SERIES 4, ISSUE 13 MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014

CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER

CULLMANSENSE

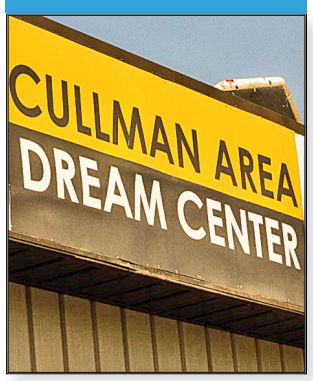
COMMUNITY MATTERS

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PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
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EDDM RETAIL

Local
Postal Customer

Local



Daystar Dream Center holds a Hidden Treasure Trove of Goodies that Gives Back to the Community p5

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EYES OF PROGRESS

CULLMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWSLETTER P9

Medical Arts Apothecary buys Living Well Natural Store

» Fifty year old pharmacy to sell gluten-free and organic goods; high quality supplements

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Medical Arts Apothecary has been faithfully serving Cullman for over 50 years. Now, they're even more equipped to do so as they have recently bought the Living Well Natural Store and added its stock to theirs. These two stores have merged into one with the same great service, but now with even more to offer.

This pharmacy offers a wide p6

VETERANS DAY

Mayor presents VFW with 50 new Flags p6





KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» The family owned Medical Arts Apothecary strives to meet everyone's wellness needs.

Cullman County takes top honors at Farm-City awards

By: Mary Johnson • Contributor

BIRMINGHAM — A Farm-to-Fork dinner at Cullman's "Farm Y'all Festival" helped the north Alabama county earn Best Farm-City Committee in the state at the Alabama Farm-City Awards April 3 in Birmingham.

The awards luncheon, held in conjunction with the Alabama Farmers Federation's Women's Leadership Conference, recognized the work of students and volunteers across the state in bridging the gap between rural and urban residents.

Farm-City Week is observed the week before Thanksgiving each year, but Alabama Farm-City Chairman Jeff Helms said county volunteers promote the interconnectivity of farm and town year-round.

"The theme for Farm-City Week last fall was 'Alabama Agriculture: Growing for You and Me,'" said Helms. "These words capture the mission that's driven Farm-City activities since 1955. Although only about 1 percent of the population p3

LOCAL HERITAGE

Walking through History

Walking Tours give locals and visitors a taste of our Little German Town



NATALIE BONNER/CULLMANSENSE

» Participants to the historical Walking Tours begin at the Cullman County Museum. p2

Bloomin' Festival Brings in the Crowds and Showcases the Talents

By:Kate Mullaney
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CULLMAN - Perhaps Cullman's oldest and most popular community event, the beloved Bloomin' Festival, was held last weekend, April 5 and 6. Tickets were $5 dollars at the door and all proceeds went to St. Bernard School.

The Bloomin' Festival was budding with excitement. The air was fresh and the vibe was earthy, indie, and outdoorsy. The campus was packed with tents upon tents of vendors selling everything from handmade wooden items and artisan jewelry to hand crafted brooms and glassware made right in front of your eyes. People from all walks of life swarmed the venue to check out this once a year opportunity to find unique items and experience this awesome sense of community.

There is no one proper way to enjoy the Bloomin' Fes- p19



NATALIE BONNER/CULLMANSENSE

» Custom made glass sculptures were among the items for sale at the Bloomin' Festival.

A Community Digs In

58th Annual Pancake Day a Success

By: Chelsea Sparks
Local Contributor

CULLMAN - They say that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and Cullman had all it wanted this past Saturday morning for a very reasonable price. The Cullman Kiwanis Club held its Annual Pancake Day breakfast Saturday morning marking the 58th year of the fundraiser. An all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast was served, along with sausage, milk, and coffee; all for $7 per person, with the exception of small children who ate for free in the lunchroom.

The room smelled like heaven itself upon entry as the smell of fluffy pancakes and maple syrup flooded the room.

An audible rumble of hungry stomachs could be heard of those waiting in line for their breakfast.

Crowds of people filled the Cullman High School lunchroom and were lined up at the drive-thru in the parking lot. Everyone was laughing and smiling while talking with friends and neighbors and enjoying their breakfast.

The Kiwanis Club of Cullman p2



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» Key Club members from area schools prepare to serve a pancake breakfast.

Sports - 4 Calendar - 8 Poll - 17 Comics - 18

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

WSCC Jazz Band tuning up for annual Big Band Ballroom Dance

By: Gail Crutchfield
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE - The Wallace State Community College Jazz Band will make Friday a really good day to kick up your heels, as it hosts its annual Big Band Ballroom Dance at 7 p.m., on Friday, April 18.

The dance will be held in the atrium of the Burrow Center for Fine and Performing Arts.

A $15 donation is requested for admission and includes light refreshments.

"We always have a wonderful time at this dance," said Ricky Burks, director of the Wallace State Music Department and of the Jazz Band.

"The students love to see the dancers enjoying the music they play, and they appreciate the support of the community who comes out to hear them."

The funds raised from the dance will help send the group on their annual spring trip. This year the group is going to Pigeon Forge, Tenn., where they will perform at three venues: Dollywood, Titanic Museum Attraction, and Wonders of Flight.

"These trips give the students more opportunities to perform as well as time to enjoy the area where we are visiting," Burks said.

"This year, they will also get a chance to catch up with former music department students Paige Harbison and Breanna Moore, both of whom are employed as entertainers at Dollywood."

The Jazz Band will perform two sets during the night, with favorites tunes from Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Woody Herman and more on the set lists.

There are two dance floors set up for the event, one in the main hall and another to the side in the choreography room.

The dress code for the dance is casual, though many use the night as an excuse to dress up in their finest dancing clothes.

The Wallace State band will be decked out in tuxedoes and black gowns.

Pancake (from Front)

is the local branch of the international organization that serves their community in a number of ways and tends to focus mostly on children.

In addition to their many charitable works, the Kiwanis Club also sets up leadership programs like the "Key Club".

The Key Club can be found in high schools all over the country and their main objective is to teach leadership through service to others.

The Key Clubs from different area high schools showed up to help with the fundraiser. Each teenager was ready to help with a smile and proudly wore their Key Club T-shirts.

The kids took a very active role in every part of the fundraiser from cooking pancakes and serving customers to cleaning. These teens really made this day possible with their efforts.

One member of the Cullman Kiwanis Club, Tom Fillinger, believes that the absolute best thing about the club and its many endeavors is the sense of community.

He spoke of how society has become too much about every man for himself and not enough about unity.

"Our culture as a whole, as a nation, has lost its sense of community, and there is a wonderful opportunity every Monday to gather and inevitably meet new people," he said.

"Then you get what I like to call the 'backstory'. When you know that backstory, from now on every time I see you, you and I have a connection. The problem with isolation is the idea that if I don't know anything about you, then that relieves me of the burden of caring about you."

Fillinger raised an interesting point and a unique case for joining a group like Kiwanis.

That point being, that groups like Kiwanis offers a way for people to connect with others and rebuild that sense of community and caring that often gets tossed aside in today's world.

The Cullman Kiwanis Club does incredible work for children in the community, and when thinking of Fillinger's point, it also serves a much deeper purpose in revitalizing our connection to one another.

Walk (from Front)

By: Natalie Bonner
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CULLMAN - On a brisk, beautiful Saturday this past weekend, I was able to experience a hidden delight that will only be available throughout the month of April – an educational walking tour provided by the dedicated staff at the Cullman County Museum.

Throughout the month of April, tours will be provided free of charge to those locals and visitors alike who would like to know more about the history and heritage of our rich and cultured community.

The tours are from 10 to 11 a.m. and have a different tour leader each Saturday, giving a unique and varied experience per each tour.

Our tour guide, Michael Sullins, took us around Cullman on this first official walking tour of the year.

As a participant you are given an itinerary that explains the stops along the way, with a brief background and historical affluence of each location.

The Walking Tour begins at the Cullman County Museum and meanders through in a maze like fashion, covering some of the most profound and historically rich stops Cullman has to offer such as Depot Park, the Cullman Train Depot, Grace Episcopal Church, and Sacred Heart Church, to name a few.

Grace Episcopal Church Beorger Marcie Jacob welcomed us through the doors and spoke to the group about the role the church has played in the history of Cullman.

Telling the history of the church, Jacob's eyes lit up and her passion was evident.

"The church is about 50 years old. This building was built in 2003 and it's built on the site where the little white church was built," she said to the crowd of curious onlookers.

Our tour guide Sullins explained that the Walking Tour basically came out of two different areas.

The state of Alabama began a program several years ago to encourage small cities and large towns to have walking tours to highlight the history that each individual community has.

"Another reason we've been able to join the state program when it first came into inception is because we were already doing these walking tours with Oktoberfest and the Cullman County Historical Society, so we already had these walking tours in place and they just became more of a yearly thing that we do along with other cities in the state of Alabama," he explained.

The Cullman area is steeped in historical relevance, and the Walking Tours highlight these curiosity filled nooks within the community and afford those touring an educational look at the Cullman that came before us.

For more information on these walking tours, contact the Cullman County Museum at 256-739-1258.





States Feel Loss of Jobless Aid

By: Jake Grovum • Stateline

Despite bipartisan support in the U.S. Senate for reinstating emergency aid for the long-term unemployed, prospects remain dim in the Republican-controlled House. Meanwhile, the toll of the expired extended benefits on states is mounting.

Five billion dollars of aid has been lost as of April 5, including at least $100 million for 13 states, according to an analysis of U.S. Department of Labor data from the National Employment Law Project, a group that advocates for safety-net programs.

More than 1 million workers have exhausted their regular benefits and have not had access to long-term aid since the expiration took effect.

The extended benefits, which began under President George W. Bush in 2008, allowed unemployed workers to collect aid for up to 99 weeks, instead of the normal 26 weeks. But the program expired on Dec. 28 and Congress is divided on whether to renew it.

Now that the economy is improving, many conservatives argue the extended benefits are no longer needed, and might be a disincentive for the jobless to find work.

Republican Sen. Jim Inhofe, of Oklahoma, spoke for many conservatives when he recently warned against "turning a temporary federal benefit into another welfare program."

But supporters note that many states continue to have record-high numbers of people who have been unemployed for six months or longer.

Nationally, about 3.8 million people, or a third of all jobless Americans, have been out of work for that long, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"The fact that they are getting $300, or used to get $300, is not an incentive to sit home. That pays the gas. That pays the cellphone," U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez told Stateline last week.

"The cruel irony is that people's cell phones are getting turned off and when the job call comes, the phone is disconnected because they can't pay the bill, and that's why this has an impact on people living in states all across the country."

Supporters tout the program as an effective economic stimulus, since struggling recipients are likely to spend the money immediately.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the expiration of the benefits would cost the country 300,000 jobs this year, with thousands lost in the states hardest hit by the recession.

Government and private economists have estimated the end of long-term jobless aid could shave 0.4 percent off the country's GDP this year.

According to research by Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Analytics, the extended benefits program generated $1.55 in economic activity for every $1 spent.

States largely are responsible for regular unemployment benefits, but the federal government covered the cost of the extended benefits.

From 2008 through the first half of 2013, Washington spent $252 billion on extended benefits to help at least 24 million long-term unemployed Americans.

"It has a devastating effect on their ability to maintain the essentials of their households," Mitchell Hirsch, an unemployed worker advocate with NELP, said of jobless Americans.

"You have people who had been able, with their unemployment insurance benefits, to barely make ends meet and scrape by. Now they're in a really desperate place."

Some Senate Republicans have joined the Democratic majority in supporting an extension of the program for five months.

But Republican House Speaker John Boehner has raised concerns about the nearly $10 billion cost of the measure.

The political action arm of the conservative Heritage Foundation has made the same point.

It also contends that extending the benefits will make the unemployed "more likely to be selective in their search, take their time and not bother to consider remedies like relocation or industry transition."

The experience of North Carolina, which ended its extended jobless aid six months before it expired for the rest of the country, offers ammunition for both sides of the debate.

Since those cuts took effect last summer, federal data show the state's unemployment rate has fallen almost 2 percentage points.

Research has also shown an increase in employment. At the same time, however, overall participation in the state's labor force has declined. Those studying the issue have admitted they've been unable to reconcile the conflicting evidence.

-- Stateline Staff Writer Pamela M. Prah contributed to this report.

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

Awards (from Front)

works on a farm, agriculture is an economic engine that produces jobs, opportunity and security as well as food and fiber."

An economic impact study released by Auburn University last year showed Alabama agriculture contributes $70.4 billion to the economy annually and accounts for more than 580,000 jobs — or about 20 percent of the workforce.

In addition to being named Best Overall Farm-City Committee, Cullman County also took top honors in Division I (counties with populations of 35,600 or more) and division prizes for Best Innovative Idea and Best Special Activities. Runner-up in Division I was the Houston County Farm-City Committee, which also received the Target Award for best adaptation of the theme and an award for Best Media Coverage and Proclamation. Other Division I winners were Etowah County, Best Farm-City Tour; Lee County, Best Scrapbook; Jackson County, Best Farm-City Dinner; and Lawrence County, Best Civic Club Activities.

The top award for smaller counties went to the Cherokee County Farm-City Committee, which also was honored for Best Farm-City Tour and Best Special Activities in Division II.



CONTRIBUTED

» Cullman County received numerous honors at the Alabama Farm-City Awards.

Runner-up in the division went to Randolph County, which was judged to have the Best Scrapbook and Best Media Coverage and Proclamation for the division.

Other Division II winners were Clay County, Best Innovative Idea; Fayette County, Best Farm-City Dinner; Pike County, Best Civic Club Activities; and Franklin County, Target Award.

The 2013 Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Dr. Joe Yeager of Lee County. The former head of the Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Department in Auburn University's College of Agriculture has served on the county Farm-City committee for 39 years. He previously served 26 years on the state committee.

Also recognized during the Alabama Farm-City Awards were student winners of the poster, essay and multimedia contests as well as Alabama's 2014 Farm of Distinction.

More information about the winners is available at www.AlfaFarmers.org. Photos of all the winners are on the Alabama Farmers Federation's Flickr page at: www.flickr.com/photos/84380492@N03/.

PALS
PEOPLE AGAINST A LITTERED STATE

Cullman County / City Clean-up
April 26, 2014
8:00 a.m. – 12 noon
Dumpster Locations:

West Elementary
East Elementary
Cullman High School
Cold Springs School
Baileyton Town Hall
Colony Community Center
Crane Hill Sulphur Springs
Dodge City Fire Station
Fairview Community Park (across from Fairview Superette)
Garden City maintenance area
Good Hope Town Hall
Hanceville behind City Hall
Holly Pond - Lions Club Park
Jones Chapel School
Vinemont First Baptist Church
West Point Town Hall

All dumpsters will be manned for your convenience

Items we Can Not take are tires, paint, and chemicals

55 gallon drums must have multiple punched holes or they are not allowed

Please contact your local Town Hall or City Hall for bags (bags furnished by State PALS).
We are asking all citizens to pick up the roads around their homes as far as possible in each direction.
Place this garbage with your weekly garbage and please be safe.

For more information contact:
Carl English, cenglish@topreamerica.com
Ashley Graves, agraves@co.cullman.al.us, 256-775-4696
Cherrie Haney, chaney@co.cullman.al.us, 256-531-4222

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Cullman moves up a spot in the newest AWSA baseball polls

By: Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com

The Cullman Bearcats moved up to #2 in the latest 2014 Alabama Sportswriter's Association baseball polls.

The Bearcats have been playing some of their best baseball of the in the past few weeks and the sportswriters have taken notice. The pitching has been very solid for the Cats and the work at the plate had been phenomenal. Always a contender for the state title, Cullman is on track to bring the trophy back to Cullman High School.

The Hanceville Bulldogs have been turning a few heads this past week and, although they did not make the top 10, they were nomintated.

CLASS 5A
1. Spanish Fort (24-5)
2. Cullman (26-8)
3. Southside-Gadsden (24-5)
4. St. Paul's (23-1)
5. Hartselle (20-15)
6. Homewood (16-9)
7. Muscle Shoals (23-9)
8. Mortimer Jordan (26-10)
9. Etowah (15-11)
10. Rehobeth (18-8)

Others nominated: Briarwood Christian (11-7), Faith Academy (14-9), Pinson Valley (16-11), Pleasant Grove (23-9).

CLASS 3A
1. American Christian (23-6)
2. Bayside Academy (19-5)
3. Lauderdale County (23-10)
4. Colbert County (20-8)
5. Trinity (14-7)
6. Thorsby (22-4)
7. Opp (15-8)
8. W.S. Neal (14-3)
9. Slocomb (17-11)
10. Madison Academy (21-8)

Others nominated: Cleveland (15-9), Geneva (12-4), Gordo (17-4), Hanceville (19-7), Leeds (17-9), Montevallo (13-7), Piedmont (17-6), Sipsey Valley (21-12).

Cullman too much for third ranked Southside

By: Johnny Thornton
Sports Reporter

CULLMAN – So much for the highly anticipated matchup between the No. 2 and No. 3 ranked teams in Class 5A baseball.

Second ranked Cullman took advantage of control problems by Leake as he walked six Bearcats in the third.

Five of the base on balls would come home with two scoring on wild pitches.

At this time, Leake had not allowed a hit while Scott was doing the same against the Panthers.

The lone hit for Southside was a bloop single in the fourth with Scott able to pitch his way out of trouble. He would finished the day with a five inning one-hit gem, walking three and striking out nine.

Cullman's offense finally caught fire with Collins and Martinez delivering run-scoring singles in the fourth. The big blast was by Lovell with a three-run homer over the left field fence. Cullman batted around in the inning as Goodwin had a double then came back in second plate appearance of the inning to produce a single.

The win against the 24-6 Panthers was the 10th straight for Brent Patterson's Bearcats who have won 21 of their last 22 decisions.

Their only defeat in this span was an 8-3 loss to Northridge in the first game of the Hoover Classic. Cullman came back with five wins in the tournament and went the first week of April sweeping Area 15 rival West Point four times before taking care of Southside-Gadsden.

Cullman and Hartselle play for the Area 15 championship this week.

The two play Tuesday at Bill Shelton Field before the series heads North to Reuben Sims Field in Hartselle. Both teams enter the series 4-0 in the area standings.

At Bill Shelton Field:
Southside-Gadsden 0 0 0 0 0 - 0
Cullman 0 0 5 5 X – 10

WP: Jesse Scott
LP: Lakota Leake

TIME OF GAME: 1:28

CULLMAN (29-8): Maison Goodwin 1B, 2B, Sam Murphree 1B, Cole Collins 1B, RBI, Christian Martinez 1B, RBI, Owen Lovell HR, 3 RBI, Keaton Dean 1B

Prep Sports Weekly Scoring Recap

By:Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com

It was a short week for baseball and softball this week due to spring break but teams around the county made the most of the games they played, including the Cullman Bearcats whose performance moved them up a spot in the 5A baseball rankings. Here are the scores from around the county.

Monday, April 1st
Baseball
Lamar County 16 vs Cold Springs 6
Oneonta 9 vs Fairview 1

Soccer (Girls)
Cullman 5 vs Hillcrest 0

Tuesday, April 2nd
Baseball
Addison 10 vs St Bernard 0
Cold Springs 4 vs Lamar County 15
Pennington 3 vs Holly Pond 0
Good Hope 0 Hanceville 9
Good Hope 9 vs Hanceville 10
Fairview 3 vs Oneonta 14

Softball
Southeastern 14 vs St. Bernard 4

Soccer (Boys)
Cullman 1 vs Grissom 4

Holly Pond, Cullman hold fast in the latest 2014 AWSA softball polls

By: Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com

The Holly Pond Lady Broncos hold fast at #3 in the latest installment of the 2014 Alabama Sportswriter's Association softball polls.

The Lady Broncos have been blasting the ball as of late and they are putting all of the teams in Class 3A on notice. Holly Pond is sitting in a great position to make a run in the state tournament and bring the trophy to Holly Pond for the first time in school history.

The Cullman Lady Bearcats have had a couple of "hiccups" in the last few weeks but they have recovered nicely to hold their position at #9 in Class 5A. The Lady Cats are hitting their stride at the right time as they are about to hit the rough patch of their schedule, but as always, Cullman will be ready for the challenge.

CLASS 5A
1. Curry (27-4)
2. Hayden (19-2)
3. Southside-Gadsden (18-5)
4. Hartselle (20-6)
5. Mortimer Jordan (13-8)
6. Valley (14-6-1)
7. Springville (24-9)
8. Scottsboro (11-6)
9. Cullman (20-10)
10. Athens (20-10)

Others nominated: Citronelle (20-4), Faith Academy (10-9-2), McAdory (23-9), Muscle Shoals (30-6), Moody (12-5), Rehobeth (15-9), Saraland (13-12).

CLASS 3A
1. White Plains (18-4)
2. Pisgah (12-6)
3. Holly Pond (19-4)
4. Glencoe (12-0)
5. Winfield (13-8)
6. Cordova (15-10-1)
7. Westminster Christian (15-4)
8. Susan Moore (16-6-1)
9. Brindlee Mountain (14-4-1)
10. Slocomb (22-7)

Others nominated: Colbert County (17-7-1), Geneva (17-7), Leeds (15-12), Opp (14-4), T.R. Miller (9-4), West Morgan (22-10).

Baron's ready to defend Southern League championship

By: Josh McBrayer
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The 2013 MiLB Southern League season was the first season in many to come in the history of the newly built Regions Field, the home park of the Birmingham Barons.

The season started on the right track for the Barons, and like a storybook, the season ended as the Barons standing on top of the mountain as the Southern League Champions for the first time since 2002, but if the Barons have their way, certainly not the last.

Birmingham started the season on the road at Montgomery Riverwalk Stadium, facing the Montgomery Biscuits and they picked up right where they started.

Jamie Pedroza went yard twice for two of the three home runs for Birmingham, the other by Micah Johnson.

The Barons scored early and often plating two runs on the top half of the first with Johnson led off the 2014 season with a triple and came home on an errant throw by the Buscuit's Willie Argo the Rangel Ravelo notched a two out double that chased home Kevan Smith who had singled in front of Ravelo.

Montgomery scratched across a run in the bottom half of the first, making the score 2-1.

With Birmingham at the plate in the second, Pedroza went to work. In his first plate appearance of the 2014 season, he blasted a solo shot to right, putting Birmingham up 3-1.

Johnson came up to the plate in the second and followed his first inning triple with a two run shot to give the Barons a 5-1 lead.

The fifth capped the scoring outburst when the Barons added four more, with a Josh Richmond two run double and a Michael Earley RBI single.

Chris Beck started the season picking up the win to go to 1-0.

CAMP CULLMAN
TWO SESSIONS...
June 2nd-27th & July 7th-Aug. 1st
7:45am - 5:15pm
Base Camp will be at Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center
REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 1ST!!
Enroll at the Civic Center
HURRY! SPACE LIMITED TO THE 1ST 50 CAMPERS!!!
For questions, contact wharbison@cullman.org, or call 256-734-9157.
Download the Parent Manual and Forms at www.cullmanrecreation.org

Daystar Dream Center:
Hidden Treasure Trove of Goodies Gives Back to the Community

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Nestled off Highway 157, across the street from Cullman Church of Christ, humbly sits a local thrift store with a big purpose. Many of you have seen it and some of you may even know that it was a clothing-based thrift store, which was originally created to help support a food bank. But few of you know that what was formerly known as Daystar Church's "The Loft" has been totally relaunched and has become the Cullman Area Dream Center.

"In 2012, Daystar Church took their thrift store which supported their food bank, called Master's Hands' and repurposed it to fulfill a bigger niche in our community," says Joshua Smith, director of the Dream Center.

"The Cullman Area Dream Center was created to help meet the immediate and long term needs of those neighbors who have found themselves in the difficult transitions of joblessness, homelessness and life change."

To establish the self-sustaining ecosystem, the Cullman Area Dream Center Thrift Store (lovingly called DC Thrift) was created.

"Through community donations, the Cullman Area Dream Center began selling clothing, household goods, books and even vehicles to support a center for giving those who needed community service, utility and clothing assistance, and a place to shop for cost-effective needful things for life in general," says Smith.

The following year, the Dream Center began employing individuals who were coming out of the Foundry in order to help with their transition from the Foundry's program to establishing themselves in the community. Community volunteers help with the day-to-day inner workings of the thrift store. Anywhere from one to 10 volunteers are present each day.

"Our Cullman neighbors are invited to come and shop in DC Thrift," says Smith. "They will find name brand clothing, household goods, furniture and more. Every purchase helps support the Cullman community."

But the Cullman Area Dream Center is much more than a thrift store. Employees also meet with struggling families to help develop a plan to get them back on their feet.

The idea is to work with the families to develop a long-term plan instead of just handing them material items.

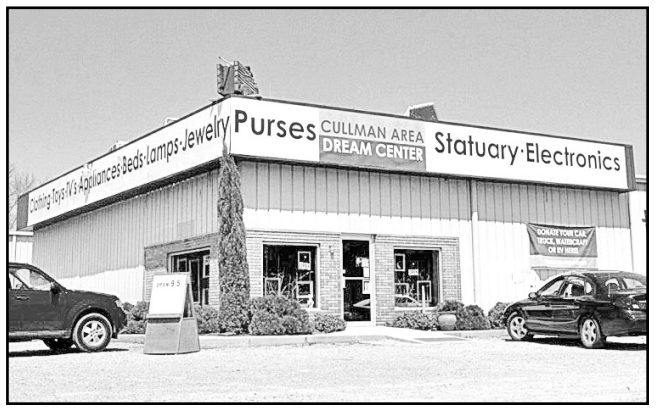
"We think this is a much more effective solution, and we think this will help Cullman to be a safe place for all the members of the community," says Smith.

Smith states that numbers from 2013 can help tell the story of the Cullman Area Dream Center.

"Last year, we assisted 3,477 people with utilities, rent, furniture, household items, lodging, travel assistance, emergency food boxes, toys, baby items, short term employment and youth advocacy. This totals $32,962. We also paid out $21,871 for transitional employment and gave 295 emergency food boxes. We are currently providing between 120 and 250 hours of community service per week for DHR, local high schools, and the court system."

It's clear that the objective of the Cullman Area Dream Center is to help others without judgment.

This is something that we can do as a community as well and volunteering at places such as DC Thrift is just one way to start.



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» The Dream Center assists those in the transitions of joblessness, homelessness, and life change.

"There are openings for volunteers on a daily basis," Smith says. "This includes store processes, sales, and ministry."

The Cullman Area Dream Center also has a dream of its own. This organization hopes to soon open transitional housing for families who need a temporary home.

The people at the Dream Center have a vision for Cullman to become a safe place for all of its citizens, rich or poor. Poverty is present in Cullman whether we like it or not.

Although there are few ways to end it completely, there are several ways to help, and the best place to start is by accepting the problem and being willing to help instead of ignoring poverty's existence in our backyard.

To Mary, From Korea
A Daddy's Letter to His Daughter

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
Local Contributor

The following letter is one written by Glenn Ray Reid to his daughter, Mary Glenn Reid, while he was stationed in Korea. Little Mary was 8 years old at the time and had been curious about what life was like for a girl her same age who lived so far away.



CONTRIBUTED

» Glenn Ray Reid in Korea 1952.

May 22, 1952
In Korea

My Sweet Daughter,

Say Mary, you sure made me happy today. I received your sweet letter and sure did enjoy it. I am glad I know that you, Ben, Nancy, Mother and Grandma are all well. Tell Mother that Daddy is well and feeling fine again.

I sure am glad you like school, but guess it will be out by the time you get this letter. I believe "ole" Ben likes school too. And won't that Nancy be a dandy when she starts to school? Ha.

Mary I sure do miss all of you sweet kids & Mom. I don't know as yet just when I will get to come home, but I sure will be glad when that time comes.

Yes, Mary I got the picture of you as Miss Scout of Cullman. It sure was sweet & I was glad to get it. I'm real proud of you Mary – You know you are my "Big" girl now. I want you to be sweet and help Mother.

What do you plan to do when school is out for the summer? I sure wish I could be there and play with you, Ben and Nancy. Just have a good time for me anyway.

Mary the people in Korea are quite different from those of the U.S. Over here the farmers all live in small villages and go sometimes, miles to work their fields. They grow mostly rice and you know they have to keep it covered with water all the time.

A little girl your size might have to walk as far as 5 miles to school. She doesn't have a nice desk either, but sits on the floor. The schoolhouse, as well as the house she lives in, is made of mud. So you see she sits on a mud or clay floor. She doesn't have a book all to herself, but in many cases there is only one book for the entire class. The teacher reads to them all at one time. She is also taught several native dances. And I really enjoy seeing them dance. They go to school just about the same time that you do. It takes 12 years to finish their school.

Now when she comes home she also sits on the floor, they don't have chairs, beds nor any type of furniture except a small table about one foot high that they eat from.

The mothers carry their babies on their backs and many times the same little girl might be seen carrying a small brother or sister on her back. She also carries bundles on her head.

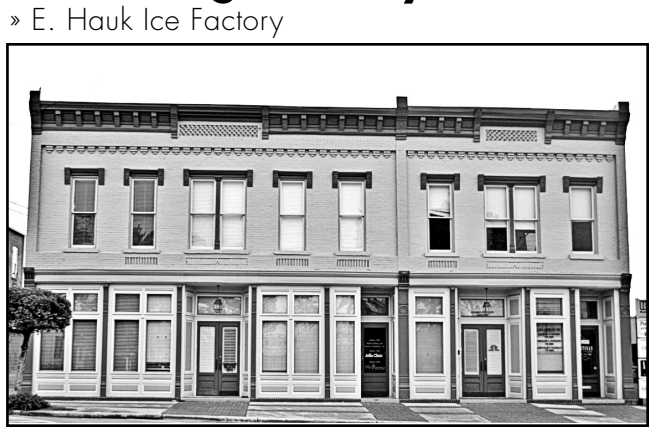
All people over here have real black hair and brown eyes. Their skin is darker than yours, but they are not black. This same little girl is taught to make cloth by hand. You see they have no machinery over here and must do everything by hand.

Mary there's lots I could tell you about these people but will wait until I see you. (This is all the paper I have tonight – so I'm gonna have to stop) I hope you enjoy what I have written and that you have a small idea about a little Korean girl.

Give my love to Mother, Nancy, Ben & Grandmother. Please write me again soon. I love your letters and your write real well too.

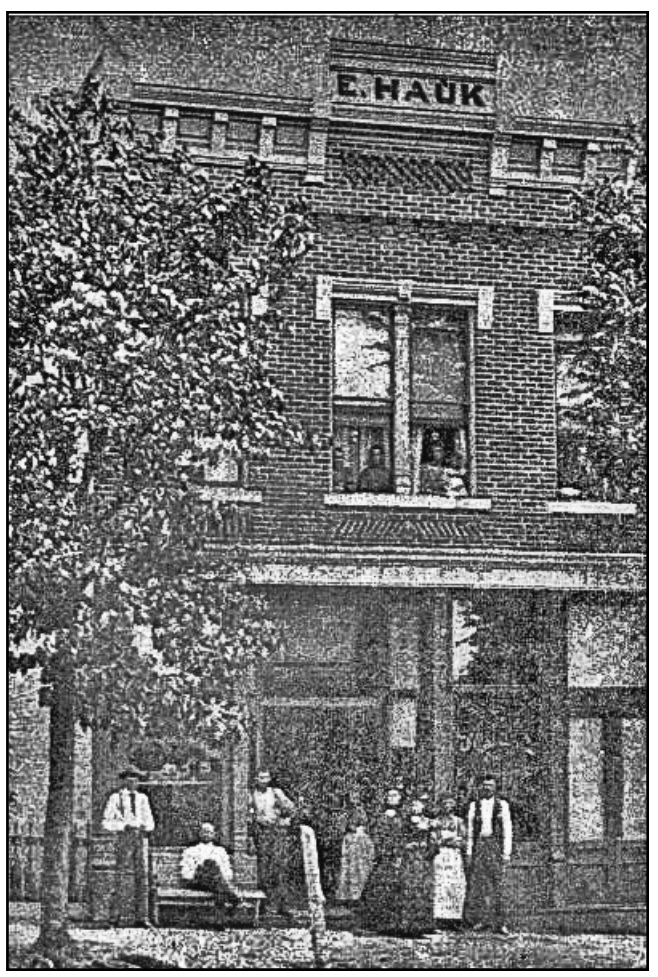
Be sweet and remember I love you.
Love,
Daddy Glenn
PS. Give Mother a kiss for me.

Mirroring History
» E. Hauk Ice Factory



JESSICA NORRELL/CULLMANSENSE

» The E. Hauk Ice Factory now houses a few different offices including your community newspaper CullmanSense.



CONTRIBUTED

» The original E. Hauk Ice Factory

Bigger, better Veterans Day planned for Cullman

By: Leanne West
Contributor

CULLMAN – Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson and County Commission Chairman Kenneth Walker have announced plans to make this year's celebration of Veterans Day even bigger and better than last year!

Mayor Townson stated, "With the return of our Army Guard unit from recent deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, this year's 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Vietnam War, and perhaps one of the last opportunities to honor our passing World War II and Korean War veterans, Chairman Walker and I have decided to try to make this year's celebration of our veterans even better than last year."

Noting that a large and enthusiastic crowed turned out last year to observe the "Welcome Home Brother" tribute to our Vietnam Vets, the Mayor added, "This year's theme will be 'Vietnam+50,' again highlighting the service of our Vietnam Vets. And, on Saturday, November 8th, we will be hosting a statewide fly-in at Folsom Field so veterans and friends from anywhere in Alabama can fly to Cullman and experience a first-class celebration of our veterans."

Chairman Walker said, "Our city and county governments put aside some monies in each annual budget to help fund this event, but the lion's share of the funds are provided by Cullman business leaders and civic groups." The Chairman added, "As community leaders, we want our veterans to know how much we appreciate their service and the sacrifices made by their family members, and we hope that by building this annual event in both size and substance it will encourage all our citizens to come out on this one day a year to thank our veterans and to get a glimpse of the military environment they all experienced."

Col. Ken Brown, this year's Event Director, said, "We hold this event each year, on the Saturday before the actual holiday, so that any of our local veterans who wish to go to or be a part of the Veterans Day Parade in Birmingham or another observance may do so." Brown added, "Last year, long after it was due, our local Vietnam Vets got their official Cullman County 'Welcome Home Brother' recognition. While we always pay tribute to our veterans from every conflict, this summer will mark the 50th anniversary of the Tonkin Gulf Resolution and the beginning of a long and painful experience for our Vietnam Warriors. Because of that, we are pulling out all the stops to make this year's county observance of Veterans Day a special event."



CONTRIBUTED

» Chairman Kenneth Walker, Col. Ken Brown, and Mayor Max A. Townson.

Brown went on to say, "This year we are adding a Heroes Dinner on Friday evening, November 7th, to raise money for military charities and to give special recognition to some of the unknown heroes who live in our midst. On Saturday, November 8th, we will have an entire day of events both at Veterans Park (Sportsman Lake) and at the Cullman Regional Airport. We have an amazing speaker and guest of honor, who should draw a large crowd, some unique military aircraft coming to Cullman, a Green Beret feature folks will not want to miss, a musical program that all will enjoy, a Civil War Exhibition that is new this year, and a great deal more!"

More details will be announced closer to the event, but Brown issued this friendly warning: "Circle the calendar for Saturday, November 8th, fasten your seat belts, and make plans to spend a full day at this family-friendly event because you are going to have to 'get after it' to see everything we have to show you this year!"

Mayor presents VFW with 50 new Flags

By: Leanne West
Contributor

CULLMAN – The Mayor and Cullman City Council recently purchased fifty (50) American flags and donated them to Cullman's VFW Post 2214. Mayor Max A. Townson is shown here presenting one of the flags to VFW member Colonel Ken Brown. The Mayor said, "The City of Cullman very much appreciates the efforts our veterans make during major holidays to decorate Cullman with 225 flags, and we didn't want our veterans to bear this expense alone."



CONTRIBUTED

» Mayor Max A. Townson presents one of fifty flags to VFW member Colonel Ken Brown.

Sacred Heart holds annual 'Scripture Luncheon'



BARBARA RAGSDALE

» Carolyn Branch, Jane Young, Tress Bailey and Fharis Richter gather around the drink and snack table during the opening Social Hour at the start of the annual 'Scripture Luncheon' at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church. Sponsored by the Altar Society the luncheon featured decorated tables reflecting various religious scriptural themes and comments from the table leaders regarding their chosen Biblical verses. Numerous door prizes and gifts were presented to the 64 attendees.

Pharmacy (from Front)

range of supplements as well as specialty health foods such as gluten free and organic items.

"We have a higher grade of supplements than you can get from the drug store or grocery store," said owner Susan Adkison. "We offer high quality and excellent service."

This pharmacy is family owned and always has been – a perfect example of the togetherness present in the Cullman community.

"We're the oldest pharmacy in the city of Cullman," said Adkison.

"My dad owned it before me, and I bought it in January. Then I bought the merchandise from my brother at the Living Well Natural Store and moved it here to this location."

Medical Arts Apothecary has gone through extreme changes since making the decision to adopt the Living Well Natural Store.

Remodels, staff additions, and other confusions have swarmed the pharmacy, but Adkison has maintained a positive attitude and insists that it's all been worth it.

"Everything is coming along great. I'm really optimistic," she said with a smile. "As far as I know, there's not another pharmacy in the area that's doing something like this so we're really excited."

Adkison and the staff at Medical Arts Apothecary are keeping Cullman well and have been for the past 56 years. But what are the future goals of this hometown pharmacy?



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» Zevia sodas are among the many new natural items now available at Medical Arts Apothecary.

"We just want to continue to promote a healthy lifestyle for people who need pharmaceuticals as well as supplements," said Adkison.

If you visit this store, you'll experience a blend of the cool atmosphere of a modern wellness store along with the excellent small town service that is laced throughout our beloved town. It's truly a unique place.

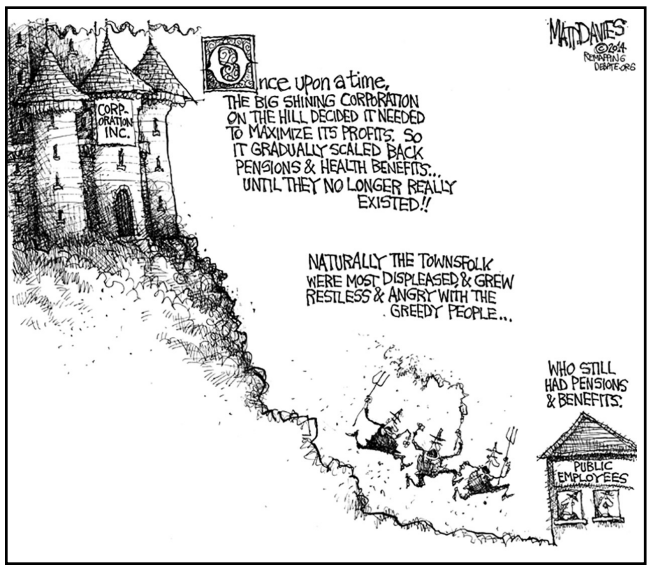
Adkison welcomes you to visit the newly renovated Medical Arts Apothecary for all your wellness needs.

"It's been a family owned business and we want to keep it in the family," she said, "and we're trying to serve Cullman as best we can."





Editorial Cartoon



HOW ARE WE DOING?

Tell us what we're doing right and how we can do better.

E-mail feedback@cullmansense.com
or Call 256-297-1847

CULLMANSENSE
Community Matters

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OPINION

Fort Hood Attack Is a Terrible Reminder

By: Sage Overton
Local Contributor

Last Wednesday around 4 p.m., a gunman opened fire inside Fort Hood, Texas. The attacker, identified as Spc. Ivan Lopez, used a .45-calibur semi-automatic pistol to kill three people and injured 16 others, all army personnel. The investigation into the attack is just beginning but what is known is that Lopez fired rounds inside the medical brigade from a vehicle and inside the transportation battalion building. He used his personal Smith and Wesson for the entire attack and to shoot himself in the head once confronted by police responding to a 911 call from the base.

Unfortunately, this is the second time in five years a shooting has occurred at the army base. In November 2009, Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan killed 13 people and injured another 32. The events do not appear so far to be in any way related. The attack by Hasan was one of domestic terrorism. Hasan readily admitted carrying out the shooting as part of a terrorist mission, designed to keep soldiers from returning overseas in an effort to protect Taliban leaders.

While the loss of life in both attacks is tragic, it serves as a terrible reminder to all that there exists those out there hell-bent on harming others, both inside the U.S. and worldwide. Below is a list of the ten worst American domestic terrorists. The list factors in fatalities, injuries and property damage. Here, a domestic terrorist attack is considered an action carried out by a U.S. citizen on American soil against other Americans with the intent on causing as much damage or carnage as possible.

10) 1996 Olympic Bombing – 2 killed, 111 injured

On July 27, Eric Rudolph used explosives in the Centennial Olympic Park Bombing at the site of the Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. His purpose was to embarrass the government in the eyes of the world. He went on to bomb two abortion clinics and a lesbian nightclub, killing two more and injuring another six. Rudolph was captured on May 31, 2003.

9) 1991 Luby's Cafeteria Shooting – 23 killed, 27 injured

On October 16, George Hennard crashed his truck into a Luby's Cafeteria in Killeen, Texas. He immediately exited the vehicle and began shooting indiscriminately using two semi-automatic pistols. Hennard committed suicide at the scene.

8) 1984 San Ysidro McDonald's Massacre – 21 killed, 19 injured

James Huberty entered a McDonald's in San Diego, California on July 18. He carried out the attack using a long-barreled Uzi, pump-action shotgun and a Browning handgun. Five children were killed in the attack, the youngest being eight months old. He was killed at the scene by police.

7) 1966 University of Texas Shooting – 16 killed, 32 injured

Charles Whitman climbed to the top of the tower at the University of Texas in Austin on August 1 after first killing his wife and mother at home. Using three rifles, three handguns and one shotgun, he carried out a brutal assault sniping his victims. One was an unborn child in its third trimester specifically targeted in its mother's womb. He was killed on the scene by police.

6) 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary Shooting – 26 killed, 2 injured

On December 14, Adam Lanza, 20, killed his mother and then attacked the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Using a Bushmaster rifle with extended magazines, he killed 20 students between the ages of six and seven. Two pistols were also found on him. He committed suicide at the scene.

5) 2007 Virginia Tech Shooting – 32 killed, 23 wounded

Twenty-three year old student Seung-Hui Cho used two semi-automatic pistols on a rampage through the campus in Blacksberg, Virginia. One of his victims was 76-year-old professor Liviu Libreseu, a Holocaust survivor killed while barring the door to his classroom with his body so his students could escape through a window. Cho committed suicide at the scene.

4) 1910 Los Angeles Times Bombing – 21 killed, 100 injured

On October 1, brothers John J. and James B. McNamara rigged 16 sticks of dynamite to blow in the alley next to the Los Angeles Times building in California. The explosion triggered a larger explosion and fire from the natural gas pipes underneath the building. Most of the fatalities and injuries occurred from the resulting fire. James admitted to setting the charges and was sentenced to life in prison. John was given 15 years.

3) 1927 Bath School Massacre – 44 killed, 58 injured

Andrew Kehoe took months rigging the Bath Consolidated School in Bath Township, Michigan with explosives. He used dynamite, pyrotol and firebombs with timed detonators. Thirty-eight children were killed in the blast. Kehoe committed suicide at the scene. After the attack, police found over 500 lbs of explosives around the school that had failed to detonate as planned. This event stands as the deadliest mass murder involving a school in U.S. history.

2) 1920 Wall Street Bombing – 38 killed, 400 injured

On September 16, a horse drawn wagon filled with 100 lbs of explosives and 500 lbs of cast-iron sash weights was detonated in the financial district of New York City. The explosion used a timer as a trigger and resulted in more than $23 million in damages. No one was ever caught for the attack.

1) 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing – 168 killed, 680 injured

In the worst incident of domestic terrorism in U.S. history, a Ryder truck packed with almost 5,000 lbs of explosives was detonated outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The explosion damaged or destroyed over 300 buildings and 86 cars. Over $650 million was done in property damage. Timothy McVeigh and co-conspirator Terry Nichols were caught and convicted of the attack. McVeigh, the main perpetrator, was sentenced to death, the first federal execution in 38 years at the time.

OPINION

End of March, Good News for Troops

By: Sage Overton
Local Contributor

March marked the 150th month of the war in Afghanistan. Since October 7, 2001, U.S. troops have been deployed there. Their primary task had been to eliminate Afghanistan as a safe haven for terrorism, specifically the bases used to train and harbor those implicit in the September 11th attacks almost a month earlier.

To achieve this involved overthrowing the Taliban government, a repressive and extremist regime known for funding and prompting the plans of Osama bin Laden. By the middle of 2002, Taliban forces had been largely reduced in size with their key strongholds overrun. Remaining fighters withdrew into the various mountain and cave systems in the country where they continued launching guerilla raids on coalition forces and civilian targets to this day.

American forces have stayed in Afghanistan helping to establish a democratically elected government and train police and national security forces.

Currently 33,000 U.S. troops serve in Afghanistan. The end of March marked only the third month in the almost 13-year war where no U.S. fatalities occurred.

The other two months were July 2002 and January 2007. So far, over 2,300 American soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan, along with three Department of Defense civilians.

Currently plans are to greatly reduce the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan to a few thousand by the end of the year. These troops would advise and assist in further training Afghanistan security forces. However, there is also a "zero option" contingency on the table to withdraw all troops. The decision is pending results of talks between the U.S. and current Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai to establish a bilateral security agreement. President Obama has stated if an agreement cannot be reached then all U.S. forces may be removed.

Negotiations have been difficult with Karzai becoming increasingly hostile toward U.S. forces remaining past the end of the year. Karzai accuses the U.S. of treating Afghanistan like a colony, and pursuing American interests over his country's own. Most of his outrage comes from civilian casualties, from a combination of Taliban retaliation attacks and American night raid and drone strikes. Last year, the U.S. conducted over 500 drone strikes. In a recent interview Karzai said, "To the American people, give them my best wishes and gratitude. To the U.S. government, give them my anger, my extreme anger."

American involvement has dramatically improved the lives of millions in Afghanistan. Electricity, running water, medical treatment and basic education is now readily accessible to more Afghans than ever before.

Prior to the invasion by U.S. forces in 2001, only an estimated 1.2 million were enrolled in public education, less than 50,000 of them female. As of 2013, that number had grown to 8.2 million with over 3 million females enrolled. Unfortunately not all the effects have been positive though.

Disillusion with the war, both at home and in Afghanistan, have both sides ready to call it over. The U.S. spends an estimated $6 billion dollars on Afghanistan every month.

From the start of combat operations to 2011 over $468 billion tax dollars have been used. Opponents believe that money could be better spent inside America. Afghans point to incidents like the botched drone strike March 6 that killed five Afghanistan soldiers while wounding eight others. There was also the event on March 11, 2012 where U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Robert Bales left his post and killed 16 civilians, nine of them children and four of them women. He is now serving life without parole in Fort Leavenworth. The Afghanistan government wanted him turned over to them for trial and sentencing.

It is suspected that a bilateral security agreement will reached with Karzai's successor. Under Afghanistan's new constitution, Karzai is ineligible to run again. Elections for the new president were held this past Saturday. Officials on both sides of the table agree that the complete withdrawal of U.S. forces could lead to a Taliban resurgence and would certainly lead to civil war. That is an outcome all sides wish to prevent.

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 at the All Steak. 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.

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.

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.

Osteoporosis: Prevention and the Importance of Utilizing Bone Mass Measurements
Join Benjamin Rogers, MD, with Cullman Internal Medicine as he discusses the risks with osteoporosis, prevention and the importance of utilizing bone mass measurements. This lunch and learn program will be held from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Colonel Cullmann Room. Cost of the program is $5 for WomenFirst and SeniorChoice members and $8 for all others. To reserve your spot, register online at www.crmchospital.com or call (256) 737-2600.

'Root Ministry' at Abundant Grace Church
There is a weekly meeting each Thursday night starting at 6 pm at Abundant Grace Church. 'Root Ministry' has the aim of radically overcoming obstacles together for anyone with any types of hurts, hang-ups or habits in their lives. Please call 256-739-7091 for additional information. All welcome!! **

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.

Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild of Cullman
Members of the Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild of Cullman will gather at the Colonel Cullman Museum starting at 9:30 a.m. All interested quilters are invited to attend this meeting.

Lenten Friday Fish Fry Dinner
The Knights of Columbus of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church will sponsor their annual Lenten Friday Fish Fry Dinners in the Family Life Center starting at 5 p.m. and going until 6:45 p.m. Stations of the Cross follow at 7 p.m. in the Church for those interested. All are welcome to the fish dinners - adult plates are $8.00 with children's plates at $5.00. Menu consists of fried or broiled fish, hush puppies, all the traditional trimmings, drink and dessert.

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!

All Ford Day at Eckenrod Ford
Eckenrod Ford - Lincoln Dealership will sponsor their 17th Annual ALL FORD DAY and Car Show today featuring free foods, music and awards for car entries. Please check www.EckenrodFord.com or call 256-734-3361 for additional information. Open to all to bring your special Fords or just come see the ones on display.

2014 Cullman County Poultry and Egg Association Annual Meeting
The 2014 Annual meeting of the Cullman County Poultry and Egg Association takes place at McGukin Civic Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. with dinner served at 6 p.m. This event is open to all Cullman County poultry growers and their families. You are invited to attend dinner (BBQ chicken and all the trimmings). You also get your name placed in a drawing to win a special door prize. For additional information please call 256-737-9386. William D. Batchelor, Dean of Agriculture from Auburn University who also serves at director of the Alabama Agriculture Experiment Station in Cullman will be guest speaker.

Walk for Autism and 5K Race to Solve the Puzzle
Join the 'Walk for Autism and 5k Race to Solve the Puzzle' at Wallace State College Track & Field course. Run registration starts at 7 a.m. with the 5k Run starting at 7:30 a.m. Walk registration starts at 8:30 a.m. with the Fun Walk beginning at 9:30 am.. $30.00 early registration fee includes a t-shirt. Registration Fee on the day of the walk is $35.00. Please contact Rhonda Davis at pdrd@hotmail.com or call 256-962-2208. To register visit www.walkforautismal.com or call 877-4AUTISM. Rain or shine! There will be a bubble creation station, face painting, bounce houses, a kids' activity center, cool prizes for the kids and lots of family fun. Resource exhibitors also will be in attendance. All proceeds benefit the mission and projects of Autism Society of Alabama.

CRMC Foundation Gala XIII
The CRMC Foundation Gala XIII will be held at 6 p.m. at Loft 212, with a silent/live auction. The annual gala is a volunteer-organized event led by the CRMC Service Guild. All proceeds will be earmarked for the CRMC Foundation Refresh-A-Room Campaign. This year's theme is "Tuscany Under the Moonlight" and the musical host for the event will be Kidd Blue. Tickets to the CRMC Foundation Gala XIII are limited and are now available for $150 each, with reservations now being accepted. To reserve your tickets, contact the CRMC Foundation at crmcfoundation@crmchospital.com; 256-737-2565; or purchase online at http://www.crmchospital.com/foundation/events/gala.aspx.

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 at the All Steak. 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!

Culpepper Real Estate
256-739-1389
601 7th AVE SW, Cullman, AL
Commercial Land Residential
www.culpepperrealestate.com



91364 - 900 6th AVE SE - $389,000 - 4 bdrm,4 full-baths and 2 half-baths, Double lot in Historic Cullman. Demure Exterior, totally updated interior. Inground pool, pool room or separate bed & bath with private entrance character & closets!

91586 - 204 Waterford - $349,900 - 5 bdrm,3.5 ba., Carefree living on the golf course at Terri Pines. Expansive deck overlooking Heron Lake, 15th & 16th holes. Appliances updated recently.

92308 - 1707 Wynn Cliff DR NE - $295,000 - 4 bdrm,2.5 ba., Immaculate one level, convenient to Cullman Regional Medical Center, Hwy 157, Hwy278 and I-65. Carefree Living

91908 - 87 Teem Rd - $260,000 - 2 bdrm.,2ba., approx 2.6 ac., Beautiful views from every window, screened porch with view of pond. Large rooms - Family Room 22x30, downstairs master bdrm 27x34, Upstairs bdrm 27x29, rock fireplaces, unfinished basement.

91589 - 2175 Co Rd 1428 - $210,00 - 4 bdrm, 3 ba, approx 1 ac, Motivated Seller! New roof, new windows, new hot water heater, hardwood & ceramic throughout, stained concrete in finished basement. Movie in ready!

912175 - 1509 Pinecrest St - $189,900 - 3 bdrm, 2ba, Very nice brick home with vaulted ceilings in family room, wood and tile floors, large kitchen/dining area, wood deck with fenced back yard.

1815 Briarwood Lane SE - $124,900 - 3 bdrm, 2 ba., Updated and move in ready! Established neighborhood close to East Elementary School.

This Week in Local Entertainment

Monday, April 7th

- 79 cent wings at Rodney G's Hickory Grill from 6 to 9 p.m.
- Open Mic Night at Berkeley Bob's from 7 to 9 p.m.

Tuesday, April 8th

- Journalist John Archibald as a guest speaker at the Burrow Center Recital Hall at WSCC from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- WSCC Softball vs. Motlow State (DH) at 4 p.m.
- April Cash Mob at Poor Little Rich Girl from 4 to 6 p.m.
- Square Dancing Lessons at East Point Community Center from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Grumpy's Italian Grill from 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9th

- Story Time at the Hanceville Library at 10 a.m.
- Lecture by photographer John Dersham at the Evelyn Burrow Museum at WSCC at 2 p.m.
- Singer Derek Sellers at the All Steak at 6 p.m.
- Karaoke Night at Grumpy's Italian Grill from 7 to 10 p.m.
- Walker Street Opry CD Release at Berkeley Bob's at 7 p.m.
- Karaoke night at Cadillac Ron's

Thursday, April 10th

- "The Winding Stream" Independent Film Series at the Burrow Center Recital Hall at WSCC from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m.
- WSCC Baseball vs. Shelton State (DH) at 1 p.m.
- WSCC Softball vs. Gadsden State (DH) at 4 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Karaoke night at Cadillac Ron's
- Bike Night at Grumpy's Italian Grill

Friday, April 11th

- Ladie's Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m.: Half off drinks for ladies
- "Light the Night": Glow in the dark flashlight Easter egg hunt with Daystar Church at Heritage Park at 6 p.m.
- Singer Derek Sellers at Grumpy's Italian Grill at 7:30 p.m.
- "Down South" playing at Cadillac Ron's Sports Grill at 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 12th

- Ladie's Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m.: Half off drinks for ladies
- Cullman walking tour at 10 a.m. starting from the Cullman County Museum
- 2014 CRMC Foundation Gala XVIII at Loft 212 from 6 to 10 p.m.
- "Down South" playing at Cadillac Ron's Sports Grill at 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 13th

- Walk for Autism 5K at Wallace State Track and Field; Registration at 8:30 a.m.

CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

Official Newsletter

VOLUME 45 | MARCH 2014 | ISSUE 3

Eyes of PROGRESS

www.cullmanchamber.org

Serving the Community Since 1943

Serving:
BAILEYTON
COLONY
CULLMAN
DODGE CITY
FAIRVIEW
GARDEN CITY
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HANCEVILLE
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SOUTH VINEMONT
WEST POINT

From the Chamber President

XYZ: Learning the ABC's of our Workforce

When I was a kid, XYZ meant "xamine your zipper." If you have never heard that phrase, you are probably not a part of my generation – Gen X. There is a lot of buzz talk today about generations. In last month's article, I eluded to Traditionalists, Boomers, and Gens X, Y & Z. What does all of this generational talk mean and why should employers care?

There is a serious new problem in the workplace and it has nothing to do with downsizing or global competition. Instead, it is the problem of distinct generations – the Veterans, the Baby Boomers, Gen X and Gen Y – working together and often colliding as their paths cross.

Individuals with different values, different ideas, different ways of getting things done, and different ways of communicating in the workplace have always existed. So, why is this becoming a problem now? Glad you asked.

This is the first time in American history that we have ever had a whopping four different generations working side-by-side in the workplace. Generational differences can affect everything, including recruiting, building teams, dealing with change, motivating, managing, and maintaining and increasing productivity.

Think of how generational differences, relative to how people communicate, might affect misunderstandings, high employee turnover, difficulty in attracting employees, and gaining employee commitment.

Research indicates that people communicate based on their generational backgrounds. I have included a generation timeline below for reference.



GENERATION TIMELINE

1922-1945	1946-1964	1965-1980	1981-2000
Veterans, Silent, Traditionalists	Baby Boomers	Generation X, Gen X, Xers	Generation Y, Gen Y, Millennial, Echo Boomers

Each generation has distinct attitudes, behaviors, expectations, habits and motivational buttons. Learning how to communicate with the different generations can eliminate many major confrontations and misunderstandings in the workplace and the world of business.

The first thing to consider is the individual and his or her underlying values, or personal and lifestyle characteristics, which seem to correspond with each generation, as shown in the following table.

PERSONAL AND LIFESTYLE CHARACTERISTICS BY GENERATION

	Veterans (1922-1945)	Baby Boomers (1946-1964)	Generation X (1965-1980)	Generation Y (1981-2000)
Core Values	Respect for authority Conformers Dicipline	Optimism Involvement	Skepticism Fun Informality	Realism Confidence Extreme fun Social
Family	Traditional Nuclear	Disintegrating	Latch-key kids	Merged families
Education	A dream	A birthright	A way to get there	An incredible expense
Communication Media	Rotary phones One-on-one Write a memo	Touch-tone phones Call me anytime	Cell phones Call me only at work	Internet Picture phones E-mail
Dealing with Money	Put it away Pay cash	Buy now, pay later	Cautious Conservative Save, save, save	Earn to spend

There are more pronounced differences between the generations today than ever before. What can one expect with the dramatic changes in our world in the last 60 years? Good business is based on understanding others.

The majority of us seem to think that the correct way (and the only way) is our way – the way that we want it to be. In business, as well as in personal life, that is just not true.

To work effectively and efficiently, to increase productivity and quality, one needs to understand generational characteristics and learn how to use them effectively in dealing with each individual. This summer, the CoC will be offering a seminar entitled: Bridging the Generation Gap. This seminar will address all of these issues and more.

Understanding these characteristics about individuals makes it easier to look at workplace characteristics and how they manifest themselves in business (see Workplace Characteristics below).

WORKPLACE CHARACTERISTICS

	Veterans (1922-1945)	Baby Boomers (1946-1964)	Generation X (1965-1980)	Generation Y (1981-2000)
Work Ethic and Values	Hard work Respect authority Sacrifice Duty before fun Adhere to rules	Workaholics Work efficiently Crusading causes Personal fulfillment Desire quality Question authority	Eliminate the task Self-reliance Want structure and direction Skeptical	What's next Multitasking Tenacity Entrepreneurial Tolerant Goal oriented
Work Is ...	An obligation	An exciting adventure	A difficult challenge A contract	Means to an end Fulfillment
Leadership Style	Directive Command-and-control	Consensual Collegial	Everyone the same Challenege others Ask why	*TBD
Interactive Style	Individual	Team player Loves to have meetings	Entrepreneur	Participative
Communications	Formal Memo	In person	Direct Immediate	E-mail Voice mail
Feedback and Rewards	No news is good news Satisfaction in a job well done	Don't appreciate it Money Title recognition	Sorry to interrupt, but how am I doing? Freedom is the best reward	Whenever I want it, at the push of a button Meaningful work
Messages That Motivate	Your experience is respected	You are valued Your are needed	Do it your way Forget the rules	You will work with other bright, creative people
Work and Family Life	Ne'er the twain shall meet	No balance Work to live	Balance	Balance

* As this group has not spent much time in the workforce, this characteristic has yet to be determined.

Next month, we will look more specifically at Generation Y. By 2025, (that's only 11 years) Generation Y will make up roughly 75 percent of the world's workforce. Scared yet? Don't be. With a little guidance from the rest of the alphabet, Millenials have a bright future ahead.

*FDU Magazine

Leah Bolin

President & CEO,
Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce

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www.CullmanChamber.org

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

- COMMUNITY LUNCHEON -

The Chamber will host its monthly "Community Luncheon" on Friday, April 25 in the All Steak Restaurant Banquet Room (323 3rd Ave. S.E.). Our featured speaker will be Pam Dorr.

As an entreprenuer living in rural Alabama, Pam Dorr runs 2 non-profits and 6 small businesses, creating affordable housing and economic development that provide jobs and job training. Pam is the Executive Director of the Hale Empowerment & Revitalization Organization, Inc. (HERO) and Habitat for Humanity, Hale County, Inc. As a grass roots non-profit, HERO creates community development opportunities that celebrate rural communities in the Alabama Black Belt.

The Community Luncheon program for 2014 is presented by Mickey Parrish State Farm Insurance & Financial Services. The April luncheon is sponsored by Alabama Technology Network.

Doors open at 11:30 a.m. to allow networking opportunities before the program begins at 11:45 a.m. Lunch is $15 per person for Chamber members and $20 for future members. *Reservations in advance are encouraged.

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.



** 48 hours cancellation notice or subject to billing. No payments will be taken at the door but can be invoiced or paid online.*

THE 2014 COMMUNITY LUNCHEON PROGRAM IS PRESENTED BY:

Mickey Parrish State Farm Insurance & Financial Services

256-734-4640 **MickeyParrish.com**



The April Community Luncheon is brought to you by:

ISO 9001:2008

Alabama Technology Network

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce is celebrating our Members

Friday, May 2, 2014

11:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.

Chamber Breezeway

Membership Appreciation Cookout & Open House

This member-only luncheon is a special way for the Chamber to say thank you to our members who continually invest in Cullman's future!

Please RSVP by April 30, 2014

Southern Kitchen JIM 'N NICK'S BAR·B·Q

CULLMAN AREA COC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER



Join us for a Ribbon Cutting for new Visitor Center following The Chamber's Morning Blend!
April 16, 2014 around 9:00 a.m.

www.edwardjones.com

Dreaming Up the Ideal Retirement Is Your Job. Helping You Get There Is Ours.

It's simple, really. How well you retire depends on how well you plan today. Whether retirement is down the road or just around the corner, the more you work toward your goals now, the better prepared you can be.

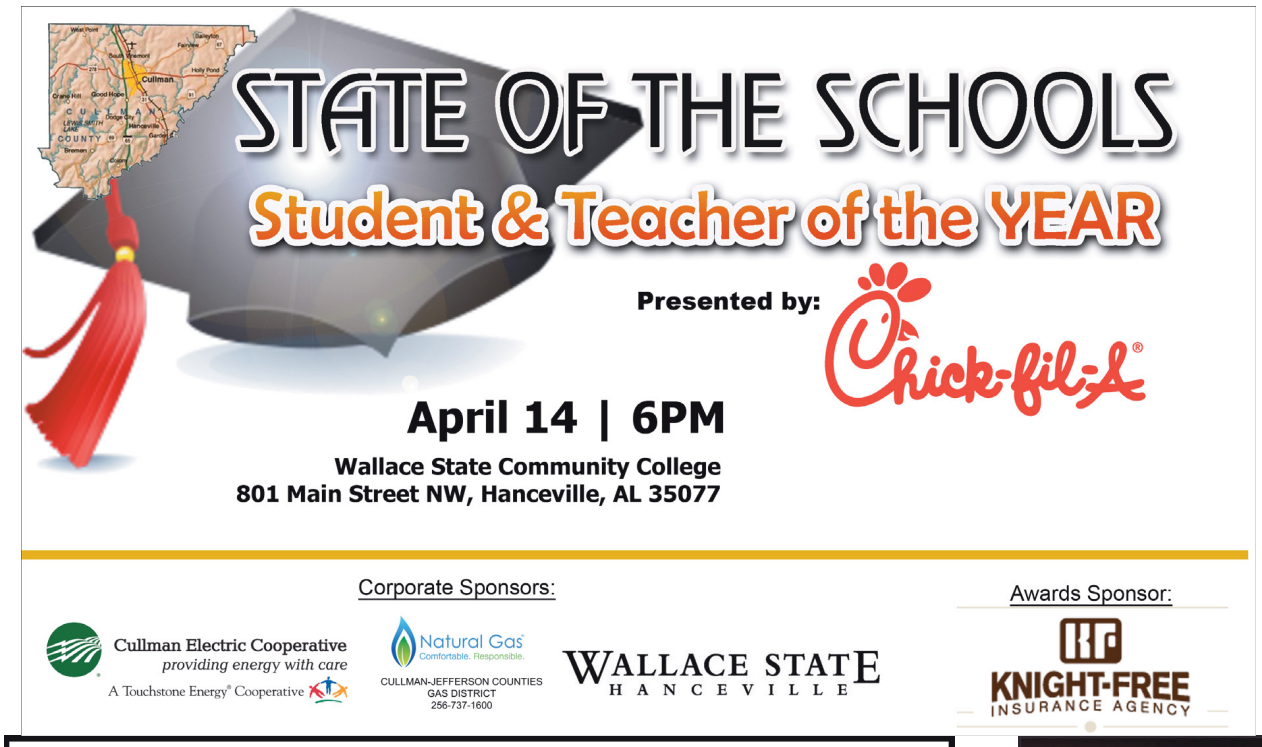
Preparing for retirement means taking a long-term perspective. We recommend buying quality investments and holding them because we believe that's the soundest way we can help you work toward your goals. At Edward Jones, we spend time getting to know your retirement goals so we can help you reach them.

To learn more about why Edward Jones makes sense for you, call or visit today.



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Superintendents Billy Coleman and Dr. Doreen Griffith, along with Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics, will deliver the State of the Schools' addresses. Additionally, the Student of the Year and Teacher of the Year will be announced. Students, parents and teachers are all invited to attend this event. The event will be held at Wallace State Community College School of Nursing and Center for Science Building. You may preregister online at www.cullmanchamber.org. Preregistration cost is $20.00 or $25.00 day of event.





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. Please visit www.cullmanchamber.org under the forms tab to apply for the upcoming year!

To apply for the 2014-2015 Leadership Cullman County Class please complete the online application.
http://www.cullmanchamber.org/pages/LeadershipCullmanCounty/

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Chamber Helped to Celebrate Growth in the Cullman Area



Sportsman Lake Splash Pad

1544 Sportsman Lake Rd. NW Cullman 35055
www.cullmancountyparks.com



Cullman Chrysler - Dodge - Jeep - Ram

300 Benchmark Way Cullman 35056
www.cullmandc.com



WSCC- School of Nursing and Center for Science

801 Main St NW Hanceville 35077
www.wallacestate.edu

Schedule your Ribbon Cutting or Goundbreaking!

If your business is new to the area, under new management, have a new location or if you are breaking ground call us today at 256-734-0454!

Welcome New Members

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

February 24, 2014 - March 23, 2014

All American Auto LLC.
61 AL Hwy 69 N
Cullman, AL 35055
Primary Phone: (256) 775-3704

ExpoDisplays / Method-1
3401 Mary Taylor Rd
Birmingham, Al 35235
Primary Phone: 205-439-8200

Marshall Industrial Supply, Inc. - Cullman Area Contact: Paul Hollis - Sales Rep
P.O. Box 177
Guntersville, AL 35976
Primary Phone: (256) 582-2401
marshallindustrial.com

McPherson Insurance Agency
P.O. Box 1283
Cullman, AL 35056
Primary Phone:

Mobility Massage Therapy, LLC
1400 AL Hwy 69 S
STE 3B
Cullman, AL 35058
Primary Phone: (205) 907-4656
mymobilitymassage.com

Rookis Agency, Inc
3912 3rd Avenue South
Birmingham, Alabama 35222
Primary Phone: 205-595-2267
www.rookisagency.com

Thank you to our Renewals

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

February 24, 2014 - March 23, 2014

4D Farm
Action Environmental, LLC
Action Resources
AJ Associates, Inc./ People, Inc.
AK Equipment Rentals and Sales, Inc.
Alabama Air Solutions, Inc.
Alabama Archives, Inc.
Alabama Electrical Contractors of Cullman, Inc.
Alabama Specialty Clinic
Alabama Web Press, Inc.
ALFA Insurance-Buddy Kelley
All American Auto LLC.
All Steak Restaurant
American Pistol Bullet
American Proteins, Inc.
American Trim
America's Car-Mart
Apel Machine & Supply Company, Inc.
Apel Steel Corporation
Ashley Drug Company of Cullman - Hospital Discount East
Berkeley Bob's Coffee House, LLC
Berney Office Solutions
Betty Leeth Haynes
Billy Ray Taylor Auto Sales
Blocher Company, Inc.
Blount Springs Materials, Inc.
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama
Boozer Eyecare Associates, P.C.
Borden Family Pharmacy & Market Shoppe
Burks Brothers Pools & Spas LLC
Business Solutions of Cullman
Camp Meadowbrook
Campbell's Cleaning Your Way, LLC
Carlton's Italian Restaurant
Castle Custom Cabinets LLC
Charter Business
China Garden
Circle H Logistics LLC
City of Cullman
College Tire
Comfort Care Hospice
Computer Network, Inc.
Computer Partners, LLC
Concours Mold Alabama, Inc.
Cook's Pest Control, Inc.
Covey Chase Apartments
Creative Design & Screen Printing LLC
Cullman Anesthesiology & Pain Consultants
Cullman Association of REALTORS, Inc.
Cullman Ballet Society
Cullman Cabinet & Supply Company, Inc.
Cullman Caring for Kids, Inc
Cullman Casting Corporation
Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
Cullman City Board of Education
Cullman City Schools Foundation
Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center
Cullman County Center for the Developmentally Disabled
Cullman County Homebuilders Association
Cullman County Museum
Cullman County Public Library System
Cullman County Revenue Commissioner's Office
Cullman Emergency Medical Services
Cullman Guns & Ammo
Cullman Heritage Funeral Home
Cullman Logistics, Inc.
Cullman Long Term Care and Rehab - Katie Smith
Cullman Marble & Granite
Cullman Power Board
Cullman Real Estate Inc.
Cullman Regional Airport - Folsom Field
Cullman Shopping Center
Cullman Urology, P.C.
Cullman Veterinary Hospital P.C.
Cullman-Jefferson Gas
Culpepper Real Estate, Inc.
Dale Greer
Daystar Church
DCA Ready Mix
Dennis Guthrie Construction
District Attorney's Office-Worthless Check Unit
Doug Doggett Jewelers
Doyle Real Estate
Dr. Jenny G. Folsom
Dr. Jerry D. Galin
Dr. John T. Williamson
Dr. Rodney Dellinger
Dr. Samuel J. Oliver
Dyer Poultry Supply
East Elementary School
Ed Harbison Realty
Ed Holcombe Pharmacy
Ed White Jewelers
Edward Jones Investments— Greg Picogna
Edward Jones Investments— Ronald Mann
Edward Jones Investments— Steve Casebolt
Eidson & Associates, Inc.
ENT Associates of Alabama, PC
ExpoDisplays / Method-1
First Baptist Church-Cullman
First Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church
Frankham, Lance
Freedom Insurance, The Gloria Williams Agency
Gentiva Hospice
Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama, Inc.
Good Hope Contracting
Hagan Real Estate
Hanceville Drug Company
Hays & Son Oil Company, Inc.
Heritage Pharmacy
HH Technologies, Inc.
Hibu - formerly YellowBook
Holmes Oil Company
Hospice of Cullman County
Hospital Discount Pharmacies & Wellness Centers
Inland Buildings/Schulte Building Systems
Jack's Western & Outdoor Wear
James R. Smith Trucking Co., Inc.
Jet Pep, Inc.
Jim B's Restaurant
Jim Phillips — Coldwell Banker Hill Real Estate
Joe C. Strickland, DMD, PC
Johnny's Bar-B-Q
K. A. Fisher Company
Knight-Free Insurance Agency, Inc.
Krout Properties
Lee's Veterinary Hospital, Inc.
LifeFirst - Imaging and Oncology Care Group
Lions Club of Cullman
Lois A. Burns
Lynn Layton Chevrolet
Marshall Industrial Supply, Inc. - Cullman Area Contact: Paul Hollis - Sales Rep
Matt Dellinger DMD, LLC
McDonald's of Hanceville
McPherson Insurance Agency
Medical Arts Apothecary
Mental Healthcare of Cullman
Mesco Building Solutions
Michael J. Graham, DMD, PC
Mobility Massage Therapy, LLC
Moss Service Funeral Home
Mrs. E. G. Plunkett
Mullins Body Shop, LLC
NARCOG
National Multiple Sclerosis Society - Alabama/Mississippi Chapter
Nationwide Insurance— Martha Burchell Agency
North Central Neurology Associates, PC
Northbrook Baptist Church
Oden's Auto Glass, Inc.
Papa Murphy's Take 'n' Bake Pizza
Parker and Parker P.C. Attorneys At Law
Paul D. Freeman, DMD
Payroll Services, LLC
Peek Auto Parts
Peggy Smith
Pepsi Cola Distributing Company
Physicians Resource Network
Precision Graphics, Inc.
Professional Weight Loss & Wellness Center
Ray Buchmann
Raymond James
Realty Inc./Homes for Heroes Affiliate
Red Door Clothing LLC
Richard Electric Company
RJR Mining Company, Inc.
Rock the South
RockTenn
Rookis Agency, Inc
Rumors Deli and Coffee House, Inc.
Saint Bernard Preparatory School
Sam's Club
Sandra's Tax Service
Security Finance
Seidel Plastic Surgery, P.C.
Servpro of Cullman/ Blount Counties
Smith Lake Marina & Resort
South Park Auto Sales, Inc.
St. John & Associates, Inc.
St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church
State Farm Insurance— Shirley Quattlebaum
Systemedx, Inc.
Tankersley Chiropractic, P.C.
The Awards Palace, LLC
The Cullman Times
The Final Touch
Three Pears Shoe Outlet
Tool Shed
TP Country Club, Inc - Patrick Drake
TP Country Club, Inc.
Uniform Place of Cullman, Inc.
Urgent Care Center
USA Healthcare, Alabama, LLC
Village Furniture & Gifts
W. S. Badcock Corporation Distribution Center
Walgreens
Walker Brothers, LTD
Walker's Discount Building Supply, Inc.
Wal-Mart Distribution Center
Warnke Insurance, Inc.
Warren, Averett LLC
Water Valley Flea Market LLC
Webb Wheel Products, Inc.
Werner's Trading Company
West Cullman Electrical Supply, Inc.
William E. Holcomb, MD & Associates PC
Wisco Industries, Inc.
Yogurt Mountain Cullman
Zero Bullet Company, Inc.

2014 cullman area tourism awards

Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center

Who Will Have Your Nomination?

It's your off day. Or the weekend. . .
Where are you shopping, dining, visiting, staying and playing? Odds are you have a picture of your favorite places in your head. It's time to write them down on paper and nominate them for our first-ever 2014 Cullman Area Tourism Awards!
Your nomination determines which places and individuals receive these first-time awards. Make your nominationcount.
To nominate your local favorites, go to www.cullmanchamber.org for a nomination form or stop by the Cullman Chamber to pick up a nomination form in person. The deadline for nominations is Friday, April 11, 2014. The 2014 Cullman Area Tourism Awards includes 14 awards in two separate categories: The Business Awards and The Individual Service Awards.

Presenting Sponsor
The Community Shopper's Guide

Celebrating Excellence in Tourism
for the Cullman Area
Tuesday, May 6, 2014
Doors Open 7:30 a.m.
Breakfast 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.
Awards 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.
The Brown Stone Centre
at Stone Bridge Farms
281 County Road 717 - Cullman, Alabama

Guest Speaker
Lee Sentell
Director of the Alabama Tourism Department

Table Sponsor - $250
Reserved seating for 8 in a prime location with table signage

Individual Tickets
Chamber Member $20 *Non-Member $25*

Corporate Sponsors
Hampton Inn - Cullman
Premier Productions (Rock the South)
The Cullman Times

The Business Awards

Exceptional Festival or Event Award
Recognizes a festival or event that attracts visitors as well as locals, generates regional and/or state media attention and positively promotes the Cullman area.

Best Attraction Award
Recognizes a regional attraction (including museums, performing arts, parks, amusement parks, etc.) which attracts visitors and contributes to an outstanding tourism experience.

Near Nature. Near Perfect Award
Recognizes a business, organization, community or outdoor recreation area that has developed a tourism product/service that best demonstrates the ecological, cultural or historic assets of the region.

Spirit of Cullman Award
Recognizes an outstanding tourism or hospitality related business or organization that provides excellent service, exemplifies innovation and causes our region to shine.

Rockin' Retailer
Recognizes a retailer that provides an outstanding shopping experience for visitors.

Extraordinary Everyday Eatery
Recognizes a restaurant offering an atmosphere that provides an outstanding experience for visitors.

The Individual Service Awards

The White Glove Award
Recognizes exceptional service from an individual hotel housekeeping staff member.

The Silver Spoon Award
Recognizes consistent superior service by a restaurant or food service employee.

Superior Service Award
Recognizes excellent customer service by an individual who has first contact with the public. Front desk personnel, concierges and all other guest service employees qualify.

Savvy Retail Sales Associate
Recognizes excellent customer service from a retail sales associate who has first contact with the public.

Heart of the House Award
Honors an outstanding individual who works behind the scenes to keep their institution, organization or business operating smoothly, creating a superior experience for the public.

Hospitality Volunteer of the Year
Recognizes any hospitality industry volunteer (i.e. entertainment venues, museums, and festival and event volunteers) who has made an outstanding contribution.

Rising Star Award
Recognizes an up and coming leader for their exceptional efforts to serve and enhance the experience of the public. Those individuals who have been in the tourism industry for five years or less qualify.

Tourism Professional of the Year Award
Recognizes a person who has made a significant contribution to the tourism industry through more than five years or more of innovation, inspiration and industry leadership.

Pro Angler Kevin Hawk Becomes the Face of Smith Lake

The Meet & Greet held on March 7 with Pro Angler Kevin Hawk at Smith Lake Park was the ultimate kick off for the Fishing Tournament in 2014. The Cullman County Commission, Cullman County Parks & Rec and Smith Lake Park announced that Hawk would be promoting Cullman County and the Park as he travels across the country competing in the Bassmaster Elite Series.



Left: Hawk is pictured with his awesome boat emblazoned with the infamous Smith Lake Park slogan.

CHAMBER REWIND

Biscuits & Business Showcases Workforce Solutions

The smell of fresh baked biscuits, piping hot coffee and ripened orange juice filled the air at Biscuits & Business, the Cullman Chamber's first quarterly event of the year. This morning event was offered free of charge to the public. Held at Wallace State Community College on March 12 from 8 to 9 a.m. in the Bailey Building, the event was well attended and highly enjoyed by all.

Not only were attendees able to enjoy an informative discussion concerning workforce solutions while enjoying a delicious breakfast, but the spirit of camaraderie and fellowship was also present and experienced by all. Wallace State Community College sponsored the event.

The morning edition of biscuits, business and networking was especially enjoyable with guest speakers Dale Greer, assistant director of the Cullman Economic Development Agency, and Dr. Vicki Hawsey Karolewics, president of WSCC.





Pictured above from L to R: Dr. Vicki Hawsey Karolewics, President of Wallace State Community College; Dale Greer, Assistant Director for the City of Cullman Economic Development Agency; and Leah Bolin, President of The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce.

March Session Held: "Business & Industry Day"

2013-14 Cullman County Youth Leadership Program

Our March session was a hit! We first had breakfast sponsored by Krout Properties. Then the class toured Alabama Cullman Yutaka Technologies, Cullman Economic Development Agency, Merchants Bank & Cullman Regional Airport-Folsom Field. We look forward to our April session, "Quality of Life Day" we will visit CCCDD-Margaret Jean Jones Center, CRMC, and the Good Samaritan Clinic.
To sponsor a student for the 2014-15 year contact jmoore@cullmanchamber.org.

Merchants Bank of Alabama
Member FDIC
www.merchantsbankal.com

Thank you to our Breakfast Sponsor: Krout Properties
Facebook: Krout Properties

Thank you to our Scholarship sponsors:

Action Environmental, LLC
AK Equipment Rental and Sales
Carmen Moss DMD
Cullman Internal Medicine
Cullman Regional Medical Center
Cullman Rotary Club
Heritage Diagnostic Center
Webb Wheel Products, Inc.

Pictured below is the YLCC class of 2014 at Cullman Regional Airport-Folsom Field.



Industry Reception Celebrates Cullman as #3 Micropolitan

The annual Industry Appreciation Reception was held on March 3 at TP Country Club from 5:30 to 7 p.m. This yearly event celebrates industry professionals in the community and the area's growth as a whole. The Chamber's Chairman, Jim Weidner, spoke on behalf of the Chamber's membership and the Board of Directors expressing sincere gratitude to the economic development partners at both the city and county offices for all that they continually do to promote growth in the Cullman area.
Two 2013-14 Industrial Tour Host awards were given out to Jeff Curtis, director of the Cullman Area Career Center, and to Shawn Crider, president of HH Technologies, Inc. These two groups were given tokens of appreciation for opening their doors to the Chamber in order to give members a look into their facilities.
A very distinct honor was bestowed upon the Cullman area when it was revealed that our community was the number 3 top micropolitan city in the U.S. by Site Selection Magazine.
A significant contributor to this great success would be the phenomenal growth the Cullman area experienced in 2013 with 52 expanding companies and four new businesses.



Above: Jim Weidner, CRMC; Leah Bolin, CoC; Jeff Curtis, CACC; and Shawn Crider, HH Technologies.



Speed Networking Grows Your Business' Reach!

Where did you make 100 connections in just one night? At Speed Networking! Don't be mistaken – we didn't mean Speed Dating. The Business After Hours event was held on March 6 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Grumpy's Italian Grill. The annually anticipated event of Speed Networking was a hit as Chamber and community members alike got to know one another in this extroverted game of wits.
Participants prepared a 30 to 60 second elevator speech describing who they are and what they do. This condensed approach to networking paid off in the dividends when attendees looped around the room exchanging stories and business cards with one another.
Amid the laughter and smiles, real business connections were made as attendees were able to grow their business reach in the Cullman area. The event, sponsored by Nearen Construction, featured an array of Italian delights served up by Grumpy's Italian Grill. It was a night packed full of great company and food.



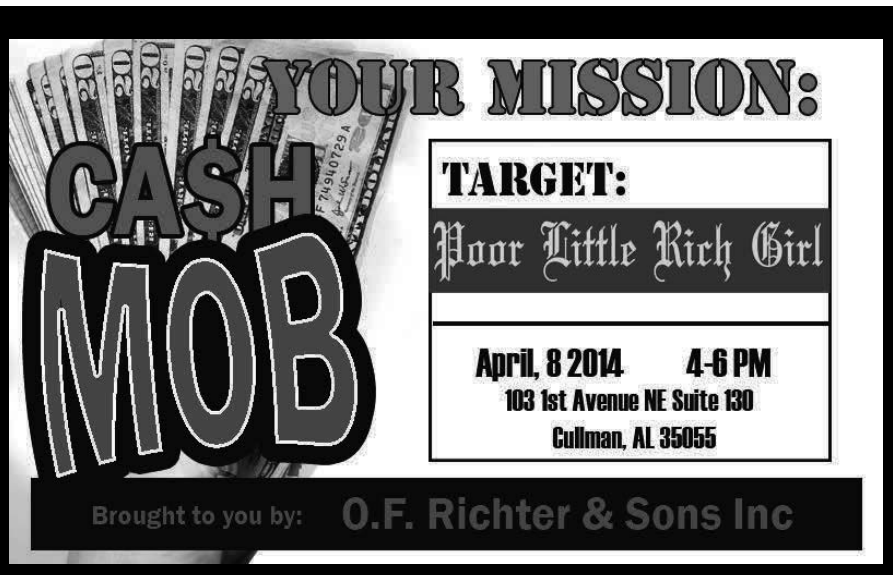




Not a Member Yet? Not a Problem!

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



Every month, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce selects a local store to mob. No, not a flash mob where people break into spontaneous dance, but rather a synchronized shopping effort, of course.
During the Cash Mob, everyone brings $20 to spend in the selected store. It's a great time to meet new people, shop for great items (often at a steal of a price), and it's a wonderful way to thank local businesses for investing in the Cullman community.
Cash Mob is sponsored by O.F. Richter & Sons and is held every second Tuesday of the month. This month's Cash Mob will be held April 8 at Poor Little Rich Girl. Don't miss out on this awesome upcoming event.

Check out our additions!

You can now find these items on our web-

Cullman CITY MAP

Cullman COUNTY MAP

All you need to know about the Cullman Area can be found in our quality of life magazine
VISIT CULLMAN





All you need to know about the Cullman Area can be found in our quality of life magazine
CLASSIC CULLMAN

CULLMAN AREA COC
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Alabama Farm Credit

(256) 737-1218
www.alabamafarmcredit.com

Brought to you by:

Prestigious Pets
140 County Road 1332
Vinemont, AL 35179
(256) 734-2660
www.prestigiouspets.com

prestigious pets
Pet Salon & Hotel

March Small Business of the Month – Johnny's Bar-B-Q
Sponsored by: ADS Security

You've been there and you love it. With several options in the Cullman area, it is no surprise that residents love their barbecue. Family owned since 1963, Johnny's Bar-B-Q features a menu that automatically makes your mouth water.

Open from Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., this place is sure to be open and beckoning your taste buds to try their stuffed baked potatoes, delicious seafood, plates of slow cooked meats, sandwiches and freshly prepared sides.

You'll really become smitten with their dessert menu boasting such options as coconut, lemon, pecan, apple and chocolate pie among other decadent sweet treats.

Each month, the Chamber chooses a local company to bestow the admirable achievement of Small Business of the Month. The owners and staff at Johnny's Bar-B-Q feel



honored to be recognized for their efforts and legendary barbecue. They have taken great pride in offering the best barbecue and service for years around and years to come.

Nominate your favorite business by going to www.cullmachamber.org

Member Spotlight

Be sure to visit these Chamber Member businesses for all of your furry friends!

Prestigious Pets
140 County Road 1332
Vinemont, AL 35179
(256) 734-2660
http://www.prestigiouspets.com

Cullman Veterinary Hospital P.C.
1636 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 734-2181
http://www.cullmanvet.com/

Compton's Veterinary Hospital
1007 Katherine Street NW
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 734-9488



Lee's Veterinary Hospital, Inc.
2126 2nd Avenue NW
Cullman, AL 35058
(256) 734-1177

Tommy Little Animal Clinic
186 County Road 1435
Cullman, AL 35058
(256) 734-4848

MOVIES

Film reveals legacy, influence of the Carter and Cash families

» Independent flick making its rounds at Wallace State

By: Gail Crutchfield
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE — Few can doubt the influence the Carter Family had on country music, as it was their music broadcast from a tiny radio station on the Virginia/Tennessee border that birthed the genre. The later alliance between June Carter and Johnny Cash only intensified the legacy and kept it alive for future generations.

Though their history is well known, in "The Winding Stream: The Carters, The Cashes, and The Course of Country Music" filmmaker Beth Harrington reveals a story that has never been told in its entirety. The film covers the epic sweep of this family's saga all in one film, and is told by Johnny Cash, Rosanne Cash, Janette Carter, as well as musicians they influenced. Roots music practitioners like John Prine, George Jones, Sheryl Crow, Kris Kristofferson, and many others vividly illustrate their musical contribution in studio performances.

The film, part of the Southern Circuit Independent Film Series by South Arts, will be shown at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., on Thursday, April 10, in the Recital Hall of the Burrow Center for Fine and Performing Arts on the campus of Wallace State Community College. The films are free and open to the public, and the series is sponsored by the Evelyn Burrow Museum.

"This is the last film in our series and we think it will be the most well attended of them all," said Donny Wilson, director of the Evelyn Burrow Museum. "Country music has such deep roots in this area and I think the film will be both entertaining and educational."

The 9:30 a.m. showing is part of the college's Learning Communities program, which provides for students in a number of courses cultural and educational events they can attend during their regular class time.

The 6 p.m. showing was added to give students and members of the community to another opportunity to see the film.

Beth Harrington will be on hand to answers questions after both showings. The 90-minute film made its world premiere at the South X Southwest Film Festival in Austin, Texas in March. Rolling Stone Magazine called the film 'A 2013 SXSW: Best of Fest Music Film." Variety said the film is "an impressively researched and deftly crafted feature that doubtless will find an appreciative audience."

Harrington's productions often focus on work that explores American history, music, and culture. Her "Welcome to the Club – The Women of Rockabilly" earned a 2003 Grammy nomination.

Her work with PBS shows, including NOVA, Frontline, The Health Quarterly, and two PBS specials, were honored with a Peabody Award and two Emmy nominations.

Harrington began shooting "The Winding Stream" in 2003. In a 2012 blog posting, Harrington wrote about her perseverance with the film and how she believed it was a story that needed to be told.

"It the last nine years I have amassed a treasure trove of what I consider to be important interviews with people who were witnesses to some of our most important share cultural history," she wrote in 2012. Many of those she interviewed, including Janette and Joe Carter and Johnny Cash, have passed away in the meantime.

"I started to view this film as a sacred trust," she wrote on the blog. "These folks had taken their time to share this with me. This material couldn't just languish on a shelf. It had to be made into the film I'd promised."

For more information about the film and to see video clips, visit www.thewindingstream.com. For more information about the upcoming shows, call Wallace State at 256-352-8457 or visit www.wallacestate.edu/artscalendar.



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» "The Winding Stream: The Carters, The Cashes, and The Course of Country Music" takes a detailed look at how the group changed country music forever.

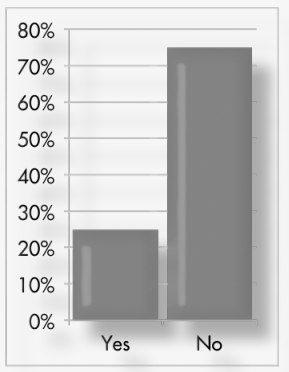
The film screening is part Wallace State's Arts in April events. The list of events planned for Arts in April include:

- Community Concert Series with the New York Theater Ballet, 4 p.m., April 6, Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre, $20, $10 students, free for season pass holders and WSCC students with student I.D.
- Columnist John Archibald, 9:30 a.m., April 8, Burrow Recital Hall
- Photography Lecture by John Dersham, 2 p.m., April 9, Burrow Recital Hall
- "The Winding Stream: The Carters, The Cashes and the Course of Country Music" film, part of the South Arts Film Festival, 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., April 10 at Burrow Recital Hall
- Art Exhibition, April 14-26 in the Burrow Center, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday
- Piano performance by Katherine Vest, Piano 1st place winner at the 2014 Alabama Federated Music Clubs Auditions, 12:15 p.m., Burrow Recital Hall
- WSCC Jazz Band's Big Band Ballroom Dance, 7 p.m., April 18 at Burrow Center, $15 donation
- WSCC Jazz Band at Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame, April 19 at Carver Theatre, Birmingham; time to be announced
- Musician and computer Kurt Heineke (Veggie Tales), 9:30 a.m., April 21 at Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre
- Mezzo Soprano Margaret Gill and Tenor Shane Bloemetji, with Mike Sparks accompanying, 12:15 p.m., April 22, Burrow Recital Hall
- Student Convocation, 12:15 p.m., April 24 at Burrow Recital Hall
- Beatles Revolution, 9:30 a.m., April 24 at Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre
- Beatles Revolution, 7 p.m., April 24-26 at Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre, $7 adults, $5 students, free ages 5 and under
- Art Exhibition Artists' Reception, 10 a.m. to noon, April 26, Burrow Center
- WSCC Concert Band, 9:30 a.m. April 29, Burrow Recital Hall
- WSCC Concert Band, 7 p.m., May 1, Burrow Recital Hall

For updates and more information about Arts in April, visit wallacestate.edu/artsinapril, or call 256-352-8277 or 866-350-9722.

Poll

Have you started any spring cleaning?



This Week's Poll

Do you feel a greater economic crash is about to occur?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

cullman city parks & recreation

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

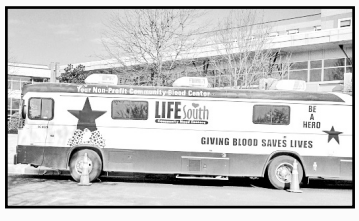
www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Kamp Cullman Registration Opening April 1:** Kamp Cullman Summer camp registration will on April 1 at the Cullman Civic Center. Camp will be held with base at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center from June 2-27 and July 7—August 1. Camp will include swimming, recreational activities, field trips, and much more. Camp will be held Monday-Friday, 7:45am-5:15pm. Spaces are limited, so sign your child up NOW! Call 256-734-9157 for details.
- **Xtreme Allstars Cheer Squad Registration:** Want your child to learn the most XTREME cheer skills? Come join one of our Xtreme Allstar Cheer Squads! Evaluations clinics will be held May 6, May 8, May 13, May 15, and May 20 at the Gymnastics & Cheer Academy. Any athletes interested must attend the clinic. An informational meeting will be held on May 1 at 6pm in the CGCA birthday party room. Early bird registration for the clinics is now open through April 14. For more information, call 256-739-6762.
- **Laughter Yoga:** Come be a part of this fun new way to relax and get a workout! Laughter Yoga will be held on Saturdays starting March 1 at the Civic Center from 9am-10am with instructor Sandy Seibert. Classes are $5 each or $25 for 6 classes. Call 256-734-9157 for details.
- **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.
- **CP&R Yoga:** Check out our new Yoga classes at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center including Buti Yoga, Buti-tone, and Paddle Board Yoga in the pools! Call 775-SWIM or see front desk.
- **Archery Classes:** Archery classes are offered for ages 7 & up on Mondays for beginners, Tuesdays for intermediate shooters, and Thursdays for advanced archers. All classes held at the Civic Center's indoor archery range. 256-734-9157

What's Online

The Simplest Gift Can Be the Greatest

One of the most life saving medical advancements of the 19th century was the first successful blood transfusion. In the 1800s, the first blood transfusions were performed on humans, forever changing medicine as we know it. Since its early days, the procedure has saved countless lives and...



qrne.ws/183

Senior Portraiture – In a Class By Itself

Like any other genre of photography that focuses on people, senior photography is about capturing a personality. The balance in senior portraiture is mixing that personality with what is currently trending. These trends range from hairstyle and makeup to wardrobe, and even lighting and background set.

qrne.ws/184

Author Buell Cobb Book Signing Reminisces on Singing and Small Town America

Author Buell Cobb was at the Cullman County Museum recently to speak about the release of his new book: "Like Cords around My Heart, A Sacred Harp Memoir." The room was packed with fans and friends eager to hear about his book and buy...

qrne.ws/185

TABLETOP DAY

All the World's a Game

» International event created by Star Trek character encourages people to come together for tabletop games

By: Jessica Norrell
jessica@cullmansense.com

Tabletop Day? We're not talking about different surfaces of tables, but rather a game-playing phenomenon.

International Tabletop Day, originally organized by Wil Wheaton of Star Trek, is a day set aside for people to come together and play tabletop games. The day was born of Wil Wheaton's popular web series, the Tabletop web series on Geek & Sundry.

In the show, Wheaton and a few friends play a large variety of games ranging from well-known classics to indie and foreign games that most people aren't aware of, and then they provide a review or recommendation of the game.

The first organized Tabletop Day event in Cullman was held at the Comfort Inn & Suites and hosted by Leslie Sanders and Boomer Barr. You know you're off to a good start when you go to an event and there are "My Name Is:" tags featuring ninjas, pirates, monsters and other various characters. A variety of games fit to suit every taste from zombies, mystery, dungeon, and social games awaited anyone wanting to participate in Tabletop Day. About half of the games provided by the host for International Tabletop Day had been featured on Wheaton's show.

Tabletop Day is a free event and an opportunity for anyone to come out and bring friends or make new ones and have a great time learning new games or sticking with an old classic game.

Anyone is welcome but it isn't recommended for children under 12 due to game content such as zombies or games that have small pieces; however, parents are more than welcome to bring their own kid friendly games for the kids and enjoy the fun of a social tabletop game experience.



JESSICA NORRELL/CULLMANSENSE

» Participants in Cullman's Tabletop Day enjoyed playing a range of common and unheard of games.

The Tabletop Day of games in Cullman started at 11 a.m. and ended at 8 p.m. Guests were welcome to come and go as they pleased and could stay as long as they wanted.

The hosts, who also provided all the games, hope to have another Tabletop Day in Cullman next year and welcome all to come celebrate a day dedicated to fun and games. You can check www.tabletopday.com to check locations for the next Tabletop Day.

If Tabletop Day interests you, then here are a few games and a brief description to check out from this year's Tabletop in Cullman:

1) The Resistance: This is a party game of social deduction. It is designed for five to 10 players, lasts about 30 minutes and has no player elimination.

The Resistance is inspired by Mafia/Werewolf, yet is unique in its core mechanics, which increases the resources for informed decisions, intensified player interaction and lack of player elimination.

2) Munchkin Quest: Cooperate with the whole group, adventure with a partner or strike out on your own. You don't know what's behind a door until you open it . . . then another tile is added to the dungeon.

Battle monsters for power and treasure or send them after your friends. Reach Level 10 and get out alive if you can!

3) Tokaido: Each player is a traveler crossing the "East Sea Road", one of the most magnificent roads of Japan.

While traveling, you will meet people, taste fine meals, collect beautiful items, discover great panoramas, and visit temples and wild places but at the end of the day, when everyone has arrived at the end of the road, you'll have to be the most initiated traveler – which means that you'll have to be the one who discovered the most interesting and varied things.

Comics

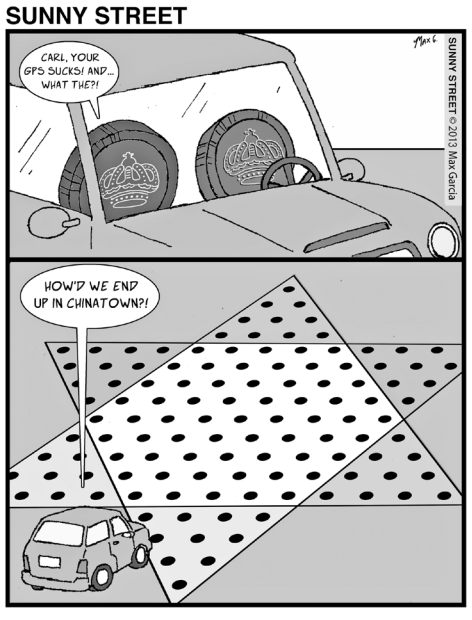
WHITE & BLACK • **"Big Premiere"** • st.edo@cullmansense.com



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



SUNNY STREET



SUNNY STREET



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Pets of the Week

Floyd

Hello, my name is Floyd, and I am about 10 months old. I am believed to be a Finnish Spitz mix, and I currently weigh 35 lbs.

I'm a great little guy that will give you a lifetime of love and loyalty. Please consider coming to meet me today.

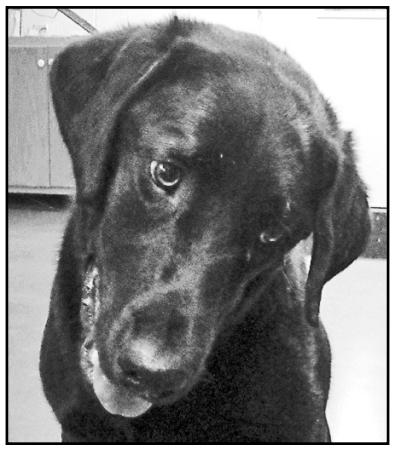


Buttercup

Hello, my name is Buttercup, and I am about 4 years old. I am a black Labrador Retriever.

I am recovering from some injuries, and I am doing very well.

I'm ready to find my new forever home. Please stop by and say hi to me.



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.

Bloomin'(from Front)

tival, but if you want to get the complete experience, you have to do a few things. First, as soon as you arrive, perform a light initial scan of the vendors. Don't linger too long at any one station, but simply check out the options.

Next, buy a funnel cake, sit down, and devour it. Enjoy this time as well as the sugar rush you experience afterwards. Next, you need to do some serious vendor shopping. Lay eyes on each tent.

You don't have to go to every single one, but if you don't look at each one, you might miss out.

Now, be impulsive. If you see something you want to check out more in depth, go for it. By the time you're done with your in-depth vendor shopping, you're going to be hungry for lunch. So, head to the meal tent and enjoy a hot tasty meal provided by St. Bernard.

After lunch, take some time to sit down and relax near the St. Bernard band offering you live music. Now, before you leave, go purchase those items you didn't buy but almost did. It'll be worth it. And finally, if you don't do anything else at the Bloomin' Festival, buy some mouthwatering, delicious, fresh-squeezed lemonade on your way out. You'll be glad you did.

One of the vendors impressed an audience by making glass sculptures right there at her tent, Sheree Kilgore, from North Carolina.

"I've been doing this over 30 years," said Kilgore. "I don't do a lot of events like this because I have a business in North Carolina. But I'm from Anniston, Alabama, so I like to come sell my art at the Bloomin' Festival."

Another vendor, Robin Johnston, sold beautiful and unique artisan jewelry. She and her husband work together to create these one-of-a-kind handmade pieces.

"It's our first time at the Bloomin' Festival," said Johnston. "We love it. The grounds are beautiful and the people are wonderful."

President of St. Bernard School, Father Joel Martin, has watched the Bloomin' Festival grow since the very beginning.

"The Bloomin' Festival started 30 years ago near the old gym which has since been torn down. But it rained that first festival on one of the days, so they moved everything inside the gym. So, it was really small then, and it's great to see how much it's grown since then."

He also stated that this event is the biggest fundraiser for the school every year.

"It's part of our operating budget," he stated. "And we plan on making a certain amount of money from the Bloomin' Festival each year. Not as gravy, but so we can stay alive."



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» The Bloomin' Festival provides a family friendly atomosphere for artisians to showcase their wares and supplies needed funding to St. Bernard.

Not only does St. Bernard benefit from this lively event each year, but so does the entire city of Cullman.

"It definitely has economic boost too because people come from all over the place to come here. We have vendors from up north. But I think the biggest benefit to both the school and the local community is the positive, fun atmosphere. It's something families can really enjoy. It's unbeatable," said Father Joel, with a smile on his face and a lemonade in his hand.

Valhalla Comics gives local cards & comics enthusiasts a new home

By: Chelsea Sparks
Local Contributor



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» Valhalla hosts tournaments for all-skilled players of Magic, Yu-Gi-Oh!, and other popular card games.

CULLMAN - For years now, there has never been a place for what some call the "geek culture" in Cullman and surrounding areas. Most people think of the word "geek" and picture a weird group of socially awkward teenagers. In recent years, however, being a geek has become so much more than the stereotypical picture most people envision this term to be. Geek, nerd, whatever the name, this rapidly growing group is proud to let their "geek" flag fly.

Valhalla Comics and Collectables located on 31 next to the JC Arena opened its doors this year to the Cullman area. Their wide selection of comic books and collectible cards makes this place a must stop for all comic book and Magic card fans. You can get store credit for trading in old cards or participate in one of their many trading card tournaments. Do you want to host a friendly game of D&D? Then look no further than Valhalla.

The two brothers that own the store came up with the idea from their own children who are interested in games like Magic: The Gathering and D&D. Michael and William Spear decided to start the business after seeing a need for it in the area. Michael said the main reason for starting it up was to give kids and adults a place to come hang out and share in their interests.

"Meeting new people and getting to see them interact with each other is my favorite part of all of this," Michael said.

People are traveling further than Cullman to come share in the fun at Valhalla comics. One customer and tournament player, Whitney Roden, travels all the way from Lacey Springs to be a part of the tournaments here.

"I would rather drive 45 minutes to an hour to come to a place that's friendly and unbiased in their tournaments," she said.

A more local customer, Heath Hollis, was also really pleased with the inviting atmosphere.

"I have always gotten along with everyone here, so it's just nice to be in a friendly atmosphere," he said. "And to just find other players to play with."

The store holds weekly tournaments in all manners of trading card games. Magic: The Gathering and Yu-Gi-Oh! are the bigger hits among the customers but there are several different types of tournaments that players can participate in. Five weekly tournaments are held Thursday through Sunday and prizes are given to the winners.

Free tournaments are held for those who are less experienced, and paid tournaments are held for those in the more advanced class of players. Last week a booster set of gaming cards priced at $50 were given to the winner.

We are all geeks in some sense. We all have some obsession that we know everything about and can talk about for hours at the drop of a hat.

In essence, this is all a geek does. Whether your geekdom is in fashion, hunting, or like this particular group, gaming, we all have that one passion that makes us completely "geek out". It seems a word that was previously rooted in a derogatory text has now transformed into a symbol of empowerment and individuality.

If you would like to get more information on Valhalla comics, their tournaments or hosting a role-playing game, give them a call at 256-352-5000.

St. Bernard Preparatory School Class of 2014



JOYCE NIX/ST. BERNARD

» 1st row: Logan Ayers, Mackenzie Bockhold; 2nd row: Cong Li Yang, Wenyu Guo, Anna Caroline Keefe, Zoie Wilson, Sadie Pudles, Katie Downs; 3rd row: Oscar Perez, Changye Yang, Michayla Brown, Eun Jeong, Rhiana Griffin Brumbalow, Jiajun Qiu; 4th row: Gabriel Pautler, Jack Culpepper, Mauricio Rosas, Matt Herring, Bryce Allen; 5th row: Hsuan-Wei Tu, Landon Skinner, Katherine Gamble, John Gurtowski, Jacob Mynatt, Amy Wilson

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2014 SIERRA 1500 2WD CREW CAB

MSRP $35,780 • OPEN HOUSE $27,995

TOTAL SAVINGS $7,785



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Bill Smith BUICK GMC

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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