the Cullman County area.

This program features specialized equipment for law-enforcement officers and for area residents suffering from a cognitive condition who enroll with local law-enforcement for their safety and well-being.

Updated equipment for this rapid search response system, as well as certification training at the national training center in Virginia, were provided earlier this year as a result of a financial gift from Pilot Club of Cullman.



Pilot Club of Cullman, which hosts fundraising events throughout the year to fund special needs like Project Lifesaver, announces its 20th Annual Administrative Professionals' Day Luncheon and Fashion Show on Wednesday, April 25 at Cullman's McGukin Civic Center.

This year's fashion show will feature Miss Alabama 2011, Courtney Porter, as mistress of ceremonies. The doors open at 11:00 a.m. to allow browsing with participating vendors, and the event ends promptly at 1:00 p.m.



Participating companies will not only support local Pilot Club service projects, but will also give their employees an opportunity to learn more about the reigning Miss Alabama, whose platform is mentoring at-risk students through the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

Attendees will be treated to a picnic lunch provided by Sweet Peppers Deli. With its casual-wear picnic theme, this year's fashion show promises to showcase some of the best spring and summer fashions from Cullman-area merchants.

Just a few of the merchants already confirmed are Belk, Cato, Doncaster, JC Penney, Just for Looks, Maurice's, TJ Maxx, and Werner's Trading Company. Advance ticket purchase is required due to limited seating.

Tickets are $20 and can be purchased at the Civic Center, Colonel Cullmann Museum, or by contacting Carole Garrett at (256) 734-5536.

For additional ticket information, visit the Pilot website at www.pilotclubofcullman.com or find us on Facebook.

Cullman Housing Authority Honors Folsom and Hodges

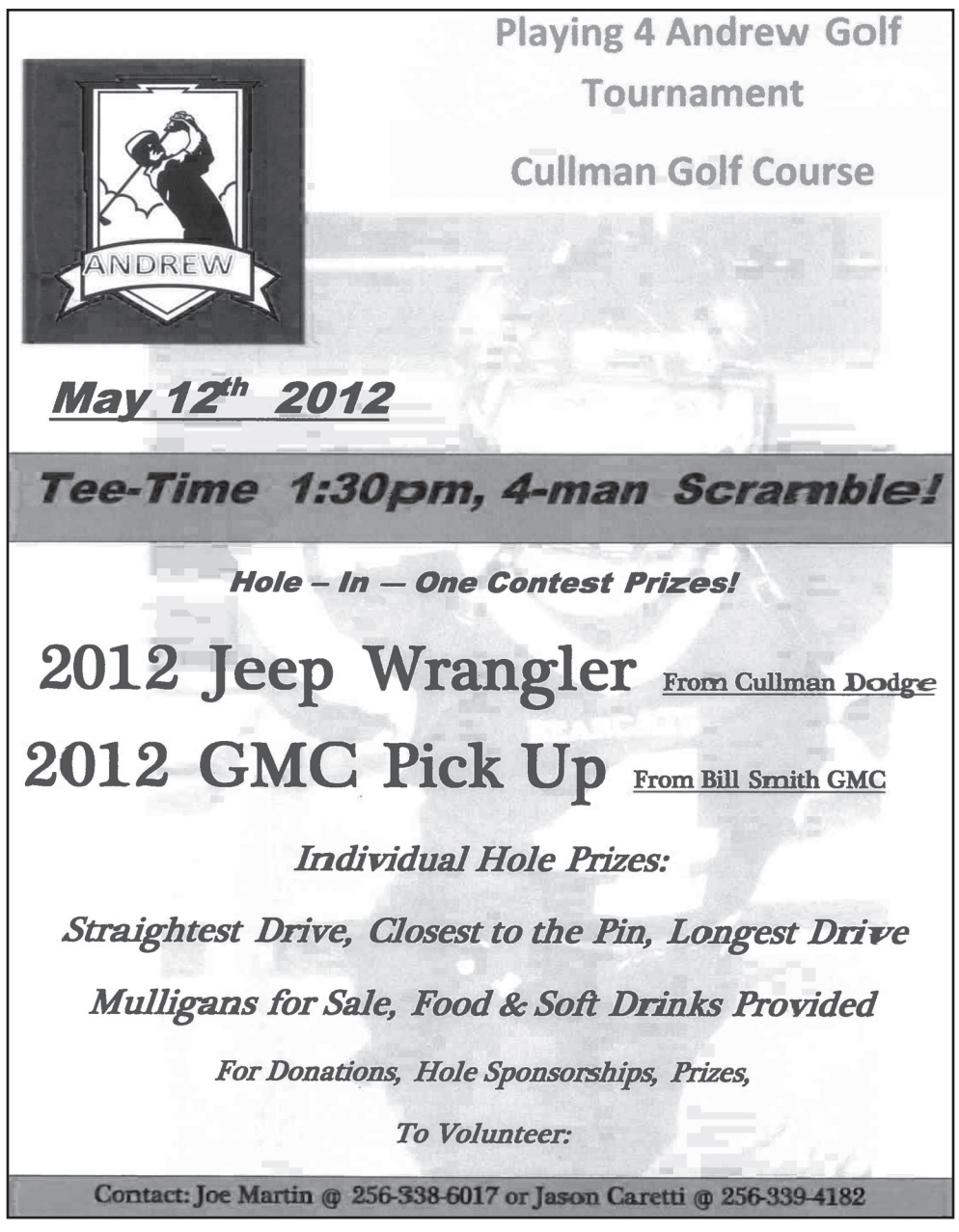


Photo by Tim Hermetz

The Cullman Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and CHA Executive Director Steve Sides, pictured right, recently honored former commissioners and vice chairmen of the board, Thelma E. "Scrappy" Folsom, pictured center, and Gregg Hodges, not pictured, "for their many years of diligent work, wisdom and leadership serving Cullman with honor and distinction."

Commissioners Folsom and Hodges served nine and eight years respectively, helping obtain $7 million dollars in grants to improve the City of Cullman's housing program.

CHA Board Chairman Rickey Kreps, left, presents a framed resolution to Folsom, center, as Sides assists at the March 13 board meeting.







Community Matters

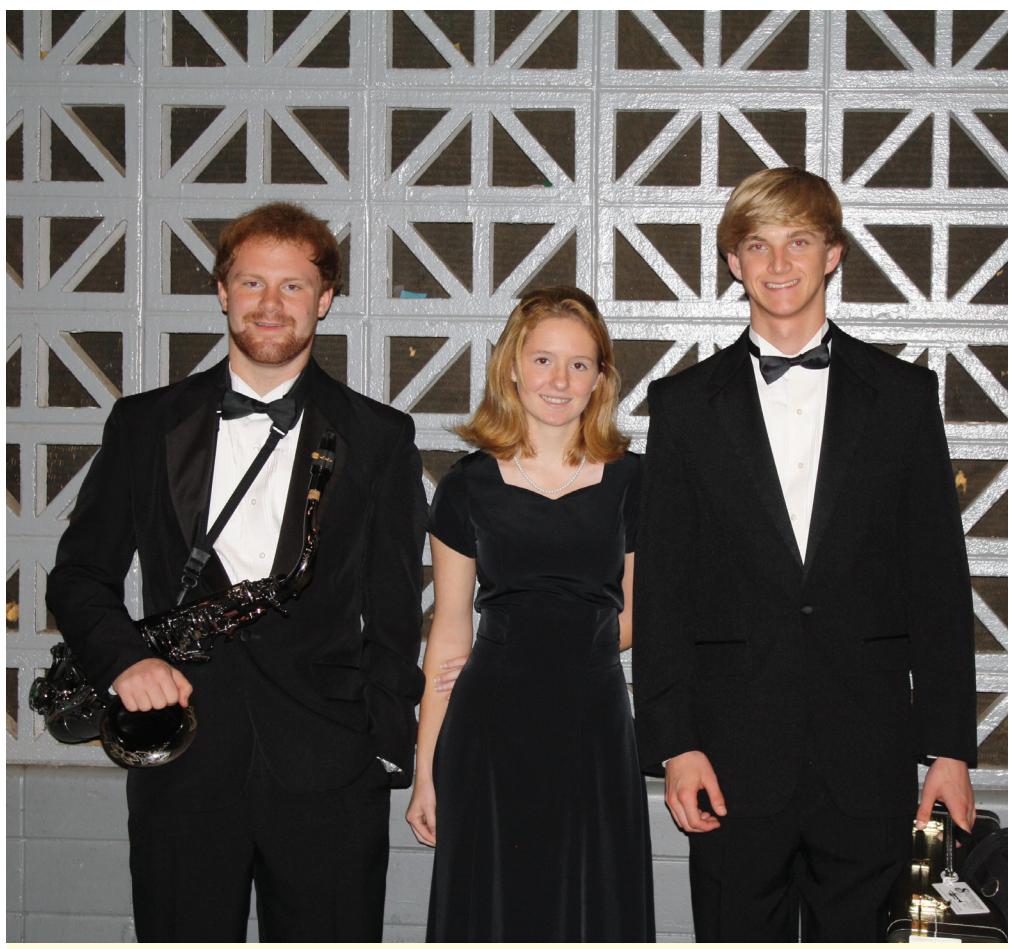
Cullman High School Students Perform with Alabama All-State Bands

By: Audrey Parker
Contributor

CULLMAN - Three members of the senior class at Cullman High School performed with the Alabama All-State Bands in Mobile on April 14, 2012. Thad Walker, Staci Ayers, and William Parker are among those talented students who are in the top 5% of all high school instrumentalists in the state. The trio has spent many hours practicing prior to auditions for the All-State Bands.

Out of the hundreds who audition only a select few are chosen to be in the All-State Bands. The Alabama Bandmasters Association selects clinicians to direct the bands. Those clinicians chosen are renowned throughout the United States in the field of music for their accomplishments.

The students performed college and professional level music, which most high schools are unable to attempt due to the difficulty level of the music. It is one of the most prestigious, challenging, and highest honors for a high school musician to be selected as a member of an All-State Band. Walker, Ayers and Parker are under the current direction of Christopher Smith and Casey Clark.



The students who performed include from left to right Thad Walker, Staci Ayers, and William Parker.

Alabama Stay-Cations (Cont.)

Across from the information desk is an elevator that will take you to the top-most floor where you will begin your self-guided tour. The museum is divided into various "cultures" that showcase works from particular regions of the world. They include African, American, Asian, European, European Decorative, Native American, Pre-Columbian, Modern, and Contemporary Art forms.

As you begin your journey through the Asian-themed rooms you are greeted with several statues of Buddha, in various likenesses, and a stone carving entitled "The Birth of Buddha." Also kept here are ornate carved decanters of all sorts, along with carved statues and porcelain figurines. Encased in large glass displays you will find examples of samurai warrior battle garb, complete with frightening facemasks and weapons such as what appears to be a naginata, a traditional pole weapon.



Lined upon the walls are examples of ceremonial daggers, along with other items that were used to trade or were acquired in trade. Delicate vases, paintings, and drawings also adorn the walls of these Asian-style rooms. As you exit the last room you are greeted with a two-stone carving of what appears to be lions with eerily human faces that look to be standing guard over the treasures of their ancestors.

Moving along in your self-guided tour you will find the European collection that features some of the finest artwork to ever come out of the European countries. In this room you will find a wide variety of porcelain carvings and sculptures. I found a lamp that looks as if it was straight out of the fable of Aladdin. The vases displayed are beautifully painted with delicately drawn imagery. Wafer-thin pieces of carved porcelain were affixed to a colored background to make them and the vase appear as if they were one piece.



Once you leave the European collection be sure to stop by the Pre-Columbian section. Pre-Columbian refers to the time before Christopher Columbus arrived in the Americas and, therefore, the Pre-Columbian artwork comes from a time before European influence.

The artwork here comes primarily from ancient Mexico, Peru, Panama, Ecuador, Columbia, and Nicaragua. In this area of the museum you will see ceremonial daggers and knives, faces made from paper-thin sheets of gold, and ornate clay pots that were molded into the shapes of animals. Ceremonial face masks can also be seen here along with an ancient Egyptian sarcophagus. These are some of the most mesmerizing artifacts on display at the Birmingham Museum of Art. It takes you back to a more primitive and superstitious way of life.



Continuing on, you will find the Native American section. This collection is relatively small, but the artifacts here are truly remarkable. A full-length headdress worn by a Native American chief resides here and its beauty is overwhelming. Masks, both human and animal, are also on display in this section of the museum. Faces of the revered Thunderbirds can be seen throughout the display pieces as well as a life-sized totem pole.



As you conclude your tour you will find the last section of the Birmingham Museum of Art to be full of masterworks on canvas and finely crafted household items such as dinnerware and liquid decanters.

Among some of the most beautiful paintings are those depicting Jesus Christ at various times in his life here on Earth, from the baby Jesus sitting in his mother Mary's lap, to his baptism and crucifixion. A golden crucifix is also on display here as well as several statues and paintings of Apostles and Saints. This is a great way to end your personal tour of world art throughout history.

The Birmingham Museum of Art is located at 2000 Reverend Abraham Woods Junior Boulevard. It is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except for major holidays. The first Thursday of every month the museum is open until 9 p.m.



General admission is free to the public. For more information visit their website at artsbma.org.



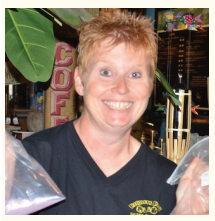


Lifestyle

Passion for the Kitchen

Send your recipes to recipes@cullmansense.com

By: Annette Harris
annetteharris@cullmansense.com



qrne.ws/aharris



Photos by Annette Harris

Warm Fuzzies

I don't know what made me think of this memory, but I started thinking about my grandmother Harden. "Granny" is what we called her. She could cook anything and it was delicious. I guess that's where my mother gets her cooking skills too.

I remember sometimes we went to her house after church. We all lived within about 3 blocks of each other and the church we went to was a block from her house. I always got excited about going to her house and never realized exactly why until I became an adult.

When you are a kid, you don't care about the good food someone cooks. You know that when you get there you eat, but that's not priority. Priority is playing or digging into something in Papa's garage or what's under the bricks in the back yard, etc. At least that's what I thought about.

I remember Granny rushing in after church and putting on her apron. She still had on her dress and high heels from church and she always had on an apron. I guess I thought that was serious when you did that. I remember her house always smelling great, like pot roast.

Papa was right in there with Granny, fixing cornbread or stirring something…and he was really good at it too. They kind of worked together.

I remember pot roast with everything to go with it: potatoes, carrots, and mashed potatoes. I think the mashed potatoes were for us kids because we just weren't into real potatoes and carrots cut up. That was too much like real vegetables.

I think she made the mashed potatoes so we wouldn't get in trouble for refusing the other things. I always wondered how that food could cook the whole time we were at church and never burn.

In my opinion, the preacher was long winded and I was hungry and ready to get out of the dress that I was made to wear, along with uncomfortable shoes…the black paten leather kind that grown ups used to take a biscuit and shine them with it. Weird. I would just about die with every extra verse of "Just As I Am" and another "Come on to the Alter," just wanting to get out of those scratchy clothes and wear something I could get dirty in. FINALLY I got to leave and run to Granny's to eat lunch.

I don't know why my mom wouldn't let me take clothes to change into, (I guess she thought it wouldn't hurt me to wear it long enough to eat) but I got smart and decided to start wearing shorts under my dresses so I didn't have to sit "like a lady" since I was wearing a dress. I think my mother just gave up after that.

Getting back to why I got excited about going to Papa and Granny's house…it had nothing to do with the food. It was about family. No matter how small their house was, no matter how many unexpected guests showed up or family, they invited them in. They didn't have much when it came to material things, but they always shared it.

There was always enough. You were accepted there. You got that warm fuzzy feeling. It is kind of like the story in the Bible where all those people were fed from 5 loaves of bread and two fish after Jesus held them up to heaven. I don't know how, but there was always enough. Papa and Granny loved Jesus. I guess it was kind of the same thing.

Papa's Corn Bread

Again, Papa could make something and as hard as I try, I can't get it to taste exactly like he made it, but it was close. He always used an iron skillet and I think that's probably part of the secret.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups self-rising flour
- 1 cup self rising, white corn meal
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 2 eggs
- 1-teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ cup vegetable oil

Directions:

1. FIRST, preheat your oven to 500 degrees. Put the iron skillet in the oven with the oil in it.
2. While this is preheating, mix together the dry ingredients, and then add in the liquid and eggs.
3. When the oven is preheated, carefully pour the heated oil in the cornmeal mixture and stir together.
4. Pour everything into the hot skillet and put in the oven for about 15 minutes. It's hard for me to put a time on this because I can smell when it's done. I know that sounds weird, but you will see what I'm talking about if you make it enough.
5. You want it to be golden brown. If it's not quite ready, put it back in the oven for another 3-5 minutes.
6. When done, immediately turn onto a plate. It should pop right out of the skillet. If it doesn't, eat it anyway!

I can't put the butter on it fast enough. YUM!

Salmon Patties

Ok, so when I say the word "salmon" I am always thinking there is a controversy about how it's supposed to be pronounced. I don't care if it's not proper to call it SAL MON, that's how I say it. Its not spelled "Sammon," like some of you proper people say it.I don't claim to be proper, so I think calling it sal mon is just fine. Got to have a little fun.

My Papa used to make these for me and as hard as I try, I still don't make them as good as his. I guess it was just the love he put in them.

This recipe makes 4 large or 6 medium patties.

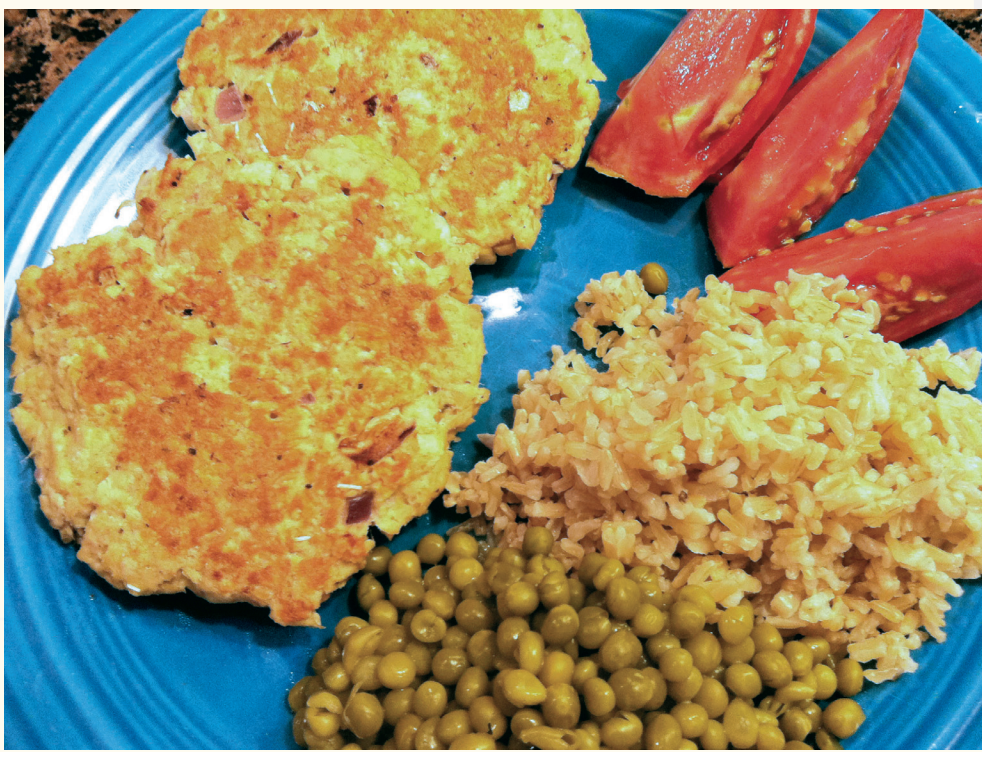
Ingredients:

- 1-can any brand salmon
- 1-egg, beaten
- 1-teaspoon lemon juice
- 10-12 crushed Ritz crackers
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1-medium chopped white or yellow onion

Directions:

1. Drain the juice from the salmon and set aside.
2. Remove the obvious bones such as the vertebrae, etc. and remove the skin. (Why do I eat this? It sounds awful so far.)
3. Using a fork, mash the salmon until there are no large pieces.
4. Mix in the beaten egg, salt, pepper, onion, lemon juice, and the juice left over from the salmon.
5. Add in the crushed Ritz crackers. *You may need to add in more if it's too soggy.
6. Using an iron skillet, heat it to medium high heat and melt a couple of tablespoons of butter.
7. Form patties any size you want and cook them about 3 minutes on each side.

Easy, quick and delicious!



Mirroring History

Exploring Historic Downtown Cullman



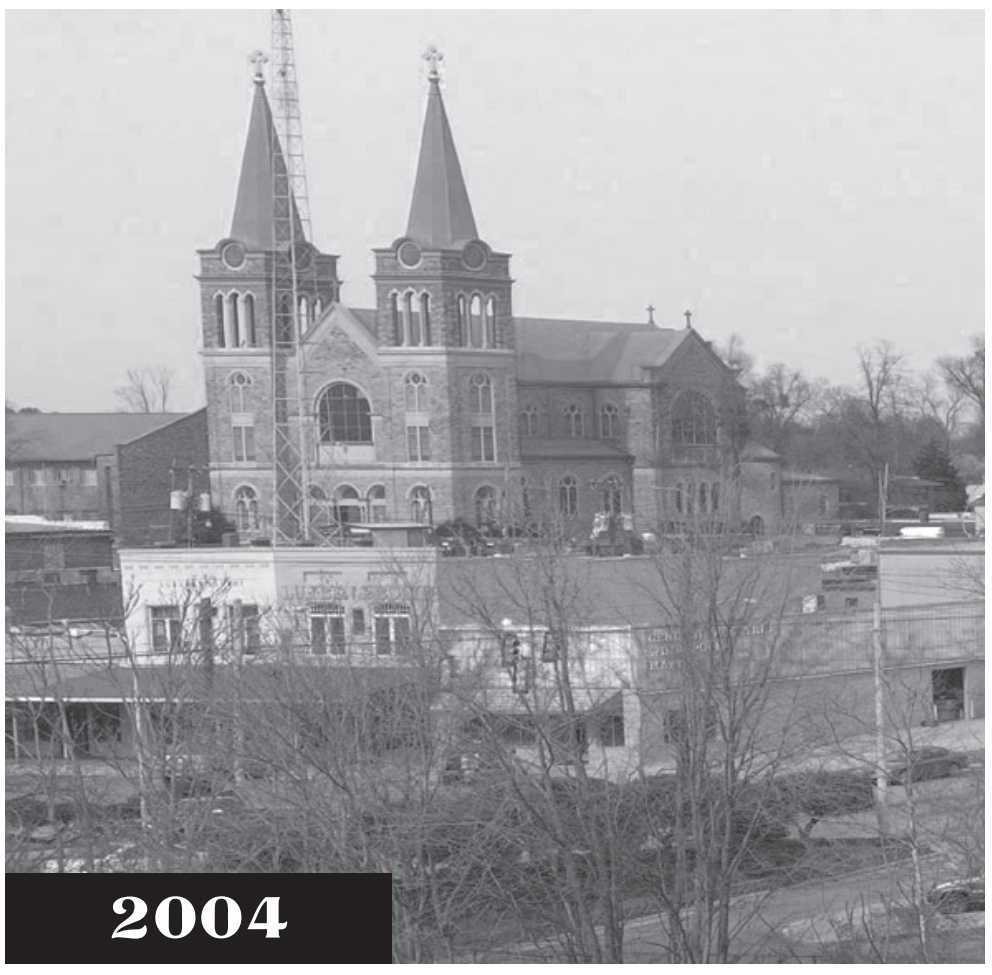
2004

Contributed by Julie Burke

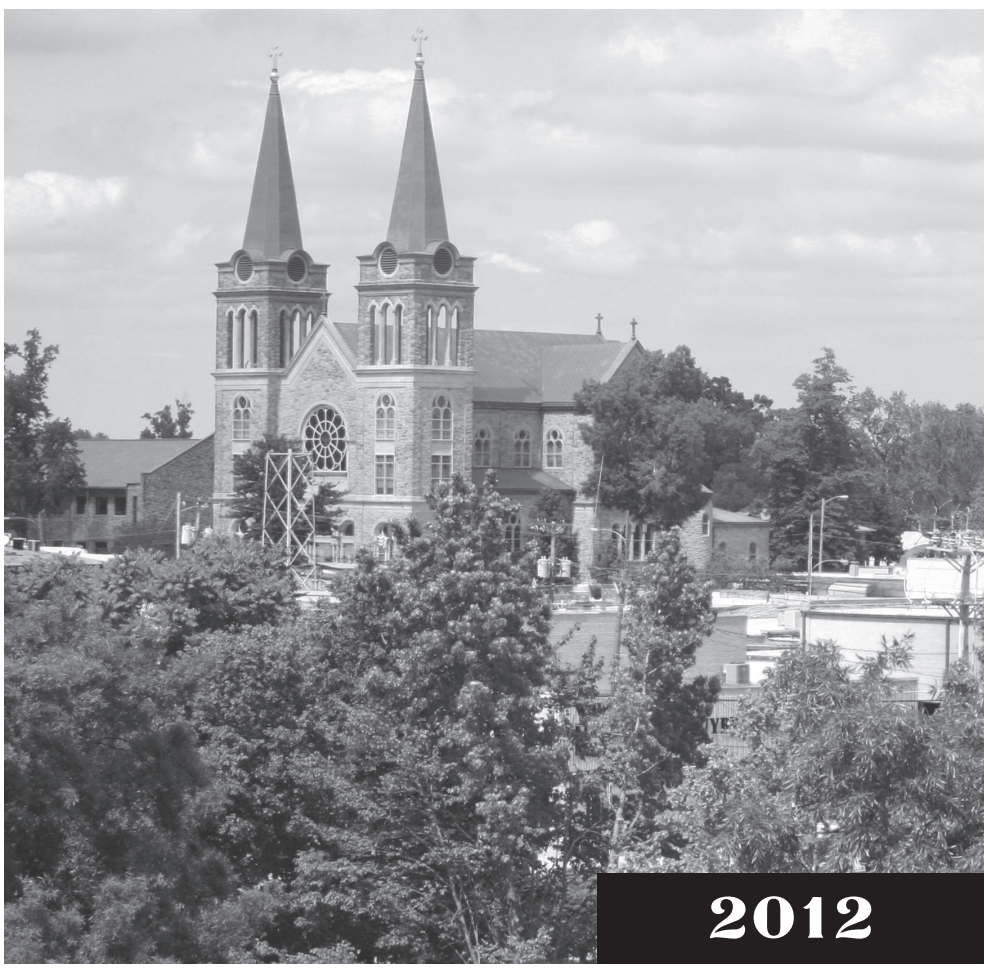


2012

Photo by Jessica Norrell



2004



2012



2004



2012

Local Events Calendar

Send your Events to: calendar@cullmansense.com

Monday, April 23rd

Bosom Buddies Support Group
Join in as the Bosom Buddies Support Group offers encouragement and support to individuals affected by Breast Cancer. This meeting, open to everyone, is held in the Ave Maria Room of CRMC's POB II building and will begin at 6 p.m. Kay Parker Phillips, CRNP with Cullman Gastroenterology Associates, will discuss the topic of Colon Cancer and the importance of screening tests. Mary Dyer is group coordinator and she can be reached at 256-734-8729.

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.

Yoga Classes at Sacred Heart Monastery
Yoga classes are held each Monday evening through May 21, beginning at 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Yoga classes are open to all interested and will take place at the Sacred Heart Monastery. Sr. Mary McGehee has additional information at 256-736-5820. The cost is $50.00 for each 6-week session.

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 that 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!

Tuesday, April 24th

Farmers Market at Festhalle
The Cullman Farmers Market at the Festhalle Market Platz is open for spring. The Market opens every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Come see what our local farmers and growers have in store for you from week to week.

Author Forum with Michael Vigilant
There will be an 'Author Forum' at 9:30 am with Michael Vigilant (playwright, 'Bear Country') as part of Wallace State Community College's Arts in April. Vigilant serves as Chief Operating Officer of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and he will read from and have open discussion with his audience concerning his book.

The theme of his biographical drama about Alabama Coach Paul 'Bear' Bryant follows the 'Bear' through the different phases of his life from his youthful days to his role as Coach of the Alabama football team and develops his interaction with those who affected his life in various ways. This event, which is free, is sponsored by the Wallace State English Department and is open to everyone

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, extension 23.

Ladies' Auxiliary VFW Dance at Post 2214
The Ladies' Auxiliary of VFW Post 2214 invites the community to their weekly Tuesday night dances at the VFW Post building. The country line dance starts at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, with admission only $5.00 per person. Concessions are available and all proceeds benefit the Auxiliary's local projects.

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, April 25th

Picnic on 5th
Pilot Club of Cullman announces its 20th Annual Administrative Professionals' Day Luncheon and Fashion Show. This year's event, titled Picnic on 5th, will be held at the McGukin Civic Center in Cullman and features Miss Alabama 2011, Courtney Porter, as mistress of ceremonies.

Doors open at 11 a.m. so participants can browse through the many vendors booths. The event will end at 1 p.m. promptly so employees can return to their jobs on time! Advance ticket purchase is required due to limited seating. Picnic on 5th tickets are $20 and can be purchased from any Pilot member or by contacting Carole Garrett at (256) 734-5536.

Free Community Meal at Living Waters Ministries
A free community meal is offered each Wednesday night at Living Water Ministries beginning at 5 p.m. Living Water is located in the East Park Plaza on the left side of Highway 278 just past the entrance to St. Bernard Monastery.

Everyone is welcome to attend these Wednesday night gatherings. Further information can be obtained by calling James Moore, 256-338-9145. Donations also are gratefully accepted.

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!

Thursday, April 26th

Elks Lodge Buffet Lunch
Come join the Cullman Elks Lodge members as they fire up the ovens and open their doors to the public for their weekly lunch buffet at the Lodge Home. The cost is $8.00 per person, which includes two meats and veggies, plus tea. Everyone is invited to enjoy the fellowship and delicious meals each Thursday from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Musical Recital Concludes Wallace State's Arts in April Celebration
Wallace State Community Colleges closes its annual Arts in April celebration with a musical recital today featuring Mezzo Soprano Jessica Johnson and Pianist Kseniia Polstiankina at 12:15 p.m. Held in the Burrow Center Recital Hall, this event is sponsored by the Wallace State Music and Humanities Departments.

This program is free and is open to all. Come enjoy some truly beautiful music and help close out this fantastic month of activities which has been sponsored by our local Wallace State Community College.

2012 Cullman County Senior Spelling Bee
The 2012 Annual Cullman County Senior Spelling Bee competition takes place today beginning at 1 p.m. at the Cullman Senior Center on Sportsman Lake Road. This activity is open to any residents of Cullman County 60 years of age and older.

The winner of this event will represent Cullman County seniors in the National Senior Spelling Bee which takes place in Cheyenne, Wyoming next August. So dust off your 'ol spelling books from long ago and call the Senior Center for additional information and to register if you would like the chance to take to the spelling stage once again --- 256-734-1241. The winner of Cullman's Senior Spelling Bee will receive a five day free trip to the National AARP competition in Wyoming in August!

Autism Spirit Night at Yogurt Mountain
Chick-fil-A and Yogurt Mountain are donating a portion of their receipts during the hours of 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. tonight to the local Autism Networking Group and autism Society of Alabama, so come on out and eat a great dinner followed with sweet desserts and help one of our local charities at the same time!

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 a.m. in the same place. Meetings are open to everyone interested.

Friday, April 27th

4th Friday Luncheon=
Area businesses are invited to attend the monthly 4th Friday Luncheon sponsored by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's Community Improvement Committee and this month, by The Foundry.

The event is held in the 3rd floor banquet hall at the All Steak Restaurant starting at 11:30 a.m. This opening time gives attendees a chance to meet fellow businessmen and women in a relaxed atmosphere before the lunch which starts at 11:50 a.m.

This month's presentation will focus on "Going Green and Making it Pay', a program on recycling and conservation. Cost for the lunch is $10.00 per member and $20.00 for 'future' Chamber members. To make reservations and to learn more about this event, please contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or info@cullmanchamber.org.

Friday Night Dance at the VFW
Cullman's VFW Post 2214 invites everyone to come to their weekly Friday night dances at the VFW Hall from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. The cost is $5.00 per person and music by the Golden Oldies and Country with the Midnight Highway Band will be filling the air. Funds raised go toward the building rental. Get your dancing shoes on and come out for a great evening of fun and entertainment tonight!

Saturday, April 28th

Crane Hill Community Celebration
Crane Hill Volunteer Fire & EMS invites everyone to come to Dowling Memorial Park from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. for a Community Celebration! There will be free entertainment with music and activities for all ages. Free food, too...all you have to do is come out and help us celebrate 36 years of serving the Crane Hill community! For additional information or to sign up to perform during this event, please contact Terri Abbott at 256-338-5420 or Ron Burrow at 256-735-6136. Please come out and have a great time with some great folks!

April Walking Tour
Cullman has once again joined in the state-wide 'Walking Tour' program on each Saturday of April as area residents are invited to meet at the Cullman County Museum at 10 a.m. to take part in viewing the downtown area. Sponsored by the Alabama Tourism Department,

Cullman's walking tours this year will be somewhat different than in years past, due to the destruction of the April 27th tornado last year. This event will help show how far the community has come in rebuilding in the stricken areas, while offering a chance to view those sections of the Cullman community that were not touched.

Come spend an enjoyable Saturday springtime morning and walk the streets of our lovely community with fellow friends

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.

VFW Saturday Night Dance
The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2214 invites everyone to their weekly Saturday night dances which begin at 7 p.m. and last until 10 p.m.

The Boogie Night Band provides music on Saturday nights. Entrance fee is $5.00 for each individual. Come on out and bring your dancing shoes and enjoy an evening of great music, fun and fellowship!

Sunday, April 29th

Barbecue Lunch at Life Church in Hanceville
Everyone is invited to a Barbecue Lunch at Life Church in Hanceville. Menu for the day will be barbecue chicken or pork, or hot dog for children; bread, choice of two sides which include cole slaw, potato salad, macaroni and cheese, ranch or green beans, and drink, all for $10.00 a plate.

Guests may make use of take-out plates or may dine in the building. All funds raised through this project will go toward their efforts to build a church in the jungles of Peru. Come on out and get a fabulous meal for lunch and help support the efforts of this congregation as they seek to bring the word of God to the natives of Peru!

Financial Freedom
Financial freedom classes, based on Dave Ramsey's 'Financial Peace and Total Money Makeover' will be taught at Hanceville First United Methodist Church in Hanceville beginning at 2:30 p.m. Classes are free to the public, but reservations to be part of the class MUST be made prior to April 15th.

Further information and reservations may be made by contacting Tonia Beverly at 256-531-3083 or through her email at tonia.c.beverly@gmail.com. These classes have proven to be beneficial and everyone is welcome to take part during these educational sessions.

Looking Ahead

Cullman Area Pediatric Diabetic Support Group
The Cullman Area Pediatric Diabetic Support Group will meet April 28th at Spirit Life Church of God from 2 – 4 p.m. There will games for children, fellowship for parents, and snacks for everyone. Help us pick a cool name for our new group. For more information contact Tammy Cornelius at 256-708-8030, Luanne Reid at 256-297-6201, or Beth Brock at 256-352-5051.

Spring Bluegrass Festival
Come out to the Spring Bluegrass Fest at Horse Pens 40 on May 18, 19, and 20. Featuring Cottonmouth Creek, Newgrass Troubadours, Camp Meeting, Blackrock Station, Angela McKinney, PamThrower and Shine, Azalea Ridge. There will be an arts and crafts show on Saturday as well. For more information visit hp40.com.

CHS Class of 2002 10-year Reunion
Cullman High School Class of 2002 will have its 10-year class reunion Saturday, May 5. Go to http://www.cullmanhs2002.com to register and for more information. Also visit the Facebook page-Cullman High School Class of 2002 Reunion.

Cullman AYSO Soccer Registration
Registration for Cullman AYSO soccer will be held on May 5th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for $70. A birth certificate is required for ALL players. For more information visit www.cullmanayso.org or call 256-297-1731.

10th Annual Hanceville Varsity Cheerleader Yard Sale
On Saturday May 26, beginning at 7:00 a.m. in front of Hanceville High School the Hanceville Varsity Cheerleaders will hold their 10th annual yard sale. Proceeds will benefit the Varsity Cheerleaders. There will also be a car show at the school on that day to benefit the school's cross country team.

PUZZLES, COMICS, AND JOKES

THIS WEEK'S WORD SEARCH TOPIC IS: CONCERTS

BY: DUSTIN ISOM

Complete this week's word search for your shot at two large 2 topping pizzas from Papa John's of Cullman. Send your entry to CullmanSense, 101 1st Avenue Northeast, Suite 230, Cullman, AL 35055.

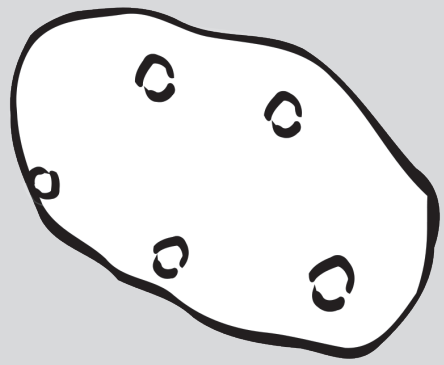
P P Q A U I O X K W K F A P M J K H I O S C M V Z D P B L Y
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I S V M A Q H S C T Q I J H V U K S M P Y W L I L H J M O Y

applause, artist, cameras, cheers, concert, contract, drums
equipment, excitement, fans, friends, guitars, harmony, lights
loud, loud speaker, lyrics, music, performance, piano, production
promotion, rhythm, stage, talent, tickets, tour bus, venue

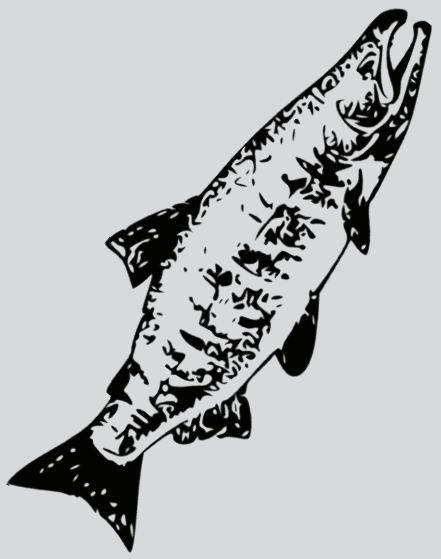
GETTING CORNY

Send your jokes to:
jokes@cullmansense.com

1. How did the cheese know the potato?



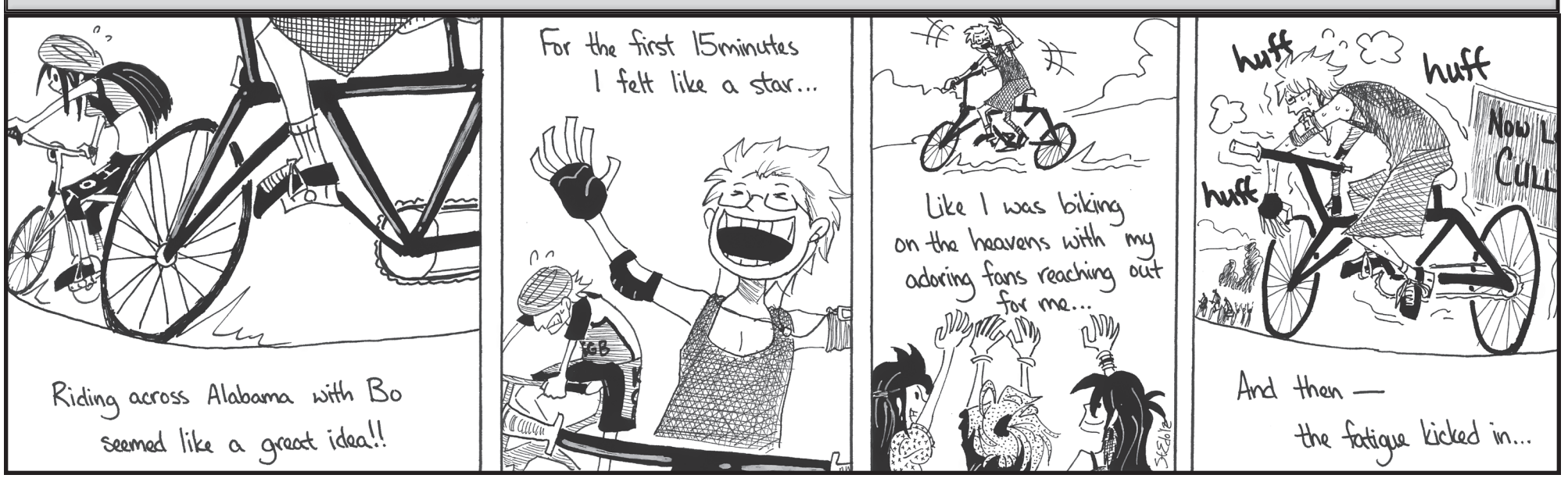
2. Why didn't the salmon want to go to the grocery store?



YouTube Broadcast Yourself™
Tune in to our YouTube Channel
YouTube.com/CullmanSense

1. He was a chip off the old block. 2. He was a fish out of water.

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



Community Matters

Ready to Rock: Rock the South on Friday

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – With just under a week before country music stars Kellie Pickler, Dierks Bentley, Brent Cobb, and Jon Pardi take to the stage, event organizers with the inaugural Rock the South concert are pleased with the progress made since the announcement some six weeks back.

Leah Bolin, Rock the South Marketing Director, said that the City of Cullman had its work cut out organizing the event. On Wednesday the setup phase will begin at Heritage Park.

"We will have the stage crew here this week, setting up Wednesday, making sure we are ready to rock on Friday," Bolin said. "So far we are right on target. We aren't behind, nor are we ahead, but we are right on target, especially with this being the first year for this event."

One big issue that most residents have been asking is, "What about parking?" Bolin assures that the parking situation is well under control. She said this is one detail the CP&R and City of Cullman have taken extremely serious. "I can say we definitely have parking under control," she said laughing. "I am more than confident in the work that has been put into securing parking places. Parking will be available at Heritage Park, Lowe's, and the old Wal-Mart, which we will be running shuttles to and from these locations. And parking is free!"

A few do's and don'ts are inevitable whenever a big event takes place, with Rock the South being no exception. Bolin said concert goers need to be aware that security will have a heavy presence during the duration of the event.

"As with other big events, we will have security that will be checking to make sure items not allowed don't make it into the concert area," she said. "All you need to bring is yourself and a chair or blanket. Everything else we will have on hand. There will be plenty of concessions, vendors, and plenty of activities for the children."

Those pint-sized concert goers will have their own special area in the Nesquik Kid's Zone. Bolin said this feature is a way to provide something for everyone, not just a musical experience.

"We will have the Nesquik Bunny, blowup slides, and plenty of fun activities for the kids," she said. "Of course this area is not a designated day-care center. Parents are not allowed to drop-off their children. All children must be accompanied by an adult, but the kid's zone is completely free."

On hand, signing autographs, representing the University of Alabama will be Tyrone Prothro, Antonio Langham, Derrick Lassic, David Palmer, and Prince Wimbley. Players representing Auburn University have not yet been announced, but check with cullmansense.com later in the week for a complete listing of all players who will be attendance.

General admission tickets are currently on sale for $10 before the event and $15 the day of. Below are a few policies, pointers, directions and information you'll need to know to enjoy Rock the South to the fullest, care of rockthesouth.net.

Camera Policy:
Regular cameras are permitted at Rock the South. However, any video cameras, professional camera equipment (including tripods, cameras with removable lenses, etc) are not.

Photos must be taken from where ever you will be standing/sitting during the performances… no special passes will be issued.
Also, video-taping of an entire performance is prohibited. This is agreed upon by Rock the South and the performing artist to protect the artists' rights. Thank you for your cooperation.

Litter:
Please help keep the grounds clean by picking up any trash that you spot and deposit it in the nearest trash can. Please report any overflowing trash cans to the main office.

Paging:
Paging is not permitted except in extreme emergency. Contact the Emergency Management Headquarters for further assistance or information.

Smoking:
Smoking is not allowed in the public areas of the festival. If you need to smoke, please limit this to your own vehicle or off the festival grounds.

Merchandise:
Official Rock the South and Artist merchandise can be purchased in the vending area. These are very high quality items and can include several different styles of T-shirts, sweatshirts, golf shirts, hats, and more.

Toilets:
Portable toilet facilities are placed throughout the grounds. Please notify a staff member if they need servicing. We need everyone's cooperation in keeping these facilities as clean as possible. It only takes one careless person to make things really gross. Wheelchair accessible bathrooms are located in the concession building located in the center of the festival grounds.

Weather:
Emergency Management will be monitoring weather at all times. Please use your own common sense when protecting your family and yourself. Rock the South is a rain or shine event and will only be shut down in the case of extreme weather situations.

Fun for everyone.
Games for kids/youth.
Fellowship for parents.
Snacks for everyone.

Come help us pick a
COOL
name for our new group

Cullman Area
Pediatric Diabetic Support Group
April 28th
Spirit Life Church of God
1650 St. Joseph Drive NW
Cullman, Alabama
2-4 pm

For more info:
Tammy Cornelius, CRNP
256-708-8030
Luanne Reid, RN
256-297-6021
Beth Brock, RN
256-352-5051



HORSE PENS 40
SPRING BLUEGRASS FEST
MAY 18, 19, 20 2012
Featuring:
Cottonmouth Creek ◇ Newgrass Troubadours
Camp Meeting ◇ Blackrock Station ◇ Angela McKinney
PamThrower and Shine ◇ Azalea Ridge
>>>>>>>> ALSO FEATURING <<<<<<<<
Arts and craft show Saturday
All venders must call and reserve space
and more !!!
LINE UP SUBJECT TO CHANGE
FRI - 5PM TIL 9PM ◇ SAT -NOON TIL 9PM ◇ SUN - 9AM TIL 10AM DEVOTION
Day Pass - only $10 - Fri night ◇ $15 - Sat ◇ $10 Sun
Weekend Pass INCLUDES CAMPING -- only $35 !!
3 days/2 nights - Fri. - Sun. sundown - only $35 person !!
>>>> RV elec/water hookups — add $5.00 per RV per night <<<<
Age 12 and under FREE with adult !!
>>> ZERO TOLERANCE ON DRUGS AND ALCOHOL AT THIS EVENT! <<<
EVENT WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE !!
PERFORMANCES WILL BE HELD IN THE AMPHITHEATER IF WEATHER PERMITS.
IF RAINING, WE WILL USE THE COVERED PAVILION.
BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS ◇ JAMMERS WELCOME !!
BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY FOR SOME OLDE TYME MUSIC AND MEMORIES AT
HORSE PENS 40, "THE HOME OF THE SOUTHS' BLUEGRASS MUSIC"
>> COUNTRY STORE - RESTAURANT - VENDORS - CLEAN RESTROOMS <<
FOR VENDOR OR CABIN INFO: CALL ASHLEY AT 256-538-7439
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