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CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER
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Alabama features many attractions and historic landmarks to visit. One such place is the Natural Bridge in Winston County, the longest natural bridge east of the Rocky Mountains. p7

Summer Concert Series Returns on June 4

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Bentley announces grant to buy computers for Cullman County high school math and science programs

By: Mike Presley

MONTGOMERY — Gov. Robert Bentley announced a $100,000 grant that will give Cullman County high school students a tool to boost their math and science knowledge and help them explore potential careers.

The Cullman County Board of Education will use the Appalachian Regional Commission grant to purchase laptop computers for labs at seven high schools: Cold Springs, Fairview, Good Hope, Hanceville, Holly Pond, Vinemont, and West Point. Students will use the computers to participate in a program that develops skills in science, technology, engineering, and math.

"Science, math, and computer experience are increasingly important to success in the workforce and throughout life," Bentley said. "These are skills that will serve students well whatever path they may choose after graduation."

School system officials say the program will use interactive learning technology to boost students' test scores in science and math and to provide skills that will be valuable in college and in the workforce. Students will use the computers to complete research for projects that show how professionals use science and math to solve real-world problems.

Congress established the ARC in 1965 as a supplemental grant program to raise the standard of living, improve the quality of life, and promote economic development in the Appalachian mountain region. The region includes 37 Alabama counties.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs administers the ARC program in Alabama along with a wide range of other programs that support law enforcement, economic development, workforce development, recreation, energy conservation, and water resource management.

Local matching funds of $100,000 are supplementing the grant.

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Mayor Proclaims May 22, 2013 "The American Cancer Society" Day

By: Leanne West

Urges city residents to participate in Cancer Prevention Study

CULLMAN – Mayor Max A. Townson has proclaimed May 22, 2013, "The American Cancer Society" Day in the City of Cullman. This date will mark the 100th birthday of the American Cancer Society, an organization also known as "The Official Sponsor of Birthdays" because of their commitment to create a world with less cancer and more birthdays.

ACS is a nonprofit voluntary health organization committed to saving lives from cancer. Since their founding in 1913, ACS has led the way in the fight to end cancer.

They help people stay well by developing guidelines for health screenings, nutrition, and physical activity in order to prevent cancer or find cancer early when it is more effectively treated.

They provide assistance to people who are dealing with cancer and their families. They fund groundbreaking cancer research aimed at better understanding what causes it, how to prevent it, and how to cure it. And they are involved with communities and lawmakers nationwide to fight against cancer.

"The American Cancer Society is a wonderful organization that has saved countless lives through their relentless fight against cancer," said Mayor Townson.

"The Cullman Relay for Life organization works tirelessly to raise funds in our community to help ACS continue that fight."

Cullman residents will soon have an opportunity to help in the fight against cancer. Residents between the ages of 30 and 65 who have never had cancer can enroll in the ACS Cancer Prevention Study-3 at Cullman Regional Medical Center.

CPS-3 is a research study that seeks to uncover the environmental, genetic, and lifestyle factors that might cause cancer. Eligible volunteers will be followed for at least twenty years.

"I urge our citizens to join in the fight against cancer by enrolling in this study," said Mayor Townson.

"I also urge our citizens to show their appreciation for all that ACS volunteers and staff workers do to 'finish the fight' against cancer."

Enrollment in CPS-3 will be held on July 30, 2013, in the Colonel Cullmann Room of Cullman Regional Medical Center between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, call 888-604-5888 or e-mail cps3@cancer.org.

More information is available online at www.cancer.org/cps3.



CRMC President Jim Weidner, CPS-3 Community Liaison C. Blake West, ACS Community Representative for Cullman Patrice Fitzgerald, Mayor Townson, ACS Alabama State Vice-President Kimberly Williams, CPS-3 Community Champion Zeb Little, CPS-3 Liaison for CRMC Lindsey Dossey

Multiple Rabies Clinics to be held Throughout the County June 1

Contributed

Cullman veterinarians are joining forces Saturday to help folks make sure their dogs and cats, 3 months of age and older, are vaccinated before the July 1, 2013 deadline set by the Alabama State Health Department.

There will be a door to door check after July 1 to make sure owners have complied with the law. The cost for vaccinations on this day will only be $10.00 per pet. Locations and times are listed below.

These vaccination sessions will take place whether rain or shine. Take advantage of this special event - and be sure to thank your veterinarian

1 p.m. until 2 p.m.
Valley Grove Grocery, Old Hwy. 69
East Elementary School
Dodge City - Lakeside Pharmacy
Etha Baptist Church
Enon Church - Eva Road
Springhill Church, Hwy. 278 West
West Elementary School
Holly Pond High School

2:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.
Good Hope High School
Cullman High School
Fairview High School
Hanceville High School
Vinemont High School
Jones Chapel School
Whitlock's General Store - Trimble
Cross Creek Tractor

4 p.m. until 5 p.m.
Calvert's Store - Brushy Pond
Simcoe Baptist Church
Garden City School
Parkside School
Battleground School
West Point High School
Skinner's e-Mart - Crane Hill
South Walter Gin

5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.
Cold Springs High School
Welti School
Arkadelphia Fire Station
Old Joppa School
Tractor Supply Co.
Logan Baptist Church
White City Community Center

Innovation at the Earliest Stage

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

Area principal honored with AL Chiquita Marbury Technology Innovation Award

CULLMAN – Excellence within the Cullman City School system has been prevalent for many years. Whether it is excellence in academics, ranking second in the state in education or through fine arts, music, or athletics, the teachers, administrators, and students adhere to a strict code requiring excellence.

This past Thursday Cullman City Primary School principal Tricia Culpepper was awarded the AL Chiquita Marbury Technology Innovation Award for her role in facilitating growth through technology.

"It is an honor to accept this award for the faculty and staff and Cullman City Primary School. Our faculty is most deserving of this recognition. Their dedication to the education of our students is inspiring," said Culpepper. "In addition, I am thankful to Dr. Harris and the school board for supporting our efforts."

Dr. Jan Harris, CCS Superintendent and fellow nominee, said on Friday, Culpepper has done an excellent job keeping ahead of the technological curve.

"We must be lifelong learners who strive to stay ahead of the curve with technology because it is constantly changing. Mrs. Culpepper does an excellent job utilizing technology in the classroom and in managing her school," said Dr. Harris.

"She models effective use of technology for her faculty, staff and colleagues. We are proud of Mrs. Culpepper and are not surprised that this recognition was received because she is very deserving."

Culpepper said the advancement in technology as aided by fellow nominee, Nathan Anderson.

"I would also like to thank Nathan Anderson, technology coordinator for Cullman City Schools for nominating me, but most importantly for supporting the implementation of technology," said Culpepper. "I am extremely blessed to work with a supportive school system, dedicated teachers, and amazing students and parents."

Anderson, who just completed his first school year as technology coordinator said he, along with the administration, have a few new advancements which will continue to push students, and faculity, into a progressively digital future.

"We are concentrating our efforts on technology efficiency. We are making great strides in our current setup to improve overall time management, team collaboration, and student/teacher communication. Our efforts may not necessarily be visible to the public; however, they will make a huge difference within our schools," said Anderson. "We will continue to explore the best technology for our students. It is our goal to provide our students with the latest technology to promote 21st century learning."

There is a total of six categories for this prestigious recognition, and four CCS employees are finalists:

- Linda Bean – Middle School Teacher
- Tricia Culpepper – School Principal
- Nathan Anderson – Technology Coordinator
- Jan Harris – Superintendent/Central Office

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What's Online

Castille Character Camp preparing for another great year

For young aspiring athletes having a great foundation and understanding of the fundamentals of their chosen sport generally requires an equal balance between speed, agility, motivation, dedication and determination.

qrne.ws/47



ADECA holds public meeting to determine greatest needs for $49.1 million in April 2011 tornado recovery funds

Infrastructure repairs were the most common need expressed by attendees at a public meeting held today to gather input on how $49.1 million in pending federal disaster...

qrne.ws/48

Shooting for a Cure

The Circle of Hope group is preparing for the 6th Annual 3-D Archery Shoot, scheduled for July 27-28, a benefit shoot aimed at raising funds for the Bruno Cancer Center, located at St. Vincent's Hospital in Birmingham.

qrne.ws/49

Aderholt Meets with Alabama Wounded Warriors in Washington

By: Anne Marie Malecha

Washington, D.C. — Congressman Robert Aderholt (AL-04) met with wounded warriors Major Phill Green of Muscle Shoals and Specialist Corey Garmon of Boaz this past week in Washington.

"It was my honor to spend part of my day with Major Phill Green, Specialist Corey Garmon and his wife Megan touring some of the Capitol, discussing their time in combat, along with learning about the great work that is going on to help other wounded veterans at Walter Reed and Operation Helping Heroes," said Aderholt.

"The service and sacrifice of our nation's military and their families is second to none. Words cannot adequately express my gratitude to Major Green and Specialist Garmon, as well as all of our country's servicemen who have given so much. These brave men and women risk their lives every day in support of our freedom and liberty and I cannot thank them enough for their commitment to country," concluded Aderholt.

Major Phill Green is from Muscle Shoals and while serving in Jordan, was struck by a vehicle, fracturing his ankle, knee, ribs, and skull in several places.

The impact also resulted in a serious brain injury, a collapsed lung, torn ligaments in his knee and shoulder. He is a member of the Army National Guard and is currently on active duty, serving with the Warrior Transition Unit at Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

Specialist Corey Garmon is from Boaz and while serving in Afghanistan, he was hit with an IED that resulted in injuries that took both of his legs. He is currently an active duty member of the United State's Army 5/20 Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, currently at Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

While recovering at Walter Reed, Specialist Garmon is working with Operation Helping Heroes to hope other wounded warriors and their families. For more information on Operation Helping Heroes contact: ophelpingheroes@gmail.com.

Aderholt currently serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies for the powerful House Appropriations Committee, is a member of the Committee's Commerce, Justice and Science; and Homeland Security Subcommittees, and also serves on the Helsinki Commission.



Major Phill Green, Congressman Aderholt, Specialist Corey Garmon and his wife Megan Garmon

State Legislation threatening Birmingham-area drinking water halted by students

By: Aaron Traywick

BIRMINGHAM – At the close of the 2013 Alabama Legislative Session, residents of Greater Birmingham can rest assured that a controversial agenda to eliminate area drinking water protections has been defeated due to the efforts of student advocates from across the state.

Less than two weeks after over 75 student representatives from the Coalition of Alabama Students for the Environment brought their needs for heightened drinking water resource planning for Greater Birmingham to elected officials, area legislators decided to push a more controversial agenda.

Senate Bill 460 and House Bill 647 on Water and Sewer Systems, introduced by Senate Majority Leader Jabo Waggoner (R-Vestavia Hills) and State Representative Paul Demarco (R-Homewood), intended to create a new place for representatives from 4 additional counties served by the Birmingham Water Works Board (BWWB): Shelby, Blount, St. Clair, and Walker Counties.

According to information released by the Birmingham Water Works Board, of the BWWB's 195,000 customer service connections, over 178,000 are located in Metro-Birmingham and Jefferson County.

All counties except for Shelby County have less than 2,000 customer connections.

Walker County, site of the proposed Shepherd Bend Mine, has fewer than 30 customer connections.

The proposed Shepherd Bend Mine would discharge toxic wastewater less than a football field's length from the BWWB's drinking water intake for approximately 200,000 Birmingham and Jefferson County residents.

The proposed mine has received increased attention due to the Black Warrior River's new status as one of America's Most Endangered Rivers, according to the national organization American Rivers.

If the Senate Bill 460 and House Bill 647 had passed, new BWWB Board members whose counties would not be affected by potential contamination from the mine could have blocked the BWWB's ongoing legal opposition. Additionally, the legislation would have significantly reduced the authority of the Birmingham City Council, also a key player in opposition to the Mine, to appoint new members of the BWWB.

State Representative Juandalynn Givan (D-Birmingham), in opposition to the legislation, stated:

"The citizens of Birmingham have a right to quality protection of their drinking water. The (Birmingham Water Works) Board has been and continues to be the best voice for that protection, and it would be a grave mistake for any new law to ever silence that voice."

For their work towards sensible clean drinking water policy, CASE student representatives were commended by Governor Robert Bentley in an April 9th official proclamation.

As an 8-campus coalition of student and citizen grassroots organizations, CASE remains dedicated to the economic and ecological sustainability of the Greater Birmingham region and the state of Alabama at-large.

Legislature Passes Bill Allowing In-State Tuition Rates for Military Members Stationed in Alabama

By: Katy Sulhoff

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Legislature approved a bill Monday to allow in-state tuition fees for active service members, their spouses, and dependents located in Alabama under orders. HB 424 was sponsored by Rep. Barry Moore in the House and carried by Sen. Bill Holtzclaw in the Senate.

HB 424 is one in a package of bills drafted and supported by the Military Stability Commission. Lieutenant Governor Kay Ivey serves as Chair of the Military Stability Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to strengthen Alabama's military installations, advocate for our military men and women, and prepare for the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) process.

"It's unclear when BRAC will come up again, but it is the Military Stability Commission's and my goal to be prepared when it does. Reinforcing Alabama's role as a good host to military families and installations by introducing measures like extending in-state tuition rates to service members, helps build up our defense against dramatic changes due to BRAC," said Lieutenant Governor Ivey.

The bill also extends to a member of the Alabama National Guard who stays in the Guard while enrolled in school after two years of service and a veteran of the Armed Forces who has served on active duty for two years and has received an honorable discharge; is currently serving in a reserve unit; or has been assigned to a service-connected disability.

"I am pleased to make changes in state law that will impact our military families in a positive way. Anything we can do to improve the lives of our soldiers and their dependents while stationed in our state is a good thing," said Rep. Moore. "They make great sacrifices for our nation and its citizens. In-state tuition is one of many things we can and should do."

"As a retired Marine Corps Officer, I know the sacrifice our military families make in service to our state and nation. While stationed in Alabama, I want them to feel welcome and at home. Providing tuition at the same cost as residents is one way to do that and say thank you for their service," said Sen. Holtzclaw.

HB 424 will now be sent to Governor Bentley for final review.

Plan outlines state government's response to drought conditions

By: Mike Presley

MONTGOMERY — During the dry spells of recent years, many Alabamians became familiar with the yellow and red warning indicators of the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor map printed in newspapers and shown on TV weather reports.

Less familiar is the key role state government plays in developing Alabama's portion of the map and in preparing the state to respond to drought conditions.

Released today, the new Alabama Drought Management Plan outlines for the first time state government's role in preparing the weekly snapshots of current drought conditions, and it specifies steps to be taken in response to potential drought conditions.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs' Office of Water Resources prepared the new drought plan with input from a number of relevant state agencies.

ADECA incorporated lessons learned from the 2007 drought to better prepare the state to cope with dry periods in the future.

While Alabama is experiencing normal conditions so far this year, a study by the National Center for Atmospheric Research predicts that warmer temperatures and drier soil in future years will lead to droughts that are more frequent.

"Unlike other natural disasters that strike with sudden fury, droughts work slowly and silently to destroy crops, create shortages for local water systems, reduce power production, harm pulp and paper and other industries creating job losses, and degrade our waterways making them unsuitable for recreation and other activities," ADECA Director Jim Byard said.

"The new plan will guide our Office of Water Resources as it constantly monitors water availability so that Alabamians can be alerted and proactive steps can be taken to lessen the impact of a drought."

During drought periods, OWR works with local water systems, farmers, reservoir operators and industries to encourage water conservation and to mitigate negative impacts like water shortages, crop failure, and job loss.

Major steps specified in the drought plan include:

- Provide input from OWR, the Alabama State Climatologist, and the Monitoring and Impact Group of the Alabama Drought Assessment and Planning Team into the development of Alabama's portion of the U.S. Drought Monitor Map. A rotating group of authors from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Drought Mitigation Center produce the map. Officials use the drought map, posted each week at www.drought.gov, as a primary tool in developing federal disaster declarations.
- Maintain a drought information center available to the public on ADECA's website.
- Issue Alabama drought declaration advisories based on streamflow levels, rainfall, soil moisture, and other drought-related data collected and analyzed by the Monitoring and Impact Group of the Alabama Drought Assessment and Planning Team.
- Analyze potential drought impacts on residents, agriculture, habitat, water recreation, and industries that rely on water for production.

ADECA completed the plan with input from the Alabama Water Resources Commission, the Alabama Drought Planning and Assessment Team, the Permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Water Policy and Management, and other groups with an interest in Alabama's water resources.

The plan and more drought information is available at www.adeca.alabama.gov/water.

Olsen becomes WSCC's first to earn low-medalist honors at NJCAA Men's Golf Championship

By: Russell Moore
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State freshman golfer Aksel Olsen accomplished a feat last week never achieved before in coach Dan York's 26 years with the program. Olsen became the first Wallace State golfer to earn low medalist at the NJCAA Men's Golf Championship. Olsen finished with a four-day total of 281 at The Rawls Course in Lubbock, Texas, earning him the Arnold Palmer Award as the low medalist along with recognition as an NJCAA All-American.

"I'm very proud of Aksel and what he accomplished out there. He was in a slump throughout parts of the spring, but he stepped it up during the most important tournament of the year. That will open the door for him to hook on with some major universities once he leaves here, but we're excited about him coming back next year. We have four of our five top guys returning, so I hope all the experience we gained in Texas will pay dividends next year," said York, who has coached the likes of Fredrick Jacobsen and Brett Wetterich at Wallace State among other eventual professionals.

Wallace State finished seventh nationally out of 24 teams. The Lions maintained a five-stroke lead halfway through their day three round before Central Alabama and Odessa College (Texas) pulled away from the field.

Olsen, a Norwegian, put together an impressive surge on the final day of the tournament. He started out tied for ninth after three rounds (2-under-par 213), but shot a 5-under-par 67 in the final round.

Olsen was forced into a playoff against Meridian Community College's (Miss.) T.J. Morgan on the 18th and claimed the individual title by making par, while Morgan bogeyed the final hole. Olsen becomes the 14th NJCAA All-American to play for York.

"The thing that separates Aksel from most freshmen and sophomores is he is advanced mentally as far as accepting bad shots. He doesn't let them linger," said York, who made his 18th national tournament appearance.

"He's also conservative, but aggressive. He's conservative because he doesn't take unnecessary chances on the course, but he's aggressive when he swings the club."

Wallace State's seventh-place finish was a stark improvement from ending last year's tournament in 18th.

Wallace State's Jake Miller was two shots shy of making the All-American team, finishing with a total of 291.

Michael Zierdt (297), Chris Atchley (299) and Patrick Twesme (305) rounded out the field for the Lions.

Zierdt was the only Wallace State sophomore competing at nationals.

Atchley, a first-team All-Region member, was Wallace State's low medalist during the ACCC state tournament in Decatur earlier this month.



> ***"The thing that separates Aksel from most freshmen and sophomores is he is advanced mentally as far as accepting bad shots. He doesn't let them linger."***

St. Bernard's Savannah Glover signs soccer scholarship

By: Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Contributor

Savannah Glover recently accepted a soccer scholarship to Faulkner University in Montgomery, AL.

Pictured Front Row: Carlene Brooks, Travis Brooks, Glenn Townsend – Faulkner University Soccer Coach; Savannah Glover, and Coach Shannon Mescher. Back row: Ken Powell, Jennifer Glover, Rita Powell, Thomas Glover, Fr. Joel Martin – SBP President; and Headmaster, John Tekulve.



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Speed and Agility with Steve Johnson
All Sports Available
June 11th - July 12th
Tuesdays and Thursdays
9:45 - Noon
Heritage Park
$125 per six weeks
Deadline to register is May 31st
Steve's Cell: 256-709-2192 • ASPT Office: 256-736-2997

Summer Junior Tennis 2013
√ Session I: June 3 - June 13
√ Session II: June 17 - June 27
√ Session III: July 8 - July 18
• Sessions held Monday-Thursday; Beginners from 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. and Intermediate and Advanced Groups from 9:00 a.m. -10:00
• Tennis Balls are provided; racquet is required. Instructors Don Wilbanks and Ryan Hunt will lead the sessions.
cullmanrecreation.org

Wallace State softball's Katie Gentle, BreeAnna Blevins each named NJCAA First-Team All-Americans

By: Russell Moore
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State softball sophomores Katie Gentle and BreeAnna Blevins were vital pieces to the team's national championship run last week.

Each was recognized Thursday as NJCAA Division I first-team All-Americans. Gentle and Blevins become the first Wallace State players to earn first-team honors since Kelsey Dennis in 2010 and the first set of teammates since Dennis, Sallie Van Kirk, and Stephanie Needham each earned the recognition in 2009.



Katie Gentle

Gentle, a Hartselle graduate, finished with one of the best offensive seasons in Wallace State softball history.

Hitting third in the lineup, Gentle compiled a single-season record of 74 RBIs, complementing her .456 average and 16 homers.

She also added 25 doubles and a team-high 27 stolen bases and was named to the ACCC All-Region team for her regular-season work and to the All-tournament team at the state and national levels.

Gentle earned national recognition all season. She was named the OC Sports NJCAA Player of the Week during consecutive weeks in March, becoming the first player in Wallace State history to achieve the feat in back-to-back weeks. Gentle was at her best again during the national tournament.

Her two-run homer lifted Wallace State to a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Santa Fe (Fla.) College in the Lady Lions' tournament opener in St. George, Utah, and she added a homer and five RBIs in Wallace State's second game, an 8-6 triumph over top-seeded Butler (Kan.) Community College.

"Katie had a great start to the season and tailed off just a little midway through. Once Katie refocused, she seemed to do something positive for us each game," said Wallace State coach Jayne Clem, who led the program to its first national title in 2008.

"Katie also set the tone at the national tournament. We had jitters during our first game. It had been a long day, but when Katie stepped up with that home run against Santa Fe it seemed to relax us. After that homer, we bought into the idea that we were in Utah to win the whole thing."

Blevins, a 15-game winner as a freshman, effectively shared the pitching load all season with co-ace Lindsey DeFee.

Blevins went 26-6 with a 1.56 ERA for the Lady Lions, throwing 27 complete games, including 11 shutouts, and striking out 240 hitters in 188 2/3 innings. At the state tournament in Alabaster, Blevins pitched the clinching game, a 3-1 victory over Shelton State.



BreeAnna Blevins

In Utah, Blevins went 2-1 with a save in four appearances, striking 17 batters in 14 1/3 innings.

"Bree won a huge game for us at the national tournament in 2012, so she knew what to expect this year. She grew up a lot over the summer and knew what she had to do as a sophomore leader on this pitching staff," said Clem, whose team finished 55-12. "Bree and Lindsey (DeFee) worked extremely hard over the winter, and they knew if they did their jobs, the offense would do what it was supposed to."

St. Bernard Welcomes New Coach

By: Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Contributor

CULLMAN – William Calvert, Athletic Director for St. Bernard Preparatory School, recently announced the hiring of Greg Boatright as the new Boys Basketball Coach and Physical Education instructor for the 2013-14 academic year.

Boatright grew up in Cullman County and was one of Wallace State Community College's pioneer players. After graduating from Jacksonville State, Boatright coached for one year at Warrior, and then spent the next 16 years at Baileyton.

For the next 14 seasons, he coach at Fairview High School where he compiled a 251-170 record. While at Fairview, his team won the County tournament three times, the area twice, recorded one sub-region victory, and made it to the Elite Eight.

Athletic Director William Calvert said he is happy to have Boatright join the coaching staff at St. Bernard. "We go back a long way. I have known Greg a long time. We use to compete against each other as students as well as coaches."

"I'm excited about coming to St. Bernard and appreciate them giving me the chance to coach there," said Boatright. "I will give it my best effort and will try to get the boys to do the same. Fundamentals need to be developed for everything to work. That's where it all starts."

Calvert said, "I think Greg will be an asset to St. Bernard. Growing up and attending school at Welti Jr. High, he understands small schools, and knows how to work and mold talent."

Boatright is eager to get started with his new team. He expects to sponsor team camps and is planning to host play dates with other teams this summer.


SBP Headmaster – John Tekulve, Greg Boatright, Middle School Principal – William Calvert, and School President – Fr. Joel Martin, OSB

Autograph Confessions

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

I am a philographist. In layman's terms, I am a collector of autographs. This has always been a hobby of mine and as I have grown older, it has become a full-fledged passion.

I have hunted down and collected some of the rarest autographs in the hobby. Guys like the elusive Tiger Woods, Green Bay Packer's legends Bart Starr, Brett Favre, Paul Hornung, and "The Mick" Mickey Mantle.

Although I obtain many autographs through conventional means like going to ballgames and private signings, some like the aforementioned Mantle, have to be bought on the secondary market, that is to say from memorabilia dealers. Now don't get me wrong, dealers provide a valuable service to collectors such as myself. I have purchased numerous autographs through reputable dealers, both on eBay and at "brick and mortar" stores such as Champs Sports Cards (Huntsville), Quality Collectables (Jasper), and The Baseball Card Shop (Birmingham). The guys that own these hobby shops cater to their customer's needs, offer fair prices both selling and trading, and NEVER search their merchandise.

This brings me to my first point: **PACK SEARCHERS**

A pack searcher is someone who cuts slits on packs, feels for the autographs that are signed on a sticker (a clear sticker that is sent for the player to sign) or opens the pack, checks the cards for an autograph or relic and then reseals the pack with a less valuable "hit". Some dealers do not care about heir customer, only their bottom line and they will go to any lengths to get the best cards for their shop or to sell on eBay and they will go to any length to obtain them.

These pack searchers that actually own stores are few and far between and most "hot packs" are found for sale on eBay. If you are considering buying a hot pack, make sure it is factory sealed.

Dealers and individuals do not bother me as much as my next point does: **AUTOGRAPH HOUNDS**.

Simply put, autograph hounds are people who visit stadiums, movie premiers and the like, seeking autographs from an athlete or celebrity. When I visit an MLB stadium or meet a celebrity, I will ask for an autograph (if I am not on the job) but I do this for my own personal collection and I limit the request to no more than two items. On the other hand, there are autograph hounds that show up just to obtain as may autographs as they can for the sole purpose of selling them for a profit. These guys are easy to spot as they usually have five or more of the same photo of the same athlete/celebrity. The said athlete/celebrity is not naive, they understand what is going on and they search eBay and the like just like the rest of us. This will stop most big name athletes/celebrities from signing as they know the autograph is just going to be "flipped". For example: Most baseball players will not sign on the sweet spot of the baseball because it effectively triples the value, If you are a fan, you do not care where the player signs but you are just happy that you have your favorite players signature.

Which brings me to my final point: **SELLING OBVIOUS FAKES**

At any given time you can search eBay for autographs and you will inevitably find forged autographs that people are passing off as real. To seasoned autograph collectors, the fakes are easy to spot and therefore avoided. But what if your loved one is looking for that perfect gift for the sports fan in their life and they run across on of these fakes? You might just end up with a pricey, but ultimately worthless, paperweight.

Autograph collecting can be tons of fun and bring unbridled excitement when you finally add you favorite player or the elusive celebrity to finish a set, but take it from me, be mindful of what you buy and from whom you purchase the merchandise.

Beef...it's what's for lunch

By: Noah Chandler
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Cattlemen's & Cattlewomen's Association hold annual Steak Sandwich sale

CULLMAN – As the Memorial Day weekend started up with lake fun, backyard cookouts, and poolside lounging for many across the area, a select few were treated to their annual delight of steak sandwiches, cooked up locally by the Cullman County Cattlemen's & Cattlewomen's Associations.

"Each year during Memorial Day and Labor Day we setup here (North Shopping Center) and sell our steak sandwiches," said Steve Lake, President Cullman County Cattlemen's Association.

"Each holiday weekend we turn out about 5,000 sandwiches, so we're always trying to keep up with the demand."

It takes quite a bit of help to keep up with demand that furious and Lake said that's where the nearly two dozen volunteers come in to play.

"We setup about 8 a.m. and begin selling at around 10," he said.

"Most of the time we'll have people waiting for the steaks to come off the grill, so we've got to have a lot of help. Thankfully, we always have an eager group of volunteers to help keep pace with the customers."

For more on the Cullman County Cattlemen's Association, visit http://www.bamabeef.org/.



Summer Concert Series Returns on June 4

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Hope Alive will kick off the 2013 Summer Concerts Series, sponsored by Coca-Cola, at Heritage Park's Recognition Garden, starting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4.

"The Summer Concerts Series event is free to the public weekly, every Tuesday," said CPR Marketing Director Waid Harbison.

"The event is made possible through our sponsor, Coca-Cola who we are very appreciative of in order to hold free events to the public like the Summer Concerts Series."

While the music is free, to make the evenings a bit more comfortable, Harbison said there are a few items concert goers may want to bring to the weekly event.

"Residents do need to bring their own seating; fold-out chairs, lawn-chairs, and other similar seating should be brought," he said. "Plenty of space is provided for seating on a first-come first-serve basis."

This year's concert series will feature a few new artists, including on band slated to hit the main stage of an emerging local country music festival.

Harbison said the addition of new musical acts, combined with no-cost admission, should make for a great concert series.

"The Summer Concert Series is a great event and free to the public," he said. "We have added several new bands and different types of acts this year, including a band that will be playing an opening act at Rock the South Music Festival."

The 2013 Summer Concert Series, sponsored by Coca-Cola, artist lineup includes:

- June 4 – Hope Alive
- June 11 – Day's Gap
- June 18 – OFF
- June 25 – Desperation Band
- July 2 – OFF
- July 9 – Vintage Cowboy
- July 16 – Coal Rain
- July 23 – Finale Event



Creative Ways to Keep Kids Learning this Summer

(StatePoint) For families, summertime is all about active fun -- from vacations to ballgames, and fireworks to poolside picnics. But being on-the-go can mean lots of downtime in transit and waiting for activities to start.

While research shows that students can lose up to two months' worth of learning during the summer break, parents can seize the opportunity to turn downtime into a time for purposeful entertainment, and keep kids off the summer learning slide. "Parents can easily keep kids' minds active and learning as part of existing summer activities," says Jessica Hodges, Director of School Marketing at ACCO Brands, maker of Mead school supplies. "Rather than relying on phones, tablets, and DVD players to fill time while waiting for summer fun, try packing creative, age-appropriate learning activities instead." When you're loading up the car this season with sunscreen, bug spray, and bathing suits, don't forget to also pack portable entertainment that is both educational and fun. With a bit of creativity and a few extra items, you'll keep kids learning, and they'll think they're playing -- all summer long.

- Make old games new. Fill the entertainment void while running errands with portable dry erase boards that make traditional games like hangman, tic-tac-toe, and bingo easy to play, erase, and play again. Encourage siblings to play together as they build words, form letters, and solve logic puzzles.
- Think convenience. In the car, opt for games and activities specifically designed for early learners on the go. For example, Mead Dry Erase Tangrams, stored in a convenient carrying case, are easy to pack and feature non-slip geometric shapes that can be arranged to create designs along a template. The non-slip material means that your kid's design will survive even the bumpiest of wagon rides or road trips.
- Explore. Make a game of your surroundings, no matter where you are. Taking a trip? Ask kids to track car colors, license plate origins, or types of trees. At the store, play a game of "I Spy." The key is to turn everyday activities into learning games and exploration.
- Unplug. Taking a break from "screen-time" doesn't have to mean sacrificing fun. Books, flashcards, puzzles and games not only make great alternatives, but they fit easily into day packs. Reinforce math concepts, the alphabet, or colors, and shapes with teacher-approved, age-appropriate learning tools such as flashcards. Or help kids learn to spell with Mead Puzzle Words, which give kids practice building words while playing with puzzles. With no need for batteries or an outlet, these traditional activities are ready to go whenever you are.
- Capture memories. Designate a special notebook for the summer for artwork and writing. Journaling encourages children to express their thoughts and emotions while building essential writing skills.

More tips for fun learning on-the-go can be found at www.MeadEarlyLearning.com. With some extra planning, parents can make good use of free time by incorporating easy-to-use activities that make early learning memorable and impactful.

Stay-Cation: Natural Bridge Park

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

NATURAL BRIDGE, AL – It's that time of year again. The weather is warming up, the kids are out of school, and you need a vacation. Instead of traveling outside of Alabama, why not stay close to home?

Alabama features many attractions and historic places to visit and one such place is the Natural Bridge in Winston County, the longest natural bridge east of the Rocky Mountains. The area was originally settled by the Creek Indians. The huge rock structure of the bridge has long been thought to have been used as shelter by the Creek.

The park has been open to tourists and outdoor enthusiasts since 1954. Owned by Jim and Barbra Denton, the bridge itself is nestled in a thicket of trees located on the middle of the park. Natural Bridge is a combination of sandstone and ore deposits that was formed over 200 million when nature's most powerful force, water, ate away the weaker sandstone which formed the unique structure.

The impressive natural wonder looms some 60 feet from the ground and spans over 140 feet through the underbrush. Although visitors to the park are not allowed to cross the bridge, due to insurance, gazing up at the bridge from underneath provides a unique view of a unique quirk of nature.

A second unique rock formation can be found as you wind your way up to the bridge. The formation, while viewed from the side, resembles the profile of an Indian chief and is named as such.

Yet another amazing feature of the park is the Artesian (natural spring) well that supplies all of the water for the drinking fountains found around the park.

Natural Bridge Park also has a beautiful hiking trail that winds through the property. Hikers can see indigenous flora and fauna including over 20 types of ferns and a strain of hemlock that has existed since the last Ice Age.

A small gift shop is located at the trail head and contains all sorts of fun, handmade items. There are also picnic tables and small pavilions that line the crystal clear creek that runs throughout the property.

Natural Bridge Park is open from 8am to "around" sunset, seven days a week. Admission is just $2.50 and is worth every penny.

If you or your family enjoy the outdoors, you need to visit the historically rich Natural Bridge Park,. You will be very glad you did.





FFA Begins Plant Sale

By: Jessica Norrell
jessicanorrell@cullmansense.com

During spring the FFA chapters of area schools begin selling plants. The schools have a greenhouse where the plants are sold and the plants are tended to by the students who use the funds raised to buy supplies for their school.

Buying from the greenhouses is a great way to support your school and the students that participate.

The greenhouses are open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. The list of plants varies from school to school but here is a sample from Holly Pond:

Bedding Plants: $12.00 - Flat
Petunias, Begonias, Impatiens, Vinca
Marigolds, Zinnias, Coleus

Hanging Baskets: $12.00 - 10 inch Pot
Wave Petunias, Impatiens, Ivy Geraniums

Lantanas: $3.00 - 4 inch Pot
Colors- Red, Yellow, Confetti

Geraniums: $5.00 - 6 inch Pot
Many Colors

Dragon Wing Begonias: $3.00
One Gallon

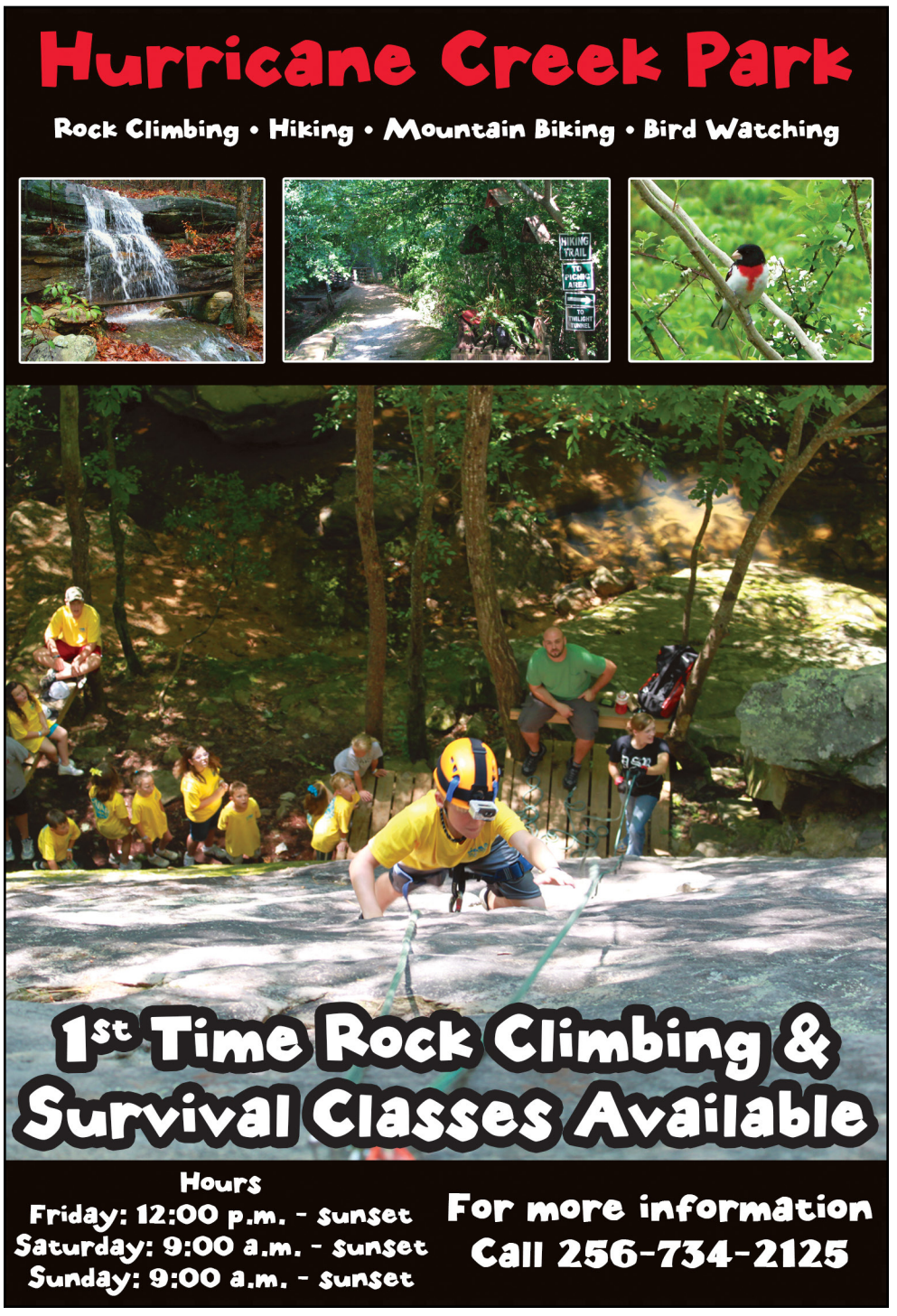
Celebrity Tomato Plants: $1.50
One Gallon

Small Selection of Vegetable Plants:
$2.00 (Cup of Four)
Squash, Zucchini, Pepper









– Calendar –

Submit your event to
calendar@cullmansense.com

Monday

VFW Post 2214 Memorial Day Celebration
Cullman's VFW Post 2214 is inviting everyone to their annual Memorial Day celebration honoring our nation's war dead heroes beginning at 10 a.m. This open event will take place at Veterans Park at Sportsman Lake with special guest speakers Sons of the American Revolution, Sen. Paul Bussman, and local representatives Randall Shedd and Mac Buttram, along with several area veterans. Come help memoralize all those who have fought to keep our country and us FREE. We owe it to them and to those who are now serving in our military.

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.

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.

Cullman County Commission Meeting
Members of the Cullman County Commission will meet beginning at 10a.m. on the first floor of the Courthouse in the commission meeting room. Meeting is open to all

Civitan Club Meeting
Civitan Club members meet at 6 p.m. at Daily's for dinner and business session. All interested are welcome to attend.

Public Hearing: Entertainment District Rezoning
There will be a Public Hearing at Cullman City Hall Auditorium beginning at 7 p.m.. This meeting will center on the rezoning proposal for an E-1 Entertainment District located off of I-65 and Highway 157 West, near the Social Security Office, McDonald's, etc. All concerned citizens are urged to attend the meeting.

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.

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

Elementary Summer Garden Camp
'Elementary Summer Garden Camp' for youths ages 6 - 10 will take place at the North Alabama Agriplex from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. Today's class is 'Growing Plants'. Further info 256-297-1044 or email at cullmanag@gmail.com.

Bearcat Basketball Skills Camp
Bearcat Basketball Skills Camp will be held at Cullman High School from, Wednesday, May 29, thru Friday, May 31st. Hours of the camp are from 9 a.m. until 12 noon for students who will be in 4th grade through 8th grade this fall. Basic fundamentals of basketball will be learned by attendees by both individual instruction and competitions to help students build a strong foundation. There is a $50.00 fee per participant ($35.00 for each sibling who takes part), and this fee includes daily instruction, lunch on the last day of camp (the 31st), and a T-shirt if students are among the first 30 to sign up. Please contact coach Jonathan Haynes for additional information or to register jhayes@cullmancats.net.

'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.

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.

Tiger Trek Tour
The 'Tiger Trek Tour' with Auburn Coach Gus Malzhan, mascot Aubie and others associated with the Auburn football program will once again make a stop in Cullman as the Cullman County Auburn Club hosts its annual Scholarship Banquet. Doors for the event, which takes place at Cullman Civic Center, open at 5 p.m., with dinner prepared by the Cullman Elk's Lodge, Auburn shopping and auction bidding. Program begins at 6 p.m. with the local groups' traditional Tiger Walk. Aubie will even give kids in attendance. a lesson in tree-rolling! Plans call for autographs with the coach as well. Tickets are limited and only available BEFORE the event - NO tickets will be sold at the door. Seating with first-come, first-serve, tickets are $30.00 for adults and $15.00 for children up to 12. Only 700 tickets are available at this price. Balcony seating has room for 200 folks. For tickets and information please call 256734-8461. Come join the 'War Eagle' gang tonight and cheer on your Auburn football team.

First Community Bank Women's Investing Class
All women are invited to attend a FREE 'Women's Investing' Class at 12 noon at First Community Bank. This free educational lunchtime meeting is being held to help women learn more about investing for themselves. Bring your own lunch. This is NOT a sales meeting. For additional information please contact Heather Branch at 256-734-4863.

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.

ROOT Classes at Grace Episcopal Church
All are welcome to attend special ROOT (Radically Overcoming Obstacles Together) classes each Thursday night beginning at 6 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church. Food and fellowship begin at 6 p.m. followed at 7 p.m. by the meeting. For additional information please check out Facebook (www.facebook.com/pages/TheRoot) or www.agccullman.com. Come to one class just to see if you are interested in this topic and its purpose. You might be surprised how these meetings can affect your life.

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 Movie at Nesmith Pool Front Yard
Friday Night Movie at Nesmith Pool Front Yard will start at DARK with 'Wreck It Ralph'. The movie Is FREE to all and concession stands will be open. All times, dates, and movie titles are subject to change. Load the kids in the car and spend a night under the stars. For more information call 256-734-2585.

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

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.

Beginner 'Bird Watchers' program
Peinhardt Living History Farm and David Pylant will offer a series of beginner 'Bird Watchers' program. The program will run from 8:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. Bird identification, habitat, behavior, song, and myriad items of interest will be discussed and observed during these programs. Everyone is welcome and youth younger than 12 must be accompanied by an adult. PRE-REGISTRATION IS A MUST - PLEASE CALL 256-734-7271 OR 256-734-0850. Also thru bjohn781@aol.com. Bring the family and learn to enjoy a new way of appreciating nature.

Hanceville Swimming Pool Open to the Public
Hanceville Swimming Pool will be open Mondays through Saturdays during the summer from 12 noon until 6 p.m. The Pool opens for the first time this summer on Saturday, June 1st. Please contact Hanceville Parks & Recreation Department at 256-352-1205 for additional information. Come enjoy the summer afternoons in a cool, cool place.

Family Fun Day at Heritage Park
First Source for Women will sponsor their annual Family Fun Day today at Heritage Park in Cullman near the water feature for children. Events include a 'walk for life' around the park, a cake walk, games and bounce house for kids. Live music will fill the air and concessions will be available. Info on the 'Walk for Life' - registration begins at 8 a.m., cost is $15.00 person and $25.00 for family. This fee covers T-shirt, water and family snacks. The walks are scheduled for two times 9 a.m. and 12 noon. Come join the fun and enjoy a summer day in the park.

'Musicfest' to benefit Daystar House
There will be a 'Musicfest' to benefit Daystar House Inc., from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m.. at Sportsman Lake Park. Proceeds from the event will benefit Daystar House, a United Way agency, and the event will include door prizes with concessions available. Admission is FREE, but donations accepted! Everyone come enjoy the day.

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!

Cullman County's Distinguished Young Women Preliminary Program
Eight Cullman County women students will participate in the Distinguished Young Women competition beginning at 4 p.m. at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theater, located on the campus of Wallace State Community College in Hanceville. The winner will continue on to the Alabama Distinguished Young Woman competition scheduled for January 17 and 18, 2014 in Montgomery. Today's event is open to the public. Tickets purchased in advance are $10.00 and can be obtained at the Col. Cullman Museum or from any of the entrants. Tickets will be $12.00 at the door. Contestants include the following Hollie Bennett, Mackenzie Bockhold, Emily Holcombe, Anna Caroline Keefe, Katie Owens, Payton Palmer, Savannah Smith, and Gracee White. Come cheer on your favorite entrant and help them advance to the state level.

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. Students who are interested in obtaining their driver's license or boating license, and possible insurance policy discounts, are invited to take part in the West Point High School's 'Summer Drivers Education Class' from Monday, June 3, through Friday, June 7, with classes being held from 7:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the school. The course will consist of one week in the classroom, with one day of driving before the end of classes. Cost is $150.00 for Cullman County students, and $200.00 for out-of-county students. To reserve your spot, please call West Point High School at 256-734-5375 or Mr. Ed Oaks, 256-595-7050.

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.

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Looking Ahead

PorktoberQue
Oktoberfest meets Barbecue Competition in Dothan, Alabama September 27-28, 2013. This KCBS sanctioned BBQ competition draws teams from across Alabama and features $5,000 in prize money and an entry to the American Royal for the cookoff/ BBQ winner. It is also a stop on the Alabama BBQ Trail and has a points award for national barbecue team rankings. Spectators enjoy polka music, country and rock bands, an indoor Biergarten, outdoor "man cave" and loads of shopping opportunities. Barbecue and Bratwurst dominate the food menus from regional vendors, and beer is available in several areas. Sponsored by MIke Schmitz Auto group- come take a test drive for free tickets, or take a drive at PorktoberQue for great deals! FREE ADMISSION IF YOU DRESS UP IN LEDERHOSEN OR A GERMAN OUTFIT! Kids welcome, many kid's activities available. See www.porktoberque.com for details and info

Movie Review: *Texas Chainsaw*

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

I love 70s horror films. Stories that take place in an old abandoned house or deep in the woods. The focus of the films are usually teenagers who are drinking and doing drugs out in the middle of nowhere and wind up the victim a local legend or deranged murder. The original *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* was no different.

Considered by many to be a horror classic, the 1974 film centers around a group of young friends on a cross country trip.

The group inadvertently end up at a home that looks abandoned but is actually the home of Leatherface, an overpowering killing machine who wields a chainsaw with deadly accuracy.

There have been attempts to remake the film over the years but none have even come close to the original.

This is why I was skeptic as I sat down to watch this film, thinking to myself, "Not another remake." What I got was a totally new story with various twists that made for an enjoyable film.

PLOT SUMMARY:

The film opens just minutes after the 1974 version ends, with Leatherface standing in the middle of the road with his chainsaw as Sally, the only survivor in the film, is carried away from the scene in a pick-up truck.

In the next scene you see Sheriff Hooper (Thom Barry) standing outside of the Sawyer house telling Drayton Sawyer (Bill Mosley), who is Jed/Leatherface's father, to send Jed out because he has been accused of murder.

Boss Sawyer (Gunner Hanson) convinces Drayton to give up Jed to save the family, saying that he is "simple" anyway. Before Drayton can send out Jed, good ol' boy Burt Hartman (Paul Rae) arrives with a posse of southern boys to dish out their own brand of justice. They firebomb the house with Molotov cocktails. As one of Jed's men, Gavin Miller, searches the house he comes across a woman holding a baby. He kicks the woman in the head and takes the baby, giving her to his wife to raise as their own.

Fast forward to present day and we find that the baby, Edith, has been raised as Heather Miller. Heather soon discovers that her grandmother has passed away and left her entire estate to Heather.

Believing her grandparents to be dead, she confronts her parents who tell her of how she became a Miller.

Determined to find out the truth about her real family, Heather and her boyfriend, along with two other friends, set out to the small town of Newt, Texas to claim her inheritance and find out about her past. What they find is a gruesome nightmare.

STARRING:

- Alexandra Daddario as Heather Miller
- Trey Songz as Ryan
- Scott Eastwood as Carl
- Tania Raymonde as Nikki
- Dan Yeager as Leatherface

MY THOUGHTS:

I thoroughly enjoyed this film. Although it did not have the 70s horror movie feel I was hoping for, the surprises in the film made up for it. If you are a fan of the horror genre, I recommend viewing this film.

The film is Rated R for: Intense violence, strong language, and some sexual situations/ nudity

Reflections of History



Town Market — Contrib. by Cullman County Museum

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

This Week in History May 27 - June 2

May 27th

- 1895 – British inventor Birt Acres patents film camera/projector
- 1921 – After 84 years of British control, Afghanistan achieves sovereignty
- 1961 – First black light is sold
- 2011 – Crewmembers of the Endeavour space shuttle Mike Fincke and Greg Chamitoff take what is potentially the last spacewalk ever conducted by a space shuttle crew

May 28th

- 1731 – All Hebrew books in Papal State are confiscated
- 1937 – Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco opens to vehicular traffic
- 1959 – Monkeys Able and Baker zoom 300 miles (500 km) into space on Jupiter missile, became first animals retrieved from a space mission
- 2012 – A South African newspaper removes the controversial painting titled 'The Spear' by Brett Murray from its website

May 29th

- 1765 – Patrick Henry historic speech against the Stamp Act, answering a cry of "Treason!" with, "If this be treason, make the most of it!"
- 1849 – Lincoln says "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and of people some of time, but you can't fool all of the people all of time"
- 1977 – Janet Guthrie becomes first woman to drive in Indy 500
- 2011 – Malta becomes the last country in the European Union to legalize divorce

May 30th

- 1821 – James Boyd patents Rubber Fire Hose
- 1901 – Memorial Day first observed in U.S.
- 1935 – Babe Ruth's final game, goes hitless for Braves against Phillies
- 1997 – Betty Shabazz, widow of Malcolm X, set afire by 12 year old grandson

May 31st

- 1790 – U.S. copyright law enacted
- 1894 – John Harvey Kellogg patents "flaked cereal"
- 1985 – New Orleans Saints are sold for $70,204,000
- 2005 – Watergate figure Deep Throat is revealed to be W. Mark Felt a former F.B.I agent

June 1st

- 1495 – First written record of Scotch Whiskey appears in Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, Friar John Cor is the distiller
- 1877 – Society of American Artists forms
- 1951 – International Cheese treaty signed
- 2011 – The U.S. announces it will boycott an anti-racism conference at the United Nations due to concerns over anti-Semitism

June 2nd

- 1851 – First U.S. alcohol prohibition law enacted, Maine
- 1910 – Pygmies discovered in Dutch New Guinea
- 1983 – 1980 movie "Attack of the Killer Tomatoes," released in Germany
- 2012 – Egypt's former president, Hosni Mubarak is sentenced to life in prison, along with his former interior minister, Habib al-Adly, for being complicit in killing of demonstrators in the 2011 revolution

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Last Week's Poll

Do you think food should continue to be taxed in Alabama?

No
100%

This Week's Poll

Will a down economy keep you local for this year's family vacation?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

CRMC Foundation Accepts Refresh-A-Room Donation

By: Maria Stanford
CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN — The Cullman Regional Medical Center Foundation accepts a $25,000 contribution from the CRMC Auxiliary earmarked for the renovation of a maternity suite.

Sarah Hicks, CRMC Auxiliary President, is proud of the donation that will directly benefit the Refresh-A-Room project allowing for the modernization of a LDRP suite where new mothers labor, deliver, recover, and go through postpartum.

The room is located on the second floor of the Maternity Center and the Dr. and Mrs. Herman C. Ensor Nursery; this is one of fourteen suites being updated.

"The Refresh-A-Room Capital Campaign has currently secured donors for six of the fourteen maternity suites, but other areas are available if someone is interested in making a contribution," commented Danny McAfee, CRMC Foundation Refresh-A-Room Capital Campaign Chairman.

"We have private rooms, semi-private rooms, nurses' stations, family waiting rooms, and other areas also available."

The Cullman Regional Medical Center Foundation is grateful to the Auxiliary and others in the community for their contributions to the medical center.

McAfee added, "The RAR Capital Campaign has raised $1.6 million of the $5 million goal and the Foundation will continue to seek donations as we look to advance healthcare in our community."

Cheryl Bailey, CRMC Vice President of Patient Care Services said, "The maternity suites will now see numerous patient care upgrades as well as new amenities for family members."

If you would like to view a new a LDRP suite, please call the CRMC Foundation at 256-737-2565 to make arrangements.

For more information on contributing to the Refresh-A-Room Capital Campaign visit the Foundation online at www.crmchospital.com/foundation, by e-mail crmcfoundation@crmchospital.com, or call 256-737-2565.



CRMC Auxiliary president makes contribution to Foundation's Refresh-A-Room Campaign pictured left to right – Emily Durden, CRMC Foundation Specialist; Cheryl Bailey, CRMC Vice President of Patient Care Services; Sarah Hicks, CRMC Auxiliary President; Danny McAfee, CRMC Foundation Refresh-A-Room Chairman and Maria Stanford, CRMC Foundation Executive Director

CRMC joins Aetna's Hospital Network in Alabama

By: Lindsey Dossey
CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN — Aetna (NYSE: AET) and Cullman Regional Medical Center (CRMC) recently announced that they have reached agreement on a new contract that adds the hospital to Aetna's Alabama network.

Under the agreement, which took effect May 1, members of Aetna's plans can receive covered hospital-based services, at in-network rates, from Cullman Regional Medical Center and from any of the hospital's employed physicians.

"Aetna is very pleased to welcome Cullman Regional Medical Center to our Alabama network," said Greg Parrish, Aetna's vice president of network operations for Alabama. "This is great news for our members. We've been working to provide broader access to high-quality hospitals and physicians, and this agreement helps us achieve that goal."

Aetna's Alabama members have access to a contracted network of 101 hospitals and more than 6,700 primary care and specialist physicians.

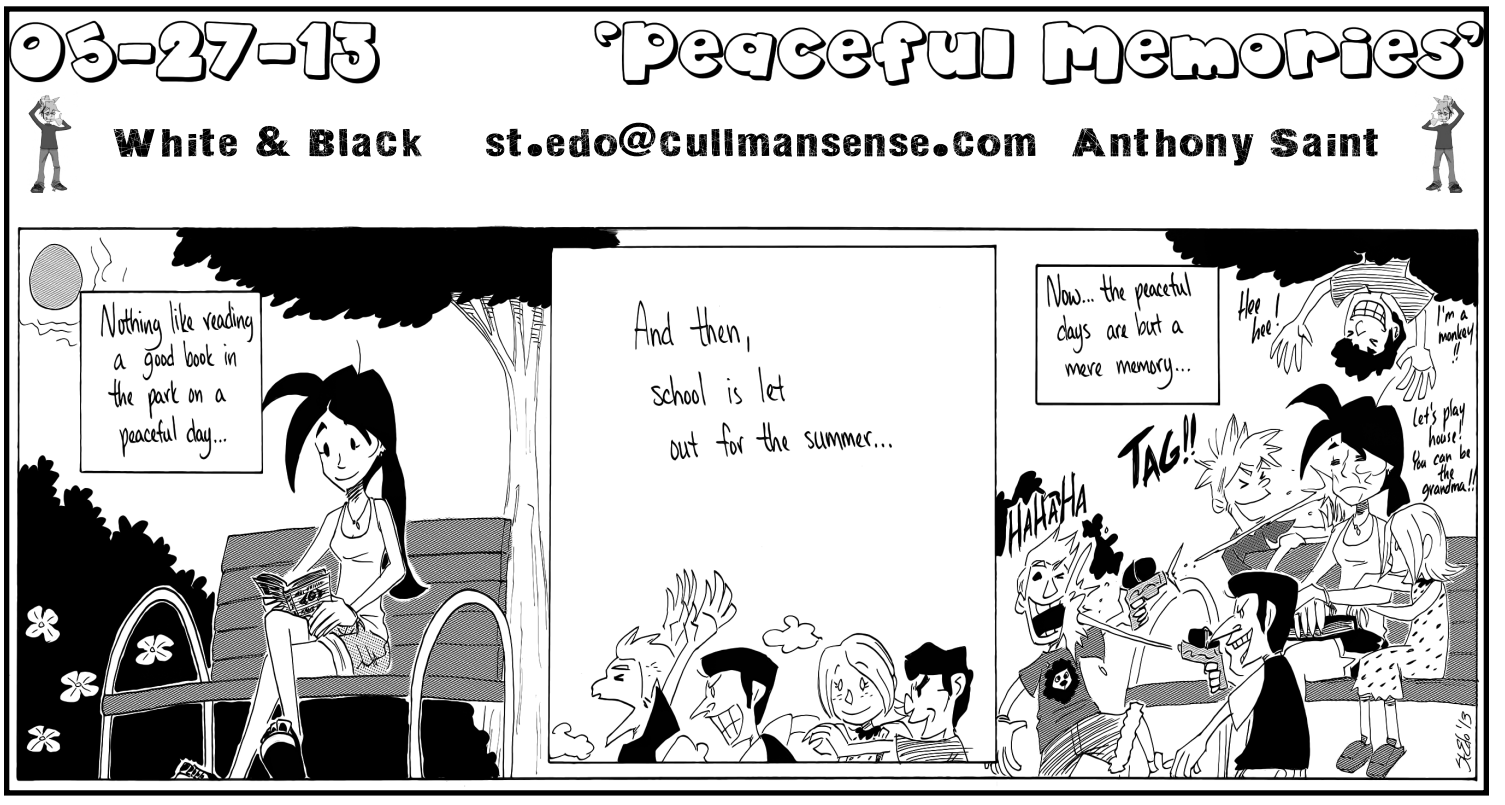
"Cullman Regional Medical Center strives to provide the highest level of care to the community we serve," said Jim Weidner, president/CEO of CRMC. "We are pleased to be able to now offer this quality care to the Aetna members in our area as well."

cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Yoga Classes**: Tuesday nights at 6pm with Fabian Holland at the Cullman Civic Center.
- **Nia Dance Fitness Classes:** Tuesdays at 10am with Ann Caretti at the Cullman Civic Center.
- **Summer Concerts Series:** Held at Heritage Park Tuesday nights at 6:30pm in the recognition gardens beginning June 4 through July 23. Hope Alive will play on Tuesday, June 4.
- **Speed & Agility Camp:** A speed and agility camp will be held at Heritage Park for ages 7-12 from June 11-July 16. Registration will be $125. Camp will be led by Steve Johnson and is open to boys and girls. Register at the Civic Center.
- **Outdoor Pools Opening at CWAC:** The outdoor pools and water park at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center will open Saturday, May 25.
- **Gun Safety Class:** The Gun Safety course scheduled for May 18 has been moved to June 15. The course will be held at the Cullman Civic Center, call 256-734-9157 for full details.
- **Junior Tennis Lessons:** Tennis lessons will be held this summer at the Municipal Tennis courts in three different sessions beginning on June 3. Classes offered for all skill levels. Call the Civic Center for details or to register.
- **Junior Golf Clinics:** Learn to swing like a pro this summer with golf pro Ches Harris in this course held on Tuesdays in June. Ages 8-18 may participate. Call 256-739-2386 for full details.
- **Nesmith "Quarter Day":** Nesmith Pool will open Saturday May 25 from 12pm-5pm. Admission for Saturday, May 25 will be a quarter ($0.25). Normal hours will be Sunday-Friday from 1pm-5pm and Saturday from 10am-5pm.
- **Dive-in Movies @ CWAC:** Free Dive-In movie will be held Thursday, May 30 on the outdoor pool deck. The movie *Brave* will be played at dark. Movies will be shown the last Thurs. monthly.
- **Drive-in Movie:** Drive-in movies will be held the last Friday each month starting Friday, May 31 at Nesmith Park. *Wreck it Ralph* will be played on Thursday, May 31. Concessions will be open, and the event is free to the public.





Aderholt: Keystone XL Pipeline Would Create Jobs, Grow US Economy

Contributed

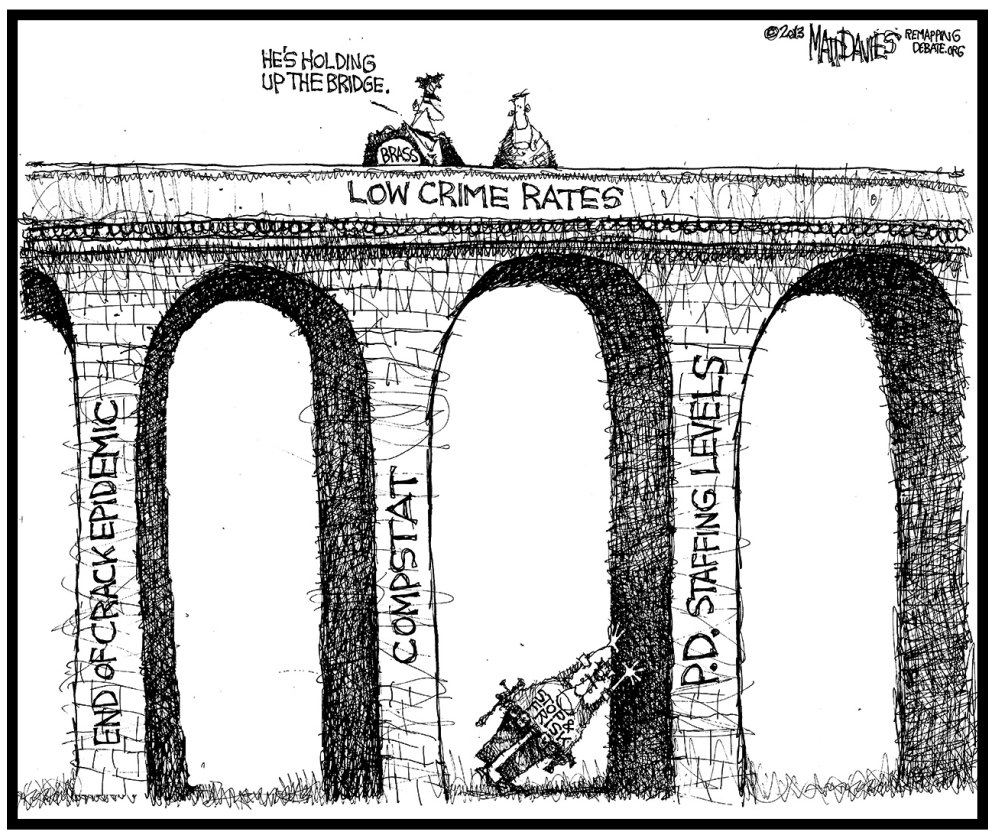
Washington, D.C. — Congressman Robert Aderholt (AL-04) released the following statement after the House passed H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act, that would clear the Administration's roadblocks preventing construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.

"House Republicans remain committed to implementing policies that help our economy grow and create opportunity for the private sector to create American jobs," said Aderholt. "H.R. 3 does exactly that. The Keystone XL pipeline is a private-sector infrastructure project that will bring an estimated 20,000 jobs to the United States, add $20 billion to our nation's economy, and provide greater energy security to America."

"This is a situation where we have a private-sector company willing to invest $7 billion, that would create thousands of jobs. Instead of jumping at the chance to get our economy moving again, the Administration has kept this project in bureaucratic limbo for over four years," added Aderholt.

"As jobs reports and economic growth in this country continues to be dismal, removing the roadblocks preventing construction of the Keystone XL pipeline is a win-win for America. I am proud to have supported the legislation that passed in the House today and hope to see the Senate act swiftly on this commonsense measure," concluded Aderholt.

Aderholt currently serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies for the powerful House Appropriations Committee, is a member of the Committee's Commerce, Justice and Science; and Homeland Security Subcommittees, and also serves on the Helsinki Commission.



Support Your Local Newspaper

By: Spike Harville

Deja Vu is that feeling Deja Vu is that feeling that you've been there before. A buddy of mine who runs a local newspaper brought up a subject about which I had just discussed with another buddy of mine who owns a local TV station. Did you catch the word "local?" They were talking about how more and more people seem disconnected from the local community. Just because your house is there, and your kids go to school there, you go to church there and you sleep there, doesn't mean you actually live there. Consequently some people don't shop in local stores, listen to the local, radio or read the local newspaper.

Not knowing what it's called, I decided to call it "delocalization". Yeah, I know that's a chemistry term about free floating electrons or something, but I'm going to use it to describe that emotional disconnect. Maybe you get your world news from ABC, CNN, or Glenn Beck, and there's nothing wrong with that, but what's happening in your town? How about on your street? You're not going to find that in the New York Times, even if you live in New York, and, in which case, you most likely aren't reading this.

Giant and impersonal department/food combination stores, burger/taco/hotdog/chicken franchises, bathroom/kitchen/lumber/hardware chains, etc. move in and drive Mom & Pop stores out of business. Pretty soon all you have left are those chain stores and there's nothing special about the town in which you live.

It looks like everywhere else. Allow me the obvious, and brilliant, quote from Gertrude Stein. "There is no 'there' there."

So how do you stop this delocalization? Shop locally. Buy locally. Be locally. Yeah, you can save $0.37 on that package of weenies by driving across town and then parking six hundred yards from the front door of that big chain store, but that Mom & Pop's Grocery, right on the corner, might stay in business if you drop in there once in a while.

You might even save that much in gas. Also, when you go into Mom & Pop's Grocery, Hardware, and Handmade Pot Holders Store, it's a great idea to let them know you saw their advertisement in the local newspaper and you saw they were having a sale on ten packs of weenies and an eight packs of buns (a topic for another Vox Box).

While you're in there, pick up the local newspaper and show them the picture of your kid's little league team on page six and make a personal and local connection. If you do, then maybe they'll run more advertising in the local paper, get more customers in the door so that next year when your other kid's T-ball team needs a local store to sponsor them, they'll be there and be able to do so. Then when you come in again in a year, with kids in ball uniforms, it'll be like Yogi Berra said, "Deja Vu all over again" when you point out your other kid on page six of the local newspaper.

I'm an actor, writer, and filmmaker. I do weekly movie reviews of old movies and Vox Box where I look at the history of film and how it touches our culture, or anything else that catches my fancy. Please visit my blog www.MyFriendsCallMeSpike.com and follow me on Twitter @SpikeHarville.

The Fitness Chronicles

By: Jessica Norrell
jessicanorrell@cullmansense.com

There are a variety of 5Ks available to suit any taste, from color runs to mud runs, but when I saw the Run for Your Lives 5K I knew I found the 5K for me; a zombie infested run. I am a huge fan of *The Walking Dead* so it is definitely a chance for me to hone my assumed apocalypse survival skills. The Run for Your Lives 5K is "the original zombie infested obstacle course 5K."

Not only do you have to run a 5K but it is a 5K riddled with challenging obstacles. A true test of strength and agility all while being chased by the un-dead. Some of the featured obstacles include a blood-pit to trudge through; the smokehouse, a dark house filled with "smoke" where zombies are lurking in wait for their next victim; a maze infested with zombies; as well as other man-made and natural obstacles which can be used to your advantage to escape the zombies. If you would rather enter the race from a different perspective you can volunteer as a zombie!

Volunteers get a professional zombie transformation, discounted race registration, zombie tee-shirt, free parking, free camping, Apocalypse party admission, free snacks and water, a race medal, and, best of all, get to chase people!

After you cross the finish line to the "Safe Zone" an apocalypse party awaits all survivors. Even the "infected" are invited to the party which is an all-day celebration of all things zombie. Live music, games, zombies, dance parties (I can only imagine Michael Jackson's "Thriller" will be popular), and much more will serve as entertainment to guests and runners. Food, drinks and unique vendors will also be available throughout the day.

The 5K nearest Cullman will be in Georgia on September 14, 2013. So mark your calendars and start training! For more information on rules, what to bring, admission prices, photo galleries, or any other information you might need, go to: www.runforyourlives.com

RadKIDS Summer Camp

Join our RadKids summer camp this June!!!

For boys and girls ages 4-10

Your child will learn:
House fire escapes
Stranger Danger
Calling 911 Dispatch
Internet Safety, protecting themselves from vicious dogs & More!

Place: Cullman McGukin Civic Center
Date: June 24th - 28th 2013
Time: 9:00 a.m - 11:00 a.m
CLASS IS $5.00 per child (for entire week)
(To be paid first day of camp)
Hosted by: Cullman Police Dept.
Registration begins May 1st at the Cullman Civic Center
To host a Radkids camp for your kids group, school, organization or
If you have questions about this course, or need the registration forms emailed to you,
Contact: Officer Cindy Rohrscheib Email: cindyr@cullmanpd.com or (256) 736-4703

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Remembering, Never Forgetting

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – As with each Memorial Day, Cullman's VFW Post 2214 has invited residents to the post's annual Memorial Day celebration honoring the nation's dead war heroes in the Veterans Park portion of Sportsman Lake Park.

Guest speakers include Sons of the American Revolution, Sen. Paul Bussman, and local representatives Randall Shedd and Mac Buttram, along with several area veterans.

For more on this story, visit CullmanSense.com









