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CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER

CULLMANSENSE

COMMUNITY MATTERS

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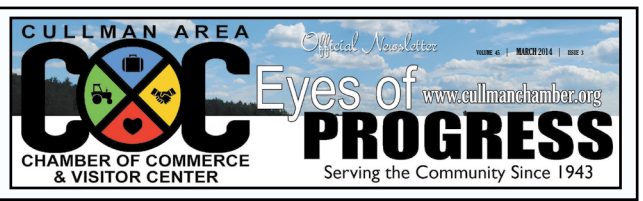
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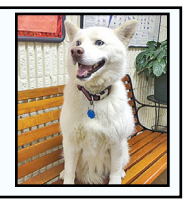
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Arts & Crafts Show to Help Education in Hanceville

» At a time when many teachers reach into their own pockets to cover classroom costs the Little Paws Arts & Crafts Show brings needed support as artisans from across North Alabama offer their wares

By: Chelsea Sparks
Local Contributor

HANCEVILLE - Across the country, education has been hit by major budget cuts, and teachers and students alike are feeling the effects.

Some teachers are being laid off and others are struggling to keep their classroom a warm and engaging environment.

Many of these teachers are even reaching into their own wallets to buy supplies and decorations for their students.

It is a harsh reality for most, but Tonya Mitchell, Stephanie Brown, and Kelli West are hoping to ease some of that burden.

An insurance firm by the name of Horace Mann conducted a series of surveys among 1,700 teachers.

The surveys covered everything from out-of-pocket expenses to budget cuts and community involvement.

The survey, released in June 2013, revealed that out of teachers who took the survey, 30 percent said that they spent between $201-400 out of pocket for class projects and supplies.

More than that, 38 percent said that they actually had to for two or more school projects p18

Monthly Election Prediction Update

By: Sage Overton
Local Contributor

The final week of every month we will bring you an update on election predictions by state. Though the next presidential election cycle isn't until 2016, this year's midterm congressional election is a very important one.

A Republican takeover in the Senate will officially move President Obama into a lame duck position. Any Democratic gains, especially in the House, will place them in position to push through legislation for the next two years.

The results will also have huge implications on the 2016 p6

Master Gardeners Beautify Cullman

» Volunteers prepare smorgasbord of local perennials p18



Governors Share Ideas on Pot Revenue Uses, National Guard Cuts, Job Creation

By: Stephen C. Fehr • Stateline

They sat a foot apart. One a conservative governor from the Deep South and a harsh critic of President Barack Obama. The other a liberal governor from the Northeast and one of Obama's chief defenders.

Yet on this winter Sunday at a Washington hotel two blocks from the White House, Republican Gov. Robert Bentley of Alabama and Democratic Gov. Peter Shumlin of Vermont were in harmony: Prescription drug and heroin abuse is an urgent national problem driving up state treatment and corrections costs.

"There's no question in my mind this is a challenge facing every state," Shumlin said. A physician, Bentley said doctors who overprescribe opiates "should have their license taken away."

The governors' unity demonstrates how the chief executives of the 50 states often drop their partisan differences to deal with issues they all confront. Contrast that with Congress, the governors say, which is often unable to tackle the nation's challenges because lawmakers put politics first. "They'd rather talk about Benghazi than job creation," said Nebraska Gov. David Heineman, a Republican. "If you got 10 of us governors together in a room we could solve problems."

To be sure, there were moments of partisan squabbling between Republican and Demo- p6

Suspected Domestic Dispute Turns Deadly

By: Noah Chandler
noah@cullmansense.com

BERLIN – A suspected domestic disturbance turned deadly shortly after 1 p.m. on Sunday in the Berlin community.

"We received a call shortly after 1 p.m., stating a woman had been shot one time in the abdomen," Cullman County Sheriff Mike Rainey said. "She was transported by ambulance to CRMC before being airlifted to Huntsville Hospital."

Rainey said the woman, whose name is being withheld, was pronounced dead once arriving in Huntsville. p6

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PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

Cullman Named Tree City USA for 26th Consecutive Year

» Mayor proclaims February 16-22 "Arbor Week" in the city

By: Leanne West • City Hall

CULLMAN – The Arbor Day Foundation has named Cullman, Alabama, a Tree City USA community for the 26th consecutive year.

On February 27, 2014, Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson, City Arborist Darrell Johns, Albert Mayo of the Alabama Forestry Commission, and Cullman Tree Commission members Everett Wier (Chairman), Helen Marie Dahlke, Jenny Folsom, and others met at Cullman City Hall for the official Tree City USA Dedication Ceremony.

During the ceremony, the two winners of the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest were honored.

Mayor Townson presented $25 checks to Sam Brand (St. Paul's Lutheran School) and Rylee Campbell (West Elementary School) for their 1st Place winning posters.

Mayor Townson also presented the official Arbor Week Proclamation to City Arborist Darrell Johns, proclaiming the week of February 16-22, 2014, "Arbor Week" in the City of Cullman and encouraging all citizens to support efforts to care for our trees and woodlands and to support our city's Community Forestry Program.

Cullman Forestry Specialist Albert Mayor presented the Mayor with the official Tree City USA flag and other materials.

The flag will be flown in front of Cullman City Hall for one year.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forestry Service.

Four standards must be met in order to become a Tree City USA: (1) The community must have a tree board or department. (2) The community must have a tree care ordinance. (3) The community must have a forestry program with annual expenditures of at least $2 per capita. (4) The community must have an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Also held on February 27th was the annual Tree Seedling Sale. The event was held at the Cullman Civic Center. Tree seedlings of a variety of species were sold for $1 each, with proceeds benefitting the Forestry Awareness Week program.



CULLMAN CITY HALL

» Officials, commissioners, and others hold the Tree City USA flag celebrating the city's 26th consecutive year with the designation.

For more on trees or the Tree City USA program contact the Cullman County Forestry office at cullman.county@forestry.alabama.gov or 256-734-0573. You can also visit the Arbor Day Tree City USA webpage at www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

February Community Luncheon Talks of Raising the Tech Bar in the Automotive Industry

By:Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Last Friday afternoon was the monthly community luncheon (formerly called Fourth Friday) held by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce. February's luncheon was held at the All Steak Banquet Room, presented by Mickey Parrish State Farm Insurance & Financial Services and sponsored by Quality Staffing Solution, Inc.

The guest speaker was Lew Drummond, executive director of the Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association and Shelton State's Director of the West Alabama Center for Workforce Development.

The luncheon began with a quick word from Karen Blair, owner of Quality Staffing Solution, Inc., a supplemental staffing company specializing in recruiting for long term or full time employment. She explained that they are among the largest employers in Cullman and that she is glad to be locally owned and operated in a community minded town.

Guest speaker Lew Drummond began after lunch was served. He started off the program by acknowledging Cullman's success in the automotive industry, driven by good economic developers and a good workforce. He then added that automotive companies seek out states that have workers who are both skilled and educated.

Drummond stated that despite our recent success in this industry, there is always room for improvement and that there are a few ways we can do this. This includes shifting our workforce strategies into higher gears to ensure that the state reaps full rewards from economic development while also producing a more skilled workforce so that Alabama can reach its full economic potential.

In order to address these issues, the governor's office has issued Executive Order #36 and created the Governor's College and Career Task Force and signed a bill creating the Alabama Workforce Council, while supporting high skilled workforce development programs. Drummond added that the Alabama State Board has addressed these same problems by implementing Plan 2020, and the Alabama Community College System has done so by focusing on dual enrollment, internships, co-ops, and apprenticeships.

To wrap things up, Shirley Quattlebaum, vice president of the Cullman Ballet Society, spoke about the Cullman Ballet Theatre School, their upcoming events, and the importance of keeping the arts relevant in Cullman. Three ballet students did a quick and poignant performance before the afternoon luncheon ended.

CRMC Employees Recognize Colon Cancer Awareness on National Dress in Blue Day

By: Heather Roberts
CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN - On Friday, March 7, Cullman Regional Medical Center will recognize Dress in Blue Day to help bring greater awareness to colon cancer. The event coincides with the Colon Cancer Alliance's (CCA) National Dress in Blue Day activities to help commemorate March as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S., but if detected early, it is highly treatable. Screening can also drastically reduce one's risk of developing this disease because, during a colonoscopy, colon polyps can be found and removed before they have a chance to develop into cancer.

National Dress in Blue Day is held annually on the first Friday in March. Americans wear blue, the nationwide awareness color for colon cancer, to show their support in the fight against this disease and to highlight the importance of colon cancer screening.

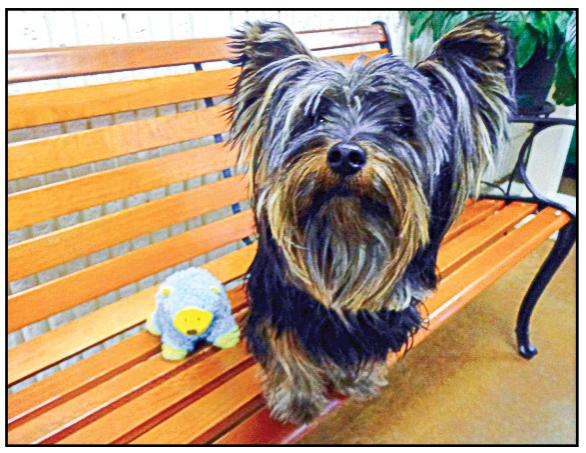
For more about National Dress in Blue Day, visit support.ccalliance.org.

For more about services available at Cullman Regional Medical Center, visit online at crmchospital.com.

Pets of the Week

Titian

Hello! My name is Titian and I am about 2.5 years old, and I am a stray. I am hoping my owners will claim me but if they don't, I will go up for adoption on March 3, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. I'm a cute, friendly little guy. I want a forever home. Please help me find someone to love.



Storm

My name is Storm and I am about 4 years old. I am partially housetrained and great with kids. However, I do not do well with cats or other dogs so I will need to be an only pet. As you can see, I am quite beautiful and I would love to be your new forever pet. I am ready to go to my new home today!



ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

Both of these dogs have an adoption fee of $90 that will include their general exam at the Vet, vaccines, wormer, rabies shot, microchip, spay/neuter, and free 45 days of pet health insurance. Pet Depot will give you a bag of food (you pay taxes) as their way of supporting adoption.

If you know the owner of either dog or if you are interested in adopting one of the dogs, please call 256-734-5448 or come by the Animal Shelter.

Supreme Court Skeptical of EPA's Greenhouse Limit Approach

By: Jake Grovum • Stateline

A majority of the U.S. Supreme Court seemed skeptical Monday of the Obama administration's approach to regulating greenhouse gas emissions, in a case that tests the Environmental Protection Agency's authority and has divided the states. The government's authority to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act — which the Supreme Court upheld in a 5-4 ruling in 2007 — wasn't at issue in the arguments Monday. Rather, industry groups and more than a dozen states object to how the agency is carrying out those limits. At least 18 states, meanwhile, back the EPA's approach.

Specifically, those challenging the EPA say it is reading too broadly its authority to regulate greenhouse gases, carrying over limits from vehicle transmissions and applying them to stationary sources such as power plants. They also say the EPA is picking and choosing which parts of the law to enforce by establishing a permitting scheme for greenhouse gas emitters, because its threshold for when those regulations take effect is above the law's limits.

The government argues a lower limit would potentially ensnare millions of buildings nationwide beyond the intent of the regulations, including public schools and some apartment buildings.

It argues lessening the requirements allows for a transition and allows regulators to target only the most worrisome polluters.

For their part, those opposing the limits say if the government has to make such an exception, then the limits were never meant to apply under the law in the first place.

Defining Agency Authority

In an unusually long 90-minute session, the justices tangled with the limits of executive and agency authority, along with environmental and climate science.

The oral arguments were even extended an additional 10 minutes, as the justices weighed congressional intent versus executive rule-making.

They considered hypotheticals on what could be covered under the expansive view of regulatory authority — everything from light-bulb choices at a factory (maybe) to the environmental impact of a high school football game (probably not). By the end of the arguments, even some of the more liberal justices seemed skeptical of the liberties the Environmental Protection Agency had taken on greenhouse gas emissions. Justice Elena Kagan seemed troubled at times by some of the agency's decisions.

And Justice Sonia Sotomayor asked Solicitor General Donald Verrilli what, in essence, would be the best way for the government to lose its case. (She apologized in advance of the question, saying she knew litigators hated being asked that question in court.) Only Justice Stephen Breyer seemed willing to make a clear case for deferring to the agency and allowing "reasonable" exceptions to the law's enforcement.

But it was Justice Anthony Kennedy (who was the fifth vote with the four liberals on the court at the time of its 2007 ruling) who pointedly challenged Verrilli, just minutes after stressing that the government's broader authority to regulate greenhouse gases wasn't in question.

"I couldn't find a single precedent that strongly supports your position," Kennedy said, referring to Verrilli's brief in the case, and asking him to give him an example to cite in a potential ruling in the government's favor.

"There aren't a lot of cases, that's true," Verrilli replied, before going on to defend the agency's approach, citing other cases, including some hypotheticals, where an agency is given leeway to decide how best to enforce regulations that leave precise methods or limits ambiguous.

Effects of a Ruling

The case before the justices is complex, in part because it is a consolidation of a half-dozen challenges to the EPA's greenhouse gas limits that have emerged in recent years.

Because of that, the justices could rule in any number of ways, making the potential fallout of a decision against the EPA hard to discern. A narrow ruling against the EPA, for example, could still allow the government to regulate many facilities that are already subject to the permitting requirements.

The court could support the EPA's approach, subjecting more emitters to the limits. Or, as Breyer suggested during the arguments, the EPA could respond to an unfavorable ruling by making use of a different part of the Clean Air Act to achieve much the same result.

Either way, the ruling could alter the way Washington works with state and local governments to enforce greenhouse gas permitting. Any ruling in this case could shape that relationship in the future, especially as more attention seems likely to focus on greenhouse gas limits in years to come.

Currently, the greenhouse gas limits are carried out with a permit process that by definition varies from region to region and case by case, as opposed to nationwide policies like those on vehicle emissions.

If upheld, the federal government's current regulations could require states to continue to form their own ways to evaluate permits and regulate greenhouse gas emitters, alongside federal regulators. States opposing the limits, along with industry interests, say that could hinder economic growth.

In making his case, Verrilli not only relied on the agency's authority under the law, but also the importance of the government's fast response and quickly enacted regulations to address climate change, which he called an "urgent problem."

The authority the EPA has cited under the Clean Air Act, in this case, was designed to let regulators respond to unforeseen environmental concerns and react to new science that forced action, he said.

Attorney Peter Keisler, representing private industry interests in the case, said it was "not plausible" that Congress envisioned such a patchwork of rules to address a global issue like greenhouse gases. Jonathan Mitchell, the solicitor general of Texas, also argued against the regulations, saying that if scheme like the one adopted by the EPA can't work under the law as written, then it wasn't intended to be part of the law in the first place. The court is expected to rule by the end of its term this summer.

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

Cullman residents elected to Alabama Farmers Federation Committees

By: Mary Johnson

Cullman County Farmer elected to State Bee & Honey Committee



ALA. FARMERS FEDERATION

» Hobson Hite of Cullman County was elected to the Alabama Farmers Federation State Bee & Honey Committee Feb. 4 during the organization's Commodity Organization Conference in Montgomery. Hite will serve a three-year term on the committee. From left are Hite and Federation Bee & Honey Commodity Division Director Mac Higginbotham.

Cullman County Farmer elected Chairman of State Meat, Goat, & Sheep Committee



ALA. FARMERS FEDERATION

» Jimmy Parker of Cullman County was elected chairman of the Alabama Farmers Federation State Meat Goat and Sheep Committee Feb. 5 during the organization's Commodity Organization Conference in Montgomery. Parker is serving a three-year term on the committee. He also will serve as the Federation's representative to the American Sheep Industry Association. From left are Federation Meat Goat and Sheep Commodity Division Director Nate Jaeger and Parker.

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Cullman players making the most of their opportunity

By: Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com

Although you couldn't tell it by the crazy weather over the last few weeks, spring is approaching and that signals the start of baseball/softball season. For four Cullman high school graduates, this is an opportunity to show why they are playing at the next level. Three suited up for three different SEC teams while one took the hill for UAB.

Matthew Britton – Mississippi State

Matthew Britton is as solid as they come in the field and he is in the cages every day, improving on his plate discipline. This is evident in the way he has started the season. In the seven MSU games where Britton has had at least one plate appearance, he has drawn six base on balls and has crossed the plate five times for the Bulldogs. Having a hitter in your line up like that, combined with his glove at shortstop and third base, Mississippi State has high expectations for the season, SEC Tournament, and beyond.

Chase Mallard – UAB

The only thing you can say about Chase Mallard's start to the 2014 season is wow. The senior hurler is quickly filling up his trophy case. In a start against UT-Martin, Mallard fanned 13 batters. As impressive as the feat is, it was how he did it that earned him Conference USA pitcher of the week honors. Not only did he strike out 13, not a single Skyhawk could find a hole as Mallard threw a seven inning no-hitter. Never content and always looking to improve, Mallard followed up is no-hitter with another tremendous performance. In his next start, he defeated the Youngstown State Penguins 4-0, not giving up his first hit on the season until the eighth inning of the contest. In his two starts he has struck out 22 batters while issuing free passes to just two. His ERA is a non-existent 0.00 over 14 1/3 innings. He is the only UAB Blazer to ever earn back to back Conference USA pitcher of the week honors.

Ben Moore – Alabama

Ben Moore has been the model of consistency for the #21 Alabama Crimson Tide. He earned Freshman All-American honors at catcher his first year with the Tide. He has since moved to the outfield where he continues to dazzle with his glove on the grass and his bat at the dish. Moore has the power to drive the ball over the wall but he is a product of the Cullman Baseball program where you are taught to place the ball where the defense isn't and that is exactly what Moore does. He hits gap to gap, priding himself on doubles and walks rather than the long ball. Look for Moore to carry the Crimson Tide deep in the SEC Tournament and a possible trip to Omaha for the College World Series.

Keegan Thompson – Auburn

It's not very often that a freshman baseball player coming to the Auburn campus is compared to Tim Hudson, arguably the best two position player Auburn has ever had, but that is the comparison that first year head coach Sunny Galloway has made. Thompson is the only player in the state of Alabama, in any sport, to earn Gatorade Player of the Year honors. As a sophomore and then again as a senior. Thompson also has earned two gold medals with the USA Baseball team, including a 12 strikeout performance in the U-16 gold medal game against Cuba. Thompson as continued his impressive pitching performances Auburn, earning his first win on February 16th against the UConn Huskies, with a two hit performance where he allowed just one run and fanned nine. Thompson is no slouch at the plate either. He has tons of pop in his bat and he runs the bases extremely well. While not on the hill, Thompson gets reps at first base, keeping his bat in the lineup. The dual threat of his arm on the hill and his bat in the box is what has Galloway and the Auburn Tiger Nation "roaring" for an SEC title.

Lady Broncos claim runner-up in 3A Championship

» Lauderdale County wins 56-35 after hard fought victory

By: Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com

BIRMINGHAM - The highly anticipated rematch between the Holly Pond and Lauderdale County did not start the way the Lady Broncos envisioned.

They were ice cold from three point land, going 0-3 in their first three attempts from the field.

Lauderdale County took advantage of the Holly Pond misses, going on a 9-2 run midway through the first, with the only Lady Bronco points coming from a pair of free throws form Natasha Holcombe.

However, Holly Pond kept the game close by playing stellar defense.

The Lady Broncos found their shot late and trailed Lauderdale County by just three, 12-9, after one quarter of play.

The second quarter found Holly Pond playing catch up again as Lady Tigers quickly tripled their lead just three minutes into the second thanks to a pair of deep, NBA range three-pointers by Emma Wallen.

Lauderdale County continued the three point onslaught, hitting from every spot on the floor on their way to an 11 point lead at the three minute mark in the half.

Lauderdale County finished the quarter on an 8-0 run thanks to the patented Lauderdale County press, putting the Lady Broncos in a huge 19 point hole at the half.

Heading to halftime, Lauderdale County held a 29-10 lead over Holly Pond.

Midway through the third quarter, with Lauderdale County up 21, Makayla Liles threw a vicious elbow to the face of Holcombe on a rebound resulting in a foul on Holcombe.

The call was later changed to a foul on Liles but the damage had been done and Holcombe missed the rest of the game with what seems to be a broken nose.

The Lady Broncos finished the quarter even with Lauderdale County but trailed 42-20 heading to the fourth quarter.

Never a team to quit, the Holly Pond Lady Broncos played hard and head coach Scott Adams coached hard to the final buzzer but the Lady Broncos fell to Lauderdale County 56-35.

CullmanSense would like to extend congratulations to Holly Pond for a tremendous season and a repeat appearance in the 3A Girls State Championship game.

Lady Raiders still competitive, ready to win, despite losing star-pitcher Cara Goodwin

By: Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com

GOOD HOPE – For the last four years, Good Hope has been a threat for the 3A State Softball Title.

That is usually the case when you have one of, if not possibly the best, pitchers in the state in the form of Cara Goodwin.

But head softball coach John Harris is quick to tell you that his team will be competitive and a threat even without Goodwin.

"We will come out and be competitive." Harris told CullmanSense in a recent interview.

"We still have some personnel issues but the girls are working hard to determine the lineup."

Although the Lady Raiders lost some fire power, they still have a very strong core of seniors coming back and looking to lead Good Hope back to an appearance in the state tournament.

Bailie Andrews, Maegan Sterling, Elise Whitworth, and left handed power hitting first baseman Alannah Henke will lead the Lady Raiders as leaders both on and off the field.

Along with the seniors, Darby Randolph and Bailey Starnes both figure to be big contributors for Good Hope on the diamond.

There is no clear cut ace of the staff for Good Hope as they head into the season as each and every hurler for the Lady Raiders will share the pitching burden and will do their best to bring the heat to each outing.

At the plate, Alannah Henke looks to be the early stand-out for Good Hope as she provided most of the pop at the dish last year.

But the Lady Raiders are talented enough to have production erupt from every spot in the lineup.

"After a shortened preseason, we are just excited to see good weather and ready to play a few games to see where we stand," Harris said when asked about what he thought his team's chance of a repeat appearance at the state tournament was.

"Having seven new faces on the varsity will be a challenge but as always our goals are to advance from the area tournament to the regional tournament and compete for a spot in the state tournament in Montgomery."

The new lineup may be a challenge for Harris and the Lady Raiders but if anyone can handle the pressure that comes with high expectations, it is Good Hope.

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Prep Sports Weekly Scoring Recap

Monday, February 24th

BASEBALL
Hanceville 6 vs Susan Moore 2
Hanceville 6 Susan Moore 9
Fairview 4 Danville 6

SOFTBALL
Meek 16 vs St Bernard 1

SOCCER (BOYS)
Cullman 9 vs Muscle Shoals 0

Tuesday, February 25th

BASEBALL
St Bernard 14 vs Jefferson Christian Academy 3
Hanceville 13 vs Cold Springs 3
Hanceville 12 vs Cold Springs 2
Vinemont 7 vs Holly Pond 14
Fairview 2 vs Athens Bible 15
West Point 9 vs Curry 2

SOFTBALL
Vinemont 19 vs Hanceville 0
West Point 4 vs Good Hope 2
Bob Jones 4 vs Cullman 7

SOCCER (BOYS)
St Bernard 0 vs Susan Moore 5

SOCCER (GIRLS)
Cullman 7 vs Decatur Christian

Thursday, February 27th

BASEBALL
St Bernard 13 vs Holy Family 2
Brindlee Mountain 6 vs Vinemont 13
Good Hope 13 vs Holly Pond 0
Fairview 6 vs Falkville 7

SOFTBALL
Hanceville 6 vs Appalachian 5
Good Hope 0 vs Hayden 17
Cullman 5 vs Cordova 4

SOCCER
Collinsville 0 vs Cullman 3 (Boys)
Florence 2 vs Cullman 1 (Boys)

Saturday, March 1st

BASEBALL
Parker 5 vs West Point 16

KNOW A TEAM PLAYER ON AND OFF THE FIELD?

Nominate a local athlete to be team player of the week.

Send submissions to teamplayer@cullmansense.com.

Both Wallace State basketball teams earn top seeds as college set to host 2014 Ala. Community College Conference tournament on March 2-8

By: Russell Moore
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State's basketball teams have both enjoyed outstanding seasons, marking the best collective campaign in the college's history by each winning an Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) North Division championship.

It's now time to turn their attention to the postseason as both teams host the ACCC/Region 22 tournament beginning with the women's field Sunday at Tom Drake Coliseum.

"Both teams having so much success this season says a lot about where we're at athletically as an institution. Dr. (Vicki) Karolewics takes pride in wanting to put a good product on the floor, and I think her commitment to athletics has helped us get to this point," said Wallace State men's coach John Meeks. "It's exciting that both teams are No. 1 seeds. Few schools can say they've done that together in the same year. It's very rare."

Each ACCC/Region 22 tournament is a four-day event. Women's action begins Sunday at 1 p.m., the first of four games scheduled that day. The women's championship game is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5 at 7 p.m.

The men's tournament begins Wednesday, March 5 at 11 a.m. and culminates with the championship game set for Saturday, March 8 at 5 p.m.

Wallace State's extensive success this season has garnered both teams a No. 1 seed and a bye. The Lady Lions open play Monday at 7 p.m. against the L.B. Wallace-Lawson State winner.

Wallace State's women enter with an impressive 26-4 record, winning 12 of 13 games. The Lady Lions are a perfect 13-0 at home and finished 9-1 in the conference after an 82-54 victory at Snead State Thursday night.

Jasmine Coleman finished with 18 points and eight rebounds and Haven Albright scored 13 points off the bench during the regular-season finale.

"We've had a great season. It's been just been incredible. Now, I hope we can finish the deal. We want to culminate an unbelievable season with a state tournament championship. We'll throw it up Monday night and see what happens," said Wallace State third-year coach Ron Burdette, who is 71-23 with the Lady Lions.

"Obviously playing on our home court has to be an advantage. We are a very confident team entering the tournament. I have a group of hard workers. We had one setback on the road last week (at Gadsden State), and I think it did us good. It was a gut check. We're refocused now and looking to survive and advance for three more games."

Wallace State's women have tortured opponents with a balanced attack. The Lady Lions top five scorers average between 11.5 and 7.4 points per game.

Freshman Morgan Smith, a Cullman grad, leads the team by pouring in 11.5 per game.

Morgan Pearson averages 11, Coleman scores 9.6 and grabs a team-high 7.2 boards per game, Jaylan Snowden averages 8.5, and Brandee Busenlehner, the conference's top 3-point shooter, averages 7.4 points.

The Lady Lions also receive solid scoring contributions off the bench from Albright, Bre-Anna Thompson and Ashley Rodgers.

"Each player on our team has accepted their responsibility all season. One night we'll have a couple people carry us, and it's two new ones the next. It's about finding the right combination each game. There's no rhyme or reason to it," Burdette said. "We have no jealousy on the team and no drama. The bottom line is every person wants to win."

Wallace State's women last won a tournament championship in 2011 when the Lady Lions won four games in four days as a No. 3 seed in coach Larry Slater's final season.

Wallace State and Shelton State have met in the women's championship game the past three seasons.

The Lady Lions swept Shelton State this season in the regular-season meetings, beating the No. 15 Lady Bucs by one at home and five on the road.

Top-seeded Wallace State men

Wallace State's men clinched their division championship Thursday night with a 68-65 victory at Snead State, capping off a fantastic regular season and earning the top seed for the Lions for the first time since 2007-08.

"Our guys didn't want to share the championship. We wanted it outright. We did what we needed to do. The cards have been stacked against us lately with injuries and the sort, but our guys have stepped up in order for us to continue to be successful," said Meeks, who's in his fourth year with the team. "We had to play five of the last seven on the road and three games in five days, but our will to win was always there. It was not an easy stretch. To step up and win in those situations was a true testament to our level of focus of really wanting to win it." Wallace State closed the regular season at 24-6 overall, finishing 10-2 in the conference.

The Lions knew in November their success this season very likely hinged on a guard trio in the backcourt. No one has disappointed. Sophomore Jestin Lewis pours in 18.3 points per game, good for fifth in the conference. Lee Moore, a Georgia native, averages 17.6 points and a team-high 7.6 rebounds and point guard Marcus Johnson scores 14.8.

One of those three has been the leading scorer in all but one game and a main reason why Wallace State reeled off 14 straight wins from Dec. 19 to Feb. 13.

"Those guys have obviously stepped up. Jestin and Marcus are seasoned guys and they understand the importance of the conference schedule and how each night is a new championship. They now have to elevate their game even more to make sure we have a chance to cut down the nets on our home court," Meeks said.

Pinson native Cody Farley has solidified the post for the Lions, averaging 7.6 points and 5.2 rebounds. Transfer sophomores X-keem Jones and Marcus Burwell have provided essential minutes as well, especially on the defensive end.

"This group we have really loves each other. They are brothers. It's a tight-knit group with hardly any dissension. They do what they need to do in order to win. Our practices have been better the last month because of that and so has our focus," Meeks said.

Wallace State's opening game in the tournament is Thursday at 7 p.m. against either Bishop State or Marion Military.

The Lions are familiar with recent postseason success, winning the 2010 state tournament title in coach Allen Sharpe's last season and again under Meeks in 2012 when Wallace State made a magical run by winning four games in four days as a No. 6 seed.

Until 2010, no Wallace State men's team had won a state title or advanced to the national tournament.

Wallace State and Shelton State have swapped men's tournament championships each season since 2010.

General admission to the tournament is $7 daily or $25 for a weekly pass. Children under the age of 6 and Wallace State students are admitted free. Senior citizen tickets are $5.

"We're excited about hosting the tournament for the second consecutive year. We enjoyed hosting the tournament last year, and we are ready for the teams and their fans to get into town, so we can show them our facilities and extend some Wallace State hospitality. We'll take pride in this like we do when we host the AHSAA Northwest Regional," said Wallace State Director of Athletics Paul Bailey. "There is a lot of good basketball talent in the junior college system, and we're excited we'll have them here. We encourage all sports fans to come watch high quality basketball next week."

Tournament brackets and information can be accessed at wallacestate.edu/accctourney or at acccathletics.com.

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- Seniors with mid-range scores, let us show you how to maximize your remaining merit-based funding opportunities!
- Seniors with no/low scores, let us show you what you still can do to get as much funding as possible!
- Seniors with exceptional circumstances, let us show you how to help ensure that all of your additional opportunities are utilized!



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Dispute (from Front)

The suspect, a 33-year-old Cullman County male, fled the scene following the shooting. Rainey said he requested air support from the Cullman Police Department.

"The suspect fled the scene, so we requested assistance from the helicopter unit," he said. "Shortly after deploying the helicopter, the suspect's vehicle was spotted in a rural section near Holly Pond."

Rainey and CCSO Chief Deputy Max Bartlett arrived on scene where they observed the suspect in a nearby creek.

"He was taken in to custody without incident," he said. "However, at this time we are withholding the names of both the victim and the suspect as the investigation is ongoing."

Check back with CullmanSense.com for updates on this story as information is made available.

Election (from Front)

race. Each update we will also face off two Presidential hopefuls (one from each party) and predict and justify election results. We will also alternate between Senate and House predictions. It takes 270 electoral votes to win the presidency.

The Runoff
Hillary Clinton (D) versus Marco Rubio (R) and House predictions.

Alabama
- Strong Conservative State
- 9 Electoral Votes, 7 Representatives
- The last time Alabama voted Democratic was in 1976 in support of Jimmy Carter, a Southern governor.
- Presidential Winner: Rubio
- Congress Results: 6 Republicans, 1 Democrat

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Ideas (from Front)

cratic governors at their annual meeting in Washington.

Support for raising the minimum wage, for example, generally broke down along party lines, with Democrats backing Obama's call for an increase.

But the governors attempted to be collegial, hoping to leave town with new ideas to address problems in their states.

Here are some of the other key takeaways from the recent National Governors Association meeting:

Train More Engineers and Welders
The governors heard the chairman and chief executive officer of General Electric Co. sketch a global picture of the economy and offer suggestions for creating jobs. GE is one of the nation's largest employers, with 135,000 employees in 200 factories around the U.S.

If a state wants to compete with other countries and grow its manufacturing economy, said GE's Jeffrey Immelt, it should turn out more engineers and welders. States should leverage high schools and community colleges to train welders while inducing their university systems to produce engineers, Immelt said.

At all levels, states should stress an education curriculum including science, technology and math.

"If I go to a state and the governor can describe how many welders they prepare each year, that's a good thing," Immelt said.

"That means (a company like GE) can step into a manufacturing base that is incredibly ready."

Five years ago, he said, the president of Vietnam told Immelt the country could produce 5,000 welders a year. As a result, GE built a plant in Hai Phong that employs over 500 workers making wind turbine generators. "It's an awesome workforce," Immelt said.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, a Republican, said the state has increased funding to train young people in manufacturing, construction and customer service.

Still, he said, a lack of respect for the value some of those jobs makes it difficult to attract young people.

"Help us spread the message," Walker said to Immelt, "We should be just as proud of our sons and daughters to choose to be high-skilled welders as we do those who choose to be attorneys or doctors."

Don't Cut the National Guard
As commanders-in-chief of their National Guard units, governors have a special affection for the state-based volunteer reserve force best known for its response to emergencies, but in recent years admired for helping fight in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon relied on the guard during the 2011 Joplin tornado, which killed 158 people and was the costliest twister in U.S. history.

As recently as this month, he sent 500 guard personnel to Afghanistan.

"We've all had to mobilize in our local communities. We also, each of us, have deployed as well as been to funerals of our citizen-soldiers," said Nixon, a Democrat.

Nixon grew up 30 miles from the Missouri hometown of the general who oversees the National Guard, Frank Grass. With the adjutant generals of every state sitting behind him, Grass appeared before a governors' homeland security panel that Nixon chairs.

The governors pleaded with the president and Pentagon officials to spare the Army National Guard from proposed deep cuts to the military budget as the nation makes a transition from fighting two wars since 2011. Obama's budget is scheduled to be released March 4.

As part of an overall plan to downsize the military, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has proposed trimming the Army National Guard from 355,000 soldiers to 335,000 by 2017.

At meetings with the governors, Obama and Pentagon officials did not say they would save the guard from the reductions. Vice President Joe Biden did offer to meet with Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, a Republican, who's been out front on the issue.

Iowa could lose up to 648 of its 7,200 soldiers if Congress approves the cuts.

"The President pointed out there's going to have to be significant cuts in the budget and obviously he's getting a lot of information from the Pentagon," Branstad said following the meeting with Obama.

"We...believe the buildup that occurred after 9/11 was primarily in the regular Army and that's why we think the reductions should be primarily in the regular Army."

Pot Revenue Not a Budget Fix
Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, whose state was first to legalize recreational pot, was popular among governors and reporters.

He said some governors told him their states may also legalize recreational marijuana, as Washington state also did, and asked for advice on the tax revenue it would generate and the challenges of regulation.

Interest intensified after Colorado budget officials last week estimated the state could generate more than $100 million a year in additional tax revenue from sales of recreational and medicinal marijuana.

As a young man Hickenlooper smoked weed, he said. As governor, he opposed Colorado's pot referendum because of the health risks, especially to teenagers, and its impact on the state's ability to attract businesses from outside the state.

"Governors shouldn't promote things that are inherently wrong," Hickenlooper said he is advising colleagues.

Using money from legal pot for such statewide programs as education or health care "is absolutely the wrong reason to think about legalizing marijuana," Hickenlooper said.

Colorado is spending nearly all of the additional revenue on substance abuse treatment, drug education programs and law enforcement.

Authorities will stop people trying to smuggle weed out of the Denver airport, Hickenlooper says, vowing that Colorado pot will not become as exotic on the East Coast as Coors beer was during the 1970s before the brewery sold it nationally.

The governor says he is telling his colleagues to wait a few years before embracing the legalization movement.

"When governors have asked me, and several have, I say that we don't have the facts," the Democrat said.

"We don't know what the unintended consequences are going to be and we're going to regulate it every way we can. What I do is urge caution. Make sure you look at it very thoroughly."

Secret to Staying in Office
Three term-limited governors who cannot seek re-election attended their final governors' conference as chief executives: Mike Beebe of Arkansas, Dave Heineman of Nebraska and Martin O'Malley of Maryland.

Each said the polarization of the political parties nationally was the biggest change they had seen in the last eight years, a disruption that has altered the partnership between states and the federal government.

The showdowns in Congress over raising the debt ceiling, the government shutdown and the automatic federal spending cuts played havoc with state budgets.

"It made all of our revenue forecasts jumpy," said O'Malley, a Democrat.

"It hurt business and consumer confidence at a time when we should be pulling all oars to make it better."

Added Beebe, a Democrat with a GOP-controlled legislature: "The political middle has decreased significantly. This 'my way or the highway' approach is inconsistent with what the Founding Fathers set up."

Heineman, a former GOP aide to a Nebraska congressman, said it has been frustrating for him to come to Washington every year to discuss the same issues without making progress.

Regardless of party, governors are more willing to solve problems because that is what they do in their states, he said.

"Congress is unwilling to make the tough decisions because they're afraid it may cost them re-election," Heineman said.

"That's not true. I know every Nebraskan doesn't agree with me about everything, but if you explain things to them honestly, they see what you're trying to do."

As Heineman spoke, Branstad of Iowa joined the interview. Iowa doesn't believe in term limits; Branstad is seeking a sixth term this fall, which would make him the longest serving governor in U.S. history.

Voters can decide whether an incumbent politician has served too long by electing someone else, he said. "You lose some real talented people and continuity" because of term limits, he said.

After 31 years in elected office, the last eight as governor, Beebe offered advice to his successor. "I've always believed...that if you get education and economic development right—make those the pillars— that all the other things are easier. Make education, from pre-K to end of life, your priority. If you don't have good jobs, all you are is a farm club for another state."

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

Legal Advertisement

The City of Cullman's Alcohol Review Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 11th, 2014 at 5:00 p.m., in the Administrative Conference Room of City Hall, located at 204 Second Avenue NE.

Comments will be received on the proposed approval for the sale of alcohol in the City of Cullman by the following applicants:

Vintage Beverage Co

1627 Main Avenue SW
Suite A

Package Store Alcohol License

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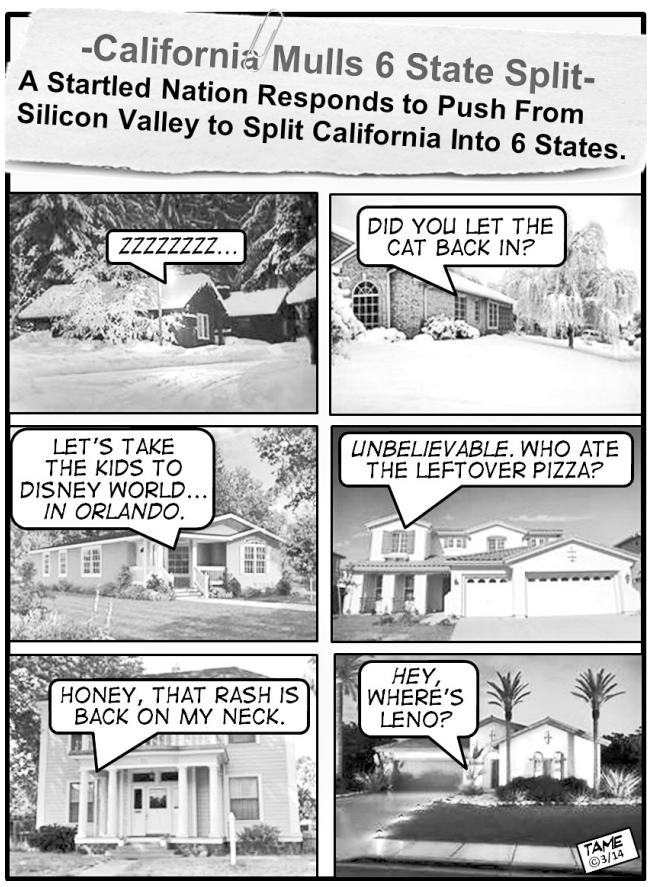
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Editorial Cartoon



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OPINION

Obamacare's Assault on the Lower-Middle Class

Affordable Care Act Isn't What You Think

By: Sage Overton
Local Contributor

Obamacare or the "Affordable Care Act" continues to be highly debated four years after being signed into law. Conservatives present it as the poster child of liberal big government overreach. Liberals defend it as the reason they see for government to exist, to protect those with less, and to level the playing field. It is sure to be a hot topic as November, a midterm election year, approaches. So who is right and who is wrong?

Neither party. Both parties. It all depends on whom you ask. Ask me four years ago when the law first passed and I would have told you I loved it. I'm the oldest of seven children and I was 24 at the time. Right behind me is two sisters aged one and two years younger, respectively. We all regained health insurance when it passed because of the clause allowing children to stay on their parent's insurance until age 26.

Shortly thereafter, I caught pneumonia for the second time in my life and Obamacare allowed me to see a doctor when I needed one. Even if somehow Obamacare were repelled tomorrow, Republicans and Democrats agree this provision would need to remain. Three million Americans have gained insurance because of this allowance.

Ask me today though and I'll tell you something different. I'm a full-time retail store manager with insurance through my company. Lucky for me, my company absorbed any cost increase caused by the Affordable Care Act and what I pay for health care this year didn't increase by even a dime over what I paid last year. They also didn't force spouses (I'm not married) who could get insurance on their own to come off our company's policies (no one is pointing fingers UPS, breathe easy). That sounds great but I can't say I love it. In fact, I regret having ever had a happy thought about it.

One of the lesser-known provisions of the Affordable Care Act was to require all companies with more than 50 employees to offer health insurance to employees who work more than 30 hours a week. I suppose the makers of the law assumed most companies would simply keep working employees the way they were and more Americans would receive insurance through their employers. Unfortunately that's not the way most of the retail and food service industries work.

Now, all my part-time employees are limited to 25 hours a week. They make between $8 to $10 an hour or $200 to $250 a week. That equals out to between $10,400 and $13,000 a year. Before the law passed they could work right up to 30 hours a week. The law took from them between $2,080 and $2,600 a year.

For those in college this isn't a huge problem. It works well around classes, builds a resume for when they graduate, and provides that little bit needed to help get by. But I don't employ only college students. For the parents that work for me this isn't enough, $13,000 a year doesn't cut it.

Now, before you go marching into the streets joining with McDonald's employees demanding $15 an hour, think a moment. The positions they fill are unskilled and non-certified. They require only the most basic of English and math skills. Most don't even require a high school diploma.

Most companies require someone to be 18 or older though because writing little Jimmy up for being a half an hour late without calling ahead means you have to explain why to his parents if he is 17. Simply put, it's supply and demand. There is a huge supply of workers for these slots, which makes them easy to fill. They require very little thus they pay very little.

Some people would say have them get a second job. While that is an option, it's like telling a drowning man to swim harder. I was raised by a single mom working full-time and trying to go to school full-time. She made it, and we did too. But it was hell. Many days of the week she looked like hell.

And managers hate having to work around another job when making schedules. It is a serious complication and means a staff lacks the flexibility that retail and food service often require. This often means that someone very well qualified for a position will be passed over if they already have that first job because their availability just doesn't fit the needs of your business. Thus, that second job can be even harder to find than the first.

Working two jobs is also a lot like running a marathon with ankle weights. Just imagine the marathon titled life. Again, the only fields that really even offer the ability to have two jobs in the first place are retail and service industry. If you work part-time in those fields your schedules constantly change up. The ebb and flow of business dealing with holidays and special events and other store needs just makes it impossible to do fixed schedules. This makes it right next to impossible to attend classes to earn a degree to obtain a single full-time job. It's a vicious cycle.

Before you jump to the conclusion of online classes, do your homework. For one, they are typically much more expensive than on campus classes. Second, only certain degrees are offered this way. Third, you have to be very careful to check that not only is the school accredited, but that the degree is as well.

The sad truth is most of the jobs created since the start of the Great Recession are these kinds of jobs. The jobs lost have not been replaced with jobs of the same quality. So depending on what kind of job you have probably depends on where you sit on the Obamacare debate. From where I sit, even though I'm a full-time worker paying only $35 a pay period (bi-weekly) for health insurance, I hate it.

I hate having to tell a mother who shows up on time to work every day, who diligently does her job, who handles customer concerns proactively and with care, and who does everything required of her that I can only give her 25 hours a week. From where she sits, working part-time and having children, (the exact person the law was designed to help) well, she tells me she hates it too.

OPINION

Inequality on Campus

By: Lawrence S. Wittner
PeaceVoice Contributor

As the United States begins to grapple with the issue of growing economic inequality, it should not ignore the widening income gap on American college campuses.

Some of the nation's poorest people work at higher educational institutions, and many of them are members of the faculty.

Oh, yes, there are still faculty members who receive comfortable middle class salaries. But most faculty do not.

These underpaid educators are adjunct faculty, who now comprise an estimated 74 percent of America's college teachers.

Despite advanced degrees, scholarly research experience, and teaching credentials, they are employed at an average of $2,700 per course.

Even when they manage to cobble together enough courses to constitute a full-time teaching load, that usually adds up to roughly $20,000 per year -- an income that leaves many of them and their families officially classified as living in poverty. Some apply for and receive food stamps.

Adjunct faculty face other job-related difficulties as well. Lacking employment security of any kind, they can be hired to teach courses the day before classes begin -- or, for that matter, not hired at all.

They often receive no healthcare or other benefits, have no office space, mailboxes, or email addresses at colleges where they teach, and drive long distances between their jobs on different campuses.

As the impoverished migrant labor force of its day, this new faculty majority deserves its own Grapes of Wrath.

By contrast, others on campus are doing quite well.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, 42 presidents of private colleges and universities were paid more than a million dollars each in 2011 -- up from 36 the previous year.

The highest earners were Robert Zimmer of the University of Chicago ($3.4 million), Joseph Aoun of Northeastern University ($3.1 million), and Dennis Murray of Marist College ($2.7 million).

High-level administrative positions often come with some very substantial perks. At the University of Nebraska, top administrators are given free memberships in country clubs, as well as very expensive cars. At New York University, the trustees gave president John Sexton -- whose university compensation in 2011 was $1.5 million -- a $1 million loan to help him purchase a vacation home on Fire Island.

Some have argued, of course, that top campus administrators genuinely deserve these kinds of incomes and lifestyles.

But faculty and others are not so sure. At NYU, after the faculty voted no confidence in President Sexton's leadership, the trustees convinced him to retire at the end of his contract, in 2016.

But even if one assumes that most campus administrators do a good job, why should there be a widening gap between their incomes and the incomes of those who do the central work of the university: the faculty?

Perhaps the time has come to redress the balance on campus by cutting the outlandish income and number of administrators and providing faculty members with the salaries and respect they deserve.

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.

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

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.

Square Dancing lessons
The Friendship Square Dance Club of Cullman will be holding free lessons on square dancing from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Contact Rip Johnston at 256-347-7266 or Hulda Schaefers 256-734-3566

Knifty Knitters Weekly Meeting
Members of the Cullman Knifty Knitters group meet each Tuesday afternoon at 3 p.m. in the Cullman County Library. Everyone is invited to come learn how to knit yarn and needles are free. This group is open to all ages, both accomplished knitters and those wishing to learn the art form. Crocheters also are invited to take part in these weekly meetings. Please call Lesia for more info 256-734-2720, ext. 23.

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

St. Monica's Group
St. Monica's Group for those addicted to alcohol or drugs meets every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. in the Rectory Basement of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church. All are welcome to attend who feel the need. For further information please contact Brian, 256-595-0515 or Rita, 256-507-0358.

Manna Meals at St. Andrew's United Methodist
Everyone is invited to attend the weekly Wednesday night 'Manna Meals' at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. Sack dinners will be available for carry outs. Please call the Church office for further information 256-735-0444.

Storytime at the Hanceville Library
Everyone is invited to take part in the 'Storytime' session each Wednesday starting at 10 a.m. at the Hanceville Library!

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

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.

Thursday Afternoon Overeaters Anonymous Meeting
Those interested are invited to attend the weekly Thursday afternoon meetings of Overeaters Anonymous which begin at 4:45 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church's Carriage House. For additional information please call 734-376-2124 or 256-352-1143.

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.

42nd Annual Rotary Auction
Everyone is invited to attend the 42nd Annual Rotary Auction at Cullman's McGukin Civic Center with viewing starting at 5 p.m. The Silent Auction starts are 5:30 p.m. and runs to 6:30 p.m., with the auction starting at 7 p,m. Joe Hagan, AL LIC #387 will call the bids. All proceeds benefit community projects of the Cullman Rotary Club. All welcome.

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

VFW Saturday Night Dance
The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2214 invites everyone to their weekly Saturday night dances which begin at 7 p.m. and last until 10 p.m. The Boogie Night Band provides music on Saturday nights. Entrance fee is $5.00 for each individual. Come on out and bring your dancing shoes and enjoy an evening of great music, fun, and fellowship!

Cullman Area Autism Networking Group
Members of the Cullman Area Autism Networking Group will gather at the CCCDD at 5 p.m., with childcare provided if reserved by March 6. Please contact Rhonda Davis at 256-962-2208 or Jessica Dyson, 256-339-1151. Tonight's program will be on sensory issues for older students and adults with Melissa Dew. All interested are invited to attend.

Next Monday

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

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!

RESIDENTIAL RECIPES

American Apple Pie

By: Allison Chauvin • Local Contributor

I know what you're thinking. After a busy holiday season eating and stuffing your face with deliciousness, the last thing you want to see is another pie recipe. Well, this is one for the recipe books. Apple pie is a staple in American food culture. It is a common dessert on almost every holiday banquet table among their kin pumpkin and pecan.

However, Apple pie is a chameleon; mingling not only at Christmas and Thanksgiving, but Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and any holiday or get together that gives us an excuse to stuff our faces. This recipe is quick, easy and sure to be fought over at the next church luncheon.

Many people are intimidated by homemade pie dough. It is not as terrifying as it sounds and you can make it ahead of time to use when needed.

Pie Crust

2 single crusts or 1 double crust

Ingredients
- 2 ½ Cups Flour
- 1 Tbsp Granulated Sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 sticks Unsalted butter, cubed and chilled
- ½ Cup ice cold water

Instructions:
1. Combine Flour, Sugar, and Salt in mixing bowl
2. Add Butter cubes and cut in with pastry cutter or fork until the consistency resembles wet sand
3. Slowly add water while mixing until dough starts to come together and pull away from the sides of the bowl.
4. Dump dough onto floured surface and knead with the heel of your hands. Turning 1/4 turn and folding until combined completely (this will make it flaky)
5. Form into a ball and flatten out, cut in half and wrap each half with plastic wrap and place in the fridge (you can freeze for up to 2 weeks if not needed immediately)

Filling

Ingredients:
- 9 medium Granny Smith apples
- ½ Cup Flour
- 1 ½ Cup Sugar
- 1 tsp Cinnamon

Instructions:
1. Preheat oven to 375
2. Peel and cut apples into 1 inch pieces
3. Add Sugar, Flour, and Cinnamon to apples and mix until apples are well coated with the yummy stuff

Asembly

1. Make sure the dough is thoroughly chilled and bring out one of your cute little crust balls.
2. Unwrap onto a floured surface and roll out into a 12 in circle.
3. Lift gently and place into 9 inch pie pan. Press gently into the bottom. Take a knife and pierce the crust a few times.
4. Pour those delicious sugar apples into the bottom crust, spreading evenly. There is a lot of filling, but don't panic, you'll need every bit because it will cook down.
5. Take the second crust out of the fridge and roll into 12 inch circle. Now you can top this pie any way you would like. Cut little hearts or cute little leaf shapes, even just throw it on there and call it a day. (just be sure to cut vent holes) I, myself prefer the lattice or basket weave top.
6. Once you get your lid on the pie, edging or crimping and cutting off the excess crust, separate 1 egg and save the white. Whip the white until it is bubbly. Take a paintbrush (one specific for this purpose, preferably not one with leftover paint from that time you tried something you saw on Pinterest) and paint the egg wash all over the top of the pie. Sprinkle the moist crust with granulated sugar.
7. Now you're ready to bake. I recommend putting the pie on a baking sheet to prevent any leakage of the yummy apple syrup onto the bottom of your oven.
8. Bake at 375 for 40-50 min.

I began making this recipe about 6 years ago and it is the easiest and most requested. Sometimes I get a little crazy and add caramel bits or cheddar cheese to the pies. Don't be afraid to experiment and have fun. That's what cooking is all about... Well that and having everyone tell you how awesome you are for cooking an amazing apple pie.

GET YOUR RECIPE PUBLISHED

E-mail submissions to recipes@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

Official Newsletter

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VOLUME 45 | MARCH 2014 | ISSUE 3

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From the Chamber President

If You'd Wear it to the Cullman County Fair, Don't Wear it to Work

Dress for success! That's a motto I have heard all my life. However, as I look around the meeting I am in, it seems most people in this room do not want to be successful. (Ouch, did I just say that out loud?) Workplace dress codes have changed drastically over the years. We have become less and less rigid and more and more ambiguous. With the introduction of casual Friday and the decline of the dress code, it's hard to know exactly where the boundaries of workplace-appropriateness end and begin. Defined attire such as suits, collared shirts and pantyhose have been replaced with phrases like "business attire" or "business casual." Without specific guidelines, employees are left to decide what is appropriate and what is not. For Traditionalists, Baby Boomers and even Generation X, that kind of freedom is sufficient. Newer generations, such as Y and Z may need more guidelines. Here are a few I have put together that should help you get that promotion you are vying for (or at least keep you from getting fired):

1) **No Spy Zone** - Take a moment to examine your "no spy" zone. That would be the grade A, B, C and D parts just below your neckline. You don't have to dress like your Grandma, but at least pretend she is in the room!

2) **Skirting -** We aren't in high school anymore. The only boy you are trying to impress is your boss. Don't make him get the ruler out and send you home.

3) **Tatts** - If you don't know what that is, you are okay. For the rest, I don't want to see it and neither does your boss.

4) **Lady Gaga Should Not Be Your Guide** - Weird hair, wrinkled clothing and a mismatched outfit leave your colleagues and bosses thinking this disorganization stems into your work performance. Not cool.

5) **Ladder Climbing -** If you indulge in your inner Jersey Shore persona, more than likely you will blow your chance at that promotion. When in doubt, play it safe. Follow office cues and look at co-worker's attire. It's sure to keep you out of HR and on the road to success.

6) **Don't Flash -** If you think you might have seen it on the "Real Housewives of Atlanta," set it aside. Bright colors, pictures and sparkle belong on the dance floor, not at work.

7) **Caked-on Makeup** - Go home, Tammy Faye! Save dramatic eye makeup and trendy red lipstick for the Parking Lot Party.

8) **Piled on Accessories** - Your goal is to look coordinated, not fresh off the Brooks Brothers assembly line. Accessorize tastefully.

9) **Flips are flops -** You may wish you were at the beach, but you aren't. Flip flops aren't so cool in the workplace.

A dress code is not a prison sentence. Get labeled for your excellent work, not for an iffy attire choice. Frumpy, Sexy and Sloppy sound like the clueless cousins to the Seven Dwarfs, not talent-in-waiting for the job you deserve.



Leah Bolin

President & CEO, Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce

Speed Networking Coming Up on March 6, 2014

On March 6, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce will host their first quarter Business After Hours event called Speed Networking from 5:30-7 p.m. at Grumpy's Italian Grill. The price is $15 for Chamber members and $20 for future members. Light Hors d'Oeuvres and drinks will also be served.

Just what is speed networking? Speed networking is modeled after the infamous speed dating technique of having an allotted amount of time with each person to share important information about oneself in order to create business connections.

So how does one go about preparing for such an event? It is recommended that you wear an appropriate outfit, prepare a short elevator speech (a small speech that is about 30 to 60 seconds long that describes you and your career), bring business cards of your own, prepare questions to ask those you will meet and finally have fun.

Meeting new people can be scary, but through this style of connecting, the experience is much more personal and laid back. It allows enough one-on-one time to make an impression, to create a connection, and to ensure a hefty amount of business cards left in your pocket.

Each speed networking event is operated differently, but the goal is for everyone in the room to meet one another. If worked appropriately, it can be a gold mine of new contacts for your business. Get ready to network like you never have before. You can make over 100 connections in just one night.

An even better version than just saving that card in your wallet or stuffing it into your briefcase? Scan it with your phone! With the iconic new app called CardMunch, you can scan your new friend's business card and within seconds have all of their information at your fingertips.

CardMunch scans business cards and converts them into contacts through a synchronization with LinkedIn, where they pull the business contact's information, experience and resume as provided by them.

If you are ready to take your business from the doldrums to the dynamic, then get on board for this one-of-a-kind event where you will surely grow your business reach in the Cullman area and enjoy a memorable night of connections.

To sign up for this event, you may call (256) 734-0454, email info@cullmanchamber.org or register online.





Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 1104, Cullman, AL 35056-1104 | 256-734-0454 | F: 256-737-7443 | info@cullmanchamber.org
www.cullmanchamber.org I www.visitcullman.org

TOPIC: STAY OFF! STAY AWAY! STAY ALIVE!

- COMMUNITY LUNCHEON -

The Chamber will host its monthly "Community Luncheon" on Friday, March 28, in the All Steak Restaurant Banquet Room (323 3rd Ave. S.E.). Our featured speaker will be Nancy Hudson. In 1999 after more than 20 yrs in the traffic engineering profession Nancy Hudson became the Executive Director of Alabama Operation LifeSaver. In addition to being Executive director she sits on the National Operation LifeSaver board of directors.

The Community Luncheon program for 2014 is presented by Mickey Parrish State Farm Insurance & Financial Services. The March luncheon is sponsored by HH Technologies.

Doors open at 11:30 a.m. to allow networking opportunities before the program begins at 11:50 a.m. Lunch is $15 per person for Chamber members and $20 for future members. *Reservations in advance are required.

Please register online at www.cullmanchamber.org or RSVP by contacting the Chamber via e-mail at info@cullmanchamber.org or by calling 256-734-0454.

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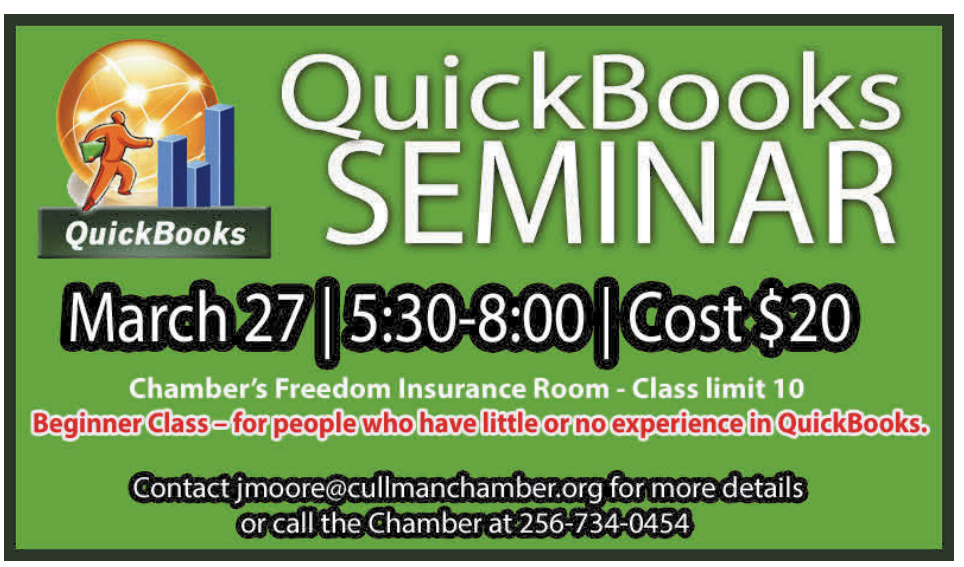


MARCH MORNING BLEND

Chamber staff will welcome members and visitors to the Chamber building every month to discuss the hottest topics in business and share tips, ideas and viewpoints.

The Chamber's Morning Blend is presented by Starbucks.

Thank you to our February sponsor: **PONDER WRECKER SERVICE 256-739-0149**



www.CullmanChamber.org



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2014 Cullman Area Career Awareness Fair to be Held

|March 20|

Career Awareness: Gaining knowledge of career paths and job opportunities, acquiring the skills and qualifications necessary to be successful.
The Chamber's Education Committee will host its annnual Cullman Area Career Awareness Fair on March 20 at Wallace State Community College. This event is held each year and targeted to tenth graders in all of Cullman County. The students complete a survey to determine their top three career interests using the state's 16 career clusters. This information is then used to recruit business leaders in the area to speak to the students and give them insight on how to map their path to success in their selected career. Awareness of job opportunites right here in the Cullman area is a primary focus of the event. Our children are our future!

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Joiner Construction was started in 1994 by Jerry Joiner in Vinemont, Alabama as a residential contractor. In 2004 Adam Joiner joined the company and moved the company in a new direction toward commercial contracting. Joiner has experienced tremendous growth since 2004, doubling in size every year. Joiner Construction has now expanded its boundaries to cover all phases of the construction industry. We have over 75 years combined experience in these facets of construction.

Joiner Construction has completed many types of projects which include government contracts, educational, medical, commercial, industrial and several retail developments. We have also built and remodeled several churches. Sixty-five percent of our work has been competitively bid projects with the remaining amount as cost plus and design build projects. Joiner Construction has also maintained its residential home builder's license, plumbing license, electrical license, gas piping, certified welding, and general contractor's unlimited license.

Our firm self performs fifty percent of its work. We believe that quality is maintained through our companies own work forces. We have a quality staff that is onsite every day. Our diversified staff has experience in all aspects ranging from design to civil to completed building. We take great pride in doing the job right the first time. Our goal is to have a very small or no punch list at the end of the project.

At Joiner Construction we believe in honesty and integrity in our construction business. We believe in being open with our clients so they can see where every dime of their money is being spent. We are open and available to all questions, comments, and concerns that you may have. We want to make sure that every customer is completely satisfied every time.

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Are you a Leader?

The program is designed to identify, prepare and build upon leadership resources within Cullman County. It brings leaders together to discuss the present and future direction of our county and prepares them for greater involvement through volunteer roles in the community. The program consists of eight monthly meetings focused on various topics such as education, criminal justice, local government, health care, state government, economic development and quality of life. Contact the Chamber for more information on how you can participate in the 2014-15 program.

2013-14 Leadership Cullman County Program is brought to you by:

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Five Star Senior Living owns and operates independent and assisted living communities, skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation hospitals, and outpatient physical therapy clinics across the nation. Our programs are recognized nationally through the Assisted Living Federation of America's (ALFA) "Best of the Best" Awards and other industry honors.

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Nominate Your Favorite Small Business Today

The Retail Committee of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to provide special recognition to our small business community by presenting one (1) monthly recognition award and one (1) yearly award. Monthly award winners will be considered the nominees for the yearly recognition award to be presented at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting held each February. Visit CullmanChamber.org to show some love to your favorite business.

February Small Business of the Month – Brandin' Iron Steakhouse

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's February Small Business of the Month was awarded to Brandin' Iron Steakhouse in West Point. Cullman Chamber Director of Business &Workforce Development Jackie Moore explained that this award is given to a local small business that meets nomination requirements.

Eligible candidates have under 100 employees, are members of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, make contributions to our community, possess outstanding customer service and are examples of inspiring success stories.

Brandin' Iron Steakhouse is pleased to be February's choice for Small Business of the Month.

"Recognition [for these local businesses] is so important to me because small businesses are the backbone of our community. They are the ones who sponsor the schools and different sports activities and the churches," Retail Committee Chair Susie Ashley Hood said.

"They have the dinners, the banquets and such in their facilities and it means so much for the community to have these guys around, and they make so many contributions behind the scenes that nobody ever knows about."

Brandin' Iron Steakhouse has been around since 2006. And they are actually looking to expand their restaurant lineage into Fairview, developing a sister store that is anticipated to open in the spring of this year.

Manager Josh Speakman shared his thoughts on Brandin' Iron Steakhouse being awarded this outstanding achievement:

"I am very honored to be recognized by the Cullman Chamber and the business community represented by the Chamber. It is easy to get caught up in the high energy and chaotic atmosphere that signatures the daily managing of a restaurant with such a high volume as we see, as well as the added demands of the local charitable events we support at any given time; so it is very nice to be recognized for all the hard work, and I am very humbled and thankful for the recognition."

If you would like to nominate a local business for the Small Business of the Month award, nomination forms can be downloaded at www.cullmanchamber.org.

Chamber Begins an Exciting New Year in March 2014

| MEET THE NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS |

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Cullman Electric Cooperative
2013-14 Chamber Chair
Thank you for a fantastic year!





JIM WEIDNER
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2014-15 Chamber Chair
Looking forward to a great year!

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Cullman Youth leadership

February Session Held: "State Government Day"

The class will visited Montgomery on February 27 and had lunch with legislators and toured the capitol. Thank you to our breakfast sponsor Serra Visser Nissan. We look forward to our March session, "Business & Industry Day" with breakfast sponsored by Krout Properties. To sponsor a student for the 2014-15 year contact jmoore@cullmanchamber.org.

2013-14 Cullman County Youth Leadership Program is brought to you by:

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Thank you to our Breakfast Sponsor: SERRA VISSER NISSAN
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CHAMBER REWIND

CoC Annual Meeting & Gala Celebrated 71st Year



2013-14 Emma Marie Eddleman Recipient:
Roy Drinkard

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce held their long anticipated 71st Annual Meeting & Gala on February 13 at Loft 212. The theme of the evening was "Rollin' in the Dough" and the style of dress was Old Vegas. Entertainment was provided by Gwen Hughes and the Retro Jazz Kats.

The event celebrated the past year's accomplishments under Melissa Cartee's leadership and kicked off the new year of programs and activities under 2014-15 Chamber Chair Jim Weidner's leadership.

The event was presented by Peoples Bank of America and the featured speaker was presented by Freedom Insurance – The Gloria Williams Agency. Patricia Barnes aka Sister Schubert of her famous rolls line was the revered guest speaker for the night.

She delivered a beautiful address rich with faith, family and food. The crowd rose to their feet and thunderously applauded Sister after she finished.

Outgoing Chamber Chair Melissa Cartee inspired the room with her reflection on the past year of growth and progress that Cullman experienced as she passed the gavel. Incoming Chair-Elect (now 2014-15 Chamber Chair) Jim Weidner encouraged the crowd and left a spirited impression with his theme of moving Cullman forward.

TRC (Total Resource Campaign) Outgoing Campaign Chair Vicki Karolewics also passed the gavel on to incoming TRC Campaign Chair- Elect (now 2014-15 TRC Campaign Chair) Susan Copeland. Both women conveyed a contagious positivity and an insatiable desire to push TRC to the very top.

The awards of the evening were also given out. The Cullman Mayors Association's Lucille Galin Public Service Award winner of 2014 was given to Joann Walls, a Hanceville resident who has passionately served the public for years.

The Cullman Chamber's Emma Marie Eddleman Citizen of the Year for 2014 was awarded to Roy Drinkard of Drinkard Development. This illustrious man humbly received his award. Drinkard has been dubbed the father of Cullman and is the longest living former Chamber chair.

Upon completion of the program and the announcement of the Drawdown winners, attendees were able to play games and catch up with one another at the Old Vegas themed gathering.

Congratulations to our $10,000 Drawdown Winners



Left: Tina Hulse - Split Winner



Left: Judy Butler - Split Winner





































CHAMBER REWIND

Organize 4 Success

Get Organized, Productive and Focused

You know the drill. . . You're typing away engrossed in a report you're working on when the phone suddenly rings and jolts your attention away. All at once, you remember the phone bill is due, the puppy needs to go to the vet and, hey, there's that paperclip you lost a week ago.

Don't let chaotic disorder take over your life. Karen Sladick won't allow it. Who is she? Sladick is the owner of Organize 4 Results and is a premier expert in productivity and leadership training. Her Birmingham based business has helped the likes of Regions Bank, St. Vincent's Hospital, Children's Hospital and the Southern Research Institute, to name a few.

This month, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce held a seminar on February 19 called Organize 4 Success with Sladick as the facilitator. Her specialized course helps you garner the critical information needed to help you focus and function at your absolute best, increasing productivity and efficiency in the workplace.

As stated on Sladick's website, www.organize4results.com, this program specializes in workplace productivity and leadership skills development training. They have helped several companies achieve bottom-line results and increase productivity and effectiveness through employee development programs.

Through this program, employees learn practical solutions to real world challenges and gain skills they immediately use on the job. Within a four-hour time span, Sladick taught her full class ideas that could be implemented in all areas of life – work, home, school, play, etc.

Her tips and tricks of the trade for staying organized are tried and true. This highly informative session included several methods of staying organized that would efficiently work at home and in the workplace.

Sladick explained that certain behaviors and habits either had to be built or rebuilt depending on what one was prone to do. After explaining how these certain habits can make or break an individual, she suggested different methods to alter or better enforce such behavior.

As Sladick commented, "You can manage those actions that eat up your time."

If you are tired of being all over the place and lost in translation, it's time to give Sladick a call and get your life in order. She not only leads the seminar but also provides her participants with a 63-page workbook that they fill out and keep. Not only that, but Sladick calls and checks in on her students to see if the process oriented program is working for them.

In summation, Sladick is an organizational maverick. If you have employees that are lacking the ability to be focused and productive, Sladick can help. Her process is a proven method of efficiency. Isn't it time for you to be organized, focused and productive?

2014 State of the Hospital Address and Healthcare Professional of the Year

On Wednesday, Jan. 29, the 2014 Business Leaders Luncheon and the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's Healthcare Professional of the Year Award Presentation was held in conjunction with the State of the Hospital Address at Cullman Regional Medical Center.

This award, presented by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's Health Services committee, recognizes individuals who have made an outstanding contribution in healthcare to our community.

The 2014 Cullman Chamber's Healthcare Professional of the Year was awarded to Dr. Jeremy Stidham of Cullman Internal Medicine. Stidham is a beloved and highly admired doctor practicing in the Cullman area.

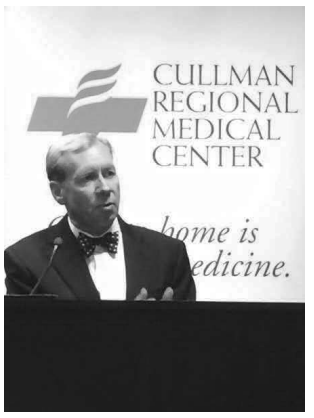
2013-14 Chamber Chair Melissa Cartee spoke briefly and Jared Rice of Borden Family Pharmacy & Market Shoppe presented the award.

The State of the Hospital Address was delivered by 2014-15 Chamber Chair and President/ CEO of CRMC Jim Weidner. His detailed, impressive speech was the most comprehensive and current evaluation of CRMC and the Cullman area, as well as his update on the conditions and forecasts in the healthcare industry and the medical field.



2014 Healthcare Professional of the Year Recipient: Dr. Jeremy Stidham (Left)

Weidner wrapped up his speech with a touching video that displayed the following words: "Empathy – the human connection to patient care." It is highly evident that the doctors and staff of the medical field in our Cullman community are cutting edge professionals with their patients' best interests at heart.



The State of the Hospital Address was delivered by 2014-15 Chamber Chair and President & CEO of CRMC Jim Weidner.

Welcome New Members

January 1, 2014 - February 23, 2014

Thank you for your support and investment in the Cullman Area!

168 China Buffet
1300 Mitchell Road NW
Cullman, AL 35055
Primary Phone: (256) 775-8888

Cullman Ballet Society
1706 Tally Ho Street
Cullman, AL 35057
Primary Phone: (256) 507-2826

Custom Catering by Teresa
593 County Rd 946
Cullman, AL 35057
Primary Phone: (256) 338-9877

Deep South Classics
118 5th Street, SE
Cullman, AL 35055
Primary Phone: 256-739-1266

Fyre Athletics DBA ACE of Cullman
10211 US Hwy 31
Hanceville, AL 35077
Primary Phone: (256) 775-4317
www.fryeathletics.com

Harris and Graham, Inc.
896 Co. Rd. 732
Cullman, AL 35055
Primary Phone: (256) 595-4973
harrisandgraham.com

Lakeshore Revenue Recovery, LLC
P.O. Box 303
Arley, AL 35541
Primary Phone: (205) 406-8862
lakeshorerevenue.com

Legacy Realty Group
103 3rd Street SW
Cullman, AL 35055
Primary Phone: 256-841-5657

Matt Gentry
1412 Allendale Ln NW
Cullman, AL 35055
Primary Phone: (256) 595-8862

Realty Inc./Homes for Heroes Affiliate
Cullman, AL 35055
Primary Phone:
Website: http://realtyincalabama.com

Shelly Smith Photography | Smith Squared Photography
9565 US Highway 31
Hanceville, AL 35077
Primary Phone: (256) 590-3501
shellysmithphotography.net

Thank You to our Renewals

January 1, 2014 - February 23, 2014

We appreciate your continued support and investment in the Cullman Area!

Alacare Home Care and Hospice
Amedisys Home Healthcare
Consumer First Mortgage
Cullman County Republican Women
Cullman Eye Specialists, P.C.
Davidson Homes, LLC
Denise G. Key, CPA
Dr. Silvio Papapietro, CRMC/UAB Cardiology Clinic
Dyer Poultry Supply
Earl's Body Shop, Inc.
Etc. by Nikki
Friends of Cullman Animal Shelter
Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama, Inc.
Happy Homes Real Estate
Havoline Xpress Lube
Heritage Diagnostic Center
Housing Authority of City of Cullman
I-Core Composites, LLC
Joiner Construction Company, Inc.
Larry G. Cooke, CPA
Lee Powell -- Cotton States Insurance Agency, Inc.
Lisa Weeks, D.C.
Mickey Parrish, State Farm Insurance
MotorHead Products
Musgrove Estates Apartments
Nearen Construction Company, Inc
Nesmith Park Apartments
North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence
Quality I/N Signs & Outdoor Advertising
Queen's Antiques
Restoration Construction Specialist
Sears Hometown Store
Shop Around the Corner
Smith Lake Living, LLC
Southern Heritage - A Family Heritage Insurance Provider
The Link of Cullman County
UPS
Veigl Village Apartments
Victim Services of Cullman, Inc.
Vinemont Coin Laundry
Vintage West
Webb Payroll Service, Inc.

Not a Member Yet? Not a Problem!

Your business can join for @ 50 cents a day!
Visit www.CullmanChamber.org or call the Chamber at 256-734-0454 any time for more information.

CULLMAN AREA COC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER



Join the "CA$H MOB"

HOW IT WORKS: The Cash Mob is a way to show support of local area business. Each month participants meet in a designated area with a pre-determined amount of money in hand. During the mob the participants are asked to meet 3 new people. As part of our Cash Mob initiative, we require that each business pay it forward by selecting a local non-profit or charity to donate to. It can be a percentage of the cash mob sales or donation of time/resources. This should be a lot of fun and a great way to promote SHOP LOCAL! Let's keep our tax dollars in Cullman and keep our existing businesses in business!

Join Us for the March Biscuits & Business

Presented by: WALLACE STATE HANCEVILLE

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's quarterly Biscuits and Business meeting is offering a new venue for guests this year as the first meeting of 2014 takes off Wednesday, March 12 at Wallace State Community College.

The quarterly event, which gives local business representatives the opportunity to network and share resources, also offers participants helpful information on a variety of business and community-related topics throughout the year.

Updates will be provided from Wallace State and Economic Development regarding Workforce Solutions. The breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. and is provided by our sponsor, Wallace State Community College. There is no charge for the event.

Chamber members and future members are invited to attend each quarter. To RSVP, or to get more information on how you can become a Chamber member, please call 256-734-0454.

CoC Seventh Annual Montgomery Drive-In

| MARCH 5, 2014 |

The Chamber's 7th Annual Montgomery Drive-In presented by the Cullman Economic Development Agency and Cullman County Industrial Development Authority is set for Wednesday, March 5. The cost for participants is $50 which includes transportation (bus) to and from Montgomery and lunch.

The program will also include presentations from various departmental and agency directors who will meet with our group and provide an update on their respective programs and activities. Furthermore, our local Cullman area state legislative delegation has been invited to join us for lunch that day to provide an overview on legislative issues.

Thank you to our Lunch Sponsor:
Cullman Regional Medical Center | www.crmchospital.com

Thank you to our
Transportation Sponsor:
Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, Inc. | www.gmcnetwork.com

Presented by:

CULLMAN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

CULLMAN ECONOMIC Development Agency

Thank you to our Corporate Sponsor:

Natural Gas Comfortable. Responsible.
CULLMAN-JEFFERSON COUNTIES GAS DISTRICT
256-737-1600

Member Spotlight

Be sure to visit these Chamber Member businesses for all of your legal needs.

Berry, Berry, Little & Brunner
405 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman
(256) 734-6330

C. Blake West, Attorney at Law
427 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman
(256) 734-0026

Culpepper & Associates LLC
206 Ninth Street SW, Cullman
(256) 737-0740

Emily Niezer Johnston, LLC
PO Box 2612, Cullman
(256) 775-9261

Fuller, Willingham, Fuller & Carter, LLC
PO Box 1213, Cullman
(256) 734-2023
www.fandwlaw.com

Greg Johnson, Attorney at Law
412 First Avenue SE, Suite 100,
Cullman
(256) 739-0006

Jackson & Williams
416 1st Avenue SE, Cullman
(256) 739-5400

Knight & Knight, LLC
210 Second Street, SE, Cullman
(256) 734-0456
www.knight-knightattorneys.com

McLeroy Law Firm, LLC
1626 First Avenue, SW, Cullman
(256) 734-6994
www.mcleroyfirm.com

Parker and Parker P.C. Attorneys At Law
215 Main Ave., SW, Cullman
(256) 775-4444

Pitts & Zanaty, LLC
PO Box 2606, Cullman
(256) 255-0497

R. Champ Crocker, LLC
207 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman
(256) 739-5005
www.champcrocker.com

Sandra K. Watts, LLC
P.O. Box 1244, Cullman
(256) 841-5700

Sara Baker Attorney at Law
100 5th Street SE, Cullman
(256) 737-7181

Smith & Smith LLP
PO Box 398, Cullman
(256) 734-4721

Mark O. South — Attorney at Law
1207 1st Avenue SW, Cullman
(256) 734-3800

St. John & St. John, LLC
PO Box 2130, Cullman
(256) 734-3542

Thompson & Thompson Attorneys at Law
421 2nd Ave., SW, Cullman
(256) 734-4591
www.thompsonattorneys.com

PRESERVING HISTORY

A Family Tradition

» Third generation silhouette artist makes forever keepsakes

By: Chelsea Sparks
Local Contributor

The local shop Bubblegum and Blue Jeans was visited this past week by a very special guest. Silhouette artist Erik Johnson made his way from North Carolina to Cullman, Alabama and created some beautiful forever keepsakes for families.

Johnson is a third generation silhouette artist and travels all along the east coast sharing his talent. His father spent 50 years perfecting his trade and passed his skills and knowledge onto his two sons, teaching them from the time they were 10 years old. Now Johnson and his twin brother have been making silhouette portraits professionally for over 15 years. The background of the silhouette is an interesting one that dates back to the 1700s. A French finance minister Etienne de Silhouette made a hobby out of cutting paper shadow portraits. This was during a time when the lower class could not afford a formal painting.

The main reason that the people of France were so poor was due in large part to Silhouette himself. His budgetary cuts and overall tenure as finance chief was the source of much ridicule among the people. The term "a la silhouette" became a term widely used to describe something cheaply made.

Johnson's process seems simple at first but the results are anything but cheap. He first has the child sit on a stool and watch a movie so he can get the optimal head angle for the silhouette. He then takes out his paper and scissors and snips out an exact picture of the child's silhouette.

With years of practice, he seemed to produce these works of art with seemingly little effort. A closer look, however, would show the immense amount of finesse and delicate grace that this art form requires. Johnson completes this task in a matter of minutes.

Anyone can have these lovely portraits in their home for a reasonable price. To have Johnson make a silhouette portrait for you, simply like and follow his page on Facebook at facebook.com/eriksilhouettes to see when and where his upcoming events are.

To have a non-live portrait done, simply send an e-mail with your information and his assistant will contact you and walk you through the process of taking and sending a picture that is suitable for Johnson to work with. The portraits are $25 per portrait and $15 for each additional copy. They also offer framing for the pieces.

From babies to the elderly, these are timeless gifts and keepsakes that your family will enjoy for a lifetime. Future generations could still have a silhouette of your family hanging on their walls as heirlooms. For less than $30, you would be hard pressed to find a more unique and lovely way of capturing your children through their many stages of life.

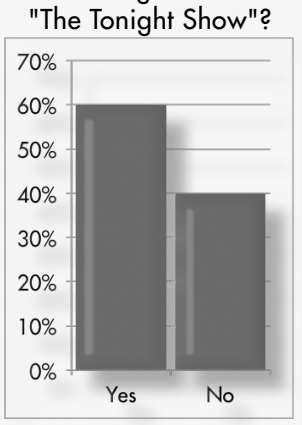


CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» Artist Erik Johnson travels the coast with paper and scissors in hand creating custom silhouettes.

Poll

Do you think Jimmy Fallon is a good host for "The Tonight Show"?



This Week's Poll

Do you think food labels should be altered to make them easier to understand?
Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

DePue Brothers to Perform in Cullman March 11

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Live On Stage, Inc. and the Cullman Community Concert Association are excited to announce that the DePue Brothers will be performing in Cullman on March 11, 2014. This concert will be at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theater on the Wallace State Community College campus.

This iconic bluegrass band will be an excellent addition to the 2013-2014 concert season. The DePue brothers are a family band from Ohio. These four brothers are violinists and they play a unique blend of bluegrass, classical music and rock. This blend of music is reflected in their first album released in 2003, appropriately named "Classical Grass."

The Cullman Community Concert Association presents artists who are skilled in entertaining audiences of all ages. They are proud to provide entertainment for the Cullman area and are committed to bringing a wide variety of entertainment to the community at a reasonable price.

ADVICE

The Community Therapist

Dear Ally

DEAR ALLY: I cannot decide on a major and my parents are about to kill me. I have changed my major three times and I'm almost a junior by credit hours. Should I just take a break from college to figure it out? What do I do? --CONFOUNDED IN COLLEGE

DEAR CONFOUNDED IN COLLEGE: Being a young adult and figuring out exactly what you want to do in life can be challenging, so know that you aren't alone. I know that you want to be happy with your major, but there are a lot of people who don't even end up doing jobs that are related to their major. I feel that it is important for you to do a little soul searching. Maybe sit down for a while and just write down all the things you are really passionate about. Think about where you see yourself in five years and what kind of life you envision for yourself. I know that it might seem like you have just wasted your time in college, but remember that these experiences help us to grow. The things you have learned so far will no doubt help you in the future.

Knowledge is knowledge, and it's a gift to receive. That being said, it is important to find a focus. It's hard to do your absolute best if you stretch yourself too thin. I would take time to evaluate why the first few majors didn't work out for you. Was there a common quality about all three that made you change your mind about majoring in them? If you could recognize this pattern then you may have a clearer idea of what you are looking for and not looking for in a major. If you feel like you need to take time off from school, then don't be afraid to do so. Be honest with your parents about your fears and concerns. I know that taking time off may seem less productive toward fulfilling your academic aspirations however, in order to put deliberate direction into your life, it's necessary to find a focus. If you need to take a break to find a focus. If you do choose to take some time off from school, strive to make it productive. Actively try different things and explore your likes and dislikes. Maybe you could try to get an internship in your area of interest? Believe it or not, you may even be able to get college credit for certain internships, so you should talk to a college advisor and see if they can help you find something that fits your fancy. Whatever you choose to do, just always stay motivated and be productive. It is important to be working towards something, even if you are not necessarily in school. After you have taken the time that you think you need then you can return to school with a stronger confidence about what you are doing.

cpr
cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Youth Baseball & Softball Reg EXTENDED:** Spring youth league baseball and softball will be extended through Feb. 18 for ages 4-14. Games will start in March at Heritage Park and the Field of Miracles. Cost is $90 and includes a hat and jersey. Call 256-734-9157 for details. Registration is open online at active.com by searching "Cullman Parks" or at the Cullman Civic Center.
- **Senior Spirit Travel:** Senior Spirit will travel to "Magnificent Michigan" May 8-14 with stops at Windmill Island, Veldheer's Tulip Farm & Delft Factory, Nelis' Dutch Village, as well as several museums and parades. Cost with motor coach travel and 6 nights of lodging is $1,349 for dbl, $1649 for sngl. Deposit payment of $75 is due by March 1, and spaces are filling up fast! Call 256-734-4803 for more information.
- **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.
- **Ballroom Dance Classes:** Ballroom dance classes will be held weekly at the Cullman Civic Center on Thursday nights with beginners at 6:30pm and advanced class at 7:30pm under instructor Mack Wilson. Cost is $10 per person per class. Call the Cullman Civic Center for details at 256-734-9157.
- **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.
- **Men's Open Spring League Softball Reg.:** Feb. 15-March 15 at Heritage Park . Cost is $425 for a team which includes 12 game season and a single elimination tournament. Ages 15 & up, call 256-739-9931 for details or to register.
- **Miracle League Spring Softball Registration:** Feb. 15-March 15 at the Cullman Civic Center; cost is $50 per player which includes a jersey and trophy at the end of season. Call the Civic Center at 256-734-9157 for additional info.
- **Walk in the Park Disc Golf Tourn:** PDGA C-Tier tournament to be held on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 9:00am. Walk-up registration will be held on the back side of the park (old Woodland Hospital side) at the first disc-golf hole from 7:30am-9am. Call for details at 256-739-9931.

What's Online

Team Levi Shoots and Scores

Recently, fifth graders from West Elementary, Fairview and Hanceville competed on the basketball court for a good cause. This tournament served as a fundraiser for Levi Bates, a fifth grader at West Elementary who is battling Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma.

qrne.ws/168



Taking the First Step in Fitness

It's no secret – fitness is on the rise. And every year the number of gym memberships and personal trainers increases across the United States. New fitness trends are becoming global sensations, but one frequent claim that these fads insist on is that achieving the optimum result is oh-so-easy and takes hardly...

qrne.ws/169

CRMC's Executive Chef, Chris Stone, Works with Cullman Area Career Center's Culinary Students

Chris Stone, Executive Chef of Cullman Regional Medical Center's Food and Nutrition Services Department recently volunteered to help teach culinary students at the Cullman Area Career Center on February 7 and February 18.

qrne.ws/170

PREMATURE BEGINNINGS

Local artist plans book to bring a face to premature babies

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

Local artist Bethany Kerr is excited to announce her upcoming project: a tribute to premature babies and their mothers.

"It's going to be a book about the tiniest of babies," she says, "a compilation of over 100 pencil drawings of premature babies as well as stories, poems, and scripture."

Kerr hopes that her book will be an encouragement and comfort to families who are going through difficult and scary times in the NICU with their little ones.

"I also hope my book will bring awareness and a face to these little ones for others," she adds. "So many families are going through this, it's surprising."

Ultimately, Kerr believes it was God who put this idea in her heart, as well as a sequence of events that led her to this idea.

Kerr's friend, Michele, was pregnant when they met. She had a micro-preemie, who weighed just 1 pound at birth (her daughter, Brinley, is now two years old).

Michele suggested that Kerr post one of her pencil drawings on a preemie Facebook forum that has over 6,000 members. She posted a picture on the forum and then decided to offer a free pencil drawing of a preemie to someone who would send her a submission.

She was shocked at the number of responses she received.

"I thought maybe a dozen people would submit photos," Kerr says.

"Well, it turned out I got a lot more. And the pictures were incredibly beautiful to me. It was difficult for me to turn down drawing them. I didn't want to choose just one."

So she didn't. She first thought she would choose 12 pictures and make a calendar, but she didn't know how she could justify drawing all those pictures.

She then decided she would compile the drawings into a book and offer 100 free portraits in exchange for permission to put them in a book.

"So far, I have drawn 18 baby portraits," she says excitedly, "and it has been a little over a couple of weeks since I started this project. Because I love the subjects so much, I find that I am motivated enough to work very quickly."

Kerr is currently in the beginning stages of her creative process.

"I plan to draw all of the portraits first and then I will begin writing and compiling."

She states that the majority of the writings will be contributed from the parents of the preemies.

"They'll share their stories, poems, and encouraging words for others in the same situation," she says.

From keeping record of preemies and their parents to organizing and drawing pictures, Kerr is constantly busy with this project.

She states that because she is not the most organized person naturally, organization has been quite difficult for her.

She's managing though and states that having the opportunity to speak to the mothers of premature babies and learn their stories makes it all worth it.

"Each story is so unique and miraculous!" Kerr stated emphatically. "Seeing all these beautiful images and getting to be a part of their lives is the best part."

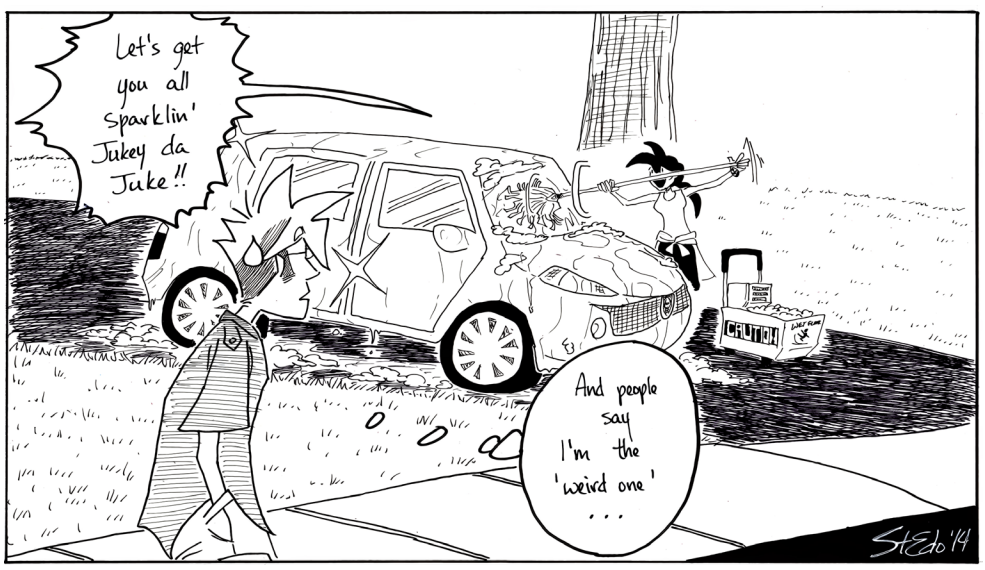
Kerr hopes to continue to write books in the future and even has plans for a future project.

For now though, she hopes to touch lives through this one.

"Life is precious!" she says. "I want others to see these babies and hear their stories and fall in love with each and every one of them. Every life, even the tiniest of them, is worth fighting for."

Comics

WHITE & BLACK • **"Mopping Up"** • st.edo@cullmansense.com



MAMA'S BOYZ www.jerrycraft.net **JERRY CRAFT**



SUNNY STREET



SUNNY STREET



Gardeners (from Front)

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The Cullman County Master Gardeners were working hard in the community garden last Tuesday. This beautiful garden is located down the street from The Busy Bee Cafe, and when it's in full bloom, there's no way you can miss it.

The Cullman County Master Gardeners are a group of trained volunteers sharing their love and knowledge of gardening with the city of Cullman. They do this by maintaining beautiful outdoor spaces and hosting classes on how you can be a gardener as well.

The Master Gardeners serve a vital role to the Alabama Cooperative Extension System team and work in coordination with the City of Cullman.

Master Gardener member Teresa Goodwin explained the purpose of this community garden: "This is a silent outreach for our community so they can come and see what grows in the community and then they can decide if they want to plant it in their yards."

If you've ever seen this garden in the spring, you will appreciate what the Master Gardeners do.

"We plant it and we maintain it," said Master Gardner member Donnie Douthit.

"We work here three or four times a year to keep it in order. It's here for the people to use. I've seen people picnic here, read here, take pictures here. Sometimes brides come to do wedding photography. It's supposed to be used as a learning experience for people as well as for recreation."

This community garden was planted a few years ago and it has continued to get progressively more beautiful each year.

"In fact, it has won three beautification awards and one all around Best in Show award," Goodwin said.

Clearly, the Cullman County Master Gardeners are doing their part to keep Cullman beautiful.

This group of volunteers encourages you to share their love for the outdoors by visiting the community garden as it blooms and grows throughout this year.



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» The Cullman County Master Gardeners' careful curation makes the community garden a great place for families to celebrate the outdoors together.

Crafts (from Front)

because of lack of funding. These budgetary issues have caused increased class sizes, fewer new hires, and has severely slashed the budget for school supplies.

The need to help teachers with their overages is the reason behind the upcoming Little Paws Arts and Crafts Show. The show will include a wide assortment of artisans from all over North Alabama.

Stephanie Brown, co-coordinator of the event, spoke about some of the different types of booths you might see this March.

"Come support our local artisans and help our school at the same time. If you're looking for something unique you'll find it here. We will have Native American Art, woodworkers, painters, jewelry makers, furniture makers, soap makers, rings, crochet, and children's clothing," she said.

"There will be concessions with hamburgers, chicken fingers, and much more. We will also have a Book Nook with gently used books. We are accepting donations. The money raised from the Book Nook will help in buying new curtains for the elementary gym."

The arts show will take place at the Hanceville Recreation Center on March 14 and 15 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The show promises to have something for everyone. It will be a great day to pack up the kids and support not only local teachers but also local artists.

These teachers need all the help they can get. Education is one of the most important things we can do for our children, and these educators already go above and beyond the call of duty to help us.

The teachers, however, are not the only ones to take a hit, our children do as well. When projects are being cut, the opportunity for learning is being cut as well.

Pinterest Projects: Make a unique wall frame without breaking the bank

By: Summer Crook
Local Contributor

These days, there is no shortage of do-it-yourself projects found on Pinterest. It's almost a guarantee that you will find a project you are looking for or stumble across an interesting idea. One project that seems popular among many pinners lately is repurposing old window frames because it's budget-friendly and the sky is the limit on creativity.

There are many varieties of window shapes, sizes, and colors -some have panes, some don't, some have glass, some don't. For the purpose of this article, I will be focusing on repurposing window frames with the glass intact to make a unique picture frame.

In order to complete this project the following items will be required:

- A glassed window frame
- Materials for creating a custom mat (optional)
- One large mat board (if matting is desired)
- Spray adhesive
- A thin foam core or additional large mat board for backing
- Photo tape
- A craft knife
- A measuring stick
- A hammer
- Thin, medium length nails

First, let's start with the window frames. Depending on your desired look, you can go for distressed or simply clean the frame up a bit and repaint it to have a more modern feel. Finding frames for this project is as easy as a quick search on Craig's List. Many local thrift stores carry them as well and will list them for $5 or offer them for free to rid themselves of the clutter. It just takes a minute or two of searching.

Now, let's move on to the frame fillers. Here is where you will decide if you want to include matting or not. Now, you could go with the standard mat boards that are available in a variety of solid colors, but where's the fun in that? This is the perfect opportunity to add your personality to the project and really create a signature piece to hang on your wall. Some looks that I find complimentary to this style are burlap, newspaper cutouts, paper mache, vintage wallpaper, or any interesting paper or fabric design. Again, the sky's the limit.

Once you have chosen the materials you will use for your custom mat, it is time to measure the dimensions of the frame and the picture you will be matting in the frame. Cut the exterior of the mat board to the dimensions of the frame wall using the craft knife. You will do the same for the interior of the matt board, cutting it about 1/8 inch smaller in dimension on each side of the picture opening. This is so you will have room to tape your picture to the back of the matting with the photo tape.

Now that your mat board is cut, it is time to customize it with the material of your choice. This is the time to have fun and get creative. If you have a common color or motif, you may want to choose colors or patterns that compliment these things, as well as the image in your frame. For instance, if you're planning to hang the frame in a den or an office, a poster of an antique-looking map used as matting might be complimentary. Or if your home has a country cottage look, a burlap mat would be a nice choice to compliment this style.



SUMMER CROOK/CULLMANSENSE

» By using a glassed window frame, foam core, and some ingenuity you can make a fun and inexpensive decoration for your home, office, dorm, or anywhere else.

With the chosen material, simply measure the dimensions for the mat and add about 1/8 inch to each side. Then, cut the material with the craft knife. Remember to cut the opening slightly smaller than the mat size as well for overlapping purposes. Simply spray the mat with the adhesive and apply the material to the mat, overlapping the edges.

Once the matted material is dry and the material is secured to the mat, use the photo tape to secure the photo to the back of the mat. Apply the foam core or second mat board to the back of the frame. Then carefully hammer the nails into the wood frame, parallel, and as close to the backing as possible to ensure that the frame stays together.

Voila! You now have a beautiful and unique piece of artwork to display on your wall.

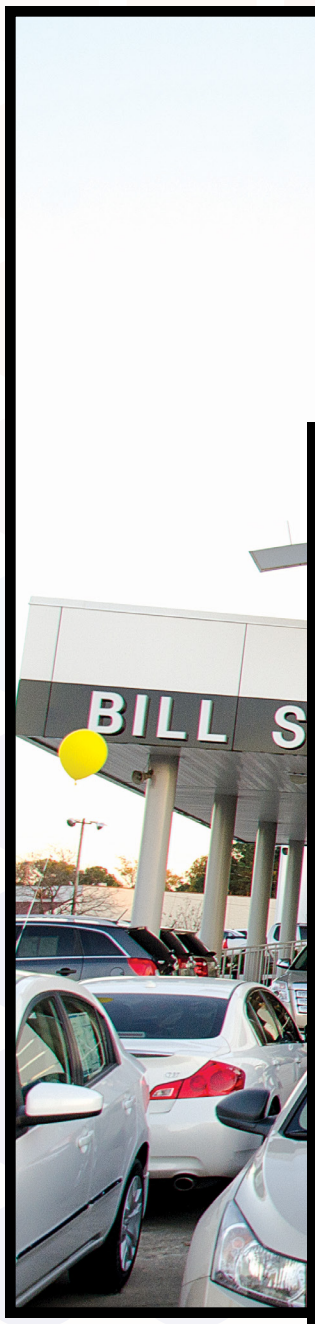




Bill Smith

BUICK GMC

WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE



WELCOME TO THE

OPEN HOUSE EVENT



0% APR FINANCING FOR 60 MONTHS*

On select new 2013 & 2014 Buick & GMC models

General Motors has chosen Bill Smith Buick GMC to host an Open House Event which will pass savings to you! GM is giving "GMS " General Motor Supplier price and giving Huge rebates and interest rates as low as 0.0 percent at Bill Smith Buick GMC on all 2013 and 2014 models.

Absolutely the Best select in town!

At Bill Smith we pride ourselves in doing more than the other guys do. When you're in the market to buy your next car or truck, remember, at Bill Smith Buick GMC You're not just a number, you're our neighbor! So stop by and see what the Bill Smith Buick GMC experience has to offer you!

As a previous Bill Smith Buick GMC customer or neighbor, you're invited to the 2014 Open House Event where you'll have the opportunity to take advantage of GM supplier pricing on virtually the entire 2014 Buick GMC lineup.

We have more than $15 million of inventory to choose from!

To reserve an appointment with a Bill Smith Buick GMC representative, call us or Matt at 256-734-4472 Ext. 107, email him at mbarnett@billsmithbuickgmc.com or stop in. Simply bring this invitation with you and register at the front desk. THIS OFFER ENDS AT BILL SMITH BUICK GMC ON MARCH 17TH, AT 9:00PM!

BILL SMITH BUICK GMC TRADE OFFER:

RECEIVE UP TO $3,000 OVER OR 21% ABOVE CURRENT MARKET VALUE FOR YOUR TRADE-IN!**

It is truly my pleasure to offer this opportunity to those who mean so much to us... our Customers!

Sincerely,

Matt Barnett — Matt Barnett

Jeff Crider — Jeff Crider

Rod Wynn — Rod Wynn

General Manager

HURRY SALE ENDS MARCH 17TH!

INCENTIVES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE 2/28/2014. SEE DEALER FOR UPDA INCENTIVES. *WITH APPROVED CREDIT, NEGATIVE EQUITY WILL BE APPLIED TO YOUR TRADE. *0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS ON SELECT NEW 2013 & 2014 BUICK & GMC MODELS. MONTHLY PAYMENT IS $16.67 FOR EVERY $1000 YOU FINANCE. EXAMPLE DOWN PAYMENT: 18%. SOME CUSTOMERS WILL NOT QUALIFY. TAKE DELIVERY BY 2/28/2014. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS. **TRADE VALUE MAY BE LESS BASED ON EXCESSIVE MILEAGE AND VEHICLE WEAR AND TEAR. #14-156277

BUICK GMC

Offers End March 17th !

Monday - Friday..... 8:30am-6:00pm
Saturday 8:30am-5:00pm
Sunday .....Closed

BILL SMITH Buick GMC

Appointment Reservation Line:

256-734-4472 EXT. 107

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NEW 2014 BUICK LACROSSE

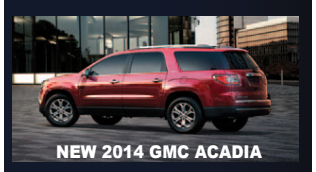

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Rod Wynn
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

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DON'T MAKE A $3,000 MISTAKE

*All rebates applied, must have '99 or newer qualifying trade in. Prices are plus tax, title, & fee. Colors may vary.

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