SERIES 4, ISSUE 17 MONDAY, MAY 5, 2014

CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER

CULLMANSENSE

COMMUNITY MATTERS

$0.50 $0.50

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Diversity Training Seminar Offers a Healthy, Honest Talk, and New Perspectives

» Open discussion focuses on LGBT issues, answers common questions from community

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Cullman has many great things to be proud of in our history. There a lot of reasons to take pride in our community and what we all have accomplished over the years. The goal of any growing city is to keep pushing forward, to never become complacent with the status quo and to push our boundaries for the better.

One step was taken recently to ensure that Cullman does just that. Victim Services of Cullman held a two-hour diversity training seminar, focused on the LGBT community.

James Robinson of Huntsville spoke to the class of professionals in the area about his experience as a man who almost killed himself with drugs, until he realized that his addiction was stemming from a life lived in "the closet". Living a lie for years almost cost James his life. His story is unfortunately a very common one, especially in the south, where there is very little support for the LGBT community. So when he finally got his life back together, he came out of the closet and set out to make a difference by creating LGBT Advocacy and Youth Services, Inc. in Huntsville.

"The agency was created in 2009," Robinson said. "We are a 501c3 public charity and we are the only organization of this type in Alabama. There's not one in Mississippi, there is not one in Tennessee, and there's not even one in Georgia, which you wouldn't expect

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CHAINSAW ART

LET FREEDOM RING

» Wooden Eagle Draws Local Attention

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NATALIE BONNER/CULLMANSENSE

» Rather than removed, Jim and Mary Mechaw had their lightning-struck tree sculpted into a work of art.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Farmers Market Springs Into Action With Homemade Goods & Foods

» Festhalle Market Platz open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. p2



JESSICA NORRELL/CULLMANSENSE

» A variety of flowers, herbs, vegetables, and other plants are available at Festhalle.

Bright Young Minds Win Big

» Local Academic Competition Recognizes Two Local Achievers

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - It is always a great feeling when your child excels academically. It is especially thrilling when they show a love for these areas as well. We always need more minds in the science and math fields. The recent attention over the U.S.'s rankings compared to other countries in these areas has been a cause for concern, so it's encouraging when children in Cullman show great promise.

In pursuit of finding these promising minds, the Alabama Christian Education Association recently held their annual academic competition.

Private schools from around the state took subject based tests in areas of study such as math, science, English, history, Spanish, and the Bible.

Students in grades 3-12 took the tests online and first, second, and third places were recognized for each grade.

Aaron Perry, son of Jill Perry, placed second in the math division out of all sixth graders at ACEA participant schools in the state.

Aaron's friend, Chandan Makwana, placed first in the science division for sixth grade.

Both boys were very excited to hear that they did so well in the competition.

"Very excited, I wasn't expecting it. The test was really hard and there were a lot of things I didn't think I knew," Perry said.

Makwana also spoke about his surprise at hearing the news.

"I felt excited. I was really hoping to place in at least the top three, but I didn't know if it would be possible," he said.

"I knew there would be a lot of other students taking the same test. I knew they would probably do well too."

Aaron's mom, Jill Perry, is a local educator and speech therapist.

She was pleased to hear that her son had done so well.

"Yes, I am very proud. As an

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Minds (from Front)

educator myself, I encourage my sons to make the most of school. I was pleasantly surprised to find out that Aaron had placed that high in the competition, but he is a math mind like his dad and brother!"

When Chandan's mom, Amy Makwana, was asked how she felt when she heard her son took first out of so many other sixth graders in the state, her answer was one of shock and utter pride.

"We've always told him, from the time he started kindergarten, to do his very best and to always glorify God in all that he does. I know he works hard in school and always does his very best, but I was very shocked to see the exam results," Amy said.

"He had already set his mind on getting in the top three before he ever took the test. He got into the car the afternoon after the exam and he told me he thought he had done very well. We were all thrilled to see his hard work pay off."

While college and career decisions are still quite a long way off, both boys are interested in someday pursuing careers that play to their obvious strengths.

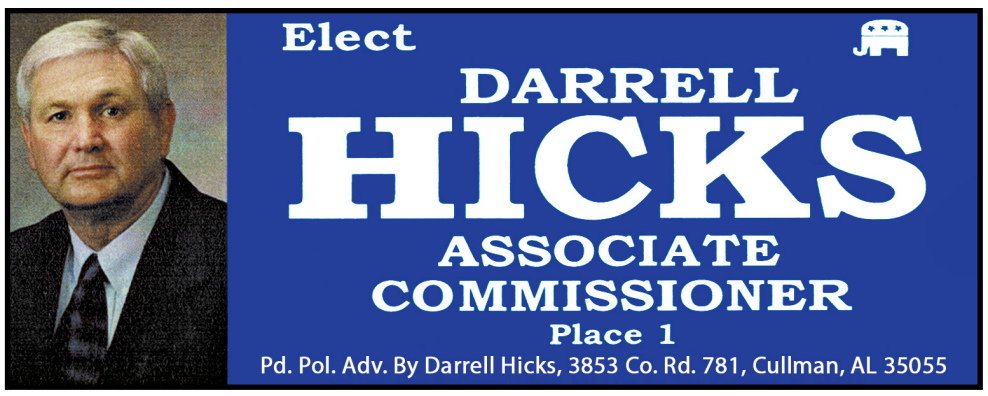
Chandan stated that he would be interested in computer programming or working in a lab.

Aaron might someday be interested in an engineering job.

These young boys both deserve recognition for their great academic accomplishments.

It is no doubt that their success can be attributed to their supportive and encouraging parents and teachers.

The boys had the raw materials, but their parents and dedicated teachers helped to mold these minds and nourish their strengths.





Market (from Front)

By: Jessica Norrell
jessica@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The Farmer's Market at the Festhalle is now open and will be in full swing in a month or two. Even with the blustery, cool days we've had lately, the Farmer's Market still has a few vendors with top quality products to sell and eager customers attending.

Vegetables, plants, and herbs were available from Pond Creek Farm of Cullman. They offered a healthy looking selection of plants to choose from to add to your garden and, when the vegetables are in season, Pond Creek Farm will have a variety of fresh produce available including potatoes, snap beans, squash, eggplant, Italian eggplant, zucchini, okra, tomatoes, and kale. They grow everything from seeds and personally care for their plants.

Watson's Greenhouse of Fairview was also in attendance, adding a pop of color to the market selection with a variety of flowers in lovely arrangements or individual plants and herbs.

If you are looking to adorn your yard or home in an array of blossoms, Watson's Greenhouse will be available at the Farmer's Market on Thursdays and Saturdays or you can stop by their greenhouse in Fairview.

A great stop at the Farmer's Market for all mothers and mothers-to-be is Marissa Griffin's table.

The mother of six has some helpful, homemade items for moms and babies such as laundry detergent designed specifically for sensitive skin made with tea tree oil and lavender, shampoo and conditioner, body lotion, pregnancy tea, herbal baths, and gripe water for fussy babies or anyone with digestion issues.

With allergies affecting many people, elderberry syrup made with local honey can be especially useful this time of year.

Elderberries are known for their immune boosting qualities as well as congestion relief. All of Marissa's products are handmade and organic. Marissa will be present at the Farmer's Market on Saturdays.

Marissa raved about the baked goods at the table next to her and said, "Gerdi's pretzel sticks are the best!"

Gertrude Boltz was born in Bavaria in Germany and her great grandmother raised her to know how to bake, for which Gertrude is now thankful.

She uses her great grandmother's recipe book to make her baked goods, which include wine cake, marble cake, pretzel sticks, thirteen varieties of homemade bread, and several other items that are a must try.

Gertrude uses only high quality, all natural ingredients.

She even uses the herbs from her garden and grinds them herself to use in her breads.

When referring to her work, she reflects on what her great grandmother told her, "What you put in is what you get out." This statement is reflected in the baked Artisan German Breads and goods she brings to the table.

All of her breads and cakes are baked fresh each Thursday and Saturday she comes to market.

There are many other options to choose from at the market including more baked goods, matching cooking aprons, potterher homemade jams, and the perfect mother's day gift.

The Farmer's Market is held at the Festhalle and is located at the corner of First Ave. NE and Arnold Street in the Warehouse District. It is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



2014 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday Set Aug. 1 through Aug. 3

» Local governments participating should notify ADOR by July 1

By: Carla A. Snellgrove

MONTGOMERY—Alabama's ninth annual Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday will be held Friday, Aug. 1, through Sunday, Aug. 3, 2014, announced State Revenue Commissioner Julie P. Magee.

To allow retailers sufficient time to prepare for the annual Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday, local governments should notify the Alabama Department of Revenue (ADOR) by July 1, 2014, of their decisions regarding their participation in this year's sales tax holiday.

"We encourage local governments to note the dates of the 2014 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday on their local council and commission meeting calendars, so they will have ample time to discuss and notify the ADOR of their decision," said Magee.

"The ADOR will use this information to compile a listing of all cities and counties participating in the 2014 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday. Alabama retailers and consumers rely on this information to learn which cities and counties are participating each year. Last year, over 280 local governments joined the state in waiving their local sales tax during the Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday," explained Magee.

A provision in the Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday law allows counties and municipalities to join the state by removing their own local sales and use taxes from the same items during the same weekend. Covered items include:

- clothing costs up to $100 per item;
- computers, software, and computer supplies costing up to $750 per item;
- school supplies and textbooks up to $50 per item; and
- other books up to $30 each.

To see which local governments are participating and for more information about the Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday, visit ADOR's website at revenue.alabama.gov/salestax/SalesTaxHol.cfm.

Test private well water and use caution when coming into contact with flood water

By: Ron Dawsey

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Department of Public Health urges residents of flooded areas, especially persons living in areas where there may have been flash flooding, to test their water wells before consuming water from them.

Private wells that have been covered by flood water should be assumed to have been contaminated.

Do not drink water from your well or feed it to your animals until you have tested it and received a satisfactory result.

Sample kits may be obtained from the local health departments and state health department laboratories which are equipped to sample well water for bacteriological contamination.

Once a satisfactory sample is obtained, the well should be monitored by continued sampling to ensure the quality of the water supply.

Until water is known to be free of contaminants, residents should only use clear water which has been brought to a rolling boil for one minute.

Flooding also may result in contaminants from various sources being washed into streams, creeks, rivers, and coastal waters.

If flooding occurs, these waters may contain fecal material from overflowing sewage systems as well as other contaminants from a variety of sources.

Although skin contact with flood waters does not by itself pose a serious health risk, there is a risk of disease from eating or drinking anything contaminated by flood water.

If one has open cuts or sores that will be exposed to flood water, keep them as clean as possible by washing well with soap to control infection.

If a wound develops redness, swelling, or drainage, promptly seek medical attention.

In addition, any fish or seafood caught from these waters should be thoroughly cooked prior to consumption.

After handling fish and seafood, persons are reminded to thoroughly wash their hands with soap and clean water.

State of Alabama
Department of Revenue
(www.revenue.alabama.gov)
50 North Ripley Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36132

JULIE P. MAGEE
Commissioner

MICHAEL E. MASON
Assistant Commissioner
JOE W. GARRETT, JR.
Deputy Commissioner
CURTIS E. STEWART
Deputy Commissioner

ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE

Due to the extreme hardships placed on **Alabama motor vehicle registrants** who reside in locations that were affected by the severe weather which occurred beginning April 28, 2014, who were unable to register or renew their motor vehicle registrations or pay property taxes on their motor vehicles because county courthouses and other license plate issuing offices were closed, under the power granted to me by §40-2-11, Code of Alabama 1975, I hereby issue the following order:

I. GENERAL RULE

(a) EXTENSION OF TIME FOR RENEWING APRIL 2014 MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS AND PAYING PROPERTY TAXES ON VEHICLES.
For the purposes of applying Alabama's motor vehicle registration laws and property tax laws as related to the annual registration renewal of vehicles during the month of April 2014, the registration deadline has been extended through May 16, 2014. This extension applies to vehicle owners who reside in counties where the county courthouse or other license plate issuing offices and tax collection offices were closed as a result of severe weather which occurred beginning April 28, 2014.

The extension includes the registration of vehicles purchased or otherwise acquired whereby the twenty (20) day registration requirement as provided for in §32-6-61, Code of Alabama 1975, falls during the week of April 28 through May 2nd. The extension does not apply to motor vehicle registrations and renewals for vehicles registered pursuant to the International Registration Plan (IRP). These vehicle owners are required to pay all registration fees to the Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division, during the assigned registration month. The extension does, however, apply to the payment of property taxes on IRP vehicles.

(b) PENALTY AND INTEREST CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH RENEWING APRIL 2014 MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS AND PAYING PROPERTY TAXES ON MOTOR VEHICLES.
Penalty and interest charges associated with motor vehicle registrations and renewals extended through May 16, 2014, will not be charged until May 19, 2014. Additionally, penalty and interest charges associated with motor vehicle property tax payments extended through May 16, 2014, will not be charged until May 19, 2014.

Entered this 30th day of April 2014

SIGNED

Julie P. Magee, Commissioner
Alabama Department of Revenue

ATTEST

Michael E. Mason, Assistant Commissioner
Alabama Department of Revenue

"An Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer"

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

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ALL EYES ON YOUR BUSINESS
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Give us a call today!

Cullman claims the title in 5A, Section 3 golf tournament

By: Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

CULLMAN - With good scores from Sylas Elliott, Conner Stevens, Lee Mattox, and Colby Sandlin, the Cullman Bearcats came out above the rest of the field to win the Alabama High School Athletic Association Class 5A, Section 3 Tournament Wednesday at Cullman Golf Course.

The foursome were between 1-over and 7-over par that propelled them by the Walker Vikings in the nine-team sectional field.

Cullman finished with a 309 while Walker was second at 314. Fort Payne came in third with a 319 whole Southside-Gadsden claimed a 331.

This set the field from this section to the next segment of the golf postseason, the Sub-State round. It will be held on Monday at Cherokee Ridge Country Club in Arab.

Elliott, the senior, shook off a wet Cullman Golf Course after two days of heavy rain, by shooting a 1-over 73.

Stevens was right behind Elliott with a 6-over 78 and Mattox and Sandlin carded 7-over par 79s that set the tone for Brandon Dingler's team to win the sectional.

This was their second title on a local course in a span of nine days. The previous week the Bearcats came out above good competition to claim the Bert McGriff Invitational at Terri Pines Country Club.

Chase Williams shot the same total as Elliott, a 1-over par 73 to lead Walker to second place. Matthew Burnett had a 76 for the Vikings while Jace Kemp was next with a 78. But the fourth best score for the Vikings was their highest as Chase Thompson was 15-over at 87.

For Fort Payne, Zac McCurvey carded a 76 to lead the Wildcats who were 10 strokes behind the Bearcats.

The best score for fourth place Southside-Gadsden was Kevin Kinsella with an 81.

Garrett Johnson of Mortimer Jordan claimed the lowest score among the individuals with an even par 72. Hayden McDuffie from Springville was second with a 3-over 75 to get him to the Sub-State, Tee Brown of Etowah fired a 76.

A playoff had to be determined by Ananius Boinin of Moody and Hunter Hays of Boaz.

The two were tied at the end of regulation play with a 77.

Cold Springs Eagles bound for Golf Sub-State

By: Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

COLD SPRINGS - Cold Springs is hoping playing in its backyard will give the Eagles advantage when they take part in the Alabama High School Athletic Association Class 1A-2A North Sub-State golf tournament on Monday at Terri Pines Country Club.

To ensure themselves a berth to the North 4 Sub-State, the Eagles came in second in the Section 3 Tournament at Cullman Golf Course Wednesday afternoon.

Layne Rice's 76 was good for 4-over par and the Eagles had a team total of 361.

The Eagles were eight strokes ahead of third place Brilliant who fired a 369.

The winner was Holy Spirit from Tuscaloosa.

The Titans got Chace Lake to record a 2-under par 70 and Ben Dever to fire a 5-over par 77. The Titans compiled an 18-hole score of 336.

Sumiton Christian became the fourth school to qualify for the Sub-State, finishing with a score of 376, seven shots behind Brilliant.

For the Eagles, Tristan Williams was second to Rice in team scoring with an 87, Peyton Dickerson had a 95, and Trentan Williams rounded out the tally with a 103.

Qualifying individually was Cody Maddox of Marion County High School with an even par of 72.

Isaiah Jackson of Red Bay came in second with a 3-over par 75.

Noah White of Marion County finished third at 85 and Seth Rains of Asbury got the fourth position with a score of 87.

Holy Spirit, Cold Springs, Brilliant, and Sumiton Christian will be joined in the Sub-State by the top four teams from Section 4.

Among those playing in the sectional at Southern Gayles Golf Course in Athens were Athens Bible, Cherokee, Colbert Heights, Decatur Heritage, Fyffe, Lexington, Hatton, North Sand Mountain, R.A. Section, Sheffield, Shoals Christian, Skyline, and Tanner.

The goal is to get to the state tournament that will be May 12-13 at Capitol Hill Course in Prattville.

Valdosta State continues its reign in Gulf South Conference Softball

By: Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

CULLMAN – Three-time Gulf South Conference player of the year Courtney Albritton impressed those who were in attendance at Heritage Park for the first three days of May in seeing this talented center fielder perform.

Albritton proved her skill level by going four for four from the leadoff position Saturday afternoon in the Gulf South championship game, helping Valdosta State claim its sixth consecutive conference crown.

Valdosta got past University of Alabama-Huntsville 11-7 in which Albritton drove in five runs, hitting two home runs and scoring three times.

Her two-run bomb in the fifth inning was very important for Valdosta. The Blazers were getting challenged by the Chargers with UAH getting within a couple of runs at 7-5 as Valdosta came to the plate in the bottom half of the frame.

Morgan Butler scored on an error by UAH when the Chargers threw away April Collins' ground ball hit to third base.

Then it was time for Albritton to show her stuff with a towering blast over left-center to complete a 4 for 4 performance and give Valdosta a 10-5 lead at that moment.

Albritton scored the first run for the Blazers as they trailed 1-0 after a half inning.

She doubled and scampered in on a single by shortstop Shleby Altman who would be named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Down but not out, UAH kept fighting. Shortstop Victoria Frith, who played at Wallace State-Hanceville before joining the Chargers this season, went four for four from the No. 9 position in the line-up.

She drove in two runs with a single in the fifth and ripped a base hit in the seventh and later scored to make it 11-7.

Frith scored once and had a stolen base in being solid from the bottom of the batting order.

With Brianna Sullivan and Mary Kelley on base, the Chargers had a chance to get back in the game with two outs in the seventh.

But first baseman Tyler Harrison struck out on a fastball by pitcher Brianna Hancock to complete the two-hour, 10-minute championship.

Altman was three for four in the game with a run batted in.

Chelsea Canara had two hits and two runs as did Fran Johnson with a run scoring double in the first and a single in the fifth.

Valdosta accounted for 14 hits in the game, eight during the first three innings.

A 4-0 lead in the first chased starter Emily Glover who lasted a third of an inning.

Kelley, batting third for the Chargers, had three hits and three runs batted in.

UAH finished with 15 hits, getting around on Hancock with eight in the final three innings after being held in check early.

Valdosta goes to the NCAA Regional next week with a 40-13 record.

UAH is 43-9 and will receive an at-large bid to play in the regionals as well.

This was the final time for Gulf South Conference Commissioner Nate Salant who retired on May 1st after 22 years running the league.

Salant and his Gulf South staff were very pleased on how the tournament was handled by Shelby Williams and her staff at Heritage Park.

Matt Wilson took over as the new commissioner on Thursday after spending the past nine years working in the Atlantic Sun Conference.

It will be determined in the summer on bids whether the tournament will return to Cullman or be played in 2015 at another location.

GULF-SOUTH CONFERENCE ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM:
SS Shelby Altman – Valdosta State (MVP)
P Brianna Hancock – Valdosta State
1B Kiley Rusen – Valdosta State
CF Courtney Albritton – Valdosta State
P Whitney Toler – UAH
LF Macie Couey – UAH
RF Brianna Sullivan – UAH
3B Kaitlyn Bannister – UAH
IF Amber Adcock – Delta State
OF Kassidy Tally – Delta State
P Miller Maddox – Delta State

TOURNAMENT SCORES:
Saturday:
Valdosta State 11, UAH 7 (Championship)
UAH 10, Delta State 0 (Semi-final)

Friday:
UNA 9, West Alabama 5
Delta State 4, West Georgia 0
Valdosta State 4, UAH 3 (Winner's final)
UAH 13, UNA 2
Delta State 6, Valdosta State 4

Thursday:
UAH 8, Christian Brothers 0
Delta State 17, West Florida 0
Valdosta State 7, West Georgia 1
UNA 4, West Alabama 1
UAH 8, Delta State 2
Valdosta State 6, UNA 3
West Florida 9 Christian Brothers 1
West Alabama 8, West Georgia 2

Hamlin Wins Aaron's 499 for His First Career Victory at Talladega

By: Price Mason
NASCAR Contributor

TALLADEGA, AL – A year ago, Denny Hamlin did not feel healthy enough to finish the Aaron's 499 at Talladega Superspeedway. On Sunday, Hamlin couldn't have felt better.

Hamlin, who needed a relief driver in this race last season because of the lingering effects of a back injury, pulled away on a late restart Sunday and took the checkered flag in the Aaron's 499 for his first career NASCAR Sprint Cup Series victory at Talladega Superspeedway.

Before Sunday, Hamlin had managed only five top-10 finishes in 16 starts at Talladega. He had not fared any better at NASCAR's other restrictor-plate track, Daytona International Speedway, where he had managed only two top-fives in 16 Sprint Cup races prior to this season.

But Hamlin was the runner-up to Dale Earnhardt Jr. in this year's Daytona 500, and he followed that superspeedway performance with Sunday's victory in the Aaron's 499.

"When you drive as aggressively as I drove early in my career on superspeedways, I was either wrecking or finishing in the top three, and it was usually wrecking. I think the way I'm doing things now lends itself to being a little bit more consistent on these types of race tracks. Early in my career I was always the one trying to make holes (in the pack), and that got me in trouble."

Greg Biffle, who also was seeking his first Talladega victory, finished second after leading 58 of the 188 laps. "It's sort of bittersweet for us," Biffle said.

"It sure would have been nice to get a win. But I'm extremely happy to finish second."

Two-time Talladega winner Clint Bowyer finished third, followed by Brian Vickers in fourth, AJ Allmendinger fifth, Paul Menard sixth, Kevin Harvick seventh, Kasey Kahne eighth, Sprint Cup rookie Kyle Larson ninth, and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. 10th.

There were 188 green-flag passes for the lead in the race, an average of exactly one pass per lap.

That is the third-highest total at Talladega since NASCAR began keeping the stat in 2005.

All the passing came as a result of consistent three-wide racing that kept the drivers moving back and forth throughout the pack. Or as Earnhardt said, "The track was three-wide forever."

The style of racing impressed Allmendinger, who was making his ninth career start at Talladega.

"I kept waiting for everybody to kind of calm down and single file out, and it never happened," Allmendinger said. "So I was like, 'All right, I guess it's time to get crazy with everybody.'"

"I hope the fans enjoyed it. It was awesome to see all the fans come out and how packed the grandstands were here at Talladega. It's like the old Talladega again, so thanks for everybody coming out. I hope it was a great show."

LOCAL HISTORY

James Daniel "Dan" Brock: The Story of a Civil War Soldier

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
Local Contributor

I would like to introduce you to Mr. James Daniel "Dan" Brock. He was born March 30, 1830 in Coweta County, Georgia to William "Billy" Brock and Temperance "Tempie" Ann Gay. He was the seventh of eight children and a farmer by trade.

On December 26, 1850 Dan married his sweetheart, Frances Rebecca Hogan, whom he lovingly referred to as "Fannie".

The newlyweds started their family right away with the birth of Edna on November 5, 1851 but sadly the little girl died in infancy.

George Mack was born April 9, 1853, followed by William Horry on November 5, 1854. John Thomas came along December 5, 1855 and was followed by a new baby sister, Sarah Elizabeth on February 23, 1857.

The next child to make his appearance was James Robert. He was born December 30, 1858, and then Francis Marion came along on March 16, 1860.

Baby Mary joined the others on January 19, 1862. Unfortunately, she too, died in infancy.

Last, but not least, little Daniel Richmond was born August 6, 1864.

In the spring of 1862, Dan, as well as many other men his age, was called to war. He had enlisted in Newnan, Georgia on May 1, 1862 and soon joined the "Newnan Artillery" Company A, 12th Georgia Battalion.

Like most soldiers, Dan was proud and very willing to serve his country, yet also regretted leaving his wife and small children behind.

He wrote home often to let Fannie know that he was okay and to ask about the children and the crops.

He repeatedly stressed the importance of the children getting their education and learning their manners.

Fannie had written to Dan about many things as well. During this time she kept him updated on the kids and the farm.

She had to break the news to him that their little girl Mary had passed away. She also had to inform him of his father's passing.

One can only imagine the sadness Dan felt during these times while away from home.

He missed his family desperately and was heartbroken at the news of both his father and his daughter's deaths.

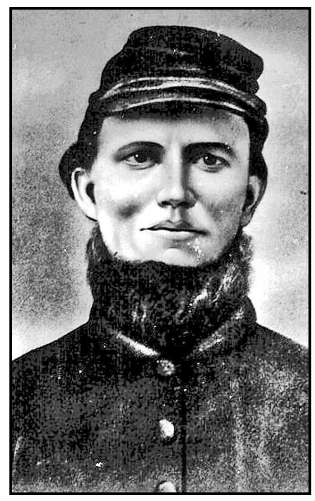
While fighting in the Civil War, Dan had many adventures. For example, on July 6, 1862, he was in a train wreck near Ringgold, Georgia. Thankfully, he escaped unhurt but four members of his company were killed. On a sad note, he had also witnessed the execution of a fellow soldier who had deserted his company.

On June 2, 1864, Dan was killed at the Battle of Cold Harbor near Richmond, Virginia. He was struck in the head, just above his left ear by a mini-ball and died shortly after.

He left behind a young wife who was expecting their ninth child. He also left behind six small children. Daniel Richmond was born two months after his father's death and was named after both his father and the town his father was killed.

Even though Dan and Fanny never lived in Cullman, many of their descendants migrated to Cullman and have lived here for many years. If someone has the last name Brock, he or she is probably related to Dan in one way or another.

I am extremely proud of Dan for his courage and strength. I am also extremely proud of Fannie who single handedly raised their children to be wonderful, law-abiding adults. But most of all, I am proud to call Dan and Fannie Brock my third great grandparents.



CONTRIBUTED

» James Daniel Brock



CONTRIBUTED

» Fanny Hogan Brock

Mirroring History: Cullman Bookmobile

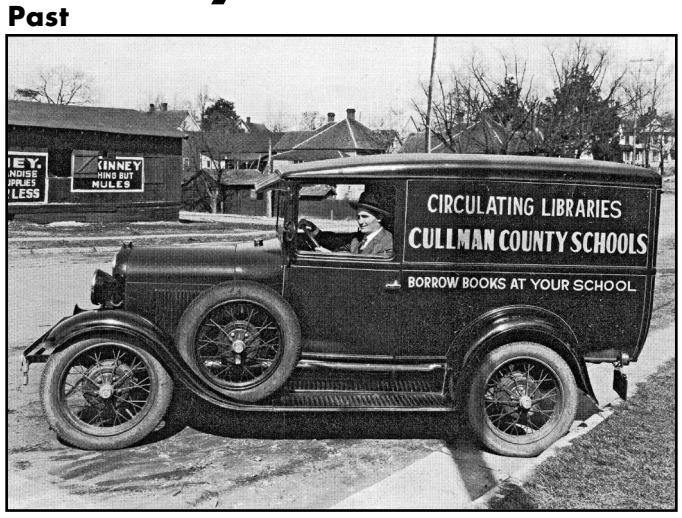
By: Jessica Norrell
jessica@cullmansense.com

The Cullman Bookmobile has been bringing the opportunity for reading and education to Cullman's youngest residents for many years now, known in its early days as the Circulating Libraries.

The historic photo is a picture of the Circulating Libraries in front of the D.T, Kinney Mule barn in the 1920s.

The Bookmobile has grown to have a much wider selection of books and still travels around today to bring books for children to borrow.

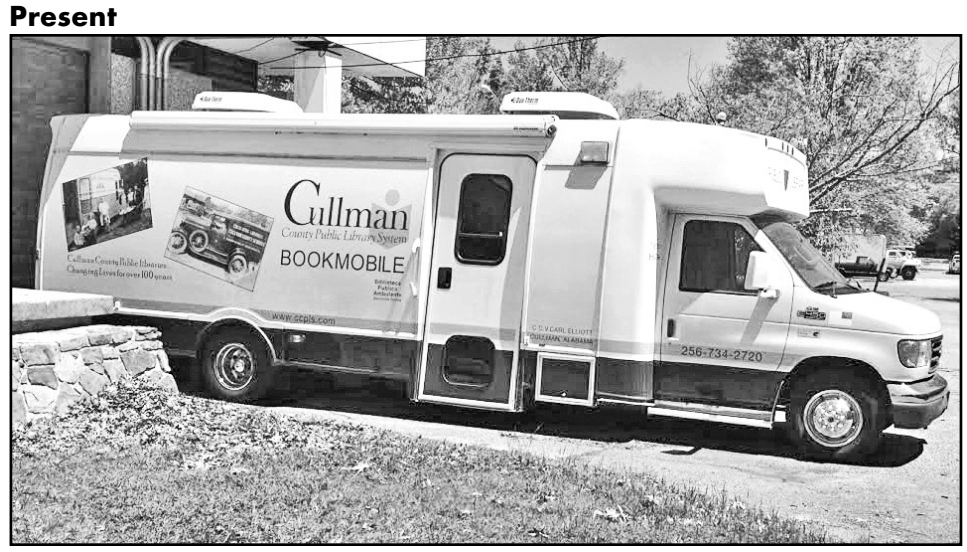
Past



CULLMAN: IMAGES OF AMERICA BY MELANIE K. PATTERSON

» Before being dubbed the Bookmobile, this book bearing vehicle was called the Circulating Libraries.

Present



JESSICA NORRELL/CULLMANSENSE

» The Bookmobile is a complete mobile book-lending vehicle.

LOCAL HISTORY

Genealogy Sleuthing Tips and Tricks Part 2: Exploring Old Family Photos

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
Local Contributor

In Part 1 of my series, I discussed the importance of visiting your extended family, especially the older members. It's crucial to ask as many questions about the family as possible and to take note of any names, dates, and places discussed.

Remember to find the old family Bible and look through it thoroughly for old newspaper clippings, photographs, etc.

Having a small voice recorder with you as you discuss family history is extremely helpful, if available. Remember - document, document, document!

As you sit and chat with your relatives, ask them if they mind you looking at their old family pictures. Now when I say old, I'm talking the oldest stuff possible.

These are what I consider to be the beautiful, sparkly gems – the ultimate treasures, so treat them as such. Be very careful and respectful as you handle them.

Sometimes, there may be a few old newspaper clippings scattered throughout the pictures, just like in the family Bible.

As you go through the photos, look at the back of each picture to see if it contains a name or a date. If it does, write it down – it's a clue and will probably come in handy sometime in the future.

Search for pictures of your grandparents, great grandparents, or other people you may recognize.

There have been many times I have found other people pictured with my ancestors that have proven to be helpful. Lots of times, I have contacted their families and have learned many new things by just speaking with them.

Now, here's an interesting twist. If the person who owns a particular set of pictures trusts you, they may let you borrow their old photos for a few days.

Remember, if they agree to let you take the pictures home, be extremely careful with photographs and make sure they are returned to the family in the same condition they were in when given to you. This is where the fun begins.

If you have a scanner and some extra time on your hands, take the batch of pictures you borrowed and scan them. If there is writing on the back, make sure to scan the back of the picture as well. Once you have all the pictures scanned, save them on a disk. Make sure to write the owner's name on the disk, as well as the family surname associated with it. You may also add the date the items were scanned as well. Be sure to make a copy of the disk for the family to have after you've returned their pictures. Repeat this process with as many relatives as possible.

I recommend making several copies of each family's disk that you make. As each family member participates by letting you borrow and scan their pictures, make sure to give them a copy of the other people's disks you've made pertaining to the common family name.

By doing this, it ensures that everyone in the family has the same set of old family pictures.

Here's something else to consider. Every time you watch the evening news, you usually hear about a house that has burned down or maybe a tornado that has destroyed a whole community. For those unfortunate folks, they have lost everything they owned.

This includes old family pictures that can never be replaced.

By scanning and sharing disks with your family, you are able to replace those special memories and heirlooms. Sure, it won't be the same as the originals, but it's really, really close.

Do you have old photos or stories about a family member or event that you would like to share?

CONTACT US TODAY
HISTORY@CULLMANSENSE.COM

Local Shops Loaded with Deals this Mother's Day

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - It is that time of year again, a time to think of that one special woman in all of our lives that is simply irreplaceable. Our mothers do so much for each of us. They held our hand when we were scared, kissed our wounds away, and offered unlimited and unconditional love.

We all want to get our mothers something great to show our appreciation, but where and what? Well this article and reporter are here to help. The following are just a few local shops with some great gift ideas. Sure to please any hardworking mom, and believe me, they are all hard working and deserve their day of recognition.

The first on our list of local businesses is Michael's Flowers and Design. This is a great shop to get a classic mother's day gift with an added dose of style and class. They specialize in beautiful flower arrangements, gourmet chocolates, cookies, and fine wines. Michael Richards spoke about some choices for those looking for that perfect gift and what they will find in his shop.

"We have a new basket for momma. Wine, gourmet cookies, lemon snaps, key lime truffles, teas, gourmet cookies, wine, or flowers. These are all customizable and must be picked up," he said.

For those that may want to go simpler, he added, "We do all kinds of mixed flowers arrangements with everything from classic to exotic flowers."

For the mom that loves sweet aromas to fill her home, why not try The Candle Garden in Cullman? You will not find a better selection of candles, collectible pieces, and more. "We have our gift baskets 30 percent off, and we have our blue sky angels 30 percent off, gourmet cobblers and pickles 50 percent off, buy any jar candle and get a votive free," Kristie McCarn, co-owner of The Candle Garden, said. The sale runs May 1-10.

For the mom who loves a great bag, jewelry, or anything that literally has her name written all over it, head down to Monograms Plus. Margaret Hamm, owner of the shop, talked about their exceptional products for mom.

"We have a special on Brighton's, the best deal they offer all year long. If you buy any necklace or any bracelet, you can get earrings of equal or lesser value for free," she said.

"The biggest seller for mothers is our Pandora collection. There are lots and lots of charms that pertain to mother. We are selling Ronaldo feature prayer bracelets, which are handmade with seven beads as a reminder to pray and count your blessings. Another thing we do that our customers love is our wish list. So mom can come in and fill it out to at least give dad and the kids a push in the right direction."

The last but certainly not least gift idea on our list is a day of pampering at Bella Faire Day Spa.

Here, mom can have a full day of relaxation with a full spa treatment at reasonable prices. These packages can all be found online at Bellafaire.com/services. Prices range from $50-250 dollars and all packed with luxury. One example of these packages is the "I Love you Mom" package, which includes a one-hour Swedish massage, gel manicure, and ultimate Bella Faire pedicure all for $120. Owner Tracy Smith knows that whatever your beauty needs, they can take care of you.

"We offer everything, waxing, facials, haircuts, and we have a boutique. Mother's Day packages are also available. We've been here a year, and we have had a lot of positive feedback about our new place and customer service."

There is certainly something for every type of mom to be found inside the small businesses of Cullman. All of these local establishments offer products that are sure to please mom and offer helpful service if you just don't know what to do. Sure, you can pick something up at one of the larger retailers, but buying locally not only shows your support for our community, but also shows that only the best will do for your mom.

Recent Severe Weather is a Reminder to be Prepared

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Cullman residents were in turmoil last weekend as tornadoes again threatened the Cullman area. Severe weather is both dangerous and scary, and it's important to be prepared in these situations.

The Cullman County Emergency Management Agency's main concern is protecting the citizens of Cullman from disaster. They focus on preparedness, response, and recovery.

Director of the Cullman County EMA, Phyllis Little, spoke about last week's severe weather and shared some tips on how to handle these scary situations.

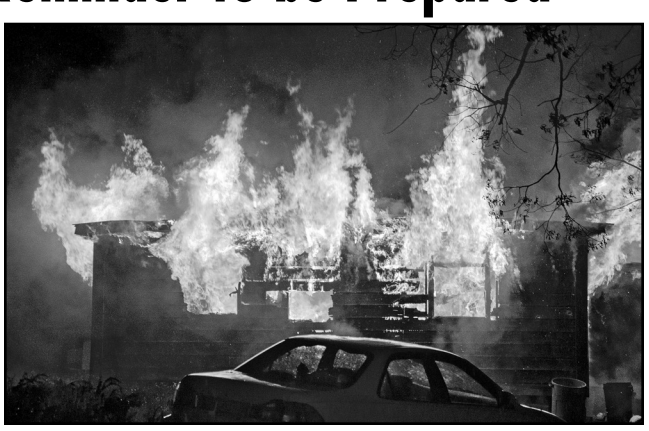
"We had six tornado warnings last weekend, and the last one actually touched down," claimed Little. "The track of the tornado is a little more than eight miles long and 300-350 yards wide. It runs from the White City area to the Simcoe community."

Little also stated that approximately 60 homes were verified with minor to major damage. Of those, five homes were destroyed.

"There were also two poultry farms that lost chicken houses," said Little. "One farm lost 22-25,000 chickens when one of the houses collapsed."

Little encourages everyone to be weather aware and have multiple access to weather alerts in order to be best prepared for these situations.

"If you don't already have one, invest in a weather alert radio," she advised. "These give fast results. Also, if you have a smart phone, download the Alabama Safety Network app. It will give you alerts, a radar, and safety tips. Know your list of community shelters. Please stay weather aware. In Alabama we can have tornadoes at almost any time of the year."



NOAH CHANDLER/CULLMANSENSE

» Five homes were destroyed due to severe weather just a day after the third April 27 anniversary.

Little also advised making an emergency kit and a family plan. An emergency kit should include items such as food, bottled water, a flashlight, a first aid kit, and anything else you need to survive on your own during or after an emergency. Always have a kit packed and ready to use. A family plan is a way of communicating in case you are separated from each other. Pick a place to meet if a member of the family gets separated. It is very important for each member of the family to know the plan.

Little stated that after an emergency, the Cullman County EMA asks that people do not go into an area with a lot of damage.

"Give first responders the chance to get in there and make everything safe," she said. "Stay away from power lines, leaking gas lines, and anything unsafe."

There are several volunteer organizations that coordinate clean ups in our area after disasters. Little encourages you to join a volunteer organization to help out after disasters.

"This not only ensures that our resources are going to areas they're needed and help as many people as possible, but it also allows us to keep track of our volunteers when they go into dangerous areas," said Little.

Natural disasters are unpreventable and it's important to be prepared for them. If you would like more tips on how to stay safe in weather emergencies, visit www.cullmanema.org or www.ready.gov. Being a part of the solution is the first step in recovery.

St. Bernard students complete Moola-U Basics with Peoples Bank

By: Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Contributor

CULLMAN – St. Bernard Prep School's Economics class recently completed a financial literacy education program, EverFi - a web based financial management through a partnership with Peoples Bank of Alabama.

Instructor, Bill Nuss said students spent at least 8 hours covering: savings, banking, credit cards, and interest rates; credit score, Financing higher education; renting vs. owning; taxes and insurance; consumer fraud; and investing.

"EverFi correlated with our classwork assignments and on several occasions students referred to the course in class," Nuss said.

The course used video, animations, 3-D gaming, avatars, and social networking to bring financial concepts to life.

Senior Michayla Brown of Arab found the course to be very informative especially in terms of student loans, but expressed a shocking discovery that not all debt was bad.

"It has helped me in planning how to finance my college education. I also learned there is such a thing a good debt where investments appreciate in value."

Michayla has been accepted in the Samford University Fellows Program and plans to major in science and religion.

Fellow classmate Anna Caroline Keefe, found out quickly she wants to save more money.

"I realize my spending habits are a bit excessive, so I plan to save money."

Anna Caroline will attend Ole Miss in the fall majoring in Chemistry aspiring to attend dental school to become an orthodontist.

Annie Harris, Regional Manager at Peoples Bank, presented students with Teen Moola-U T-shirts and a certificate recognizing each student for their participation in the program.

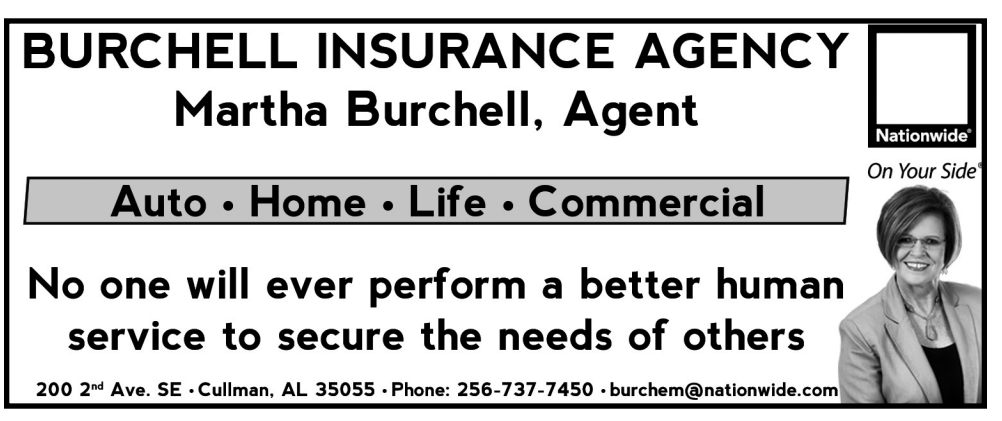
Steve Stanford, PBA Executive Vice President, invited students to consider banking at People's Bank of Alabama.

"With our technology, it doesn't matter where you are in the world; Peoples Bank is one click or one call away."

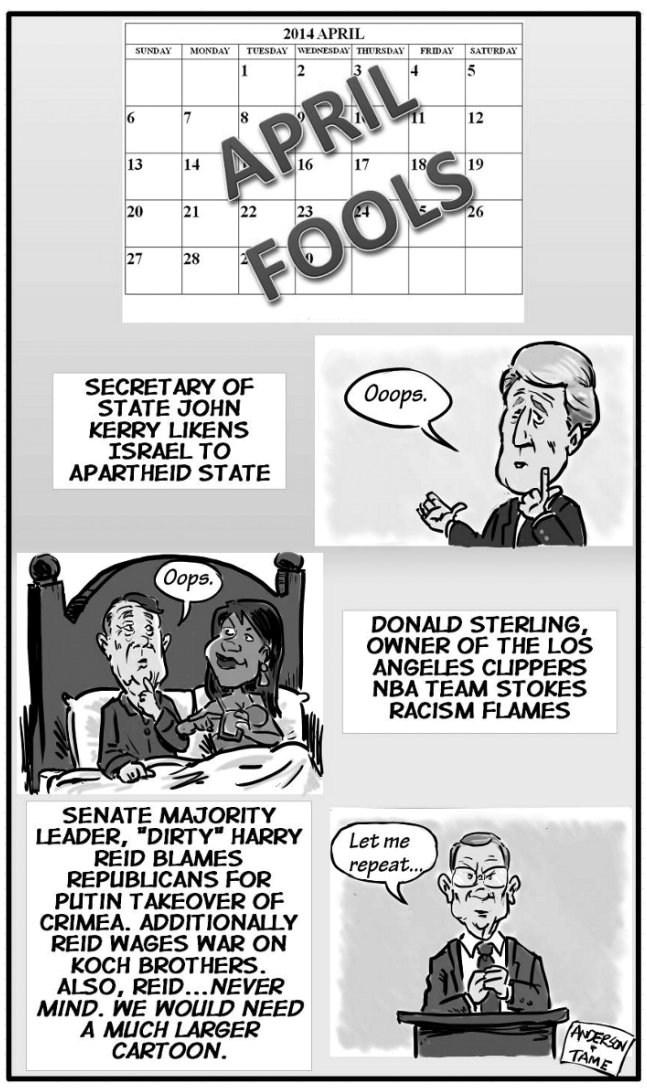
Peoples Bank of Alabama is committed to promoting financial literacy that teaches adults to better understand money management principles.

MOOLA U BASICS is an interactive financial education class that one can take anytime, anywhere –online and at their own pace at www.Moola-U.com.





Editorial Cartoons





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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Cartoonist Anthony Saint

OPINION

April 27th: A Hard Lesson Learned

By: Sage Overton
Contributor

It's a date most of us in Alabama know by heart now. Three years ago, a generational super storm ripped through the heart of the South, spawning 211 tornados over the course of 24 hours. Sixty-three of them were in Alabama. Of those four were EF5s, meaning they caused absolute destruction to everything in their path. This marked the second time in history more than two EF5s occurred in a single day. The other was April 3, 1974. Almost 300 people lost their lives that day, 238 of them in Alabama alone. Economically, the storm caused over $11 billion in damage.

I will go ahead and apologize to the readers before I go any further with this article. It won't be your typical my view or cold third person piece. Instead, it will blend and bring many of you into it as well. It's nigh impossible to remove yourself from something so personal. I doubt there is anyone in Central or North Alabama who wasn't part of the history of that day. Either we all lost someone, knew someone who did, or participated in the recovery efforts soon after. I was fortunate enough not to lose anyone, and no one close to me lost anything to the storms. My roommate at the time and I did help raise money for those affected, donated food and clothing, and volunteered time to help cleanup.

Earlier this weekend, a gentle thunderstorm rolled past where I live. Soft rains, virtually no wind, but an impressive display of lightning for a few hours. I had been watching the news and regularly checking the Weather Channel online. I knew, west of us, another large storm had begun and was set to impact us over the next 72 hours. That seemed hard to fathom as I stood on my porch and looked on as a few rays of sunshine fought its way through lingering clouds and then tried to punch its way past the pine and oak treetops still dripping from the previous showers. It was beautiful, a little humid, but the temperature felt just right. It almost smelled too clean. Before I knew it, it was the now cliché and actual calm before the storm though. Looking outside this week, I knew it would be a very different scene.

We all briefly panic now when the tornado sirens wail. It's hard to tell ourselves this is Alabama in April and this is normal. What happened in 2011 wasn't normal. That was an event that only happens every 40 years or so.

Odds are I will be a grandparent before such another event occurs. We won't see 63 tornadoes tomorrow. We probably won't see an EF5. We won't see Tuscaloosa, Cordova, Hackleburg, Phil Campbell, Rainsville, Pratt City, Harvest, Hueytown, Cullman, Pleasant Grove, McDonald Chapel, Tanner and Concord all sustain massive damage in a period of less than 12 hours. We won't.

I can still remember waking up just after 5 a.m. that morning to the sirens going off. I remember turning on the news and seeing the first squall line begin moving into the Birmingham metro area, how unsettling it was to see the power grid in downtown go offline, and the city blackout on the TV block by block. At 9:30 a.m., I showed up for work at my scheduled time and within a couple of hours, they announced schools closing and then we shut down. By then the first tornadoes had started. When I typed the cities above, I heard in my head the way the man on the weather radio said their names and called out the dangers associated to each. I remember vividly the image of the Tuscaloosa tornado passing north of Birmingham on the news, the camera not even able to capture the whole thing at once because it was too large.

At that moment, all I thought was thank God it missed Birmingham because I didn't know if the state would be able to recover if it hadn't.

So, all this crosses my mind with what has come over the last few days, as I'm sure similar memories do for everyone else. We will see severe weather. We will likely see tornadoes. We will have people who need help putting their lives back together just like three years ago. There just won't be as many affected this time. What can you do to help?

First, help yourself by being prepared and staying informed. This can help everyone more than you would imagine. Every household should have the following if you are ever in a storm's path: a weather radio (wind-up or battery operated), flashlights or battery operated lanterns, spare batteries for everything, a first aid kit, a couple of light blankets, and towels. Keep these things in a backpack or duffel bag, something easy to grab and close to your safe spot. Your safe spot should be the lowest level, most interior room available. Make sure everyone in the house knows the safe spot. Do not assume you'll have power, assume the opposite. For every person in the household, also pack a duffel bag with two days worth of clothing (including a light jacket and a pair of jeans), several bottles of water, some cans of soup, pop tarts or granola bars, and a bicycle helmet (wear the helmet when you are forced into seeking shelter).

Adults should make copies of IDs and any household prescriptions and keep those in there, as well as an extra charger for their cell phone. This means being prepared before the storm hits. Keep your wallet or purse and keys close by as severe weather moves closer. You may not have time to find these items when the storm comes. Also, keep your phone as charged as possible.

Do not worry about nonessentials. You will have limited time and only two hands. Be smart about it. Take warnings seriously. After the storm passes, get away from debris and rubble.

Alert emergency personnel and follow their instructions. As soon as it is safe, let loved ones know you're alright. Then be a good neighbor. Together is the only way we will all get through these storms as we have a dozen others.

OPINION

Financial Literacy Vital to Students' Education and Success

By: Ala. Lt. Governor Kay Ivey

Growing up in rural Alabama, my parents instilled in me a strong work ethic. They taught me the value of a dollar and that hard work garners rewards. That message was reinforced when I attended Auburn University where our creed states, "I believe that this is a practical world and that I can count only on what I earn. Therefore, I believe in work, hard work." This continuing theme directed my life.

Before I entered public service in elected office, I had a career as a high school teacher and banker. I had a passion for educating students about the same lessons I'd learned growing up. I approached one of the executives at Merchants National Bank in Mobile about my idea to take financial literacy classes into the schools and he practically shooed me out of his office. I persisted and eventually he hired me to direct an economic education program for students. I knew it was important then, as I know now, for schools to teach students the important life skill of personal finance. I believe financial insecurity is one of the greatest threats facing our nation today.

As State Treasurer, I spoke to dozens of high school groups and taught them the 10-30-30-30 plan. Tithe the first 10%, save 30% for long-term, put aside 30% for short-term, and use 30% for expenses. For many students, my formula may have been all they learned about personal finance while in high school. Unfortunately, it's an area where education systems nationwide have fallen short.

The facts from a recent study by the Council for Economic Education are concerning:

- Only 56% of teens plan to save some of their income, down from 89% in 2011
- 81% of college students un derestimate how long it'll take them to pay off a credit card balance
- In 2010, more individuals filed for bankruptcy than graduated from college
- Among Millenials (ages 18-34), only ⅓ have an emergency fund yet 31% have unpaid medical bills and nearly half carry a balance on their credit card

Only 19 states require a personal finance course in high school even though 89% of individuals believe financial education should be taught in schools.

The good news for Alabama is we are now one of the 19 states. As of this year, every Alabama ninth grader will take a course in personal finance. I applaud the Department of Education for addressing this need.

It is not too late to turn the boat around for younger students. However, in the next month, thousands of Alabama high school seniors will don caps and gowns and walk across a stage to their future. Some will enter the workforce upon graduation after completing career ready courses in school, others may attend 2-year technical institutions, and many will go to college. I share the excitement of our high school seniors and their families as they celebrate a major accomplishment and look forward to a new chapter. But as students turn the page, I urge them to pause and plan for their financial futures as well.

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!

2nd Annual Superhero Scramble 5K
Bring your cape and come run at Sportsman Lake Park on May 10, 2014! All proceeds benefit Look Ahead Foundation and Unsheltered International. Divisions 14 and under, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60 and up. Awards for top 3 male and female in each division; as well as 1st and 2nd place overall male and female. Race Day Registration and Packet Pick-Up 6:45 until 7:30 a.m. 5K 8 a.m. 1 Mile Fun Run 9 a.m. ***Awards to follow***

Next Monday

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This Week in Local Entertainment

Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

Monday, May 5th
- 79 cent wings at Rodney G's Hickory Grill from 6-9 p.m.
- Open Mic Night at Berkeley Bob's from 7-9 p.m.

Tuesday, May 6th
- Cullman Area Tourism Awards from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Stone Bridge Farms
- Square Dancing Lessons at East Point Community Center from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Grumpy's Italian Grill from 7-9 p.m.

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

Thursday, May 8th
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Karaoke night at Cadillac Ron's
- Bike Night at Grumpy's Italian Grill
- Hops & Shops in the Central Business District (start at Chamber of Commerce) from 5-8 p.m.

Friday, May 9th
- 2014 Strawberry Festival in Downtown Cullman at 8 a.m.
- Ladies' Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m., Half off drinks for ladies

Saturday, May 10th
- 2014 Strawberry Festival in Downtown Cullman at 8 a.m.
- Ladies' Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m., Half off drinks for ladies

Sunday, May 11th
- Happy Mother's Day

Busy Bee Café
Try our German Food!

Team Crew Charity Day Supports Cystic Fibrosis

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Last Saturday was a beautiful day for the Team Crew Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser. This event was held at Depot Park and began at 9 a.m. and the fun lasted all day.

The flags at Depot Park provided a beautiful backdrop for this event. Vendors filled the area and tons of eager people of all ages came out to support the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and simply have some fun. A dog show was held at the beginning of the event; such a cute event to bring to the community. For the rest of the day, dogs filled the park with their unconditional happiness.

Vendors selling everything from T-shirts and home decorations to pottery were present at this event. There was also face painting for the kids and tons of vendors selling food, drinks, and candy.

Perhaps the biggest attractions at this event were the inflatables. Children flocked to these bouncy houses and inflatable slides.

Five-year-old Vella Richter was just one among the crowds of children at this fundraiser.

"I got my face painted!" she said with excitement, pointing to the pink heart painted on her face. "And I got to jump on the bouncy houses, too!"

Jessica Pettus hosted this fundraiser in honor of her son, Crew. Crew has a form of Cystic Fibrosis, so Pettus and her family of five decided to create this event. All proceeds will go to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

"It's been very tiring but very fun," said Pettus. "To get ready, we had to get vendors together and try to get volunteers. Getting volunteers was definitely the hardest part."

Emily and James Abadin were two of the volunteers who graciously gave of their time for this great cause.

"Cullman is my hometown so we decided we would volunteer for this," said Emily. "It's been a fun day." "It's been great," added James. "It's always a good feeling to give back to the community."

Pettus stated that Saturday's fundraiser was a success and she hopes she can continue to host events like this.

"We hope to do this again next year," she said with a smile. "Today went really well so I hope we'll be able to do it again in the future."

CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

Official Newsletter

VOLUME 45 | MAY 2014 | ISSUE 5

Eyes of PROGRESS

www.cullmanchamber.org

Serving the Community Since 1943

Serving:
BAILEYTON
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DODGE CITY
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HOLLY POND
SOUTH VINEMONT
WEST POINT

From the Chamber President

WORKFORCE: THE NEXT GENERATION

Were you born in the 80's or 90's? Me either. But the majority of our future workforce was. How can this be? Are they even old enough to drive?? I have talked with many of you about the statistic I shared last month: *'Generation Y will make up roughly 75% of the world's workforce by 2025.'* I sense concern-even panic. Let's talk about the pros and cons of this new workforce and how to maximize your potential and theirs.

Historically, younger generations have stirred new ideas into the corporate world causing some expected irritation for older generations. Yet this time it's not an attitude problem, it's a transition in business where globalization and technology have radically changed the game. Gen Y has grown up participating in this revolution and sees clearly how they can be creative and innovative in today's world. The clarity of Gen Y however, comes across as arrogance and self entitlement to the rest of the workforce. Where is the resolve?

Let's look at the positives of Gen Y:

·They're optimistic

·They work well in teams

·They can multitask

·They are tech savvy

Gen Y'ers value career progression, accelerated learning and a work culture that matches their values—relaxed, results-oriented and wanting responsibility. In an effort to maintain and motivate this generation, employers and managers must learn how to relate.

Give them opportunities to learn: Because Generation Y is tech-friendly, craves structure and is achievement-oriented, workplace education opportunities are perfectly suited to their style. If you can tie these three elements together, you can help them feel supported as they learn how you want things done.

Show them you care about their career growth: Dead-end jobs won't do for this generation. They need to know that they have a career path and that you will give them a structured environment in which to grow. And, who knows, you might have found your next manager.

Have a little fun: This is a relaxed, upbeat, positive-minded generation. Loosen up and have a little fun. You'll find that this will help bring out the best in this group.

Once you realize what makes this new workforce tick, it will create a new path to success for the future of your company. Valerie Grillo, Chief Diversity Officer at American Express, had this to say about millenials,

"Millennials play an important role in driving innovation throughout the enterprise. We live in a world where digital and social media have completely changed the way we connect with our customers. The companies that figure out how to successfully market to and attract Millennials will be primed for success in this increasingly competitive business environment."

Gen Y will be more difficult to recruit and manage. Yet if we can harness the wisdom and organizational knowledge of the older generations and the creativity of the younger generation, we have the possibility to create a very high-performing work environment for the future. Only 22.9% of associations have a plan in place to engage the next generation. Without knowledge and a plan, these companies will fail.To learn more about generational differences, the CoC will be offering a seminar June 26 entitled, "Bridging the Generation Gap." I don't know about you, but I am looking forward to moving my children into the workforce. Help me make sure they stay there!

*USA Today; Forbes; Millennial Branding



Leah Bolin

President & CEO,
Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce

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Cullman's *compassionate* cancer care center

PROVIDING STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT AND LEADING EDGE TREATMENT IN A COMFORTABLE AND CARING ENVIRONMENT

Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS) • Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) • Rapid Arc (VMAT) • 4-Dimensional Radiotherapy • PET/CT/MRI Fusion • Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) • GE Lightspeed Wide Bore CR/RT Scanner • Image Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT) • Low Dose Rate Brachytherapy (LDR) • Radionuclide Targeted Therapy • High Dose Rate Brachytherapy (HDR)



Dr. Vincent Karolewics and the staff of

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CULLMAN...

DISCOVER DOWNTOWN LIKE YOU NEVER HAVE BEFORE.

LAUNCH DATE: MAY 8, 2014

SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

SHOPPING, DINING, & CRAFT BEVERAGES

RESTAURANT SPECIALS & STORE DISCOUNTS

EXTENDED HOURS & LIVE MUSIC

LOCATION: CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

TIME: 5-8 P.M.
TICKET: $10
*limited tickets available

On the **second Thursday** of every month, our retailers and restaurants will offer extended hours, specials and discounts in honor of our latest event Hops & Shops!

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's Retail Committee presents a new night-time event called Hops & Shops Cullman premiering on Thursday, May 8, 2014 from 5-8 p.m. This first-time event will be on the second Thursday every month and will feature extended shopping hours, dining, specials and discounts, along with exceptional craft beverages and live music. The event begins at the Chamber's Visitor Center. Here you pay a cover charge of $10 and receive a wristband, a passport and map, 20 pennies and a souvenir sample glass. Then you start walking to the destinations on the map and get your passport stamped. Everyone with a completed, stamped passport will be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate. This drawing will be held at a designated restaurant each month. Straight to Ale, based out of Huntsville, AL will be the brewery sponsor for May. While you are walking in the Central Business District- take advantage of our local stores extending their hours! If you normally can't shop downtown due to your work schedule, you now have a time where you can! There are a limited number of tickets available. For more information, please call 256-734-0454 or email info@cullmanchamber.org.

CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HOPSANDSHOPSCULLMAN
WWW.CULLMANCHAMBER.ORG

You can find high-tech *heart care* right in your own *back yard.*



Cullman Regional Medical Center has been providing state-of-the-art cardiovascular services to the community since 1976, by providing Cardiac Stress Testing and Cardiac Ultrasound. *Today,* we offer a full range of cardiac and vascular studies including cardiac catheterizations, interventional stent placement, pacemaker placement and more.

In 2011, CRMC established a relationship with UAB, the state's leader in Interventional Cardiology Care. This relationship allows CRMC to bring the highest level of interventional cardiology care to the community.

CULLMAN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
www.crmchospital.com


Silvio Papapietro, MD
UAB Medicine
Interventional Cardiologist


Edward Mahan, MD
Cardiologist


James Lee, MD
Cardiologist

Call CRMC Physician Referral at (256) 737-2588 to find a CRMC Cardiologist Today.

Find us on Facebook



You never know what the topic will be, always great company & great conversation! The Chamber's Morning Blend May 21, 2014.



Come join us for our quarterly Biscuits & Business; this is a great opportunity to enjoy breakfast, network and talk a little business! We will see you at Alabama Technology Network (lower level of the Chamber building) at 8 o'clock!





Chamber Helped to Celebrate Growth in the Cullman area



Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce - Visitor Center Lobby

301 2nd Ave S.W. Cullman, AL 35055
www.cullmanchamber.org



Cullman Emergency Medical Services

601 2nd Ave SW Cullman, AL 35055



Medical Arts- Living Well Natural Store

124 Seventh St. SW Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 734-4933



Rehau- Plant Cullman Automotive Expansion

2424 Industrial Dr. SW, Cullman, AL 35055



Cullman County Economic Development

325 2nd Street SE Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 775-4696



Flowers Bakery Outlet

403 Main Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 739-6953

Schedule your Ribbon Cutting or Groundbreaking!

If your business is new to the area, under new management, or has a new location or if you are breaking ground call us today at 256-734-0454! Ribbon Cuttings & Groundbreakings are scheduled Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

www.CullmanChamber.org

Welcome New Members

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

March 23, 2014- April 23, 2014

Byars Wright, Inc.
1112 Main Street
Gardendale, AL 35071
Primary Phone: (205) 221-3621
Website: http://www.byarswright.com

Southeastern Telephone, Inc.
1400 Al Hwy 69 South
Hanceville, AL 35077
Primary Phone:
(205) 871-3000

Farmers Insurance - The Warhurst Insurance Agency
2110 AL HWY 157
Cullman, AL 35058
Primary Phone:
(256) 338-3701

Independent Consultant with The Pampered Chef- Erica Phillips
320 County Road 627
Hancville, AL 35077
Primary Phone: (602) 526-4671

Cedric Williams Tree Service & Landscaping
909 Oak Street SW
Ruskin, FL 33570
Primary Phone:
(256) 775-7682

Dodge City Construction Co
334 County Road 111
Bremen, AL 35033
Primary Phone:
(256) 287-1006

Thank you to our Renewals

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

March 24, 2014- April 23, 2014

Action Resources
Alabama Specialty Clinic
America's Car-Mart
Borden Family Pharmacy & Market Shoppe
Cullman County Museum
Cullman County Public Library System
American Trim
Carlton's Italian Restaurant
Cullman Logistics, Inc.
Gentiva Hospice
Hanceville Drug Company
Cullman Civitan Club
FUNZONE
Inline Electric Supply Co., Inc.
Riley Business Products Inc.
The UPS Store
Unlimited Mobile Home Service & Supplies, Inc.
Wells Turner Family Pharmacy
Bama Glass Company
ADS Security, Inc.
Air Evac Lifeteam
Belk
Cullman Area Career Center
REMAX BJC Real Estate, Inc.
Rotary Club
Sweet Peppers Deli
Wildman Tattoo
Bates Roadbuilders, Inc.
Burger King - Town Square
Cabin Fever Beverages
ERA Waldrop Real Estate
J & R Feed Service
Joe Caretti Auto Service, Inc
Morningside of Cullman
Serta Mattress Company
Cullman Electric Cooperative
Cullman Environmental, Inc
Destiny Church, Inc.
Fricke, Sweatmon & Miller, PC
Lamar Advertising
LifeSouth Community Blood Centers
McGriff Industries, Inc.
NARE Home Medical Equipment, Inc.
The Sport Center
United Way of Cullman County
American Dehydrated Foods, Inc.
Baker, Sara Attorney at Law
C. Blake West, Attorney at Law
CRI - Carr, Riggs & Ingram
Cullman Community Concert Association
Cullman County Juvenile Court
Cullman Oktoberfest
CullmanSense
DQ Grill & Chill - Cullman
Emily Niezer Johnston, LLC
Rusken Packaging, Inc.
Southern Hickory Barbecue
West Elementary School
American Red Cross — Cullman Chapter
Brenda N. Horn
Buettner Brothers Lumber Company, Inc.
Childhaven, Inc.
Cracker Barrel Old Country Store
Cullman Bowling Center LLC
Cullman Internal Medicine, P.C.
Dr. Ronald Carter, DMD
Elk River, Inc.
HomTex
Mitch Smith Chevrolet, Inc.
O.F. Richter & Sons, Inc.
Options
Pro Golf Discount
RJ Young Company
St. John & St. John, LLC
Tutor Doctor
C & M Truck and Trailor Repair
Days Inn Motel
Gregg Hodges
McLeroy Law Firm, LLC
Pitts & Zanaty, LLC
Smith Lake Bed and Breakfast
The Angler Seafood House

- COMMUNITY LUNCHEON -



The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center's May Community Luncheon will feature guest speaker Jay Barker. A native of Alabama, Barker was born in Birmingham and grew up in the Trussville area. He played college football at the University of Alabama under head coach Gene Stallings. Boasting an impressive college football career where he led the Crimson Tide to a National Championship and won the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award, Barker went on to play in the NFL. During his career in the NFL, he played for the Green Bay Packers, the New England Patriots and the Carolina Panthers, followed by the Toronto Argonauts in the Canadian Football League and ending with the Birmingham Thunderbolts in the XFL.
Barker is currently the host of the daily Opening Drive Radio show on Jox 94.5 FM from 6-10 a.m., and he is also an analyst for ESPN Radio. An entrepreneur at heart, Barker is the owner of an Allstate insurance agency and an owner of Rock the South. He is married to country musician Sara Evans. Jay will be speaking on behalf of Rock the South!
The May Community Luncheon .is scheduled for Friday, May 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the banquet room at All Steak. The program is presented by Mickey Parrish State Farm Insurance & Financial Services and sponsored by Quick Tire Sales, Inc. To register for the luncheon, email info@cullmanchamber.org or call 256-734-0454. The price is $15 for Chamber members and $20 for future members.

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

The May Community Luncheon is brought to you by:

QUICK TIRE SALES
CULLMAN, ALABAMA

THE 2014 COMMUNITY LUNCHEON PROGRAM IS PRESENTED BY

STATE FARM INSURANCE

Mickey Parrish State Farm Insurance & Financial Services

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



Member Spotlight

Be sure to visit these Chamber Member businesses for all of your florist needs!

Cullman Florist
111 A 1st Street N.E.
Cullman, AL 35055
(256)734-0663

Fairview Florist
312 2nd Avenue S.E.
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 739-0315

Michael's Flowers & Design
302 1st Street S.E.
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 841-5553

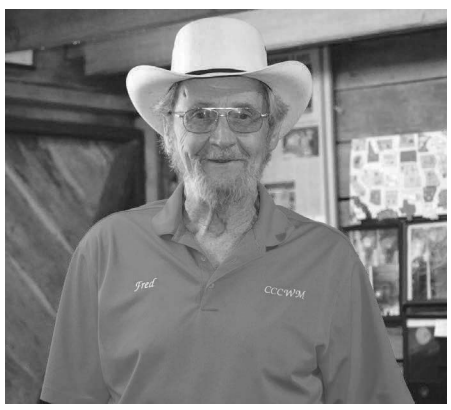
Don't forget Mother's Day!
Sunday, May 11, 2014



Why be a member of The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce?

Member-Only Monthly Marketing Reports
Business Networking Opportunities
Complimentary Meeting Rooms
Additional Member-To-Member Discounts
Free business listing in Classic Cullman
Sponsorships available for purchase- promote your business name & products!

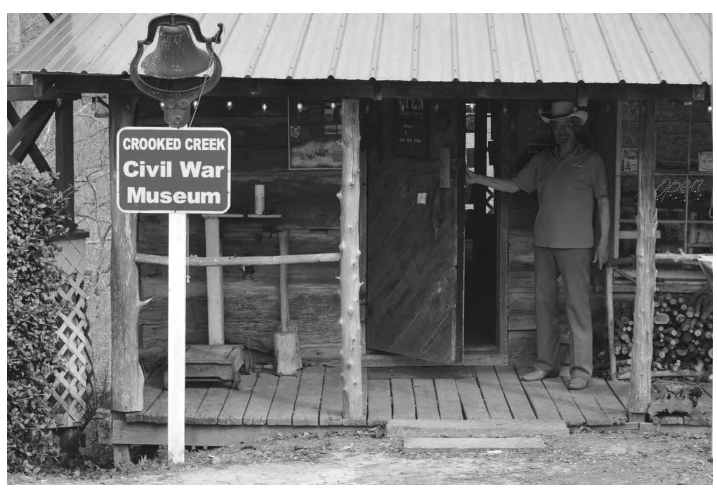
CROOKED CREEK CIVIL WAR MUSEUM



Fred Wise, Crooked Creek Civil War Museum

The Crooked Creek Civil War Museum in Vinemont is owned by Fred Wise and has been opened for 8 years as of April this year. Wise has owned the property since 1981 but only thought to make it a Civil War museum once he realized that his land was actually a battle site. Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest and Union Colonel Abel Streight fought a heated battle with their troops for several hours at Crooked Creek. With the rich history associated with the land, Wise knew he had a goldmine and thus the Crooked Creek Civil War Museum was born. New items are added all the time, as Wise and his son are both collectors. The best part about visiting this particular museum would have to be that Wise takes you on a personal tour that can last up to 2 hours and he actually lets his visitors handle the artifacts, which include hats, aged firearms, old shell fragments, etc. He is a walking encyclopedia of the land, the history and the heritage. The Crooked Creek Civil War Museum is even known as a paranormal hot spot with photos to prove it. The Ghost Hunters of Southern Territories (G.H.O.S.T) has been out on three separate occasions to document footage of the ghostly apparitions that abound at this historic site. Another awesome aspect of the local attraction is the Bed & Breakfast available for rent. Prices are affordable and the experience is one-of-a-kind. Wise's unique museum is a hidden secret in the Cullman area and will definitely draw tourists and locals alike to this historical landmark.





Crooked Creek Civil War Museum
516 County Road 1127
Vinemont, AL 35179
(256) 739-2714

Hours of Operation:
Open Daily 9-5
Fee: $5.00
Wheelchair Accessible



2014 cullman area tourism awards
Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center

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

CHAMBER REWIND

State of the Schools/Student and Teacher of the Year

The annual State of the Schools/Student and Teacher of the Year awards presented by Chick-fil-A was held on Monday, April 14, at Wallace State School of Nursing and Center for Science building. Corporate sponsors included Cullman-Jefferson Gas, Cullman Electric Cooperative and WSCC. The awards sponsor was Knight-Free Insurance Agency. Dr. Doreen Griffith, Superintendent of Cullman City Schools, Billy Coleman, Superintendent of Cullman County Schools and Dr. Vicki Karolewics, President of WSCC each delivered their annual State of the Schools address.The 2014 Student of the Year school nominees were Jamie Beasley, West Point High School;

Britainy Bachelor, Fairview High School; Alexis Helene Duncan, Cold Springs High School; Allyson Waldrop, Hanceville High School; Hunter Lee Walker, Holly Pond High School; Allison Fowler, Vinemont High School; Mackenzie Bockhold, St. Bernard Prep High School; Kalitta Kaufman, Good Hope High School; and Andrew Winfrey, Cullman High School.

Alexis Helene Duncan from Cold Springs High School was awarded the 2014 Student of the Year.

The 2014 Career Technical Student of the Year nominees were William Farrell, Cullman Area Career Center and West Point High School; Caleb Hamm, Cullman Area Career Center and Vinemont High School; and Isaac Lindsey, Cullman Area Career Center and Cullman High School.

Isaac Lindsey from CACC/Cullman High School was awarded the 2014 Career Technical Student of the Year. This year the Chamber's Education Committee presented the 2014 Inspiration award to Andrew Winfrey from Cullman High School. Andrew's life story has been and continues to be a source of inspiration for the community.

The 2014 Teachers of the Year recognized from Cullman City Schools were Anita Moore,Elementary Teacher of the Year from Cullman Primary and Jennifer Calahan, Secondary Teacher of the Year from Cullman High School.

The 2014 Teachers of the Year recognized from Cullman County Schools were Ronda Harris, Elementary Teacher of the Year from Parkside School and Tasha Flanigan, Secondary Teacher of the Year from the CACC.

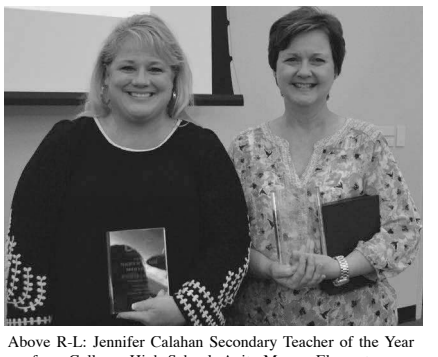
Terri Waldrop, Wallace State instructor of Business and Commerce, recognized Wallace State employee recipient's in the field of Educational Achievement, NISOD and extraordinary employee of the year.



Above: Dr. Dorren Griffith, Issac Lindsey and Mr. Billy Coleman. Issac from CHS/CACC was awarded the 2014 Career Technical Student of the Year.



Andrew Winfrey of Cullman High School was presented with the 2014 Inspiration Award.



Above R-L: Jennifer Calahan Secondary Teacher of the Year from Cullman High School. Anita Moore, Elementary Teacher of the Year from Cullman Primary School.



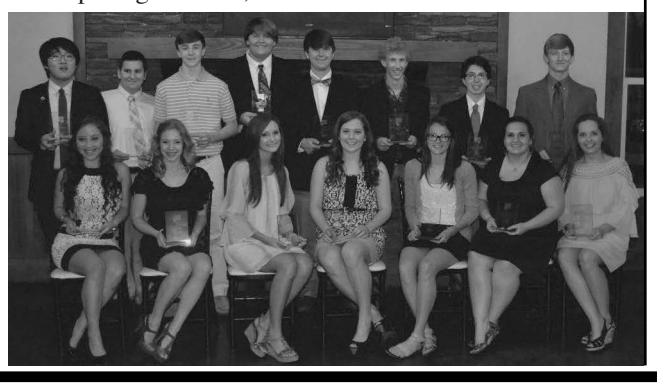
Alexis Duncan from Good Hope High School was awarded the 2014 Student of the Year.



Above L- R:Tasha Flanigan, Secondary Teacher of the Year from the CACC. Ronda Harris, Elementary Teacher of the Year from Parkside School

Cullman Youth leadership

The 2013-14 Youth The Chamber's 2013-14 Youth Leadership class graduated from a 9 month program on Tuesday, April 22. This year's presenting sponsor was Merchants Bank. Graduation Sponsor was American Proteins. Scholarship sponsors were Webb Wheel Products, Inc., Cullman Regional Medical Center, Cullman Internal Medicine, Action Environmental, LLC, Cullman Rotary Club, Carmen Moss DMD, Heritage Diagnostic Center, AK Equipment Rental and Sales, Inc. YLCC functions as a leadership and service learning experience enabling two juniors from each Cullman county and city schools in addition to St. Bernard Prep, Cullman Christian and participating Home School programs. Throughout this past year, the students have met once a month to learn about such issues as community involvement, volunteer work, law and criminal justice, business and industry, quality of life and agribusiness, to name a few. The 2013-14 graduating class includes: Cole Lay and Oakleigh White from Cullman High School; Raley Warner and Miles Rakestraw from Cullman Christian School; Logan Guffey and Summer Walker from Fairview High School; Miranda Southern and Kyle Johnson from Good Hope High School; Laura Campbell and Heath Dean from Hanceville High School; Kaitlyn Stephens and Cody Jones from Holly Pond High School; Raley Smith, Home School; Aimme Cortes and Jang Kim from Saint Bernard Preparatory School; Katherine Ann Barnett and Jacob Barker from Vinemont High School; and Stone Parker and Sarah Bagwell from West Point High School.



2014 Miniature Golf FORE Education Tournament

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's Education Committee hosted their annual Miniature Golf Fore Education Tournament on Saturday, April 26 at Funzone from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Teams from all over the county and city participated in the fundraiser which enabled students to win money for their schools. The event was presented by RJR Mining Company, Inc. and sponsored by American Proteins, Inc. and Alabama Coal Cooperative. Topre America sponsored the breakfast, Carter and Company sponsored the t-shirts and Pepsi was this year's beverage sponsor. This event is a fundraiser which enables students to win money for their schools.

This year Chase Starnes and Anthony Harlan representing Good Hope HS took home 1st place with Malachi Holt and Warren Creel of Good Hope HS receiving 2nd place and Billy Troutman and Magan Fromhold representing Cullman Career Center received 3rd place.

West Elementary was represented by the team of Jackson Murphree and Jaden Orr who won the drawing for the $100 Hole-in-One prize.



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.This month, the May Cash Mob will be held at Mary Carter Stores on May 13, 2014 from 4-6 p.m. We will see you there!



From left to right: Casey Sandlin, Chasity Robertson, Susie Ashley- Retail Committee Chair, Phillip Crumbley, Tonya Hardman, Paula Bodkin, and Kerry Neighbors.

SMALL BUSNESS OF THE MONTH

EvaBank
1710 Cherokee Ave SW
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 255-2000

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

2013-14 LEADERSHIP CULLMAN COUNTY

Cullman County Leadership Alumni

You are cordially invited to attend the Graduation Banquet

For the class of 2013-2014

May 22, 2014

All Steak Restaurant

5:30- 7:00 P.M.

Tickets: $25.00

RSVP: 256-734-0454 or
dmatthews@cullmanchamber.org

To keep records current please send your updated information to Debbie Matthews.

Attire: Business Formal

Presented by: Merchants Bank of Alabama Member FDIC

Graduation Sponsor: AMERICAN PROTEINS, INC. HANCEVILLE DIVISION



Karen Sladick

SEMINAR

Bridging the Generation Gap

June 25

For more information contact
jmoore@cullmanchamber.org

In today's workplace, you will find, for the first time in American history, that we have four generations working side-by-side. This workshop helps you understand where each generation "comes from" and how you can use generational differences to develop greater synergy, creativity and productivity in the workplace. This workshop is applicable for all employees, regardless of position or responsibilities.
Register online www.cullmanchamber.org or call the office 256-734-0454

TRIGREEN EQUIPMENT

FARM Y'ALL

FARM · TO · FORK · FESTIVAL

August 23, 2014
Details coming soon!

ALABAMA'S #1 CULLMAN GROWN AGRICULTURE

FARM KIDS CLUB

Nature Notebooks help children understand natural world

» Children learn scientific processes while having fun

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - It was an absolutely gorgeous morning to be outside; the sun was shining, birds were chirping, and a cool breeze was blowing through the trees. These conditions were just what everyone wanted for their morning at the North Alabama Agriplex Heritage Center for the Farm Kids Club's meeting. This past Saturday morning's class was all about making a "nature book".



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» Instead of being bombarded by technology, Nature Notebooks help children explore their curiosities away from the screen.

A nature book is a type of journaling where you record the different plants and wildlife that you see when you're outside on a hike or just an afternoon stroll. There were around 30 parents and children that showed up to learn about their natural world and how to teach their children to take an interest in nature.

All the children were given their very own notebooks and some starter charts that might help them identify tracks of animals and plants.

Rachel Dawsey, coordinator of the North Alabama Agriplex, gave an enthusiastic and informative talk about how she and her family keep nature journals and how it has benefitted them.

"When I was in college, our professor would have us draw the plants that we observed. I recorded them in my notebook, and to this day, 15 years later, I still remember those plants and their names. So when we write things down, it helps us to remember in the future."

Once the class had their notebooks, it was time to go outside and observe. Children and parents looked all around the Agriplex for the perfect specimen as their first entry in their notebook. Two children found "roly polies" or "pill bugs" and another little boy found a field cricket that he was excited about catching and recording.

One grandmother, Dawn Robinson, who attended with her son and grandson, talked of hearing about the class by chance and what a great idea it was.

"A friend of mine gave me a little flyer," she said. "And I just thought this would be a great way to get out of the house and learn. We have to fight the video games sometimes, but they love to be outside once they get here and see the plants and animals."

Kids are curious all the time; they are intrigued by the natural world around them.

It is that seed of curiosity that Dawsey wants to cultivate in the community so that it can grow.

"Anything that can get kids outside is great. Kids love to be outside, sometimes I think our culture beats it out of them so to speak," she said. "Children are born inquisitive about nature and the more that they can be outside, the happier they'll be. The nature books are just a great way to get kids in the habit of recording what they see and committing it to memory."

Not only does this get a child excited about nature, it also helps parents to encourage the scientific process in a fun way. One of the biggest tools at a scientist's disposal is his or her powers of observation and documentation; children are learning so much at once without even knowing it. To them, it's just a fun day out in the sun.

If you would like to learn more about the Farm Kids Club and all the exciting classes coming up, call 256-297-1044 or visit the Agriplex on Facebook.

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RESIDENTIAL RECIPES

Best Ever Blackberry Cobbler

By: Allison Robertson • Recipe Contributor

I will be honest with you. I have never made a cobbler before in my life. But I got five bags of frozen berries from my grandmother and had to do something with it. This was the only thing I could think of other than letting them get freezer burn. Surprisingly, my cobbler was delicious and I now have a new favorite.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups - blackberries (fresh or frozen)
- 1 cup - water
- 1/4 cup - orange juice
- 1 1/2 cup - white sugar (divided)
- 1 cup - flour (I use self rising)
- 6 tablespoons - cold butter (cut into small pieces)
- 1/4 cup - boiling water
- 1 teaspoon - vanilla flavoring

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
- Start by putting your blackberries in a medium sized saucepan. Add 1-cup water and 1-cup sugar and your orange juice.
- Bring to a rolling boil and let it boil for 15 minutes until the liquid is the consistency of syrup.
- Mix the flour and the rest of the sugar together. Add in the butter, and using a pastry cutter or a fork, mix until it feels like course sand. I prefer to use my God given utensils, my hands. It makes it easier for me, but it is your preference.
- Add the vanilla and boiling water and mix until it is moist all the way through. Pour your blackberries and their syrup into a casserole dish. Drop the dough into your blackberries by the spoonful evenly throughout the dish.
- Place in the oven for 30 minutes or until the dough is golden brown. Serve with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

Fresh Strawberry Tossed Salad With Poppy Seed Dressing

By: Debbie Wood • Uniquely Cullman Cookbook

Salad Ingredients:

- 2 heads romain, torn into bite size pieces
- 2 C fresh strawberries, sliced
- 2/3 C pecans, toasted
- 4 oz. bacon, crisp-fried and crumbled
- 1/3 C mild onion, chopped
- 1/2 tsp. dry mustard
- 2 T. poppy seeds

Poppy Seed Dressing:

- 3/4 C sugar
- 1/3 C vinegar
- 1/3 C salad oil

Instructions:

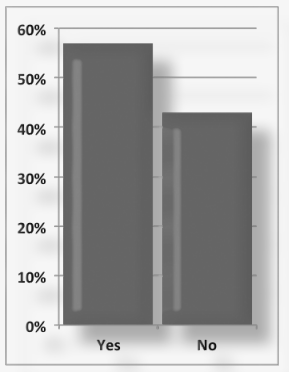
Toss the romain, strawberries, pecans and bacon in a bowl just before serving.

- Add the poppy seed dressing, tossing to coat. Makes 8-10 servings.

This recipe and more are available in the Uniquely Cullman Cookbook, from the Cullman Women's League.
AVAILABLE AT THE CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM AND DEB'S BOOKSTORE

Poll

Does your family have an emergency action plan?



This Week's Poll

Have you ever lied on a résumé?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

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.
- **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!
- **Tennis Lessons:** Adult & Junior Tennis Lessons will be held this summer at the Cullman High School tennis courts in three 2-week sessions from June 2-13, June 16-27, and July7-18 for $50 per session. Call to reserve your space or for more details at 256-734-9157.
- **USATF Summer Track & Field:** CP&R will host a summer track club under the USATF. Several meets will be attended in preparation for the National Junior Olympics. All ages 5 & up are welcome to participate in every track and field event offered. Great program for track and field athletes to continue in summer training. An interest meeting will be held Monday, May 20 at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center. Call 256-734-9157 for more details.

What's Online

More than 100 middle and high school students visit Wallace State

More than 100 students in grades six through nine from area high schools visited the campus of Wallace State Community College on Thursday, April 24, so they can start giving serious thought about their college education.



qrne.ws/195

Rockin' the Runway

Birmingham Fashion Week (BFW) definitely took a cue from the infamous television show "Project Runway" as contestants participating in the Rising Design Star Competition had to construct one-of-a-kind creations from scratch but with a twist – the materials used had to be recycled.

qrne.ws/196

Old Beer Recipe: A Taste of the Past

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.

qrne.ws/197

Ending On a Good Note

» WSCC bands steals the stage with varieties of music

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE - Another wonderful evening took place at Wallace State Community College in the Burrow Center of Fine and Performing Arts recently. Wallace State's Concert Band and Jazz Band took center stage to deliver music to all. All the makings of any well rounded orchestra were there to regale the listener with timeless music.

Wallace State's reputation for their involvement and support of the arts is unsurpassed by any community college and even some four year universities.

Their tireless efforts to keep the arts in all forms alive and well helps to set Wallace State apart from the rest. This is something that has not gone unnoticed by conductor and music teacher, Terry Ownby, who has been with Wallace State since 2012.

"We have something very unique here. We have a wonderful facility here at the Burrow Center and the Betty Leeth Haynes theatre," Ownby said.

"Such great support here from our faculty, administration, and our deans, and these are the people that allow us to do what we do."

Ownby also told of the key ingredient to what makes this particular program so great and, the teachers.

"Here at the music department and the fine arts building, we have outstanding people to teach. We work together and collaborate to do everything that we do, and to do the best thing that we can for the kids."

The Concert Band took their seats to begin the evening's show. A semi-circle with rows of woodwinds, brass, and percussion all raised their instruments at the flick of the conductor's wrist and the show began. The piece to lead the concert was a march song written by Henry Fillmore. A chorus of precise and punctuated notes filled the room as the musical journey began.

The show following the first song was a myriad of beautiful chords and exact harmonies. Impressive solos were played by talented young students.

The clarinet soloist in particular was enthralling to watch. The show had some familiar pieces which included "Bolero" and excerpts from famous theme songs like "Pink Panther".

The Jazz Band was next to take the spotlight but chose a more casual setting in the lobby of the Burrow Center. Sweet, smooth notes flowed out to the crowd and immediately had one tapping their feet.

Again, there was no shortage of talent in this ensemble as each piece took the audience back to another year and era of Jazz.

One of the more notable pieces featured Wallace State singer, Tehauny Cleghorn, who sang the big band song, "Orange Colored Sky", along with the band.

Her brilliant vocal talent coupled with the Jazz ensemble's wonderful musicianship made one feel like they were at a "Big Band" club in the 1940s.

Music has a unique ability of reaching people in a way that few things can and taking them to places they never thought possible. Certainly no one knows this better than Ownby.

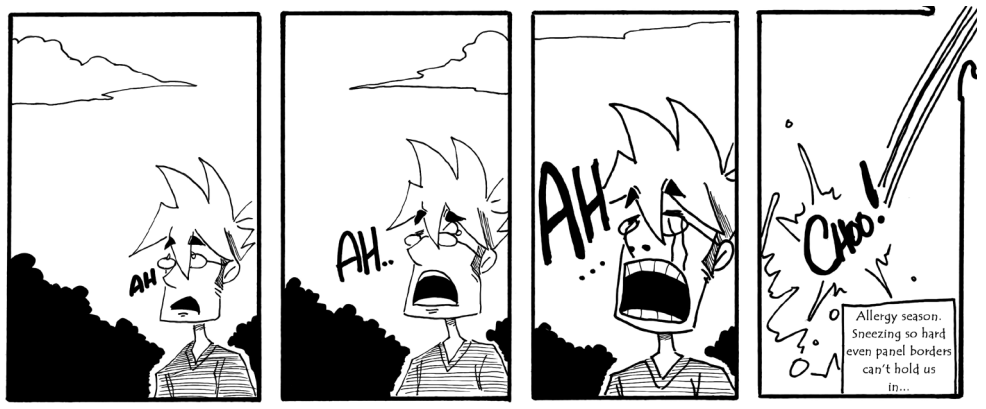
"I've been involved in music since I was 11 years old and I can tell you that the benefits have been tremendous," he said.

"I've had the opportunity to go places and do things that I never would have thought possible. I wasn't brought up rich by any stretch of the imagination, so this opened doors for me. I've gotten to play live on stage with 'Gold City' and 'Alabama' and have just gotten to play with some big names in the industry."

Music is a universal language. It is a path that can open your mind to beauty, help kids in school, and give someone opportunities to grow and achieve in a way that they might otherwise not have. It is incredible to have a college in the Cullman area that not only appreciates that but celebrates it.

Comics

WHITE & BLACK • **"Allergies Are Upon Us"** • st.edo@cullmansense.com









Pets of the Week

Charlie

Hello, my name is Charlie. I am about 5 years old.

I am believed to be a Hound mix, and I currently weigh 17 lbs.

I am spirited and enjoy company. Please stop by and say hi to me. I am ready for my new forever companion.



Masago

Hello, my name is Masago. I am about 2 years old.

I am believed to be a Hound mix, and I currently weigh 37 lbs.

I am full of life and I love to play.

Please come visit me today. I am ready for my new forever home.



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.



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Eagle (from Front)

By: Natalie Bonner
natalie@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - There is a local concrete driveway in Fairview that boasts something quite unusual and appealing about it – right in the middle of the drive stands an impressive woodwork of an eagle that draws attention from all over.

Just how did this magnificent work of art come to be? Meet Jim and Mary Mechaw, transplants from Chicago, Illinois who fell in love with the Cullman area. After living in the cold climate of the Windy City for 41 years, the Mechaws were ready for a change, so Mary hopped on the Internet to see what she could find out about Cullman since her mother-in-law had lived in the area and they used to come visit.

"I was very impressed with the beauty of the area so I picked out about a half a dozen homes and drove down by myself and looked at them and found this one in the Fairview community. I really liked it, and I took a phone book back with me and flipped through the phone book and thought, 'I have to find a bank that looks friendly,'" Mary said with a laugh.

Long story short, Jim and Mary got approved for their dream home through a local bank and within one week had sold their home in the snowy Chicago area. It was destiny.

"We bought a house on the telephone," she grins. "We were meant to be here and we moved to Cullman and it will be 10 years this month of May."

With this beautiful new home came a strange problem though. Mary discovered that a lot of the homes in the area didn't have concrete drives and she simply needed one, but she literally had a tree in her way.

"So I called a concrete guy and said to him, 'I don't know what we are gonna do with this tree, but I want a drive and this tree is right smack-dab in the way.' He said, 'I'll fix you up a nice drive.' And he did. He made a beautiful circle around this gorgeous, huge oak tree," Mary said.

Unfortunately, the Mechaws beloved oak succumbed to multiple lightning strikes and eventually died. Instead of just doing away with their incredible wood, they decided to see what could be salvaged of the remains.

Mary said to her husband, "We cannot cut that tree down. I just can't lose that tree."

So they had people come and trim the tree up, cutting the limbs off and topping it out at 24-feet tall. Mary then started interviewing chainsaw artists. After interviewing several local chainsaw artists, Mary decided on Bo Hancock from Corinth, Mississippi to complete the job for them.

Hancock stayed at their house for three days straight and finished the incredible work of art. Upon his arrival, Mary recalls him jumping out of his car and heading straight for the tree, measuring it, walking around it, and methodically planning his course of action.

So, why an eagle? It's simple. Mary loves them and she had seen another work of an eagle that Hancock had in his portfolio on Facebook.

"I've always loved eagles because they stand for freedom and they're, of course, a national bird, and I just think they're awesome."

The eagle was completed in October 2013 and continues to receive quite a bit of attention, but the Mechaws don't mind.

"He's just an awesome sight, and I get such great joy from people coming by and asking to take pictures of it because I think it's such a wonderful work of art and I just want to share it with everyone," Mary said with a big smile.

Semniar (from Front)

with Atlanta being one of the nation's largest LGBT communities."

He went on to say, "It has been a challenge and a lot of blessings over the past few years to create this agency and to do the different things that we have done. I'm very excited to come to Cullman, and over the past few years, I actually have been hearing very good things from people who live here and very exciting things."

The seminar went on with Robinson talking about his experiences with the youth in Alabama. His organization helps not only the LGBT community but also the youths of every walk of life. The talk then led to some explanations of terminology, for example, transgender. While that may be a term that we all have heard before, it is a term widely misunderstood. One participant at the training session was a teacher who explained that she has a transgendered student in her college class, and that her goal was to understand more about this individual and others like them that she may teach in the future.

When Robinson went into his discussion about the meanings behind these different terms, he explained why he believes it is important to fully grasp these concepts and his ending goal.

"As I go through this, I want you to hopefully be able to leave and be better able to understand your clients and present a more affirming and comfortable environment for them. So that they may open up to you in a way that they never would have before you came and learned more about what their needs were. Because we are a community that lives in fear. Fear of losing our jobs, fear of physical violence, fear that our families and churches will no longer accept us."

The discussion went from that point and exploded. A lively, but respectful discussion took place on many different issues that these individuals face, and the best and most respectful way to help them. Many different people took part in the discussion: local attorneys, WSCC employees, students, and concerned citizens were all taking part in having an honest and healthy talk. Everyone had differing viewpoints, but the most common theme between all of the points brought up was that no one should have to live a life of fear.

The diversity training seminar was a great example of the steps being taken to make our community an even more welcoming and loving place for all. At the end of the day, that is all any of us want, to live our lives in peace, with kindness, understanding, and tolerance from our fellow man. Cullman can be even better than it is today, and it is only through a examination of our shortcomings that we can ever hope to overcome them.

More on LGBT Advocacy and Youth Services, Inc. can be found at www.free2be.org.

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