SERIES 3, ISSUE 26 MONDAY, JULY 1, 2013
CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER

CULLMANSENSE

$0.50 COMMUNITY MATTERS $0.50

In this Issue:

ODEN ANNOUNCES BID FOR ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION PLACE 1 - P12

Crafty Little Hands



Pottery camp brings fun and excitement to area youths p7

Bentley Tasks Senior Services Commissioner with Developing Plan to Help More Voters Receive Photo ID

By: Jennifer Ardis

MONTGOMERY – Governor Robert Bentley on Friday tasked Neal Morrison, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Senior Services, with developing a plan to help all citizens have access to a photo ID that will comply with the state's photo voter ID law.

"The right to vote is fundamental to democracy," Governor Bentley said. "I want to remove any obstacle that could keep any eligible voter from exercising their constitutional right to vote."

The plan to be developed by Commissioner Morrison will compliment a photo voter ID plan outlined by Secretary of State Beth Chapman. Under the proposed regulations announced by Secretary of State Chapman, citizens without acceptable forms of photo voter ID can receive a free ID by visiting Department of Public Safety offices, Board of Registrars offices, or the Secretary of State's office.

Governor Bentley is tasking p12

Local



Cullman County Bosom Buddies' 'Bike Ride for Cancer'

A beautiful blue sky, gentle breeze and plenty of sunshine greeted those two wheel and three wheeled riders to the inaugural Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation Bike Ride, hosted at the Donald Green Senior Center. p6

Area Youth Take Aim during Archery Camp



For 36 youths, the past week held fun and adventure outdoors, as the children embarked on a three-day archery workshop, hosted by the Cullman City Parks & Recreation. p6

State

ADECA secures $1.2 million to help long-term unemployed find work p3

Sports

AU Tailgate plan creates 2,000 new parking spaces p4

CREATING A FOUNDATION

Governor Bentley Announces Grants to Help More Children Have Access to First Class Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

By: Jennifer Ardis

LEEDS – More children throughout Alabama will have access to high-quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten thanks to nearly 100 grants announced by Governor Robert Bentley on recently.

"The most important part of a child's education is a good, solid foundation, and our First Class voluntary pre-k program provides that," Governor Bentley said. "All children, regardless of where they live, deserve the opportunity to excel. A high-quality, voluntary pre-k program improves their chances of success in K-12 school. This is a wise investment that will benefit children and families throughout Alabama. "The grants announced by Governor Bentley will expand Alabama's First Class voluntary pre-k program to more schools, preschools, child care centers, Head Start locations, and other new and expanding pre-k sites across the state. Grants were awarded based on several criteria including local needs, local demand, and high quality standards at the new and expanding pre-k sites.

"Demand for these grants far exceeded our supply, and that's a testament to the need for expanding access to this program," Governor Bentley said. "I want to give more families the option of enrolling their children in voluntary pre-k, and I will continue my efforts to expand access to First Class even more."

"This program was developed by early childhood education experts from p12

Holiday Closings

Cullman City offices will be CLOSED on Thursday, July 4, 2013, in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

Commercial sanitation routes will run on the 4th as usual, but Thursday's residential route will be done Friday, July 5, 2013.

The Festhalle Market Platz will be OPEN on the Fourth of July from 8 a.m. until noon.

July 4

Fireworks Safety Tips for this Independence Day



p10

Sports - 4 Calendar - 8 Poll - 9 Comics - 10

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

Cullman Car Dealer Pleads Guilty to Violating Legal Protections for Active-Duty Service Members

By: Peggy Sanford

BIRMINGHAM – A Cullman used car dealer pleaded guilty recently for violating federal protections for active-duty military service members by refusing to reduce the loan interest rate and repossessing the vehicle he sold to a man who was later deployed overseas with the Alabama National Guard, announced U.S. Attorney Joyce White Vance and FBI Special Agent in Charge Richard D. Schwein Jr.

Carl Ralph Nuss, 75, entered his guilty plea before U.S. Magistrate Judge Harwell G. Davis III to the two counts of the March indictment charging him with violating the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. The act provides certain protections for service members called to active duty, including interest rate limitations and protection from civil suit, repossession, and eviction.

Nuss entered his plea without a plea agreement with the government. He is scheduled for sentencing Sept. 12.

Nuss is owner of North Alabama Wholesale Autos in Cullman. In February 2011, he sold a 2002 Ford Sport-Trac to a 22-year-old man. The dealership sold the vehicle for $9,746 and, after a $2,200 down payment, financed the balance at 25 percent interest per year, according to the indictment.

In May 2012, the Guardsman, a private first class, was called to active duty in Afghanistan. In July 2012, according to the indictment, Nuss received a letter from the Guardsman requesting that the dealership reduce the interest rate on his car loan from 25 percent to 6 percent, as required by the relief act. Nuss never reduced the interest rate and, two days after receiving the letter, hired two men to repossess the guardsman's truck. The two men repossessed the vehicle without a court order, in violation of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, the indictment says.

The maximum penalty for each count is one year in prison and a $100,000 fine.

The FBI investigated the case, which Assistant U.S. Attorney George A. Martin Jr. is prosecuting.

The Precious Blood Prayer Group of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church culminates initial 5 month journey

By: Barbara Ragsdale

CULLMAN – Members of The Precious Blood Prayer Group of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church spend their time praying for their Parish Church family, for area neighbors and friends, for their country, and the entire world as they concentrate on Jesus who shed His most precious blood on the cross to save the world.

The call to adore The Precious Blood of the Lord Jesus came to a teenager in 1995 during the hour of Divine Mercy (3:00 p.m. worldwide). Barnabas Nwoye, a 17 year old from Olo, Enugu State, Nigeria, received messages from the Lord, as well as from Jesus' Blessed Mother Mary, a host of angels, and saints including St. Joseph, St. Michael the Archangel, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Bridget of Sweden, St. Gertrude, and the Holy Spirit, urging him and others to spend time in prayer and adoration to make reparation for the outrages committed on earth against the Lord.

In the secular world, political and social injustice reign above all, with greed, avarice, lust, and a general hardening of hearts to the things of God. With all these glaring signs, the final showdown between good and evil is set on the horizon.

The Eternal Father, knowing what His flock is going to face, has outflanked the powers of Hell by introducing The Precious Blood Devotion through His visionary, Nwoye. This final weapon will assist His children to endure and overcome the Great Chastisement.

Six parishioners from Sacred Heart in Cullman recently culminated their initial 5 month journey of praying weekly Gethsemane Hours, daily rosaries, the Chaplet of The Precious Blood, the Litany of The Precious Blood, and the Consecration to The Precious Blood. They made their 'Act of Consecration' during the Mass of the 'Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ' at which time they received the Crucifix of the Agonizing Jesus Christ and the Badge of The Precious Blood.

For further information about this ongoing prayer devotion please contact Issie Young at 256-734-8295 or Mary Ann Whaley at 256-339-9959, both Sacred Heart of Jesus Church parishioners.



Pictured holding their Crucifix and the badges received are: back, from left: Tony Schaffer, Frances Bulliner, Father Patrick Egan, OSB, Pastor of Sacred Heart, and Gloria Mull; front, from left: Alicia Tovar, John Francis Bulliner, and Anita Tovar.

NEW LAW CHANGES

Cullman County Revenue Commissioner's Office

The Alabama Department of Revenue recently announced a new law that applies to homestead exemptions for all property owners who are age 65 or older or who are totally and permanently disabled.

How does this affect you?

The new law applies to people claiming homestead exemptions on their primary residences and amends the 2012 homestead tax law. If you had previously qualified for an over age 65 or disability exemption but did not qualify in 2012, you may be eligible now.

Important facts to remember

Your age and income matter: if you are 65 or older and your annual taxable income was less than $12,000 on your 2011 Federal income tax return, you're eligible for a specific tax exemption on your residence. (If your taxable income was greater than $12,000, you still qualify for a partial homestead exemption.)

To request your over age 65 homestead exemption, bring documentation of your age and income (2011 Federal and State income tax returns) to the Revenue Commission office at the Courthouse or one of the satellite offices in Baileyton, Dodge City, or Hanceville.

Your disability matters; if you are permanently and totally disabled, you're eligible for a specific tax exemption on your residence. To request your disability exemption, bring your ID, along with proof of disability, to the Revenue Commission office (Courthouse or satellite office).

Proof of disability may include documentation of disability income, such as your private disability annuity or Medicare Card (SSI does not qualify). You may also submit two **Alabama Department of Revenue Physician Affidavits**, as long as one of the physicians is actively treating you directly related to your disability. To be totally and permanently disabled, you must be unable to work because of a medically-determinable physical or mental impairment.

The deadline to submit your over 65 or disability homestead claim for the 2013 tax year is July 31, 2013. For assistance, contact the Revenue Commission at (256) 775-4776.

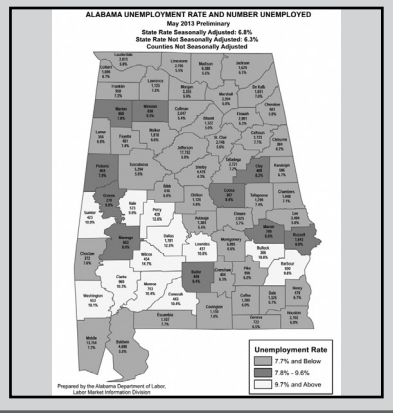
Thank you for supporting
CullmanSense
Indepently Owned and Operated

What's Online

Cullman County's Unemployment Rate among State's Lowest

Governor Robert Bentley on Friday announced that Alabama's preliminary May unemployment rate is 6.8%, down from April's rate of 6.9% and well below last year's rate of 7.5%.

qrne.ws/62



Aderholt Supports Legislation to Prevent Late Abortions

Congressman Robert Aderholt (AL-04) issued the following statement in support of H.R. 1797, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act that passed today in the United States House of Representatives.

qrne.ws/63

RTS Day 2 - A Sell-Out

A lineup of legends closed a sell-out Rock the South Saturday night, ending a two-day festival that city officials and event organizers considered a great success. Hank Williams, Jr. closed out the evening. Gregg Allman and Jamey Johnson also performed.

qrne.ws/64

ADECA secures $1.2 million to help long-term unemployed find work

By: Mike Presley

MONTGOMERY— The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs has secured an additional $1.2 million to help out-of-work residents obtain employment. The funds will help residents unemployed for more than six months to develop specialized skills required for careers in high-growth industries.

On Thursday, the U.S. Department of Labor notified ADECA that the state's application for support had been approved. The $1.2 million grant will supplement Alabama's $12.4 million annual allocation for job-training assistance. ADECA will target the additional funds toward military veterans and other workers who have been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer due to layoffs or business closings.

"Hard-working Alabamians face many challenges when they find themselves unemployed through no fault of their own," ADECA Director Jim Byard Jr. said. "This grant lets us extend a helping hand to more Alabama residents so they can qualify for a new career and build a brighter future."

Typical assistance includes paying the cost of training programs that certify workers for jobs in high-demand industries including health care, advanced manufacturing, avionics, computer science and transportation. Workers also may participate in on-the-job training programs that reimburse employers a percentage of new employees' wages while they learn on the job.

Alabamians should contact their nearest Alabama Career Center to determine eligibility for training or other employment assistance. A list of career center locations and contact information is available at www.joblink.alabama.gov.

Military-Focused Legislation Giving Alabama Competitive Edge in BRAC Process Now Law

By: Katy Sulhoff

MONTGOMERY – Governor Robert Bentley on Thursday held a ceremonial bill signing for HB 338 and HB 424, two military-focused bills that further strengthen Alabama's commitment to the military and helps improve our position as we continue to prepare for any future Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission reviews.

The bills were 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 BRAC process, as well as respond to the effects of sequestration.

"Anything we can do to reinforce Alabama's role as a good host to military installations, families, and veterans, like these two measures the Governor signed, is a positive step toward giving our state a competitive edge in the BRAC process," said Lieutenant Governor Ivey.

HB 338, sponsored by Rep. Paul Lee (R-Dothan), allows military members and veterans to receive academic and professional licensure credit for relevant skills acquired in the military.

"Often, these brave individuals spend years gaining valuable experience in their job field before they leave the military. This bill exempts them from having to go through the long and cumbersome process of having to pay for exams and wait for certifications before they can get back to work," said Rep. Lee.

A Senate version of HB 338 was sponsored by Sen. Phil Williams (R-Rainbow City).

"This bill allows our military men and women to transfer the skills they obtain during their service years to the workforce and transition into civilian life with greater ease," said Sen. Williams. "We want our veterans to know that their skills and talents are valuable to the civilian workforce."

Under the provisions of this bill, state public education institutions, community colleges, and technical schools will award certain education credits to a veteran enrolled in the institution for courses that were part of the student's military training or service.

Additionally, certain Alabama licensure boards will adopt policies crediting military education, training, or service completed as credit toward professional license or certification.

HB 424, sponsored by Rep. Barry Moore (R-Enterprise), extends in-state tuition fees for active service members, their spouses, and dependents located in Alabama under orders.

"I have a great deal of respect for our military and their families. Coupled with the fact that Ft. Rucker is vital to my district, I feel that anything we can do to strengthen our state's position in the BRAC evaluation will bode well for future job creation and economic growth in my community," said Rep. Moore.

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.

Sen. Bill Holtzclaw (R-Madison) sponsored the Senate version of the bill.

"This is a common sense way to show our gratitude for the service and sacrifice of members of our military and their families while stationed in Alabama," said Sen. Holtzclaw, a retired United States Marine Corps Officer. "It's also a positive way to show how important members of the military are to our state and our state's economy as we anticipate the next round of BRAC."

It is unclear when BRAC may come up again, but the process could begin as soon as 2015 or 2016.

Alabama is home to more than 11,896 active duty members, 22,099 reserve and National Guard personnel, more than 420,000 veterans, and four major military installations: Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Maxwell/Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ft. Rucker in Dale County, and Anniston Army Depot.

President Obama Nominates Three to Serve on the U.S District Court

Contributed

WASHINGTON, DC – Recently, President Barack Obama nominated Pedro A. Delgado Hernández, Judge Bruce Howe Hendricks and Judge Alison Renee Lee for District Court judgeships. "These individuals have demonstrated the talent, expertise, and fair-mindedness Americans expect and deserve from their judicial system," said President Obama. "I am grateful for their willingness to serve and confident that they will apply the law with the utmost impartiality and integrity."

Pedro A. Delgado Hernández: Nominee for the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico

Pedro A. Delgado Hernández has been a partner at the law firm of O'Neill & Borges LLC since 1996, where he handles civil litigation in both state and federal court. From 1995 to 1996, he served as a judge on the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals and, from 1993 to 1995, he served as Solicitor General of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Delgado previously worked at O'Neill & Borges from 1986 to 1993. He began his legal career as a law clerk with the Puerto Rico Institute of Judicial Studies and then as a law clerk to the Honorable Juan Torruella, first on the United States District Court and then on the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Delgado received his J.D. magna cum laude in 1983 from the University of Puerto Rico School of Law and his B.S. in 1979 from the University of Puerto Rico.

Judge Bruce Howe Hendricks: Nominee for the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina

Judge Bruce Howe Hendricks has served as a United States Magistrate Judge in the District of South Carolina for more than a decade, first in Greenville from 2002 to 2010 and in Charleston since 2010. As part of her duties as a Magistrate Judge, she presided over the first drug court program in the District of South Carolina. Previously, from 1991 to 2002, she served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Charleston, where she prosecuted a wide array of criminal cases before both the United States District Court in South Carolina and on appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Judge Hendricks received her J.D. in 1990 from the University of South Carolina School of Law and her B.S. in 1983 from the College of Charleston.

Judge Alison Renee Lee: Nominee for the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina

Judge Alison Renee Lee serves as a circuit judge in South Carolina's Fifth Judicial Circuit. In that role, she presides over both criminal and civil trials and handles appeals in municipal, magistrate, and zoning cases. From 1994 to 1999, Judge Lee served as an administrative law judge in South Carolina. From 1989 to 1994, she worked as a staff counsel for the South Carolina Legislative Council, and from 1984 to 1989, Judge Lee practiced civil litigation with the McNair Law Firm. She began her legal career by serving as a law clerk for the Honorable C. Tolbert Goolsby, Jr., on the South Carolina Court of Appeals from 1983 to 1984 and for the Honorable Israel M. Augustine, Jr., on the Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit from 1982 to 1983. Judge Lee received her J.D. in 1982 from Tulane Law School and her B.A. in 1979 from Vassar College

Governor Bentley Issues Statement on U.S. Supreme Court Ruling on Voting Rights Act

From the desk of Governor Robert Bentley

MONTGOMERY – Governor Robert Bentley recently issued the following statement on the United States Supreme Court Ruling striking down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act:

"Alabama has made tremendous progress over the past 50 years, and this decision by the U.S. Supreme Court recognizes that progress. We will not tolerate discrimination in Alabama."

"Fifty years ago, there were valid reasons this law was passed. But even though conditions changed over time, the Section 4 test of the Voting Rights Act did not. As Chief Justice Roberts said when he delivered the Supreme Court's opinion, 'history did not end in 1965,' and 'history since 1965 cannot be ignored.' Further, he said, 'The Fifteenth Amendment is not designed to punish for the past; its purpose is to ensure a better future.'

"The ruling also notes that the Tenth Amendment 'reserves to the States all powers not specifically granted to the Federal Government, including "the power to regulate elections."' And the ruling continues to say, 'There is also a "fundamental principle of equal sovereignty" among the States, which is highly pertinent in assessing disparate treatment of States.' Also, the ruling says, 'The Voting Rights Act sharply departs from these basic principles. It requires States to beseech the Federal Government for permission to implement laws that they would otherwise have the right to enact and execute on their own.'

"Today's ruling is historic. It reflects how conditions have improved since 1965. And as Chief Justice Roberts also said, this ruling returns us to the principle that all states enjoy equal sovereignty."

-Governor Robert Bentley

Want to work with Cullman's fastest growing newspaper?

We're Hiring Self-Motivated Individuals

For more info e-mail: jobs@cullmansense.com

– Sports –

FLYING HIGH
Birmingham Barons show no signs of slowing down

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

BIRMINGHAM – The Birmingham Barons dominated the first half of the Southern League season and show no signs of slowing down. The boys from the Steel City just completed a five game series with their interstate rivals, the Huntsville Stars. The Barons took four out of five from the Stars, outscoring Huntsville 39-17 including a 14-2 and 12-2, drumming in the first two games of the series.

Following the Huntsville series, the Barons improve to a league best 50-30 record. This is due in part to the fantastic performances of several key Barons players who have made Birmingham the talk of the MiLB town.

Trayce Thompson

What more can be said about Thompson that has not already been said time and time again? His defense is infallible and he will catch anything hit even remotely close to him.

As of late, his bat has seen marked improvement as well. Over the last 10 games, Thompson is hitting at a .279 clip with nine RBIs. Over the season he has amassed 76 hits for a .267 average and has driven in 76 Barons while scoring 54 runs himself and swiping 14 bags.

Jared Mitchell

The perfect complement to Thompson in the outfield, Mitchell shows flashes of brilliance patrolling the outfield grass Regions Field. With Willie Mays style catches, Mitchell has turned himself into one of the best outfielders in the Southern League.

Dan Black

Standing 6'5", Dan Black is an opposing sight whether at first base or in the batter's box. Black has power to all fields and is a threat to go deep every time he steps in the box. Getting more playing time at first due to the recent call up of Andy Wilkins, Black is no slouch around the first base pillow.

Scott Snodgress

On the pitching side is Scott Snodgress who is tied for the league lead in wins with eight. Don't let the 4.97 ERA fool you, Snodgress is electric. He has an above average fast ball and is known for braking pitches that he can snap off to make hitters look foolish.

With tools like these at your disposal it is no wonder why the Barons' first year manager has his team 20 wins above .500. With the amazing play in the inaugural season at Regions Field, the Barons have assured the fans of Birmingham that there will be Magic City playoff baseball in 2013!

AU Tailgate plan creates 2,000 new parking spaces

By: Kirk Sampson

AUBURN, Alabama — The Auburn Athletics Department announced Friday a new parking and tailgating plan that creates a net gain of 2,000 free parking spaces for football Saturdays and opens up new areas of campus for tailgating for the 2013 season.

"This new plan will create a significant net gain of free parking spots and will open up more tailgating space around campus," Athletics Director Jay Jacobs said.

"Our fans have told us how important parking and tailgating are, and today we are taking a significant step to improve the gameday experience. These changes are just the beginning of what will be ongoing efforts to make the gameday experience at Auburn the best it can be."

Jacobs praised the Auburn University administration and Facilities Management Division for working with the athletics department to create more parking and tailgating.

"This has been a great collaboration between Auburn Athletics and the administration," Jacobs said. "I especially want to thank (Assistant VP, Facilities Division) Dan King and his staff for coming to the table to help us get this done."

Auburn is adding more than 2,000 free parking and tailgate spots for the 2013 football season in response to a survey that said fans wanted more of each to enhance their gameday experience. Most of the new areas will be for cars, some for RVs, and some strictly for tailgating.

The university is removing or relocating pipe and chains and bollards in some areas to allow more fan access. More restrooms, lighting, and parking attendants are being added in several lots, along with new "tailgate drop-off" locations that allow fans to drop off their tailgate supplies closer to areas where they want to tailgate.

Auburn will offer a mix of free and paid parking and tailgating options, according to Senior Associate AD Scott Carr.

"Most of our focus was on adding more free parking spaces and opening up more space for tailgating, but some fans have told us they want hassle-free, reserved tailgating spots, so we are increasing those options as well," Carr said.

Athletics officials worked with campus facilities and parking units to find areas that had not been used and also identified under-utilized areas for parking and tailgating.

Most parking and tailgating areas will open at 4 p.m. on Fridays. The rest will open Saturday mornings before football games. Some of the additional parking will include the South Donahue corridor between South College and Samford Avenue.

Parking will be available on the grass above the curb on South Donahue and a lot will be open on the north end of Donahue adjacent to Lem Morrison Drive. More free parking will be available near Weagle Woods behind the Forestry and Wildlife building at the corner of South Donahue and Lem Morrison; at West Samford Avenue near Duncan Drive and south of the old track on west Samford; along the outside of the intramural fields on Biggio Drive as well as the intramural field house parking lot on Biggio; at the facilities division building off of West Samford Avenue as well as farther down West Samford; and in front of the Carol Draughon Village complex, where permanent barriers are being torn down to allow fans to park and tailgate in the grass. Tailgating will be available in Weagle Woods.

Paid options include the Tailgate Guys at tailgateguysau.com, Tailgate at the Park offered by the College of Agriculture at Ag Heritage Park, available at ag.auburn.edu/tailgate, and reserved parking lots maintained by AAA Parking and available online at parkwhiz.com.

BURCHELL INSURANCE AGENCY
Martha Burchell, Agent
Nationwide On Your Side
Auto • Home • Life • Commercial
No one will ever perform a better human service to secure the needs of others
200 2nd Ave. SE • Cullman, AL 35055 • Phone: 256-737-7450 • burchem@nationwide.com



Give Us a Tweet
twitter.com/cullmansense

$cholar$hip Jump$tart
Elementary ~ Middle School
High School ~ College Transition
"We Make College Cost Less"
256-736-5969 • www.n2college.com

X-TERNAL X-PRESSIONS TATTOOS & PIERCINGS
TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT CALL 256-775-0018
18260 U.S. HWY 31 CULLMAN, AL. 35058
(LOCATED AT MILE MARKER 331 ON HWY 31 IN VINEMONT)

John Hargis Joins Auburn Swim/Dive Staff

By: Wesley Todd

AUBURN – John Hargis, a 12-time All-American and member of Auburn's first NCAA Championship swimming & diving team, has been named associate head coach of the Tigers, head coach Brett Hawke announced Friday.

A 1999 Auburn graduate and a gold medalist at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, Hargis returns to the Plains after serving as head coach at Penn State for the last five seasons.

"My family and I couldn't be more excited to return to Auburn," Hargis said. "I'm really looking forward to working with Brett and being able to be a part of the excellence that is Auburn swimming. It's going to be fun to be back in that environment. It's great to return to a university that provides such great support for its student-athletes and their success. We really couldn't be happier to be back."

Over five years at Penn State, Hargis built the Nittany Lions into a strong program in the Big Ten. His final Penn State team broke 15 school records while 39 women's swimmers and 16 men moved into the school's all-time top-10. A total of 20 Penn Staters participated in the 2013 NCAA Swimming & Diving Championships with the men's and women's teams combining for 20 All-America honors. Hargis also led his swimmers to success in the long-course pool as 34 of his athletes competed at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials in Omaha.

"I'm excited to welcome John Hargis back to the Auburn family," Hawke said. "He has been successful at the highest level both as a swimmer and a coach, and we couldn't be happier to have him return as our associate head coach of the men's and women's swim teams."

Hargis coached his athletes to a total of 74 All-America honors in his five years and saw his Nittany Lions earn numerous top-25 finishes at the NCAA Championships.

He also coached on the international level as an assistant for Team USA at the 2011 World University Games, helping the Americans to 13 medals in the event.

Prior to his time as a head coach at Penn State, Hargis spent two seasons as head coach at Arkansas-Little Rock. During that time, he was also the head coach and the chief executive officer of the Little Rock Arkansas Dolphins swim club.

In that role, he directed the program to the overall team state long course title in 2007, winning both the men's and women's team trophy for only the second time in program history. He also led both the men's and women's teams to the overall team state short course crown in 2008, securing the Dolphins their first back-to-back combined state titles in their 48 year history.

He joined UALR as an assistant coach in November 2006 before being elevated to head coach in February 2007. While heading the Trojans' program, which competes in the Sun Belt Conference, the women's team was recognized by the Collegiate Swimming Coaches Association of America for having a team GPA of over 3.0 in both the fall and spring semesters.

Hargis also spent three seasons as an assistant with the Nittany Lions, where he was a part of the staff that led the women's team to back-to-back Big Ten Championships in 2005 and 2006. He coached several NCAA, Olympic Trials, and U.S. Nationals qualifiers and also directed all aspects of men's recruiting. He also assisted with several other aspects and day-to-day operations of the program, including the creation and implementation of a training regimen for both the men's and women's sprinters, breaststroke and IM swimmers.

Prior to his first stint at Penn State, Hargis was an assistant coach at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas for two years.. He was the head age group coach for the Raleigh Swimming Association club team for two years prior to his stint at UNLV, and served for three years as an assistant to the athletic director at Auburn prior to that.

A native of Little Rock, Ark., Hargis is a 1999 graduate of Auburn with a degree in health promotion/sports management.

Hargis is one of the most decorated swimmers to ever come out of the state of Arkansas and was part of Auburn's first national championship team in 1997. A member of the 200 medley relay team that broke NCAA, U.S. Open and NCAA Meet records in 1997, Hargis was also a part of the NCAA Champion 400 medley relay team in 1997. A three-time SEC champion in the 100 butterfly, he also held the SEC record in that event and was a 12-time All-American. He owns an Olympic Gold Medal, which he earned at the 1996 Atlanta Games as part of the U.S. 400 medley relay team, and he also won the 100 fly at the U.S. Olympic Trials in 1996. Hargis was inducted into the Arkansas State Swimming Hall of Fame in 2001 and was selected as one of Arkansas' 100 Greatest Athletes of all-time.

Hargis and his wife, Lauren, have two sons, John and Nathan, and a daughter, Faith.

He replaces Frank Bradley, who left Auburn in May to accept the head coaching position at his alma mater, Florida State.

SOFTBALL DIAMONDS
A Girl's Best Friend

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN- Everyone has heard the old saying; diamonds are a girl's best friend, but what kind of diamonds? For 83 teams from around the state of Alabama, it is the softball diamond. Over 800 girls, ranging in age from 10 to 16 have, friends and family have invaded Cullman for one single reason: to be crowned USSSA Fast Pitch "C" State Champions in their age division.

"We love the facilities," said James Baker, the fast pitch director for Alabama, in an interview with CullmanSense. "That is why we hold our state tournament here every year."

According to Baker, several fields are being used. The tournament is taking full advantage of the facilities at both Heritage Park and at the Field of Miracles, CW Day Park in Hanceville, Good Hope, and the new sports complex in South Vinemont.

Each field holds a different age group except for Heritage Park and Good Hope who both are playing host to the 14U division.

"We had so many teams that we had to split them up between Heritage and Good Hope," Baker said of the 14U division.

This marks the fifth year the USSSA has held the Alabama state tournament right here in our own backyard.

The influx of teams from across the state is not only making a impact on local sports fans but on the local economy as well. Hotels in the area are full to the rafters with players and their families, coaches, and umpires all here for the massive softball event.

"I'm having to drive home because all of the hotels were full," Baker said with a laugh.

As you take it easy over the weekend, come on out and support the hard working USSSA and the hard playing softball players as they via for a shot at the state crown.

Results can be found on www.USSSA.com. The United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) is the first ever governing sports body to cover multiple sports.

The USSSA is over 13 sports in several different countries and has a membership base of over three million.

Autograph Collecting 101: Player Collecting

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

Hello, and welcome to another installment of *Autograph Collecting 101*. In this week's column I will show you a specific realm of autograph collecting, the player collection or PC.

Player collecting is when you, as a collector, focus on one player instead of a team or a set. Instead of buying pack after pack hoping to pull a big card, player collectors buy the cards of their favorite player from secondary sources like card shops, shows, other collectors, and the internet.

The reasons people player collect as opposed to set building is as varied as the players themselves. It can be your dad's favorite player, the star of your favorite team, or simply a player you have met and was nice to you. It can be a rookie phenom like Yasil Puig or Mike Trout, established veterans like Chipper Jones or Matt Kemp, or even Hall of Famers like Hank Aaron or Brooks Robinson, or in my case, up and coming stars.

As of now, I have three unique player collections that I am working in and they are all players I have met and am impressed with.

Player collection #1 Taijuan Walker

Walker is ranked as the #18 prospect in all of baseball by Baseball America and #1 in the Seattle Mariners organization. I decided to collect his cards and memorabilia after meeting him before a game in Birmingham where he was sitting in the stands and charting pitches.

That night Walker was kind enough to sign for anyone who wanted an autograph and was genuinely happy to do it. He signed a baseball for me that first night and since then I have been a fan and recently decided to start a player collection of him.

So far in the collection I have two signed baseballs, a team signed game used lineup card that includes Walker, a signed 12x18, and a signed jersey that is inscribed 2010 1st Round Draft Pick.

Player collection #2 Jared Mitchell

Jared Mitchell is ranked as the 16th best prospect in the White Sox organization and currently plays or the Birmingham Barons. The Barons are a team that cares a lot about their fans and they sign autographs on a nightly basis.

What makes me a fan of Mitchell (and the reason I player collect him) is the way he plays the outfield. He makes catches that no player should be able to get to and is reminiscent of a modern day Willie Mays. My PC of Mitchell is the smallest of the three but it contains some of the best items in my PCs. A baseball signed by Mitchell along with a signed, game used bat that he gave to me and a team signed hat that includes him as well.

Player collection #3 Trayce Thompson

In my time collecting prospects, I have never met a player that was rude to fans and of all of these players, Thompson is by far the nicest player I have ever met. Having a father that played in the NBA for 10+ years, a brother that is currently a Golden State Warrior, and another brother in the NBA developmental league has not gone to Thompson's head.

Oh yeah, did I mention Trayce is the #2 prospect in the entire White Sox farm system? He takes time out each day to sign autographs and interact with fans; which is why I decided to PC Thompson. So far I have managed to obtain two signed baseballs, a signed game used bat, a team signed hat that includes him, and a pair of signed, game used batting gloves that were personally given to me by Thompson.

I hope this insight into my personal PCs will inspire you to find a player that you want to collect. And as always, happy hunting!

Follow us: Facebook.com/CullmanSense



Area Youth Take Aim during Archery Camp

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

Archery still drawing interest from area youths

CULLMAN – For 36 youths, the past week held fun and adventure outdoors, as the children embarked on a three-day archery workshop, hosted by the Cullman City Parks & Recreation.

Branch Whitlock, Archery instructor for CP&R, said the three-day camp focused on the basics, such as how to properly hold a bow, safety instructions, and of course, some fun time.

"The kids loved it," Whitlock said while passing out popsicles to the campers. "We had a blast each of the days. We talked about proper safety techniques, showed them proper form, and we had some fun just letting the arrows fly down range."

Whitlock, who has been serving as Archery instructor for just under a year, said that the skill level of every camper was different, which presented a few challenges.

"With every camp comes a different skill set for each individual. Our goal is to teach the ones who've never picked up a bow while still keeping the interest of the campers who've been shooting for years," he said. "Of course this opens up a unique opportunity for the more experienced archers to help those who may just be starting. It all works out in the end."

Camper Abbey Hudson may only be 9-years-old but the tiny marksman has been shooting for nearly two years. The young lady was inspired after watching a movie where the heroine is a fearless marksman. "The thing that got me interested was the movie *Brave*," said Hudson. "The fact that she (Brave) always had the confidence to keep going and to take her bow to defend her family was inspiring to me."

Hudson said during the three-day experience she was able to make her own bow, create hideouts for hunting purposes, and have fun with other campers.

"It was a lot of fun this week," she said. "We each made our own bow, created hideouts and blinds, and we all got to play for a bit in the woods, which was a lot of fun. I definitely want to come back to the next camp!"

For more information on archery classes and camps, contact the Cullman City Parks & Recreation at 256-734-9157.



Cullman County Bosom Buddies 'Bike Ride for Cancer'

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – A beautiful blue sky, gentle breeze, and plenty of sunshine greeted two-wheeled and three-wheeled riders to the inaugural Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation Bike Ride, hosted at the Donald Green Senior Center.

"We wanted to raise money to help those residents here in Cullman," Mary Dyer, CCBB Foundation President said. "We figured why not have a bike ride."

Unlike fundraisers in years past, Dyer said the funds raised through the bike ride will go to help locals who are currently battling cancer.

"I can say 100 percent of the proceeds will stay local and will go to help those who are undergoing cancer treatments, no matter the type of cancer," she said.

"I can also say that no one will be getting paid with money donated to the organization, and the bylaws we are drafting ensure no one will ever be paid. Donations are for those who sincerely need it."

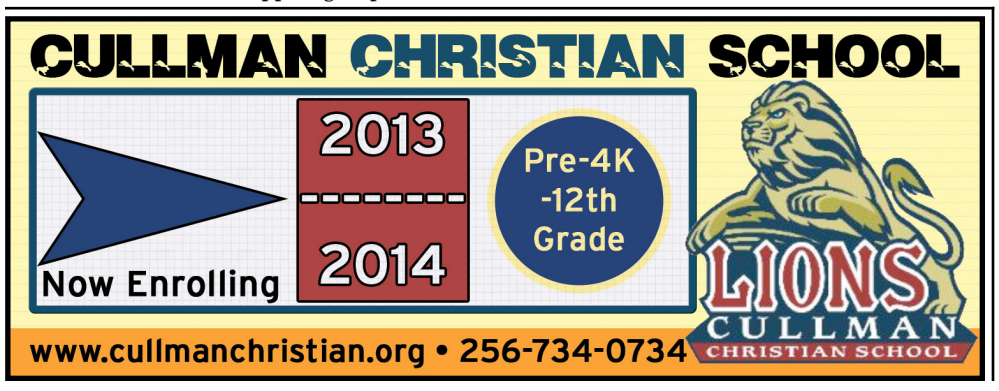
Started in 1994 as a support group for those who'd suffered from breast cancer, over the years the group has grown to include all forms of cancer into their outreach efforts. Dyer, a breast cancer survivor, said times are difficult enough when you're dealing with cancer, but to have to worry about paying basic bills each month can be enough to breakdown the strongest willed person.

"It's hard enough having to get up, go to treatment, and try to focus on getting better. But when you have to worry about if your lights will be cut off or if you'll be able to pay for groceries, it just becomes too much to handle," she said. "That's why we are here. To help relieve those outside pressures which keep people focused on the wrong things instead of healing."

The bike ride saw more than 120 bikers, which in return helped to raise a lot of money. The official count was not available at the time of press. For updateson this story, visit cullmansense.com.

For more information on CCBB or if you'd like to make a donation, contact Mary Dyer at 256-734-8729.





Crafty Little Hands

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

Pottery camp brings excitement to area youths

CULLMAN – Getting your hands dirty has never been a difficult task for most children. This past week at Art Shop Around the Corner was no exception, as nine eager youths found themselves wrist deep in pottery clay.

Cindy Phillips, Pottery instructor at Art Shop Around the Corner, said the camp was offered to children ages 6-9 and was held all week.

The final stage came Friday when the young potters put their wares on display for family and friends.

"This week, starting on Monday, we began our summer pottery camp. We learned the basic hand building methods of pottery such as pitch pots, coil building, and quite a lot of slab work. They got to experiment using different objects to craft texture on their pieces," Phillips said. "We each created different clay objects throughout the week so now we are all presenting our objects in the gallery for family and friends."

Phillips said the camp of nine students ran smoothly the entire week, in part to her assistant Shiloh Walker.

"She's been Johnny-on-the-spot for me all week. She's been great," she said of her youthful assistant.

Kate Cost, 7, said she enjoyed the weeklong pottery camp. The young potter crafted a special piece in honor of her reptilian pet.

"I made this because it reminds me of my pet turtle named Julio," Cost said. "The camp was fun because I got to make a lot of things like my Julio turtle."

There will be two more pottery camps offered this summer.

A camp for youths ages 14-17 will be offered during the middle of July, and at the end of August children ages 10-13 will have their turn at pottery camp.

For more information on the pottery camps, contact Art Shop Around the Corner at 256-775-1775.



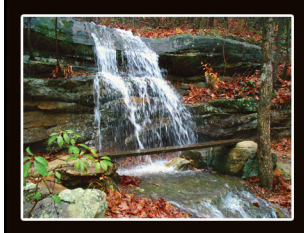






Friday Night Drive In
FREE MOVIES!
All times, dates & movie titles are subject to change
Nesmith Pool Front Yard
Movies Start at dark
Concession Stands will be open!
Friday, May 31st Wreck It Ralph
Friday, June 28th Madagascar 3
Friday, August 5th Rise of the Guardians
A New Twist On An Old Movie ...for FREE!
Dive-In Summer Splash MOVIES
on the Outdoor Pool Deck at Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center
Movies start at Dark
Thursday, May 30th Brave
Thursday, June 27th The Pirates: Band of Misfits
Thursday, August 4th Rise of the Guardians
For more information about Friday Night Drive-In Movies or Dive-In Summer Splash Movies, please call 256-775-7946 Ext 24 or 23

Hurricane Creek Park
Rock Climbing • Hiking • Mountain Biking • Bird Watching









1st Time Rock Climbing & Survival Classes Available
Hours
Friday: 12:00 p.m. - sunset
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - sunset
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - sunset
For more information
Call 256-734-2125

July 1, 2013

8

– 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.

Oil Painting & Acrylic Classes
All interested are invited to take part in the 'Oil Painting & Acrylic' art classes offered at Cullman Civic Center each Monday night from 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. Call the Civic Center for more info 256-734-9157.

Dodge City Neighborhood Watch
Residents of Dodge City are invited to attend a 'Neighborhood Watch' meeting at 7 p.m. in the Dodge City annex basement. Phyllis Little, Cullman County Emergency Management Agency Director, will present the program. Further info available by contacting Jim Mermis at 713-598-4091.

Dig Into Reading at Cullman County Library
'Dig Into Reading' Cullman County Library Summer Reading Program FREE to all children beginning at 10 a.m. at the Library. Bring your kids and let them get involved in summer activities full of fun and learning. These educational activities are sponsored by the Cullman County Library and EvaBank. Please check the schedule at www.ccpls.com. Take advantage of these special sessions at your local library - where the wonders of the world are available through books.

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.

Hanceville Lions Club Boston Butt Sale
With the 4th of July holiday approaching; wouldn't it be great to have your pork already cooked for you and your family? The Hanceville Lions Club members will be selling Boston Butts for $30.00 each at Hanceville Warehouse Discount Grocery starting at 7 a.m. Funds raised will be put toward the club's community projects, so get your food already prepared and help a worthy cause at same time.

Free 'Sign Language' Classes Offered Weekly
Free 'sign language' classes will be offered each Tuesday and Thursday for 5 weeks (Tuesdays June 18, 25, July 2, 9, and 16) and Thursdays (June 20, 27, July 4, 11, and 18) with classes scheduled for 3 periods 8 a.m. until 10 a.m.; 10 a.m. until 12 noon; and 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Classes will be held at the Child Development Center and to enroll please call the Center at 256-739-0486. Avail yourself of these free learning services if you are friends with or associated with anyone with hearing disabilities.

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.

Dig Into Reading at Cullman County Library
'Dig Into Reading' Cullman County Library Summer Reading Program FREE to all children beginning at 10 a.m. at the Library. Bring your kids and let them get involved in summer activities full of fun and learning. These educational activities are sponsored by the Cullman County Library and Eva Bank. Please check the schedule at www.ccpls.com. Take advantage of these special sessions at your local library - where the wonders of the world are available through books.

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.

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.

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.

Hanceville Lions Club Boston Butt Sale
With the 4th of July holiday approaching; wouldn't it be great to have your pork already cooked for you and your family? The Hanceville Lions Club members will be selling Boston Butts for $30.00 each at Hanceville Warehouse Discount Grocery starting at 7 a.m. Funds raised will be put toward the club's community projects, so get your food already prepared and help a worthy cause at same time.

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.

Dig Into Reading at Cullman County Library
'Dig Into Reading' Cullman County Library Summer Reading Program FREE to all children beginning at 10 a.m. at the Library. Bring your kids and let them get involved in summer activities full of fun and learning. These educational activities are sponsored by the Cullman County Library and EvaBank. Please check the schedule at www.ccpls.com. Take advantage of these special sessions at your local library - where the wonders of the world are available through books.

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

Community Lions Club Meeting
The Community Lions Club meets the first and third Thursday of each month at Rumor's Deli. We eat at 11:30 and the meeting begins at 12:00. Everyone interested in community service and making new friends are welcome. Come see what we have to offer!

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.

Free 'Sign Language' Classes Offered Weekly
Free 'sign language' classes will be offered each Tuesday and Thursday for 5 weeks (Tuesdays June 18, 25, July 2, 9, and 16) and Thursdays (June 20, 27, July 4, 11, and 18) with classes scheduled for 3 periods 8 a.m. until 10 a.m.; 10 a.m. until 12 noon; and 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Classes will be held at the Child Development Center and to enroll please call the Center at 256-739-0486. Avail yourself of these free learning services if you are friends with or associated with anyone with hearing disabilities.

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.

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.

Good Hope Farmers Market
Local Good Hope farmers and growers will be on hand to sell their produce each Saturday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. at Hathcock Park in Good Hope.

Rock Climbing at Hurricane Creek Park
If you are interested in rock climbing, check in with Hurricane Creek Park for their Saturday morning rock climbing session which start at 10 a.m. Reservations are required 256-734-2125. Hurricane Creek Park is located on Highway 31 North.

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.

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!

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.

Register for Summer Youth Programs
Now registering for North Alabama Agriplex Summer Youth Program, Sewing Camp July, 9-12 ages 5-10. For more info call 256-297-1044 or e-mail cullmanag@gmail.com.

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

Are You Getting Your Eyes Checked Often Enough?

(StatePoint) Are you taking good enough care of your eyes? According to a new study, your gender and where you live may indicate if you are practicing good eye health.

Women go to eye doctors 28 percent more than men, according to the 2013 Eye Health Index released by VSP Vision Care, the largest not-for-profit vision benefits and services company in the country.

Analysis showed that women, who are statistically at greater risk for eye-related diseases, make a more concerted effort to care for their eyes.

The research also concluded that Boise City, Idaho, is the top city where more residents took care of their eyes in 2012.

Boise City had the highest rate of eye exams compared to any other city on the index for the past two years.

Other cities ranking in the top 10 eye healthy cities are Sacramento, Oklahoma City-Tulsa, Wichita, Columbus (Ohio), Des Moines, Birmingham, Denver, Raleigh, and the San Francisco Bay Area.

More details about the new study, along with eye care tips, can be found at www.vspblog.com/healthyeyes.

In addition to identifying vision correction needs, eye doctors are often first to detect signs of serious health conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol.

We Value Your
Input!
feedback
@cullmansense.com

Reflections of History



People's Drug Company Advertisement — Contrib. by Cullman County Museum

Send us your historic photos!
E-mail us at history@cullmansense.com

This Week in History
July 1 - July 7

July 1st
- 1200 – In China, sunglasses are invented
- 1823 – United Provinces of Central America gain independence from Mexico
- 1929 – U.S. cartoonist Elzie Segar creates "Popeye"

July 2nd
- 1777 – Vermont becomes first American colony to abolish slavery
- 1865 – William Booth founds Salvation Army (Army of the Salvation)
- 1958 – U.S. performs atmospheric nuclear test at Bikini Island

July 3rd
- 1841 – John Couch Adams decides to determine position of an unknown planet by irregularities it causes in the motion of Uranus
- 1929 – Dunlop Latex Development Laboratories made foam rubber
- 1978 – Supreme Court rules 5-4, FCC had a right to reprimand New York radio station WBAI for broadcasting George Carlin's "Filthy Words"

July 4th
- 1776 – Declaration of Independence - U.S. gains independence from Britain
- 1865 – First edition of "Alice in Wonderland" is published
- 1996 – HotMail, a free internet e-mail service begins

July 5th
- 1687 – Isaac Newton's 'Principia' published by Royal Society in England
- 1935 – Franklin D. Roosevelt signs National Labor Relations Act
- 1983 – Woman gives birth to baby 84 days after brain death in Roanoke, Virginia

July 6th
- 1775 – Congress issues "Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms," listing grievances but denying intent to be independent
- 1885 – Louis Pasteur successfully tests an anti-rabies vaccine
- 1949 – Freak heat wave sent central coast of Portugal to 158 degrees F for 2 minutes

July 7th
- 1802 – First comic book "The Wasp," is published
- 1863 – Orders barring Jews from serving under U.S. Grant are revoked
- 1958 – President Eisenhower signed a bill approving Alaskan statehood

Speed & Agility
with Steve Johnson

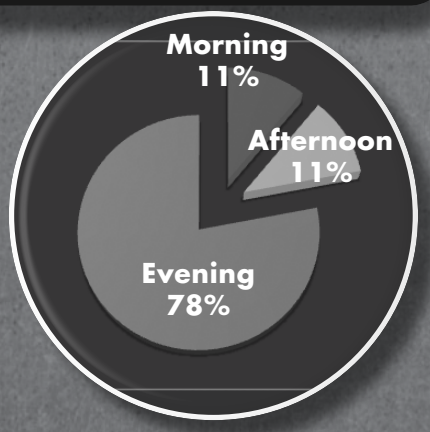
All Sports Available

June 11 - July 12th
Tuesdays & Thursdays
9:45 - Noon at Heritage Park
$125 per six weeks
Deadline to register is May 31st

256-709-2192 Steve's Cell
256-736-2997 ASPT Office
www.cullmanrecreation.org

Last Week's Poll

Are you a morning, afternoon, or evening person?



This Week's Poll

Do you feel that Rock the South was a family friendly event?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

EvaBank
More Loans & Fewer Excuses
Manufactured Homes * Construction * Commercial
Conventional * USDA * FHA * VA
Apply in person, over the phone or online to get started today.
We are here to help!!
256-255-2000
256-737-1655
www.evabank.com
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Member FDIC
NMLS#414640

Fireworks Safety Tips

Contributed by ADPH

During the Fourth of July holiday people often celebrate with fireworks, but if used improperly fireworks can cause serious injury or burns. To ensure a safe holiday the Alabama Department of Public Health recommends that parents protect children from injury by preventing them from using fireworks and leaving it to the professionals.

According to the National SAFE KIDS Campaign almost 5,000 children ages 14 and under are treated in the emergency room for fireworks-related injuries each year. Sixty-five percent of these injuries occur during the month surrounding the Fourth of July.

The safest way to enjoy a fireworks display is at a community-sanctioned, licensed event. Alabama law allows only consumer fireworks, formerly known as class C fireworks. Some municipalities (including Montgomery) outlaw fireworks altogether. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission prevents large numbers of hazardous fireworks from reaching consumers. Illegal mail order kits contain chemical mixtures that can explode unexpectedly and violently. M-80s, cherry bombs, and quarter sticks are so highly explosive that they have been banned by federal law since 1966. Working with the U.S. Customs Service since 1988, CPSC has seized or detained more than 400 million hazardous fireworks at docks across the country.

If fireworks are legal where you live and you decide to set them off on your own, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- Discuss safety procedures with children, including teaching them to "stop, drop, and roll."
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Never aim or throw fireworks at another person.
- Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from the house, dry leaves, and flammable materials.
- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby in case of a malfunction or fire.

Information provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health

Fireworks: A No Go in the City

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com



CULLMAN – With the July 4th celebration cast in the distance, many are making party preparations to help mark the occasion by stockpiling cold refreshing beverages, funky party hats, sparklers, and of course, fireworks. However, for those residents living within Cullman City limits, fireworks are not a legal option to usher in Independence Day.

"It has been an ordinance for quite a while," said Cullman Police Department Assistant Chief Craig Green. "It's not in place to take away from everyone's fun but it is against a city ordinance."

Despite being prohibited within city limits, each year the police department are called out to a bevy of calls. Green expects the same this July 4.

"We are not actively driving around looking for fireworks. However, we do receive more than several calls every July 4 and New Year's Eve, which probably won't change this year, and we will respond to the complaints" he said. "We just ask that those making the calls be patient because this is one of our busiest days."

SUNNY STREET

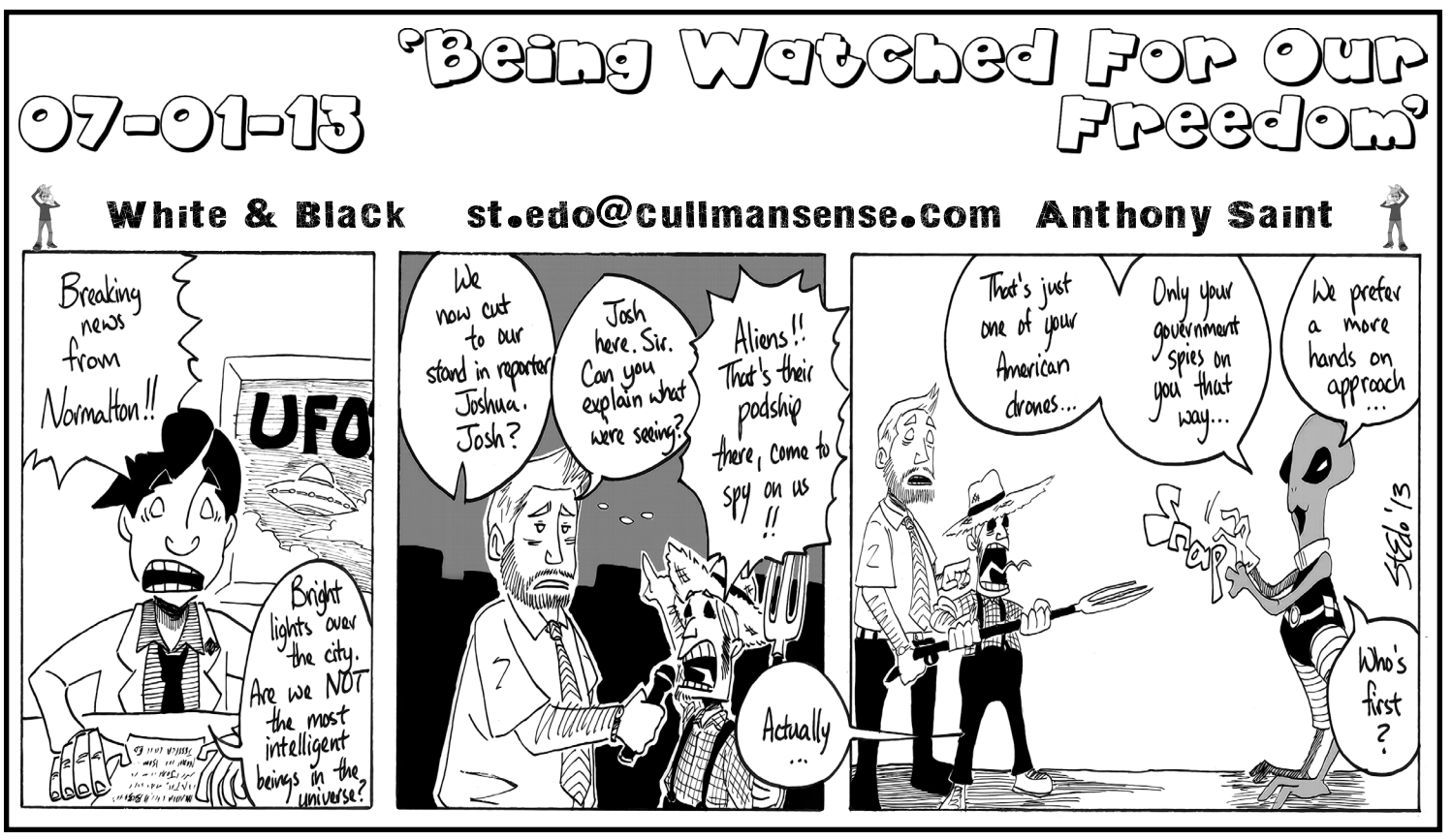


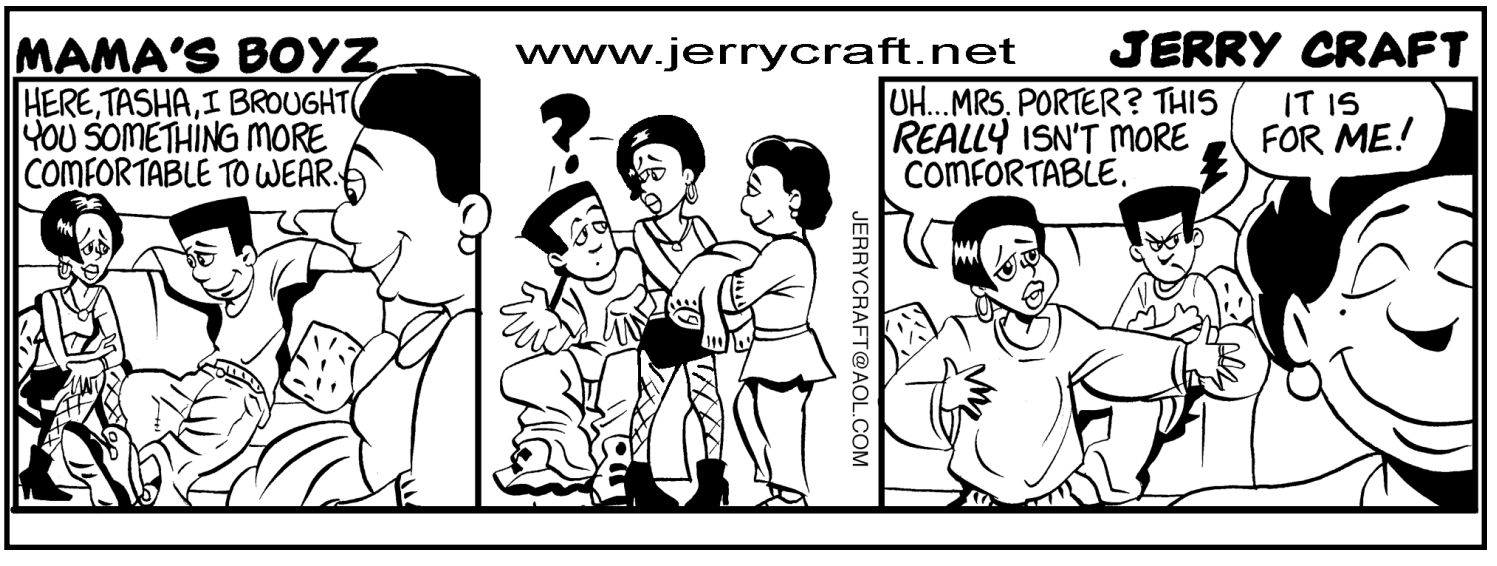
cpr&
cullman city parks & recreation

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. No concert will be held tonight in due to the Fourth of July. Concerts will resume next Tuesday.
- **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.
- **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.
- **EvaBank Midnight Run 5K:** The 2013 EvaBank Midnight Run will be held on Friday, August 9, 2013 at the Cullman Civic Center. Brochures will be available soon at the Cullman Civic Center, Wellness & Aquatic Center, and EvaBank locations. Register online now at www.active.com
- **CWAC Closing:** Due to the State Swimming & Diving Competition that will be held at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center, the Outdoor Pools will be closed on Thursday, July 25. The entire facility will close on Friday & Saturday, July 26-27. We apologize for the inconvenience!
- **Wilderness Survival Classes:** Wilderness survival classes will be held at Hurricane Creek Park on Sunday afternoons with skills including shelter building, finding safe water, building a fire, and other related topics. Call ahead for reservation at 256-734-2125.





Christian Marriage Help: Change Yourself, Not Your Spouse

By: Karla Downing

This Christian marriage help will enable you to take back your power to change your life whether your husband or wife changes or not. The problems in your marriage are real and the changes you want your spouse to make are most likely reasonable. The dilemma that you have is that you can't make him or her change and as long as you are waiting for change and pushing for change, you are stuck in the same patterns.

We try to change our spouses by praying, wishing, nagging, lecturing, explaining, begging, threatening, controlling, and manipulating. Consider these questions: How much time and energy do you spend trying to change your spouse? What else could you do with your time?

Powerless means "without power." Can you stand at the seashore and command the waves to stop? Can you ask the sun not to rise? Can you make your husband or wife change? No! So if you can't do it, why waste your life trying?

The only sure way to make your life better is to focus on changing yourself. And I don't mean changing yourself to please your spouse, hoping he/she will change as a result. I mean taking back your power to do what you want with your own life in spite of the circumstances.

The following Scriptural principles reinforce the fact that you are responsible for your own choices and that you are not responsible for your spouse's choices:

God's Word tells us clearly that each of us is responsible for ourselves and we will each stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of our own lives-not our spouses' lives (**2 Corinthians 5:10**).

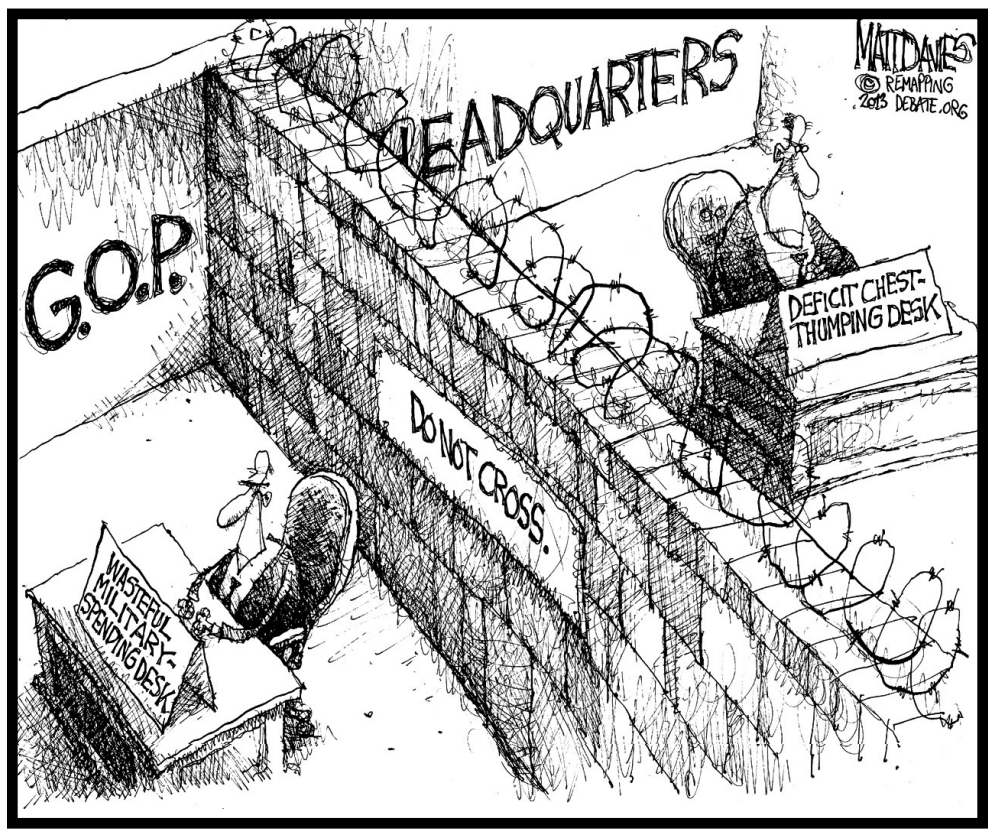
We are to take the plank out of our own eyes before commenting on the splinter in the other person's eye (**Matthew 7:3-5**). (This applies even if your spouse has the plank and you have the splinter.)

Galatians 6:4-5 says, "Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else." We have to do what is right, even when our spouses aren't.

Since you will give an account of your life, it makes sense to focus on changing yourself and not on your spouse. What are some of the things you can change? You can change your reactions, your choices, your boundaries, and your self-care.

You can decide how you want to use your talents and gifts and your time. You can't control his/her reactions, choices, boundaries or self-care. You can't make your spouse live in a way that uses his/her talents, gifts, and time the way God wants your spouse to.

Let go of the efforts to make your spouse be who you want him or her to be and change yourself instead.



Tell us what's on *your* mind.
***We* want to publish it.**

E-mail your opinion to:
submissions@cullmansense.com

Subscribe to CullmanSense
Print or Digital Edition
CullmanSense.com/store

The Cullman Amateur Radio Club
Presents the 7th Annual

CARC HAMFEST 2013

to be held
Saturday, July 27, 2013
8am to 2pm
at the Air Conditioned
Cullman (McGukin) Civic Center
510 5th Street SW
Cullman, Al 35055
(Free parking around Civic Center)
Site Coordinates: 34-10-13.94N / 086-50-46.34W

ADMISSION $5.00
Under 10 free w/paid adult
(1 Free Prize Ticket with paid admission)

TABLES $10.00 ea
Setup starts at 7am

PRIZE DRAWINGS THROUGHOUT THE DAY
Prize Tickets: Donation $1 each or 11 tickets for $10

This Years GRAND PRIZE
YAESU FT-897D TRANSCEIVER
PLUS
FORUMS - CONCESSIONS - VE TESTING
(ARRL VEC - HAMFEST SANCTIONED BY ARRL)

FOR INFORMATION, SEE: http://qsl.net/cullmanarc
or CLUB SITE : www.cullmanarc.webs.com



Contact:
Charlie McBrayer WB4PED
email at: cmcbrayer@corrwireless.com
256-708-1000
Chairman

OR Any CARC Member

Talk-in: N4TUN - 145.310 mHz (-600 offset - 100 hz)

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
Tuesdays @ 6:30PM
Recognition Garden, Heritage Park

June 4th	**Hope Alive**
June 11th	**Day Gap** *(Leah Bolin's Band)*
June 25th	**Desperation Band**
July 9th	**Vintage Cowboy**
July16th	**Coal Rain**
July 23rd	**Finale**

Sponsored by: Coca-Cola

Grants (from Front)

Alabama for the children of Alabama," Governor Bentley added. "We have Alabama-based guidelines and quality assurances. And by expanding access to this voluntary program, we can benefit more children here in Alabama." Alabama's First Class program is nationally-recognized for its quality. Alabama is currently one of only four states in the country to meet all 10 quality benchmarks established by the National Institute for Early Education Research.

The benchmarks include teacher training, staff-child ratios, support services, and more. First Class has now met all of these benchmarks for seven years in a row.

However, only six percent of Alabama's four-year-olds are currently enrolled in the First Class program. The state also ranks a disappointing 33rd in access among the 40 states that offer pre-k programs. In order to expand access, Governor Bentley proposed additional funding for voluntary pre-kindergarten in the fiscal year 2014 Education Trust Fund. In May, the Alabama Legislature approved more than $9 million in additional voluntary pre-k funding. First Class is managed by the Alabama Office of School Readiness. The office is part of the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs, which is overseen by Governor Bentley.

Jeana Ross, the Governor's Commissioner of Children's Affairs, said the demand for expansion grants has been strong in communities throughout the state, and efforts will continue for additional expansion in the future. "This is the next step in a long-term process of giving more families the opportunity to send their children to voluntary pre-kindergarten," Ross said.

"If parents want to send their children to pre-k, we want them to have that option. We want more children to benefit from the high quality standards that are the basis of First Class. We will work with First Class sites across the state to make sure more children are receiving a quality foundation that will prepare them for success in K-12 school and beyond." The grants announced Wednesday represent approximately $7.26 million of the additional funding approved for voluntary pre-k. The funding will be divided among 93 sites across the state. Local match funding of 25% will be required. Remaining state funding will be allocated to additional sites based on various needs in the near future.

"While these grants will help us offer voluntary pre-k to many more families, there is still a long way to go before all children have access," Bentley said. "That's why it's important to build on this progress and make sure we're offering this high-quality program to even more families in the years to come."

Photo ID (from Front)

Commissioner Morrison to develop this additional plan to specifically help the disabled, the homebound, and others who may not have access to those offices so they can receive this free service as well.

The plan will be designed to provide assistance to citizens of any voting age who are in need of this service.

"The Alabama Department of Senior Services works with more than a dozen regional councils throughout the state to provide various services for the elderly and the disabled," Commissioner Morrison said.

"We also work with hundreds of community groups, senior centers, churches, and other organizations that serve people in communities across the state. We'll work to identify those who need help gaining access to a proper ID, and we'll outline a plan to help ensure they get what they need."

Commissioner Morrison added that he looks forward to working with the Secretary of State's Office on accomplishing this goal. Commissioner Morrison is expected to present a detailed plan to Governor Bentley within 120 days.

"A photo ID benefits people in many different ways, such as protecting voters from the possibility of someone else casting a ballot in their name," Governor Bentley added.

"I want all Alabamians to be able to exercise their right to vote. My efforts are designed to help ensure that nothing stands in the way of that right."

Alabama Power Foundation welcomes applications for Good Roots grants

By: Hallie Bradley

The Alabama Power Foundation is now accepting applications for this year's round of Good Roots grants.

In partnership with the Alabama Urban Forestry Association, Good Roots awards up to $1,000 per grant to help Alabama cities, towns, communities, and non-profit organizations plant trees. Good Roots is designed to help keep communities beautiful and vibrant.

Since its beginning, Good Roots has awarded more than $624,000 to more than 650 cities, towns and non-profit organizations to plant trees at schools, churches, city parks, and other community locations.

Last year alone, the Good Roots program gave about $24,000 in the form of 25 grants to fund the planting of trees across central and southern Alabama.

"The Alabama Power Foundation has a goal of strengthening the communities we serve by giving back and supporting local organizations through our grant programs," said John Hudson, president of the Alabama Power Foundation.

The trees will be planted and maintained in public places by volunteers from each community.

Non-profit organizations, schools, cities, towns, and communities of any size are welcome to apply for a Good Roots grant.

Candidates should apply online. Entries will be accepted through July 29, and grant recipients will be announced by Sept. 12.

Good Roots is one of several community grant programs funded by the Alabama Power Foundation. For access to the online application and to learn more about Good Roots, as well as other Alabama Power Foundation and Alabama Power community programs, please visit www.alpowercharitablegiving.org.

The Alabama Power Foundation, founded in 1989 with an investment by Alabama Power shareholders, awards more than 1,000 grants annually and has assets in excess of $120 million, making it one of the largest corporate foundations in the state.

The Alabama Power Foundation has given more than $130 million through more than 20,000 grants and scholarships.

Oden announces bid for Alabama Public Service Commission Place 1

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

VINEMONT – Saturday evening, amongst family, friends, and neighbors, Public Service Commissioner Jeremy H. Oden announced his intent to seek nomination for Alabama Public Service Commission Place 1 in the June 2014 primary.

"I just wanted to let everyone know that I will be seeking the nomination for PSC Place 1 in June," Oden told attendees at the family's annual fireworks display. "I appreciate you all for coming out tonight to enjoy the fireworks display and hope that you all have great time."

Oden was appointed by Gov. Robert Bentley on Dec. 3, 2012, filling the vacated seat of Commissioner Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh. Cavanaugh was elected PSC president in November 2012.

"It has been an honor to serve on the PSC, for which I thank Governor Bentley for appointing me to the position. Now I go before all of the people of this great state to seek their vote in 2014," Oden said.

"I will continue to fight for a fair and open Public Service Commission, where the people have access, conservative business practices take place, and economic development continues to create and maintain jobs."

The evening's festivities began shortly after 6 p.m., as more than thousand residents from Cullman, Marshall, and Blount County converged on Oden's Farm, located just on the Eva and Vinemont lines, to find the best seats for the free fireworks display.

Watermelon, cold drinks, hot dogs, and chips kept everyone happy and fed, while noise-makers, poppers, and sparklers made sure the children were entertained before the big show. Oden's brother, Jeff, said the tradition began 29 years ago as way for their father, Arrites, to give back to the community.

"Our father was a great Shriner clown, who everyone knew as Bojack the Clown," Jeff Oden said while watching the fireworks display. "He wanted to give back to the community who he loved, the community he supported. Ever since the first year we've always had a great crowd."

One couple who've known Commissioner Oden since his first election for District 11 State Representative, are Richard and Kay Burks of Holly Pond.

Richard said that he, "met him when he was running for office the first time. I believe he is an honest man; always has and always will."

Kay echoed her husband's response and added, "I think he is a very good person, he's honest, and he always has time to listen to you if there's a problem. He's a good religious man and he will help you any way he can."

Oden, who has served as a commissioner for less than a year, said he has learned a lot during his short term. His involvement in upcoming federal regulations and understanding of the energy industry in the state makes his re-election crucial for the people of Alabama. His self-proclaimed vocal approach when dealing with issues concerning Alabama and the nation as a whole shows his commitment to the public.

In December, at Oden's swearing in ceremony, Gov. Bentley said, "I've known Jeremy for many years, and I know him to be a dedicated public servant who wants the best for the people of Alabama. I approached him about serving as a commissioner because of that dedication to public service. He will represent the needs of consumers in a fair and responsible manner. People across the state will benefit from his service on the commission."

The election will follow the state election cycle in 2014, with a primary set for June and general election in November.

Brief Bio

Before serving as PSC Commissioner, Oden represented the people of District 11 in the Alabama House of Representatives. A lifelong Republican, Oden was first elected to the House in 1998.

Prior to public office, Oden worked in the financial industry as a branch manager and vice president for EvaBank in Cullman County.

He is married to Samantha Nelson Oden, and is the father to Anika Oden. Oden was a small business owner, primarily involved in the construction industry. He is an ordained minister at Abundant Grace Church in Cullman, and has a bachelor's degree from Asbury College.





