SERIES 3, ISSUE 22 MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2013
CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS
$0.50 $0.50

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Within these walls...
we laugh ...we love ...we live.

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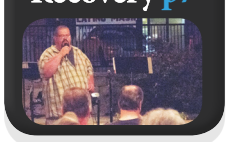
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Area Development Recognizes Alabama with 2013 Gold Shovel Award

By: Jennifer Ardis

Annual Award Recognizes Alabama Achievements in Job Creation and Economic Impact

MONTGOMERY— Governor Robert Bentley recently announced that job creation success during the past year has earned Alabama the nation's top Gold Shovel Award from Area Development magazine.

Alabama, Georgia, Texas, and Kansas were named the winners of the magazine's 2013 Gold Shovel Awards, presented annually to states that have achieved significant success in job creation and economic impact.

"It is rewarding that our work to make Alabama the best place to do business is being recognized by Area Development," Governor Robert Bentley said.

"My top priority is job creation. This award shows Accelerate Alabama, our state's strategic economic development plan, is working. Accelerate Alabama is in its first year of implementation and is producing industry-leading results and creating job opportunities for Alabamians."

Area Development magazine's Annual Shovel Awards recognize state economic development agencies that drive significant job creation through innovative policies, infrastructure improvements, processes and promotions that attract new employers as well as investments in expanded facilities.

"We are proud to be one of only 4 states awarded Area Development Magazine's Gold Shovel Award for our economic development success in 2012," Alabama Department of Commerce Secretary Greg Canfield said.

"With the execution of Accelerate Alabama and the continued leadership of Governor Bentley, we are confident Alabama will continue to provide a business climate and the resources necessary for business and industry to flourish in our state."

Alabama received a Gold Shovel Award in 2006 and Silver Shovel Awards in 2007 through 2012.

Good Hope



Mayor Corey Harbison

Has His Eyes on District 12 Candidacy

"I think that what some people will say is my biggest obstacle is actually my biggest advantage and that is my youth."

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Commencement Held at St. Bernard

By: Joyce Nix

CULLMAN – St. Bernard Preparatory School celebrated the accomplishments of its graduating seniors in grand style at its 114th Commencement Exercised held on Sunday, May 26th. With sounds from the Alabama Pipes and Drums Corps filling the air, a capacity crowd filled the Abbey Church as thirty-six seniors completed their high school course of studies and were offered college scholarships amounting to just under three million dollars.

Fr. Joel Martin opened the ceremony with a word of welcome to the parents and families of the graduates. Special recognition was given to the seniors who had enrolled as 7th graders and were now completing six years of education at St. Bernard. Also recognized were several families who had several sons and daughters who graduated from St. Bernard in previous years.

School Chaplain Bede Marcy gave the invocation and led the National Anthem.

St. Bernard honored Robert L. Blevins and William J. Breslin, III as distinguished alumni during the commencement ceremony.

Blevins enrolled at St. Bernard College in 1976 where he completed his two years of basic studies.

Transferring to the University of Alabama , he completed his bachelor's degree in 1981. In 1985 he founded the Texican Natural Gas Company. Under his leadership the company has become the largest independently-owned natural gas marketing company in the United States serving municipalities, hospitals, and commercial customers in the management of gas systems.

William J. Breslin, a native of Pennsylvania, enrolled in St. Bernard College where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in 1971. Working in the insurance industry, he received the top J.D. Power Award for Service-in-Insurance as well as recognition by Business Week for his work as a worldwide service provider. He is the founder of Wenonah Consulting.

Sister Cecilia C. Zamobini, MC, who serves as Director of the Catholic Center of Concern for the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama, was the keynote speaker. Sister Cecilia encouraged the students that, no matter road they decided to travel, they should always give it their full and complete attention. "Be your best," she said, "always living high Christian values."

Abbot Cletus Meagher, Chairman of the Board; Fr. Joel Martin, President, and John Tekulve, Headmaster, presented the Salutatorian award to Jerrica Crawford. The Valedictorian award went to Siohban Russell and the General Excellence award was presented to John Schneider.

After the presentation of diplomas, Siohban Russell delivered the Valedictory address, followed by the singing of the Alma Mater.

Music for the occasion was led by organist, Rebecca Whited; and the Alabama Pipes and Drums. A reception was held following the ceremony in the Dining Hall.



St. Bernard Prep School Senior, Veronica Arndt accepts Sally Moore Educational Scholarship

By: Joyce Nix

St. Bernard Contributor

St. Bernard Prep School Senior, Veronica Arndt accepts the Sally Moore Educational Scholarship of $1,200 from scholarship committee member, Barbara Rasplicka.

Veronica plans to attend St. Vincent's College in Latrobe, PA.

She is pictured with her parents, John and Donna Arndt.



4th Annual "Dock at the Rock" Concert Event Set for June 15 on Smith Lake

By: John Bagby

Silverock Cove hosting Dillon Hodges and other musicians to benefit Black Warrior Riverkeeper

CRANE HILL – H2 Real Estate is hosting the 4th Annual Dock at the Rock on June 15th with a series of outdoor music performances at the amphitheater at Silverock Cove (101 Turtle Point Dr, Crane Hill, AL 35053) on Smith Lake.

Dillon Hodges is headlining the event, with a number of musicians scheduled to play throughout day starting at 11 a.m.

Tickets are $10 in advance and $15 on the day of the event. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit Black Warrior Riverkeeper.

"This has been a fantastic event for the past three years, and Dillon Hodge's music is perfect for the Silverock amphitheater," says Carter Hughes of H2 Real Estate.

"This event embodies the best parts of living on Smith Lake – good food, good music, and a chance to invite our friends up to enjoy the lake in the summertime and benefit a great cause."

The event is open to the public, and music should start around 11 a.m.

There will be food vendors on site selling lunch and dinner plates throughout the day. Music should be finished around 7 p.m. Guests are encouraged to visit Silverock by car or by boat.

Realtors from H2 Real Estate will be on site to give tours of new homes at the Silverock Cove site, as well as the Point William site just up the road on County Road 933.

Representatives from Black Warrior Riverkeeper will be on hand as well, as the Smith Lake region falls within the Black Warrior River watershed.

"We are so excited to partner again with H2 Real Estate at Dock on the Rock to raise awareness about beautiful Smith Lake," says Charles Scribner, Executive Director of Black Warrior Riverkeeper.

"As more people visit and enjoy the Black Warrior River watershed, including Smith Lake, more will want to help protect these vital resources for future generations."

Bands scheduled to play include The Pollies, Adam Faucett & the Tall Grass, The Pyles, The Bear, Great Peacock, and Dillon Hodges.

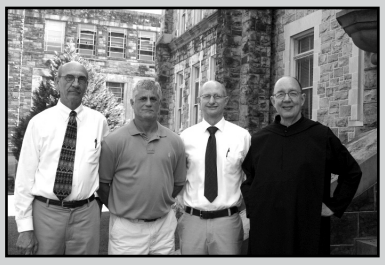
Dillon has recently released his first album Rumspringa, and has won numerous national awards as a flatpicking guitar champion. Hear Dillon's work at dillonhodges.com.

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What's Online

St. Bernard Welcomes New Coach

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.



qrne.ws/50

Innovation at the Earliest Stage

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 on through fine arts, music or athletics, the teachers, administrators, and students adhere to a strict code...

qrne.ws/51

Upgrading Your Home's Outdoor Spaces Can Lower Energy Bills

Making the most of your home's outdoor spaces can do wonders for a property's overall value. What's more, some updates can also potentially lower your home's energy bill.

qrne.ws/52

Governor Bentley Appoints Bill Newton as Acting Finance Director

By: Jennifer Ardis

MONTGOMERY— Governor Robert Bentley recently announced the appointment of Bill Newton as Acting Finance Director.

Bill Newton has served as the Assistant Finance Director and oversees the two state budgets, purchasing, accounting, payroll, financial reporting, and debt management functions of state government.

He has a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Alabama and a Juris Doctorate from Faulkner University's Jones Law School

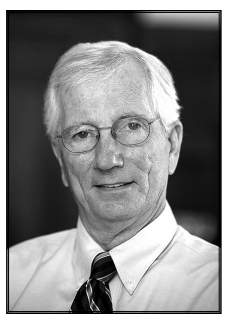
Bill has over 30 years of experience in state government finance operations.

"I appreciate Bill Newton's willingness to serve as Acting Finance Director," Governor Robert Bentley said.

"Bill's commitment to public service and his legal background make him well qualified to lead this important state agency.

Bill is an integral part of the Department of Finance and has the right experience and knowledge to lead the agency until I appoint a permanent director."

"I am honored Governor Bentley has entrusted me with the opportunity to serve as Acting Finance Director," Bill Newton said. "I look forward to serving in this new role while continuing to work with the members of the Department of Finance to carry out the Governor's mission of making state government more effective and efficient with taxpayer dollars." The appointment became effective Saturday, June 1.


Newton

USDA Announces Additional $1.75 Million to Boost Rural Economic Growth and Opportunity in 23 High Poverty Counties in Alabama

By: Julie B. Yates

AUBURN – USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Dr. William Puckett today announced that Alabama has received an additional $1.75 million in Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) funding to implement conservation practices in 23 high poverty rural counties in Alabama through USDA's StrikeForce Initiative.

"The StrikeForce Initiative is helping us direct additional resources to better serve producers in Alabama's persistent poverty counties," said NRCS State Conservationist Dr. William Puckett.

"The additional EQIP and WHIP money will allow us to fund the backlog of applications from previous signups in those 23 counties."

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack started the "StrikeForce" initiative as a pilot project in 2010 in selected regions in three states: Arkansas, Georgia, and Mississippi. In 2011 it was expanded to include Colorado, New Mexico, and Nevada.

In 2013, Secretary Vilsack announced new efforts to bring the StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity to Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

Participants in StrikeForce include the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rural Development, the Farm Service Agency, the Food and Nutrition Service, and other USDA offices and state agencies.

W. Durden Dean Named Executive Director of Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association

By: Tracy Smith

BIRMINGHAM – The Board of Directors of Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association has named W. Durden Dean as their new executive director.

Dean brings with him a vast amount of experience within the non-profit industry as well as municipal, business, and political work. Before joining Alabama Lions Sight,

Dean was the Development Director for The Habitat for Humanity's Montgomery location and the Executive Director for the South East YWCA in Montgomery.

Dean was also a business owner for more than 17 years and served as Mayor of Union Springs for 8 years.

Serving his community has always been a priority for Dean.

He has served on the boards of Alabama Lions Sight Conservation, Southeastern Diabetes Education Services, East Central Mental Health/Mental Retardation Inc., Bullock County YMCA, and the Montgomery Board of Education. He helped establish the River Region Lions Children's Diabetic Camp and the nonprofit USA Recreation. He has also served on a variety of other advisory boards and committees.

Since 1985 Dean has been very active with the Lions Club as a member of the Union Springs Lions Club and Montgomery Lions Club, serving as club president for both.

He was also the District Governor for Alabama Lions District 34-C.

Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association, Inc. is a non-profit state project of the Lions Clubs of Alabama.

Funding medically necessary eye care for low-income adults and children, and providing vision screenings in schools and communities across the state, the Lions have truly made the difference between blindness and sight for thousands of people.


Dean

Sign-up Underway for Wetlands Reserve Program and Grassland Reserve Program

By: Julie B. Yates

AUBURN –USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Dr. William Puckett announced June 7, 2013, as the cut-off date for the ranking period for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and Grassland Reserve Program (GRP).

A new round of funding authorizes $255 million to enroll up to 100,000 additional acres into WRP and $47 million to enroll up to 200,000 additional acres into GRP, both nationwide.

Although applications are accepted all year, producers should submit applications by June 7 to ensure they are considered for this year's funding. NRCS field offices are listed in the telephone directory under U.S. Department of Agriculture or on-line at http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov.

The Wetlands Reserve Program helps landowners restore and protect wetland ecosystems on private and tribal lands.

They may select a permanent or 30-year easement or a restoration cost-share agreement, retaining ownership of the land once the agreement is in place.

More than 11,000 private landowners participating in WRP are already protecting more than 2.6 million acres of America's wetlands.

Through the Grassland Reserve Program, landowners and managers apply for conservation easements or rental agreements that support conservation of working grazing operations, enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity, and protection of grassland under threat of conversion to other uses.

No reports of adverse effects from use of injectable steroid

By: Kelly Stevens

MONTGOMERY – A single Alabama health care provider was shipped potentially contaminated injectable steroid product from a compounding manufacturer, Main Street Family Pharmacy of Newbern, Tenn.

The clinic received the formulation of methylprednisolone acetate (MPA), a preservative-free steroid product, associated with the investigation. MPA is typically used for reducing inflammation.

The Alabama Department of Public Health informed the provider, who has already notified all patients who were administered the product to alert them to any signs and symptoms of complications. At this time, none of these individuals reported any adverse effects associated with the injections.

The Alabama investigation began May 24 after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration was notified of persons who developed complications after administration of the injectable steroid product. Main Street Family Pharmacy issued a voluntary recall of all sterile products.

Conservation Stewardship Program Applications Due by June 14

Contributed by: Alabama Forestry Commission

WASHINGTON – The Natural Resources Conservation Service's Conservation Stewardship Program will provide about $175 million in funding for up to 12.6 million additional acres enrollment this year.

Although applications are accepted all year, farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners interested in CSP should submit applications by June 14 to their local NRCS office to ensure they are considered for this year's funding. The deadline was extended from May 31.

The voluntary program allows producers to go the extra mile in conserving natural resources while also maintaining or increasing the productivity of their operations.

"CSP is different than our other financial assistance programs," said NRCS Acting Chief Jason Weller. "It offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. It's about conservation activities on the entire operation, focusing on multiple resource concerns."

Playing a significant part in conserving and improving our nation's resources, producers enrolled an additional 12.1 million acres in CSP last year, bringing the total number of acres to more than 50 million.

Many of the CSP enhancements improve soil quality, which helps land become more resilient to extreme weather.

Several other improvements are available for producers, including intensive rotational grazing, intercropping, and wildlife friendly fencing.

Because of the extreme weather in 2012, more interest and participation in the cover crop enhancements is expected this year, according to NRCS experts.

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help producers determine if the program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, stewardship threshold requirements, and payment types.

For the checklist and additional information, visit the CSP website or visit your local USDA NRCS office.

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Giving Back on the Field

By: Russell Moore
WSCC Contributor

6th Annual Castille Character Camp provided area children with opportunity to learn from professionals

CULLMAN- Everything fell in place for the 6th Annual Jeremiah Castille Character Camp over the weekend. The camp, a favorite of football players across Cullman County, dodged the forecasted rain and went off without a hitch.

"We used to do camps all over," Castille said in a pre-camp interview, "but the last few years they've been here (Cullman)."

Over 140 school aged young men and women attended the free two-day camp, which began Friday evening and ended with a ceremony at St. John's Church Saturday evening. When asked what made him choose Cullman, Castille said with a smile, "Cullman chose us."

Castille played on the last team the legendary Paul "Bear" Bryant coached at the University of Alabama and recalls fond memories of the coach. He said the one thing that the "Bear" said to him was, "If you raise good people, you will have good football players."

Current and former college players were on hand to help instruct the many campers who attended the free camp.

Players like former Auburn linebacker James Callier and former Hanceville quarterback and current running back for Idaho State, Broc Malcom.

"A neat story to me this weekend is Broc Malcom who is coaching," Castille said, "Two years ago he was a camper."

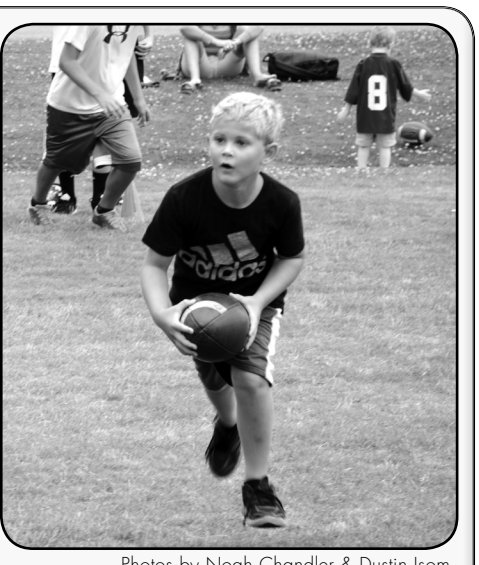
Although the camp is full of football drills, the main focus is to make men out of the campers. This is a very important aspect to Castille.

"It is a privilege anytime you get to work with young people," said Castille. "And I do not take it for granted."

Castille pours his heart and soul into the camp, teaching these young kids how to have character and be leaders in the real world.







Photos by Noah Chandler & Dustin Isom



Thompson two-time Gatorade Player of the Year

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

The list of awards for Keegan Thompson is a mile long. He has won two gold medals for the USA Baseball team while on the 16U and the 18U teams, including a brilliant performance in the gold medal game while with the 16U squad.

Other honors include being named to the 5A Super State team, 5A First Team All-State (2011), and All-State Honorable Mention (2010).

With his high school career over and a decision looming on whether to head to Auburn where he has committed to play college ball or sign when he is undoubtedly drafted in this year's MLB Draft, Thompson can add one more trophy to the case: Gatorade Player of the Year. He also won the prestigious award in in 2011 (as a sophomore) making him the only winner from Cullman and the only two-time winner from the state of Alabama.

Thompson boasted a sub 2.00 ERA with 124 plus Ks while going 9-2 for the Cullman Bearcats. Not a typical pitcher, Thompson handles the stick very well at the plate. He sported a .420 average while banging out nine long balls.

Stay glued to CullmanSense for a follow up with Thompson after the MLB First Year Player Draft on June 6th.

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Tiger Trek 2013

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com



CULLMAN – The annual Tiger Trek made its way to Cullman Thursday night, highlighted by the guest speaker, new Auburn University head football coach, Gus Malzahn.

As the "new man on campus" so to speak (Malzahn was offensive coordinator during Auburn's 2012 National Championship season), coach took time to talk with local media on the issues that face his administration as he stakes the Auburn football program in a new direction.

After meeting with the media, coach Malzahn made his way through a veritable sea of orange and blue as he took the Tiger Trek through the McGukin Civic Center. He finished his Tiger Walk on the stage of the MCC while invocation was given.

A 45 minute "social" session was held next where the kids got to roll a tree, just like the iconic trees that once stood at Toomer's Corner in Auburn.

On the other side of the civic center sat coach Malzahn as he signed autographs, took photos, and talked to every single Auburn fan who stood in line to meet him.

"I think it is great to have him," said Jamie Speakman, Auburn Club member and the man responsible for meeting the coach at the airport . "This is coach Malzahn's first Tiger Trek."

After the meet and greet session with the fans, the President of the Cullman Chapter of the Auburn Club, Curtis Mize, took the stage to award an endowment scholarship.

The $25,000 scholarship is named after Herman T. Pruett of Cullman who served as a Professor of Agriculture at Auburn from '49 to '56.

"This is why we do the fund-raising," Speakman said. "For the endowment scholarship."

The recipient of this year's Herman T. Pruett Endowment Scholarship was awarded to Jacob Callahan ,a 2013 graduate of Cullman High School. Callahan will attend Auburn in the fall and pursue a pharmaceutical degree.

"I just want to thank everyone involved for helping me further my education at the best school in the state," said Callahan of the honor.

With the scholarship presented, coach Malzahn took the stage and opened with the two words that every Auburn fan was longing to here, WAR EAGLE!

He then proceeded to speak about the great group of athletes they have down on the Plains.

"I told my coaches, no matter the position, we are going to have the 11 best players on the field," Malzahn said.

The coach even touched on the quarterback situation saying he still didn't know who the opening day starter would be. Tongue-in-cheek, he asked Dr. Lloyd Nix if he had any eligibility left.

As a quarterback, Nix led the Auburn Tigers to the first National Championship in school history. The lefty compiled a 19-0-1 record as a starter.

"All he did was win," said Malzahn.

After the banquet concluded and the door prizes were given away, I had a chance to speak to the legendary quarterback about winning a National Championship.

"If I told you how much it meant to me," Nix said, "you wouldn't believe me. We were taking about it around the (banquet) table tonight about how much winning a National Championship means to me, still after all these years. It has allowed me to do things like this and be around folks and the coaches. It is just a great feeling to be a part of that."

With that, another Tiger Trek is in the books. Only time will tell if Gus Malzahn can turn things around on the Plains but if anyone can do it, it is him.



Photos by Jessica Norell



St. Bernard's Jerrica Crawford earns Coach Charlie Richard Award



By: Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Contributor

St. Bernard Senior, Jerrica Crawford received the Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame, Coach Charlie Richard Award in the amount of $1,000 at the recent Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame Banquet.

Shown with Jerrica is Coach Charlie's daughter, Ruth Anne Knight.

Jerrica plans to attend the University of Alabama in Birmingham majoring in premed.

Autograph Confessions: Minor League Baseball

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

Welcome to another addition of Autograph Confessions. Since baseball season is in full swing, I thought this would be the perfect opportunity to talk about how to get the stars of tomorrow.

Every autograph collector enjoys getting signatures of their favorite athletes that they watch on television day after day. But once a player makes it to "The Show", nine times out of ten their signing habits change. They play more games and get hounded daily for their signature, most of the time by dealers.

Some of the biggest stars, guys like Frank Thomas, Willie Mays, and Robin Ventura all were hounded for their autograph in the majors, making them tougher to get. But these players all have something in common: they were all members of the Birmingham Barons (or Black Barons) and were very accessible to the fans.

Minor League parks are a much more intimate. The fans are closer to the action and therefore closer to their favorite player. For example, the Chicago White Sox are the MLB "parent" club of the Birmingham Barons. The White Sox play in US Cellular Field which seats 40,615. However, the Barons play at Regions Field with a capacity of just 8,500.

Before the game, fans can gather down the first base line for the home team and/or down the third base line for the visiting team and the players willingly come over and sign. At the recent Rickwood Classic at Rickwood Field, I was able to get the entire Birmingham Barons team (with very little effort) to sign my bat.

In a MLB park, ushers will not let you go to any section that is not on your ticket. MLB ushers, however, know that minor league players like to interact with the fans so they are more than happy to let you down to field level to get autographs from a player.

If you have a passion for baseball and a desire to get close to the action, visit your local minor league ball park. It is an outing you won't soon forget and you just may get to see the next Hall of Fame player in your own backyard.

Cabana Girls and Grills at CWAC

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Since the opening of the outdoor waterpark at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center it has been increasingly rare to find prime real estate for a family or a group of friends to spread out and relax. Well, this year those crowded pool days are coming to an end as CWAC unveils private cabanas.

Cameron Everett, CWAC Facilities Director, said the newest additions to the center are aimed at providing convenience to everyone who attends the waterpark.

"This year we unveiled two new features, the first of which is our private cabana area," said Everett. "We currently have two cabanas available for private, all-day rental, and by the end of the season we should hopefully have five cabanas total."

A private cabana measures 16 x 16 and has a seven piece sectional which can be converted into a couch, chairs, or stools. Everett said the aim of the area is to provide unparalleled comfort when visiting CWAC.

"Each cabana comes with a Cabana Girl, who will take your drink and food requests, provide you with fresh towels and basically help you stay comfortable," he said. "All your drinks are included, along with a meal for up to five people, in your rental fee. So all you have to do is enjoy the day."

One noticeable change to anyone who's visited the waterpark are the newest additions to the concession stand menu. Yes, that's correct – the concession stand menu.

"The grill is a new addition to our traditional poolside concession area," he said. "We wanted to offer up something other than just candy and cokes. So this year we added freshly grilled hotdogs and hamburgers, along with fries."

While the hamburgers may be good, the garnishments which accompany the grilled patties are Everett's favorite part.

"This year we contacted farmers at the local market and all the lettuce, tomatoes, and other vegetables are locally grown," he said. "Later in the season we will be offering fruit cups, also made from locally grown produce. We are all about community at CWAC and this is just another way to incorporate all portions of this community into the center."

Poolside cabanas are available Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. at a cost of $125 for 5 guests and $15 per additional guest, with a limit of 8. To reserve a cabana or for more information contact CWAC at 256-775-7946.





Pilgrimage Experience: Tour of Italy offered through Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

By: Barbara Ragsdale

CULLMAN – Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Cullman is offering would-be travelers a chance to participate in a 'Pilgrimage Experience Tour of Italy' in 2014.

Sites scheduled on the tour include St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, the Coliseum, the Catacombs of St. Callista, St. John Lateran, the Holy Stairs, Santa Croce, the Pantheon, St. Mary Major and Santa Prassede, and a walking tour of Ancient Rome.

Might you see the Holy Father? Who knows? On the list are the Basilicas of St. Francis, St. Claire, the Temple of Minerva, Assisi, and St. Mary of the Angels.

In addition, attendees get to visit the Duomo in Florence, Santa Croce, Ponte Vecchio, and Galleria dell' Academia.

Tour dates are from June 6 through June 14, 2014 and those 16 years of age through adults are welcome to join the group.

Package includes: round-trip airfare from your home city to Europe, transportation to Rome/Assisi/Florence, with two meals per day, hotel lodging, entrance fees, and a JMJ tour guide from arrival to departure in Rome.

The cost for this expedition is $2,300.00 per person, with $500.00 due June 10, 2013.

An additional $900.00 will be due September 10, with remaining balance of $900.00 to be paid by December 10, 2013.

Those interested in learning more about this exciting experience can contact Jacqueline Hill at jhill@sacredheartchurchcullman.org or call her at 256-709-9712 between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity to have a guided tour of ancient Italian cities by those 'in the know' about all places you don't want to miss visiting.

Sacred Heart to host training seminar on Teaching English to Adults

By: Barbara Ragsdale

CULLMAN – Sacred Heart of Jesus Church will host a Literacy Council of Central Alabama tutor trainer, Linda DeRocher, who will prepare those interested in teaching adults to speak English (English for Speakers of Other Languages - ESOL).

DeRocher is a ProLiteracy certified tutor trainer and holds a Master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language (ESL).

This community event is open to the public and will be held on Saturday, June 15, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Family Life Center located behind Sacred Heart School.

The fee is $25.00 for a book and materials. Lunch is brown bag (bring your own); beverages will be provided.

You must be pre-registered in order to attend, with the pre-registration deadline on Wednesday, June 12.

To register or to learn more about this course, call 205-326-1925 or 256-736-3174.

Recovery Requires Resources

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

7th Annual Recovery Rally encourages residents to kick their addiction

CULLMAN – On Friday evening a bit more than a hundred residents gathered under the Festhalle Market Platz to celebrate recovery through their personal salvation through Jesus Christ.

Tommie Sanders, a member of ROOT ministry at Abundant Grace Church, helped organized the annual rally. Sanders said it is important to reach out to those who are seeking genuine help.

"This is the 7th annual recovery rally, with the goal of uniting all the resources that are in our area to help people in recovery. Our mission is to bring the helpers together so that we can help more people in recovery, and to get information to the people who need help," said Sanders.

The event featured dramatic presentations, testimonials, and even a bit of old Southern church flare.

One man who stood up to speak about his rise, fall, and rising up again was Arab resident Bronson Swords.

"I was an opiate addict, a meth addict, an alcoholic, and getting on my knees at that alter at Liberty Church in Arab I prayed to God and he took it [addiction] from me," said Swords.

At age 22, Swords began to abuse prescription medication he was legally prescribed for a pre-existing medical condition.

Within a matter of months of being put onto a new, more potent painkiller, Swords said he found himself spiraling out of control, crashing into a pile of pills, narcotics, and alcohol.

"I was born with a clubbed foot and had been on pain medication most of my life but I didn't begin abusing it until I started hitting Oxycontin," he said.

"My doctor thought I was taking three 80s [milligram Oxycontin] a day, in reality I was shooting six, also doing cocaine, methamphetamine, and drinking. All I know is that one day I was doing the drug and the next day it was doing me."

On the evening of August 11, 2011 Swords found himself at the end of his rope and the only person he knew to turn to was his pastor, Rick Laster of Liberty Church.

"I told him I don't want to die, but I don't want to keep living like this," he said. "The next morning, about 6 a.m. he was at my door and asked me if I was ready to change."

The two men left for the church on the morning of August 12, 2011 shortly after 6 a.m. Swords sat in the church for the entire day, with just himself, the thoughts in his head, and a pastor willing to go the extra step for one of his lost members.

That evening, the church just so happened to be hosting a Celebrate Recovery event, an event that would go on to radically change Swords' life.

"At the alter call I went to the alter – I slide in like home plate – and a buddy of mine, Chris Lawrence, met me at the alter and started praying with me," he said.

"I was still messed up, still coming down at the time, and he told me 'you've got to give it to God in order for God to take it from you.' I thought he meant literally. I reached into my pocket, grabbed a bottle of pills, popped the cap and poured them out on the alter."

Since that fateful day Swords said he has not missed the addiction that kept him in bondage.

"I use to start my day with Oxycontin and bourbon but now I begin my day with Proverbs," he said.

"Jesus is the answer but you've got to stay connected."



Get Creative This Father's Day!

(StatePoint) There is something about the way dads think that allow them to transform the ordinary into something extraordinary. "There are so many benefits to making things with your kids - they learn practical skills, they get one-on-one time with daddy, they get to exercise their imagination, and they have lots of fun," says Scott Bedford, author of the new book, "Made By Dad: 67 Blueprints For Making Cool Stuff," and a Webby Award-winner for his website, What I Made.

"It's definitely one of the things that define my relationship with my kids, and that's why I'm so keen for other dads to enjoy the benefits too - there's no reason why the 'crafty' stuff should be left to Mom!" Bedford offers a few ways for dads to go that extra mile this Father's Day:

Shared Interests

There are an endless number of things that fathers and their children bond over. Bedford suggests creating projects centered on these interests. For example, if you both like sci-fi movies, creative dads can make a Martian Door Decal -- a custom created sticker for the bedroom door. Or try making an Alien Abduction Mobile, which is a flying saucer made from household products. You can find these ideas and more in Bedford's new book, "Made By Dad."

Homework Help

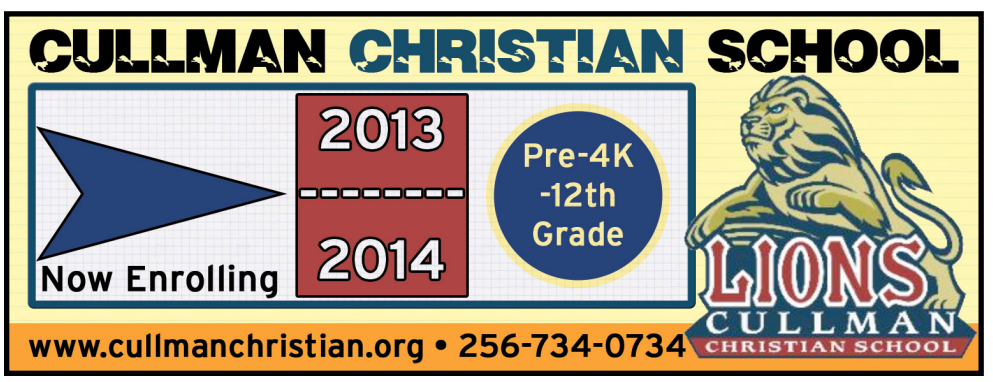
Most dads can help their children answer a math problem or name the capital of France. But to really teach them, try using projects such as the Spaghetti and Marshmallow Eiffel Tower, the Slingshot Car Launcher, or the Balloon Ballast Balancing Act. These are great for showing the laws of science in motion, and even work well as science fair projects.

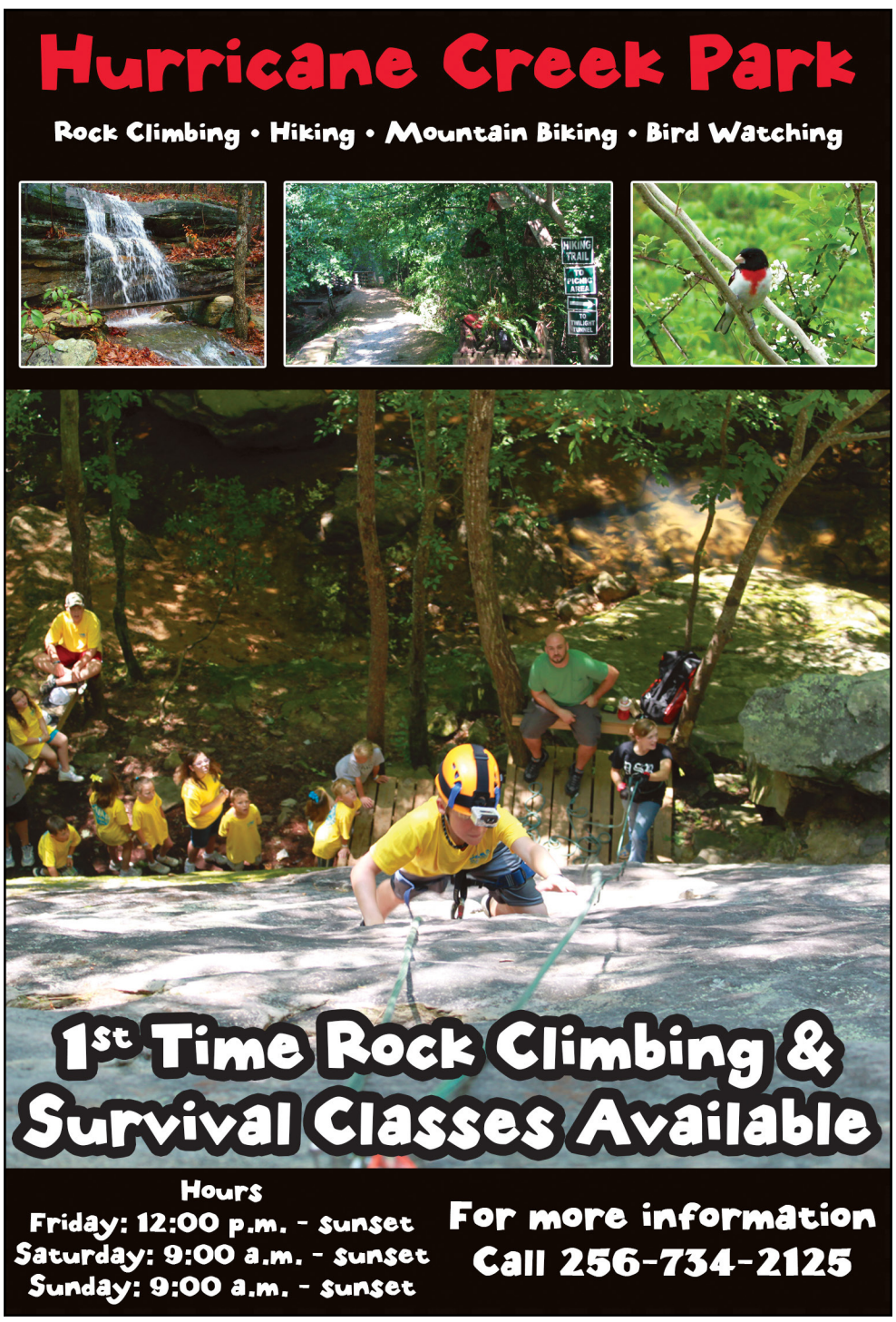
Transform the Ordinary

There are many ways dads and kids can turn simple household materials into unexpected fun projects, points out Bedford in "Made By Dad." Fathers and their children can try some great ideas to work on together, such as the Frankenstein Fling, which is a game created from a paper cup and a stirring stick, or the Target Place Mat, which will make eating neatly a blast with just some cardboard and poster paint. These projects and other great activities can be found in the book and online at www.whatimade.com. More information about Bedford's book is available at www.workman.com.

Show Mom Some Love, Too

The best dads also teach their children to show appreciation to those around them -- namely to their mothers! Create Pop-Up Roses or Mommy Rewards coupons for her to redeem for everything from breakfast in bed to a big hug. And of course, these could work great for dad too!





– 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.

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 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

'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.

Elks Lodge Buffet Lunch
Cullman Elks Lodge opens their doors to the general public on Thursdays for their buffet lunches served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each Thursday. Meal is $8.00 for two meats, vegetables, drink! So come visit your neighbors and enjoy a great meal to boot,

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.

15th Annual Antique and Tractor
The 15th Annual Antique and Tractor Show will take place this weekend at Wallace State Community College starting at 9 a.m. each day. Bring the kids and enjoy a day seeing some memories from the past.

Senior Citizens Shindig at Sportsman Lake Park
All Cullman County seniors are invited to gather at Sportsman Lake Park for the Commission on Aging's Senior Shindig from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. Fun will be on hand as spirited seniors enter the hog calling contest, as well as the contest featuring frilly bonnets and unique hats. Food, fun and entertainment for all, with a free picnic lunch, exhibits and door prizes. Country music and tunes from the 50s will waft through the air and there will be contests for buck dancing, the twist, most unique hat and the hog calling. Awards are presented to the oldest man, oldest woman, oldest veteran and couple married the longest who are in attendance. The free box lunch is provided for the first 500 seniors, so get there early!! Transportation is provided by CARTS, so call them at 256-734-1246 for delivery right to the shindig's front door.

Area Grief Support Group's Balloon Release
Everyone interested is invited to attend the Area Grief Support Group's Balloon Release and Picnic which begins at 5 p.m. Free hotdogs, drinks and Gospel music will be part of the special gathering which takes place at Pavilion #1 at Sportsman's Lake Park. Please contact Ken for additional information at 256-736-4646. This event is open to those who are in need of support during times of grief.

Big Bluegrass Gospel Concert
J & R Ministries will sponsor a 'Big Bluegrass Gospel Concert' beginning at 7 p.m. at Cullman Civic Center. All are welcome to attend. Doors open at 6 p.m. and general admission tickets at the door are $18.00, with advance general admission being $14.00 if purchased in advance. Children 6 and under are FREE, with 7 thru 12 years being $5.00 per child. Reserved tickets are $20.00 and available by calling Richard Todd at 256-739-4560. This event will feature Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver Blu-Grace and the Ward Family. Come enjoy a great night of gospel music with all your friends.

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.

MUDRUN 2013
Come out and take part in DayStar Church's 'MUDRUN 2013' event starting at 9 a.m. Money raised will go toward the Church's Mission Project of providing clean drinking water to residents of Haiti. Register at Daystarchurch.tv/mudrun ahead of time or on the day of the event. Church's phone number is 256-737-0800. Everyone is invited to attend this great run.

Dodge City Day Festival
Join us at Dodge City for our 'Street Festival' From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Street Festival in front of Town Hall - Scavenger Hunt - Water feature at Town Park for Children. At 12 Noon -Dodge City Seniors invites all Cullman County Seniors for FREE lunch of Hot dogs and Watermelon, with a Senior Baking Contest. A car Show at Jack's will take place from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Cullman Ladies' Expo
All ladies are invited to attend a special 'Cullman Ladies' Expo' from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the Cullman Elks Lodge. Plans call for more than 30 vendors to be on hand selling products as well as providing health tips and other facets of ways to help women cope in today's world. Members of the Elks Lodge will have concessions available during the day's event. A dollar donation at the door will benefit the "Leader in Me" program in use at Garden City Elementary School. This donation also puts folks in the drawing for a door prize given by the vendors. Come enjoy an educational shopping experience and visit with your friends at the same time.

15th Annual Antique and Tractor
The 15th Annual Antique and Tractor Show will take place this weekend at Wallace State Community College starting at 9 a.m. each day. Bring the kids and enjoy a day seeing some memories from the past.

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. 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

Cullman Oktoberfest
This year's Cullman Oktoberfest will be held October 5-12, 2013 at Festhalle Market Platz, Cullman County Museum. For more information e-mail jburks@cullmancity.org and visit www.cullmanoktoberfest.com

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.

Register for Summer Youth Programs
Now registering for North Alabama Agriplex Summer Youth Programs. Summer Garden Camps for ages 3-10, starting May 29th, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Touring Farms for Kids, June 19-20, ages 7-13, and Sewing Camp July 9-12 ages 5-10. For more info call 256-297-1044 or e-mail cullmanag@gmail.com.

Review: *A Nightmare on Elm Street-2010*

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

Keeping with last week's theme of horror movie re-boots, I decided to screen *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. The gritty re-telling of the Freddy Krueger story is everything the first film wasn't. Let me clarify; the first *A Nightmare on Elm Street* that starred Robert Englund, Heather Langenkamp, and a young Johnny Depp, was scary for 1984. However, the wise cracking, one-liner-spitting villain Krueger, soon gained a cult following and the franchise spawned eight sequels including a crossover film with another horror icon from the 80s, Jason Voorhees of *Friday the 13th*.

In the re-boot, the film has a much darker look and feel and takes a closer look at why and how Krueger became the dream killer. Gone are the innocent teenagers who babysit to make extra money and sneak a beer on the weekends. In this incarnation you have characters who are being tormented by something from their past and they don't know why.

PLOT SYNOPSIS:

The film starts with a young man named Dean (Kellan Lutz) asking a waitress in an empty diner for a refill on his coffee. As the waitress ignores him, he follows her to the kitchen. The kitchen is dark, save for the unusually high flames of the stove. Large pig heads sit on the counter and Dean senses something isn't right. All of a sudden, a man appears and slashes at Dean's face. Dean gets his hand up just in time to protect his face, but his hand gets slashed. Dean then jerks upright in the diner booth and realizes it was all a dream. The film's main protagonist, Nancy (Rooney Mara), who is a waitress at the diner, tells Dean that management is going to kick him out if he does not stop falling asleep. He remembers the nightmare and looks down at his hand and sees the same gash across his hand from the dream. In comes Kris (Katie Cassidy), a friend of Dean. She sits down with him and begins to say, "You look..." when Dean interrupts her and says, "Like I haven't slept in three days?"

He then proceeds to tell her he sees things when he dreams. The other two stars of the film, Quentin (Kyle Gallner) and Jesse (Thomas Dekker), are sitting a few booths away from Kris and Dean when Quentin spots them. He points this out to Jesse who is mad because he and Kris have recently broken up. Quentin and Jesse leave the diner as Kris walks to the back for a brief minute. While she is gone, Dean nods off and finds himself face to face with the man in his nightmare. As Kris comes back, she sees Dean with a knife to his throat but he looks like he is struggling with some unseen force. As Kris screams for Dean to put down the knife, it plunges deep into his throat and slices all the way across. The next scene is Kris, Nancy, and Quentin all sitting at Dean's funeral. As everyone bows their head for a prayer, Kris sees a small, blonde little girl standing by the coffin. Memories start to come back to her and this sends everyone involved in to a nightmare that they might not wake up from!

STARRING:

Jackie Earl Haley as Freddy Kruger
Kyle Gallner as Quentin Smith
Rooney Mara as Nancy Holbrook
Katie Cassidy as Kris Fowlers
Thomas Dekker as Jesse Braun
This film is Rated R for extreme, gory violence, language, and drug use involving teens.

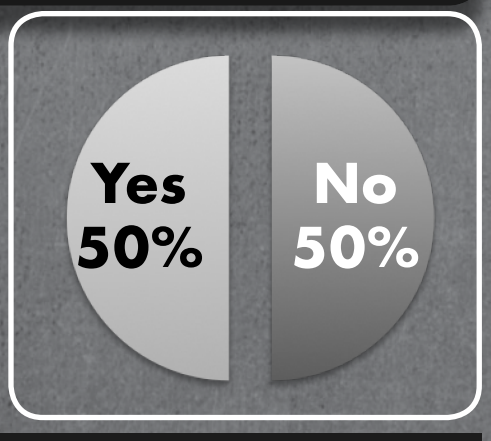
MY TAKE:

I love the re-telling of the story the way Wes Craven meant for it to be. This film is in my own Blu-Ray collection and is a must see.

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Last Week's Poll

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



This Week's Poll

Do you own a storm shelter?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

Reflections of History



Dreher Furniture Wagner Postcard — 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 June 3 - June 9

June 3rd

- 1098 – After 5-month siege in first Crusade, the Crusaders seize Antioch Turkey
- 1918 – Supreme Court rules child labor laws unconstitutional
- 1968 – Poor Peoples March on Washington
- 2011 – Former North Carolina Senator and U.S. Presidential Candidate John Edwards is indicted on charges of conspiracy and violating campaign finance laws

June 4th

- 1794 – Congress passes Neutrality Act, bans Americans from serving in armed forces of foreign powers
- 1942 – Capitol Record Co. opens for business
- 1984 – DNA is successfully cloned from an extinct animal
- 2012 – On the 23rd anniversary of the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989, China blocks internet access to terms related to the event

June 5th

- 70 – Titus and his Roman legions breach the middle wall of Jerusalem
- 1884 – William Sherman refuses Republican presidential nomination saying "I will not accept if nominated and will not serve if elected"
- 1968 – Sirhan Sirhan shoots Bobby Kennedy, who dies next day
- 1991 – Lesbian priest Elizabeth Carl ordained in Episcopal Church

June 6th

- 1654 – Queen Christina of Sweden resigns and converts to Catholicism
- 1882 – Cyclone in Arabian Sea, drowns 100,000 in Bombay, India
- 1966 – Activist James Meredith wounded by white sniper in Mississippi
- 2012 – A solar plane, called The Solar Impulse, lands in Morocco after completing the world's first intercontinental flight powered by the Sun

June 7th

- 1775 – United Colonies change name to United States
- 1912 – U.S. Army tests first machine gun mounted on a plane
- 1989 - First Baseball game to start outdoors and end indoors, as Toronto Blue Jays stadium closes roof during game at 8:48, and beat Brewers 4-2
- 2012 – Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, President of Argentina, announces she will switch her personal savings from the U.S. dollar to the Argentine peso

June 8th

- 65 – Jews revolt against Rome, capturing fortress of Antonia in Jerusalem
- 1886 - First Civil Rights Act passes
- 1940 – Discovery of element 93, Neptunium, announced
- 1968 – Rolling Stones release "Jumpin' Jack Flash"

June 9th

- 1549 – Book of Common Prayer is adopted by the Church of England
- 1883 - First commercial electric railway line begins operation in Chicago
- 1963 – John F. Kennedy names Winston Churchill U.S. honorary citizen
- 2011 – In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, six women were arrested for practicing driving in an empty car lot; women are banned from driving on the road

Wallace State Community College Among 122 Campuses Selected to Attend AAC&U Summer Institutes

By: Kristen Holmes
WSCC Contributor

Participants Will Work to Redesign and Develop Assessment Plans for General Education Programs, Develop, and Expand High-Impact Educational Practices, and Advance Integrative and Engaged Learning In and Across the Disciplines

Washington, DC—The Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) recently announced the colleges, community colleges, universities, and state systems sending teams to its regularly scheduled 2013 summer institutes. Teams of five or more from each institution will attend these summer institutes, beginning this weekend: the Institute on General Education and Assessment at the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont (June 1–5, 2013); the Institute on High-Impact Practices and Student Success at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in Madison, Wisconsin (June 11–14, 2013); and the Institute on Integrative Learning and the Departments at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon (July 10–14, 2013). WSCC in Hanceville, Ala. has been selected for participation in both the Institute on General Education and Assessment and the Institute on High-Impact Practices and Student Success.

"The 2013 AAC&U summer institutes will bring together teams to focus on exactly how institutions can ensure that all students achieve liberal education outcomes that are so essential for success in the twenty-first century," said AAC&U President Carol Geary Schneider. "The teams will work together to advance implementation of high-impact educational practices, integrative curricula, and faculty leadership for liberal education and its assessment." All AAC&U institutes offer campus teams a time and place for sustained collaborative work on a project of importance to their campus along with a curriculum focused on important trends, research and best practices, and a resident faculty of educational experts.

For twenty-three years, AAC&U's Institute on General Education and Assessment (IGEA) has provided campus teams with opportunities to refine and advance general education programs and their assessment. The Institute focuses on building a campus culture for intentional, well-defined, and meaningfully assessed general education curricula designed for an increasingly diverse student body.

As a special feature of this year's institute and in partnership with Excelencia! in Education, of the 41 participating institutions, five Hispanic-serving institutions will focus during their time at the institute on how to embed, scale, and assess high-impact educational practices specifically designed to advance Latino student success in general education.

The Institute on High-Impact Practices and Student Success is designed to help campuses and systems develop institution-wide change strategies for the benefit of all students. It seeks to help institutions meet ambitious goals for improving both completion rates and the quality of student learning. Participant teams address barriers to student success and devise integrative plans to strengthen student learning—making intentional use of the LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes and high-impact educational practices. Highlighting the success of students from groups that have historically been underserved, the program supports work to make excellence inclusive. Of the 48 participating institutions, there will be nineteen campus teams at this Institute attending as part of AAC&U's project, Developing a Community College Student Roadmap. Wallace State was selected earlier this year as one of the members of the Roadmap Project.

The Institute on Integrative Learning and the Departments is attended by college and university teams interested in building faculty and departmental leadership for advancement of the LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes in and across departments. This year's Institute also includes campuses participating in the Preparing Critical Faculty for the Future (PCFF) project. This project focuses on systemic reform in the STEM disciplines, and provides leadership development for women of color STEM faculty at historically black colleges and universities.

In addition, this year's Institute will include campus teams from eight of the liberal arts colleges participating in a new initiative called Faculty Leadership for Integrative Liberal Learning. AAC&U also will announce soon the faculty and respective institutions participating in the Project Kaleidoscope Summer Leadership Institutes for STEM Faculty. Two PKAL Institutes will be held in July and August on the Baca Campus of Colorado College in Crestone, Colorado. The PKAL Institutes are designed to prepare early and mid-career STEM faculty for roles as effective agents of change in transforming undergraduate STEM education at the departmental, institutional, and national levels.

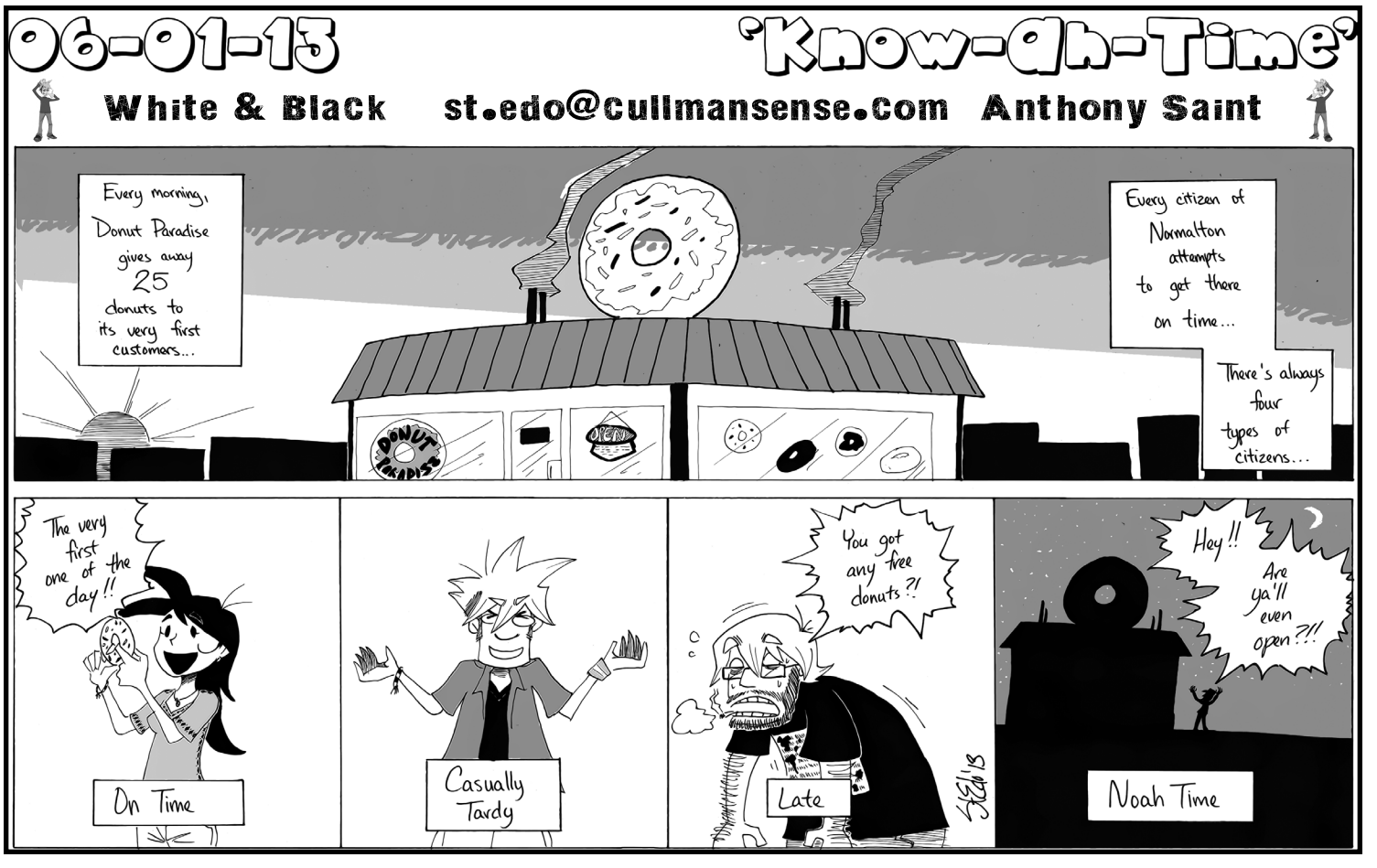
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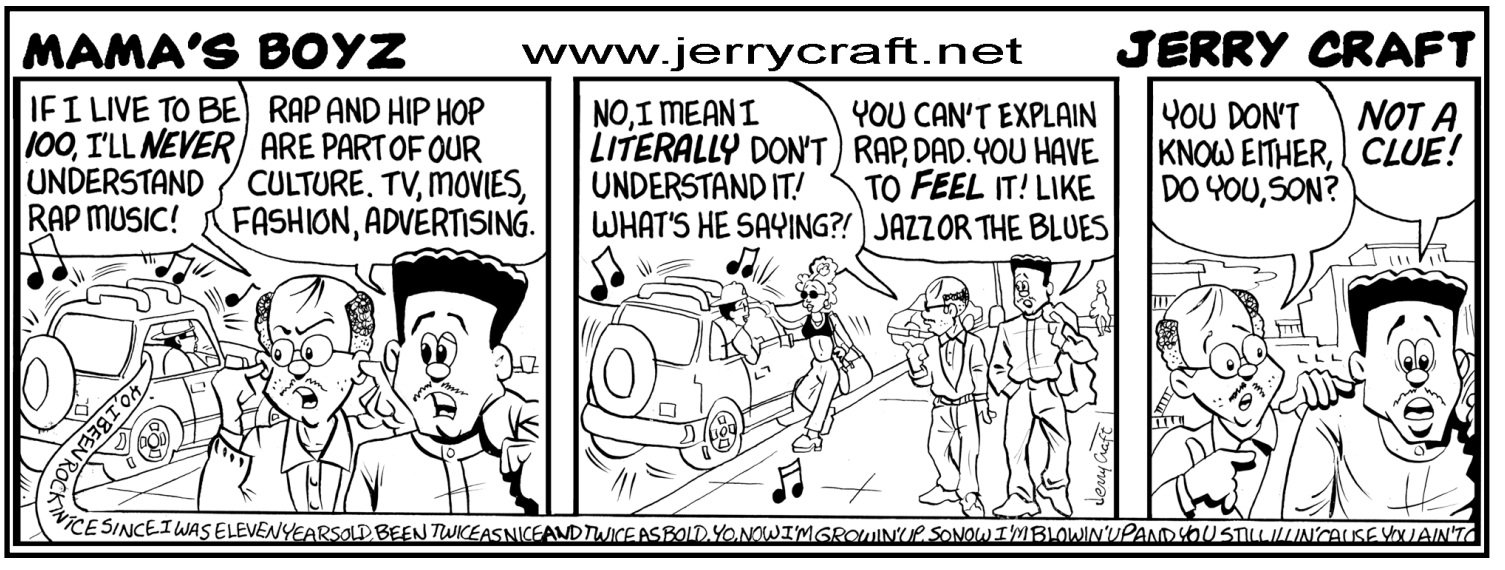
cullman city parks & recreation

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.
- **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.
- **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. The concerts will be free each week.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Disc Golf Tournament:** A disc golf tournament will be held Saturday, June 8 at Heritage Park. For full details or to enter, call 256-739-9931.
- **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.
- **Archery Camp:** A 3-day archery camp will be held from June25-27 at the Cullman Outdoor Archery Park for ages 7-14. Camp will run from 8am-3pm daily. Bows are provided, must bring your own lunch. Register at the Civic Center.





Congressman Robert Aderholt's May Address

Contributed

Here is a quick update with the latest in what is happening in Washington. As always, please let me know whenever I can be of assistance. Keep in touch and remember to follow me on Twitter and Facebook. Also, for updated information check out my virtual office and encourage your friends and family to sign-up for my monthly e-newsletter, the Aderholt Address.

Tornadoes in Oklahoma

My thoughts and prayers are with everyone in Oklahoma and across the Midwest who have been affected by the tornadoes that struck last week. We are all deeply saddened by the devastation, destruction, and loss of life that has been suffered. Alabamians know all too well the devastation that these storms can bring. April 27, 2011 is a day most Alabamians will never forget.

Simply said, that day changed our lives and our communities forever. As our neighbors in Oklahoma start to rebuild, we understand firsthand their needs and struggles. Though there is still ongoing recovery work happening in our own state, we have an opportunity to come together as a nation to help our neighbors in their time of need. Relief efforts on the ground are underway and I know—like Alabamians— Oklahomans' faith, strength, and resiliency will see them through this terrible tragedy.

IRS Targeting Conservative Groups

Recently, we learned that for over 18 months the IRS allowed agents to improperly target conservative groups for extra scrutiny when applying for tax-exempt status. This action is completely unacceptable and beyond that, illegal.

I appreciate that the President agrees that this is unacceptable and has called for the immediate resignation and replacement of IRS Commissioner Steven Miller; however, there are questions that remain unanswered and many pieces to this puzzle that need to be put together so we can get the complete picture.

Beginning earlier this month with the House Committee on Ways and Means and continuing with the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the hearing process is underway and Congressional investigators will be on the job until the puzzle is complete and those responsible are held accountable.

Protecting American Jobs

House Republicans remain committed to implementing policies that help our economy grow and allow small businesses to do what they do best, create jobs.

In keeping that commitment the House recently passed H.R. 45, legislation to fully repeal the President's health care law.

Last month's jobs numbers suggest that the new health care law is already impacting hiring patterns, as small businesses are cutting back workers hours and also freezing hiring any additional workers.

Simply put, this legislation appears to be a job killer and repealing the law in its entirety means we can move forward with a commonsense approach that will decrease burdens, lower costs, and protect American jobs. Additionally, last week the House passed. H.R. 3, legislation to build the Keystone XL pipeline. This private-sector infrastructure project will bring an estimated 20,000 jobs, add $20 billion to our nation's economy, and provide greater energy security to America.

For the last four years this project has been held up in the regulatory review process by the Administration.

This legislation, however, would clear the roadblocks preventing construction of the pipeline and will help get our economy moving again.

Both pieces of legislation now await action in the Senate. I hope my colleagues in the Senate will get to work and pass these bills, joining the House in protecting American jobs.

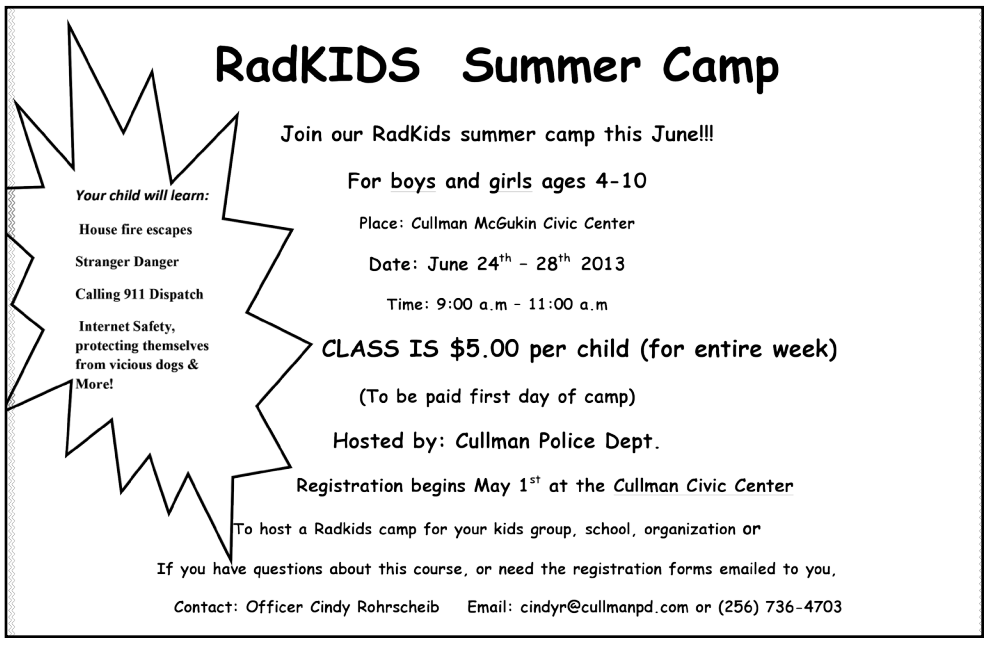
4th District Art Competition

This year's 4th Congressional District Art competition at Northport City Hall was a great success. Student artists from across the district submitted over 175 entries, making our judges job especially challenging.

All of the artwork submitted exhibited the incredible talent and creativity of the students in the 4th District. I was able to personally present the awards to the student artists in Northport.

The categories were painting, drawings, collages, prints, mixed media, computer graphics, and photography. This year's 'Best of Show' went to Mason Holcomb of Guntersville High School. His artwork will be displayed for one year in the Capitol as part of an exhibit entitled "An Artistic Discovery." Mason has also been invited to the national exhibit opening in Washington, DC, this summer, including events such as an opening reception and ribbon cutting ceremony.

I am proud of all of our student artists, whether they placed in the competition or not, it is impressive to see their talent on display and to have the honor to recognize them for their achievements.





No(ah)-it All: Pride and Respect: How money loses to self-worth

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

Ever had one of those bosses who you know should have never been put in a position of power? You know the kind; the ones who excel at taking orders but are horrid at best when it comes to issuing clear, concise orders themselves.

Well if that's not close enough, what about a boss who feels the need to encourage you by putting you down in front of coworkers? You know like saying "You're horrible at your job. I hired (censored) six months after you and they're better than you are. You better step it up!" If for some reason that's not been the case, have you ever had a boss who feels the need to micromanage every possible detail in your very hectic day?

Yeah, I figured the last one would hit home with many people since many businesses are feeling the pinch from a dying economy – yes, I said dying – so the manic micromanaged mindset has crept into many offices.

Well, I have personally been each of these moronic boss types over the past three years. I have tried to encourage some of the crew through "Embarragment" or better known as embarrassing encouragement. The first few professional bosses – I use the term professional exceptionally loosely – who I had the displeasure of serving under felt the need to encourage using this tactic.

Naturally, when CS started I too thought the best form of encouragement was through this now very visibly trite form of public humiliation.

However, it took a few blasts at one of my best crew members before I realized how hateful this form of encouragement truly was. So it ceased and was buried alongside the last remnants from the first hellhole I forfeited my self-worth for currency.

While that idiotic boss type died off, a new micromanaging mindset began to take over as we looked to launch the print edition.

The crew briefly endured this manic phase of having to know everything – I mean everything from routine movements and interview setups to ensuring each one was going to turn their stories in on time.

It's not as if any of them missed deadlines before but for some reason I just felt the urge to pester each one until the stories were completed.

That is until one morning I awoke to find all the stories for the upcoming week neatly compiled into our database, with the exception of one lazy individual – myself. I had spent so much time wrapped up in what others were doing that my work was not being completed, so it was time to reassess the situation.

It took some time to flush the micromanagement out of my system but I'm glad it is no longer a part of our daily operations and so are the crew. Each of the behaviors were learned at some point, whether it was during my days as a pizza delivery driver, playing pool, or from office jobs taken later in life.

However, just because I had learned the behaviors did not mean I should act on or implement them at any point. Seriously, if I hated it so much why would I attempt to treat others in the same ways?

So for anyone out there, who is currently enduring the wrath of an inept, ill-equipped boss, a manic micromanaging maniac, or a cruel trite bully, ask yourself just one question. How much is your self-worth, worth?

After some time searching around, I realized the answer to that question was a simple nothing. That's right; this guy's self-worth is valued at zero dollars.

However, this is due to the notion that what has been given to me has no value to myself – or at least monetary value – so that's the going rate from now until the last earthly breath is drawn.

Now some of you may be thinking that you can't quit your job in hopes of finding somewhere better. Or you may not be able or willing to tell your boss just how much they make your life a nightmare out of fear of losing a job you enjoy. Well, I can't help you there. All I can tell say is that if you don't demand respect you'll never get it. Now, how much is your self-worth, worth again?

This is dedicated to the memory of those bosses and supervisors who feel the need to belittle, berate, aggressively challenge, overly micromanage, insult, and just basically make the workdays of so many such a dreaded moment of life.

Cullman DHR Visitor Rooms Receive Remodeling

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

Ribbon cutting set for June 5

CULLMAN – The visiting rooms at Cullman County Department of Human Resources have recently received a remolding job, care of the Angela R. Stephens Foundation, and a special ribbon cutting ceremony and reception is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5th at 12:30 p.m.

"It only takes a few people to care to make a difference in the lives of children and families. This has been illustrated through Willem Brink and Emily Bouzan who helped start The Angela R. Stephens Foundation," said Tiffany Harris. "The Angela R. Stephens Foundation was started to establish honor to their daughter in law, who tragically died in a car accident in 2011 leaving two children without a mother."

According to Harris, the foundation has helped more than 20 foster children. She said the foundation has through monetary and physical labors of love have made a more comfortable and inviting visitation rooms for children who are in foster care to be able to visit with their parents and family.

"Because the founders, (Emily Bouzan and Willem Brink) and Tiffany Harris (board member and sister to Angela R. Stephens) realized the importance of parents and family in the lives children, Cullman County DHR now has newly renovated play rooms that sends the message to children and families that they are important and encourages interaction between the children and their parents during visitation," she said.

Two rooms were redesigned, furnished and equipped with the tools necessary for families to reconnect in a comfortable environment.

One room has been designated as a family room, complete with games, couches, and other amenities to provide a feeling of home.

The second room has been remolded to portray a jungle scene, complete with monkeys hanging from a painted tree, children's games and other amenities which provide the child with a warming atmosphere.

"There is a play room done in a Jungle theme with interactive games for small children and their parents. There is a family room with games, couch, lamps etc., where the family can feel a "home-like" setting to sit and talk," she said. "Although the ribbon cutting is scheduled for June 5th with Senator Paul Bussman and with other key community leaders, the rooms have already left behind an important message that one child left on the easel, simply saying, "I love you, mommy."

For more on the story of the Angela R. Stephens Foundation, visit CullmanSense.com.



Good Hope Mayor Eyeing District 12 Candidacy

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

Mayor Harbison announces his intent to seek election for 2014 District 12 primary

GOOD HOPE – With exactly one year until the June 3, 2014 primary for District 12 representative, Good Hope Mayor Corey Harbison has announced his intent to run for the office currently held by Representative Mac Buttram.

"I ran for public office for the first time at the age of 22, was elected Mayor, and took office in November 2008," said Mayor Harbison. "I wanted to be involved and make my community a better place."

The 27-year-old has been of resident of Good Hope his entire life, graduating from Good Hope High School in 2004. Harbison received a two-year academic leadership scholarship to Wallace State Community College, where he pursued his associate of science degree. Afterwards, he attended Athens State University to finish his degree. He has been married to his wife Kimberlee for three years. During his first term as mayor, Harbison, along with members of the Good Hope City Council, worked together to help secure grants to help extend sewer lines, provide community safe rooms, and submitted grants to replace a bridge on Beech Grove Road, making the connection between neighboring Dodge City safer.

"I believe I have worked well with the City Council and we have been successful in improving the quality of life for the citizens of Good Hope. With the help of state officials, a strong partnership with our current county commissioners, and the City of Cullman, we have made the interchange at CR 222 and I65 a reality," he said. "It is my belief that this interchange is going to open many possibilities for retail development and job growth."

Mayor Harbison took time out over the weekend to answer a few quick questions from CullmanSense regarding his decision to announce his intent to seek election for District 12. Below are the questions and answers in entirety, a format in which CS will offer to each of the candidates seeking a political office.

CS – What have you learned as mayor that will help you in District 12?

CH – I feel that my experiences as Mayor will be very beneficial to me if elected to this office. I have been very involved and have an understanding of how our laws work and the role of the state, county, and city governments. I have also worked as a deputy sheriff for the Cullman County Sheriff's Office and saw first-hand how the criminal laws of the state works. I believe that anyone can make policy and law but someone who has actually been involved and witnessed the outcomes first hand would produce much more effective law.

CS – With Rep. Mac Buttram anticipated to seek re-election, what is it that motivates you to run for District 12?

CH – I believe that the incumbent is a good man; I believe he has good character and has a desire to try. I want to offer a young, motived style of leadership. I can assure you if I vote on a bill I will know the language of the bill and be willing to listen to the citizen's thoughts and explain why I supported or didn't support something.

CS – How do you feel you can have an impact for the constituents of District 12?

CH – I think that what some people will say is my biggest obstacle is actually my biggest advantage and that is my youth. I am still young and the decisions I make in Montgomery will impact me for years to come. I understand that I do not know everything and I will be a candidate that will listen and take advice.

CS – What will be your main objective(s) if you are elected to represent the people of District 12?

CH – I believe that being open and accountable are two very important things a good public servant must be willing to do. I have had situations as Mayor where I was in favor of certain things but realized that the majority of my constituents were not, so I backed down. If I am elected to this office I am willing to work for and fulfill the wants and needs for the people in my district. I could care less what someone in Montgomery wants from me.

Alabama Poultry and Egg Association selling Auburn Smoked Chickens at Wallace State, Place Orders by June 14

By: Gail Crutchfield
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Want smoked chicken but don't want to go to the trouble of doing it yourself?

Let the Alabama Poultry and Egg Association Allied Industry Committee do it for you and help a Wallace State student at the same time.

The committee will be selling the famous Auburn University Poultry Science smoked chickens on June 20 at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville.

The chicken is brined and hickory smoked for a one-of-a-kind flavor. They weigh about 4 pounds and will be sold for $5 each. Stock up on several for those days when you're too busy to cook.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit a scholarship to a Wallace State student who intends to transfer to Auburn University and major in poultry science.

Pre-payment is required to reserve an order and orders must be submitted by Friday, June 14.

Orders of 20 or more can be delivered. Other orders can be picked up between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on June 20 in front of the Poultry Science building, near the greenhouses on the southwest section of the Wallace State campus.

To place an order, send your name, phone number, the number of chickens you would like to order, and payment to:

Ray Hilburn
AP&EA
P.O. Box 240
Montgomery, AL 36101-0240

Or call 334-265-2732, fax 334-265-0008 or email ray@alabamapoultry.org. Make checks payable to Alabama Poultry Foundation.