Series 3, Issue 41 Monday, October 14, 2013

Cullman's Monday Newspaper

CULLMANSENSE

Community Matters

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Local



The Fastest and the Furriest

Yips and yaps were heard all over Depot Park at the 2013 Hundfest Weiner Dog Race where dachshund dogs raced to the finish line to determine who was the fastest and the furriest one of all. p7

It Takes Two: Southern Tandem Rally Comes to Cullman

The Southern Tandem Rally (STR) is a non-profit event that brings together people from all over the U.S. who love to ride tandem bicycles – bikes built for two riders and it's coming to Cullman on Oct. 18-20. p2

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The final day of Oktoberfest hosted quite a crowd for the annual community arts and crafts fair. p6



YouthQuake 2013 Rocks Community to its Core



Annual Christian music festival a success p12



$2 Million Grant Awarded to Aid Alabama First Responders

By: Jennifer Ardis

MONTGOMERY – The State of Alabama has been awarded a grant for $2,044,932 to aid First Responders with implementing a strategic plan to improve voice and data communications through the FirstNet program.

FirstNet provides emergency responders with the first nationwide, high-speed network dedicated to public safety.

FirstNet will increase collaboration to help emergency responders save more lives, solve more crimes and keep our communities safer.

Alabama will use the Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission (AFRWC) to implement the FirstNet.

The AFRWC is responsible for strategic planning to satisfy the wireless communications and data services needs of Alabama's first responders.

The AFRWC serves as the intergovernmental bridge between federal, state, local, tribal and private entities to p12

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama Expands Partnership with Alfa Insurance

By: Mary Johnson

MONTGOMERY – Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama is partnering with Alfa Insurance to provide Alabamians expanded convenience in purchasing health and dental coverage.

With the healthcare industry rapidly changing, the expanded partnership with Alfa is part of Blue Cross' continued commitment to providing dependable, local service and access to quality healthcare to Alabamians. This offers another convenient channel for individuals to purchase Blue Cross' health and dental products on and off the Federally Facilitated Exchange. Open enrollment began Oct. 1, 2013, for Jan. 1, 2014 effective dates. Consumers will be able to purchase individual health and dental policies from their local Alfa agent, online at AlabamaBlue.com, or directly from a Blue Cross sales agent in person or by phone.

"Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama wants to provide both our current and potential customers convenient ways to learn more about the product options available under the healthcare reform law as they choose the plan that best fits their p12

Therapeutic Recreation to host Halloween Party

By: Waid Harbison

CULLMAN – Come get your scare on with us! The Cullman City Parks & Recreation Department's Therapeutic Recreation program will be hosting a Halloween Party on Monday, October 21, 2013 at Stonebridge Farms.

The event will be held at Stonebridge Farms on Monday, October 21, 2013, from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Food and candy will be served as well as numerous activities including a hayride, a haunted chapel maze, dancing, and more! Halloween costumes are also welcomed to be worn.

The Halloween Party will be free to those with special needs as well their families and friends who are encouraged to attend.

For more information on the Halloween Party or the Therapeutic Recreation program at CP&R, please contact Hollie Gutierrez at 256-734-9157 or by e-mail at hgutierrez@cullmanrecreation.org.

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October Small Business of the Month awarded to Chick–fil-A

By: Jackie Moore

CULLMAN – The Chamber's Retail Committee in partnership with Moe's BBQ presented the October Small Business of the Month award to Chick-fil-A. The award is given monthly to a local small business that meets nomination requirements. Eligible candidates are judged on such things as contribution to our community, outstanding customer service, unique ideas (products, marketing, etc.) and inspiring success stories.

Nomination forms can be downloaded at cullmanchamber.org



The Chick-fil-A crew

On Pit Row

By: Natalie Bonner

KCBS BBQ challenge a success

CULLMAN – The third annual Kansas City BBQ Society (KCBS) Cullman Oktoberfest BBQ Challenge was held this past Saturday. Over 55 teams from seven states came out to participate in the competition.

There were two divisions, professional and backyard, with the teams being very pro-heavy this year. For more photos and winners, check cullmansense.com.



It Takes Two: Southern Tandem Rally Comes to Cullman

By:Natalie Bonner

CULLMAN - The Southern Tandem Rally (STR) is a non-profit event that brings together people from all over the U.S. who love to ride tandem bicycles – bikes built for two riders. This event is coming to Cullman on Oct. 18-20. STR is held all over the South, with this being the fourth time in the state of Alabama and the first time to ever be held in Cullman.

The event celebrates its 35th anniversary this year and attracts bicyclists from all over. About 70 couples representing 20 states will journey the nooks and crannies of Cullman over the three-day long period. With each day offering a creative expedition through the streets of Cullman, riders can choose varying routes and mileage to complete.

"Tandem bicycling is definitely a niche activity throughout the U.S." Jack Goertz, co-host of the 35th Annual Southern Tandem Rally said. "On a tandem bicycle, the stronger rider is able to bring someone along with him/her that might not be able to ride as far on a single-seat bicycle."

This is a sport increasing in popularity because it allows two people of differing abilities to ride together, with both partners' joint efforts contributing to the bike ride. So what about a town qualifies it to be accessible or attractive to host STR?

The event tries to find small towns and cities that meet a couple of requirements. First, the area must offer decent hotels with enough event space to host a large banquet for around 200 guests. Secondly, scenic country roads that are accessible from the hotel are ideal pathways.

"We chose Cullman this year because of the Ave Maria Grotto and the general small town atmosphere is perfect," Goertz said. "Cullman's location right off I-65 makes it very easy for our cyclists to drive in as all of the teams coming will be bringing their own tandem bicycles, and it's easier to drive to an event than to pack up a tandem and fly with it."

For more information, including map routes, a history of the Southern Tandem Rally, and pictures from previous rallies, please visit www.southerntandemrally.org.

cpr&
cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Youth Basketball Registration:** Youth Basketball Registration for boys and girls ages 5-15. Cost is $75 which includes a jersey. Games will be played at Ingle Park and the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center beginning in November. Call Heritage Park at 256-739-9931 for details, or call the Civic Center.
- **Archery Classes:** Fall archery classes will be beginning on September 30 for ages 8&up at the Cullman Civic Center. Call 256-734-9157 for details; classes are available for beginners, intermediate, and advanced archers.
- **Zumba Classes:** Held at the Civic Center Mon., Wed., and Thurs. 5:30-6:30pm. $40 for 10 classes or $6 per class with instructor Monica Kugler.
- **Nia Dance & Ageless Grace Fitness Classes:** Includes yoga stretching, anti-aging tips, and more with instructor Ann Caretti. Nia class is held Tuesdays at 10:00am at the civic center, and Ageless Grace is held on Thursdays at 5:30pm.
- **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.
- **Dog Obedience Classes:** Classes are held on Tuesdays starting October 22 at the Civic Center with a puppy class at 6pm and adult class at 7pm. $65 per dog; session lasts through December 17. Instructor Tina Cagle Parker.
- **Advanced Dog Obedience Classes:** Held on Thursdays at the Cullman Civic Center, the class will take place from October 10-November 21 from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Must call instructor, Tina Cagle Parker, to attend class and have completed regular course. Call the Civic Center for info.
- **Ballroom Dance Classes:** Want to learn to Ballroom Dance? We've got you covered! Classes will be held 4 Thursday nights from Oct. 3-24 at the Civic Center. Cost is $10 per person for class. Call now to reserve your spot at 256-734-9157!
- **Gun Safety Class:** Learn gun safety and protocol with this class on Saturday Oct. 26 from 8am-12pm. 200 rounds of ammo are required, as well as gun with permit. Cost is $25 and the class will be put on by the Cullman City Police Dept. Call ahead for details at 256-734-9157.
- **Yoga Class Tues. @ 6pm at the Civic Center!**

CRMC Educates and Provides Support for Expectant Moms

By: Lindsey Dossey • CRMC Contributor

Becoming a mother, whether it is for the first, second, or third time is a special experience. Cullman Regional Medical Center enhances this wonderful occasion by offering programs that are helpful to all moms before, during and after pregnancy.

Here are some of the upcoming classes available at CRMC:

- Prepared Childbirth Class: Saturday, November 9 – The goal of this class is to provide expectant mothers with information about the CRMC Maternity Center and information on what to expect during your stay which includes a tour of the Maternity Center. Mom's support person is encouraged to attend. The class is held from 8 a.m. until noon in CRMC's Depot Room, in the Community Education Center in Professional Office Building 2 (POB 2). The cost is $25 per couple; $20 per couple for Women First Members, and FREE to Medicaid patients.
- Prenatal Breastfeeding Class: Saturday, November 9 – The goal of this class is to provide mothers with practical solutions to the most common breastfeeding concerns. We will discuss breastfeeding during the first few weeks, breastfeeding products available, and preparing to return to work. The class is held from 1-3 p.m. in CRMC's Depot Room, in the Community Education Center in Professional Office Building 2 (POB 2) and follows the Prepared Childbirth Class. You are not required to attend the Childbirth Class in order to attend the Breastfeeding Class. Cost to attend the class is $10 – mom's support person is encouraged to attend.

Register online today at www.crmchospital.com/maternity or call the CRMC Maternity Services Center at 256-737-2200. For a complete list of community classes and seminars at CRMC, search the Online Calendar of Events at www.crmchospital.com.

Bosom Buddies Support Group Meeting Announced

By: Lindsey Dossey • CRMC Contributor

Bosom Buddies Support Group offers support to individuals affected by Breast Cancer. The group will hold its next meeting on Monday, October 21 at 6 p.m. in Cullman Regional Medical Center's Ave Maria Room in the Community Education Center located in Professional Office Building 2 (1912 AL Highway 157, POB 2, Cullman, AL 35058).

For more information contact group coordinator Mary Dyer at 256-734-8729. For a complete list of upcoming support groups and events at Cullman Regional Medical Center visit the online Calendar of Events at www.crmchospital.com.

What's Online

Ms. Oktoberfest 2013 Payton Palmer

Young women representing schools from across Cullman County met on Sunday to dig in to chocolate cupcakes to claim their spot as Ms. Oktoberfest 2013.

qrne.ws/107



Painting for a Purpose

Southern Accents sponsored a community art project called Painting for a Purpose this past Saturday, Oct. 5, on the opening day of Oktoberfest. The event lasted from 9 a.m. until1 p.m. and was located at Southern Accents.

qrne.ws/108

Proclaiming October Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Recently, Cullman County Commission Chairman Kenneth Walker recognized Victim Services of Cullman, Inc. for the groups work with abused women and children. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

qrne.ws/109

States Worry Over WIC Program Growth

By: Jake Grovum • Stateline

By early next week, millions of women could learn whether benefits to help feed them and their young children will end on Nov. 1.

As the government shutdown continues, states face the possibility that they'll run out of funds for the federal nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children, commonly known as WIC. Federal guidelines typically require states to give 15 days' notice to those enrolled in the program before benefits expire, and Nov. 1 could be the day funding dries up nationwide.

"This has created tremendous panic amongst WIC participants," said the Rev. Douglas A. G. Greenaway, president and CEO of the National WIC Association, an advocacy group. "It's a whacked situation; you can quote me on that."

Federal funds were set to go to states for WIC benefits in the new fiscal year which started Oct. 1. But they were not distributed because of the budget stalemate in Washington. In the last fiscal year, Washington paid states and the District of Columbia nearly $6.5 billion in WIC grants, on average about $127 million per state.

A program fully funded by the federal government, WIC gets food and nutrition assistance to low-income pregnant and post-partum women, along with infants and children as old as 5 years of age. There's a set list of the foods that can be bought through WIC, typically through benefit checks to participants.

Because of the government shutdown, those benefits are in jeopardy nationwide.

More than 8.5 million women and children were enrolled in the program as of June 2013, the most recent available federal data. More than 1.4 million of those receiving benefits lived in California and nearly 1 million were in Texas. Ten states had a quarter-million or more residents receiving WIC benefits in June.

To qualify, women or children must fall under 185 percent of the federal poverty level, generally $43,568 for a family of four.

Without new funding because of the shutdown, states have relied on dollars left over from last fiscal year and $125 million in contingency funds from the U.S. Food and Nutrition Service to continue benefits in the past two weeks.

That was a temporary fix, however, and now many states may be forced to end benefits with no federal funding on the horizon.

North Carolina, which has the eighth largest WIC population in the country, is one example. The state sent notices to nearly 264,000 women, infants, and children that benefits would be suspended because of a lack of funds. The state reversed course and said it had enough money to pay WIC through October--but not for November.

Other states have considered not accepting new applications, citing the uncertainty, even as benefits continue for those already enrolled, paid through the leftover funds and federal contingency dollars. Some states announced office closings and other measures in the days after the shutdown began, only to reverse those moves after emergency supplemental funding became available from U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Even where officials haven't sounded the alarm as loudly, concern is palpable – for state officials and beneficiaries. Officials in Kansas on Wednesday announced they'd withhold benefit checks for November and December, citing the uncertainty over future funding. In Utah, state officials closed offices and cancelled appointments for clients before the emergency funds became available. Louisiana temporarily stopped accepting new applications, but has since said newly eligible residents will be able to apply through October.

Greenaway said state WIC administrators nationwide would join in a conference call to discuss the issue.

"For the most part, programs are saying we are open for business until further notice," Greenaway said.

Adding to the uncertainty is a recent move in the U.S. House to approve funding specifically for WIC, citing the shutdown's effect on those who rely on it.

Many Republicans backed it, but Democrats – typically defenders of safety net programs like WIC – have balked at any piecemeal approach to the budget showdown.

WIC funding was earlier dented with the automatic federal budget cuts known as sequestration. Advocates estimated those reductions would end benefits for 600,000.

Unlike food stamps, a program that ballooned during the recession, WIC participation did not spike during those years. It had actually declined about 400,000 through the first half of fiscal year 2013, according to federal data. Enrollment in WIC has decreased as the U.S. birth rate has dropped, and standard assistance under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps, became more available.

But food stamp benefits will be reduced on Nov. 1 as well, when additional money from the stimulus bill lapses. That could force more Americans to look for help from WIC, Greenaway said.

"It's a train wreck waiting to happen," he said.

Stateline is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news service of the Pew Charitable Trusts that provides daily reporting and analysis on trends in state policy.



Birmingham residents file lawsuit against UPS, Birmingham Airport Authority

By: Sherea Harris

BIRMINGHAM, AL (WBRC) - A lawsuit has been filed in connection to the crash of UPS Flight 1354 in Birmingham.

The Aug. 14, 2013 crash killed both pilots. UPS and the Birmingham Airport Authority are named as defendants.

The plaintiffs are four residents whose homes are located close to the Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport.

The plaintiffs are suing "for damages related to unsafe flight patterns over their house" which they say ultimately ended in the UPS Flight 1354 crash.

The suit goes on to say that the authority's expansion "made this incident unavoidable."

They feel the runway where Flight 1354 was landing is too close to their homes and unsafe for big cargo planes.

Two of the plaintiffs, Cornelius and Barbara Benson, have lived in their home near the airport for 25 years.

They say in the suit that despite nearly all of their neighbors being bought out to make way for the airport expansion, the Airport Authority "has refused" to buy their home. The lawsuit says the Airport Authority has claimed "no planes were routed over" the properties in question. The plaintiffs dispute this, saying they have witnessed and heard planes flying over their homes.

Mrs. Benson has even told FOX6, and mentions in the lawsuit, that the planes fly so low over her house that she can wave to the pilots.

The suit claims that the Bensons and another plaintiff Pamela Yarber, have damage to their homes as a result of the crash. Several trees were also damaged on each property.

A spokesperson for the airport released this statement:

"The Birmingham Airport Authority has been served the lawsuit. Airport Authority does not make comments on pending litigation."

FOX6 is gathering reaction to and more information about this lawsuit. Sherea Harris was unable to reach the plaintiffs' attorney, Andrew Campbell. She did speak with Birmingham attorney Roger Appell to hear his thoughts on the lawsuit.

He says the defense will have to prove the Airport Authority ignored an alleged safety hazard the planes were causing to residents who live near that runway.

You can follow Sherea Harris on Twitter @ ShereaHarris.

Visit MyFoxAl.com for more on this story, including a PDF version of the lawsuit.
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Gadsden Police seek information in 1998 cold case

By: Dixon Hayes

GADSDEN, AL (WBRC) – Gadsden Police are taking a closer look at a cold case from 1998.

They hope someone might be able to tell them the name of a young man whose body was found by a fisherman.

The man's body was found in the Coosa River near the Dub Parker Boat Docks May 28, 1998. Police say the many had been dead for several months to a year before he was found.

Forensic experts determined he was between 17 and 21 years old, and stood between 5' 6" and 5' 9" tall.

Friday, Gadsden Police released an artist's rendering of what the victim may have looked like. Police add that no clothes or jewelry were found with the body and four of the victim's teeth had been fractured prior to his death.

If you have any information in this case, please contact police at 256-549-4500.

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Home Repossessions Are Up in Half the States

By: Pamela M. Prah • Stateline

Florida still leads the country in overall foreclosure activity, but Maryland and Oregon experienced dramatic increases in foreclosure starts in recent months.

The number of U.S. homes entering the foreclosure process hit a seven-year low between July and September, but bank repossessions were up 7 percent from the previous quarter, with Kentucky seeing the biggest jump, up nearly 70 percent, new data show.

Even with its sharp increase in repossessions, Kentucky's overall foreclosure rate—which includes default notices, scheduled auctions, and bank repossessions—ranked 36th among the states in the third quarter, according to new data released on Oct. 10 from RealtyTrac, which follows real estate trends. Daren Blomquist, vice president at RealtyTrac, figures that now that Kentucky's housing market is recovering, lenders are finally clearing out some of the properties that started the foreclosure process a year or two ago. "Some of those are finally being foreclosed and repossessed by the banks," he said. Nationwide, more than 119,000 properties were repossessed by lenders in the third quarter, putting the nation on pace for close to half a million total bank repossessions for the year, RealtyTrac said. Nationwide, bank repossessions in the third quarter decreased 24 percent from a year ago. But 26 states experienced an increase in bank repossessions in the third quarter. Nationwide, the number of U.S. homes entering the foreclosure process during the July to September quarter totaled more than 174,000, a 13 percent decline from the previous quarter and a 39 percent decrease from a year ago, the lowest level since the second quarter of 2006, RealtyTrac said.

Stateline is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news service of the Pew Charitable Trusts that provides daily reporting and analysis on trends in state policy.

High School Football Week 7 Roundup

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

Week seven is in the books and the playoff picture is starting to take shape. Some teams are fighting to stay alive while others are looking to secure home field advantage. So without further ado, here we go!

Cullman 50 vs. Lawrence County 21
By: Josh McBrayer

MOULTON – Cullman hit the road Friday night and did what they do best, win, trouncing the East Lawrence Red Devils 50-21 on homecoming night for the Red Devils.

Cullman wasted no time setting the tone for the game, scoring three touchdowns in the first quarter. The Bearcats started from their own 38 and marched straight down the field for the first score.

Tyler Glenn was on early hitting Mason Jones for five, Seth Donaldson for 16, and Maison Goodwin twice for five and nine. Glenn's arm set up the two yard plunge by Garrett Crider, giving Cullman a 7-0 lead.

After Cullman's brick wall defense forced a three and out, the Bearcats went right back to work. They had a good drive going but mental mistakes forced the Cats backwards. This didn't seem to bother Glenn as he again carved up the Lawrence County secondary.

He hit passes of 14, 20, and 17 to set up the Cats at the Red Devil 23. From here Glenn found Auston Neal for a 23 yard touchdown giving Cullman a 13-0 advantage.

Cullman's defense again stood tall forcing a turnover on downs giving the Cats offense another opportunity for points which they capitalized on. It took Cullman just five plays to go 45 yards, with Crider taking it in from seven yards out for his second score to give Cullman a 20-0 to end the first quarter.

Following a hold and a bad snap, the Lawrence County squad found themselves facing a 3rd and 29 from their own 10 to start the second quarter.

Quarterback Dallas Keenum started the second quarter by turning and handing the ball off. Cullman blew up the play as Justin Patterson got through and took down the running back for a safety.

The two teams flip flopped possessions for the next seven minutes through turnovers but it was a big fumble recovery by Cullman's Sam Calligaris who scooped the ball up and raced 55 yards down the sideline for the score and just like that it was 29-0 Cullman.

The Bearcats would score once more before the half on a 24 yard strike from Glenn to Jones.

Although the Red Devils were down by 36, they still kept fighting and was able to dent the scoreboard when Keenum hit Luke Hyde for the 37 yard TD just before the half.

Enjoying a comfortable lead afforded Cullman head coach Mark Britton the luxury of playing his back up QB and the future of the Bearcats, Freshman Ross Crocker who finished seven of nine for 111 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

West Point 7 vs. Hartselle 35
By: Phillip Hillman

HARTSELLE – The West Point Warriors were riding high off their last week win in the final minute when they rolled into Hartselle to take on the Tigers on a region match up Friday night.

The Warriors kept it close early on, holding Hartselle to with a 7-0 score at the end of the first quarter. However Hartselle came roaring back, scoring twice in the second to open up a 21-0 lead at halftime.

Hartselle scored again early in the third bumping the score up to 28-0 but the Warriors would not go quietly as Bryant Farley connected twice with Tristan Dubberly to take the ball to the Tiger 3 yard line where Farley decided to take it in himself for a 3 yard TD to put the Warriors on the board 28-7. Unfortunately, these were the only points West Point would score while Hartselle would add a punt return TD making the final score 35-7.

Cold Springs 6 vs. Lamar County 28
By: Zeke McBrayer

COLD SPRINGS - Cold Springs started the game with the ball on their own 30-yard line. Using the running-back committee of Logan Campbell, Nicholas Rollo, and Caleb Ellison the Eagles were able to eat up the clock and drive the ball down to the 17-yard line. A false start on the Eagles set up 3rd and long.

The Eagles opted to try a pass, but it was intercepted by the Bulldog's Eric Smith. Lamar County also used multiple backs, and marched into the end zone behind Dallas Cockerham and Ryan Barham. Barham ended up punching it in from 31-yards out, putting the Bulldogs up 7-0 with 1:13 left in the 1st quarter.

The second quarter was nearly identical to the first. Cold Springs took the ball and marched it down to Lamar County's side of the field. The Bulldog defense once again held strong, stopping the Eagles on a 4th and 1. The Bulldogs again capitalized and scored on a 9 yard run by Barham. Cold Springs would be unsuccessful on their last possession of the first half.

The second half opened with a bang for Lamar County. Bryce Myers took the opening kickoff 75 yards for a touchdown to put the Bulldogs up 21-0 just 11 seconds into the second half. Both defenses bucked up and kept each other out of the end zone for the remainder of the 3rd quarter.

Cold Springs finally got on the board at the beginning of the 4th quarter on a 1-yard run by Caleb Ellison. Lamar County would get the ball back and drive down to the Eagles 34-yard line and were looking to score again.

However, the Cold Springs defense would force a fumble and recover it to breathe air back into the team. The offense would stall however and would give Lamar County the ball back on downs. Lamar capitalized once again on a prime opportunity and would reach the end zone on a 20 yard run by Dallas Cockerham.

Both teams were riddled by penalties all night. The most common was unsportsmanlike conduct as both sides were mouthing off the whole game.

Vinemont 13 vs. Good Hope 21
By: Jim Stenson

VINEMONT - After going scoreless in the first, Vinemont struck for the first points of the game on a 15yd pass from Kurtis Brawner to Garrett Sipe, putting Vinemont on top.

The Raiders would answer with a 1yd plunge by Jared McClure, then with just over 1 minute left in the half Good Hope's Sebastian Fendley would find Justin Turner for a 45 yard gain, setting the Raiders up with first and goal from the one yard line, where McClure would push his way into the endzone, putting Good Hope up at the half 14-7.

Turnovers were the story in the second half. Good Hope's Justin Turner intercepted two passes while Luke Calvert, Austin Yates, and Dakota Burney each recovered fumbles for Good Hope.

The 2nd half remained scoreless until 2:32 left in the game. It was then that Vinemont's John Michael Dye took it 60 yards to the house for the score, The Eagles would try and take the lead on a 2 point conversion, but the Raider defense stood tall and knocked a Garrett Boland pass down leaving Good Hope with the 1 point lead. After a failed onside kick Good Hope took over at midfield, gaining a first down to the Eagle 32 yard line. Sebastian Fendley calls his own number and takes it the distance for the touchdown the pat was good and the Raiders had an 8 point cushion. Vinemont failed to convert on 4th & 10 on their next possession. The turnover on downs allowed the Raiders to run the clock out and preserve the 21-13 win.

Hanceville 41 vs. Winston County 35
By: Matt Glover

FAIRVIEW - Friday night at Ray Tally Stadium was like a roller coaster ride. The Bulldogs hosted regional foe Winston County in a game that saw a little bit of everything.

The Bulldogs pulled out to an early 22-0 lead less than a minute into the second quarter, thanks to three scores by Brontae Harris. On the following Winston County possession, the offense would perfectly execute a half-back pass, gaining 67 yards and a score.

That made the score 22-7. The team then swapped the ball back and fourth with little happening for either team. Hanceville was finally slowed down on offense, after dominating the first quarter.

After the half, Winston County needed less than two minutes to again put points on the board, this time on a 53 yard touchdown pass. Giving us a score of 22-14 Bulldogs.

Hanceville would turn the ball over only two plays into their first possession of the second half, giving Winston County the ball on the Bulldog 39. On the first play Winston County took full advantage with a 39 yard TD run, on a toss sweep around the right side. This brought the score to 22-21 Hanceville.

The Bulldogs' offensive woes continued as they went three and out punting it back to Winston County. This time taking over on their own 22, Winston County needed just three plays and a short penalty to score the go ahead touchdown on a one yard run.

Winston County lead 28-22. Another three and out for the Bulldogs gave Winston County the ball again, with a chance to keep the 28-0 scoring run going. On the first play Winston County used the same toss sweep, this time around the left side for a huge 42 yard run to the Bulldog 22.

Two plays later, Hanceville defensive back Jose Orozco a Winston County pass, giving the Bulldogs new life, and the ball on their own 26 yard line.

On a drive that stretched through the end of the third period, the Bulldogs went 74 yards on 9 plays, capped off with a 5 yard TD run. That left us with a tied score at 28 in the early fourth. Winston County would then go three and out, giving the Bulldogs the ball near midfield.

Four plays later Harris notched his fourth touchdown of the game a 9 yard stroll to the end-zone. That would give Hanceville the lead once more 34-28. Winston County would start the next drive on their own 40.

After a failed half-back pass, a holding penalty and a sack, it would be third and 37 from their own 13. Things got worse from there, as the QB was picked off by Dante Reese on the 43 yard line. Brontae Harris would take the ball 43 yards for the score, on the first Bulldog snap.

This put Hanceville up 41-28 with four minutes to go. Winston County was not finished, they would take the ball 49 yards on 6 plays, scoring on a 4th down pass from the 8 yard line. This tightened the score to 41-35 Hanceville with 2:42 remaining in the contest.

Next Winston County would need an onside kick recovery to have a chance. They lined up nine men to the left of the kicker. The ball bounced and went into a pack of players. The WC fans erupted, and after a brief conference, the officials agreed.

That would give WC the ball on the Bulldog 47, trailing by just 6. On first down connected on a 47 yard TD to tie the game with 2:30 to go. However they were called for a hold on the play, backing it up into WC with a 1st and 20. Winston County would fail to achieve the twenty yards required, and turn the ball over on downs. Hanceville would kneel on the ball to secure the 41-35 region win.

Holly Pond 20 vs. Geraldine 47
By: Howard Cole

HOLLY POND - Friday was a rough night for Holly Pond. The Broncos, as hard as they tried, could not get much going against the visiting Geraldine Bulldogs who sent Holly Pond to their seventh straight loss in the 2013 season.

The Bulldogs got on the board early to pressure Holly Pond all night. They scored three touchdowns in the first quarter on a pair of rushing TD's and one through the air.

Holly Pond fought hard in the second half and scored twice more but it was not enough to stymie the onslaught of the Bulldogs who won the game 47-20.

Geraldine would score two more touchdowns in the second quarter before Holly Pond got on the board with a TD catch by Corbin to make the score 34-6 at the half.

OTHER SCORES

Fairview 19 vs. Oneonta 63



A different kind of string music

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

NASHVILLE - Known as the "Music City", Nashville is known for its country roots and deep twangy sounds of guitar strings. Well, for this weekend at least, Nashville is home to a different kind of strings that are being played, that being the strings of twine that comprise a basketball net.

This weekend Nashville is playing host to the National Future Camp that comprises some of the best high school talent in the surrounding area. The invite only camp extended three invitations to Cullman area players, two of which accepted. One of the players that accepted was Elijah Garrison of Fairview who was kind enough to give CullmanSense an interview after his game Saturday.

Josh McBrayer: Tell me a little bit about where you are playing.
Elijah Garrison: I'm playing at the National Future 150 camp in Nashville against some really good competition. The top players from the Southeast are in attendance.

JM: How did you learn of the camp?
EJ: This is an invite camp only, Lawson (Schaffer) from Cullman is also here and Triston (Chambers) from Cold Springs got invited but didn't come. We all went to the Future 150 camp in Birmingham and played well enough down there to get invited to this one.

JM: Will there be any college scouts at the games?
EJ: There may be some college scouts here but more than likely not any big school. The reason for that is Future 150 is a recruiting business that is very trusted among the colleges coaches around the country in all the levels.

JM: What colleges are you looking at attending?
EJ: I haven't thought about where I want to go to seriously yet. I just to want to play ball somewhere. Wherever that is I'll be happy.

JM: Have you made any visits to a college campus as of yet?
EJ: I have a scheduled visit to Shorter (Rome, Georgia), one to UAH, and I also have a couple coaches saying they want to watch me play this year.

EJ finished the interview by saying, "I'm enjoying this experience. It's amazing! I'm very blessed and coming to these keep me humble and make me want to keep working because I'll never be satisfied. I'm looking forward to this year with a new coach and a new team. We're ready for the challenges ahead and plan on becoming closer and better as a team every day by working extremely hard at all times."

Brad Keselowski Keeps His Cool at Talladega Superspeedway

By:Price Mason

TALLADEGA – 2012 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Champion Brad Keselowski knows a thing about being big and bad.

On the high banks of the biggest and baddest racetrack in the world Brad has scored two victories (including his first triumph) and five top-10 finishes in only nine starts.

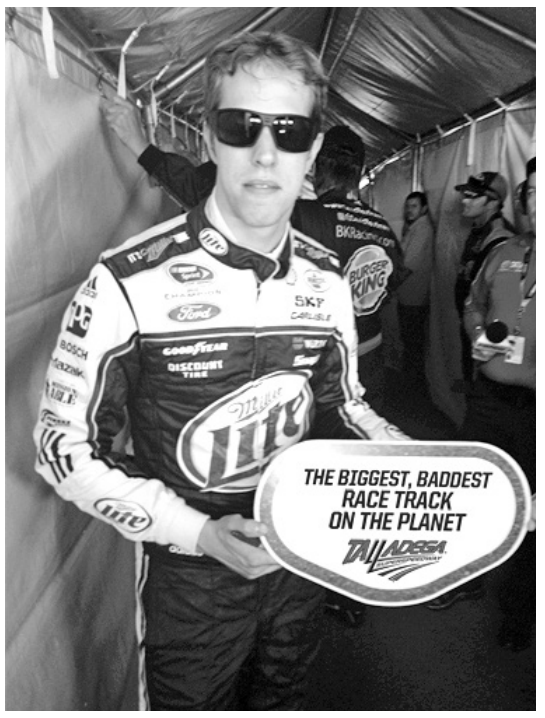
It takes some serious guts and a cool attitude to post results consistent at the track that's considered the "Wild Card" of the NASCAR Sprint Cup Chase for the Championship.

When Brad struts into NASCAR's Most Competitive Track next weekend for the Camping World RV Sales 500 weekend, fans will be keeping an eye out for him as he attempts to ruin the Chase drivers' chances of taking home the Talladega trophy for the Camping World RV Sales 500 on Oct. 20.

The most competitive racing in NASCAR combined with a mix of southern hospitality returns to Talladega Superspeedway October 18-20, 2013 for the Camping World RV Sales 500 Weekend.

For tickets and information visit www.talladegasuperspeedway.com or call 1-877-Go2-DEGA.

Be a part of 'Dega Nation by checking out www.facebook.com/TalladegaSuperspeedway or on Twitter @TalladegaSuperS. This is more than a race...This is Talladega!





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Community Arts & Crafts Fair Attracts Quite the Crowd

By: Natalie Bonner

CULLMAN - This past Saturday was the final day of Oktoberfest and as its festivities commenced, quite a crowd gathered at the annual community arts and crafts fair. Vendors from all over came out to participate and sell their homemade goods, foods, and crafts. Kinder Art Park booths were also sprinkled throughout Depot Park.

Volunteer Julie Burks said, "Kinder Art Park is where businesses and other volunteers can set up booths and provide crafts and activities free to elementary age children. They are able to promote their business during this activity and community children are able to learn about arts and crafts."

This year the arts and crafts festival was the largest to date. With over 110 spaces and vendors traveling from as far away as Tennessee, Kentucky, and Mississippi, the turnout was certainly a success.

Burks stated, "To have this quality of craft here, our vendors are unbelievably talented, and we are pleased and proud to have them."

Melding education and business with arts and crafts may seem hard, but vendors this year pulled out all the stops.

Deborah Widner, office manager and district coordinator for Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation brought along an actual miniature cotton gin to get their point across.

"We are big advocates of conservation education and getting agriculture back into the classroom so I wrote a grant and I got the mini cotton gin, and that's what we are out here demonstrating today," Widner stated.

Along with physical representatives, other interactive methods of teaching were applied. Crystal Kitchens from Cullman Fiber Guild demonstrated a hands-on approach to constructing a friendship bracelet. The Cullman Fiber Guild hosts workshops of all kinds from natural dying methods to how to craft a kudzu basket.

Kitchens said, "We appreciate being able to come out and talk to people about what we've been doing all these years."

Of course, there were the usual goods on hand if you just wanted to shop in advance and secure some great Christmas presents. Everything from homemade candles and scarves to wooden works and jewelry were available for purchase.

Janet Wright from Artsee Accents said some of her bestsellers were the burlap totes and burlap covered boards with crosses on them that she handcrafts.

The Victorian Trading Company owners, Scott and Kim Johnson, said their big sellers were their soy candles, old-fashioned, hot processed soaps, and handcrafted jewelry.

Mag Art, owned and operated by Joyce Hyde, was an especially popular booth as it offered aan assortment of eco-friendly functional art and gifts that were made out of recycled goods.

"I make paper pottery from magazines, Avon books, and telephone directories. It's been a fun day and nice weather. I've enjoyed myself and had a lot of customers," Hyde said.

The varying vendors all agreed it was a beautiful day no matter what you were shopping for.







Photos by Jessica Norrell

Help Protect Wildlife in Your Own Backyard

(StatePoint) There's nothing like spending time outdoors in the woods. With some simple steps, you can make your woodlands a paradise for flora and fauna by creating a space for wildlife to thrive.

"As most of America's forests are owned privately, landowners play a key role in our wildlife's future." says Mike Burns, forester, and program resource manager with the American Forest Foundation. "Attracting wildlife is entirely within the power of woodland-owners, all they need to do is provide the right food and shelter for their desired species".

One of the most important ingredients for thriving forest wildlife is dead wood. In fact, up to 20 percent of a forest's wildlife may depend upon it for survival, according to wildlife conservationists.

The American Forest Foundation is offering tips on wildlife-friendly forest management on your property:

Snags

Flooding, winds, ice storms, lightning, fire, and drought can cause mortality in trees, as will insects, disease, and other factors. Before carting off dead or dying trees for firewood or disposal, consider leaving a few of these tress, called snags, standing.

"A snag, acts as a 'condo' for insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, as well as a time-release compost stick, slowly releasing nutrients into the soil." says Burns. "Without snags, a forest just isn't the same for wildlife who use the cavities to nest, attract mates, and find food."

Logs

When you leave downed trees or logs on your property, you are starting a life cycle fueled by the decomposing wood.

Plants, fungi, and animals rely upon logs as food sources and places to live. Decomposing logs enrich the soil and provide places for tree saplings and other plants to take root, as well as shelter and denning sites for animals.

Decomposers found on or in logs provide food for amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

Brushpiles

Brushpiles provide a microhabitat for the more stealthy creatures hiding from predators. If you want to boost biodiversity on your land while recycling extra trimmings, branches, and logs, try "installing" a few brushpiles for wildlife.

You can build a teepee-shaped brushpile by placing several five- to six-foot-long logs or large branches in a square.

Leave some gaps between the foundation pieces so rabbits or other small creatures can scamper in and out. Next, lean several large branches, leaves pointed downward, so the cut, open ends meet at the top.

Then incorporate smaller branches to fill many gaps, but not all. Leave some openings so birds and small animals can enter and exit. A good brushpile is usually about four feet high or taller and ten to 15 feet wide.

For more tips on creating a healthy habitat for wildlife on your land, visit www.MyLandPlan.org which also offers information for mitigating the increased risk of forest fires that dead wood can introduce. There are few things more exciting than seeing animals in the wild.

By being considerate of the critters and birds inhabiting your land, you can help protect the resources they need to thrive.

Tasks for Your Fall Home Maintenance Checklist



(StatePoint) Keeping your home in shape may not top your daily to-do list, but completing certain small seasonal tasks can save you money, time and the need to complete larger, more expensive projects in the future.

"Investing a small amount for preventative fall home maintenance can save thousands in the long run," Leah Ingram, personal finance expert, says.

Don't know where to start? The following checklist from HomeAdvisor can help homeowners prepare their homes for the cooler months:

- Clean gutters: During the year, debris such as leaves and twigs can pile in your gutter. Cleaning them once a year prevents problems such as water damage, roof damage, and flooding.
- Service your furnace: A well-maintained furnace can help save on heating costs and prevent the need for repairs. Before temperatures drop, schedule your furnace to be serviced.
- Install weather stripping: As fuel and electricity costs continue to rise, keeping your home warm without wasting money and energy is important. Weather stripping your doors and windows can make a big impact.
- Winterize sprinklers: Removing all the water that's in the lines, pipes, fittings, valves, sprinklers, and pumps will prevent your equipment from freezing, expanding and potentially breaking. Hire a professional to attach an air compressor to the system to blow out the water from the lines, pipes, and other parts. The service is inexpensive and a professional will know the proper amount of volume and pressure to use to ensure no water is left in the system.
- Clean your chimney: Chimney maintenance is not optional. Deadly fires, carbon monoxide poisoning and expensive chimney repairs are serious consequences associated with neglected chimney maintenance. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends all fireplaces, chimneys, flues, and venting systems be inspected at least once a year by a pro.
- Flush your water heater: Generally speaking, water heaters are fairly reliable, so they usually aren't top of mind. But flushing your water heater periodically can prevent leaks and promote efficiency.

"Hiring a professional for fall maintenance tasks like these is a great idea," Ingram says. "Use a resource such as Cost Guide to research the average price of a project in your zip code before hiring a pro."

To use Cost Guide and find a professional, visit www.HomeAdvisor.com.

The Fastest and the Furriest

By: Natalie Bonner

CULLMAN - A flurry of fur dashed across the lawn, as the emcee announced, “Ain’t that a lot like Nascar?”

Welcome to the 2013 Hundfest Weiner Dog Race Competition. Yips and yaps were heard all over Depot Park at this doggy event where dachshund dogs raced to the finish line to determine who was the fastest and the furriest one of all.

The short, hot-dog resembling canines darted to and fro as tons of contenders crowded the sidelines to watch and cheer on their beloved pets.

The crowd’s applause determined who would be this year’s Doggy Burgermeister.

Spectator Jessica Abbott said she enjoyed watching the race as she cuddled her mini wiener dog Sasha who did not compete in this year’s race as she is still a tiny puppy.

“I love it every time. I’ve been to a couple of these and they’re always fun. Sasha is young. We haven’t really trained her. She’s spoiled,” Abbott said with a smile.

Just who was crowned the “wiener” of the competition? A longhaired dachshund named Toby received all the glory as his family - Nathan and Gina Drake and children Jackson and Harrison - cheered him to victory.

“We are very excited and proud. We knew he was fast,” said the family. “Toby’s younger sister, Ellie, was too small to compete, but she’ll be ready to next year.”

Perhaps speed runs in the blood. We’ll have to wait and see.



Photos by Jessica Norrell







Game Day Party Tips for Football Fans

(StatePoint) Entertaining this football season? To make your gatherings memorable, you’ll need to do more than just turn on the game and hope for the best. With the right party plays, you can treat your guests to a spirited game day and a memorable football feast.

Try incorporating these game changing ideas into your regular party playbook:

Team Spirit

Get your friends geared up for game time from the moment they arrive. Hang a team banner in your entryway and adorn your yard with your team’s colors.

Pump up your crowd by playing your favorite game-time tunes.

Even if all your guests are rooting for the same team, spice it up with some friendly competition, like wagering on who hosts the crowd for the next game.

Have face paint on hand and encourage your guests to arrive early so the party is well underway at kick-off.

Scoring Big with Dips

Food is usually the main attraction at most festivities, and football-themed “home-gating” parties are no exception. Give your spread a thematic look by making a mini football field out of your table. Use AstroTurf as your tablecloth. Then space white tape stripes at intervals for the yard lines.



Rotel and Velveeta Queso Dip

But you can really score big with the food. Dips are the MVP of home parties, according to a recent survey conducted by ConAgra Foods. More than half of the respondents said their guests reach for dips first. And Rotel and Velveeta Famous Queso Dip remains king at parties, beating out guacamole, salsa, spinach artichoke, and buffalo chicken dip.

So please your crowd and make game day delicious with a quick, easy, and zesty dip. If you’re one of the many that have never heard of or made queso dip, try this simple crowd-pleasing recipe, made with only two ingredients, Rotel and Velveeta:

Ingredients

• 1 can (10 oz.) RO*TEL Original Diced Tomatoes & Green Chilies, undrained

• 1 lb. (16 oz.) VELVEETA, cut into 1/2-inch cubes

Directions

• Combine undrained tomatoes and cheese in microwaveable bowl.

• Microwave on high for 5 minutes or until VELVEETA is melted completely and mixture is blended, stirring after 3 minutes.

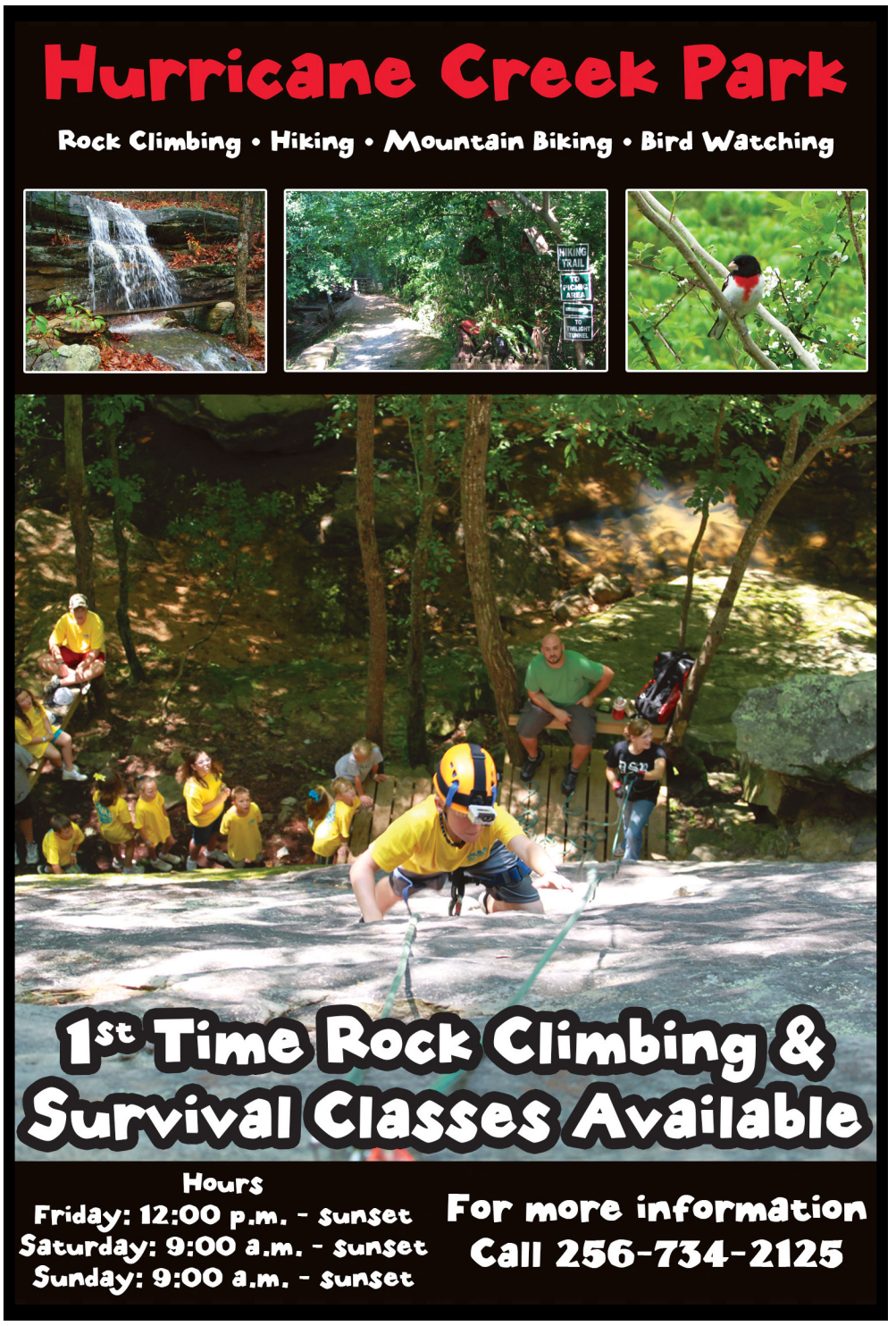
• Serve warm as a dip with tortilla chips, crackers or cut-up fresh vegetables.

Ultimate Queso Bash

No matter where the football festivities take place, queso dip is a fan favorite.

The Velveeta & Rotel Quesobago, an RV loaded with queso dip, is making a cross-country tour to college football’s hottest rivalries to introduce queso to a new crowd.

While it only takes two ingredients to create crowd-pleasing Famous Queso Dip, you can make it your own with a pinch of personality.



– 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.

Benefit Dinner – Dyron's Lowcountry,
Mountain Brook, AL - Dyron's Lowcountry will host a dinner benefitting St. Bernard Preparatory School beginning at 6:30 p.m. Cost per person is $75. Reservations may be made by contacting the school at 256-739-6682.

Domestic Violence Survivor Support Group
Victim Services of Cullman sponsors a Domestic Violence Survivor Support Group meeting every Monday evening from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the old County Board of Education Building with childcare available. For additional information please call 256-775-2600. CRISIS HOTLINE - 256-734-6100.

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.

Commission on Aging Flu Shot Schedule for Senior Centers
8 a.m. until 9 a.m. -- Hanceville Senior Center - Hospital Discount Pharmacy giving shots
9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. -- Dodge City Town Hall (in Basement) - Lakeside Pharmacy giving shots
9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. -- Hilltop Senior Center -- shots given by Hospital Discount Pharmacy
11 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. -- New Canaan Senior Center -- shots given by Hospital Discount Pharmacy
12 noon until 1 p.m. -- Holly Pond Senior Center - shots given by Hospital Discount Pharmacy
1:15 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. -- Fairview Town Hall -- Shots given by Hopper's Pharmacy

Beginner Line Dance Lessons
Beginner Line Dance Lessons for 6 weeks each Tuesday night starting October 15 at 6:30 p.m. These lessons will take place in the basement of the Col. Cullmann Museum. $5.00 per lesson per person, with Patricia Quick as instructor. Open for all.

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.

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.

Commission on Aging Flu Shot Schedule
10:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. -- Good Hope Town Hall (basement) - shots give by Lakeside Pharmacy
10:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. -- Jones Chapel Fire Department - given by Hospital Discount Pharmacy
11:30 a.m. until 12 noon -- Center Hill Senior Center - given by Hospital Discount Pharmacy

Latter Day Saints Genealogy Library
The Genealogy Library at the Latter Day Saints (L.D.S.) Church is open to the public each Wednesday night from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Don Jones is available to open the Library at other times, if needed, so please contact him at 256-784-5098.

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.

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.

Commission on Aging Flu Shot Schedule for area Senior Centers
9:30 a.m. until 10:15 a.m. -- Brushy Pond Senior Center - shots given by Hospital Discount Pharmacy
10:45 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. -- Crane Hill Senior Center - shots given by Hospital Discount Pharmacy
11:45 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. -- West Point Senior Center - shots given by Hospital Discount Pharmacy
1 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. -- Baileyton Senior Center - shots provided by Hopper's Pharmacy

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.

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.

Pilot Club Rummage Sale
Members of the Pilot Club are sponsoring their annual Rummage Sale in the building at the Cullman Fair Grounds at Sportsman's Lake. Their sale will be both Friday, October 18, and Saturday, October 19. For further information contact any of the Pilot Club members and they also gladly accept donations for the sale. Please check pilotclubofcullman.com. All funds raised in their projects benefit their local Pilot Club projects and activities.

Commission on Aging offers the final day of Flu Shots at area Senior Centers
9 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. -- Colony Senior Center - shots provided by Hospital Discount Pharmacy
10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. -- Cullman Senior Center - shots provided by Hospital Discount Pharmacy
For more info call the Commission on Aging at 256-734-1241

Cullman County Retire and Senior Health Fair Moved to February
The Commission on Aging and the Cullman Health Coalition announces that the annual Cullman County Retire and Senior Health Fair normally scheduled for the month of October at the Cullman Civic Center will be held instead on February 14, 2014. See you there next year.

'Reel Men' Mens' Two Day Conference
There will be a two-day 'Reel Men' Mens' Conference at Destiny Church tonight starting at 7 p.m. with the second and concluding Saturday, which will begin at 9 a.m. with a prayer breakfast. All men are invited to take part in this gathering. Please call Destiny Church at 256-737-9254 for further information.

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

Oktoberfest 5K Trail Run
Cullman, AL Saturday, October 19, 2013 7:15 a.m. St Bernard Prep Oktoberfest 5k Trail Run
Entry Fee - Only $15.00 – Pre-registration is highly encouraged. On-site registration will be $20.00 on race day. www.raceit.com/search/event.aspx?id=23068. Awards – Top 15 runners in the race will receive T-Shirts. Overall male and female winners, masters male and female winners will receive awards provided by "First Place Athletics" The top three male and female finishers will receive medals. The event will precede the Oktoberfest High School Cross Country Meet that begins at 8:45.

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.

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15th annual Gourd Festival
The theme for this year's 15th annual Gourd Festival is 'Gourding in a Winter Wonderland' and the event will be held at Cullman's McGukin Civic Center. Hours are from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Admission is $3.00 for adults; 12 and under get in free. For additional information please check www.alabamagourdsociety.org. Come see the many unique and amazing ways that make gourds 'come to life.

4th Annual Mud Creek Arts & Crafts Festival
The Hanceville Business Council is sponsoring the 4th Annual Mud Creek Arts & Crafts Festival on October 19th, 2013 in Downtown Hanceville, Alabama. A wide assortment of Arts & Crafts, Face Painting, a judged art show, kids activities, foods & drinks, and Tour of Historical Hanceville will be on the agenda. An Oktoberfest Bratwurst lunch will also be available. Admission is free; Vendor Spaces are $25.00 each. The Festival will be from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. All proceeds will go to Hanceville Schools. For more information contact Michele Allen at 256-352-1214 or email Hanceville251@yahoo.com.

Ladies Day Out
Ladies, make your plans to take part in the "Ladies Day Out' activities going on at Cullman's McGukin Civic Center. There will be vendors such as Avon, Mary Kay, Oragami Owl, Jordan Essentials, Tupperware, Thirty-One, Be Blessed Jewelry, VK Originals, Handmade jewelry, It Works Body Wraps, and tons more!! FREE admission, door prizes, free facials and demonstrations, all just waiting for you to come thru the doors!! Bring your friends and plan a girl's day away. For further information, email cindysroi@gmail.com.

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 then check-in with Hurricane Creek Park for their Saturday morning rock climbing session, starting at 10 a.m. Reservations are required. For more information, call 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
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Domestic Violence Survivor Support Group
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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!

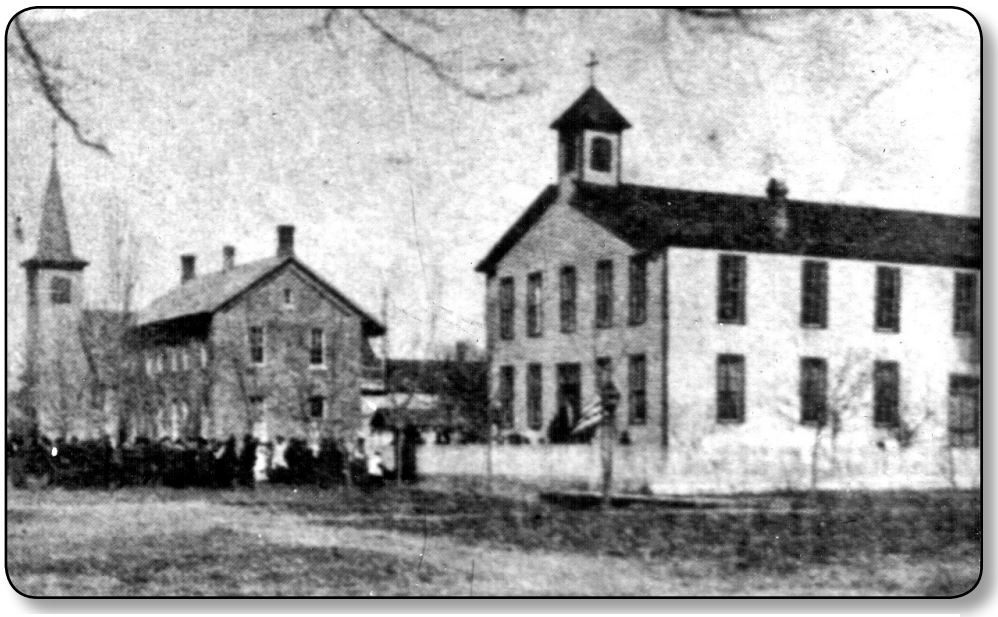
Looking Ahead

Cullman First United Methodist Church Annual Holiday Bazaar
Cullman First United Methodist Church's Annual Holiday Bazaar is Thursday, November 7, 2014 from 7 a.m.- 4 p.m. Event includes baked goods, homemade candies, crafts, sewing, needlework, country store with homemade jellies and fresh produce, silent auction, quilt giveaway, and more! Breakfast served 7 a.m.- 9 a.m., and lunch served 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. Proceeds donated to local non-profit agencies. Plenty of parking in lot behind the church, 320 3rd Street, SE.

Sunday, November 10, 2013 – Open House - St. Bernard Prep
St. Bernard Prep will host Open House on Sunday, November 10, 2013 at 2 p.m. Families will have an opportunity to visit the school and talk with teachers, students and monks about the educational opportunities at St. Bernard Prep. St. Bernard Prep offers a college preparatory curriculum for students in grades 7-12. For more information visit www.stbernardprep.com or call 256-739-6682.

Reflections of History

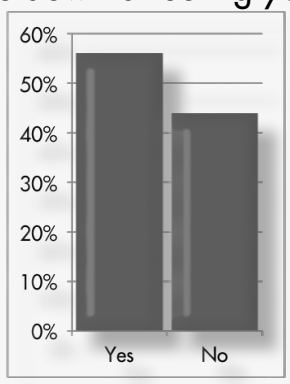
Share your historic photos with us!
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Sacred Heart church and school — Contrib. by Cullman County Museum

Poll

Is the Government Shutdown affecting you?



This Week's Poll

Have you or would you go skydiving?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

CULLMANSENSE
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This Week in History

October 14th
- 1834 – First black to obtain a U.S. patent, Henry Blair, for a corn planter

October 15th
- 1842 – Karl Marx becomes editor-in-chief of Rheinische Zeitung
- 1949 – Billy Graham begins his ministry

October 16th
- 1847 – Charlotte Bronte's book "Jane Eyre" published
- 1970 – Anwar Sadat elected president of Egypt, succeeding Gamal Abdel Nasser

October 17th
- 1933 – Albert Einstein arrives in U.S., a refugee from Nazi Germany
- 1979 – President Carter signs legislation creating Department of Education

October 18th
- 1867 – U.S. takes formal possession of Alaska from Russia
- 1955 – University of California discovers anti-proton

October 19th
- 1914 – U.S. Post Office first used an automobile to collect and deliver mail

October 20th
- 1905 – Russian tsar allows Polish people to speak Polish
- 1987 – 10 die as Air Force jet crashed into a Ramada Inn near Indianapolis

Hunters, Fishermen Howl as Federal Lands Are Closed

By: Elaine S. Povich • Stateline

As hunters gear up for the fall season, governors are trying to help sportsmen pursue their prey, even on federal lands that are shut down. Essential question: How do you close the Mississippi River or the Alaska wilds? Answer: You really can't.

But the federal government can block access to rivers and lands. Some governors are suggesting that hunters seek their prey on state lands or private areas. In most states, hunting licenses for this season already have been issued by the states, so it's not an issue of revenue loss. But hunters are pretty upset about the closures and community businesses are losing out.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation says hunters and anglers spent $38.3 billion in 2011 on equipment, travel, and more, as well as $11.8 billion in fees, mostly licenses, most of which goes to states.

Seven sportsmen's organizations joined a conference call this week to protest the shutdown and discuss what to do. Almost 35 million Americans hunt or fish, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – more than half of them on federal lands at some point in their lives. Four federal agencies administer 609 million acres of land, most of it in the western states.

"If you are a hunter, the beginning of October is prime time," said Whit Fosburgh, president and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (Motto: "Guaranteeing You a Place to Hunt and Fish"). Fosburgh was on the call.

In Wisconsin, Gov. Scott Walker ordered the state Department of Natural Resources to remove barriers to a boat launch access to the Mississippi put up by federal officials. His reasoning, according to Wisconsin Natural Resources Secretary Cathy Stepp, is that the river access, along with the parkland that abuts the waterway, is funded 18 percent by the state and the rest by the federal government. That gives the state a say.

"It's duck hunting season coming up, we've got the migratory birds flying over," Stepp said. "If we are able to fill the gap, the governor said, let's do it. Eighteen percent – that's a lot of money. We stand to lose tremendously more if we shut the park."

"I don't know how you close off a forest or how you barricade the Mississippi."

She said hunting season means family time for many Wisconsin residents. While it's not exactly "Duck Dynasty," the reality television show about a family of Louisiana hunters in the duck decoy and duck call business, it's a tradition.

She noted that deer season is coming up and the questions she is getting from hunters are about, "Will I be able to go to my favorite traditional spot? These are lifelong family events for many people."

A National Park Service official said closing the boat ramp came about as a result of a "misunderstanding" about how much control the state of Wisconsin has over the access, which, according to local officials, is more like a wide spot in the trees.

Patricia Trap, Midwest deputy regional director of the National Park Service, said the federal agency values its partnership with Wisconsin.

"If this was a boat launch on the Mississippi, it likely would have been the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area and there are a lot of other partners and places that access to the Mississippi, not just ours," she said.

She said closing federal lands overall is challenging: "In many parks you will see a barricade along a road that might lead down to a boat launch on federal property." She said a deeper concern is that hunters or other recreational users of the waterway will require assistance and there will be few officers on federal territory to help.

"A lot of our rangers that are at work like those on the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (in Wisconsin) are really first responders in any emergency. We are really thinned staffed and worried about public safety. You can't close the Mississippi," Trap said.

Alaska Gov. Sean Parnell doesn't think you can close the 225 million acres of federal land that make up 60 percent of his state either. He wrote federal Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and demanded access to the lands for hunters, fishermen, and recreational users. He cited federal laws, including the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, that say federal lands and waters are to be open and accessible without fees or permits.

"Whether it's for hunting, fishing, or subsistence, Alaskans' access opportunities cannot lawfully be curtailed due to a federal government shutdown," Parnell said in a statement. "We will fight to ensure our people have rightful access to federal lands during the shutdown."

Local news reports said wilderness guides had been advised they cannot lead treks into the lands during the shutdown. Larry Bell, acting director for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska, told the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner that the closure was made according to the agency's contingency plan.

Bill Horn, director of federal affairs for the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance and a former assistant secretary of the Interior in the Reagan administration, called the federal response to the shutdown of federal lands "haphazard to say the least." In Alaska, he pointed out, there are multimillion-acre parcels of land "accessible by float plane but are suddenly 'closed.'"

In Florida, where Horn was visiting this week, "We have this big wedge of water called Florida Bay" in Everglades National Park. "The bay is 'closed.'

You can't go fishing in the bay. But there are no boundary signs in the bay, you don't know when you're in the park or out of the park. There are no buoys. It's theater of the absurd. You go up there in a boat, there's no gate."

In the Big Cypress National Preserve, hunting season is scheduled to open up in a few days, he noted, for white tail deer, black bear, and duck. The seasons are set by the state of Florida and licenses have been issued. "You don't have to go through a gate, you just have to have a hunting license," he said.

Stateline is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news service of the Pew Charitable Trusts that provides daily reporting and analysis on trends in state policy.

LIFE After Dark: Deutschland über Alles with Bierfest in the Gartens and Alleyways

By: Dillon Lee • Entertainment Editor
dillon@cullmansense.com

An entertainment writer has no shortage of subject matter during the week of Oktoberfest. In fact, there is such a wide variety of events, gatherings, and celebrations, CullmanSense has to delegate as best we can. Each night, especially building up to the final throes of the week-long celebration on Saturday, there were always multiple performers, both local and national, a vast sampling of food and drink, and fine friends around every corner.

This week the Blue Moose Café and Brewpub has been grabbing regional attention. They lived up to their name and successful celebrated the launch of their first Bierfest.

The micro event started last Friday with the tapping of Cullman's first legal and commercially available local beer keg. It has continued in the Café through the week with robust lunch crowds, German food offerings, and a Thursday night performance by Derek Sellers.

Friday and Saturday represented the ultimate culmination of the week. Carefully (some might claim cruelly), the last two of the first three kegs of "The Colonel's Festbier" had been secreted away. This past Friday, the second keg would be tapped at the Biergarten with the third drained of this truly singular brew Saturday. Only a handful of people got to experience this beer- the first of its kind in over 100 years.

While the second keg was tapped, The Blue Moose Café served a schnitzel dish with some of the best red cabbage offered in Cullman this season. Chris Bushey, who also played the night of the inaugural tapping Friday the 4th, made another appearance to entertain diners. The last hurrah of this Bierfest was happening in the alley out back.

Here Nearen Construction, Happy Homes, and, of course, the Blue Moose Café erected multiple inflatables and set up a stage in the one-time bank parking lot and drive through that serves as Happy Homes' headquarters.

This venue attracted a popular crowd during celebrate Cullman and for these neighborly businesses it provide the perfect location for the two day alley party that would make it one for the history books, or at least a story worth telling in a paper of record.

Happy Homes' Wes Warren made sure the even was family friendly. The inflatables opened for kids before sundown and continue to entertain throughout the evening.

When asked about holding the co-sponsored even, Warren said it was "a response to Celebrate Cullman." Warren was praising the successful partnership of local businesses, the location and set-up- as well as Friday night's act Round 2. Warren first heard Round 2 at Terri Pines and at the last minute contacted guitarist and vocalist David Hays. They were such a hit they had to return.

Round 2 is a truly original local act, though their instrumentation may change, at the heart is the guitar of Dave Hays, guitarist Greg Burks, Dale Moore on piano, and David Roberts on the electric mandolin.

If that instrumentation doesn't strike your interest, consider the bands greatest and most surprising asset- near flawless four part male harmony.

While this naturally translates to standards by Crosby, Still, Nash, and Young, the blend of voices and alternating lead vocalists transcend their covers beyond the typical acoustic or barroom rearrangement.

Hearing their voices blend is like going to church, where rich male harmonies are a standing tradition.

Now, granted few churches include songs by the Beatles or "Comfortably Numb" by Pink Floyd in the liturgical music, but the metaphor still stands.

Round 2 should be on the "must hear" list for local acts for their unique timbre and they down-home crowd interactions.

Still with activities for the children and great band, it cannot be forgotten that this is, afterall, a "Bierfest" which is to say in celebration of a beer.

The beer in question, "The Colonel's Festbier" sold out within 30 minutes Friday night, leaving thirsty patrons and late-comers to hope for a chance at Saturday's 12 p.m. tapping. Where that tapping occurred Saturday, CullmanSense contributors were there to bring a first-hand account of our city's first legal, local brew since the 1800s.

The "Festbier" had some surprises. Firstly, being a beer debuting at Oktoberfest, one would expect a spiced beer, similar to what other craft brews offer for the season.

In fact, "The Colonel's Festbier" had no spice at all as confirmed by the brewer. It had a mouthfeel darker than the orange or red colored Oktoberfest flavored beers. It taste was that of a brown.

It was thick and sweet, easy to drink with a malty finish. One sampler and fest attendee said that it "actually tasted a hell of a lot like a honey brown."

I caught up with the Moose's master brewers at the Round 2 show. Gary Teichmiler and John Dean were clearly enjoying a successful record breaking week.

Instead of pulling taps or work the carboys, Gary and John took some time to have a few pints and enjoy the music. John, friends, and classmates of some members of Round 2, appreciated their unique vocal and instrumental stylings as much as I did.

Gary and John were in such good spirits they decided to reveal an exclusive to CullmanSense- the name of the next Blue Moose house brew. According Teichmiller and Dean, the next batch of hometown beer will continue the verve of the season. It is called "Monstoberfest." I hope the drink is every bit as fearsome as the name implies.

Wes Warren had a few thoughts on Oktoberfest and its effect on downtown Cullman and the local culture. Born and raised in Cullman, as an adult Warren said, "I had never really taken part in Oktoberfest until the last three years. It's gotten big."

Not only has the event packed out its epicenter- Festhalle and Depot Park- but its spread throughout the blossoming downtown businesses. As reported last week, All Steak, Carlton's, the Busy Bee, Moe's, Berkley Bob's, and more were providing special menus, entertainment, and festival hours. As Wes said, "You can't get to it all in one night."

No one could appreciate every nuance of Oktoberfest 2013, but it is undeniable that the community has proven the staying power of the event.

It has been reinvigorated with new attendees and events nightly. It has grown up and spread out covering blocks of a town once steeped in German culture.

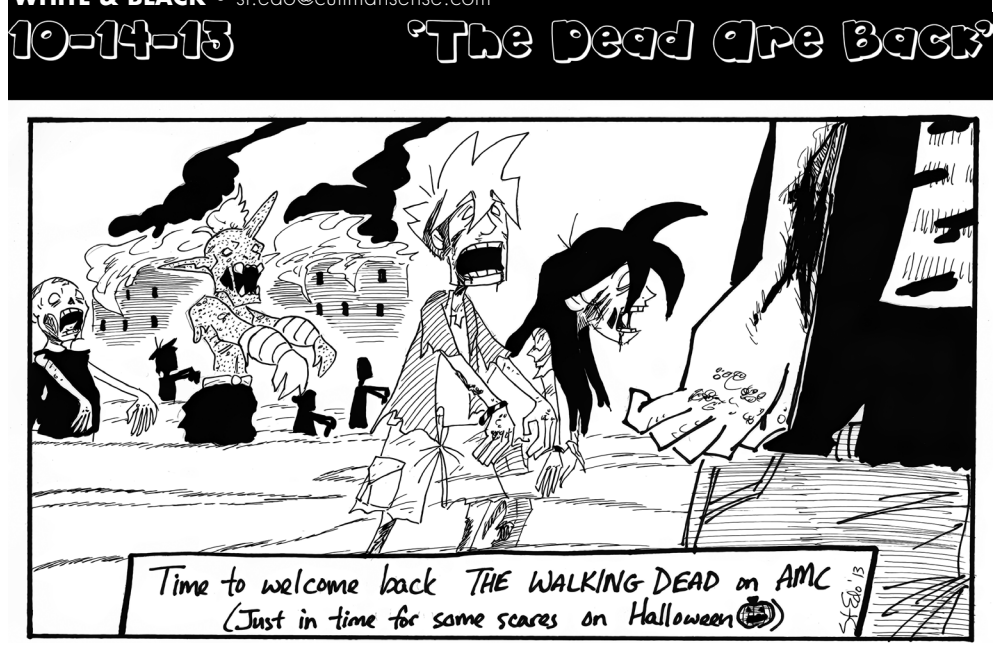
And while language of Deutschland may not be heard on every street corner as it once was, its music, culture, and spirit live on in each attendee, if only briefly.

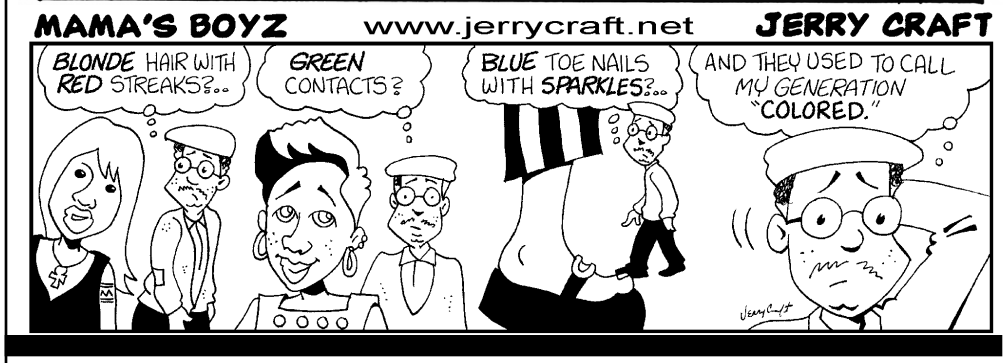
Comics

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"Brother Joseph and the Grotto" Movie Premiere

By: Natalie Bonner

Red Clay Pictures Film presents a local documentary entitled "Brother Joseph and the Grotto" set to premiere at Saint Bernard Abbey Byre for the Arts on Thursday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m., with a reception at 6 p.m. This locally filmed documentary portrays the life and times of Brother Joseph, a monk of Saint Bernard who completed the task of building the Ave Maria Grotto. The film was written and directed by veteran documentary-filmmaker Cliff Vaughn of Red Clay Pictures. Cliff's inspiration to create the film came from singer-songwriter Kate Campbell's song, "Ave Maria Grotto."

Red Clay Pictures is based in Nashville, Tenn., with a satellite office in Birmingham that is headed up by Vaughn's sister and producer of "Brother Joseph and the Grotto," Carol Ann Vaughn Cross. Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Tourism Director Cecelia Smith and documentary-filmmaker Cliff Vaughn of Red Clay Pictures collectively explained the inner workings of the film. Smith and Vaughn credited one of the main attractions to the film to be the transformational process of the land as Brother Joseph builds something monumental from nothing. The film touches on community and the importance of unity during trying times.

Cullman's rich history and small-town vibe are qualities that are as endearing as ever, but the Ave Maria Grotto is truly an attraction that put Cullman "on the map." Upon looking at a road atlas a few months ago and noticing the red square where the Ave Maria Grotto is marked in Cullman not only offered a visual representation of the location to Smith and Vaughn, but also signified the depth and truth of what that square represented.

"Ave Maria Grotto is an Alabama treasure, and close examination reveals how multi-faceted its story really is: the work of an immigrant, a life of perseverance, a fabulous folk-art environment, a Catholic shrine. . ." Smith and Vaughn said. "Different audiences will find much to engage them on a visit to the Grotto."

Toward the film's end, Brother Joseph's legacy is explored and celebrated. As he died during the Civil Rights Movement in 1961 at the height of racial conflict and distress, the Ave Maria Grotto was a positive beacon during this tense time.

Smith and Vaughn said, "The Grotto and the Abbey were good ambassadors for our state. The documentary chronicles how this creative life in Cullman resulted in something constructive."

Smith and Vaughn said one of their favorite discussion points was how Brother Joseph can and does inspire others – whatever their task may be as perseverance was a defining characteristic of his long life. "Brother Joseph is a man for all ages, which I think is another way of saying he lived his beautiful faith. The fact that his life yielded such a concrete and creative expression makes him a good entrée for these deeper discussions," Smith and Vaughn stated.

To RSVP to "Brother Joseph and the Grotto" movie premiere, e-mail brotherjosephpremier@gmail.com by October 11. Cocktail attire is optional.

Nobel Peace Prize Reflects Enduring Importance of International Agreements

By: David R. Andersen-Rodgers

BRIEF BIO

David R. Andersen-Rodgers, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Government at California State University, Sacramento, and writes for PeaceVoice. You can follow him on Twitter @1drandersen1

The announcement that the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize was to be awarded to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) took many by surprise. The consensus choice seemed to be the young female education activist, Malala Yousafzai.

The selection of OPCW, however, fits the Norwegian Nobel Committee's history of awarding the Prize to global institutions that pursue the broad goal of the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

The complexities and contradictions of global politics can often lead to cynicism.

No one can be trusted, violence is endemic, and international organizations are too incompetent to do anything about it. Just a month ago the United States was on the brink of war, once again using the threat of its military might to try to force its desired outcome.

Then, following an off the cuff comment by Secretary of State John Kerry and a few days of scrambling, Syria, with the backing of Russia, agreed to join the Chemical Weapons Convention and eliminate its entire chemical weapons stockpile.

Since then, Syria appears to be complying with its promises and weapons are already being destroyed.

The U.S. threat of force, to the chagrin of the Free Syrian Army and others who saw external intervention as a way to finally overthrow Assad's regime, had a single stated purpose—to weaken Syria's chemical weapons capabilities.

Now, Syria is in the process of eliminating them all. This is a better outcome than even the rosiest predictions coming from those advocating a military strike.

However, this deal would not have been possible if the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) had not been negotiated, signed, and ratified back in the 1990s.

The CWC requires each member to report on and to fully eliminate its chemical weapons stockpile, overseen and monitored by the OPCW in joint partnership with the United Nations. Since it came into force, the CWC has become one of the most successful international agreements in history.

Outside of Syria, only five other countries—Angola, Egypt, North Korea, and South Sudan—have neither signed nor ratified the treaty.

Also, it has been signed, but not ratified, by Israel and Myanmar.

There is no question what is required once a member joins.

For Syria, non-compliance could quite literally be Assad's last card and give both Russia and Iran an excuse to drop their support for his regime—something Iran has already signaled it is willing to do.

Most importantly, without the CWC and the oversight of the OPCW, any agreement on Assad's chemical weapons capability would have had to be negotiated on an ad hoc basis.

While the full securing and destruction of Syria's chemical weapons is going to be extraordinarily difficult, particularly within the confines of the ongoing civil war, it would have been nearly impossible without this global agreement already in place.

It is this essential role of the organization that is being recognized by the Nobel Committee.

Syria acquiescing to rid itself of its chemical weapons, under OPCW monitoring, also reinforces another important precedent.

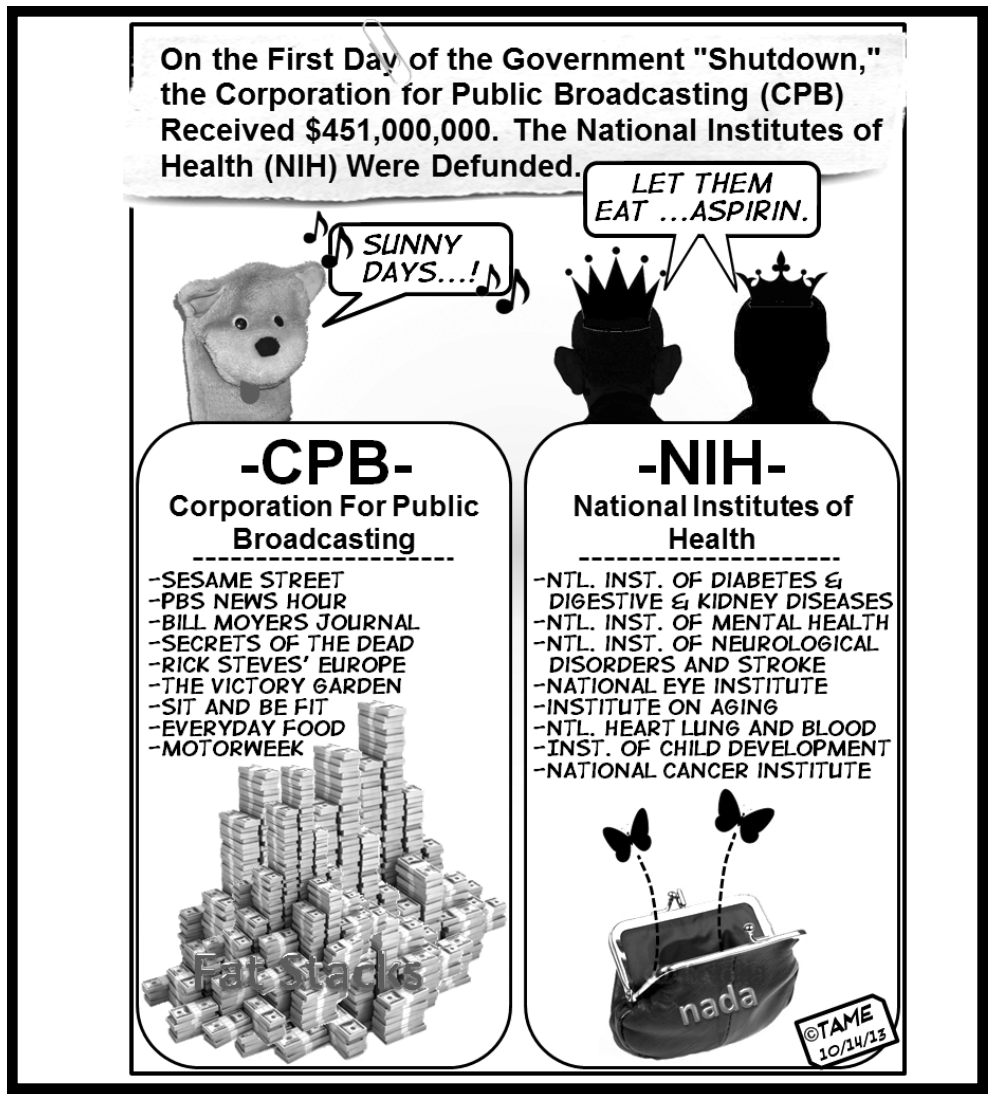
Russia's stance in the Syria crisis was that an external intervention without UN authorization would be a violation of Syrian sovereignty under the rules of the UN Charter.

However, by turning to the CWC, Russia has been forced to recognize that sovereignty indeed has its limits and that there are certain issues, such as the stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, which require compliance.

Of course, none of this brings justice to those who have been tortured, displaced, and killed by Assad's brutal regime, nor has Syria's agreement to destroy its chemical weapons stopped the bloodshed that is happening there.

What it does demonstrate, however, is how the creation of strong global institutions can provide a framework for shaping future policy that does not need to rely on the uncertainties that accompany military force.

It is for that reason that the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has been given this honor.



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Catoma Mart
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Cullman County Courthouse
Cullman Wellness & Aquatics Center
Deb's Bookstore
Fairview Superette
Good Hope Grocery
Graves' BP 157
Hanceville Chevron
High Quality Fuels - Dodge City
Holly Pond Cafe
Holly Pond Supermarket
Jet Pep - Hwy 157
Joe's Freeway Exxon
Johnny's Bar-B-Q
Lowry's Discount Mart - Hwy. 157
Piggly Wiggly - Hwy. 157
Rumors Deli
S&S Foods
Southmart Chevron - Hwy. 278
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YouthQuake (from Front)

By: Natalie Bonner

CULLMAN - Every year in Cullman, one of the largest music festivals in the south brings Christian bands from all over the world to rock out at one of the most dynamic and crowd-pleasing events to be found.

YouthQuake really brought the goods this year when they unveiled a lineup featuring some of the best names in Christian music to ever hit the stage.

The festival, founded in 2001, is dedicated to seeing peoples' lives changed for the glory of God.

YouthQuake features top bands and speakers at affordable rates (as low as $10) and even offer VIP tickets.

Newsboys were the headliners this year, with incredible supporting acts such as for King & Country, Rapture Ruckus, Moriah Peters, and the locally loved Generation Band. Special guest speaker was local pastor and preacher Kasey Graydon.

Shane Quick, owner and promoter of YQ, has been doing this for 14 years and said the goal of YQ is to make a positive impact on young people.

"It's a Christian festival and obviously our goal is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to them, and that's been the goal from day one. Thanks to the help and support from the local churches and businesses here, we were able to do it again this year," Quick said.

"It's been a fun thing to be a part of, and it's where I started and where I cut my teeth into event promoting so it's really special to me. It feels like a homecoming."

Bret Alldredge has participated in the YouthQuake festival for about five years and now works as a graphic designer for them and is on staff for the company that runs it, Premier Productions.

Alldredge said, "This year is a really great year honestly. We're seeing a lot of really good changes that are happening with YQ. A lot of positive force that we're going to have for years to come."

Liberty University is a huge sponsor of the event, and YQ is a huge way of how they get the message of their university out to high school students.

As the largest evangelical college in the world, it's a huge initiative for Liberty University to be at events like this to help educate and recruit prospective students.

Kandice Craddock, a national recruiter for Liberty University, was on hand to answer any questions about her alma mater.

LU has 11 national recruiters who travel the country and recruit at college fairs, Christian music festivals, and high school visits.

Craddock said, "I get to promote something that I love, and I also get to build relationships with high school students and guidance counselors. The bands are doing a great job out here. I wasn't expecting it to be this big, but it's been great."

YQ has always been held in Cullman and attracts people from all over the state and all over the south.

A southern tradition that is close to many families' hearts, they enjoy sending their youth off to praise God in a contemporary setting with music as the medium.

"We call it YouthQuake, but it's really become a family event over the years, and we've watched kids grow up coming here as a child, then a student, families, youth groups, and friends – it really spans all ages and hopefully brings out the youth in all of us," Quick reflected.

Grant (from Front)

promote collaboration and information sharing for the radio access network.

"This grant will allow us to begin planning for the National Public Safety Broadband Network to serve the needs of all our first responders across the state," said Spencer Collier, Secretary of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) who chairs the AFRWC and serves as the grant's administrative agency.

Funding guidelines for the grant dictate the funds must be used for governance, planning, education and outreach.

Partnership (from Front)

needs," said Terry Kellogg, Blue Cross and Blue Shield president and chief executive officer. "Blue Cross and Alfa are two of the most trusted brands in Alabama and have earned that trust over 30 years of working together. Expanding this partnership during a time of change in our industry is a natural evolution that benefits our customers."

Alfa Insurance President Jimmy Parnell said the partnership with Blue Cross would allow Alfa to continue serving customers.

"Since 1946, Alfa has provided affordable insurance coverage and quality service to Alabama residents through hometown agents," Parnell said. "Almost 400,000 Alabama families trust Alfa for their auto, home and life insurance. By working with Blue Cross, Alfa agents can help policyholders navigate the new healthcare law while continuing to meet all their insurance needs."

Alfa, based in Montgomery, Ala., and its affiliates provide insurance and other financial services to more than 1 million customers in 11 states.

Ala. author explores Samson's life in new book

By: Michelle Whitman

OWENS CROSS ROADS — Author D.R. Harris announces the nationwide release of his new book, "Samson," where he showcases Samson's life to show readers that man's greatest failure can be a venue for redemption.

In this book, readers will witness one of the most intriguing characters of the Bible up-close and personal. They will be drawn into Samson's personal struggle with lust, revenge, self-doubt, betrayal and redemption.

They will take encouragement from Samson the Beast of Dan as he plunges from the heroism to hopeless despair only to find that God can turn any moral failure into a masterpiece for His glory.

Published by Tate Publishing and Enterprises, the book is available through bookstores nationwide, from the publisher at www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore, or by visiting barnesandnoble.com or amazon.com.

Harris attended Olivet Nazarene University. He taught school and pastored in the Church of the Nazarene. He moved on to become a successful commercial artist for 20 years before retiring.

Federal Shutdown Alarms State Health Officials

By: Melissa Maynard • Stateline

This week more than 11,000 U.S. Muslims are expected to join millions of other pilgrims in Mecca for the annual Hajj pilgrimage. When the Americans return home, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local health departments will be watching for any sign of the MERS virus that has caused severe acute respiratory illness in 140 people since 2012, killing about half of them.

But because of the shutdown of the federal government, about 9,000 of the CDC's 15,000 workers have been furloughed. James Blumenstock, chief of public health practice for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, said states are concerned that the absence of those workers might slow down identification and response to MERS cases if the virus spreads to the U.S.

Since the shutdown, the CDC's bi-weekly conference calls with state health officials to share new information about MERS and other emerging global threats have stopped, Blumenstock said.

"Since Oct. 1, we have not scheduled one or had the opportunity to talk to anyone about scheduling the next one."

MERS is just one of many possible public health risks state health officials are worried about handling without the full support of the CDC and other federal agencies. Another big one within U.S. borders is the flu season that began Oct. 1.

In a recent conference call with state health officials from across the country, CDC Director Tom Frieden assured states that the agency would be available to assist in emergency situations, but acknowledged that its response might be slower because of the shutdown.

"We have been told that that if we needed support for a large-scale event, it would require pulling staff back in, and that the response time could be delayed," said Wendy Braund, Wyoming's state health officer. "That is a very real concern to us."

CDC in the States

States rely on the CDC to step in when outbreaks cross state lines and for technical support and lab testing when unusual situations arise.

The federal agency also helps fund and staff a range of programs, embedding its own experts in state health agencies to help with a range of programs from immunizations to AIDS prevention. Many of these people have been furloughed.

Also, certain public health functions rely heavily on federal grants, which will become more critical if the shutdown continues. Hawaii State Epidemiologist Sarah Park was handling multiple investigations when she learned that her work may be interrupted because her division gets 90 percent of its money from the federal government.

"Basically, toward the end of last week, it was realized that ... the state had only sufficient federal funds drawn down to make the Oct 5th payroll," she said in an e-mail.

"If the federal shutdown doesn't resolve soon," she said, "we could be facing a major crisis whether because staff have to be laid off and/or because we aren't able to place vaccine orders or have them completed because the federal system is down."

CDC officials acknowledged the challenges the shutdown has created for its partners at the state level.

"We're actually really concerned about what is happening with the states, and down the road if this continues," said John O'Connor of the CDC's National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases.

Emergency Response

The CDC can call back employees to respond to emergencies, according to Barbara Reynolds, a CDC crisis communication specialist. For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture on recently issued a public health alert for an outbreak of an antibiotic-resistant strain of salmonella linked to chicken produced by Foster Farms in California.

The outbreak has sickened 278 consumers in 17 states. In response, the CDC called back two-thirds of the 30-person team that tracks foodborne illnesses. It has updated its website with details of its ongoing investigation into the outbreak, including a map detailing cases by state.

Still, Reynolds acknowledged it's not the same as when the CDC is fully functioning. "We have 9,000 people from CDC furloughed, which means 9,000 fewer people to answer the phones and take phone calls from people in state agencies," she said. "Some of that collaboration is just gone right now."

In Oregon, eight salmonella cases have been linked to the outbreak. Katrina Hedberg, the state's chief epidemiologist and health officer, said the CDC's national databases connected the salmonella strain to Foster Farms based on evidence from cases in other states. "Looking at our Oregon cases, it wouldn't be obvious that they were linked," she said.

But the state received less information than it would have from a fully functioning CDC. "Normally we'd be hearing about this before, and we'd be having conference calls beforehand," she said.

Instead, Hedberg said the general public learned about the outbreak only shortly after she and her staff did – and from the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service rather than the CDC.

Flu Season

One of the most significant looming public health threats is the flu.

State health officials are concerned about how the shutdown will affect their ability to fight its spread, since they rely on the CDC to track and monitor cases to better prepare their public health response.

Michael Cooper, Alaska's deputy state epidemiologist, said his department has received "a flurry of e-mails about how CDC influenza monitoring and surveillance staff would be at minimal levels and online applications might not be functional for recording data that demonstrates national/state activity related to influenza."

Blumenstock, of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, said there are critical flu-related functions the CDC cannot currently perform because of the shutdown.

For example, at this point in the season, the CDC typically tests early flu strains to see how well they match with the seasonal vaccine. That information gives public health officials important clues about what to expect from flu season and how to adjust their strategies.

The CDC also conducts an annual public awareness campaign, tests early cases of the flu to determine resistance to antivirals, and provides regular surveillance information to states.

Much of that assistance simply isn't happening, Blumenstock said. "Depending on how bad flu season turns out to be, that could provide increased risk of illness or death if CDC doesn't get back in business."

Stateline is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news service of the Pew Charitable Trusts that provides daily reporting and analysis on trends in state policy.