Series 2, Issue 34 Monday, August 20, 2012

Cullman's Monday Newspaper

CULLMANSENSE

Community Matters

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A Night of Hope

By: Noah Chandler

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qrnews/nchandler



Photos by Jessica Norrell

Dancing with our Stars a Smash Hit

HANCEVILLE – A night filled with smooth beats, sequined dresses and suits, big moves, and slick slides is what awaited those attending the inaugural Dancing with our Stars fundraiser, hosted by Circle of Hope.

Circle of Hope began their work with Relay for Life in early 2004, following the loss of Elaine Blackwood and Janet Laney's mother, Ethel Brannon, to cancer. This was the second loss of a family member for the women, as their father passed away in 1999. The family team evolved from a team formerly known as Salon 1205.

"We began planning this in April of this year," said Laney. "Gidgett [Overton] told us about a group in Kentucky who raised over $217,000 in their third year of hosting this type of event. I told her that we would discuss it and after some discussion we decided to jump in with both feet."

Laney, Circle of Hope Co-Chair, said the first year event was more fun than eventful. She was overjoyed with the large response from everyone from sponsors, to participants, volunteers, and those interested in seeing some of Cullman's talent take to the dance floor.

"On a first year event you're learning all the ends and outs of the event. First you have to find a venue, and then set a date, but then the biggest challenge is to get dancers," said Laney. "Amazingly just about everyone I asked said yes. Those who weren't able to participate were quick to refer someone who could perform."

Mavis Martin took home the top prize of the night, along with dance partner Josh Heron, as husband and wife duo Andy and Liz page took home of the judges vote with a perfect score of 20.

"I started out wanting to raise $5,000 but I did not make it, but $4,000 is just as good. Taking home the Mirror Ball trophy is the best thing in the world," said Martin shortly after being named winner. "We appreciate everyone who came out, giving money to go towards research and to help fight this horrible disease. Your outpouring of support has really touched my heart."

Hero of Hope recipient Miss Lindsey Jones took to the dance floor to share her tap dancing routine with others. The inspirational dance invoked a massive response from all in attendance, as they rose to their feet for the only standing ovation of the evening.

"I am just really nervous," said Jones before performing. "I'm used to talking to people but I've not ever really shared my tap dancing with others."

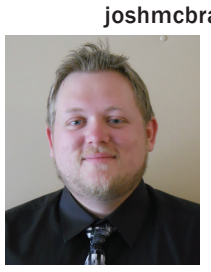
Emceeing the event was Gary Cornelius, a cancer survivor and strong advocate for the Ameri-

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The Bee is "Buzzing"

By: Josh McBrayer

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qrnews/jmcbrayer

CULLMAN – Anyone who has lived in Cullman for any period of time knows where the landmark restaurant, Busy Bee Café, is located and more than likely have sampled one of their famous burgers.

"We were established in 1919," said Kyle Spears, son of owner Kitty Spears.

What many may not know is that the Busy Bee Café will now be open for business from 4-9 on Friday and Saturday nights. Although you will still be able to enjoy the famous Busy Bee burger, the only toasted sandwich that will be available after four, is the grilled cheese sandwich on the children's menu.

"We are trying to get away from the toasted sandwiches at night," Spears informed me. "We are leaning more toward platters and baskets. Beer and wine will soon be offered, but only at night," he added.

The Busy Bee Café was originally going to be called Ford's Café. The Busy Bee gained its current name from an active beehive that sat outside the original location on Highway 278. While waiting on the Ford's Café sign to be made, folks started identifying the café with bees and the Busy Bee Café name was born. It has been a staple in Cullman for 93 years and



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Photos by Josh McBrayer

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Community Matters

Bama Fever at First Baptist Church

By: Josh McBrayer
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CULLMAN- First Baptist Church, located across from the Cullman City Courthouse, is no stranger to sports as they host many Cullman Upward youth basketball games in their small gymnasium.

When I visited the building, the lobby outside the gym was again filled with chattering voices talking sports. Only this was not in anticipation of youth basketball, this was the die-hard crimson and white Alabama fans talking all things Alabama and waiting for the Cullman County Chapter of the Bama Club to kick off their meeting.

In attendance at the meeting was Cullman Mayoral candidate and current mayor, Max Townson as well as event organizer Jill Howell.

The person she booked to deliver the opening remarks was Daniel Feig, who is the University of Alabama's NCAA Director of Compliance. In other words, he keeps Alabama out of trouble with recruitment violations and makes sure everything is being run according to the NCAA guidelines.

He spoke very briefly on what could and could not get the university in hot water with the NCAA. Things like a fan, who is also a booster (someone who gives money to the university), giving a ticket away to a family member of a player. He said that could be interpreted as an "added benefit."

After Feig closed his speech, the featured speaker took the podium. It was none other than Mitch Gaspard, the University of Alabama head baseball coach.

He spoke of the great talent that has come out of Cullman in the last few years, mainly former Alabama shortstop and current shortstop for the Colorado Rockies Josh Rutledge and current Bama star Ben Moore, both from Cullman High School.

He spoke of the impact Rutledge had on all the players around him, both on and off the field, and how he expects him to be an MLB star for many years. Gaspard also spoke very highly of his Freshman All-American, Ben Moore.

He said Moore would lead the team in all aspects; the field, the classroom, and many other areas of the program. Before Gaspard took to the podium, he graciously took time to conduct an interview for CullmanSense.

Josh McBrayer: You were a fantastic baseball player in high school (all-star shortstop for Jefferson State in Texas) and in college at LSU and Houston. Was being a coach something you always aspired to do or was it just by chance that you were offered a position on the Houston staff?

Mitch Gaspard: I think at a certain age in college, [baseball] was really what I had done throughout my life and I had a real passion for it. I think my junior year in college was when I really first started thinking about coaching and wanting to go into that field. Like many people, I went into coaching right out of college as a trial and error sort of thing to see how it worked and if I would enjoy it. I was fortunate.

At the time, my first coaching job was at Southwest Louisiana with my former high school coach, so that helped. I was kind of following him and learning the ropes, and playing for Skip Berkman at LSU.

I was very fortunate to play for a lot of great coaches. I was able to take all that and use it. I enjoy the requiting aspect and I enjoy being around the players every day, just the camaraderie. It was really what I had been used to and what I really enjoyed.

JM: Once you got your foot in the coaching door, did you strive to become a head coach?

MG: I think a lot of that takes shape in time. I think the biggest thing as a young coach, is that everyone is driven to recruit. Recruiting is going to open doors for you. That is a side of [coaching] that I have always enjoyed and still enjoy today. [Head coach] is like anything, I think being an assistant is great but only for so long. You want to start to put your own philosophy and your own stamp on a program.

I was so fortunate to be with Jim Wells (former Alabama head baseball coach) for so many years and to learn so much and gather so much information from Jim, but at the end of the day, you want to go out an have your own program. I started feeling that after about 10 or 12 years of coaching I was ready to be a head coach and that was something I aspired to do.



JM: Were you named the "coach in waiting", or were you the logical choice when Jim Wells retired?

MG: I was never told I was going to be the next head coach, but at the same time I felt like the success the program had had that I would certainly be in position and that was good enough for me, just to be in the position of being named the next head coach of Alabama.

JM: 2010 was your first year as Alabama's head coach. With seven years as an assistant at the university, you saw many of the recruits signed and play for Alabama. How long do you think it will take for you to have your players that you recruited as a head coach to be the bulk of the Alabama baseball program?

MG: Well we are really about there now. I never really saw it in that way. Like with Jim, we did everything together and it is really no different now. I never really said 'this is my team, that is his team.' We always worked together in everything we did and recruited every kid the same way. A lot of things we do today are no different than they were done five years ago with Jim. It is a little different but all the same as well.

JM: The SEC is becoming a force to be reckoned with in baseball, winning three National Championships in a row. How do you plan on vaulting Alabama into the National Championship picture on the diamond?

MG: It starts with players. You always have to look at recruiting first and foremost, bringing in those quality players and getting good people into your program. Secondly, we have some challenges. We have to battle with some scholarship issues and things at Alabama.

What we are looking to do is put our self in position year in and year out. To give our self and opportunity to go to Omaha and compete for the National Championship, we can certainly do that. I think as we move into the future with our players, we can get back to where we want to be and where we were in the mid-90s.

JM: Whom are you looking at to be your ace up on the hill this year?

MG: Last year we had a rough year. We pitched seven freshmen. Five of them pitched on the weekend so we have a lot of candidates to [be the ace]. We also have Tucker Holly back who was injured last year. He was a weekend starter years prior for us. He pitched in the Super Regional and Regional two years prior to that. There are a lot of candidates. Even though the record was not where we wanted last year, I feel those kids really grew up on the diamond for us.

There are a lot of guys that I feel are ready to take that step for us this year. We are so excited to get going this fall to kind of get that bad taste out of our mouths. This is one year where we have more returning players, especially pitchers, than we have ever had and they will be with us ANOTHER year. We should start reaping some of the benefits of those kids being thrown onto the fire last year.

JM: Who do you think will supply most of the offensive power in the upcoming season? Why?

MG: One kid from right here [Cullman] Ben Moore. Ben was a Freshman All-American for us last year. He was just awarded Most Valuable Player of the Northwoods League. He is certainly a guy that we feel will stay in the middle of the line-up. Really with that, we think a lot of the returning players from last year can step up and elevate their game.

We have another player who was a junior college player, Wade Wass, who had 25 home runs at Meridian Junior College. Our recruiting class is ranked 11th or 12th, the guys coming to us now that will be freshman. There will be a lot of talent in that group, both pitching wise and offensively/defensively. A lot of that will be how it all takes shape.

It is still going to be a primarily freshman/sophomore dominate team, but I think it will make our sophomores even better because of the amount of playing time they got last year.

Head coach Mitch Gaspard was a pleasure to interview and if you missed his keynote speech, you missed a great time so make plans to attend the next Bama Club meeting, they have a lot of great guests lined up.

Also make sure you get your season tickets to see the Alabama Crimson Tide take to the diamond in early February 2013. With all of the stars that will be wearing crimson and white, it's sure to be a fantastic season!

Attention Readers:

Do you have a burning question that you don't know who to ask? Do you need advice? Then submit your question for inclusion in our new advice column and get answers to life's toughest questions to advice@cullmansense.com.

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No(ah)-It-All: : It's Just the Nature of Man

By: Noah Chandler

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We all have our ups and downs, secrets, skeletons in our closets, or past indiscretions. Very few of us are willing, able, and prepared to let these little pieces of information float away without caring about the judgment from their peers. However, most are more than willing to capitalize, exploit, mock, or ridicule those with a bit more of a history than themselves. It's just the nature of man.

Those readers who've been following CullmanSense since its creation in 2010 know that I am one who has had plenty of past indiscretions, mistakes, and idiotic decisions, but those steps in my life were all for the betterment of the man you have come to know. The hard knocks of being physically, mentally, and emotionally abused as a child/young adult by my male parental unit have shaped my views of authority figures.

The horrible experiences during my school years, which included a request from a former CHS principal for me to "quit" school, have never been hidden from anyone, nor are they worn as a badge of pride. It is what it is. There are some, though, who feel it is best to take the past, mold, and shape it in such a way that it appears to be the present. This inevitably leads some to think that the future holds nothing more than chaos and destruction, which is the end game when manipulating other's thought processes.

Is everyone still with me? No? Okay, good.

Manipulation has been implemented since the beginning of man. The strong willed seek out the weak to twist and pervert reality in order to service their own needs. All the while the manipulated are being used for their labor, love, or money. How does this happen? Those whom manipulate generally have a great understanding of behavior, whether it is learned through life experience or taught in a Sociology class, which allows them to force their will upon others easily.

How many of you have ever experienced bullying? I'm guessing that many of you have. Growing up, bullying was all a part of life. It was something I just accepted for myself, something I felt was owed to me, but not something I could accept for others. Taking punches, insults, or being spat on was normal as a child and to be honest those issues when directed solely at me are not bothersome at all to this day. Not to say it doesn't affect me, because that would be a lie, but over three decades I've built up an amazing tolerance for hate, making a special little depository to store all the excess hurled my way.

Hate is something we all experience. Sometimes it is directed at one's self in self-destructive forms such as cutting, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, sexual addiction, and the list goes on. Of course a lot of the time people rage outwardly, attacking others because their own personal hate has grown to a point where they lash out on the weakest person they can find in order to relieve that stress.

Then there are times when groups of people exhibit blind hatred towards others in public stoning, public flogging, car, bus, or plane bombings, burnt crosses, lynching, rocket blasts, and the list just goes on. This is who man is, who man has always been and will continue to be.

Over the recent months my heart, mind, and soul have been weighed on heavily. How can I make any difference for good when everyone is so quick to follow hate, bullying, and manipulation? Is there any future for us [man] since it seems we are hell bent on destruction of our government, our neighbors, and ourselves? After much thought, many nights without sleep, and sessions upon sessions of a troubled mind searching itself for answers it appears that there is no redirecting from this course. All we can do is navigate the onslaught of personal, public, and political attacks with more ease than those whom are responsible for its creation.

The short stint in La-La Land is over. I am now awake and understand that there is more at play than just a community newspaper. If we can rise above the idiocy, the selfish attempts at control, move past the sensational, and finally open ourselves up to truth, allowing actual wisdom to take hold, then maybe, just maybe, my pessimistic views would be proven skewed. So please, prove me wrong.

About Us - Call us Anytime at 256-297-1847

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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CullmanSense Weekly Weather Forecast

Source: NWS

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Hi: 84 Lo: 59	Hi: 88 Lo: 60	Hi: 88 Lo: 60	Hi: 89 Lo: 61	Hi: 91 Lo: 67	Hi: 86 Lo: 68	Hi: 86
Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near **84**. North wind around 5 mph. **Night**: Partly cloudy, with a low around **59**. Northeast wind around 5 mph.	**Day**: Mostly sunny, with a high near **88**. Northeast wind around 5 mph. **Night**: Partly cloudy, with a low around **60**. North wind around 5 mph.	**Day**: Mostly sunny, with a high near **88**. **Night**: Partly cloudy, with a low around **60**.	**Day**: Mostly sunny, with a high near **89**. **Night**: Partly cloudy, with a low around **61**.	**Day**: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near **91**. **Night**: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around **67**.	**Day**: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near **86**. **Night**: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around **68**.	**Day**: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near **86**.
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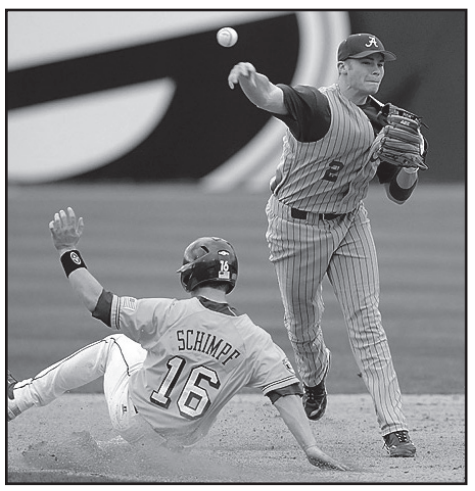
SPORTS

Area Athlete Spotlight: Colorado Rockies' Josh Rutledge

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Unless you have been living under a rock, you know that the Cullman Area is taking over Major League Baseball one player at a time. Craig Kimbrel (Huntsville) played college baseball just down the road at Wallace State. He went on to become the most dominate closer in baseball with the Atlanta Braves and won National League Rookie of the Year in 2011. Likewise Derek Holland (Newark, OH) played college ball at Wallace State as well. He pitched 8 1/3 innings of shutout baseball, winning game four of the 2011 World Series.

As good as those players are, there is a new Cullman star in the Major Leagues by the name of Josh Rutledge. People around here may remember the Rutledge name; after all he was a major cog in the Cullman Bearcats' 2007 Class 5A State Title. He went on to play at the University of Alabama where he was a standout player there as well.



"I remember Bryan Bowen (former Cullman head baseball coach) telling me that Josh (Rutledge) would be our starting shortstop," said University of Alabama head baseball coach, Mitch Gaspard during his speech at a recent Cullman County Bama Chapter meeting.

Gaspard went on to say that 90% of the time when someone says that it turns out to not be true. "Josh started the first game of a doubleheader on opening day in center field for [Alabama] and our shortstop committed two errors. The second game I put Josh at shortstop and he played the next 250 games for us as our shortstop and became an All-American," Gaspard mused.

After leaving Alabama, Rutledge was drafted by the Colorado Rockies and tore the cover off the ball at every level in the Rockies' farm system. He received the call up to the big league club in early July and has dominated MLB pitching as well. He has 36 hits, including 10 doubles, three triples, and six home runs in 112 at-bats for a .321 average. [Source: MLB.com]

During a recent off day, Rutledge took the time to conduct this interview for CullmanSense.

Josh McBrayer: You helped lay the foundation for the Cullman Bearcat baseball program. What was it like having all of your hard work culminate in a 5A State Championship?

Josh Rutledge: I couldn't have had a better coaching staff when I played at Cullman High School. There wasn't one day that went by where you couldn't look in the mirror and know for a fact that nobody in the country was outworking you. I owe a lot to those coaches for teaching me discipline and self-motivation. Having all of the work pay off in the end was what we had planned on doing since day one. There wasn't a doubt in our minds that we were not going to win. That team had a lot of heart.

JM: Describe what you were feeling when you first found out that you were going to continue your baseball career by playing NCAA Division I baseball at the University of Alabama?

JR: I couldn't have been happier after I found out I was going to play at Alabama. I've always been a huge Alabama fan from a young age so I was so excited knowing I was going to continue my career at the greatest university in the country.

JM: What was going through your mind when you got the news that you had been drafted by the Colorado Rockies?

JR: I always knew I wanted to continue playing baseball after college, but it almost seemed surreal that I was actually getting a chance to play professionally.

JM: Where were you? Who were you with? What were you doing when you got the news?

JR: I was with two of my former Alabama baseball teammates, Jon Kelton and Tyler White, in my house in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

JM: For everyone who picks up a bat, they dream of becoming a MLB pro. Describe what you were feeling when you got the news that you were being called up to "The Show."

JR: It was totally surreal and unexpected. I had dreamed of getting to the big leagues since I was a young boy. I couldn't believe it.

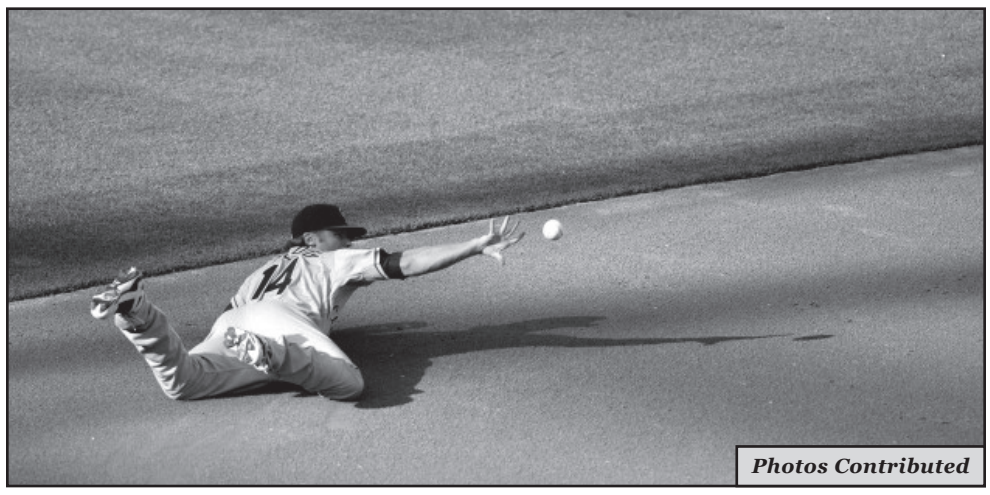
JM: You have had tremendous success in every stop in your career whether it was high school, college, minors, or majors. What are the main differences at each stop?

JR: You can't put too much stress on yourself. Just go out and have fun. Play the same game that you have played your whole life. Baseball is a game of failure. Don't let the negatives get you down but learn from them.

JM: Do you have any advice for those little league players who have aspirations to one day be in the majors?

JR: Always believe in yourself and never stop striving to become a better player.

The determination of Josh Rutledge says a lot about his character and about what he learned while at Cullman High School. He is on a roll right now in the big leagues with no signs of slowing down.

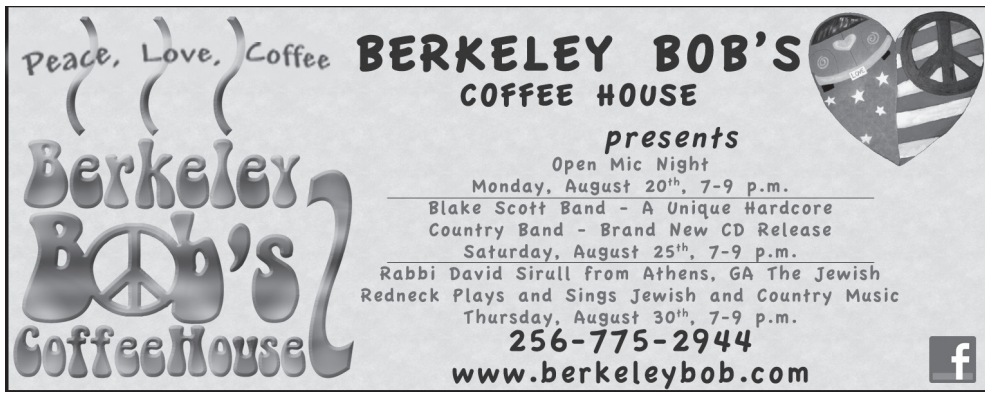


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In Brief

Alabama's July Unemployment Rate is 8.3%

By: Tara Hutchison

Alabama Department of Industrial Relationsr

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced that Alabama's preliminary July unemployment rate is 8.3%, up from June's rate of 7.8%, but below last year's rate of 9.2%.

The rate represents 179,535 unemployed persons, compared to 168,602 last month and 202,311 in July 2011.

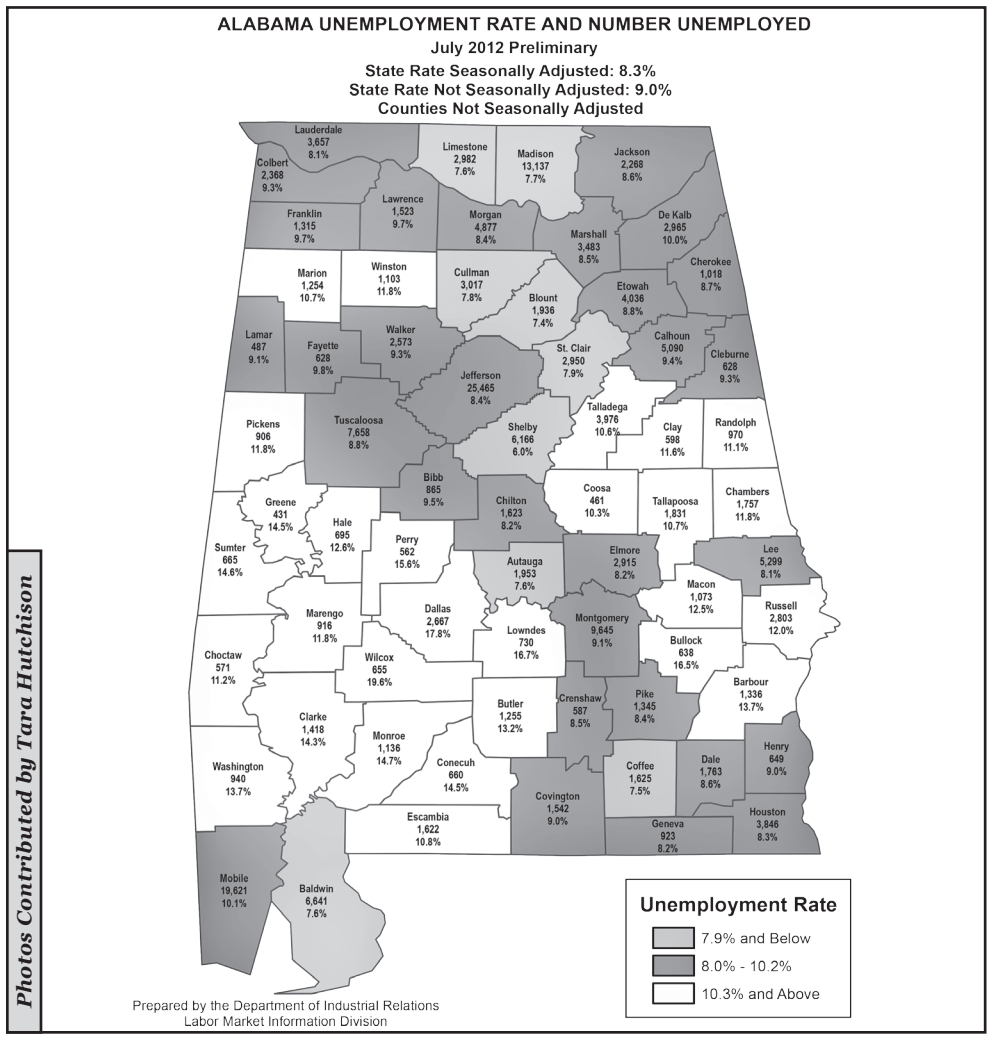
"We see more partial claims in July and December than in any other month," said Surtees. "Last month was no exception."

Partial unemployment claims, which are claims that are filed by workers who have been laid off, but for a specified time of less than three weeks, increased in July to 9,259, up significantly from the 2,570 and 3,181 recorded in May and June, respectively.

Additionally, the total workforce also increased by over 5,000 people this month. July's civilian labor workforce totaled 2,157,890, compared to 2,152,849 in June.

Counties with the lowest unemployment rates are: Shelby County at 6.0%, Blount County at 7.4%, and Coffee County at 7.5%.

Counties with the highest unemployment rates are: Wilcox County at 19.6%, Dallas County at 17.8%, and Lowndes County at 16.7%.



Photos Contributed by Tara Hutchison

Plans for 2nd Annual Oktoberfest BBQ Challenge Underway

By: Leanne West

City Hall Contributor

CULLMAN – On October 13, 2012, the City of Cullman will once again host an official Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS) cook-off!

Last year's inaugural event was very successful, and this year's event is shaping up to be even greater.

This year the Cullman County Bama Chapter and the Cullman Women's League (CWL) have partnered to make this year's event bigger and better with the addition of several food vendors, local entertainment, and a huge children's area.

The shared goal of the two organizations is to create a fun and affordable family event while raising money for our community.

The Oktoberfest BBQ Challenge is sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS), a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and enjoying barbecue.

KCBS is the largest organization of barbecue and grilling enthusiasts with over 15,000 members worldwide and sanctions over 400 barbecue contests coast-to-coast throughout America.

"It is a great honor that the Kansas City Barbecue Society has once again chosen Cullman as a site for a barbecue cook-off," said Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson. "We are excited to show off our wonderful community."

Discounts will be offered to families and to senior citizens.

Veterans and active duty military personnel will receive free admission.

The Oktoberfest BBQ Challenge will be held October 13, 2012, at the Cullman Fairgrounds.

The event coincides with our annual Cullman Oktoberfest celebration, which will include many other activities in downtown Cullman throughout the week of October 6-13, 2012.

For more information about the Oktoberfest BBQ Challenge, visit www.cullmanbbqchallenge.com or contact Katie Free at katiefullerfree@gmail.com.



Left to Right: Cullman County Commission Chairman James Graves, Cullman Bama Chapter 1st Vice-President Mike Howell, Cullman Women's League President Katie Free, Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson. Photo Contributed by Leann West.

Johnson Hearing Services

By: Erika Mead

Chamber of Commerce Contributor

CULLMAN – The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting for Cullman Johnson Hearing Services on August 6th. Johnson Hearing Services is very excited to be part of the local Cullman business community.

We look forward to, and are committed to, providing the best audiological care available in the Cullman area. For more information, visit them at 1900 Main Avenue SW Suite 1, Cullman, AL 35055 or call them at 256-841-0930.





1st (Left to Right): Larry Owen, Family; Peter Duke, Widex USA; Sue Freeman, Friend; Dr. Lisa Joines, MD, ABC Pediatrics; Mary Johnson, Family; Aaron Johnson, Au.D., Owner of Johnson Hearing Services, P.C.; Mayor Max Townson; Grant Johnson, Family; Laurie Johnson, Owner of Johnson Hearing Services, P.C.; Lydia Johnson, Family; Natalie Johnson, Family; Clay Johnson, Family; Will Montgomery, Friend; Samuel Montgomery, Friend; Emma Britton, Friend; Alysha Montgomery, Montgomery Speech Services. 2nd Row: Amelia Owen, Employee of Johnson Hearing Services, P.C. and Family; Wayne Freeman, Friend; Steve Casebolt, Edward Jones; Bill Phillips, First Patient of Johnson Hearing Services; Sue Poe, Friend; Thomas Poe, Friend; Huey Hartsell, Friend; Betty Hartsell, Friend; Edna White, Friend; Mike Waters, CPA; Terri Waldrop, ERA Waldrop Real Estate 3rd Row: Greg Picogna, Edward Jones; Russell Poe, Best 1 Home Inspection; Marie Cason, Friend; Connie Allen, Wallace State; Tommy Waldrop, ERA Waldrop Real Estate. Photo Contributed by Erika Mead.

Community Matters

A Night of Hope (Continued from Front)

can Cancer Society. The strong response from the community was an uplifting sight for him, along with the rest of the Circle of Hope team, but he said the work is never done.

"It was really neat to see the community leaders who were willing to come and join us and be a part of this fundraiser. We think this event will be very successful in the fight against cancer," said Cornelius. "It is important for me to relay because I am a cancer survivor and I am a product of this fundraising. I am here today because of an ACS funded clinical trial in Omaha, Nebraska, called a stem cell transplant. Without the funding that ACS puts into research I would not be here today."

Cornelius said that the importance of a great support system is invaluable when combatting cancer. Family, friends, neighbors, and communities can uplift a person when they feel as if there is no hope left.

"As I said about the Circle of Hope team, we tend to get very event focused with Relay for Life. The event is a great activity, it is a culmination of our work for the year, but Relay is really about fundraising," he said.

"The Cullman community is incredible. There is no better community to have to face something like this [cancer] than in Cullman, Alabama. It is also incredible in giving to others, so we need Cullman County to continue to fund Relay year round. It's not about the event; it's about the fight against cancer."

The first year event raised a large amount funds, though the final tally has not be released. Laney said that the large turnout of attendees made for a great fundraiser.

"I would just like to thank everyone from me personally because cancer has affected our lives so much. I see the results of research through our own family and I know what a difference an event such as this can make to the outcome for the research dollars," she said. "I know that everyone tonight came in support of someone and that someone is special to them. Thank you all for making this night a special one."

Participants included: April Burgess, Billy Coleman, Jimmie Drake, Dr. Jan Harris, Ben Harrison, Dr. Vickie Hawsey, Betty Leeth-Haynes, Dr. Vince Karolewics, Mavis Martin, Andy Page, Liz Page, Michael Sullins, Shirley Quattlebaum, and Judge Rusty Turner.

Circle of Hope presents Dancing with our Stars was held at the Betty Leeth-Haynes Theater on the campus of Wallace State College.









Taking a "Shot" at Cancer

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Shotgun blasts could be heard early Saturday morning as several dozen marksmen took to the fields of Maple Ridge Gun Club for the inaugural Shootin for a Cure – Skeet Shoot.

The fundraiser was organized by the Merchants Bank Relay for Life team. Elizabeth Nicholas, co-captain, said the unusual idea came about when she and fellow RFL teammates were discussing future events.

"It's never been done before so we thought, why not," said Nicholas. "Our goal was to have 20 participating and we ended up with 18 total, which is great for the first time event. We may not have hit our goal but it was an impressive showing.

The poor weather early Saturday could have kept some target shooters at home, Nicholas said, but in the end the RFL team took a step closer to reaching their goal for this year. She said the work putting on the event, along with the efforts of Randal York, owner of Maple Ridge Gun Club, is what helped make it a fun one for those in attendance.

"Thank you for coming out to support this good cause because one day we will find a cure for cancer. We appreciate everyone who came out to help us fight back," said Nicholas. "Thank you to all the sponsors because without you all we would not have been able to put on this event."

Greg Barksdale and his son Griffin, 9, have been shooting together for roughly two years. Greg has been proficient with firearms since an early age, so when his son asked for a shotgun he happily obliged.

"We were at one of my dad's friends' house a couple years ago when they were shooting and I just asked them if I could shoot," Griffin said while walking towards the next stage of the event. "It's just a fun way to spend time with my dad."

Greg echoed the sentiment of his son, saying the sport of trap and skeet shooting has given them something they can both enjoy. The opportunities for fathers to spend time with their sons have lessened over the years, Greg said, so anytime they can spend out together is a good time. "It's just another way that we can spend time together," said Greg. "There really isn't a lot a 9-year-old and 48-year-old can do together at the same time and at the same level. He shot on the same level as I did, so there is a bit of competition between us."

Weston Bates came out to help support the RFL team as well as taking in some time with friends on the firing range.

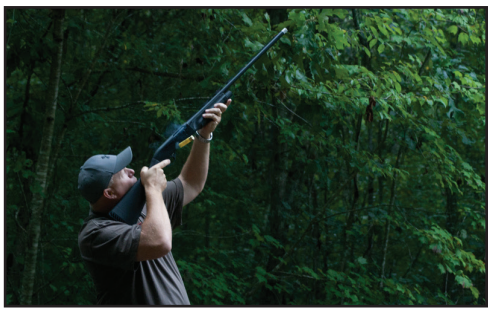
"This is a nice facility. The grounds are well kept, have good target areas, and for the price and amenities you just cannot beat this place," said Bates. "I came out today to help raise money for Relay for Life. It is important to help out whenever you can because you never know when cancer will touch your life."

Maple Ridge owner Randal York was pleased to open up the grounds to the RFL team. He said whenever he has an opportunity to give back to the community he does so. "Cancer research is important and if they don't have the money then they cannot do the research," said York.





Photos by Jessica Norrell





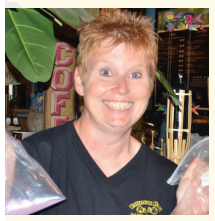


Lifestyle

Passion for the Kitchen

Send your recipes to recipes@cullmansense.com

By: Annette Harris
annetteharris@cullmansense.com



qrne.ws/aharris



Photos by Annette Harris

Aunt Minnie



Aunt Ceil and Nanny had a sister that we called "Aunt Minnie." For as long as I can remember she had grey hair. She also wore a dress with an apron and heavy duty high heeled shoes.

Aunt Minnie was the sweetest person you would ever want to know. She and Uncle Tom lived in a tall, old house with lots of flowers in the yard. That house seemed so big to me then.

The rooms seemed dark and it all just smelled old. We would go visit them with my Nanny and Aunt Ceil quite frequently.

My cousins would be there too. There were no toys for us to play with, yet we always found plenty to keep us occupied.

I remember her kitchen was always brighter than the rest of the house and the thing that stands out the most was her biscuits.

Every time I came over she would ask me if I wanted a biscuit. I never turned down that offer.

She could make the best biscuits in the world. I don't know how to describe them. You just had to eat one.

They were always cold and on the kitchen table. Of course you had to put some of her homemade jelly on it. Funny how you remember tastes and smells.

I remember we loved it when she would take down her tightly wound bun of hair. We begged her to do it. Her hair was almost to her waist.

I think not just the fact that it was so long was amazing to us kids, but it was so grey and long. I guess I figured that older people with grey hair didn't have long hair.

She talked about how she would brush it 100 times every night and how long it took her to wind it up into a bun at the back of her head. A kid thinks about things like that.

She was always laughing and had time for all of us. She was always cooking something. I can remember a time when "the sisters" got together to make dumplings for the big pot of chicken she had boiling.

They had one of those cabinets with the metal tables on the front of it and it had a flour bin built inside. I thought that was the neatest thing.

It seemed like it took them hours to make those dumplings, but I can remember them laughing and carrying on the whole time.

I remember playing hospital in one of the rooms with my cousin. We didn't have dolls for patients. We made patients out of a couple of paper sacks that we drew faces on and had a piece of material for their clothes.

We sure did have an imagination. I guess we thought that room was like a hospital because it had two beds in it. Crazy. But we played for hours.

Do kids have imaginations like that now? Could they dream up enough to keep them occupied like we did? I don't know if they will ever have a chance.

Outside at Aunt Minnie's was fun as well. I remember having a wart on my finger and she handed me a penny and told all of us kids if we would rub the wart with that penny, bury it in the flower bed and walk away, not looking back it would go away.

It almost killed us to not look back. I think we believed that it would magically start disappearing that day. I guess we all sneaked a peek back over our shoulders. Ha, ha.

I sure would like one of those biscuits.

Hamburger Stroganoff

This recipe gets eaten up as fast as it gets to the plate at our house. It's easy enough and delicious! See what you think!

Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground chuck
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 package of onion soup mix
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can of cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup of sour cream
- 1/2 pound cooked egg noodles

Instructions:

1. In a large skillet over medium heat, cook ground chuck and onion until meat is browned and onion is tender, stirring occasionally.
2. Stir in the packet of onion soup mix, pepper, both cans of soup, and the sour cream.
3. Reduce heat to low and stir until mixed together well.
4. Simmer uncovered, 8 to 10 minutes, or until hot.

Serve over the hot egg noodles.

Homemade Fried Pies

I'm about to make things really easy on you. This is probably the easiest fried pie you will ever make and if you do not want to do the frying, you can bake them and they are almost as good.

Ingredients:

- 1 can of the large size Grands biscuits or a store brand that is the same size.
- 1 can of any type fruit pie filling, such as apple, cherry, etc.
- Oil for the skillet
- Flour for the surface to press the biscuits.

Instructions:

1. Press each biscuit, one at a time onto the floured surface until it's as big as you can get it.
2. On half of the biscuit, put a tablespoon of the fruit filling.
3. Fold it over and press the edges together. If you want to be a little fancy or make it look a little more homemade, use a fork dipped in flour to crimp the edges.
4. In a skillet, I use an iron skillet, pour about ¼ inch of vegetable oil and heat until hot.
5. Place the pies in the oil and let them fry until brown on each side.
6. Remove and drain on paper towels.

The filling will be really hot. Enjoy!



Reflections of History

Do you recognize this photo?

Share your story on **Twitter** with hashtag **#cullmanhistory** or call us at **256-297-1847**.

Hays House



Photo Contributed by Cullman County Museum



Jump into

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this summer and get the loan you need to make your home a Vacation!

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Member FDIC

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.

Local Events Calendar

Send your Events to: calendar@cullmansense.com

Monday, August 20th

Dog Obedience Training Classes
Dog obedience training classes are being offered by Cullman City Parks and Recreation Dept. for six weeks, one hour each Monday starting August 20. Fee for the classes is $50.00 and there are two time periods, one for puppies under 6 months at 6 p.m. and the second class which starts at 7 p.m. is for dogs older than 6 months and up. Sheri Davis who is a certified instructor will be in charge of the classes. For further info and to register your pets please contact Ms. Davis at 256-734-4256. These classes will be each Monday night, starting August 6, and continuing for 6 weeks. Come learn how to interact with your pet so they will obey your commands.

12th Annual Brooks' Place/Shonn W. Walker Golf Tournament Signup
Sign up now for the 12th Annual Brooks' Place/ Shonn W. Walker Golf Tournament to be held on Friday, August 24**,** at Cullman Golf Course. Hosted by Brooks' Place, the Child Advocacy Center of Cullman, this golfing afternoon will start with lunch followed by the tournament which features a three man scramble with shotgun kick off at 1 p.m. Cost to enter the tournament is $80.00 per player or $240.00 per team. To register please email kbevis@cullmancac.com or phone 256-739-2243. All funds raised through this event go to Brooks' Place. Get your team ready and make plans to spend the 24th on Cullman Golf Course for a worthy cause as well as some awesome golfing!

Bosom Buddies Support Group
Members of the Bosom Buddies Support Group meet at 6 p.m. and invite those seeking help to come to the meetings. You are not alone and can find needed information and ideas from the members of this organization. The meeting is held in the Ave Maria room in POB II on the campus of CRMC hospital. There is no cost for this meeting. Please call Mary Dyer for additional info at 256-734-8729.

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 preregister 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.

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.

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, August 21st

Cullman County Board of Education Work Session and Meeting
Members of the Cullman County Board of Education will meet at 5:30 p.m. for a work session followed by the 6:30 p.m. official meeting. This meeting will take place at the Cullman County Board of Education Central Office.

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.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group Meeting
Calling all Alzheimer's caretakers. Come join our support group as we meet at 5:30 p.m. Come see how others fare in their efforts and maybe learn something helpful for your own situation. Meetings are free and open to the public. They are held on the campus of CRMC in the Depot Room of POB II. Please call Jane Farley for additional info at 256-737-2038.

Country Dance at VFW Post 2214
Come join the Ladies' Auxiliary of VFW Post 2214 for their weekly Tuesday night country-dance and enjoy the music and fellowship!! Admission is $5.00 per person and concessions are available each dance night. Everyone is invited to this event.

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, August 22nd

'Kalightoscope Christmas' trip Planned for Seniors in December
The final Senior Spirit Tour event of 2012 will be their travels to Louisville, Kentucky, December 3 through 6. Final payment for those with reservations is October 19, so make your plans and get signed up for another great time traveling with this fun group of 'Seniors' who are very much 'young at heart!!' $530.00 is the cost per person in a double room. This fee covers motor coach transportation, lodging for three nights, holiday dinner show, Christmas Village, Mega Caverns, Snow Fairy Castle attraction, Royal Breakfast, Mistletoe Marketplace, Princess Diane exhibit, Derby Playhouse, Louisville Slugger Museum, Joe Huber Farms, Corvette Car Museum, and lots more. Sounds like quite a delightful trip! Be sure to get your name in the pot so you can enjoy a magical holiday start early in December that will carry you with happy memories throughout the Christmas season!!! Please contact Angie Jochum for further info at 256-734-4803.

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, August 23rd

When Helping Hurts Community-wide Book Study
Would you like to make a lasting impact with the poor and vulnerable? The Link of Cullman County is hosting a community-wide 8-week book study of *When Helping Hurts How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor and Yourself* at Berkley Bob's Coffee Shop starting at 6:00 p.m. Register at info@linkingcullman.org or call Dawn Owens at 256-347-9626. Please purchase books in advance.

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, August 24th

'Fourth Friday' Luncheon
The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's August 'Fourth Friday' Luncheon will be hosted by its Existing Business and Industry Committee and sponsored by Eva Bank. The luncheon will be held in the All Steak Restaurant's third floor banquet room. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. to allow for business networking opportunities before the program begins at 11:50 a.m. Lunch is $10.00 per person for Chamber members and $20.00 for "Future" members. Reservations in advance are requested, so please register at www.CullmanChambe.org or call 256-734-0454. Come join your fellow business folks and enjoy a great lunch, program and see what your Chamber has to offer you!

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, August 25th

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: BACK TO SCHOOL

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.

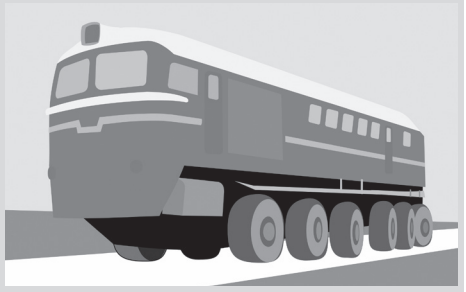
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S	O	J	M	L	I	S	L	V	A	Y	R	C	F	G	E	U	F	C	K	Q	E	Z	M	J	X	T	N	J	Q	H
A	C	X	A	Y	S	A	S	M	V	O	S	G	U	D	S	E	V	H	M	U	V	T	L	X	V	S	K	P	Y	J

Backpack	Blackboard	Books	Bus	Classroom	Crayons
Desk	Erasers	Friends	Glue	Grades	Gym
History	Literature	Lunch	Mathematics	Notebook	Paper
Pencils	Playground	Reading	Recess	Ruler	School
Science	Scissors	Social Studies	Teacher	Test	Writing

GETTING CORNY

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1. What can you add to a train that makes your vehicle go faster?



2. Why did the impatient construction worker dislike his job?



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1. Car-go. 2. There was too much buildup.

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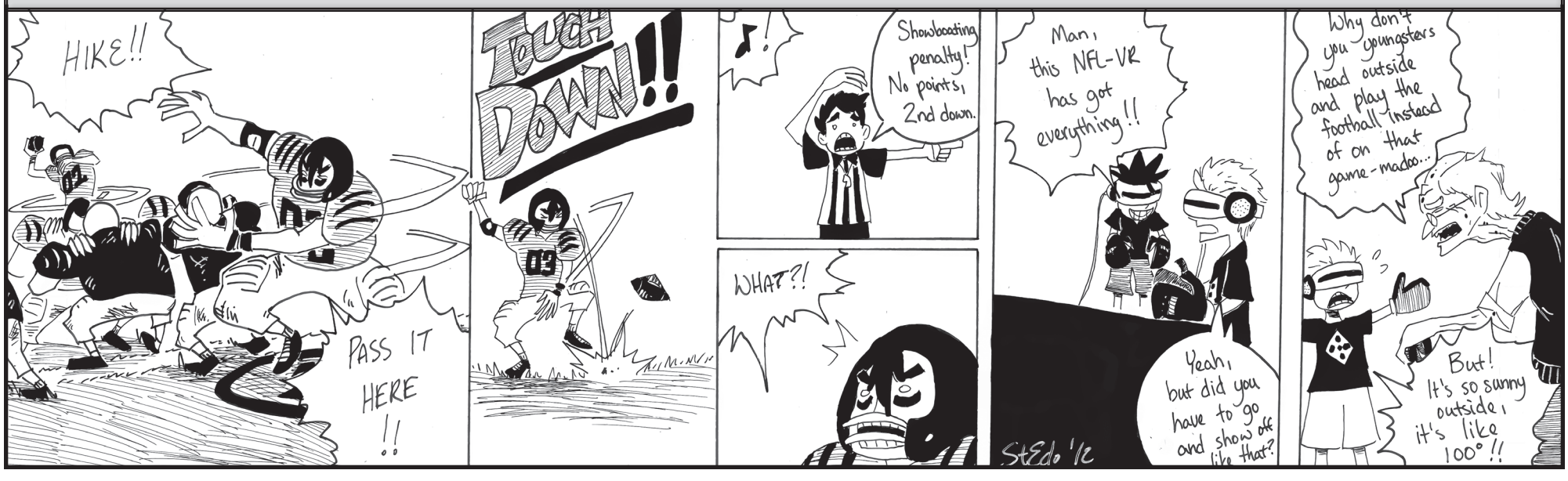
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Community Matters

The Bee is "Buzzing" (Continued from Front)

has been in the Spears family for over 40.

The café has always had a hometown feel with a staff that enjoys coming to work each and every day, but on April 27th the Busy Bee Café would be changed forever. As we all recall, and will never forget, a huge tornado tore a path of destruction through our town and changed the landscape forever. The iconic Busy Bee Café was one of the hardest hit businesses as it was literally leveled to the foundation.

"I had a talk with my dad," Kyle Spears recalls, "And we knew immediately that we were going to rebuild [Busy Bee]."

That is just what they did. The Busy Bee Café started to rebuild something bigger and better while keeping the nostalgic feel of the restaurant that all of Cullman has come to know and love.

They accomplished this goal and reopened the Cullman landmark on Friday, April 27th 2012, exactly one year to the date that the restaurant was destroyed.

Embedded into the outside brick wall, on either side of the glass doors you pass through to enter the restaurant, are two engraved cinder blocks. One reads 'Bust Bee Established 1919' and the other reads 'Destroyed 2011 Rebuilt 2012.'

"The cinder blocks were engraved by Cullman Marble and Granite," Spears said with pride. "It is to remember our history."

"It is just as good as I remember," said Busy Bee patron Zac Love. "I had the cheese burger with the heavy mix (sauce) and heavy onions. It is the first time I have been in since the rebuild, but I have been coming to Bust Bee for a long time. My dad has been coming since the 70s."

The Busy Bee Café is one of the stark examples of how a community can pull itself up and out of the ashes and rubble of a major disaster and come out better for it.

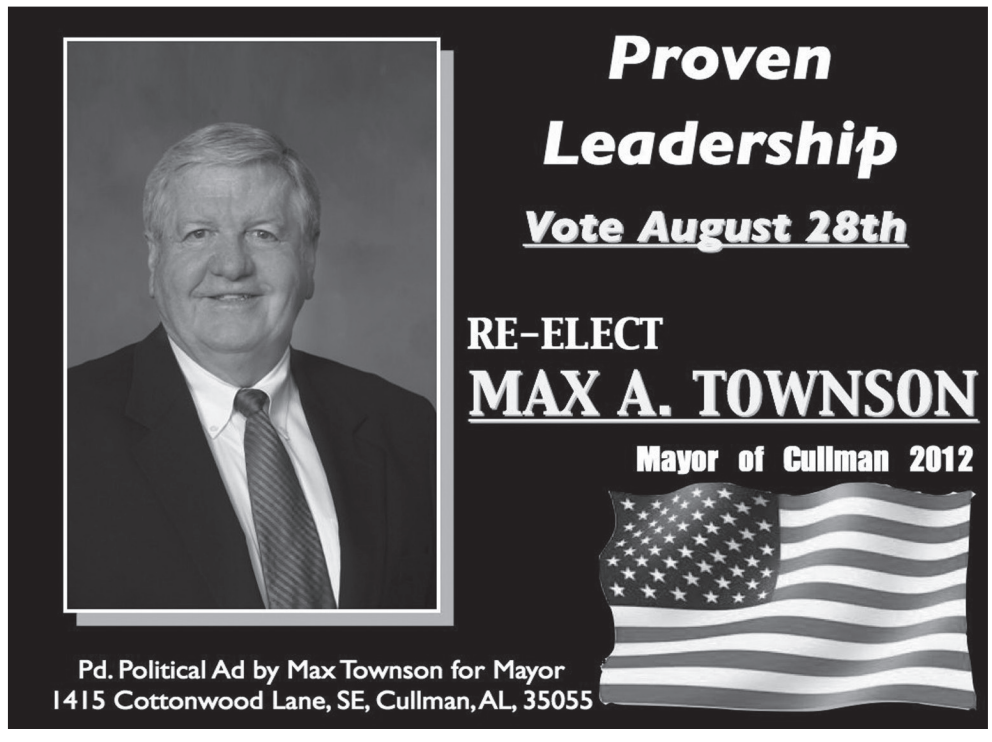
All of the hard work and sacrifice by everyone who is a part of the Busy Bee family, from the nine wonderful people that help keep the Busy Bee Café running, to the builders who worked tirelessly to rebuild the restaurant, is nothing short of amazing and makes this reporter proud to be from Cullman and a part of this great community.



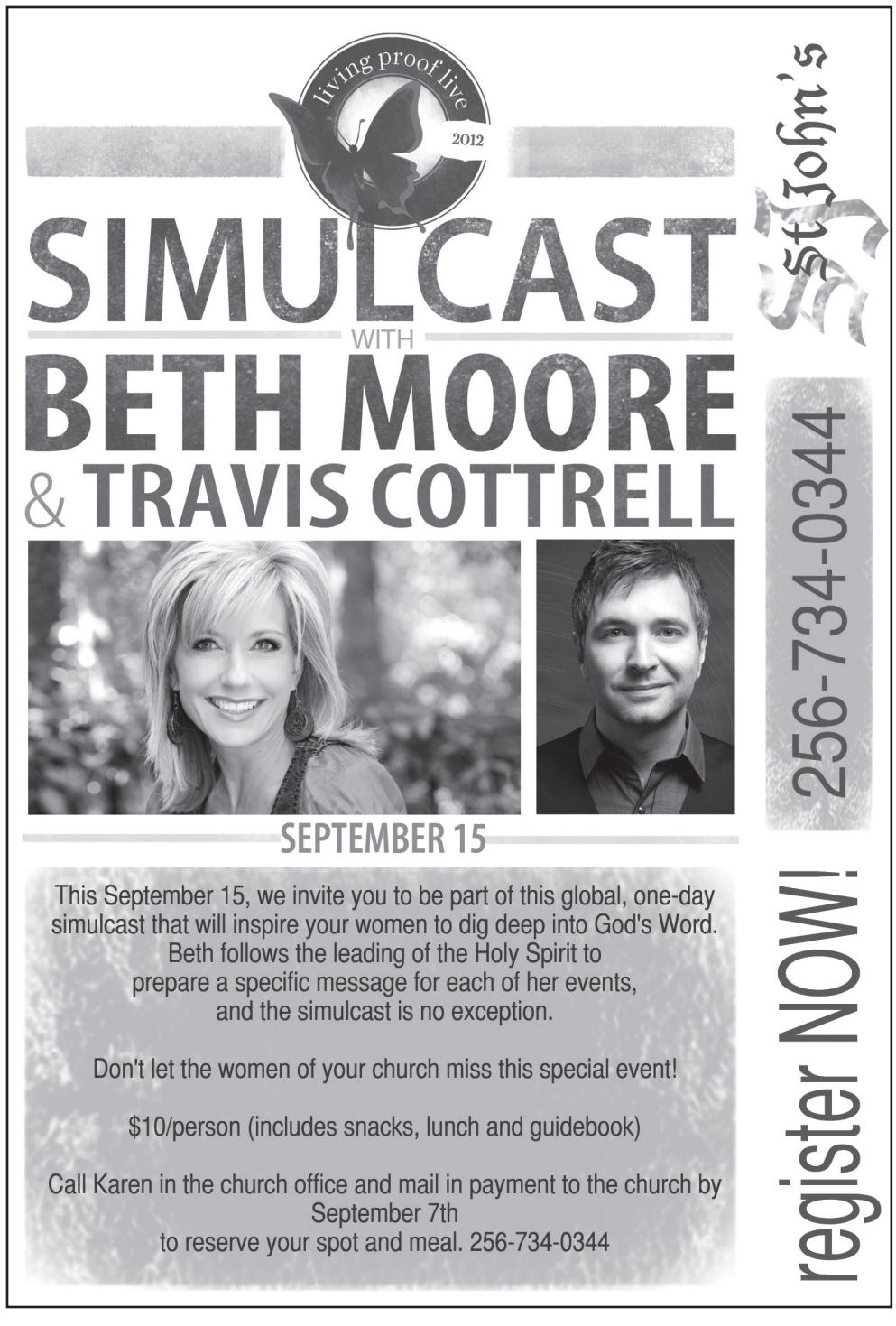












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