SERIES 4, ISSUE 16 MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014

CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER

CULLMANSENSE

COMMUNITY MATTERS

$0.50 $0.50

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April Community Luncheon Features Pam Dorr

» Extreme Entrepreneur Talks Nonprofits, Restoration, and Revitalization

By: Kate Mullaney
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CULLMAN - The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce held its monthly Community Luncheon (formerly called Fourth Friday) last Friday in the banquet room at the All Steak. These luncheons are presented by Mickey Parrish State Farm Insurance & Financial Services. The April sponsor is Alabama Technology Network (ATN).

The afternoon began with a few opening words from Mickey Parrish of State Farm and Perry Shields of ATN.

Pam Dorr was the guest speaker. Dorr is an entrepreneur who lives in rural Alabama. She runs two non-profits and six small businesses. She is the executive director of Habitat for Humanity, Hale County, as well as the Hale Empowerment and Revitalization Organization (or better known as HERO). HERO is a grassroots non-profit that provides affordable housing, economic development, and job training to those in need.

Dorr gave a brief presentation on HERO and her passion for helping those in need. She began restoring a home in high school and found that this was a relatively easy way to provide for those who need homes, while also making the community more beautiful. She met several homeless people at this time, which developed her passion for helping others.

Now, HERO completes all sorts of projects from renovating homes to fixing up urban downtown areas. It also provides jobs such as making and selling jewelry for those in need of employment.

Dorr quickly realized that HERO should be utilizing the local resources available. Because rural Alabama has an abundance of pecans, HERO has developed a pecan candy shop, which has not only em- p6

APRIL 27, 2011 TORNADOES

TWISTING TURNS

» Anniversary of historic tornadoes marked with progress p2



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» Though many parts of Cullman were severely damaged or destroyed three years ago the city has been largely rebuilt and is thriving.

SENIOR SPELLING BEE

Leukotriene Spells Victory

» Event one of many offered by Cullman County Commission on Aging p7



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» Cullman County Senior Spelling Bee Winner Sue Miller successfully spelled "leukotriene".

Class of 2014 inducted into Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame

By: Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

CULLMAN - Another group of outstanding people have been recognized for being inducted into the Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame. Eleven newcomers became a part of the fraternity Saturday night in the 15th edition of the Hall of Fame at the Cullman Civic Center.

The credentials of these people are impressive from their days as athletes and on to further adventures as coaches, officials, organizers, and supporters of local athletic programs.

Last fall, Mark Britton became the winningest football coach at Cullman, surpassing the legendary Oliver Woodard. Britton, with 113 victories heading into the 2014 season for the Bearcats, was inshrined into the Class of 2014.

Joining Britton in this group was Jeff Freeman, a star athlete at Cold Springs High School. He was on the 1979 Eagle basketball team that reached the state tournament in Tuscaloosa. Freeman would sign a scholarship at Wallace State and was a member of the first ever baseball team Wallace had in 1981.

Before he was inducted into the Hall, Freeman took great pride as his daughter, Haley, a senior and star athlete for the Lady Eagles in basketball and softball, was the winner of the Victoria Rouse Memorial Scholarship, honoring the top senior athlete at Cold Springs.

Connie Gardner was a graduate of Good Hope High School in 1970. She went from the role of cheerleading to making an impact in the sport of body building. Garner was the winner in the 2006 Atlantic p4

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Chamber of Commerce holds State of the Schools/Student and Teachers of the Year

By: Kate Mullaney
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CULLMAN - Cullman is home to some of the best and brightest students and teachers in the nation. Last Monday night, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce held the 2014 State of the Schools/Student and Teachers of the Year dinner to celebrate and honor these wonderful people. It was held at the beautiful new School of Nursing and Center for Science building at Wallace State Community College.

The event was presented by Chick-fil-A, and corporate sponsors included Cullman Jefferson Gas, Cullman Electric Cooperative, and Wallace State. Knight-Free Insurance provided awards for the 2014 Student and Teachers of the year.

The evening began with the recognition of the head table and comments from Randy Earnest of Chick-fil-A in Cullman. Afterwards a delicious dinner provided by Stone Bridge Farms was served.

Next was a brief presentation given by Dr. Doreen Griffith, superintendent of Cullman City Schools, followed by Billy Coleman, superintendent of Cullman County Schools, and finally Dr. Vicki Karolewics, president of Wallace State Community College.

Dr. Griffith spoke about the state of the Cullman City Schools.

She is excited about the progress on the new Cullman High School building and is eager for its completion. She also stated that one of her goals is to keep Cullman the best place to raise kids in Alabama. Finally, she gave highlights of the Cullman City Schools from the last five years.

Billy Coleman's main topic was the Cullman Area Career Center. He stated that it has recently blossomed with successful students.

He also stated that Cullman County Schools have a few exciting upcoming plans such as an alternative learning program for students whose circumstances do not allow them to graduate from a traditional high school.

Dr. Karolewics spoke about her excitement for Wallace State's new building.

She was happy to host the event in this beautiful and enormous new center for learning.

She also stated that Wallace State has a new vision statement: "Learning Without Boundaries".

This will allow every students to reach his or her goals through Wallace State. She also announced WSCC's new strategic plans entitled "Ready for College, Ready for Work, Ready for Life".

Next, awards were presented to the 2014 Teachers of the Year. Awards were given to teachers from both the Cullman City and County Schools. The elementary teacher of the year from Cullman City Schools was Anita Moore of Cullman Primary School.

The secondary teacher of the year from Cullman City Schools was Jennifer Calahan of Cullman High School.

The elementary teacher of the year from Cullman County Schools was Ronda Harris of Parkside School, and the secondary teacher of the year from Cullman County Schools was Tasha Flanigan of the Cullman Area Career Center.

Finally, the 2014 Student of the Year was announced. Nine students were nominated from Cullman City and County Schools, and three career technical students were nominated.

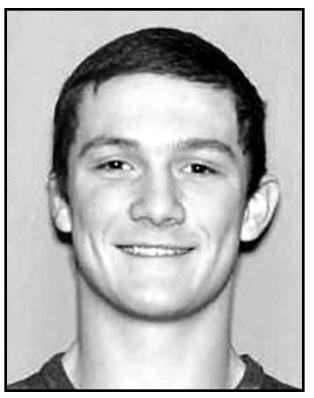
The winner of the 2014 Student of the Year was Alexis Helene Duncan of Cold Springs High School, and the winner of the Career Technical Student of the Year was Isaac Lindsey of the Cullman Area Career Center and Cullman High School.

Both students were excited to have received such a prestigious award.

"It's such an honor," said Alexis Duncan, 2014 Student of the Year. "I've worked very hard my whole high school career. I've done a lot of extracurricular activities like National Honor Society, cheerleading, and Leo Club, but I'm ready to start my next adventure at Jacksonville State next year. I'm just going to press on with my goals and I'm going to achieve them. This is a great honor for me."

2014 Career Technical Student of the Year winner Isaac Lindsey also had some encouraging words to share: "I hope this shows everyone that hard work does pay off, and if you're passionate about what you do and you work hard, anything is achievable."

Body recovered from Lick Creek is missing teen Billy Ray Wren



CONTRIBUTED

» Billy Ray Wren

By: Noah Chandler
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CULLMAN – Cullman County Sheriff Mike Rainey confirmed that the body of 18-year-old Billy Ray Wren was located and removed from Lick Creek around 9:40 a.m. on Saturday.

"Our deepest condolence go to the family of Billy Ray Wren," Rainey said. "We know this is a difficult time for everyone involved."

Rainey said a fisherman made the discovery Saturday morning, then quickly notified the sheriff's office.

"I would like to thank everyone who came out to search for Billy Ray over the last few days, because without everyone's assistance we wouldn't have been able to keep the search going," he said.

Rainey said investigators are looking into the death.

"First off, we must send the body off for an autopsy before we can assume what happened," he said. "Once the results are back, we will have a better idea of what happened the morning he disappeared."

For more information as it becomes available visit CullmanSense.com.

Twisting Turns

» Anniversary of April 27, 2011 tornadoes marked with progress

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Three years ago, we watched three tornadoes rip through our town. Three years ago, we watched loved ones lose their homes. Three years ago, we watched our beloved town fall apart.

There is no denying the fear, sadness, and loss the tornadoes of 2011 caused. These angry acts of nature left a path of destruction behind them destroying the town we love.

Kitty Spears, owner of the Busy Bee Café, recalls her terrifying experience with the tornadoes:

"I was standing at the cash register about to get the money out so I could go home. I already let all the other employees go home because they were panicking. We closed early, but I stuck around for a little while. I had just opened the cash register and my ears started hurting so bad. I just happened to look up, and when I did, I saw a cloud of debris flying my way across the bridge. There wasn't a funnel or anything, just a big grey cloud of debris. And I thought it was just going to blow my windows out, so I jumped under the counter as far as I could get, and the building exploded."

"It buried me under all the debris, and I couldn't move. It happened so quickly. When it hit, it sounded like a jet plane had just landed and then there was silence. The first thing I said was 'Thank God I'm alive'. I didn't know I was hurt at first because I couldn't move. But then I heard people running up and down the streets screaming and I started screaming back. They were saying 'Where are you?' and I was screaming back for help. Finally they found me and they had to dig me out. When they went to lift me out is when I realized I was hurt. So they got one of these table tops and laid me on it and took me out in the street until rescue came and got me."

Kitty suffered from a broken pelvis and a cut on her face. She was in a wheelchair for four weeks and a walker for at least three months.

The Busy Bee Café was completely destroyed by the storm just like so many other businesses and homes in Cullman.

Devastation, heartache, and destruction swept over Cullman in a single day. Our town had been broken.

But something else happened that day. Out of the rubble, debris, fear, and loss of the storm came opportunity.

The opportunity for Cullman to rebuild and become stronger than we ever have before.

The Busy Bee Café was rebuilt exactly one year after it was blown away.

"Business is better than it's ever been," Spears said. "It's been great. People in Cullman have been so supportive. I was treated wonderfully."

Spears also believes that Cullman has created something wonderful out of a terrible situation.

"I think the tornadoes woke us up in developing the town. Now we're more competitive with other cities. It's like we were stuck in a rut, but now we're actually expanding our way of thinking and everything. It was a tragedy but something great come out of it."

And it's not just the Bee. Since the storm, Cullman has been transforming. It's beautiful, bustling with people, and laced with entertainment. Cullmanites have bonded together creating a sense of community. Cullman found the silver lining. The tornadoes may have knocked us down, but we started growing out of the rubble. And we're not stopping.

Cullman County Community Shelters

Contributed by Cullman County EMA

- **Baileyton**
  112 Fairview Rd
  Capacity: 96
  No pets

- **Chapel Village/Jones Chapel**
  74 County Rd 1034, Cullman, AL 35057
  Capacity 90-100
  No pets

- **Cullman County Courthouse Basement**
  500 2nd Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055
  No pets

- **Dodge City Town Hall – basement**
  130 Howard Circle, Hanceville, AL 35077
  (basement was built to storm shelter standards)

- **Dodge City Volunteer Fire Department**
  7150 County Rd 223
  Capacity: 96
  No pets

- **Fairview Housing Authority**
  501 1st Ave SW
  Capacity: 90-100
  No pets

- **Garden City Town Hall**
  501 1st Ave SW
  Capacity: 450+ people

- **Good Hope City Hall (Basement)**
  134 Town Hall Dr, Cullman, AL 35057
  Capacity: 100
  No pets

- **Good Hope freestanding shelter behind City Hall**
  Accessed via Madison Dr.
  Capacity: 96
  No pets

- **Good Hope Volunteer Fire Department #2**
  301 Day Gap Rd
  Capacity: 96
  No pets

- **Hanceville – three shelters:**
  202 Bangor Avenue SE
  1407 Commercial Street SE
  203 Michelle Street NW
  No pets

- **Smith Lake Park**
  420 County Rd 385
  Capacity: 96
  No pets

- **South Vinemont**
  88 Ridgeway St
  Capacity: 96
  No pets

- **Vinemont Providence Volunteer Fire Department #1**
  576 County Rd 1355, Vinemont, AL 35179
  Capacity: 200
  No pets

- **Vinemont Providence Volunteer Fire Department #2**
  60 Ridgeway St
  Capacity: 200
  No pets

- **West Point**
  4050 County Rd 1141
  Capacity: 96
  No pets

New law defines Alabama's drought planning and response

By: Russell Sellers

MONTGOMERY - With the passage of new legislation, the State of Alabama has taken a step forward in recognizing drought as a long-term issue that requires constant vigilance because of the adverse impact it can have on residents, industries, agriculture and recreation.

Gov. Robert Bentley signed into law the Alabama Drought Planning and Response Act on April 9, establishing state government's role in planning, monitoring and responding to severely dry conditions.

Alabama experienced one of the driest years on record in 2007 and portions of the state have been affected by drought at least six times since the early 1980s. Operating under the authority of a series of gubernatorial executive orders, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs' Office of Water Resources has served since 2002 as the state's lead office for drought planning and response activities. During drought periods, OWR works with local water systems, farmers, reservoir operators and industries to encourage water conservation and to mitigate negative impacts like water shortages, pulp and paper mill shutdowns, and crop failure.

The new law replaces executive orders issued by Bentley in 2011 and 2013, creates the Alabama Drought Planning and Assessment Team and defines permanent roles for OWR and other state agencies

"Drought is a slow and silent natural disaster that can cause water shortages, job losses, and damage to crops and livestock," Bentley said. "With careful monitoring and planning, we can stay ahead of potential problems associated with drought and mitigate some of the negative impacts."

Major provisions of the act include:

• Permanently establishing the Alabama Drought Planning and Assessment Team. The team advises the governor and OWR about state activities related to droughts and includes the Monitoring and Impact Subgroup that collects and analyzes stream-flow levels, rainfall, soil moisture and other drought-related data. The team is made up of representatives from Alabama Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Alabama National Guard, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Geological Survey of Alabama, the Alabama State Climatologist, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Alabama Forestry Commission, Farm Service Agency, ALFA, Alabama Forestry Association, and the Choctawhatchee Pea and Yellow Rivers Watershed Management Authority.

• Requiring that OWR update the Alabama Drought Management Plan at least every five years. OWR issued a revised plan in 2013 that updates the specifies steps to be taken in response to potential drought conditions.

• Defining the role of the Alabama State Climatologist in coordinating with OWR to provide input about conditions in the Alabama for inclusion in the U.S. Drought Monitor Map, a weekly snapshot of drought conditions across the country.

• Directing each public water system in the state to create a water conservation plan -if not already developed- for responding to drought conditions and requiring the systems to report any drought-related water restrictions or conservation measures to OWR.

• Enabling OWR to issue Alabama drought declaration advisories based on data collected and analyzed by the Monitoring and Impact Group of the Alabama Drought Assessment and Planning Team.

More information about Alabama's drought monitoring and planning process is available at www.adeca.alabama.gov/water.

First Military and Overseas Ballots Sent for Primary Election

By: Tamara Cofield
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Secretary of State Jim Bennett announced that the first round of military and overseas (UOCAVA) ballots for the June 3, 2014 primary election has been sent.

Of the 59 jurisdictions that had valid absentee ballot applications submitted on or before the 45th day before the election, 57 reported that they had sent those ballots on or before the federal deadline. More than half of those counties—32—reported that their ballots had been sent a week early.

Two jurisdictions sent some of their ballots two days late this year.

"While we regret we could not report that every county met the federal deadline, I do want to thank every county that worked so diligently to see that our military and overseas voters' ballots get to them with sufficient time for those ballots to be returned and counted," said Bennett.

Secretary Bennett also announced that for the 2014 primary and general election, UOCAVA voters will have an extra week in which to get their voted ballots back to the county. Bennett stated, "I want to thank the Legislature for passing Act No. 2014-2006, which extends the deadline for receipt of UOCAVA ballots to noon on the 7th day after the election."

Prior to this new law taking effect, for the primary and general elections, voted UOCAVA ballots had to be received by noon on Election Day.

"By extending the receipt deadline an extra 7 days, this should go a long way toward ensuring that our military men and women's ballots are counted."

For the UOCAVA ballots that were not sent in compliance with the federal transmission deadline, Bennett is taking remedial steps to ensure that voters know they now have an extra week in which to get their voted ballots back to the county. Once the UOCAVA ballots have been received, Bennett urges the voters to mark them and put them in the mail at their earliest convenience.

"We want to do everything within our power to ensure that these votes are counted. Our men and women in uniform certainly deserve no less," said Bennett.

2014 Scale Back Alabama contest ends, winners announced

By: Rosemary Blackmon
ADPH Contributor

For the last 10 weeks, more than 25,000 Alabamians have learned how to visit their local farmers' markets to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, spend less time in front of the TV, take a hike in the woods, or mow the yard, and take the stairs.

These men and women participated in Scale Back Alabama, the state's annual weight-loss competition and lost a total of 114,511 pounds, or 57 tons.

The Oompa Loompas from Madison County won the grand prize of $1,000 per team member. Teammates include Captain Amanda Parkinson, Douglas Ott, Kennie Still, and James Hunt.

The second place team, winning $500 per team member, was Southern Boys Buffet Mafia of Huntsville, and the third place team was Heavy Fire of Tuscaloosa; they each won $250 dollars.

Individual names were also drawn from those who lost at least 10 pounds and another drawing from those who lost one pound or more.

In addition to the teams, more than 100 schools participated in the contest, and three schools were drawn to receive physical activity equipment worth $500 each. Winning schools are as follows: first place prize - Albert Turner Elementary School – Marion, second place prize - Belgreen High School – Russellville, and runner-up prize - Hayden Middle School – Hayden.

At the news conference, Gina McDonald, the contest spokesperson and the $100,000 winner of NBC's Biggest Loser in 2013, praised contestants for their participation stating, "Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step of your life. Tiptoe if you must, but take the step."

The Birmingham attorney also stressed that the word "diet" should be scratched from everyone's vocabulary and replaced with the notion of healthy habits--eating more nutritious foods and exercising.

Scale Back Alabama is a 10-week, statewide weight-loss contest designed to help Alabama fight its battle with obesity by encouraging participants to develop lifelong healthy habits.

The free program is targeted to adults 18 and older, primarily focusing on the workplace and utilizing local organizations as weigh-in sites.

The public awareness program is sponsored by the Alabama Hospital Association and the Alabama Department of Public Health, with generous underwriting from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama.

KEY STATISTICS

- Total pounds lost – 114,511
- Number of teams on which each team member lost 10 pounds – 431
- Number of individuals who lost at least 10 pounds – 5,908
- Counties participating – 65
- Number of local coordinators - 431
- Total teams participating – 6,338
- Number of individuals participating – 25,352

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

Cullman falls in Elite Eight of Pre-State Softball Blowout

By: Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

CULLMAN - Tough competition has been seen by the Cullman Lady Bearcats in the past week. In three games in which they lost, those defeats came to ranked teams in the Alabama Sportswriters' Association Top 10 softball poll.

Two took place over the weekend in the annual Pre-State Blowout at Heritage Park. The Lady Bearcats fell in an assignment in pool play to No. 5 Mortimer Jordan from Class 5A by the score of 4-0.

After a win the first segment of the elimination bracket over Excel 10-3, the Lady Bearcats met up with the No. 1 squad from 1A, Sumiton Christian. The Lady Eagles eliminated the Lady Bearcats 7-0 in the quarterfinal round.

Sumiton had avenged a loss to Stephanie Barlow's Lady Bearcats by the margin of 3-0 on March 11 at Cullman. The two are scheduled to play a regular season game Monday in Sumiton, weather permitting.

Severe weather is in the forecast and the game could be postponed or possibly cancelled with the postseason to get under way next weekend for all softball teams in the AHSAA.

In the win over Excel in the tournament bracket of the blowout, Cullman was down 2-0 after a half inning. Then the Lady Bearcats went to work with seven runs in their half of the first to take the lead and never trailed again.

Hannah Morton ripped a triple that scored Clair Jenkins and Taiya Ponder to tie the game at 2-2. Hayden Short's grounder was not handled cleanly at third base, bringing in Morton and giving Cullman a 3-2 edge.

Tiffany Schwaiger singled home a run and two other runs crossed the plate when Kaitlyn Brannon's grounder at short was bobbled and thrown away.

Jenkins doubled in a run during the third with Cullman adding another run thanks to another play that was botched by the Excel infield.

Jenkins got the win for the Lady Bearcats, holding Excel off the scoreboard after they collected two in its first plate appearance.

Miscues by the Cullman infield proved to be costly against No. 1 Sumiton Christian. Two fielding errors and two throwing errors during the first allowed the Lady Eagles to jump out to a 4-0 lead.

Cullman had a chance in the second. Oliva Schwaiger singled, Elle Dixon drew a walk, and McKensie Burks was safe on an error to load the bases.

However, Brannon flew out to left field to end the threat and Cullman was never again in a serious position to challenge the visitors from Walker County.

Sumiton scored twice in the bottom of the second and picked up another run during the fourth.

The Lady Bearcats are 26-15 on the season, losing three of their last five games and getting bumped out of the Top 10 in the 5A rankings.

They will need to regroup prior to the start of the Area 15 Tournament next weekend that will be played in Hartselle. Cullman goes into the tournament second in the area behind the No. 4 ranked Lady Tigers.

"The Big One on the Blvd.": New Talladega Superspeedway Fan Experience To Debut May 2

By: Price Mason
NASCAR Contributor

TALLADEGA, AL – NASCAR Sprint Cup drivers, a Moonpie eating contest, BBQ sauce wrestling—these are just a few of the items on the docket for Talladega Superspeedway's first ever "Big One on the Blvd.," a Friday night parade celebrating the wild side of the track's infamous infield.

Talladega Blvd. is considered NASCAR's "Party Capital," making it the perfect place to kickoff the Aaron's Dream Weekend (May 2-4) at NASCAR's Most Competitive Track.

When the parade gets rolling at 6:45 pm CT on Friday, May 2 at the north end of Talladega Blvd., Sprint Cup drivers Clint Bowyer, Kevin Harvick, Ricky Stenhouse Jr., and Austin Dillon will be atop the lead float throwing out swag and welcoming fans to NASCAR's version of Mardi Gras.

The parade will make its way down the Blvd., building up excitement as it passes the most colorfully decorated campsites in NASCAR.

At the south end of the Blvd. the parade will come to a halt, and from there the party begins.

Following a brief driver Q&A with by ESPN NASCAR Analyst Marty Smith, who will be on hand with local radio personalities detailing the storylines of the Aaron's Dream Weekend, Talladega's hungriest fans will battle it out in the track's inaugural Moonpie Eating Contest.

Participants will consume as many of the delicious cakes as they can in a few minutes time.

And just as those fans are cleaning the chocolate and marshmallow from their faces, things are about to get even stickier.

In a pit filled with barbecue sauce, Talladega's bravest fans will have a chance to brawl in the world's first ever BBQ Sauce Wrestling match.

After four rounds of smoky-flavored smack down the victors will join the Moonpie Eating Champion on stage to be honored and interviewed.

"Of all the new additions to this year's Aaron's Dream Weekend, 'The Big One on the Blvd.' has to be one of the most exciting, because it brings attention to one of the most extraordinary camping areas in the whole sport," said Talladega Superspeedway Chairman Grant Lynch.

"For years, drivers have loved coming out to Talladega Blvd. What better way to start off an event weekend at the biggest and baddest racetrack on the planet, than to hold the craziest parade the sport has ever seen."

The craziness continues throughout the Aaron's Dream Weekend. Saturday, May 3 will go down as one of Talladega Superspeedway's most eventful days.

There will be two races—ARCA's International Motorsports Hall of Fame 200 (10 am) and the Nationwide Aaron's 312 (2 pm)—what basically amounts to another race—the all new "Knockout" Sprint Cup qualifying format (12:10 pm)—and the Saturday Night Infield Concert featuring country star Randy Houser and NASCAR favorite Tim Dugger.

The main event Aaron's 499 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race will close out the incredible weekend on Sunday, May 4 at noon.

Ticket options? The track has many for fans of all ages, as well as hundreds of acres of FREE Camping.

To find out more, call the Talladega ticket office at 1-877-Go-2-DEGA.

NASCAR returns to Talladega Superspeedway in 2014 with the Aaron's Dream Weekend, which is set for May 2-4.

The NASCAR Nationwide Series and ARCA Racing Series will take to the track on Saturday, May 3 while NASCAR's Sprint Cup Series machines take the green flag on Sunday, May 4.

For ticket information, log onto www.talladegasuperspeedway.com.

WIN TICKETS TO TALLADEGA FROM CULLMANSENSE
Visit our Facebook page for details - facebook.com/CullmanSense

Fame (from Front)

USA Bodybuilding championship and the lightweight winner in the state of Alabama in 2008 & 2009.

Dr. Garlan Gudger Sr. became the first ever head football coach at West Point High School in 1965. Years later, Gudger was hired to be the Dean of Students at Wallace State Community College and in the early 1980s, created a long time and very successful intramural athletic program at the Hanceville-based school.

Ronnie Heaton began his athletic career at Vinemont, playing with the Eagles' junior high team before he had to transfer to West Point in the mid 1960s.

Vinemont didn't field a high school at that time. Heaton was part of the 1965 West Point basketball team that compiled a 29-2 record and lost in the finals of the state championship. He would teach in the school system at West Point for over 30 years.

Rufus Leeth graduated from Hanceville in 1966 and went on to have a good athletic career at St. Bernard College. He was co-captain for the Saints in baseball his senior season.

After graduating from St. Bernard, Leeth went on to serve in the United States Air Force from 1970 to 1991.

Bert McGriff is known for the creation of Terri Pines Country Club in the spring of 1980.

The owner of McGriff Industries in Cullman, McGriff has been well involved in fund raisers for the sport of golf at Terri Pines.

Cullman High School honors McGriff with the invitational tournament they host in mid April each year calling it the Bert McGriff Invitational. Last Monday, McGriff was on hand at TPCC to see the Cullman Bearcats claim the top prize in the event.

Bob Palys came to the Cullman area from Buffalo, New York in the late 1960s. He graduated from St. Bernard, coached basketball at Welti Junior High in the 1970s and at Fairview High School in the early 1980s.

Palys, the owner of the Awards Palace, was also recognized for his many years as an official, especially the success he had many years as a referee in the Cullman County Football Officials Association.

Kim Dyer Perry is pleased to join the Hall of Fame. Her father, Kenneth Dyer, was a member of the Class of 2013. Perry was a star performer in two sports at Fairview High School then went on to play collegiate basketball at Wallace State from 1983 through 1985.

Perry was All-Conference her sophomore year in helping Wallace State reach the postseason for the first time in school history in 1985. In one game that year against Northwest Alabama, Perry scored 25 points in a 108-82 win over Northwest Alabama, 20 of them coming from the free throw line.

Bert Simpson finally got inducted into the Hall after several close opportunities in recent years.

Simpson was a halfback on the 1955 Hanceville Bulldog football team that went 9-0-1, giving up only two touchdowns all season.

Simpson got a scholarship and played football at Austin Peay University in the late 1950s.

He was a co-captain in 1959 and played on both sides of the ball his final two years as a collegiate player.

Steve Woodard Sr. was also a member of the 1965 West Point basketball team with Heaton that lost by a single point in the state championship game. Woodard was one of the five West Point players to be All-County that season. Woodard would go to the collegiate ranks, playing for Calhoun Community College in 1966.

Other senior student athletes who received scholarships prior to the induction of the Class of 2014 include the following:

Tyler Glenn of Cullman, the Jimmy Dale Burgess/Cullman Child Development Center Scholarship; Eijah Garrison of Fairview, the Charlotte Cummings Memorial Scholarship; Katelyn Bishop of Good Hope, the Jacob Harris Memorial Scholarship; Alex Cofer from Good Hope, the James and Gussie Shabel Memorial Scholarship; Chris Smith of Hanceville, the Lane and Nancy Horton Scholarship; Colby Adams of Holly Pond, the Dane Estes Memorial Scholarship; Zoie Wilson of St. Bernard, the Charlie Richard Memorial Scholarship; Joshua Kent of Vinemont, the Michael Stewart Memorial Scholarship; and Madison Rusk of West Point, the Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame Scholarship.

The scholarships have been part of the Hall of Fame for the past 10 years.

CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT

Kimberly Russell: Flight Attendant and Cold Springs Native

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
Local Contributor

"Being a flight attendant (FA) is not for the faint of heart." Kimberly Russell of Cold Springs says with a wink and a smile.

"Daily I am blamed for lost luggage in 1983, which was around the time I was learning to walk," she giggles, "I am verbally berated by overly entitled passengers and I'm sometimes thought of as someone's personal servant."

As airplane passengers, most of us see the flight attendant as the person who happily doles out peanuts and soft drinks as the plane reaches a certain altitude. But in reality, these men and women are highly trained professionals who take their jobs very seriously.

"Yes, slinging soda and snacks at 37,000 feet is part of my job and I'm happy to do it," Russell admits, "but in reality, I only spent about 30 minutes to an hour out of my four weeks of training, learning how to properly open a soda while blasting through the sky at 500 mph."

Snack handling is only a tiny portion of flight attendant training. The rest of the course is spent learning about every single piece of emergency equipment on the aircraft, first aid, CPR, how to fight fires, how to communicate effectively with crew members, conflict resolution, security procedures, and survival strategies.

But the most important skill to acquire as flight attendants is learning how to safely and quickly evacuate an aircraft. This sounds stressful to most, but Russell admits, "The real stress comes from working very long and strange hours and being away from home for an excessive amount of time."

When the economy took her job in early 2011, Russell decided she was going to become a flight attendant.

"I had always been fascinated by airplanes. I remember going outside at night when I was younger and looking at all the flashing lights from planes in the night sky," she recalls.

"I had my first interview in early June 2011 and was offered a training spot on June 15, 2011, my 30th birthday. I took it as a sign and happily accepted. The rest is history."

"On my first official flight, I was terrified. I was scared about whether or not the rest of the crew was nice or not. Will the passengers be nice or will they be savages who can smell my fear?" Russell says with a huge smile on her face.

Everything turned out fine and as a result, she has remained a flight attendant ever since.

"My favorite part of my job is interacting with so many different people," she says quite honestly. "I love having first-time fliers and excited children. That's my chance to make them love flying as much as I do!"

Passengers are often worried about turbulence but Russell admits she loves it. While on a flight and not on duty, she claims it actually rocks her to sleep.

Unfortunately, most people aren't as easily soothed. As part of her job as a flight attendant, she has to soothe nervous passengers and explain the different noises and bumps. This is especially helpful to the many first-time fliers.

It is nearly impossible to go a day without dealing with at least one difficult passenger. Russell has a wonderful outlook though, especially when dealing with such people.

"I just try to listen to them. That's all most people want." She says rather seriously.

"It's the same way you would handle a complaint on the ground. Most times they just want someone to acknowledge that they've been wronged in some way. Other times they just need someone to yell at and I'm there."

At this point, she shrugs her shoulders and smiles.

Many people must fly in airplanes as part of their jobs, others fly only while traveling on vacation. Then there are those who refuse to fly and others who have chosen to fly as a last resort or as a quick way of getting someplace fast.

Whatever the reason, we can all be thankful for the well-trained flight crew who accompany each flight. Remember, the flight attendant is much more than just a waitress or a personal servant, they are well trained and have your best interests in mind.



CONTRIBUTED

» Kimberly's favorite part of being a flight attendant is interacting with passengers.

Mirroring History: Kelly Department Store

By: Jessica Norrell
jessica@cullmansense.com

The W.O. Kelly Department Store was located on Third Avenue and Third Street East where Village Furniture and Gifts is currently located. The W.O. Kelly Department Store was built in 1902 by Judge Robert Griffin. A building to the left was later added in 1908, the Imbusch Building, which was home to Cullman's first county high school upstairs. It has also housed a skating rink, the first moving picture show in Cullman, and a dance studio.

Past



CONTRIBUTED

» Judge Robert Griffin built the original W.O. Kelly Department store in 1902.

Present



JESSICA NORRELL/CULLMANSENSE

» Village Furniture & Gifts now inhabits the former Kelly Department Store.

Lost journal taps a taste of the past

» German beer recipe discovered inside local antique notebook

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Pieces of the past are constantly being discovered in Cullman. And if you're lucky, you might be able to bring it back to life.

A few months ago, a journal was discovered at Vincent's Furniture. Inside, amid the scribbles of an old German's thoughts, was a recipe for beer. And who did this journal belong to? One of my ancestors: William Fredrick Richter, my grandpa's great grandfather, my mother's great-great grandfather, and my great-great-great grandfather.

Anthony Vincent, owner of Vincent's Furniture, discovered this piece of my family's history with the help of John Dean.

Dean recognized the name "Richter" and with permission from Vincent, decided to hand the journal over to my dad, Mike Mullaney.

Gery Teichmiller, a friend of my family, as well as a lover of beer, was so interested in this recipe that he decided to make it.

"The original recipe was in old German," said Teichmiller. "So first we had to get it translated, so Mike brought it to work, and those guys sent it to Germany."

"My German coworkers at Rehau weren't able to read it because it was in old German," said Mullaney. "But one of them sent it to his father, and he was able to read it and translate it for us."

Mullaney brought the translated recipe back to Teichmiller, and they decided they would try to make it.

"Basically, we had to sit down and scale the recipe down from a barrel of beer, which is about 31 gallons to a 5 gallon batch," said Teichmiller.

He used a program on his computer to help scale the recipe down and maintain the correct measurements.

"It was pretty simple," he said. "I just had to come up with the yeast. I used German Lager yeast, fermented it at about 50 degrees for two and a half weeks, and I put it in the keg and let it lager. Then I took it down to about 30 to 40 degrees and let it sit for about 6 weeks, put it in the keg, and let it sit for about two weeks and here it is."

For the premier of this historical beer, my family headed to Teichmiller's house to get a taste of our past. My grandpa, his siblings, his children, and more Richters were present. The house was full, the keg was tapped, and we were eager.

Finally, the moment of truth: the beer was a success! Appropriately named "Richter's Pilsner", it was delicious, light and, most importantly, German.

So, since this recipe was from the 1800s, how did they brew it without electricity?

Teichmiller stated that most people back then had no choice but to brew beer during the winter.

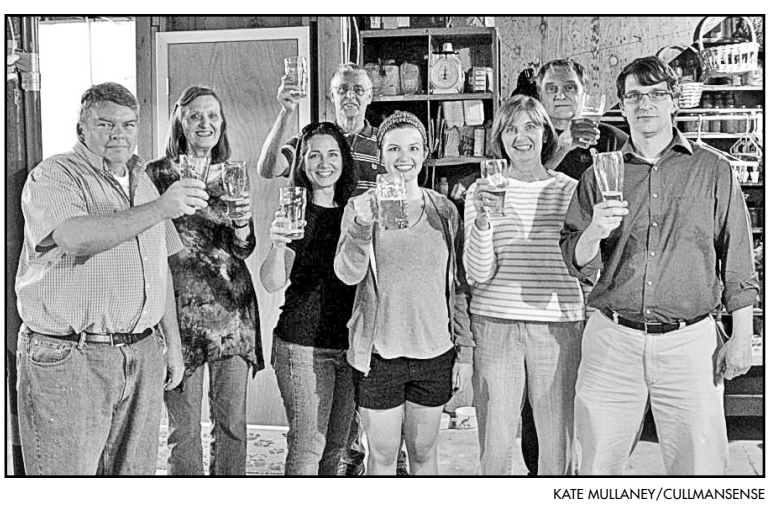
"Most German beers are all fermented cold," he stated. "They fermented it in cold places like caves or a vat full of cold water. And Germany's a lot colder than it is here."

"What we found too is that a lot of people drank Cincinnati Lager back then, which is probably similar to this Richter's Pilsner," added Mullaney. "You'll see it in ads for bars in Cullman from the 1800s saying, 'We have Cincinnati Lager'. Everybody liked that one kind of beer. It probably tasted like a German pilsner. A taste of home."

Tasting the same beer that my great-great-great grandfather drank years ago was a refreshing history lesson.

As a family with our stomachs full and our glasses empty, our hearts were happy.

Together we drank our family's beer that hasn't been brewed since the 1800s, but even more importantly, together we experienced a sense of togetherness through this connection to our past.



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» The family celebrates the tapping of Richter's Pilsner.

Luncheon (from Front)

ployed people in need of an income and stability, but also created a delicious line of candy. It has provided numerous jobs for many people.

Another unique project HERO is working on is an eco-friendly line of bicycles.

"I realized we have a lot of bamboo we could be using," said Dorr. HERO makes a line of bicycles made out of bamboo. They're efficient, beautiful and interesting, and Dorr even had one to show off at last Friday's luncheon.

HERO is truly successful at helping those in need, but that's not the only the only way it has found success.

"We also generate our own income," said Dorr proudly, "and I think that's interesting for a non-profit."

If you would like to be involved with HERO or learn more about their efforts, visit www.herohousing.org.

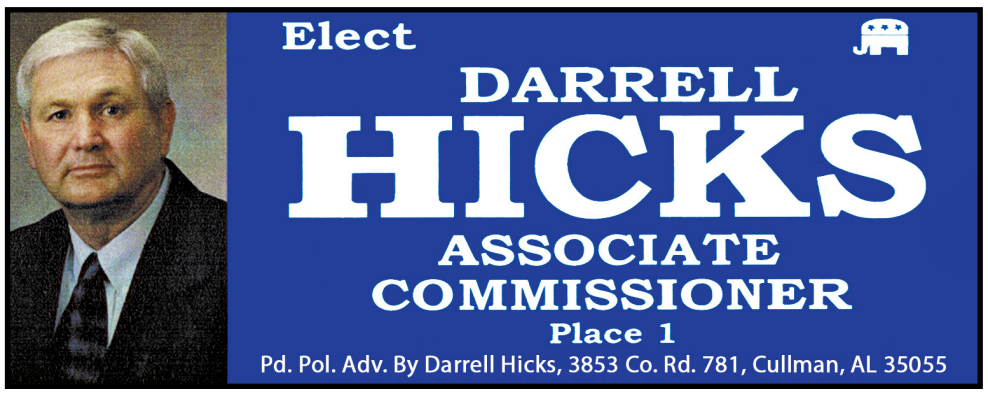
After Dorr's presentation, door prizes provided by ATN were given away to three lucky individuals.

The Chamber's luncheons are always exciting and delicious. The next Community Luncheon will be held at the All Steak on May 23 and guest speaker Jay Barker will be present.

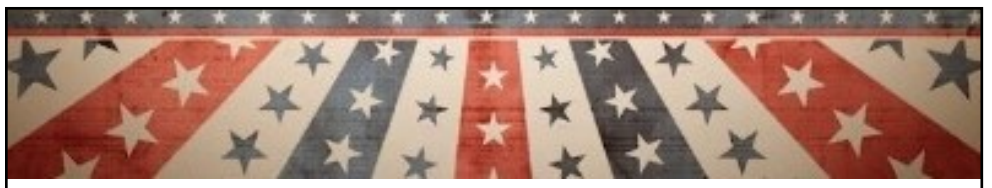


KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» Among her many ventures, Pam Dorr is executive director of HERO, an organization that provides affordable housing, economic development, and job training to those in need.









Bee (from Front)

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Senior citizens of Cullman tested their knowledge last Thursday in the Cullman County Senior Spelling Bee. This event was held at the Cullman Senior Center and was hosted by the Cullman County Commission on Aging.

Six eager contestants participated in this contest. It seemed that the contestants have been practicing for this contest their entire lives because each senior was a natural speller. In fact, no one misspelled a word until at least the 15th round.

Each contestant had three tries to spell a word and was allowed to misspell two words before being eliminated from the game.

Contestants were Jack Bray, Greg Meiman, Joyce Netherton, Doris Christiansen, Hazel Heinze, and Sue Miller. The announcer was Nancy Spurgeon.

For the most part, the contestants spelled their words with little difficulty. However, Bray struggled with the word "cornice", which is the decorative molding around the wall just below the ceiling or the decorative molding around the top of a curtain.

"Cornish?" he asked.

"No, cornice," Spurgeon corrected.

"Shornage?"

"No, the word is cornice. Cornice."

After five minutes of pronouncing and re-pronouncing the word, Bray finally heard it correctly.

"Cornice. C-o-r-n-i-s," Bray stated.

"I'm sorry, that is incorrect."

"It is? Okay, c-o-r-n-i-s-e."

"I'm sorry, that is incorrect."

Bray had one more try, "C-o-r-n-i-s-s."

Also, incorrect. This was the first misspelled word of the game, though, so Bray was not eliminated.

Only a few rounds later, Bray received the word "beige".

"Can you use that in a sentence?"

"Sure," said Spurgeon, scheming. "The cornice was beige."

The room was an uproar of laughter at this point. And, by the way, Bray spelled "beige" correctly.

The Cullman County Commission on Aging provides all sorts of events like this for the seniors of our town. Nutrition Coordinator Laurie Knight claims that senior citizens are their number one.

"We do a lot for our seniors," she stated. "We help them with Medicare, Medicaid, low income subsidy applications for social security, we offer home delivered meals, and have meals at the Senior Center. Anything they need we try to assist them with."

But it's not all business at the Commission on Aging. They also have a ton of fun.

"Some folks come to the Senior Center every day to eat. We have activities for the seniors like cards and games before they eat their meals and go home," said Knight. "We also host a Christmas party, a June shindig, a senior fair day, and a health fair. We have several events we host throughout the year."

The spelling bee, however, is one of the most popular events among the seniors. "Oh yes," claimed Knight. "Everyone looks forward to coming to the spelling bee. And the contestants love to participate and see who's the smartest."

Congratulations to Sue Miller who spelled her way to v-i-c-t-o-r-y with the word "leukotriene".

With the contestants wowing the audience with their ability to spell the most difficult words perhaps they should consider coming to CullmanS-e-n-s-e.





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.

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.

Free Day at the Dump
Area residents may take advantage of the 'Free Day at the Dump' during May. The county landfill will be accepting one load of garbage and unwanted items from residents at no charge from May 1 through May 30. For more information about this special service, please call the Cullman County Sanitation Department at 256-287-1142. The purpose of this service is to help keep the roadways and streets of our area free of clutter and litter. Take advantage of this yearly free service to get rid of your unwanted items.

'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.

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!

Sportsman Lake Trade Day
Sportsman Lake Trade Day will be held the first weekend of every month from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Lots of unique vendors will be there such as arts and crafts, antiques, birdhouses, camo, custom furniture, jewelry, and many more.

2nd annual Health Fair
Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church will sponsor the 2nd annual Health Fair today in the Family Life Center from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

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.

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This Week in Local Entertainment

Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

Monday, April 28
- 79 cent wings at Rodney G's Hickory Grill from 6-9 p.m.
- CRMC Book Sale at CRMC from 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Open Mic Night at Berkeley Bob's from 7-9 p.m.

Tuesday, April 29
- CRMC Book Sale at CRMC from 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- PALS Cullman City and Countywide Clean-up from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- WSCC Concert Band Performance in the Burrow Recital Hall at WSCC at 9:30 a.m.
- Square Dancing Lessons at East Point Community Center from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Grumpy's Italian Grill from 7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30
- Story Time at the Hanceville Library at 10 a.m.
- Musician Derek Sellers at the All Steak at 6 p.m.
- Karoake Night at Grumpy's Italian Grill from 7-10 p.m.

Thursday, May 1
- WSCC Band performance in the Burrow Recital Hall at WSCC at 7 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, May 2
- Ladies' Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m. - Half off drinks for ladies

Saturday, May 3
- Ladies' Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m. - Half off drinks for ladies
- Team Crew Charity Day at Depot Park starting at 9 a.m.
- WSCC Baseball vs. Lawson State (DH) at 3 p.m.

Busy Bee Café
Try our German Food!

ENTERTAINMENT

St. Bernard Prep to present Cinderella starting May 1

By: Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Contributor

CULLMAN - St. Bernard Preparatory School will present the timeless classic, Cinderella, a Rodgers and Hammerstein Production, beginning Thursday, May 1-3, beginning at 6:56 p.m. and a Sunday afternoon performance on May 4 at 2 p.m.

A special Gourmet dessert celebration will be held on opening night, Thursday, May 1 at 6 p.m. to celebrate the first anniversary of the Abbey Byre Center for the Performing Arts.

The cost of the Gourmet Dessert ticket is $15 and is limited to 30 patrons.

Included are a variety of gourmet desserts, drinks limited to coffee, tea, and water, and admission to the opening night performance.

General Admission tickets are $5 and are available at Farmers Home Furniture on Highway 31 in Cullman and at the door.

To reserve tickets for this charming production, contact Mr. Rodney Fike, SBP Actors Guild, by phoning 256-727-8598.

ALL EYES ON YOUR BUSINESS
Contact us today to learn how CullmanSense can help your business grow.
GROW@CULLMANSENSE.COM • 256-297-1847
Contact us today!

LOCAL TRADITIONS

Annual Strawberry Festival begins May 9

» Event to feature fresh produce, local music, car and antique tractor shows, and family activities; marks opening of Festhalle Market Platz

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
Local Contributor



CONTRIBUTED

» In 1931 a Cullman County strawberry harvest, valued at $250,000, was loaded onto 279 railcars and shipped across the country.

Some of the fondest memories of my childhood are going to the garden with my grandmother and picking a basket full of bright red strawberries. Ripe and juicy, they stained my clothes and made my fingers nice and sticky, but I didn't mind. The berries were wonderful! Over the years, I've probably eaten my weight in Cullman County strawberries. Little did I know at the time, but these delicious berries are part of what makes our town so special.

The town of Cullman was founded by German immigrants who were familiar with the cultivation of berries. Over time, especially during the 1930s and 40s, Cullman became nationally known for its delicious strawberries. In 1931, for example, 279 railroad cars full of Cullman County strawberries were shipped out across the United States. This shipment of berries was valued at over $250,000, which is a lot of money now and then, but especially back in 1931.

Plans for a Strawberry Jubilee were advertised in May 1905 and written as follows: "Strawberry queen contest, dance, free shows, and spring carnival at which everybody will have fun throwing confetti and nobody will get mad except the old maids and school teachers. Thomas Eidson's marvelous new gramophone and a steam-powered flying jenny (merry-go-round) will be featured."

The first celebration in honor of Cullman County's most famous product was presented by Mrs. Bess Morrow to a group of local civic leaders in 1939. Cullman's Strawberry Festival was then born and became an annual event. The original festival featured a parade with more than 50 floats, a fiddler's contest, street dance, crowning of a queen, and a grand ball.

Over time, many more activities were added to the annual festival. There were things such as a governor's luncheon, flower shows, talent contests, street dances, agricultural exhibits, a junior parade, and a battle of the bands. The parades featured floats from other towns in North Alabama and bands from surrounding counties participated in the celebration.

The 2014 Strawberry Festival will be held on May 9 and 10 beginning at 9 a.m. and ending well into the evening. Not only is this a celebration of Cullman's fine strawberries, but it also marks the opening of the Farmer's Market. Local farmers will be at the Festhalle Market Platz with their fresh, homegrown produce ready for sale.

Music will fill the air as several local bands entertain the crowd. Various arts and crafts booths will be present with their selection of unique items available for purchase, along with food vendors ready to curb your appetite. An area full of children-friendly activities will also be set up ensuring the festival is a true family event.

While the little ones are at play, the adults are free to browse the classic car show where there will be cars of every size, shape, and model parked nearby. There will also be an antique tractor show, which is sure to bring back many memories especially to the older farmers who will be in attendance.

For lots of fun and excitement, plan to bring your family, friends, and a few lawn chairs out to this year's Strawberry Festival. Admission is free, so come on out and join the community in celebrating Cullman's finest produce – especially the awesome, bright red strawberries.

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facebook.com/CullmanSense

RESIDENTIAL RECIPES

Fabulous Strawberry Muffins

By: Melissa Boyen • Uniquely Cullman Cookbook

Ingredients:
- - 2 1/2 C flour
- 1/2 C sugar
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 1/2 C buttermilk
- 1/3 C butter, melted
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 pt. fresh strawberries, hulled and chopped
- Sugar, optional

Instructions:
- Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
- Spray muffin tin with nonstick cooking spray or line with paper cupcake liners.
- In a large bowl combine flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Stir well until all ingredients are well blended.
- In another bowl, whisk together the buttermilk, butter, eggs and vanilla.
- Make a well in the middle of the dry ingredients and pour liquid mixture in.
- Add strawberries.
- Using a large spoon, gently fold ingredients just until moist.
- Spoon the batter evenly into 12 muffin cups.
- Sprinkle each muffin with about 1/2 tsp. sugar, if desired.
- Bake 20-25 minutes.

Makes 12 muffins.

Strawberry Bread

By: Sue Eidson • Uniquely Cullman Cookbook

Ingredients:
- 3 C all purpose flour
- 2 C sugar
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1 1/4 C vegetable oil
- 2 (10-oz) pkgs. frozen strawberries, frozen and chopped

Instructions:
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Combine flour, sugar, baking soda, salt and cinnamon in a large mixing bowl; make a well in center of mixture.
- Combine eggs, vegetable oil and strawberries and add to dry mixture.
- Stir until well combined.
- Spoon into 2 greased and floured 9x5x13 loaf pans.
- Bake at 350 for one hour.
- Cool in pan for 10 minutes. Remove from pan and cool completely on wire racks.

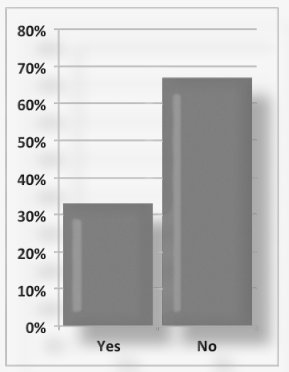
Freezes well.

These recipes and more are available in the Uniquely Cullman Cookbook, a creation of the Cullman Women's League.

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Poll

Would you give your young child their own cell phone?



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cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Heritage Park 20 Year Celebration:** Mark your calendar for a day at the park on Saturday, May 31 for the 20 year celebration of Heritage Park! Events will include a 3-on-3 basketball tourn, "Yappie" Hour at the Dog Park, clinics and demonstrations for disc golf, baseball, soccer, and more as well as a kid's zone, craft fair, food vendors, and more. A fireworks show will also take place at dark to close the day. The event will start with an opening ceremony at 10:30am.
- **NCAA Division II Gulf South Conference Championship** will be held May 1-3 at Heritage Park and feature some of the top college softball teams in the country. The tournament is open to the public, and discounts are available for students to attend and watch! Call 256-739-9931 for info.
- **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.
- **Swim Lessons:** Swim lessons will begin with several sessions held during the summer at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center. The first session begins June 2 and lessons will be held at 7am, 8am, or 9am. Cost is $60, call 256-775-SWIM for details.
- **Xtreme Allstars Cheer Squad Registration:** 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. 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.
- **"Eat on the Street" at the Festhalle:** Starting May 1, Festhalle will feature food trucks from 11am-1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Come eat, shop, and relax at the Farmer's Market with a quick bite to eat! Earth & Stone Pizza will kick off the program on May1.

What's Online

Hops & Shops Cullman: Discover Downtown Like You Never Have Before

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's Retail Committee is eager to announce its exciting new monthly event, Hops and Shops. Every second Thursday of each month, downtown Cullman will come alive with shopping, dining, live music and craft beverages.



qrne.ws/192

Carly's Law: Facts and Fictions

On March 20th, the Alabama legislature voted unanimously to pass Senate Bill 174, an amended version of House Bill 207. While not yet the law, the bill is fully expected to be signed by Governor Bentley, marking a historic moment for the state and for the nation.

qrne.ws/193

The Road to Great Abs

Everyone wants the washboard stomach they see on the cover of fitness magazines. The media even makes it seem so easy with infomercials that boast things like pills, abs training machines and 30-day plans. The truth is, it's not easy. It's hard and it requires commitment but it is achievable. Let's talk about how.

qrne.ws/194

Pilot Club's Spring in the South Luncheon & Fashion Show Brings in the Crowd

» Club's biggest fundraiser supports local awareness and prevention of brain related disorders

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

The Pilot Club of Cullman held its 22nd Annual Spring in the South Luncheon and Fashion Show. The event was held at the Cullman Civic Center at 11 a.m. on Administrative Professionals' Day and tickets were $20 per person.

Vendors lined the walls of the Civic Center before the event began. There was an exciting crowd of at least 500 people eager to view Cullman's best boutiques. Vendors included clothing stores Bessie Mae Vintage Boutique and Red Door Clothing, cosmetics such as Mary Kay, jewelry provided by Doug Doggett Jewelers, and many more. All were local to Cullman and had plenty of beautiful merchandise for sale.

At 11:30 a.m., people began to sit down and enjoy a delicious lunch provided by Sweet Peppers Deli. At this time, President of the Pilot Club, Peggy Day, gave a brief welcome.

Susan Copeland, vice president of the Pilot Club, was the emcee for this event. She was both sweet and hilarious as she provided information during the program.

Door prizes were drawn throughout the event, and many received items such as beautiful jewelry, Vera Bradly bags, and cosmetics. These winnings were provided by Doug Doggett Jewelers, Greg Rusk from Rusken Packaging, Ed White Jewelers, Merle Norman Cosmetics, and Monograms Plus, to name a few.

The fashion show was a huge hit. Cullman's hottest clothing stores and boutiques put together their cutest outfits to proudly display. The models were beautiful and the outfits were stunning.

Carole Garett who serves on the board of directors of the Pilot Club was very pleased with the outcome of the event.

"It was great," she said. "A lot of work went into it. We have committees for food, decorations, models, stage, merchants, and everything else working to pull this event together. It was a lot of work but we were all very pleased."

Garett is heavily involved in the Pilot Club and has been for years. "I'm a charter member," she stated. "I joined when the club was organized in 1981."

She also served as president for two years. Because of her deep involvement in the organization, she's been able to watch the fashion show grow over the years. "I don't know why we started it 22 years ago but it was such a good idea. We have a lot of projects to support, and the fashion show is our biggest fundraiser of the year. It's grown and become so successful."

The Pilot Club aims to improve the quality of life in our world. It is an international organization founded in Macon, Georgia in 1921. Cullman's chapter was founded in the 1980s and has been going strong ever since.

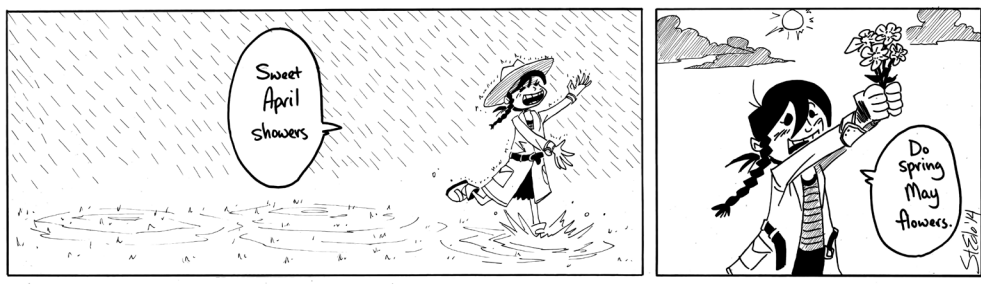
This community minded club focuses on promoting awareness and prevention of brain related disorders. It supports the Alzheimer's Support Group, BrainMinders, Camp ASCCA, CCCDD (The Margaret Jean Jones Center), the Field of Miracles, the Pilot Light House, Project Lifesaver, and the Special Olympics.

This group is a team effort from devoted people seeking to make the world a better place, and they're almost always out in our community striving for a better Cullman.

"We do lots of things around Cullman," said Garett. "You'll see us with our green shirts on."

Comics

WHITE & BLACK • "April Showers" • st.edo@cullmansense.com



MAMA'S BOYZ www.jerrycraft.net JERRY CRAFT



SUNNY STREET



SUNNY STREET



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Pets of the Week

Charlie

Hello! My name is Charlie, and I am about 5 years old. I am believed to be a Dachshund mix and I now weigh 17 lbs. I am full of life and I love to play. I will likely be a very small dog so I won't require too much room to play. I'm a great little guy and would love the chance to meet you. Visit me today!



Vivian

Hello! My name is Vivian, and I am about 6 months old. I am believed to be a Bulldog mix and I currently weigh 18 lbs.

I am spirited and I enjoy company. I will likely be a small to medium sized dog, just perfect for inside or out.

Come see me today. I'm ready for my new forever home.



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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.



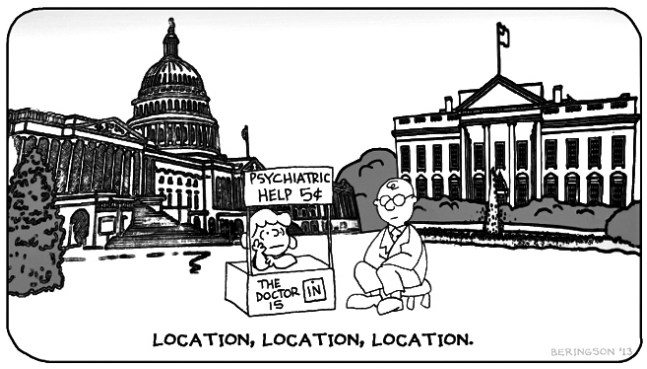
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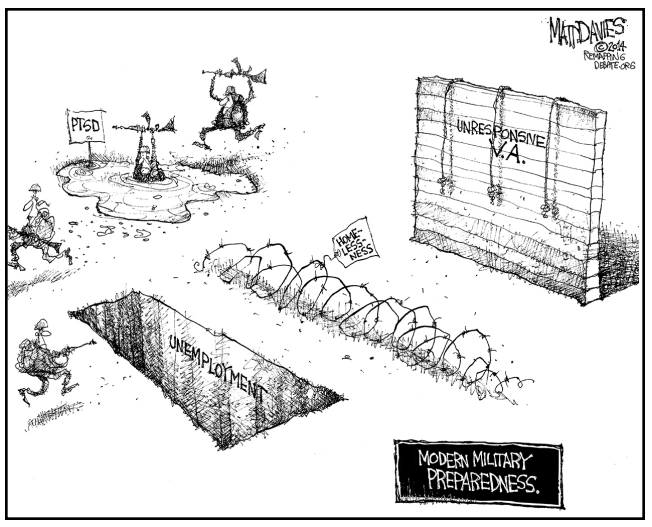
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OPINION

Rape Culture: It's Common Decency, Not Politically Correct

By: Chelsea Sparks
Contributor

There is an epidemic in America. It's not the common cold or the flu, although this particular sickness has spread like a super virus through our culture. It has led to the deaths of many and caused irreparable damage to those who have fallen victim to its hideous, yet subtle, torment. It is called "rape culture", and it is a term with which you should familiarize yourself. It has been a growing force in the U.S. and it must stop.

A lot of what is written in this article may be unpleasant to think about but is necessary to do so in order to illustrate the reality. Imagine if your wife, daughter, sister, or even your son or nephew was raped. It is a terrible situation to think about, but given that sexual assault can happen to anyone, it could happen to your family.

Imagine how you would feel; the horror, rage, and grief you would feel. You would want to help that person in any way you could and shield them from any further emotional trauma. That is what any of us would want for our loved one.

The sad reality is, however, that many of those who have had to endure such a heinous act will go through further turmoil still by those of the outside world. Too often, when a young girl does find the courage to speak out on what happened or even if she contacts authorities right away, she is met with deep suspicion and ridicule. She will have to go through her healing process hearing others make light of a situation that is one of the darkest.

This is where we can all make a difference in the lives of these individuals, by taking the "rape culture" mentality out of our community and ourselves. When you are playing a video game with friends and you hear a person say, "Dude, I just got raped by that tank!" Calmly and politely ask that they choose a different term.

True, your friend will probably look at you and roll his eyes, but it is important to not let this kind of talk slide. The word "rape" and others like it are used entirely too much in menial conversation, and by using these terms in such a cavalier way, it is making light of something that happens to people every single day. It's not funny and it's not something to be cavalier about, it is an abhorrent act.

Another aspect of rape culture is the ever-increasing reaction to blame the victim and not the aggressor. This is one of the main reasons as to why so many serial rapists go unpunished, since all too often the girl is given some reason that the situation happened due to her lack of judgment.

This is a deplorable, but very real reality for victims. Women and young girls are constantly told what they did to deserve the attack, when the reality is that there are no scenarios in which a person has ever "deserved" rape.

Not only is that a huge slap in the face to women and any victim of sexual assault, it is also an enormous insult to men in general.

When a young woman is told that wearing a bikini, for example, is too revealing and, therefore, "she asked for it", it basically predicates the assumption that men are wild animals and do not possess the capacity for thought or control. This entire argument is preposterous.

In honor of April being Sexual Assault Awareness month, let us shed these words and acts and focus on helping those that have been affected to find healing and encouragement. When we break these barriers down, more victims will come forward and more sexual predators can be brought to justice. This is what these victims deserve and it is what the future generations deserve. The time to change is now, there is no time like the present to stop the madness.

OPINION

David vs. Goliath: The Nuclear Zero Lawsuits

By: Robert Dodge, MD
PeaceVoice

This past Thursday, April 24th, historic lawsuits were filed against the U.S. and the eight other Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) of the world to meet their treaty obligations to disarm by the courageous tiny island nation Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Since 1970, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has obligated nations to negotiate in good faith for complete disarmament – a world without nuclear weapons.

Forty-four years later, with no negotiations in sight, the world has become a more dangerous place with stockpiles of more than 17,000 nuclear weapons.

Four more nations now have nuclear weapons, and the original five continue to invest in and modernize their nuclear forces with expenditures expected to be in excess of 1 Trillion dollars over the next 10 years. But one small nation has stood up to say, "enough is enough."

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) has taken action in the International Court of Justice and in the U.S. Federal District Court to compel the nine nuclear weapons nations to comply with their obligations, under the NPT and customary international law, and begin negotiations for nuclear zero.

The Marshallese people know first hand about the destructive consequences of living in a world with nuclear weapons.

From 1946-1958, the U.S. conducted 67 nuclear weapon tests in the Marshall Islands, the equivalent explosive power of one-and-a-half Hiroshima bombs detonated daily for 12 years.

They seek no compensation through these legal actions. Rather they act for the seven billion of us who live on this planet, to end the nuclear weapon threat hanging over all humanity.

For the past year, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF) has served as a consultant to the RMI in support of this courageous initiative to fulfill the world's nuclear disarmament obligation.

They understand, as do the people of the Marshall Islands, that the only way to keep our loved ones safe is to relentlessly strive for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. This is not a partisan issue, it is a survival issue. As world leaders have made clear:

"The nuclear club should be abolished and anybody who has a nuclear weapon is the enemy of mankind."
-George Shultz, former U.S. Secretary of State

"The failure of these countries to uphold important commitments and respect the law makes a more dangerous place. This is one of the most fundamental moral and legal questions of our time."
-Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Laureate

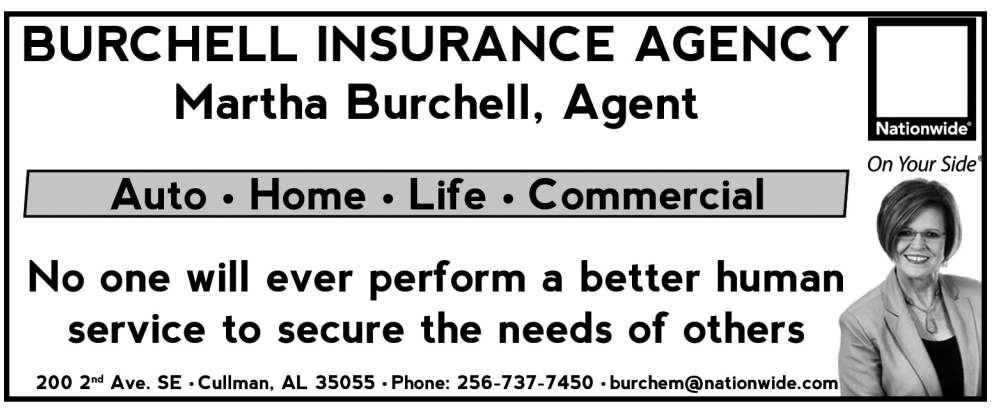
As a physician, I recognize nuclear weapons pose the greatest existential and public health threat to our world. There is no adequate response to nuclear war.

Prevention is essential and abolition of these weapons is the only way to accomplish that goal.

Please join me and the NAPF to support all efforts that lead to negotiations for the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons in a phased, verifiable, transparent and irreversible manner.

All are invited to follow these important cases and learn more online at www.nuclearzero.org.





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