SERIES 2, ISSUE 24 MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2012
CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS
50¢

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Passion for the Kitchen: Smoked BBQ Chicken & Corn Casserole Page 7
PLUS Mirroring History, Dodge City Days, Comic, Weather, Community Calendar, & More Look Inside

Every Drop Helps

By: Noah Chandler
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qrne.ws/nchandler

5th Annual John C. Hollingsworth Blood Drive Surpasses Goal



Photos by Josh McBrayer

The LifeSouth Blood Mobile was, once again, hard at work in Cullman this time for The 5th Annual John C. Hollingsworth Blood Drive. The drive is in memory of newborn John C. Hollingsworth.

Leslie Hollingsworth said the drive began as way to honor the memory of her son. She said John Clinton was born with a rare birth defect which prevented his diaphragm from fully forming.

"The memorial blood drive started 5 years ago after our son, John Clinton Hollingsworth went to Heaven. Kris Holmes, a dear friend of mine from Life South, approached us about the idea of a blood drive. I thought it was a fabulous idea and a great way to turn a tragedy and death into life for someone else," Hollingsworth said.

"Our son, John Clinton, was born with a rare birth defect called a diaphragmatic hernia where you are missing part of your diaphragm. Because he was missing part of his diaphragm his stomach, spleen, liver, and intestines came up into his chest cavity and crushed his lungs. The outward appearance of a child with a diaphragmatic hernia is perfect but the insides show different. This defect comes with a 50% survival rate. When he was 6 months old he contracted pneumonia and could fight no more."

The LifeSouth bus was set up in front of First Baptist Church across from the Cullman County Courthouse complete with the wind powered dancing man and a volunteer dressed as a blood drop waiving to the passing motorists. Hollingsworth went to work herself drawing in friends and family to make sure the drive reached its goal of 50 units.

"Our goal this year was to recruit 50 donors. I dropped by the Life South bus around 2:30 to see who all was giving and how the day was going and Kris told me we had 36. Thirty-six is a good number for a drive like this but that just wasn't enough," she said. "I began sending text out to all of my friends and let everyone know on Facebook how the day was going and that we needed 14 more. We made that goal and more with 58 total donors. That doesn't include the few that were turned away for various reasons. I for instance have been to Haiti this year dealing with our adoptions and was ineligible."

The blood drive commemorating John Clinton was Friday only but if you would like to donate blood, you will have many more opportunities. The fact that all blood collected in Cullman goes to help our friends, family, co-workers and neighbors right here in Cullman is a fantastic perk for donating blood to LifeSouth, especially knowing the range that LifeSouth covers.

"We have the bus here in Cullman about three

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Local Named as Interim President at Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce

By: Noah Chandler
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qrne.ws/nchandler

CULLMAN – With the news of Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Kirk Mancer officially resigning from his post as President, the Executive Board had to decide on an Interim President and none other than Cullman native, Leah Bolin, was selected to fill the void.

Bolin, best known for her work at Cullman Kid's Mart, has been an integral part of Cullman events for some time.

She began working as a Marketing Consultant, launching her own small business in December 2011, aptly named Southern Solutions.

She serves as consultant and specializes in Event Coordinating, Marketing, New Business Start Up, Concert Promotion, and Economic Development

Following the April 27th 2011 tornadoes, Cullman played host to the first large scale, community orientated event better known as Celebrate Cullman.

This event was spread out over more than 10 city blocks and featured more than a dozen musical acts –local and regional alike – and with its success Bolin was asked to help out with the city's first concert festival, Rock the South.

With multiple, successful events under her belt, Bolin met with the CACC Executive Board several times before the announcement was made official on Friday, June 8th by CACC Chair Charles R. NeSmith.

Bolin took time out on Sunday to answer a few questions about the new appointment as President of the CACC. For accuracy, complete questions and answers are below.

CullmanSense: When were you notified of the decision and what were you doing?

Leah Bolin: We had more than one meeting to discuss the job and the duties assigned to

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Photo Contributed

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Community Matters

Every Drop (Cont.)

or four days out of the week. The blood LifeSouth collects here in Cullman, stays in Cullman. We are your community blood bank," Dodson said.

"We operate in three states; Alabama, Georgia and Florida. We have been operating in Cullman for seven or eight years."

Hollingsworth urges everyone to donate blood that may be able to do so. She said the process is a quick one but is invaluable when it comes to the potential impact each donor can have. Seeing the benefit of first hand, Hollingsworth said that half hour it takes to donate could extend someone's life by weeks or years.

"Blood donation is possibly the easiest way to help save someone's life. We simply cannot live without it. Our son received blood transfusions throughout his entire life. He would have never had a chance at survival without blood donation. He would not have made it past day one," she said.

"We all look for ways to help our community or fellow man and in my opinion donating blood has to be one of the easiest and most important. It is not something we think about often but we should. Not only do you save the accident victim, cancer patient, or a person dealing with anemia. You also save someone's mother, father, aunt, uncle, friend, or child by giving up 30 minutes of our time. To me that is incredible, and the process is simple!"

Josh McBrayer contributed to this article.



A photograph of John C. Hollingsworth courtesy Leslie Hollingsworth.



Attention Readers:

CullmanSense is rapidly expanding and we are looking for a self-motivated, personable, and responsible individual that is interested in sales. E-mail your résumé to careers@cullmansense.com.







No(ah)-It-All: : Cat Stevens Ain't Got Nothin' on Us, Dad

By: Noah Chandler

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With Father's Day comes the traditional gifts of horrid ties, golf balls, or whatever else you buy your father for this trumped up money making commercialized day. This whole subject is foreign because I've never bought a gift for this day. Is it because holidays aren't important to me? Yes, but that's not the only reason. Simply put, it is because there was never a need to buy into this 'special' day.

For myself and a few others I know, this day is just a reminder of what we did not have growing up. My dad was a straight-up outlaw biker, unlike those cartoonish characters that television and movies try so hard to popularize. This meant life wasn't filled with camping trips or father-son adventures. Well, we did go on adventures, but those stories are locked deep in this man's mind, where they'll remain until I perish.

There were males in my life who tried to the fill the gaps, but let's just face facts: an uncle, minister, teacher; none of those could fill the gaps of my dad's absence. They all tried, but it just wasn't meant to be.

Whenever he was home he would bring a presence of oppression and burden into the home. His nonstop drinking combined with other chemical elements made for a difficult living situation for everyone in the home. My sister kept to herself, finding comfort in the church with our mother. Meanwhile I felt a pull to be with my dad because foolishly I thought he would be left out. Now I know he chose to be alone because he showed me that.

There were bouts of physical violence, but the emotional/mental toll is still felt today, four years after his death, and will be me until the day I die. Luckily, as I grew up, I wised up and realized that his outbursts and addictions were his way of escaping. Now some may not agree with what I am about to say, but my family is just like most – dysfunctional.

I began to look at his life. How did he grow up? Was his dad around or was he gone? Did he have tight-knit friends or did he just use people for rides, dope, and a place to sleep? Once the truths about his life became known through his stories – which he rarely discussed until two months before his death – and accounts from friends and family, it became clear that my dad did the best he could based on what he knew.

He was a soft child with an extremely stern adoptive father, whom was already in his mid-60s when my dad was born to a mother who drank to ease her pain. As he grew up, he acted out, ultimately landing him in jail at the age of 16. At this time he was approached by the Army where they offered him the chance to trade in his black and whites for Army stripes. This didn't last long because he couldn't take the pressure, so he went AWOL.

Back in the states, he hid out in Detroit for a while before returning to Cullman. This is where my parents met, but the brief encounter was short lived as my dad was hauled off by Military Police on Federal Desertion charges. Yeah, it's all making sense now, huh?

He served his time, came home, and hit the ground running with some of his childhood friends. Some of them formed a motorcycle club, but let's just call it a gang for honesty purposes, and proceeded to flood the southern region with potent narcotics. Over time the gang fell apart, with some members dying off as others began serving life sentences in various prisons across the region. My dad just migrated to a new circle filled with the same garbage.

By the time I had reached 25 it became very clear that my dad would never be the man I needed him to be. At age 53 my dad died of lung cancer, but before he did, we spoke. I opened up to my dad, made peace with the man and then allowed him to let his burdens go. Listening to him recount the acts in his life bother me today, but knowing that he felt comfortable enough to relinquish the thoughts and memories that plagued him was rewarding.

Despite not being there for me in moments of despair and doubt, I was with him as he took his last breath, looking him in the eyes to let him know I wasn't afraid. In a selfish way, I hope that he knew this. He didn't make me strong because of the things he had taught me. Rather, my strength came from all the wrong examples he had laid out over his lifetime, the experiences he made my family live through, and the times he wasn't around.

I love my dad and miss him, but would not trade anything to have life play out any differently. We choose our paths, make our own decisions, and at the end of the day we must belly up and take what's coming to us. I watched my dad learn that lesson.

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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Obituaries must be sent from the funeral home either by e-mail or fax.
This online service is free, just request it from your funeral home of choice.



CullmanSense Weekly Weather Forecast

Source: NWS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Hi: 82 Lo: 70	Hi: 87 Lo: 67	Hi: 88 Lo: 65	Hi: 88 Lo: 67	Hi: 88 Lo: 66	Hi: 86 Lo: 65	Hi: 86
Day: Showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 1 p.m. High near **82**. South wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. **Night**: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around **70**. Southwest wind around 5 mph.	**Day**: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near **87**. West wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. **Night**: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around **67**. North wind around 5 mph.	**Day**: Mostly sunny, with a high near **88**. **Night**: Partly cloudy, with a low around **65**.	**Day**: Mostly sunny, with a high near **88**. **Night**: Partly cloudy, with a low around **67**.	**Day**: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near **88**. **Night**: Partly cloudy, with a low around **66**.	**Day**: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near **86**. **Night**: Partly cloudy, with a low around **65**.	**Day**: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near **86**. For weather updates, visit us at **cullmansense.com**.



SPORTS AND RECREATION

Park and Recreation Baseball is in Full "Swing"

By: Josh McBrayer
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CULLMAN: The Field of Miracles is once again filled with the sounds of baseball chatter and the cheers of the fans and parents in the stands. From coach pitch to live pitch, youngsters to teens, everyone gets a chance to play "park and rec" baseball.

At the Field of Miracles, located just a stone's throw away from the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center, children of all ages and all abilities learn the great game of baseball from coaches that graciously volunteer their time to teach and coach.

Most games are taking place Monday, Tuesday, and/or Thursday with days, fields, and start times based on the age group of the teams. With the various games going on at all times and the hustle and bustle of moms and dads shuttling players from field to field and game to game, some may not know why the Field of Miracles Sports Complex was originally constructed.

When you first enter the Field of Miracles Park, you could easily mistake it for any other sports complex with multiple fields with multiple games taking place. On one hand you would be right, but on the other hand you would be overlooking the thing that makes the Field of Miracles so unique and gives it its trademark name.

In the right-hand corner of the complex, next to the snack stand, sits another field with teams competing for the win just like on all the others, but what makes this field so special are the male and female athletes that grace its playing surface. Here is where you find the true Field of Miracles.

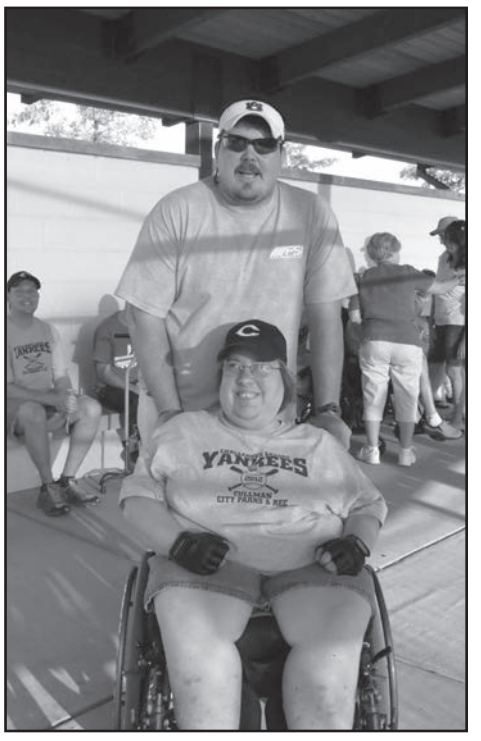
The surface is laid out just like any other baseball field, with bases, home plate, pitching rubber, and baselines, but with one key difference; the field is made out of rubber and canvas. The reason for this is accessibility to every athlete that plays here because this is where the mentally and/or physically handicapped athletes of Cullman and the surrounding areas get a chance to showcase their athletic ability. From athletes with Downs Syndrome to those in wheelchairs, everyone gets to know the joy of playing baseball and gets to feel the pride of being part of a team.

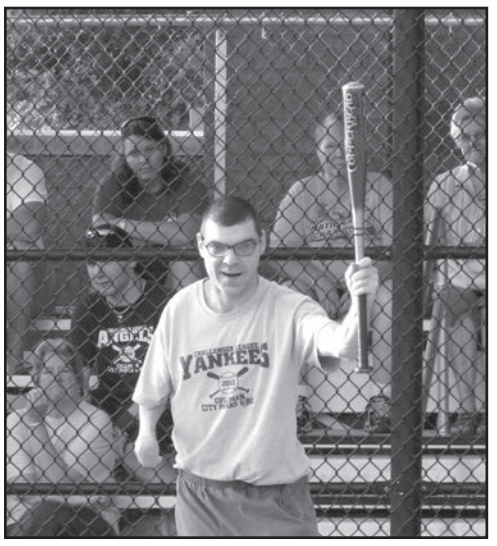
Each player gets a chance to bat (most of the time every inning) and play the field. Both at the plate and in the field the athletes are helped by volunteers. Each player also gets to hear his or her name called over the loud speaker when they come to bat. This is an honor reserved only for the players who are participating in the game on the Field of Miracles. Although each team bats around and the game is based on friendship and comradery, the athletes that participate in the games are looking for the win just as much as the teams on every other field.

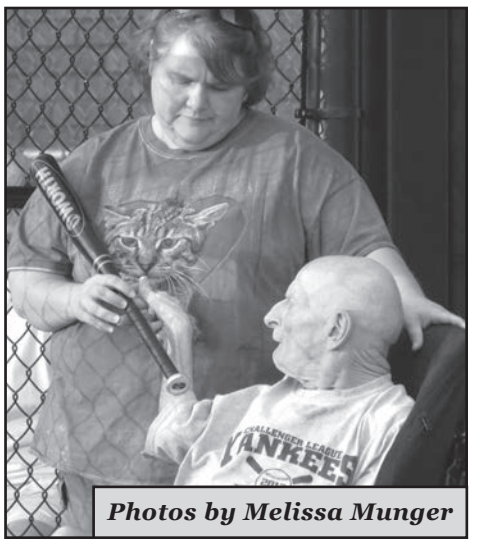
Watching these athletes compete in a game they love is a truly wonderful sight to see so next time you are looking for something to do on a weekday night, why not come out and support the athletes playing on the Field of Miracles?

I know it would mean a lot to them and you may just become a fan.









Photos by Melissa Munger

A Farmer's Fantasy

By: Josh McBrayer
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HANCEVILLE – The side yard of Tom Bevill Allied Health Building on the campus of Wallace State Community College was buzzing with activity Saturday morning. Not from the typical group of nursing students headed to class, but from the enthusiasts drawn to Hanceville by a "tractor" beam for the 14th Annual Antique Tractor and Engine Show.

The side lawn was lined with 26 tractors as well as vendors selling all types of things from homemade ice cream and hamburgers to tractor paintings and die-cast scale tractors. Everyone who was there was having a great time including one of the tractor owners, Jeriel Patton from Eva. He was clad from head to toe in the familiar John Deere green, matching the two antique John Deere tractors he was standing between.

"I was raised back when we drove these kinds of tractors," Patton said motioning to his impressive machines. "I have always liked the sound of John Deere's and that is why I went with the John Deere brand. I love them all, but you can tell the sound of a John Deere."

Not surprisingly, John Deere had an impressive number of entries with eight, the same number as Farmall which is manufactured by International Harvesters; a key facilitator to the antique tractor show. Other brands showcased include Ford, Case, and Oliver.

"My dad was Jimmy Hamrick and he kind of got the show going down here," said one of the show's organizers Bonnie Hamrick Brannan. "He (Jimmy Hamrick) was killed in 2010 in a backhoe accident so I am just trying to keep it going in memory of him. He loved this and he loved tractors."

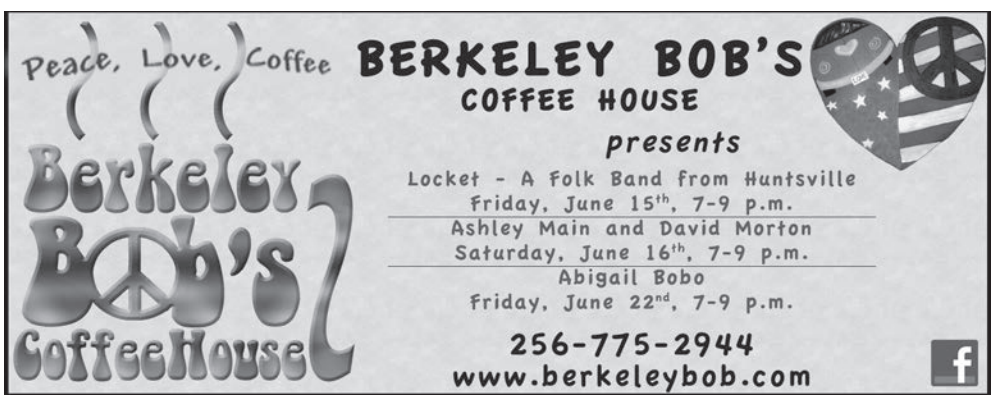
The 14th Annual Antique Tractor and Engine show had a little bit of everything for everyone. From pedal tractor races for the young kids (where everyone got a toy) to the skillet toss and blind man's bluff, an exhibit where you are blindfolded and try to get the closest to a barrel without going past it. One of the crowd favorites was the slow race where the lumbering tractors, obviously built for heavy duty field work and not for speed, are "raced" at a leisurely pace.

Whether young or old, country boy or city boy, the 14th Annual Antique Tractor Show had something for everyone. If you missed it this year, make plans to attend next year so you can see these magnificent marvels of machinery for yourself.











In Brief

The Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center Welcomes a new Facilities Director Cameron Everett

By: Josh McBrayer
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CULLMAN – The Cullman Wellnesss and Aquatic Center welcomed new Facilities Director Cameron Everett into their family Tuesday to take over day-to-day operations. Everett will oversee all of the Wellness and Aquatic Center's programs and he hopes to add some new ones. Mr. Everett took time out of his busy schedule Wednesday, only his second day on the job, to sit down and talk with CullmanSense.


Photo by Noah Chandler

Josh McBrayer: How did you come about becoming the new director of the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center?

Cameron Everett: My entire life I have wanted to get into parks and recreation. My undergraduate degree is in Program Administration and Leisure and Human Services. I went on to get my graduate degree in Business Management.

When I started to get close to graduation I wanted to find my "dream" job so I started researching online and all over the place. Cullman Alabama was the best situation I could find as far as gold medal winning Parks and Recreation Department.

I did a tremendous amount of research. I am talking twelve hours of research before I even applied for the position.

I saw where John Hunt (Parks and Recreation Director) had started and what he had built in the community as far as Park and Recreation goes and how it has, and I don't want to say this lightly, almost protected (Cullman) from a horrible economy that (has affected) others.

You (Cullman) had the horrible tornadoes, but you are very resilient, very friendly. The town is very attractive to me with all of the Park and Recreation around plus all the fishing on the many lakes you have around here and the close (proximity) to big cities and the coast.

All of that put together I was very attracted (to Cullman) so I applied and thankfully they liked what they saw in me too.

JM: Where are you originally from?

CE: Ceder Rapids, Iowa. I grew up on the outskirts of about three hundred acres.

My dad owned a fruit market and we grew most of the produce for the fruit market. I went to school at the University of Northern Iowa.

JM: So that's where you lived when you applied for the position?

CE: No. After getting my Undergraduate Degree I was hired as the Director of Tennis for Hilton Head Island's (South Carolina) Recreation Department. My father and step-father both passed away within a month of each other.

My mother lived in the Phoenix, Arizona area and she needed me so I gave my notice. I had to quit my job that was in line with what I wanted to do, so I moved and got a job in Arizona and decided to go back to Graduate school. Once I got done with Graduate school, I am here.

JM: What do you think of the Wellness and Aquatic Center so far?

CE: I love it. There are not enough hours in the day yet. I am trying to meet everybody and get to know my staff and they are very, very good. The staff is outstanding. It is like a turn-key situation.

JM: Do you have any programs that you want to get into place as Facility Director of the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center?

CE: The staff that is running the Aquatic center is doing a great job. We have already held the State swim meet and they are considering doing it again next year. I am patient, but it would be great to expand.

On top of that my wheelhouse is tennis and tennis facility management and they have plans for a big tennis facility over here in the fifteen acres of woods behind us.

I am hoping that is why they got me here so I can help with the planning of that because I started two facilities in Hilton Head Island for the Parks and recreation Department there.

That (tennis facility) is going to draw a lot more here so we are going to have to expand aquatic and everything else on top of that, if possible.

JM: Is the disc golf something you put into place or was it the former director?

CE: I did not put it into place but I am glad (the former director) did. I have discs in my trunk right now because I play.

JM: Tell me a little bit about the tournament coming up.

CE: We have people coming from all over like Illinois and Indiana which is surprising, but then again I am from Iowa where there are more disc golf courses that anywhere else in the nation. The response is outstanding. It is way bigger than we thought it was going to be.

Getting to sit down and talk to Mr. Everett I can tell that he has true passion for what he does. Passion for Parks and Recreation is just what we need and I for one am looking forward to the additions Cameron Everett is going to make to an already outstanding Wellness and Aquatic Center right here in Cullman.



Wallace State Pitcher Bret Marks selected by New York Yankees in 22nd Round of 2012 MLB First Year Player Draft

By: Russell Moore
Wallace State Contributor

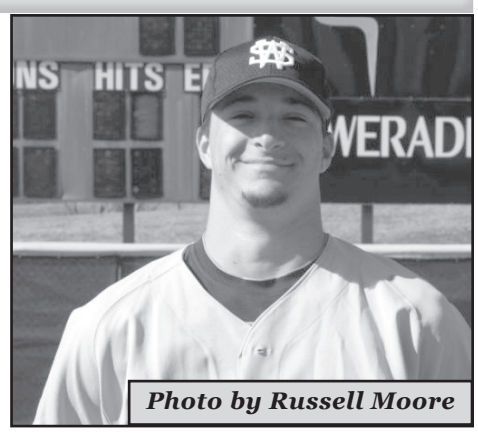
HANCEVILLE – Wallace State right-handed pitcher Bret Marks was drafted by the New York Yankees in the 22nd round of the 2012 Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft on Wednesday, the third and final day of the draft.

A 6-foot-1 freshman, Marks was a workhorse for Wallace State's pitching staff in 2012 after transferring from Mississippi State in the fall. He finished the year with an 11-5 record, seven saves and a 1.74 ERA, tossing five complete games in 24 appearances. He recorded 90 strikeouts and had only 19 walks in 79 innings, leading all Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) Northern Division pitchers in wins, saves, ERA, and strikeouts.

"Bret is a hard worker and he did everything we asked him to do. We expected a lot out of him in many roles and he never let us down," said Wallace State assistant coach Adam Scott. "He deserves the recognition."

A year after missing the postseason for the first time since 1990, Wallace State was the state runner-up in 2012, finishing with a 41-17 record.

A Georgia native, he was at his best during conference play, helping the Lions earn a tie for the Northern Division's regular-season title. Marks pulled off an impressive feat on two instances, earning a win and a save in doubleheaders on both March 3 and April 5, each time against Snead State.


Photo by Russell Moore

At the state tournament in Ozark, from May 14-17, he earned two wins, one as a starter and one in relief. At age 20, Marks had never pitched out of the bullpen until this season.

"The transition to the bullpen was somewhat of a different animal because you can go right after a hitter. You can pump the fastball in there and use another strike out pitch when you need it. As a starter, you've got to go in there and mix in a lot of different pitches to keep hitters off balance for six, seven or eight innings," said Marks, a former summertime player in the famed East Cobb (Georgia) organization. "It may be a little unique, but I like fulfilling any role. I want to be on the field as much as possible."

Selected 697th overall, Marks is the first player drafted from Wallace State since Craig Kimbrel was a third round selection of the Atlanta Braves in 2008. Three former Wallace State players were drafted last season and the program currently has three players on major league rosters, Craig Kimbrel, Derek Holland, and Graham Godfrey, as well as five others in the minor leagues.

Sunoco Gas Station and Convenient Store Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

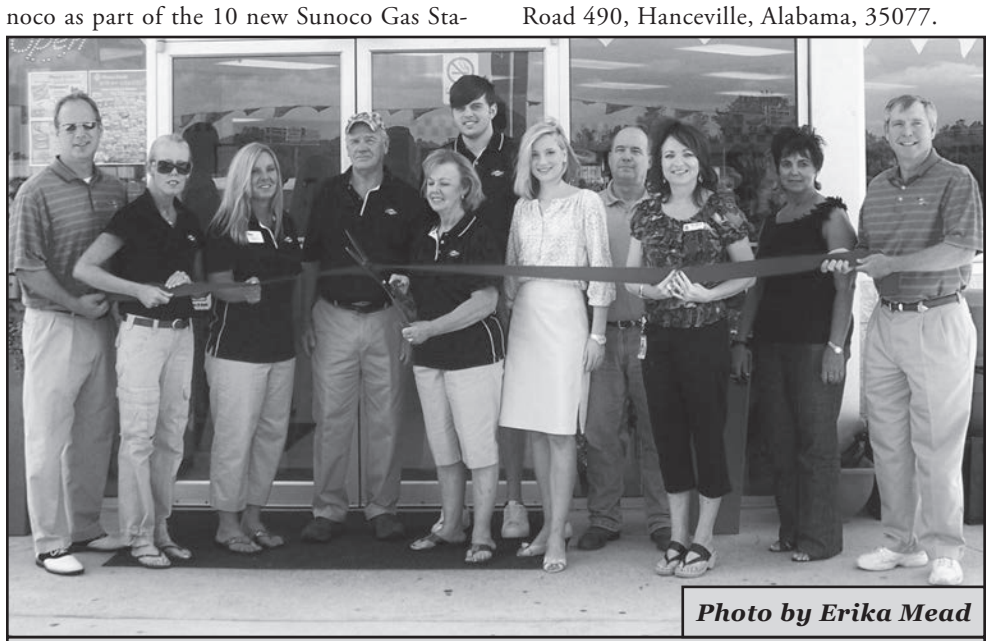
By: Erika Mead
Chamber of Commerce Contributor

HANCEVILLE – The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting for Sunoco Gas Station and Convenient Store on May 23rd.

Quality Petroleum of Alabama is proud to announce the opening of the Hanceville Sunoco as part of the 10 new Sunoco Gas Stations opening across Alabama.

"We've been providing quality fuels to a great customer base for many years and we look forward to expanding that base with Sunoco by improving not only our service, but our fuel offerings," said David Melton, Quality Petroleum of Alabama's vice president.

For more information call them at (256) 734-9454 or visit them at 6345 County Road 490, Hanceville, Alabama, 35077.


Photo by Erika Mead

Front Row (Left to Right): Drew Hamilton, Sunoco; Nancy Burkett, Sunoco; Jackie Goodwin, Sunoco; Jonny Ford, Sunoco; Kay Ford, Sunoco; Elizabeth Wesson; Miss Cullman Area, Kim Trelles, ADS Security, Inc.; Sammie Danford, Cullman County Economic Development; David Melton, Sunoco.

Back Row (Left to Right): Kevin Dillworth, Sunoco; James Eidson, Jr, Sunoco.

Community Matters

Dodge City Days

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com



Photos by Noah Chandler



DODGE CITY- The residents of Dodge City turned out in force, despite the threat of bad weather, to show their support for their town during the annual Doge City Days.

Dodge City is a sleepy little town nestled along Interstate 65 at Exit 299.

It was only 19 short years ago (1993) when Dodge City was incorporated as a town and they have been growing ever since.

A small population, less than 600, does not stop the wonderful people of Dodge City from showing just as much pride in their town as if they had 600,000 residents.

The mayor of Dodge City, Tawana Canada offers this message (on the Dodge City website) about the residents living in this close-knit community:

"The people of Dodge City are true Southerners. We take pride in the fact that we know our neighbors and still wave hello. We also take pride in our fast-paced economic growth. This combination makes Dodge City a great place to work and a greater place to call home!"

She could not be more accurate as everyone involved in Dodge City Days was a genuinely friendly as anyone you could hope to meet.

From the volunteers working the Life Church shaved ice booth (that was free!) to Dodge City council member Murray Lowe, who was having a blast in the dunk tank with the kids.

"I was dunked about 20 times," Lowe said with a chuckle, "about eight times were the kids just coming over to push the button! The first Dodge City Days was just the local businesses opening their doors and inviting people in. This is the first time we have had it in a central location."

The central location Murray Lowe referred to was the front parking lot of the Dodge City Town Hall where the dunk tank, inflatable bounce castle, and a tall inflatable slide were set up for the children.

Live music was being played in front of the Dodge City Trading Post and Boston Butts were being smoked on-site and sold, as a fundraiser, in the parking lot of Life Church.

Life Church, along with the free shaved ice, offered free face painting for the children as well.

All in all Dodge City Days was a success and a lot of fun for those in attendance.

If you missed it this year make plans to come next year. There is sure to be fun for the whole family at Dodge City Days.







Lifestyle

Passion for the Kitchen

Send your recipes to recipes@cullmansense.com

By: Annette Harris
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qrne.ws/aharris



Photos by Annette Harris

Lets Not Forget Larry



I never really thought about another brother coming into the family, but when it was announced that there would be another sibling, I was ok with it. I liked kids. It would be something to play with. Ha!

Larry came into the world a little early, but fine, and immediately I took him under my wing and helped raise him. He didn't sleep well at night, as most babies do, and that meant no one in the house could get any sleep either. One night I had reached my limit and jumped out of bed, got Larry, and put him in my bed. He slept there most nights after that. We all got sleep, he slept, no more crying…problem solved.

I was 12 when Larry was born. When I got my drivers license, my dad had mostly junkers for me as I was learning to drive. That's another story for another time. Anyway, we were then living on a farm and I was coming home for the night, Larry beside me, standing in the seat. Back then you didn't wear seat-belts and no one used car seats. He was about 3 or 4 years old. The old Jeep or International or whatever it was didn't have good brakes. I was told "PUMP THE BRAKES! PUMP THE BRAKES!" every time I drove it. I didn't like to drive it, but it was what I had and it got me from A to B.

Anyway, we were coming down the road that leads to our house, this was on the farm, and the brakes wouldn't work. I pumped the brakes, I tried everything and they just weren't there. I swerved to miss a ditch, crossed the ditch, which made it seem like I was in midair, and then hit the fence which caused the cows to split into two groups very quickly, all adorning deer-in-the-headlights looks. Poor cows. Luckily I didn't hit any of the cows, but we finally came to a stop in the pasture.

It happened so fast! I didn't know what was going on in Larry's mind, but when we finally came to a stop he put his hands on his hips and looked right at me and yelled, "I'm never riding with you AGAIN! You are NOT a good driver!" It is cute to think about now, but at the time I felt bad about it, knowing we could have both been hurt. That's just how things were back then. You drove what you had and you made things work.

Larry did ride with me again. He was my buddy and I took care of him a lot. I didn't think of it as babysitting. I enjoyed it.

Larry went through a stage where he wanted to be called "cowboy." It didn't matter what was going on. When you called "Larry," he would ignore you totally. We didn't know if he had a hearing problem at first or what, but finally he looked at us and yelled, "MY NAME IS COWBOY!" So, we got it after that and that's what we called him until he got past that stage. I think I remember, he just said something like, "Don't call me that. I'm not cowboy anymore," like we were supposed to automatically know or something. Ha! What a kid.

He even dressed the part. He wore cowboy boots, a western shirt, and had to have jeans with front and back pockets. He didn't want those little toddler jeans with just front pockets or just back pockets and elastic in the waist. Nope! Front and back pockets, hat, boots, belt, and the shirt. He was a cowboy.

I love both my brothers, but helping raise one made things a little different. There wasn't really any sibling fighting between us. More adventures with my brothers to come.

Corn Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 cup cornmeal
- 1 egg
- 1¾ cup heavy whipping cream
- salt and pepper to taste
- ½ onion, diced
- 8 oz. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 stick of butter cut into ½ inch pieces
- 6 ears of corn - I like white corn the best, but you can use yellow too.

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Cut the corn off the ear and put into a bowl. Add everything except the butter. Stir to mix.
3. Spray a 9x13 baking dish and pour corn mixture into the pan. Place the pieces of butter evenly around in the dish, pressing it into the mixture.
4. Bake for 30-40 minutes or until brown on top.

Yum!

Smoked BBQ Chicken

Ingredients:

- 4 chicken breasts with bone in
- Grill Masters Applewood Rub
- Wood chips
- BBQ sauce-recipe listed in this article

Directions:

1. Prepare your smoker to 250-300 degrees.
2. Soak wood chips for 30 minutes to an hour.
3. Coat the chicken breasts with the Applewood rub and let sit for about 30 minutes, longer if you have time.
4. Put the wood chips on your coals, place the chicken breasts on the smoker and let smoke for about 3 hours.
5. Brush the BBQ sauce on the chicken and let it smoke about another 30 minutes.
6. The chicken is done when the juices run clear and meat is tender and falling off the bone.

Delicious!



Nettie's BBQ Sauce



Ingredients:

- 1 cup ketchup
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup chili sauce
- ½ medium onion cut large
- ½ cup water
- 1 Tablespoon lemon juice
- 3 garlic cloves diced
- 1 Tablespoon butter
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

Directions:

Put all together in a medium sauce pan and bring to a boil. Stir, then put on low and let it cook about 30 minutes.

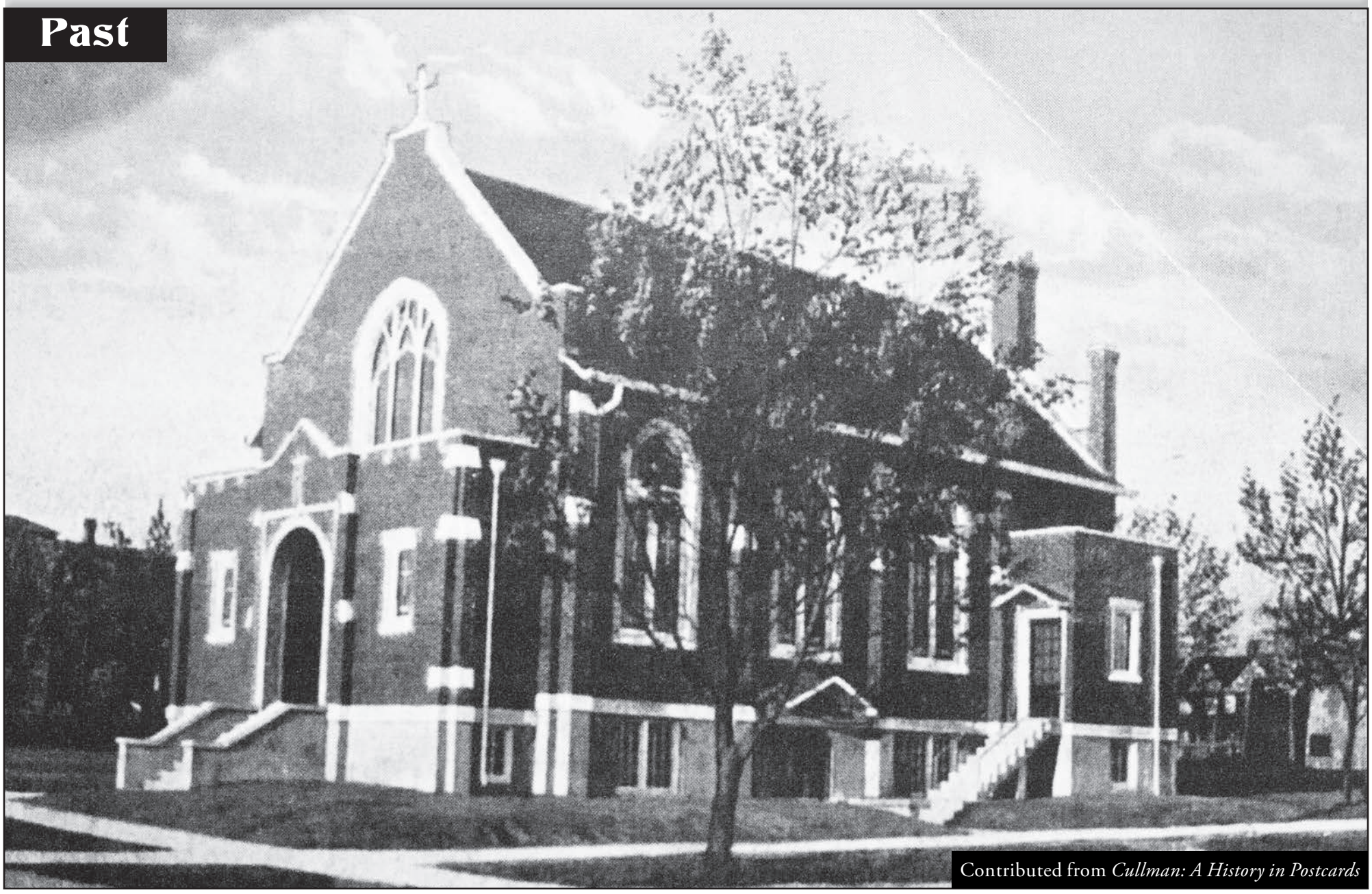
Makes 2 cups.

Mirroring History

Exploring Historic Downtown: Christ English Lutheran Church

Christ English Lutheran Church was organized in 1922 and services first took place above Cullman Paint and Wallpaper Store and were lead by Reverend H.E. Henning. The groundbreaking for the new building was March 3, 1923 at the corner of Second Avenue and Fifth Street East where it stood until the tornadoes on April 27, 2011. In 1961 "English" was dropped from the name.

Past



Contributed from *Cullman: A History in Postcards*

Present



Photo by Jessica Norrell

Local Events Calendar

Send your Events to: calendar@cullmansense.com

Monday, June 11th

Women's Self Defense Training Class Offered by Hanceville Police Dept.
Cullman Police Officer Cindy Rohrscheib will be offering a self-defense training class for women from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., and again on Monday, June 18, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Sponsored by the Hanceville Police Department, the cost is $25.00 which includes the course manual. For those who have participated before and own the manual, there is no fee to enroll. Classes will be held at the Hanceville Recreation and Wellness Center. Additional information and to enroll call Officer Rohrscheib at 256-736-4703 or use email cindyr@cullmanpd.com. Classes are open to anyone who is interested in learning a few secrets to being safe and staying safe!

'Visual Arts Institute' to be held July 16 thru 19
The institute allows for immersion in various visual art media including drawing, puppetry, painting, ceramic sculpture, mixed media, recycled art production, and computer graphic composition. Open studio time will provide time for individual exploration and/or completion of projects under the direction of an artist and participants will take home art supplies to continue. Daily lunch is provided in the registration fee. This program is designed for those aged 12 and above. This program has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Deadline for registration July 9, 2012. Fee $75.00. Contact Natalie Godwin for further information (256) 352-7808.

Making Choices - BODYWORKS
A series of FREE sessions on healthy living will be offered. Sessions to include mindful eating to 'reading' a food. Teens to adults are welcome. There are morning classes from 10 until 11:30 a.m. and evening classes from 4 until 5:30 p.m. for your convenience. For further information please call Donna Shanklin at the County Extension Office at 256-737-9386. Classes are scheduled for each Monday at this time. Please attend first meeting or call to pre-register if you are interested in this program.

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 information call 256-796-2899. All interested women are invited to attend.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly
Anyone interested in ideas for weight loss are invited to attend the TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) group as they meet each Tuesday night at 6 p.m. at Benedictine Manor. Jeanne Latham (256-734-7146) or Ginger McMinn (256-739-3925) will share information concerning their meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend TOPS and receive encouragement from others who are interested in weight loss.

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!

Tuesday, June 12th

Good Hope Farmers' Market
Good Hope Farmers' Market is open for the summer and filling up tables with all sorts of great tasting produce, all grown locally. Hathcock Park in Good Hope is the site and hours each Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday are from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Come get some great veggies and other homegrown items to treat your family to some awesome tasting meals during these summer months. You can't beat the taste of 'fresh' from the garden!

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.

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, June 13th

How to Apply for SeniorRx at Commission on Aging
Cullman County Commission on Aging is available to help seniors 55 and over see if they are eligible for any type of free medicine through the statewide program called SeniorRx. Workers at the Commission Office, 256-734-1241, are available to help with the process of applying. In order to apply for assistance through this program, folks need to bring

- Proof of Income
- A list of your medications
- If you have Medicare Part D, bring copies of your insurance cards and printout from your drug store for the current year (since January 1, 2012)

A staff member in the office will complete a SeniorRx intake form, determine if any of your medications are available through the patient assistance programs and complete those applications for you. They also tell folks to keep in mind that this help is not immediate; it will take time, but if you qualify it will be worth the effort. So if you would like to check into this program which is underwritten by various pharmaceutical companies, please take time to check with the Commission on Aging. They are always there for the seniors of this community.

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, June 14th

Good Hope Farmers' Market
Good Hope Farmers' Market is open for the summer and filling up tables with all sorts of great tasting produce, all grown locally. Hathcock Park in Good Hope is the site and hours each Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday are from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Come get some great veggies and other homegrown items to treat your family to some awesome tasting meals during these summer months. You can't beat the taste of 'fresh' from the garden!

DivorceCare Support Group
Daystar Church sponsors a DivorceCare Support Group each Thursday night at 6 p.m. at the Church. Additional information is available by calling Daystar Church at 256-737-0800.

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.

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, June 15th

An Evening with Lenny LeBlanc
Christian recording artist and songwriter Lenny LeBlanc, best known for his award-winning songs Above All and There Is None Like You, will perform a benefit concert for St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in memory of Kira Bryant at the Cullman High School auditorium. For further info call the Church Office at 256-734-0340.

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, June 16th

5K Run at Bethany Baptist Church
A 5K Run will be held at Bethany Baptist Church starting at 8 a.m. and those who wish to walk during this time are welcome as well. There is a $20.00 entry fee if pre-registered and $25.00 the day of the race. For further information please contact Hobson Hite at hhite@ccboe.org or call 256-338-0566.

3rd Annual Boots and Birdies Golf Tournament
The 3rd Annual Boots and Birdies Golf Tournament will take place at Cullman Municipal Golf Course with a 'shotgun' start at 8 a.m. Come enjoy a great day of golf and fellowship while helping members of the Cullman High School Danceline and Drumline. This tournament raises funds for the students to purchase uniforms and participate in various competitions in the upcoming school year 2012-2013. Entry fee is $60.00 per player or $180.00 per team and includes green fees, lunch, a T-shirt and range balls. For further information please contact Wendy Craft at 256-636-1246; Amy Johnson at 256-338-5226; or Cindy Kritner at 256-709-1647.

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!



PUZZLES, COMICS, AND JOKES

THIS WEEK'S WORD SEARCH TOPIC IS: DONATING BLOOD

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.

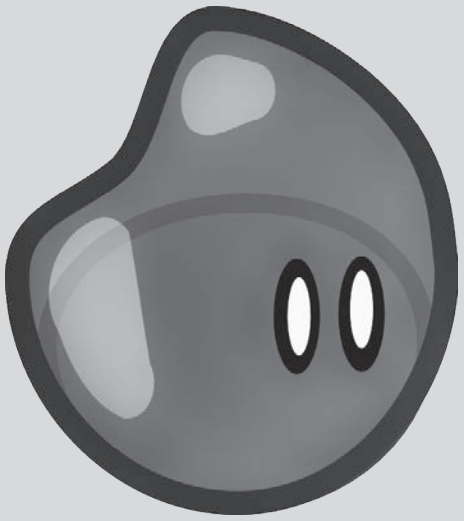
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save lives
vein
volunteer
white blood cells

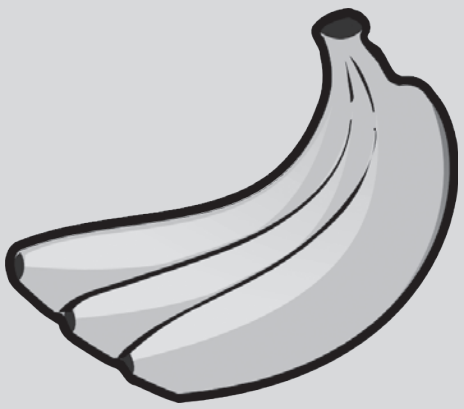
GETTING CORNY

Send your jokes to:
jokes@cullmansense.com

1. Why was the gelatinous goo an honored trustee?



2. Where do bananas go if they want a re-trial??



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

1. There was no bones about it. 2. The Board of A-Peels.

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



Community Matters

Chamber's New Interim President (Continued from Front)

the interim position. I guess I was officially notified on Thursday, June 7th.

CS: Why did you accept the position?

LB: I believe that the chamber and its role are vital to the growth of our community.

For quite some time, I have devoted much of my personal and professional life to the success of our citizens, both corporately and individually. It is my sincere hope that I will be able to continue in this capacity in a much broader realm.

CS: What do you hope to accomplish during your interim term?

LB: The Chamber bears a lot of responsibilities that I think most folks are unaware of.

I will continue to keep the wheel turning on the various committees, programs, and networking opportunities that already exist.

Kirk and the staff at the Chamber have worked very hard to make our local chamber a success and I do not intend to let any of their hard work go to waste.

Personally, I would like to see a "reconnect" between the various entities that make up our Chamber.

I believe everyone would agree that we want the very best for this community.

Now I would like for us all to agree-together-on a strategy that will be the most beneficial to us as a whole,

CS: What do you want residents and business leaders alike to know about you?

LB: First and foremost, I really care about you. This is not just a job to me.

I know that everything I do or don't do can have a significant impact on your business and your family.

I don't know everything there is to know, but I can promise you I will work to make this interim time as productive as I possibly can.

CS: As interim, do you plan on getting the chamber to reconnect with those members whom have dropped their membership in previous years? If so, how do you plan on going about this?

LB: YES! I do have a plan, but there is much to be decided and accomplished in the here and now before we can talk about the future.

Give me a few days to get up to speed. I hope to be developing this plan more specifically with the staff as soon as possible.

The important thing I want Cullmanites to take away from reading this article is: Your local chamber is here to serve you.

I am committed to help this entity in providing quality services and fostering opportunities for success in business, economic growth, and prosperity for this community.

CS: Anything you would like to say or add that I may not have asked, please feel free to use the space below to mention anything not asked?

LB: I know many of us are still reeling from last year's series of tornadoes.

One of my favorite quotes comes from one of our founding fathers, Ben Franklin: "Out of adversity, comes opportunity."

Let us embrace the changes that are before us and look to many great opportunities in our future.

I look forward to serving as your interim President and to the future of this great community.

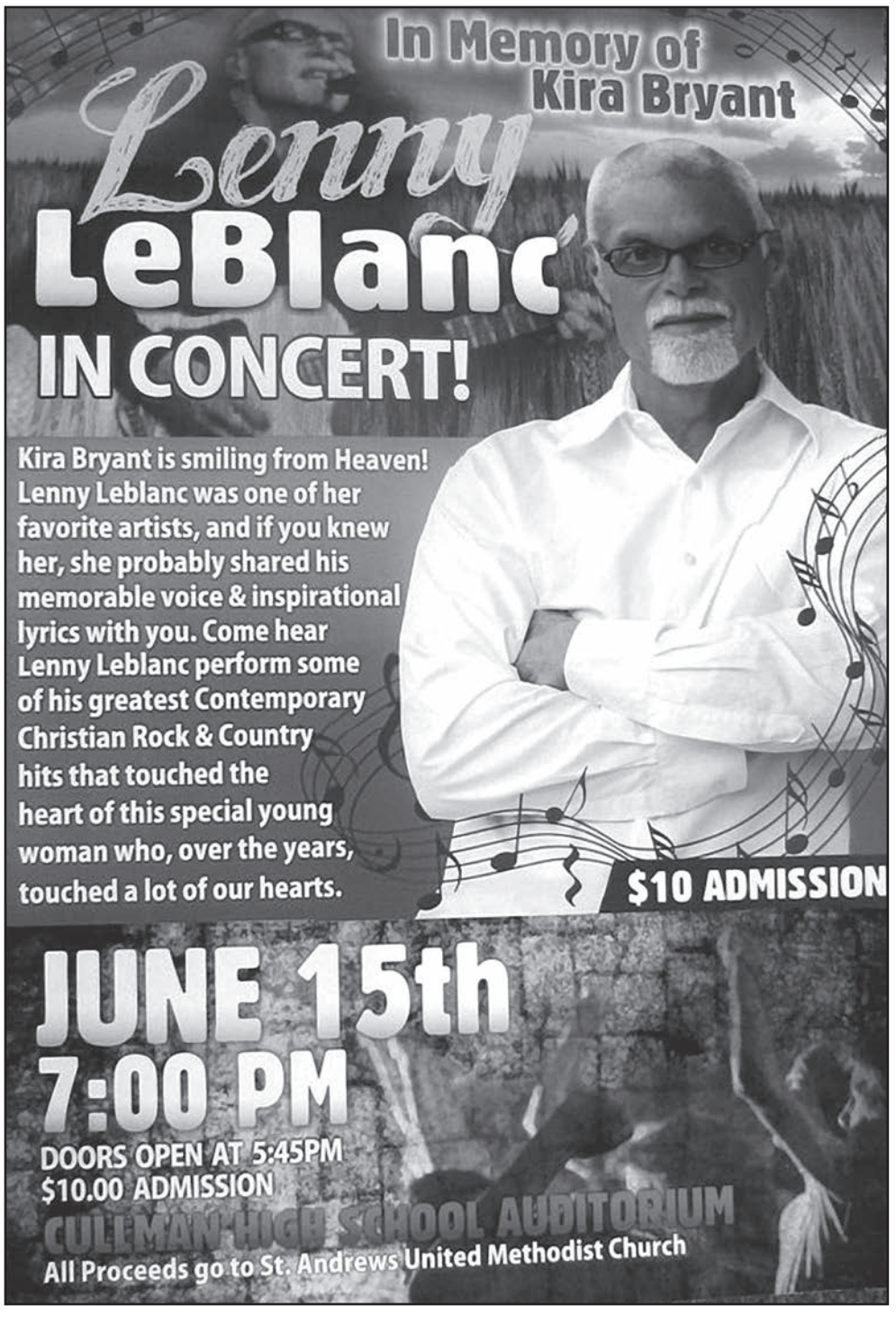
Attention Readers:

CullmanSense is rapidly expanding and we are looking for a self-motivated, personable, and responsible individual that is interested in sales. E-mail your résumé to careers@cullmansense.com.









CureSearch Walk
for Children's Cancer

Join the team
Battle the Beast with Maddy & David
in our fight against Children's Cancer
at the **2nd Annual Birmingham**
CureSearch Walk!



Saturday, October 6, 2012
Registration: 9 a.m.
Walk Ceremony/Walk Begins: 10 a.m.

Our team is about TWO kids that attend Hanceville Elementary
BOTH cancer survivors & BOTH fighters

There are 36 children diagnosed EACH day with cancer. In honor of 36, we are looking for 36 to join our team & now…if our team raises $20,000 David's Mom, Karen will shave her head. Hanceville's Mayor, Kenneth Nail has stepped up & said if we raise an additional $5,000 to total $25,000 raised he will shave his head, too. So now, we are looking for 36 to shave at The **Brave Shave Event** to be held in Hanceville the night before the walk.

www.curesearchwalk.org/birmingham/maddyanddavid

For more information, please contact Karen Cook at 256-962-3482
or www.curesearchwalk.org/birmingham/karencook
For more information on CureSearch
for Children's Cancer, please visit www.curesearch.org.



To honor. To remember. To cure.