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CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER

CULLMANSENSE

COMMUNITY MATTERS

$0.50 $0.50

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Alabama's March Unemployment Rate Steady at 7.2%; Cullman 6.0%

6.0%

By: Tara Hutchison

Both Employment and Labor Force Showing Growth

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Tom Surtees announced today that Alabama's preliminary March unemployment rate remained unchanged at 7.2%. March 2012's rate was also 7.2%. March's rate represents 155,071 unemployed persons, compared to 154,790 last month, and 156,224 last year.

"This month we continued to see the labor force grow, which tells us that more people are re-gaining confidence in the job market. We also saw the number of people with jobs grow by nearly 7,000, with only a slight increase in the number of unemployed," said Surtees. "Even though the rate didn't decrease, these are still positive signs."

The civilian labor force increased in March to 2,164,497, up from 2,157,556 in February and 2,156,362 last year.

The number of employed persons rose to 2,009,426, up from 2,002,766 in February and 2,000,138 last year.

"We always urge people to look at trends in the unemployment numbers, rather than simply looking at only the monthly data in order to get a better picture of the job market," continued Surtees.

"For example, we've seen consistent increases in the number of people employed since August of last year - with the exception of January, which is to be expected as holiday hiring winds down."

"Additionally," said Surtees, "sixty-six of 67 counties, along with all of the state's metropolitan areas, saw their unemployment rates drop this month. Lamar County saw a drop as large as 1.9 percentage points, which is great news."

Eight Alabama counties saw decreases in their unemployment rates of 1.5 percentage points or greater.

These counties are: Barbour, Bullock, Choctaw, Cleburne, Conecuh, Lamar, Marion, and Winston.

Counties with the lowest unemployment rates were: Shelby County at 4.7%, Blount County at 5.6%, and Lee County at 5.8%.

Counties with the highest unemployment rates were: Wilcox County at 16.4%, Lowndes County at 13.4%, and Dallas County at 12.8%.

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In Brief

Governor Bentley Appoints Brunson White as Secretary of Information Technology

By: Jennifer Ardis

MONTGOMERY – Governor Robert Bentley on Monday announced the appointment of Brunson White as Secretary of Information Technology.

"Brunson will be given a tremendous responsibility to streamline the state's information technology and help us improve efficiency across state government," Governor Bentley said.

"His experience makes him ideal for this position. He's been responsible for major information technology projects. He's a proven leader in project management. He will be able to take the skills that made him successful in business and apply them to improving efficiency in state agencies. Brunson will help us organize I.T. to make it more efficient, to save taxpayer dollars, and to make it more secure."

Previously, White worked for the Energen Corporation in Birmingham for 33 years. Over that time, he was responsible for approximately $100 million in information technology projects completed on-time and within budget. White's experience with Energen also included strategic planning, corporate development, and more. He recently retired from Energen as a Senior Vice President.

White is assuming his new responsibilities as Secretary of Information Technology effective immediately.

"As we improve the state's I.T. structure, we'll improve how we serve the people of Alabama," White said. "For too long, the state's I.T. structure has been decentralized, and that has resulted in a lack of overall efficiency. We can correct that. We can ensure that more I.T. systems are compatible between state agencies. We can optimize the state's I.T. resources. This will help our agencies run more efficiently while also benefitting taxpayers and state employees alike."

The position of Secretary of Information Technology was established by Senate Bill 117, which the Alabama Legislature recently approved and Governor Bentley signed into law. The Secretary will develop and implement a comprehensive plan to coordinate the purchasing, management, and use of I.T. across state agencies.



Governor Robert Bentley swears in Brunson White, left, as Secretary of Information Technology on Monday, April 15, 2013. Secretary Brunson's wife, Dell Witcher, holds the Bible. Governor's Office Photo, Jamie Martin

Wallace State Program Celebrates Occupational Therapy Month

By: Gail Crutchfield

WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Faculty and students in the Occupational Therapy program at Wallace State Community College are taking the month of April to help educate the public about the field during Occupational Therapy month.

The Hanceville campus offers an Associate in Applied Science degree for Occupational Therapy Assistants, who work under the supervision of occupational therapists to help patients get back to their normal daily activities after suffering an injury or illness.

Gail Hyatt, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator for the OTA program at WSCC, said occupational therapists and their assistants do all they can to help their patients reestablish their independence and learn new ways to perform tasks.

"We're kind of a misunderstood profession at times," Hyatt said. When people think of occupational therapy they may assume it's only for those seeking to return to their jobs.

"Are we going to get you back to work?" she asked. "Yes, we are. But in occupational therapy we don't just focus on what you do for a living but the occupations you do as you live, whether it's reading a book, playing football, any of those things. That's our goal."

Hyatt said occupational therapy works to improve a person's quality of life and give them more independence. That can require a little improvisation, she said.

"We help them through use of adaptive equipment to help them perform tasks in a different way," Hyatt said. For example, they may provide a bowl holder for a patient who had had a stroke and has use of only one side of their body so they can stir ingredients while making a meal. They may show them how to use a rocking knife to cut meat on their plate one-handed, so they can eat independently.

"And sometimes they're not able to get back to doing a task the way the used to do it," Hyatt said. "But we help them sometimes find a different way of accomplishing a task, and help to remediate by helping them gain more strength, endurance, and balance."

"The slogan of Occupational Therapy is living life to the fullest," Hyatt said. "and that's truly what our goal is, for each person to find a way to have a great quality of life, to enjoy life as long as possible."

The Wallace State Occupational Therapy Assistant program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association. In 2012, the program earned a 10-year reaccreditation from ACOTE.

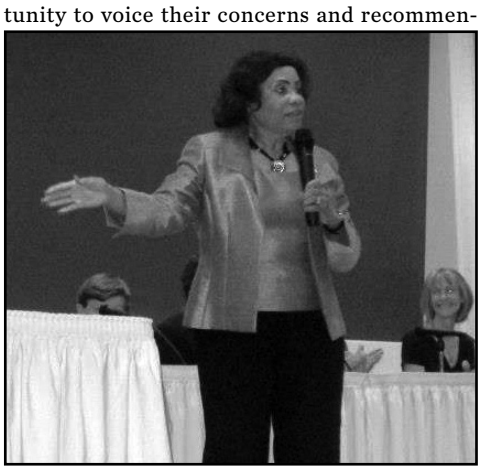
The program is certified by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy Inc. (NBCOT). After successful completion of the NBCOT exam, graduates will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant. A high percentage of graduating students pass their NBCOT exam, the class of 2011 earned a 100 percent pass rate. For more information, call Wallace State's OTA program at 256-352-8333 or visit www.wallacestate.edu.

Students Celebrate Success of Statewide Clean Drinking Water Lobby Day with New, Student-Crafted Legislation

By: Aaron Traywick

BIRMINGHAM – Students of the Coalition of Alabama Students for the Environment (CASE) celebrated the success of last week's April 9th Lobby Day event with the introduction of House/Senate Joint Resolution 191 into the State of Alabama's 2013 Legislative Session.

The event, which brought over 75 students from 8 CASE university campuses and Indian Springs School, allowed students the opportunity to voice their concerns and recommendations for the future quality and quantity of Greater Birmingham drinking water sources.



Senator Priscilla Dunn Speaks at the CASE April 9 Press Conference

CASE hosted a press conference and over 35 meetings with legislators in support of Indian Springs 8th graders Alabama water use policy recommendations.

State Representative Juandalynn Givan (D-Birmingham) introduced HJR 191 to provide a public forum to express concerns over the quantity and quality of drinking water supplies in Greater Birmingham. The resolution will provide state and local officials with new resources and tools to plan for the future of Birmingham's drinking water.

HJR 191 will establish a non-partisan study commission to objectively research connections between the present and future health and economic prosperity of the region and regional drinking water supplies.

The purpose of the Commission will be to create an avenue through which economic and public health interests can lay the foundations of a plan to preserve the region's most important natural resource: drinking water.

As the state's most densely populated area and home to Alabama's largest employer, UAB Health Systems, students believe that a strong focus of study is needed on Greater Birmingham in order to determine whether or not diminishing drinking water supplies will limit the region's potential for future economic growth.

Additionally, public reports received from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management reveal that over 295 million gallons of raw, untreated human sewage spilled into the Cahaba and Black Warrior Rivers in the past 10 years.

Both rivers serve as the source of drinking water for many communities in Jefferson, Shelby, and other counties in the state.

The Commission is designed to bring all interests to the table around issues of water quantity and quality. Representatives of the business, scientific, public health, and public policy communities will all serve on the Commission.

The legislation is sponsored by Representatives Mary Sue McClurkin (R-Indian Springs), John Rogers (D-Birmingham), Rod Scott (D-Fairfield), Christopher John England (D-Tuscaloosa), and Richard Laird (I-Roanoke). The Senate Resolution is sponsored by Senators Priscilla Dunn (Jefferson), Rodger Smitherman (Jefferson), Cam Ward (Alabaster), and Roger Bedford (Russelville).

What's Online

WALLACE STATE SOFTBALL, BASEBALL TEAMS TO DONATE SATURDAY'S HOME PROCEEDS TO BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

Wallace State's softball and baseball teams will donate their Saturday home game proceeds to Breast Cancer Research.

qrne.ws/32

E HIJACKED BY THE PIRATES

On a blistery day where the wind could cut like a knife, the Good Hope Raiders hit the road and traveled 75 miles through Jasper to reach Winfield, home of the Winfield Pirates.

qrne.ws/33

CULLMAN, MUSCLE SHOALS TO GO TO GAME 3 IN 5A PLAYOFF SERIES

Cullman pitcher Keegan Thompson can thank outfielder Cole Collins for his effort at the bat to save the Bearcats' season for at least one more day.

qrne.ws/34

In Brief

Black Warrior River Among America's Most Endangered Rivers

By: Rebecca Haynes

Coal Mine Poses Direct Threat to Birmingham Drinking Water Source

WASHINGTON, D.C. – American Rivers named Alabama's Black Warrior River among America's Most Endangered Rivers® of 2013, shining a national spotlight on a proposed coal mine that would threaten clean drinking water as well as river health, wildlife, and private property.

"The America's Most Endangered Rivers report is a call to action to save rivers that are facing a critical tipping point," said Rebecca Haynes of American Rivers. "We all need healthy rivers. They provide our drinking water, support the economies of our communities, and promote public health and quality of life. We hope citizens will take action to ensure a healthy Black Warrior River for generations to come."

The Black Warrior River is threatened by a proposed strip coal mine at Shepherd Bend on the Black Warrior River's Mulberry Fork in Walker County. The 1,773-acre Shepherd Bend Mine would discharge wastewater at 29 points, including one that is 800 feet across the river from a Birmingham Water Works Board drinking water intake facility for 200,000 people. Mine discharges would introduce toxic pollutants and sediment into the drinking water source, elevating health risks and increasing water treatment costs for families and businesses in the greater Birmingham area.

American Rivers and its partners called on the University of Alabama (UA) System Trustees to prevent the lease or sale of UA's land and mineral rights to Shepherd Bend, LLC. That company is run by Garry Neil Drummond, a Trustee Emeritus of the UA System. A large and growing coalition of businesses, organizations, students, scientists, drinking water consumers, and other concerned citizens are urging the UA Trustees to take a strong stance against the mine, helping ensure that this valuable water source is protected for future generations.

"Shepherd Bend Mine is a major threat to the river, Birmingham-area drinking water, and the University of Alabama System's reputation," said Charles Scribner, Executive Director of Black Warrior Riverkeeper. "Under the national spotlight, UA leaders should pledge to oppose any current or future mining proposal at this uniquely inappropriate location."

"Students throughout the UA System and the state of Alabama oppose the construction of the Shepherd Bend Mine," said Caitlin McClusky, statewide co-coordinator for the Coalition of Alabama Students for the Environment. "We believe the UA System has a responsibility to prioritize the protection of the public health of Alabama citizens over short-term profit."

"Like many of the families in Cordova, my dad raised four boys on a coal miner's wage, and I appreciate that," said Randy Palmer of the Citizens Opposed to Strip Mining on the Black Warrior River. "Cordova was devastated by tornadoes on April 27, 2011. Cordova's 20 miles of riverfront presents our best opportunity for redevelopment. Mining this riverfront would destroy that economic opportunity, not to mention quality of life."

The Black Warrior River flows through a 6,276 square mile basin, providing drinking water to many of the watershed's one million residents. The Black Warrior and its headwater streams, one of which carries a national Wild and Scenic River designation, are home to a great diversity of wildlife including 127 species of fish and 36 species of mussels. This river and its tributaries are a popular destination for fishing, paddling, swimming, and other forms of recreation.

The annual America's Most Endangered Rivers® report is a list of rivers at a crossroads, where key decisions in the coming months will determine the rivers' fates. Over the years, the report has helped spur many successes including the removal of outdated dams, the protection of rivers with Wild and Scenic designations, and the prevention of harmful development and pollution.

Governor Bentley Signs Scottsboro Boys Legislation

By: Jennifer Ardis

SCOTTSBORO – Governor Robert Bentley on Friday held a ceremonial signing for Senate Bill 97, a measure that establishes a framework for posthumous pardons in the case of the Scottsboro Boys. Governor Bentley also signed House Joint Resolution 20, which formally exonerates the Scottsboro Boys.

"We cannot take back what happened. But we can make it right moving forward. That's why I'm signing this legislation," Governor Bentley said. "It's important to clear the names of the Scottsboro Boys. This is the result of a bipartisan, cooperative effort, and I appreciate everyone who worked together to make this legislation a reality."

House Speaker Mike Hubbard added, "The Legislature's unanimous passage of this important legislation and Governor Bentley's signature show that today's Alabama is far removed from the one that caused such pain for so many so long ago."

Friday's signing ceremony took place at the Scottsboro Boys Museum and Cultural Center.

"This is a great step in correcting an injustice that occurred more than 80 years ago," said Shelia Washington, the founder and director of the museum. "The case of the Scottsboro Boys has been widely studied for years, and the experts conclude that the Scottsboro Boys were wrongly accused and wrongly convicted. That's why the pardons and exonerations are so important. Thank you to Governor Bentley and all the legislators who worked with us on accomplishing our goal."

The pardoning legislation was sponsored by Senator Arthur Orr and Representative Laura Hall.

"We can't go back in time and change this unfortunate event in Alabama's history, but this legislation is a significant step toward recognizing and correcting this gross injustice," Senator Arthur Orr said. "It is never too late to right a wrong."

"While we cannot erase the dark days when the Scottsboro Boys incident occurred, what we have done is acknowledge our mistake," Representative Laura Hall said. "Hopefully, our great State of Alabama can be Alabama the Beautiful, where justice is dispensed equally and fairly without regard to race, sex, social class, or religious belief."

The case began in 1931, when nine young black men, commonly known as the Scottsboro Boys, were accused of raping two white women. All of the men, except for 12-year-old Roy Wright, were convicted and sentenced to death. During later retrials, one of the accusers admitted to fabricating the rape allegations. Ultimately, charges were dropped against some of the Scottsboro Boys while others were still convicted in retrials. Researchers, scholars, and others have thoroughly reviewed the case and found that the Scottsboro Boys were, indeed, wrongfully accused and convicted. The pardoning and exoneration measures approved by the Alabama Legislature and signed by Governor Bentley are important steps in clearing the names of the Scottsboro Boys and correcting the injustices of the past.

Representative John Robinson sponsored the House Joint Resolution providing the exonerations.

"I'm so proud the exoneration resolution has passed and that the Legislature and Governor have come together to address this issue," Representative Robinson said. "Time does not heal everything. That's why it's so important to exonerate the Scottsboro Boys."

ADPH Reminds Parents that their Teens also Need Immunizations

Contributed

MONTGOMERY – Preteens and teenagers need to be protected from serious diseases by getting the vaccines recommended for them. Immunization also protects family members, school staff, and other people in the community. Vaccines are safe and effective, and serious side effects are rare. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the following vaccines are needed for teenagers.

Tdap Vaccine

This vaccine protects against three serious diseases: tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). Pertussis is a highly contagious and sometimes fatal bacterial disease which has increased alarmingly in the past decade. It spreads from person to person through moisture droplets in the air, probably from coughs or sneezes. Preteens should get Tdap at age 11 or 12. If your teen did not get a Tdap shot as a preteen, ask his or her doctor or nurse about getting the shot now.

MCV4 Vaccine

Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) protects against some of the bacteria that can cause meningitis (swelling of the lining around the brain and spinal cord) and sepsis (an infection in the blood). Preteens need the MCV4 shot when they are 11 or 12 years old and then a booster shot at age 16.

Teens who received the MCV4 shot when they were 13, 14, or 15 years old should still get a booster at 16 years. Older teens who have not gotten any MCV4 shots should do so as soon as possible.

HPV Vaccine

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines help protect both girls and boys from HPV infection and cancer caused by HPV. Two HPV vaccines protect girls from the types of HPV that cause most cervical cancer.

One HPV vaccine also helps protect both girls and boys from anal cancer and, genital warts. HPV vaccines are given to preteens as three shots over six months when they are 11 or 12 years old.

Preteens and teens need to get all three shots for full protection. Preteens and teens who have not received all three HPV shots should ask the doctor or nurse about getting them now.

A good time to get vaccines is during a yearly health checkup. Your child can also get vaccines at a physical exam required for sports, school, or camp. It is a good idea to ask the doctor or nurse every year if there are any vaccines that your child may need. Be sure to tell the doctor or nurse if your child has any serious allergies, including allergies to yeast, latex, or chicken eggs, before he or she receives any shots.

Contact your private physician, David Legett at 251-937-5858 or the Immunization Division of the Alabama Department of Public Health at 1-800-469-4599. The Cullman County Health Department can be reached at 256-734-1030. More information and phone numbers for local county health departments are available at www.adph.org/administration/Default.asp?id=505.

Risk of Tickborne Diseases is Greatest in Late Spring and Summer

By: Dee W. Jones, D.V.M.

MONTGOMERY – If you spend time outdoors or have pets that go outdoors, you need to beware of ticks and the diseases that they can carry.

Ticks are small blood-sucking parasites that can transmit diseases to animals and people including Rocky Mountain spotted fever, southern tick-associated rash illness, and Lyme disease.

In 2012, 213 people in Alabama were diagnosed with tickborne disease that most likely could have been prevented.

Tickborne diseases can occur year-round, but especially from April through September in Alabama.

To help protect yourself and your family, the Alabama Department of Public Health recommends the following:

- Use a repellent with DEET, permethrin or picaridin.
- Tuck pant legs into socks and wear light-colored protective clothing to make tick inspections easier.
- Avoid tick-infested areas such as tall grass, leaf litter or bushy fields.
- Check yourself, your children and your pets daily for ticks and carefully remove any ticks you find as soon as possible.

Tickborne diseases can be difficult to diagnose and confirm, so see your doctor if you have been bitten by a tick and experience any of the following symptoms: rash, fever, headache, fatigue, and muscle aches. In extremely rare cases, tick paralysis can occur from the toxin in tick saliva which can be confused with other neurologic diseases. Most tickborne diseases can be treated successfully if treatment is started early.

To view/print ADPH's educational flyer, please go to www.adph.org/epi/assets/Tickborne_Flyer.pdf.

For more information about ticks and tickborne diseases, please go to www.cdc.gov/ticks.

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SPORTS

Wallace State softball coach Jayne Clem collects 700th career win as Lady Lions crush Calhoun in doubleheader sweep

By: Russell Moore

WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State softball coach Jayne Clem has achieved another milestone, collecting her 700th career win Thursday night, as the Lady Lions slugged their way to a doubleheader sweep over Calhoun, winning 9-1 and 12-3.

Clem, in her 14th season with the program, currently has a 700-174 career record with the Lady Lions and has guided Wallace State to a NJCAA Division I national championship (2008), two national runner-up finishes (2009, 2010) and a third-place finish last season.

Wallace State has won seven state championships, including five of the last six, during Clem's tenure, and she has been named conference coach of the year 10 times.

"That number (700) wouldn't be possible if not for the quality players who have come through here. Each year we have players who continue to step up and carry the tradition.

It's an honor and privilege to coach at Wallace State," Clem said. "Our players always do what they are supposed to do. They behave and make good grades, and it's just a pleasure to work with them."

Clem was more pleased her team's offensive outburst Thursday than she was with reaching 700 wins. Wallace State whacked three homers in the first game and Madeline Lee's three-run shot ended the nightcap by mercy rule.

Paige Rowland, Katie Gentle and Kori Benson each homered in the opener.

"We've hit a lot of home runs this season, but not a lot have been in the clutch. Today's homers were in the clutch, and that's what we are capable of. We can do that throughout the entire lineup. If there hasn't been any pressure, we've been fine. We've got to continue to find a way to come through with clutch hits under pressure," Clem said.



In the opener, Wallace State (38-9, 8-3 Alabama Community College Conference) scored a pair of runs in the first inning on Rowland's two-run shot—her eighth of the season.

The Lady Lions added five more in the third, all scored by the long ball. Gentle's three-run shot extended Wallace State's lead to 5-1, and two batters later Benson smacked a two-run homer to make it 7-1. It was Gentle's 11th homer of the season and Benson's 13th.

Benson added an RBI single in the sixth, Victoria Frith was 2-for-2 with a pair of runs scored and Laken Hancock was 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Brittany Gillison capped the win, by mercy rule in the sixth, with a walk-off walk.

Wallace State right-hander BreeAnna Blevins (17-4) was the winning pitcher. She allowed one run on three hits, walked four and struck out four.

In the nightcap, Lee also added a run-scoring double and finished with four RBIs.

Benson finished 3-for-3 with a pair of doubles and two RBIs, Rowland finished with two doubles, a sacrifice fly and four RBIs, Frith and Maria Mitchell each added a pair of singles, Gentle had a single and scored two runs and Hancock finished with a double, RBI and run scored. Lindsey DeFee (17-4) earned the win on the mound, tossing five scoreless innings. She yielded only two hits and recorded four strikeouts.

Kelsey King pitched one inning in the second game.

CullmanSense Weekly Sport Scores Rundown

By: Josh McBrayer

joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

BASEBALL

4-15
Vinemont 14 vs. Meek 0
Vinemont 6 vs. **Meek 16**

4-16
Cullman 4 vs. **Sparkman 9**
Fairview 10 vs. Good Hope 1

SOFTBALL

4-15
Hanceville 0 vs. **West Point 17**
Good Hope 7 vs. Westminster 0
Good Hope 11 vs. Falkville 5

4-16
Danville 2 vs. Vinemont 1
Hayden 2 vs. Good Hope 0

4-17
Good Hope 5 vs. Danville 0

4-18
Vinemont 0 vs. **Good Hope 2**
Cullman 1 vs. **Hartselle 18**

4-19
Good Hope 10 vs. Falkville 2
Good Hope 7 vs. Brewer 0
Cullman 5 vs. Mortimer Jordan 2
Cullman 5 vs. Sumiton Christian 2
Cullman 2 vs. Shelby County 1
Cullman 2 vs. **Enterprise 7**

SOCCER

4-15
Cullman 0 vs. **East Limestone 4 (boys)**
Cullman 2 vs. **East Limestone 5 (girls)**
St Bernard 1 vs. Danville 0 (boys)
St Bernard 2 vs. Danville 1 (girls)

4-18
Cullman 1 vs. **Athens 5 (boys)**
Cullman 1 vs. **Athens 2 (girls)**

4-19
Cullman 5 vs. Hillcrest 1 (girls)

Chamber Holds Ribbon Cutting for Vinemont Sports Complex

By: Deonne Ludwig

Chamber of Commerce Contributor

VINEMONT – The sounds of bats cracking will soon be heard at the newly christened Vinemont Sports Complex.

Recently, the Cullman Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for the complex.



Front Row, Left to Right: Maxine Ray, Merchants Bank; Sammie Danford, CCED; Paul Housell, Congressman Aderholt's Office; Lindsey Schmidt; Mayor Melba Patton, Town of South Vinemont; Shirley Arnett, Council South Vinemont; Joann Oakley, Council South Vinemont; Sonya Mabry, Council South Vinemont; Mabry Thompson; Maverick Johnson; Shawn Murphree, The Cullman Times/ Cullman Area COC Ambassador.

Back Row, Left to Right: Lesley Hyde, State Farm Insurance; Dennis Reid, Redico; Darrell Hicks, Cullman County Commissioner; Leah Bolin, Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce; Mayor Max Townson, City of Cullman; Mike Graves, Vinemont Public Works; Reggie Dodson, Council South Vinemont; Sidney Dodson; Buchanan Jackson, CCED; Edith Marcum; JD Marcum, Council South Vinemont; Debbie Schmidth; Wendy Tackett, The Cullman Times.

SPORTS

FORE!

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Lush fairways, raked sand, and beautifully manicured greens of Terri Pines Country Club and Cullman Municipal Golf Course awaited six Cullman County golf teams as they faced off in the 2013 Cullman County Golf Tournament.

As per the norm in golf, there were plenty of ups and downs in the tournament. There were some great shots and some penalty strokes, long puts, and misjudged chips but by the time it was all said and done, it was Holly Pond who stood tall as Cullman County Golf Champions.

Colby Adams, leading the way with the low round of day two (70), helped the Broncos overcome a four stroke deficit in day two to claim the title.

"(Adams) had a career day," said Holly Pond coach Mark Cornelius.

Good Hope held the lead after day one at Terri Pines Country Club, thanks in part to a brilliant round of 65, ten strokes ahead of second place, shot by Raider Eli Marty.

"We have had the privilege of playing against Eli for several years," Cornelius said. "He is a great player."

Adams and Marty were both on their game Thursday form the opening drive of day two. Adams barley edged out Marty for the lead on day two, shooting a 70 to Marty's 72, helping the Broncos to the win.

RESULTS

TEAM

1	Holly Pond	337	325	662
2	Cold Springs	338	339	677
3	Good Hope	333	349	682
4	Fairview 361	355	716	
5	West Point	441	440	881
6	Hanceville	494	443	937

INDIVIDUAL

1	Good Hope	Eli Marty	65	72	137
2	Holly Pond	Colby Adams	79	70	149
3	Holly Pond	Braden Walker	80	77	157
T4	Fairview	Trey Hanvey	75	83	158
T4	Cold Springs	Layne Rice	81	77	158
6	Cold Springs	Michael Gilliland	82	85	167
T7	Cold Springs	Nick Speer	81	88	169
T7	Good Hope	Cole Pearson	86	83	169
9	Holly Pond	Hunter Walker	86	84	170
T10	Holly Pond	Dawson Foust	92	94	186
T10	Cold Springs	Tristen Williams	94	92	186
T10	Fairview	Seth Lancaster	94	92	186
T10	Cold Springs	Kevin Harris	97	89	186
14	Good Hope	Kanain Smith	83	104	187
15	Fairview	Austin Scott	98	90	188
16	Good Hope	Anthony Harlan	99	90	189
17	Fairview	Cody Lackey	104	90	194
18	West Point	Paul Quattlebaum	104	95	199
19	Fairview	Zeb Dahlke	98	102	200
20	Hanceville	James Hudson	114	103	217
21	Good Hope	Josh Cofer	113	110	223
T22	West Point	Brandon Wray	104	120	224
T22	Holly Pond	Landen Walker	107	117	224
T22	West Point	Jordan McKenzie	116	108	224
25	Hanceville	Noah Davis	136	97	233
26	West Point	Michael Sweeney	120	117	237
27	West Point	Chandler Nelson	117	122	239
28	Hanceville	Dustin Morgan	121	124	245
29	Hanceville	Cory Herndon	128	119	247

All-Tournament Team
Eli Marty (Good Hope)- Low Medalist
Colby Adams (Holly Pond)
Braden Walker (Holly Pond)
Trey Hanvey (Fairview)
Layne Rice (Cold Springs)
Michael Gilliland (Cold Springs)

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR I
Water/Sewer Department

Starting Pay: $11.1487/hourly **Deadline to Apply:** May 2, 2013

SUMMARY
Water/Sewer Department Equipment Operator I is a semi-skilled position, with frequently minor supervisory work, in the operation of trucks and related automotive equipment including attached mechanical equipment. Department Head: Chris Freeman.

MAJOR JOB TASKS

- Driving trucks hauling dirt, sand, gravel, lumber, or other materials to or from work site

- Servicing equipment and making minor field repairs and adjustments; reporting the need for major equipment repairs

- Supervising, as required, and performing manual labor in loading, unloading, or other related work

- Operating small trenching equipment

- Operating video equipment

- Other related tasks as assigned

SCOPE OF WORK
Employees in this class are responsible for the skilled and safe operation of automotive equipment and for the prompt execution of assignments according to established routine or special instructions received from a superior. Employees may also perform manual labor, and the duties frequently include responsibility for supervising employees assigned to trucks as loaders or helpers. Where equipment operation is less difficult or strenuous, there is added responsibility for performance of supervisory or related semi-skilled tasks. Work is reviewed through personal inspection and through observation of compliance with established work or route schedules.

QUALIFICATIONS
- Education: Any combination of training and experience equivalent to the 12th school grade.
- License: Must have a current Class A CDL (commercial driver license)
- Certifications: Must have a current Water Operator I certificate with the State of Alabama, or the ability to pass Operator I certification within one (1) year of employment
- System: Must be the ability to gain knowledge of the system to perform emergency standby after hours within six (6) months of employment
- Knowledge & Skills Required: Skill and knowledge in the operation of various types of standard automotive equipment, as demonstrated by a driving test. Some experience in the operation of trucks and related automotive equipment. Some knowledge of traffic laws, ordinances, and rules involved in the operation of automotive vehicles. Some knowledge of occupational hazards of applicable safety precautions in operating equipment. Some knowledge of the geography of the city including the locations of streets (or the ability to acquire this knowledge quickly). Ability to make minor repairs and adjustments and to service automotive equipment. Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Ability to maneuver various sized vehicles.

- Eyesight sufficient to pass a standard driving test.

- Ability to lift items of varying weights into and out of a truck or vehicle.

- Ability to enter manholes and work in tight and enclosed areas.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Willing to work alternating shifts, including weekends, as required.

- Maintain a valid Alabama CDL

Employment is contingent upon successfully passing a drug test, and position is subject to random drug testing. Starting pay $11.1487. Benefits include health, dental, and life insurances, vacation and sick leave, and uniforms.

To apply, download the employment application and turn it into the Human Resources Department by 3:00 p.m. on May 2, 2013.

Be part of Cullman's fastest growing newspaper. Send your résumé to: jobs@cullmansense.com

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Community Matters

A Bloomin' Good Time

By: Jessica Norrell
jessicanorrell@cullmansense.com

Bloomin' Festival 2013 took place on the St Bernard Abbey and Prep School Campus, April 20th and 21st. This year it featured over 140 booths of artists or craftsmen, both local and from across the country.

A variety of items such as glass animals, paintings, garden décor, clothes, toys, and many other unique items were available to suit any taste while the campus served as an beautiful background that vendors and guests could enjoy.

Visitors also enjoyed a choice of homemade goods including strawberry waffles, bread baked by the monks, and kettle style popcorn while taking a break on the large staircase or on the campus lawn.

The Bloomin' Festival began after St Bernard Prep School was organized in 1984 with 60 vendors within a 50 mile radius into what it is today with over 140 vendors from all over the United States, making it one of the campus' largest fundraisers still today.

The Bloomin' Festival provides artists with an opportunity to showcase and sell their work while giving locals and other visitors a wonderful selection of unique gifts and crafts to select from.

Among the many talented artists at the show was Pam Snellgrove of Glass by Pam. Pam and her husband traveled fro m LaGrange, Georgia.

Pam has been making glass animals for over 40 years, and, she added with a smile, "I stopped counting after 40."

Her craft started out as a hobby and something fun to do. She was able to get lessons from a scientific glass blower and learned to make animals, one at a time until she was able to make them her own.

Pam and her husband began going to art shows ever since and it was at one of these shows that she met a craftsman who made metal sculptures of wizards and dragons.

He asked her if she ever made dragons and if she would make one for him. She made her first dragon for him and they have since become her specialty and favorite animal to make.

They now go to about 12-15 shows a year and she said about the Bloomin' Festival, "We have been coming to Cullman for this five years. It's a great place to have a show. It's really a pretty campus and we enjoy coming."

Pam uses her basement as a studio and sells her work at shows or makes special orders and sends them out.

Pam is one of the many talented vendors at the show with a colorful, interesting history to her craft.

The Bloomin' Festival offers a unique opportunity to view talented local and out of town artists all in one place within a family environment.







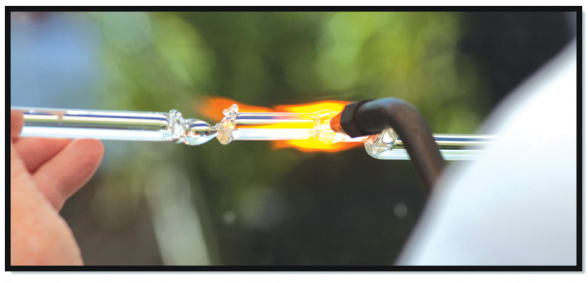




















Community Matters

Cleaning House at Farm-City

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Four small trophies, two grand trophies, a plaque, and an entry into the Farm-City record books has the board members and volunteers with Cullman Farm-City excited after "cleaning house" at this year's award ceremony.

"We cleaned house, thank goodness," said Cherrie Haney, 2012 Farm-City Chair. "We won for our division, which is 35,000 people and above, then we won the overall Best Farm-City Committee."

In a report submitted by Haney and the rest of the Farm-City committee, the group detailed how they were able to cover the 2012 theme of "Grown Safely, Extra Tasty."

"To me, that was kind of a hard topic. You think grown safely," said Haney. "There is a big emphasis on the safety of our food in this day in time, so it's a concern. That's why when you go to the market and you see the cost of produce grown outside the country compared to locally grown produce the prices are so different. Here (stateside) there are so many more safety regulations, so it's important to let others know why the prices are different."

Carter Gay, East Elementary School 3rd grader, has received honorable mention two consecutive years with his poster entries. Gay's illustrations have also been featured in the statewide Farm-City calendar.

"It feels good but maybe next time I will be on the cover," said Gay of his placement in the calendar. "I like being in it (calendar) but it would be nice to win first prize."

Beth Binkowski, Gay's teacher, said she was unaware of the magnitude of Farm-City until this year. She said Carter's recognition has inspired her to encourage each of her students in this coming year's contest.

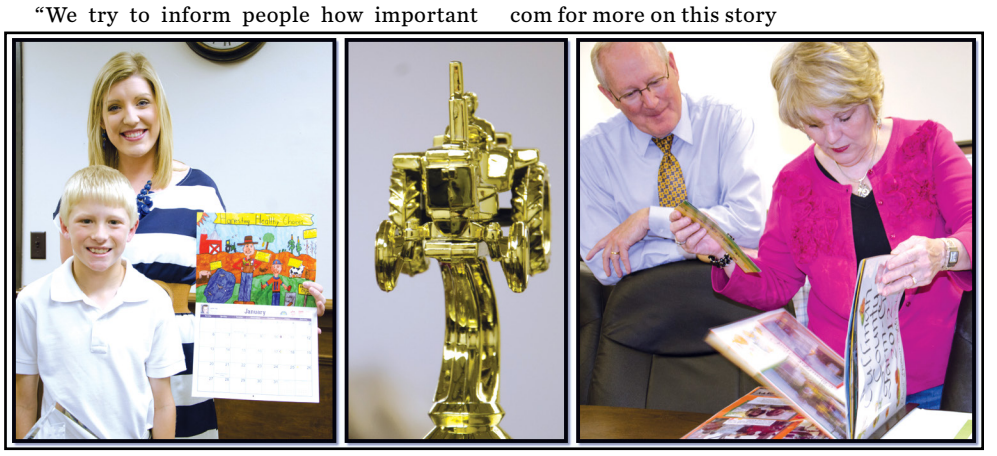
"I'm just so proud of him because he took the initiative to make a poster because a lot of children are too shy," said Binkowski. "I'm so excited that he was recognized for his poster. He's a great student and he did a great job!"

By incorporating poster contests with local school children, the Farm-City committee is able to reach a multitude of families, either living in the city or residing on a farm. Haney said this incorporation is valuable to the Farm-City tradition.

"We try to inform people how important the city is to the farmer and how important the farmer is to the city. It's not lopsided at all," she said.

"Both sides play an even, equal role and we just try to show each side how important the other is to the other's success."

For more on Farm-City, visit www.CullmanFarmCity.com, or visit CullmanSense.com for more on this story



Rich as Dirt

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

Local family continues farming tradition

HOLLY POND – For those passing by Holly Pond Elementary School, the site of Sandlin Farms sitting just off on the side of the road isn't anything unusual. However, the history of the three generation farm, including its present day chapter being written by owner Elizabeth Sandlin, along with seven other family members, is one of interest to many in the state.

Elizabeth and her son Jacob were busying tending to the fields on Thursday, as they do most every day, when a visitor pulled up looking for some fresh vegetables. The mother-son duo met the man with smiles and before long the three were quickly reminiscing about seasons past.

"I've been on this same property since the age of six," said Elizabeth. "My dad farmed but he also worked an out of town job. Of course when he farmed it was just corn and cotton."

The cotton and corn days were uprooted once Elizabeth's family inherited a portion of the farm, now stretching upwards of 100 acres where most of the Sandlin's call home. She said they were looking for a better way to farm on the land.

"We realized that if we to farm for a living then we would have to take it to a different level than what my dad had operated it as," she said. "We wanted to switch to a more environmentally-friendly type of farming, which is plastic culture."

This more eco-friendly form of farming allows farmers the opportunity to produce a higher yield, using fewer raw materials such as water, nutrient supplements, and most importantly, land. Sandlin said this new way of farming has allowed the family to grow the farm in size but without having to increase the number of workers.

"We have the whole family working now," she said with a smile.

The Sandlin family, eight in total, each takes turns working the fields and going to the different farmers markets in the surrounding area. Elizabeth said it helps having the family all pulling together for the same goal.

"The first to come in will be our strawberries, which will be in about 10 days to two weeks from today," she said. "Once the summer hits we will be offering everything from cantaloupes, sweet peas, okra, watermelons, blackberries, and blueberries."

But while the wait remains for some of the produce, the farm offers a wide variety of plants and flowers. Of course, if you drive out to pick up some flowers or produce, just be sure to notice the honor box which stands guard as the money keeper.

"We supplement the flowers to help start the season off before we rotate to fruits and vegetables," she said.

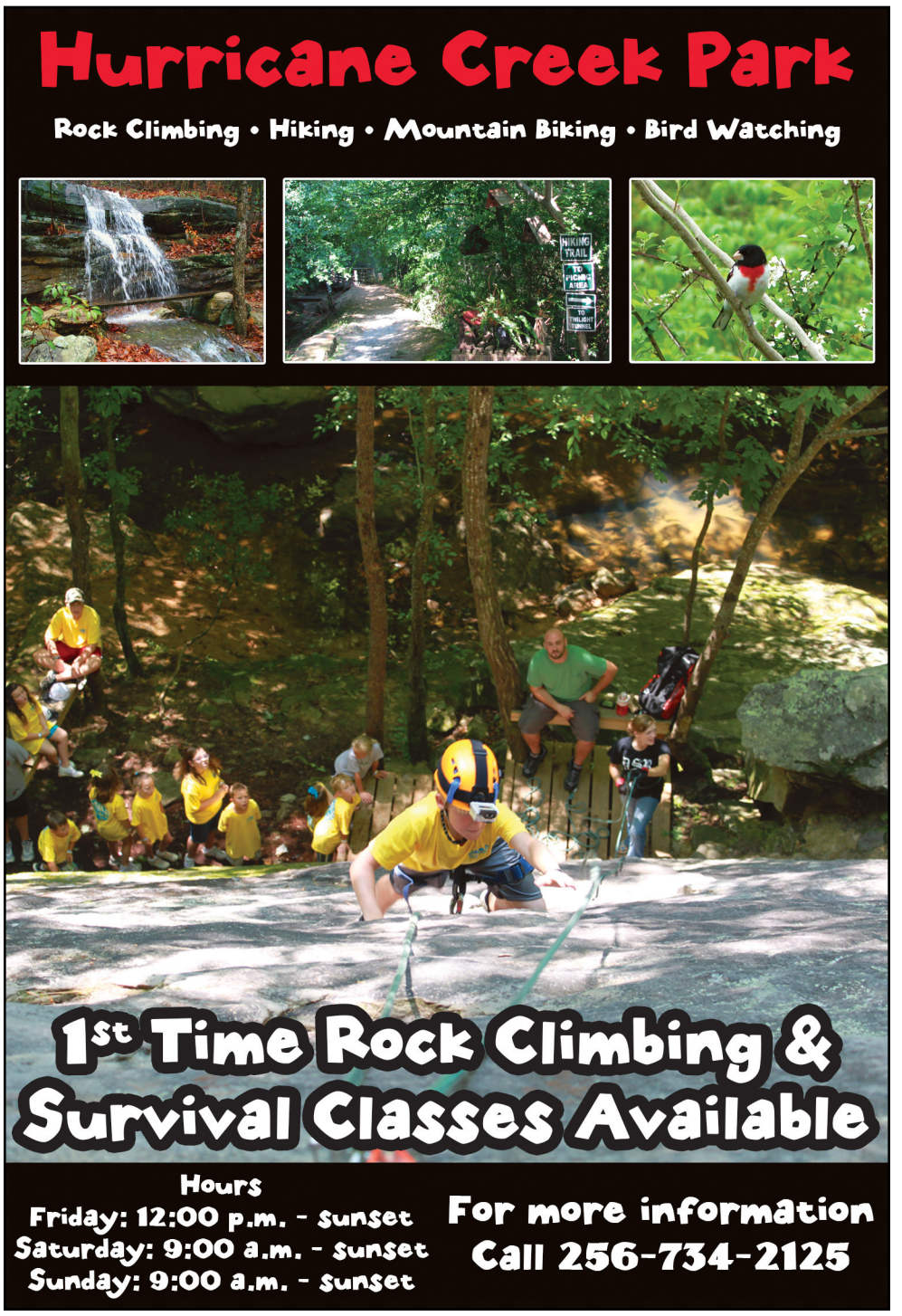
"We do operate on the honor system, so if you ever pull up and no one is out front, we just ask that you leave the money for your purchase."

Sandlin Farms is open for business Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and is closed on Sunday.

However, if you're not able to make out to the farm, family members will be at the Festhalle Market Platz, along with several other markets across the region.

"If everyone would by local, purchase goods within 100 miles of where you live, there would be more young farmers, which in return would lower the cost for fresh, locally grown produce," she said. "By buying produce from local farmers you are able to know exactly how that food was grown. Plus, it helps support your local economy, so everyone wins."





Community Calendar

Submit your event to calendar@cullmansense.com

Monday

Cullman Kiwanis Club
The Cullman Kiwanis Club invites all local men and women who are interested in taking part in community service along with great fellowship, fun, networking, and learning to attend their weekly luncheon meeting at 12 noon each Monday in the All Steak's third floor banquet room. Come see what Kiwanis is all about and enjoy a great luncheon meal as well.

Weekly Jam Session at Senior Center
There is a new 'fun' event added to the ongoing programs at the Donald E. Green Senior Center. From 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., there will be 'Jam Sessions' offered under the guidance of Don and Barbara Whitehead. Everyone is invited to bring your instruments and join in the playing or just sit and relax and enjoy the music. These musical gatherings are FREE so come on down and bring your friends.

Making Choices - BODYWORKS
A series of FREE sessions on healthy living will be offered. Sessions are 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.

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

Festhalle Farmers' Market
The Festhalle Farmers' Market is once again open for business on Tuesdays through the spring and summer, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come visit your local farmers as they offer their homegrown produce for your dinner table.

CRMC Masquerade Jewelry Sale
Cullman Regional Medical Center is once again sponsoring the Masquerade $5.00 Jewelry Sale in POB ll. This sale is open to the public and everything in the room is only $5.00 each. Rings, watches, necklaces, scarves, sunglasses, etc., you name it, it's available for only $5.00 each item! Come see what can be purchased for gifts, personal use, etc.

Cullman Caring for Kids in Need of Donations
If you are able to contribute to Cullman County's Community Food Band, the 'Caring for Kids' organization, they would be grateful. Non-perishable food items are needed, and of course cash enables them to purchase needed products to fill their empty shelves. Please call 256-739-1111 to see how to help or mail checks or money orders to Cullman Caring for Kids, P. O. Box 698, Cullman, Alabama 35056-0698. Thanks in advance for anything you can do.

Cantanti della Donna's Spring Concert
Everyone is invited to attend the Cantanti della Donna's Spring Concert beginning at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The musical event, 'Songs of Joy - Music of Master Composers' features the talents of Cullman's Premier Women's Ensemble. Come listen as this unique group of women shares their musical talents with the community - enjoy a special night of music and fellowship!

Dog Obedience Class
Cullman Parks & Recreation will sponsor a 7 week Dog Obedience class with Barbara Guettner as instructor from March 26 through May 7. Classes for puppies start at 6 p.m. with adult dogs classes at 7 p.m. Please contact the Civic Center for further info at 256-734-9157.

Genealogy meeting
There is a free Genealogy meeting each Tuesday in the library basement at Wallace State College. This workshop runs from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. and is to help new researchers and for informal study. Please call Von for additional information at 256-739-2843.

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.

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.

Knit 1, Read 2
The Knit 1, Read 2 group meets every Tuesday at the Cullman County Public Library, Main Branch, at 3 p.m. This group welcomes all newcomers.

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.

Wednesday

'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center
The entertainment for senior citizens is 'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center starting at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited. Come enjoy some exercise (but not too physical!) and fellowship with friends. They bowl every Wednesday and Friday afternoons at 1 p.m.

Pilot Club of Cullman's 21st Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon
Pilot Club of Cullman's 21st Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon fundraising event, "A Patriotic Salute to Fashion; Red, White, Blue & You" will begin at 11 a.m. Lunch, provided by Sweet Peppers Deli, will begin being served at 1130 a.m. The Patriotic Program at 12 noon will begin with a Color Guard presentation of the American Flag provided by the City of Cullman Police Chief Kenny Culpepper. Renee Crowe will sing our National Anthem. The City of Cullman Mayor, Max Townson, will recite The Ragged Ole Flag. Bobby Joe Hollis, Elvis impersonator, will sing Elvis Patriotic Trilogy. The fashion show will feature local merchants and models and the latest in fashion. Approximately 100 door prizes, donated by local businesses and Pilot Club members, valued at $25 or more will be given away, including great grand prizes. TICKETS ARE $20, AVAILABLE AT THE CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM, CULLMAN CIVIC CENTER, PILOT CLUB MEMBERS OR BY CALLING JOYCE BLACK AT 256-595-0622/256-737-0505. There will be vendors booths for shopping with lunch provided by Sweet Peppers Dele beginning at 11:30 a.m. The Pilot Club of Cullman is dedicated to service, committed to brain health with the main focus on education and support of brain related disorders.Profits from this event will be donated to local agencies and organizations committed to brain related disorders.

Girls & Boys Club at Spirit Life
Spirit Life Church will host a Girls & Boys Club meeting for those 12 and under every Wednesday beginning at 7 p.m. at the church. All are welcome. Please call the church for further info 256-739-3326.

'Divorce Care for Kids'
A 'Divorce Care for Kids' program to help youths from 6 to 12 years of age is available to help youths whose family is going through, or has gone through, divorce. This FREE program takes place each Wednesday night at 7 p.m. at the Church. All workbooks and materials are included and presented to each attendee in class. Additional info is available by calling the Church at 256-737-0800 or check out Daystar Children's Ministry website at www.kidspowercompany.org.

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

Festhalle Farmers' Market
The Festhalle Farmers' Market is once again open for business on Tuesdays through the spring and summer, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come visit your local farmers as they offer their homegrown produce for your dinner table.

Cullman County Senior Citizen Spelling Bee
The Cullman County Senior Citizen Spelling Bee will take place at 1 p.m. at Cullman Senior Center (Commission on Aging Building). Come take part or cheer on your favorite contestant.

WSCC Jazz & Concert Band Spring Concert
The Wallace State Community College Jazz and Concert Bands will present their 'Spring Concert' beginning at 7 p.m. in the Burrow Center Recital Hall. Admission is free and everyone is invited to attend this special 'Arts in April' event on the Wallace campus.

Overeaters Anonymous Meeting
Members of Cullman's Overeaters Anonymous will gather at 4:45 p.m. and they invite others interested to come check out their group. They meet weekly, both on Thursday evenings at 4:45 p.m. and/or on Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m. These meetings are conducted at the Carriage House of Grace Episcopal Church. Folks are invited to attend either one of the group meetings, depending on your free time.

New Vision Support Group
There is a New Vision Support Group which will meet at 10 a.m. and everyone interested in this subject is welcome to attend. The program is at Hilltop Community Center. Additional information is available by calling Linda Estes, 256-739-4653.

Friday

'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center
The entertainment for senior citizens is 'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center starting at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited. Come enjoy some exercise (but not too physical!) and fellowship with friends. They bowl every Wednesday and Friday afternoons at 1 p.m.

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

Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame Induction Banquet
The 14th Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame induction banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m., at the Cullman Civic Center. Tickets are $20.00 per person, available at Peoples Bank in Cullman. Come support all those in Cullman who will be recognized tonight for their contributions to Cullman County's athletic activities over the past years.

Festhalle Farmers' Market
The Festhalle Farmers' Market is once again open for business on Saturdays through the spring and summer, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come visit your local farmers as they offer their homegrown produce for your dinner table.

April Walking Tours of Cullman
Come take advantage of the Cullman County Museum's guided walking tours of Cullman each Saturday morning during April. Tours start at 10 a.m. at the museum and last about one hour. For additional information please contact Drew or Julie at 256-739-1258. Mark your calendars for this annual springtime event.

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!

Next Monday

Cullman Kiwanis Club
The Cullman Kiwanis Club invites all local men and women who are interested in taking part in community service along with great fellowship, fun, networking, and learning to attend their weekly luncheon meeting at 12 noon each Monday in the All Steak's third floor banquet room. Come see what Kiwanis is all about and enjoy a great luncheon meal as well.

'Senior Spirit'
'Senior Spirit' is a program sponsored by Cullman Parks & Recreation and its many activities take place at the Donald E. Green Senior Center. All activities are FREE. There is a 'Fitness for Life' class year-round centered around stretching and walking to help boost your energy. These classes are offered each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at various times 8 a.m.; 9:15 a.m.; 1:00 p.m.; and 2 p.m. (walking only). Tuesday has two classes, one at 8 a.m. with the stretching and walking; and a 4 p.m. walking only class. Everyone 50 and older is invited to join in the fun, fellowship, and fitness

Weekly Jam Session at Senior Center
There is a new 'fun' event added to the ongoing programs at the Donald E. Green Senior Center. From 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., there will be 'Jam Sessions' offered under the guidance of Don and Barbara Whitehead. Everyone is invited to bring your instruments and join in the playing or just sit and relax and enjoy the music. These musical gatherings are FREE so come on down and bring your friends.

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Looking Ahead

Share Club Spring Tour of Homes - Sunday, April 28, 2013 - 1:00 p.m -- 5:00 p.m.
The spring tour will feature homes with a variety of architectural styles and interior designs creating an enjoyable and memorable afternoon with family and friends. Tickets may be purchased for $15.00 in advance from Share Club Members, The Added Touch at Cullman Cabinet, From the Heart, J Drake Salon, Finders Keepers, and Hospice of Cullman County. Tickets will be available at each tour home the day of the tour. Proceeds from the tour benefit Hospice of Cullman County. Tickets are non-refundable. For information contact Hospice of Cullman County at 256-739-5185.

May 9-11th 2013
Cullman StrawberryFest 2013
Join us at 211 2nd Ave NE, Cullman for live music, Arts and Crafts Show, Car Show, Antique Tractor Display, Great Food, and Local Produce, located at the Festhalle Market Platz, Depot Park, and the Cullman County Museum. Music Guest: Three on a String, MP4theband, The Hit Men Roy Crawford and the Cullman County Bluegrass, Mean Mary, Street Level, Round 2, and more to be announced. Free Admission. Call 256-739-1258 for more information.

Community Matters

Vote Now!

Are you going on a Summer Vacation this year?

Last Week's Poll:

Are you concerned with the rising tensions surrounding North Korea?

Yes - 100%
No - 0%

Cast your ballot at cullmansense.com/poll

Reflections of History



Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Stiefelmeyer — Contributed by Cullman County Museum

Do you have an old photo or recognize this one?
E-mail us at history@cullmansense.com

Visit us online at CullmanSense.com

Making Home Painting Easier

(StatePoint) Painting your home yourself? Don't be intimidated.

"Whether you're a rookie or an experienced do-it-yourselfer, anyone can produce professional-looking results efficiently with the right techniques and tricks," says home improvement expert Lou Manfredini, a regular contributor to NBC's Today Show.

Manfredini, who is passionate about home improvement, is offering tips to help make your home painting projects easier:

- Even a steady hand is liable to make mistakes and drip. Protect your furniture and flooring with drop cloths.
- Good masking is necessary for sharp, clean paint lines. Be sure to use tape designed to remove cleanly from the particular surface with which you're working. For example, ScotchBlue Painter's Tapes are specifically designed with appropriate adhesion levels to come off cleanly, creating super sharp paint lines without leaving behind residue or harming the surface.
- Paint separates over time, so always mix your paint when you open a can, and do so periodically as you go for better color and texture consistency. Always use higher quality paints for professional results. You get what you pay for.
- Load rollers and brushes with the proper amount of paint. Too little paint will make you inefficient and too much paint will have you dripping. You'll get a feel for the right amount of paint for your tools through a bit of trial and error.

More practical tips and creative inspiration can be found at www.3MDIY.com.

Without cutting corners, you can learn to paint your home yourself quickly and precisely.

Lifeguard Ceritification Classes



April 22-May 9

Register - Wellness & Aquatic Center

Cost - $200

Classes held Monday-Thursday
5:30-8:30pm

Classes held at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center

cpr & AQUATICS

NOTE: Lifeguard Certification Classes DO NOT guarantee a job with the Cullman City Parks and Recreation Department, but do meet all certifications necessary to seek employment as a lifeguard at any aquatics facility.

This Week in History Apr. 22 - Apr. 28

April 2nd

- 1659 – Lord Protector Cromwell disbands English parliament
- 1864 – U.S. mints 2 cent coin and marks the first appearance of "In God We Trust"
- 1964 – Tanganyika and Zanzibar form republic Tanzania
- 2012 – Officials in Egypt reject a deeply unpopular agreement to supply Israel with natural gas; the agreement was made by former President of Egypt Hosni

April 23rd

- 1900 - First know occurrence of word "hillbilly" published in the New York Journal
- 1945 – Concentration camp Flossenburg liberated
- 1977 – Czechoslovakian chess master Vlastimil Hort plays 201 games simultaneously and only loses 10
- 2012 – Despite an initial ban on the film 'Borat,' Kazakhstan issues and official 'thank you' to actor Sacha Baron Cohen for his character, Borat Sagdiyev

April 24th

- 1833 – Jacob Evert and George Dulty patent soda fountain
- 1908 – Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Murdock become first to travel across U.S. by car, they leave Los Angeles in a Packard and arrive in New York City in 32d-5h-25m
- 1956 – American League umpire Frank Umont is first to wear glasses in a regular season game
- 2012 – Scientists in Kamchatka, Russia, report sighting the first adult white orca to be seen in the wild

April 25th

- 1850 – Paul Julius Reuter, use 40 pigeons to carry stock market prices
- 1881 – 250,000 Germans petition to bar foreign Jews from entering Germany
- 1960 – First submerged circumnavigation of Earth completed by Triton
- 1990 – Hubble space telescope is placed into orbit by shuttle Discovery

April 26th

- 1819 – Odd Fellows Lodge forms
- 1931 – Lou Gehrig hits a homerun but is called out for passing a runner, mistake costs him AL home run crown; he and Babe Ruth tie for season
- 1980 – Iran begins scattering U.S. hostages from U.S. Embassy
- 2011 – The 25th anniversary of the disaster in Chernobyl is commemorated by the Ukraine

April 27th

- 1805 – U.S. Marines attack shores of Tripoli
- 1933 – Karl Jansky reports reception of cosmic radio signal in Washington, D.C.
- 1972 – New York City Mayor John Lindsay appeals that John Lennon not be deported
- 2011 – A German naval mine from World War II is discovered and dismantled by BP; removing the bomb avoided potential closure of 16 oil fields

April 28th

- 1855 – First veterinary college in U.S. incorporated in Boston
- 1932 – Yellow fever vaccine for humans announced
- 1967 – Muhammad Ali refuses induction into army and stripped of boxing title
- 2001 – Dennis Tito becomes the first space tourist by paying $20 million to fly on a Soyuz mission to the International Space Station.

Community Matters

Speaker demonstrates power struggle during Civil Rights Movement

By: Gail Crutchfield

WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – It started with one person facing off against three others who represented government, money, and power. It ended with that one person being joined by many others and succeeding in a battle over human rights.

That was the demonstration provided Wednesday by Birmingham Civil Rights Outreach Coordinator Sam Pugh during Wallace State Community College's Arts in April event spotlighting diversity.

Pugh, a native of Birmingham, provided a visual demonstration of the Civil Rights movement, using members of the audience during two separate sessions on the Hanceville campus.

He started by quizzing the audience with such questions as: When did the Civil Rights movement begin?

During his second session, several answers were given from the audience: 1963, during the Civil War and the 1950s. In his opinion, Pugh said the Civil Rights movement started with the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863, earning the person who gave the answer "during the Civil War," two thumbs up from Pugh.

"More or less, 1963 was the beginning of the end," Pugh said of that turbulent year.

In his demonstration, Pugh utilized a game of tug-of-war to show how the people fighting for freedom were pitted against the "establishment" who were "anti-freedom." The establishment represented government, money, and power.

During the demonstration, Pugh called WSCC students and faculty onto the stage. Some were directed where to go, others had to make that choice.

"Do you want to fight for freedom?" he asked. "Will you do whatever it takes? You want to fight for freedom even though it may cost your family member their job? Because here's the deal, more than likely your parents work for money, government or power, or they work for somebody who's a part of money government or power."

"If they find out your last name and who you are and who your family is, guess what? They're going fire them, and it's going to be your fault. The lights go off, the gas goes off, the power goes off.... Y'all are sitting at the dinner table with a candle in the middle and your family looking across at you with that eye of murder because you decided to go fight for freedom. Now that you know that is a possibility, do you still want to fight for freedom?"

Though the questions were hypothetical, it took some of the students some time to answer it as they found themselves put in the position that many people found themselves in in the 1950s and 1960s.

As the demonstration continued, that one person on the side of freedom grew to outnumber the side of the establishment, with Pugh explaining how the freedom fighters used peaceful protests to help bring the world's eye to the situation.

Pugh said a lot of the focus wound up in Birmingham as the Civil Rights movement hit its peak during 1963 when the world saw peaceful protestors – including children – be hosed down and attacked by dogs and more than 1,500 young protestors being arrested. The bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and the death of four innocent girls widened the spotlight and the eyes of many around the world. That was quickly followed by the shooting deaths of two young black men, one at the hand of a law enforcement officer and another by a young white man.

"Now we have mass chaos, because the world now knows what is going on in Birmingham. The world is looking at Birmingham," Pugh said.

"Montana knew about Birmingham. California knew about Birmingham. Indiana knew about Birmingham. But bigger than that, Switzerland knew about Birmingham, Alabama. Cuba knew about Birmingham, Alabama. Russia knew about Birmingham, Alabama."

Cuba and Russia used the chaos of the Civil Rights movement to continue the "war of words" during the Cold War.

"They picked up our newspapers and said, you condemn us for communism, and yet you kill kids, spray kids, you hurt children in America," Pugh said.

"This did not look good. Not only that, John F. Kennedy, right after the children's march, he said segregation must stop. It must stop today. Many people feel that speech is what got him assassinated later on in the year."

That international exposure brought more support to the side of the freedom fighters, which in his demonstration had those on the side of freedom defeating those left on the side of the establishment.

"These events changed the course of American politics," Pugh said, citing the 1964 Civil Rights Act Kennedy was drafting at the time of his death and signed by President Lyndon Johnson after the fact, and then the 1965 Civil Rights Act.

"We like to credit the children and the leaders of the freedom movement in Birmingham for changing policy nationwide," Pugh said.

"But what I want to leave you with...it was not a bunch of grown people that changed the world in the 1960s. It was students that changed the course of history in America. You students here at Wallace State have a responsibility, not just to go to school, not just to better themselves, but to better this nation. It's going to take guys like you, who have the thought, creativity to know that things can be better.

"You guys can mobilize, your voice can be heard," Pugh said.

"And if you need something to pull your strength from, check out 1963 and take on the spirit of not only four little girls and two little boys, but thousands of kids who said enough is enough, wrong is wrong and right is right and we're going to stand up for right."

Stacey Brunner, a member of college Diversity Committee, said Pugh's appearance at the Arts in April event was a perfect fit as the nation marks the 50th anniversary of events of 1963 as well as the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

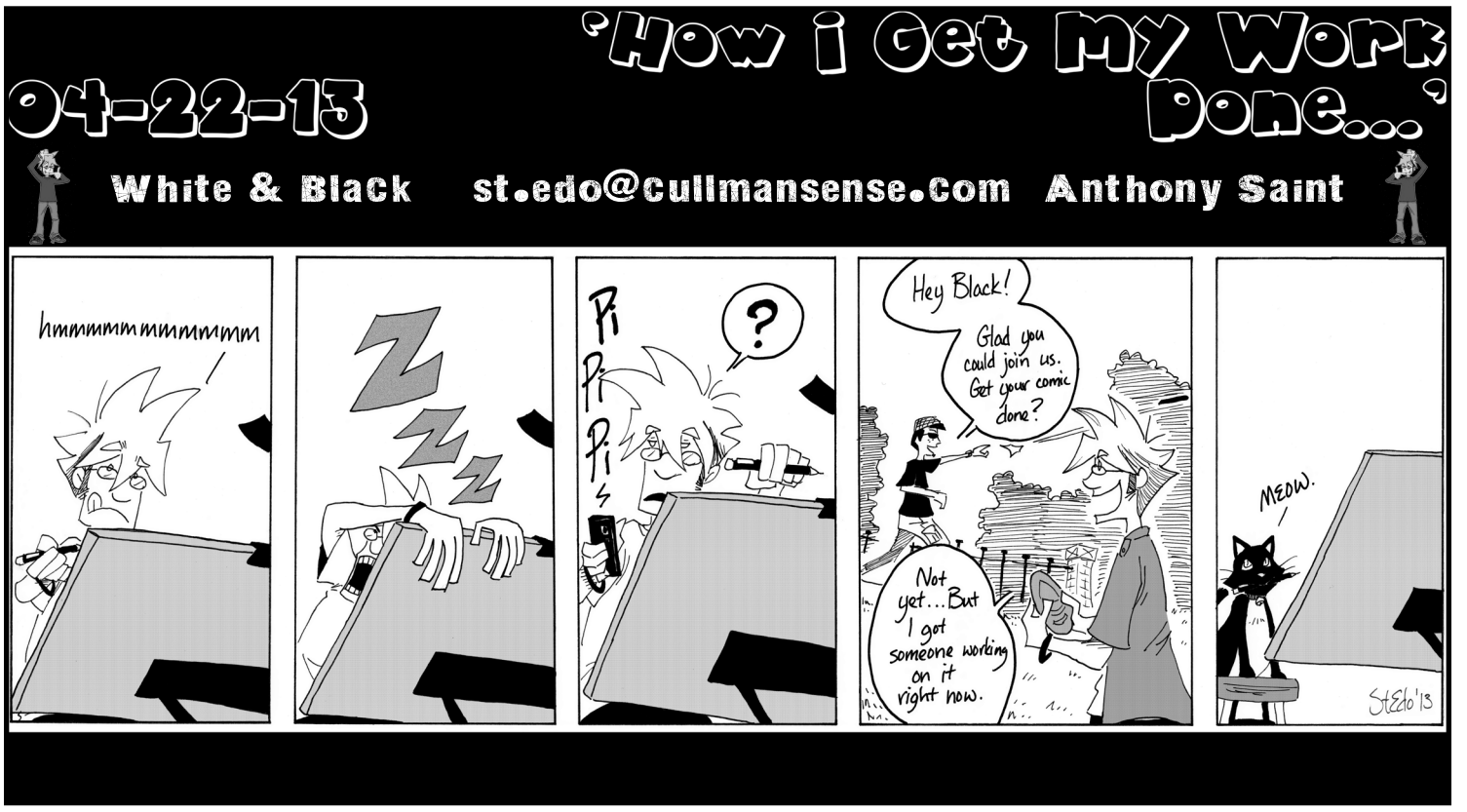
"We intend to take field trips to the Civil Rights Institute next fall," Brunner added, "and this is in conjunction with the upcoming Common Read book "While the World Watch," by Carolyn McKinstry, who was in the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church the day of the bombing."

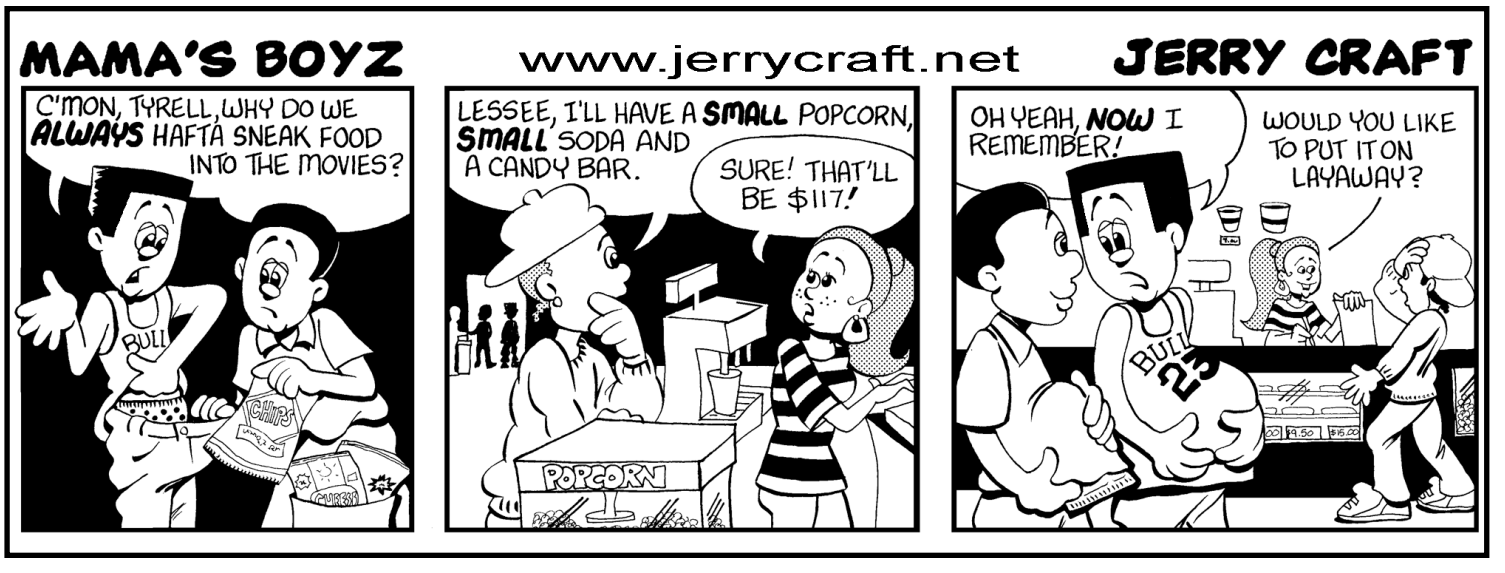
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WHAT'S ON DECK AT PARKS AND REC....

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Yoga Classes**: Stay fit and relax with yoga held at the Civic Center every Tuesday night at 6:00pm with Fabian Holland. Six classes for $40 or $30 for seniors. Call 256-734-9157 for details..
- **Dog Obedience Class:** Classes held on Tuesdays, beginning March 26. $65 for 6 week session; puppy class held at 6pm and adult at 7pm. Call 256-734-9157.
- **Nia Dance Fitness Classes:** Includes yoga stretching, anti-aging tips, and more with instructor Ann Caretti. Class is held Tuesdays at 10:00am at the Cullman Civic Center. Call 256-531-4429 for more details.
- **Oil Painting and Acrylic Classes:** Classes are held Mondays from 6:30-9:30pm at the Cullman Art Guild with instructor Delancey Gardner. Class is $20 per month, call 256-734-9157 for details.
- **Camp Cullman Summer Camp Registration:** Registration will open on April 1 for Camp Cullman. Ages 12 & under can register at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center.
- **Lifeguard Certification Classes:** Held at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center April 22-May 9. Cost of the class is $200 which includes CPR and all certification. Must be 15 to take the class. Call 256-775-SWIM (7946) for details.
- **Ballroom, Latin, and Swing Dance Lessons:** Classes will be held April 4-25 on Tuesday nights at the Cullman Civic Center with Instructor Mack Wilson. Call the Civic Center for details.
- **Autism Walk:** The Therapeutic Recreation program and the Autism Society hold this event Saturday, April 27 at the Wallace State track at 8:30am. Games and other activities will also be held. Call Hollie at 256-734-9157 for details.
- **Cullman Golf Course Spring Invitational:** The Cullman Golf Course will hold its spring invitational tournament on Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28. Call 256-739-6762 for details.
- **Senior Spirit Travel:** Last day to register for Loretta Lynn Ranch trip on June 6 and New York City Trip on July11-17 will be May 3. Call for full details on both trips at 256-734-4803.





Community Matters

Summer Time Shouldn't be Hungry Time

By: Kevin Concannon
USDA Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services

Help Feed Hungry Kids through USDA's Summer Food Service Program

In the midst of winter/spring, it can be easy to forget those long, hot days of June, July, and August. Even so, now is the time to start applying and planning to feed hungry children when the school year ends.

More than 21 million children in the country receive free and reduced price meals during the school year, but when summer rolls around, only about 1 in 10 of those kids (3 million) get free meals through federal summer feeding programs. Clearly, there is a gap that needs filling.

Enter USDA's Summer Food Service Program. Kids are at higher risk of going hungry during the summer months, and we are working to fill that void. USDA alone, however, cannot accomplish the important work of feeding our low-income kids. You and your organizations have an important role to play.

Faith-based, community, and private nonprofit organizations are pivotal in the lives of needy children. And schools, churches, recreation centers, playgrounds, parks, and camps are all eligible and encouraged to serve summer meals in neighborhoods with a high percentage of low-income families. These locations, by their very nature, offer safe and familiar environments and are places children gather when school is out.

But feeding hungry young people requires commitment. Sponsors must provide a capable staff, managerial skills, and food service capabilities. Sponsors may provide their own meals, purchase meals through an agreement with an area school, or contract for meals with a food vendor.

If you don't want to be a sponsor but still want to be involved, your organization can be a summer feeding site. There are sponsors in your area who can work with you to feed the children in your community. And don't forget to register your summer feeding sites for the National Hunger Hotline at 1-866-3-Hungry or 1-877-8-HAMBRE.

The most successful summer programs offer activities for kids. Children are much more likely to come out for a meal when there is an activity to keep them there.

It can include anything from sports, tutoring, and arts and crafts, to other creative activities with community partners. Developing partnerships with other community organizations is often the key to being able to offer great activities.

To learn more about the Summer Food Service Program or to participate in one of USDA's free webinar sessions on opportunities to provide summer meals, please visit www.summerfood.usda.gov.

These helpful webinars will highlight the program, offer an understanding of how SFSP works, detail sponsor and site roles and responsibilities, and provide outreach tips and other resources to get started.

Together we can continue to tackle childhood hunger and ensure kids receive the nutritious meals they need in summer, and throughout the year. We look forward to working with you to meet that goal.

Up, Up and a Hey

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

Up, Up and a Hey is a saying that is gaining popularity in the South. No, it is not a spin on the classic line from the Superman comics but a phrase having to do with the Atlanta Braves outfield and the hot start the Bravos have gotten off to.

The acquisition of the "Upton Boys", center fielder BJ from Tampa Bay, and left fielder Justin (the younger brother) via a trade with Arizona, give help to the young gold glove phenom, Jason Heyward, making up what some are calling the best outfield in baseball.

To complement the speedy outfield, Atlanta has an infield that is second to none. Freddie Freeman at first base saves just as many runs as he knocks in with his fancy footwork, exceptional glove, and 6'5'' frame that seems to stretch across the diamond to meet throws.

Dan Uggla at second and Andrelton Simmons at short are a slick fielding double play combination up the middle for the Braves.

Uggla has really worked hard during the off season to improve his defense and it shows. Simmons has a cannon for a throwing arm, combined with incredible range, which makes for some spectacular plays.

When former NL MVP, eight time All-Star and future Hall of Famer Chipper Jones says he thinks he is leaving the "hot corner" in the capable hands of Juan Francisco, you listen.

What Braves fans, including myself, did not anticipate is how much he plays like the legendary Jones.

He is still learning the position at the big league level but Atlanta may have found their anchor at third.

That brings us to the all-important position catcher. This is a position many Braves fans had questions about coming into the season.

With six time All-Star backstop Brian McCann out for at least the first month of the season and backup catcher David Ross now starting for the Boston Red Sox, most thought the Braves would just try to tread water until getting McCann back.

What they didn't expect was the 26 year old rookie, who had been out of baseball from 2006 to 2010, Evan Gattis.

While filling in for the injured McCann, Gattis has amazed fans and teammates alike with his veteran like demeanor behind the plate and the power he displays with a bat in his hands.

As of the time of this story, Gattis ranked number one in every major statistical category among rookies.

After a so-so Spring Training, Craig Kimbrel put all of his doubters to rest as he is once again leading the league in saves.

As good as the defense and pitching has been for the Chop Squad, the offense has been even better.

The Braves have put up staggering offensive numbers in the first month of the season.

They are outscoring their opponent's 75 to 40. As a team they have 136 hits, 29 home runs, and 72 RBIs.

With numbers like that, it is no wonder why the Atlanta Braves are in first place in the National League East and sport the best record in baseball.

Here is a break-down of the Atlanta Braves hitters (current as of 4-20-13):

- BJ Upton- .164 BA 2 HR 3 RBI
- Jason Heyward- .121 BA 2 HR 5 RBI
- Justin Upton- .313 BA 9 HR 13 RBI (leads MLB in HR)
- Evan Gattis- .245 BA 5 HR 12 RBI (leads all rookies in all three categories)
- Dan Uggla- .161 BA 3 HR 4 RBI
- Reed Johnson- .418 BA 1 HR 7 RBI (leads NL in BA)
- Andrelton Simmons- .185 BA 1 HR 6 RBI
- Juan Francisco- .292 BA 3 HR 7 RBI
- Freddie Freeman- .412 BA 1 HR 7 RBI
- Gerald Liard- .250 BA 0 HR 1 RBI

The Atlanta Braves are giving their fan base a lot to cheer about and I for one cannot WAIT to get tp Turner Field and see the Bravos live!

Picking Up

By: Noah Chandler
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CULLMAN – Dumpsters were dispersed throughout the county this past weekend in a collaborative effort between Cullman PALS, both the Cullman City and County Sanitation Departments, and the local landfill to help rid scenic drives, daily routes, and seldom traveled roads of trash and debris.

"It's in conjunction with Earth Day and it is to remind people that we should all be good stewards of our land," said Cherrie Haney, PALS president.

"We shouldn't just pick up this one day, but this encouragement for us to remember to do this every day. "

Haney has been concerned for the environment, especially when it comes to littering, and it all stems from a conversation from her childhood.

"I once had a great principal who said 'If you walk past a piece of garbage, you're just as guilty as the person who through it down there.' I just love that saying and that was said by Elton Hall, a great man," she said.

"He was such a great example to me. He told me that back when I was in the first grade and it is still with me today!"

This attitude of cleaning up despite not being the one to make the mess is one Haney and so many others with PALS share.

She said the amount of work each volunteer has put in, including volunteers with the city and county governments, has been crucial to making the PALS Saturday cleanup a success each and every year.

"A big thank you to the volunteers," she said.

"Of course we could not do it with the support of both the city and county sanitation departments because they are donating the use of the dumpsters. The landfill also waved the fees for each of the PALS marked dumpsters, which shows tremendous support," she continued.

"This is a great, great group of individuals who all work hard to help rid our roadways of trash and debris, so many, many thanks to you all for your hard work."

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Know Your Risk of Developing Prostate Cancer

(StatePoint)Prostatecancer,themostcommon non-skin cancer in America, affects one in six men.

Knowing your risk can help you get diagnosed more quickly:

- Age: Although only one in 10,000 men under 40 will be diagnosed, the rate shoots up to one in 38 for ages 40 to 59, and one in 15 for ages 60 to 69.
- Race: African-American men are the most likely to develop prostate cancer. Asian men living in Asia are the least likely.
- Genetics: Men with a family history of prostate cancer are more likely to develop the disease.

For more information on risk factors and healthy living tips that may help to decrease your chance of developing prostate cancer, please visit www.PCF.org.

Community Matters

Person of Interest in CRMC Bomb Threat Arrested

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – With thoughts of terrorism fresh on the minds of many across the country, a new wave of threats were phoned in to both Cullman and Marshall Counties late Sunday evening in the form of a bomb threat targeting three hospitals, including Cullman Regional Medical Center.

"Cullman Fire & Rescue, Cullman Police Department, Cullman County Sheriff's Department, and numerous other emergency responders converged on the hospital," said CPD Chief Kenny Culpepper.

"We assisted with the evacuation, along with CRMC employees we did a systematic search of every room, every building of the hospital. Anything remotely suspicious was searched by Officer Scott Sanford and our Explosives Detection dog Hammer."

The evacuation of all patients took roughly 68 minutes according to Culpepper. Once the hospital was clear of patients, nurses alongside sheriff's deputies and city officers maneuvered through the building, meticulously checking every possible spot for a potential bomb. Culpepper said the search took roughly an hour and a half.

"The thing is we take it so serious because anytime you are moving someone who is critically injured possibly, someone who is in intensive care, somebody who has some sort of illness and you're bring them in the night air during an evacuation, it's a deadly serious business and we are treating it that way," said Culpepper.

Just an hour or so after the all clear to return patients from their staged areas at both Woodland and the Cullman Civic Center, deputies with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office arrested 32 year old Jeremy Lewayne Lang on charges of escape, along with several outstanding warrants.

"At this time he (Lang) is just a person of interest in the bomb threat," said CPD Assistant Chief Craig Green. "We will question him to find out if in fact he made the call, and if so, why?"

Lang was reported as being an escaped inmate from Arab early in the evening on Sunday.

Below is chronological order of the events from the time the bomb threat was issued to the arrest of escaped inmate and person of interest Jeremy Lewayne Lang.

April 22, 12:32 A.M.

CPD Assistant Chief Craig Green stated Jeremy Lewayne Lang, an escaped inmate from Arab who may be a possible person of interest in the three bomb threats made against area hospitals including CRMC, had been arrested at 12:19 a.m. Monday, April 22nd on outstanding warrants. The arrest occurred at a residence located on County Road 1805. Green said investigators will question Lang about the bomb threats later in the day.

April 21, 11:12 P.M.

CPD Assistant Chief Craig Green said that the person of interest in the bomb threat against CRMC, which was received at 8:24 p.m. is 32 year old Jeremy Lang of Arab.

April 21, 10:50 P.M.

From CRMC's Facebook Page:
"CRMC has received an all clear on the bomb threat and all patients are being routed back to the hospital."

April 21, 10:35 P.M.

Source with Sheriff's Office confirms that hospital has been cleared, however they are still sweeping professional buildings.

Deputies, police officers, and hospital personnel unload wheelchairs at ER after rushing them out just a couple hours earlier.

April 21, 10:21 P.M.

The unit's bomb sniffing dog and his handler have begun their sweep of CRMC by first visiting the ER and gift shop. At this time members of the CPD and CCSO have declared that the parking lot has been completely swept, including all cars being cleared, according to a police source.

April 21, 10:06 P.M.

Cullman EMS: 55 patients evacuated to Woodland Medical Center and Cullman Civic Center.

April 21, 9:44 P.M.

CRMC has been evacuated following a bomb threat which was received through the Marshall County Sheriff's Office. CPD Assistant Chief Craig Green stated from the scene that patients were being evacuated and staged in a nearby parking lot. CPD Cullman EMA, Cullman Sheriff's Office, and others are on the scene. American Red Cross has opened the Civic Center as a shelter if it is needed.



April 21, 8:24 P.M.

Bomb threat placed to three regional hospitals, including Medical North, Medical South ,and Cullman Regional Medical Center. Notifications are made to hospital officials and evacuations procedures begin.

For more on this story, including an extensive photo gallery and several videos, visit CullmanSense.com

