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CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER
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Cullman Revs Up for Upcoming Car Show

» 29th Annual Pontiac/GMC Car Show Excites Car Enthusiasts

By: Chelsea Sparks
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CULLMAN - We are heading into the warm days of an Alabama summer and great weather, which means to get outside. There are festivals, sports, pools and that old time favorite, car shows. Car enthusiasts will be dusting off their hot rods all over the county and cruising the streets of Cullman all summer.

For those who own Pontiac or GMC cars, you may be very interested to hear about this upcoming event.

On Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., everyone is welcome to head out to Sportsman Lake Park to take part or come see these classic American cars at the 29th Annual Pontiac/GMC Car Show.

If you happen to own a Pontiac or GMC that you would like to enter into the car show, the entry fee is $20.

Trophies, music, point judged awards and Driver's Choice Awards will all be available for participants.

Do you have a beautiful Pontiac GTO or a GMC hot rod truck?

Then bring it down to Sportsman Lake on the 17th and have a great time meeting other car lovers.

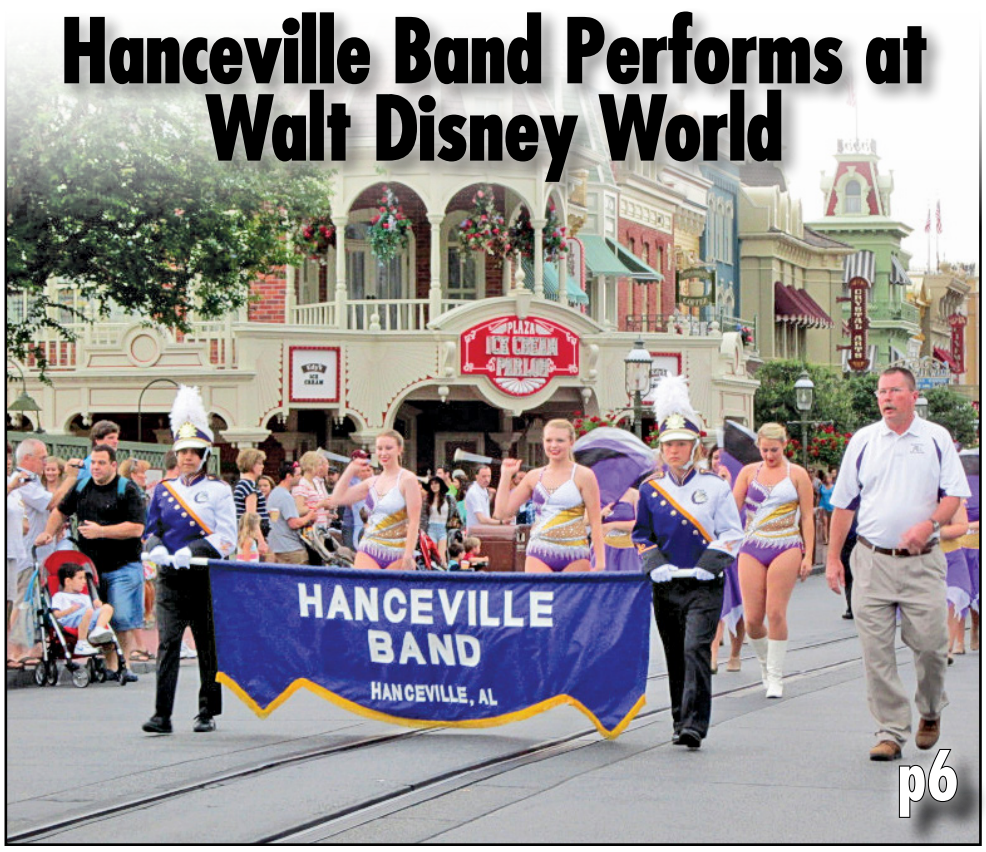
This is just another example that there is an event for everyone in Cullman.

If you have a passion, then you can find a group or event to express it and share it with others.

For more information on this event, please call Jim Ketchersid at 205-979-5387.

ENTERTAINMENT

Hanceville Band Performs at Walt Disney World



CONTRIBUTED

» Forty-five Hanceville students traveled to Orlando, Florida to play their instruments for crowds at Disney World in a once in a lifetime experience.

EDUCATION

Learning to Advocate

» Parents of Special Needs Children Learn How to Communicate Effectively with Educators p7



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» James Gallini, a special education lawyer, discusses bridging the gaps between school systems and parents.

Activities to Do With the Little Ones in Cullman

» Pretty Weather Means it's Time to Get Outdoors

By: Jessica Norrell
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CULLMAN - Now that the weather is finally warming up after a long, brutal winter, it's time to pack the kiddos up and get them out in the fresh air and sunshine (with sunblock on, of course.) Here is a simple list of a few ideas to get you and your little ones out and about in the beautiful spring weather.

The outdoor pool at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center is a great way to spend the day with the kids. The water park features two large slides, a high and low diving board, a lazy river, a water play area and zero entry area for special needs. The outdoor pool can be charged per day.

Spring Valley Beach is another fun option. This place has been recognized as a "Driving Destination", an "Absolutely Alabama Attraction" and a "Tennessee Valley Treasure." It is on 25 acres in Blountsville, a truly unique water park out in the county and is a great place to spend an entire day. Visitors are welcome to bring their own picnic lunches and grills. The park features include over 20 gazebos and a pavilion area, l0 exhilarating water slides, the Southeast's largest pool and a huge water playground for kids. General admission or season passes can be purchased online or at the park. For additional information go to: http://www.springvalley-beach.com/.

For a local and inexpensive option, FUNZONE offers a variety of events for adults and children. The complex, Air It Out, is filled with inflatables that offer a challenging and interactive experience that the kids can enjoy for hours. The FUNZONE 500 go-kart track is a great event for race fans (or anyone really) to enjoy competing against friends or p7

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Candid Candidates: 2014 Commissioners Forum

By: Kate Mullaney
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CULLMAN - The 2014 Commissioners Forum was held recently at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce. June 3 is Election Day and the candidates for the Cullman County Commissioner Places One and Two answered important questions regarding our town at this forum.

About 20 Cullman citizens were present.

The purpose of this event was to keep citizens informed about what each candidate will do if elected.

With key issues addressed at this forum, citizens were given an opportunity to decide which candidate he/she would like to vote for.

Brian Lacy was the emcee for the event, asking questions which each candidate had the opportunity to answer. Candidates were given two minutes to respond.

One key issue addressed was how each candidate planned to increase revenue if elected.

Most agreed that the most effective way to do this is to bring new business to Cullman.

Kerry Watson, running for Place One, had a bit more to add though.

"We need to keep our young people working here," he stated. "We need to build our workforce from the ground up."

Another issue addressed at the forum was nepotism in county employment.

All agreed that nepotism is wrong, but some felt more strongly than others about the issue.

"I feel very strongly about nepotism," said Incumbent Place One Associate Commissioner Darrell Hicks, "and I do think there is nepotism in county employment. I think it is a good idea to stay away from hiring close relatives, and I think it would be good for Cullman to have a more strict nepotism policy."

Gary Marchman, and Doug Williams, both running for Place Two, shared Hicks' passion on the issue.

Perhaps the biggest issue addressed was Cullman County's roads. Cullman County is second in the state in road mileage but has very little funding for roads.

Candidates were asked if they would consider abandoning roads so Cullman can spend money on bigger roads.

Some candidates offered short and simple answers to the issue.

"No, we need to keep our roads," stated Incumbent Place Two Associate Commissioner Stanley Yarbrough.

"There are appropriate times to abandon roads," state J.P. White, running for Place Two, "but ultimately it's up to the property owners."

James Graves, a Place Two candidate, offered another point of view.

"Our policy should not be to abandon roads but to prioritize them," he said. "We should spend more money on major roads in Cullman County."

Hicks stated that the issue is so hard to solve it might never get resolved.

"There are no solutions to this problem," he stated.

Marchman, however, felt we should take the 'never say never' approach to this issue.

"There is a solution to our road problems," he said. "No, we should not abandon our roads, but we have to learn how to manage them better."

The forum ended with each candidate giving their closing statements.

The forum was both informative and interesting, and was a wonderful way to keep our community involved.

An Interesting History, A Delicious Tradition

» Strawberry Festival is Still Beloved by Cullmanites

By: Kate Mullaney
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CULLMAN - The city of Cullman held its annual Strawberry Festival last weekend. Many citizens were in attendance to celebrate our past and enjoy the present. This two-day festival stretched from the Farmer's Market to Depot Park and was filled with vendors, live music and, of course, strawberries.

The Strawberry Festival has been a Cullman tradition since 1939. For years, however, the Strawberry Festival came to a halt. Long time Cullman resident Johnny Richter recalled the history of this celebration as he participated in this event.

"A long time ago, Cullman was known for growing and selling strawberries," he began. "Farmers distributed their strawberries by train to other parts of the country. Every year when it was time to harvest the strawberries, there would be a festival to celebrate. One year, the train carrying tons of strawberries derailed, and the strawberries spilled and were ruined. Back then, that's all the farmers had. They lost everything and the Strawberry Festival ended with that. Just a few years ago though, we started having the Strawberry Festival again."

And it was a hit in Cullman! This event was also the official opening day of the Farmer's Market this year, a wonderful way to celebrate warm weather and fresh food.



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» There was as much live music as strawberries during the two-day Strawberry Festival.

The festival was family friendly and featured arts and crafts, an antique tractor show, historical tours, cooking demonstrations, a comedy routine, and tons of live music.

There were also lots of food vendors as well as strawberry margaritas and strawberry daiquiris.

The event started on Friday morning with the Burks Family Band at 9 a.m. Following this musical family was Roy Crawford and Cullman Co. Bluegrass. It was time for Bingo at 11:45 a.m., followed by Three on a String, The Troupe and Burke Buster on the stage. Round 2, a Cullman favorite band, played the night away on Friday.

A cooking demonstration kicked off Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. and was held again two times later in the day. Pickin' and Grinnin'/Bluegrass Style was the first band to play, starting at 9 a.m.

Then we heard from the Cullman Community Band, Cullman High School Choirs, and the Cullman High School Jazz Band. The Cadillacs played at 1:15 p.m., followed by Ave G, Overtones, and Coal Rain. Finally, MP4 ended the night.

The Beer Garden was open both nights, serving delicious strawberry beverages, and a comedy routine was held in the Train Depot at 7 p.m. both Friday and Saturday.

This was a hilarious take on what it means to be a southerner and the audience loved it.

Tradition runs deep through this town, and the Strawberry Festival is a prime example. With an interesting history and a delicious reason to celebrate, Cullmanites loved this festival, strawberry drinks in every hand.

American Legion, Post 4 hosts Dinner and Meeting

» Auxiliary helps keep the Veteran Spirit Alive

By: Jessica Norrell
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CULLMAN - American Legion, Post 4 of Cullman held its meeting in Cullman on May 8 at 7 p.m., with dinner served at 6 p.m. The American Legion is America's largest supporter of United States wartime veterans and their families.

The American Legion of Cullman was formed in 1919, the same year of the American Legion's inception by Congress. Cullman was the fourth place in Alabama to join.

The American Legion of Cullman serves its community and can be seen collecting donations in several locations around Cullman, including in front of Walmart and grocery stores to benefit children, veterans or others in need.

The American Legion is a great opportunity for eligible veterans to serve in their community and look for support from other veterans. Veterans and those with a connection to a veteran were welcome to attend the dinner on Thursday night.

The meeting, lead by Herman Reid, Commander, and Bobby Hestla, First Vice Commander, consisted of the members discussing current issues and upcoming events in the community to raise money to support those in need.

The members volunteer their time in order to better the community and lives of others, always in service to the citizens of the country and community they once defended.

The meetings consist of business, entertaining memories, and an opportunity to meet some rare individuals, including a former military member that served during the invasion of Normandy on D-Day.

For these wartime veterans, their heroism still stands in service to our community.

The American Legion consists of Four Pillars:

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, which deals with improving the lives of veterans and their a families after discharge from the military through programs, services and advocacy efforts. They also provide support for homeless veterans on a local, state and national level as well as provide employment and business opportunities, job training, education benefits and volunteer services, to name a few.

National Security in which the American Legion plays an imperative role in providing support to the men and women who protect our freedoms.

They provide a number of services including adoption of military units, delivering care packages, emotional support for families of deployed service members and transportation services, to name a few of the things provided by the American Legion on a national level.

Americanism which are opportunities to support Americanism including Boys State/Boys Nation, Junior Shooting Sports, Oratorical Competition, Boy Scouts of America, education assistance, Legacy Scholarship, ROTC and other programs that can benefit your very own community.

Children and Youth is one in which Cullman's own Post 4 is especially involved in. This division provides aid to all children in youth, who are a vital asset to the future of the United States.

The three main objectives are to strengthen the family, support organizations that help children in need, and provide communities with programs to provide opportunities for young people facing difficult challenges.



JESSICA NORRELL/CULLMANSENSE

» Alabama Auxiliary Club President

The Cullman Post 4 division is heavily active in providing for children in need and can frequently be seen taking up donations for exactly this purpose.

If you can spare a donation or thank these men, distinguished by their American Legion hats, for their service, the kindness will not go unnoticed.

For anyone looking to make an impact on their community, American Legion offers numerous opportunities as well as a place to meet fellow veterans right here in Cullman.

Fearing Abuse, States Challenge FDA on Painkiller Approval

By: Michael Ollove • Stateline

Notwithstanding a court order, Massachusetts and other states plan to restrict use of a new painkiller drug, setting up a showdown with the federal government over who gets to decide the best way to protect public health.

In the case of Zohydro, the argument pits the needs of millions of chronic pain sufferers against the urgent desire of states to combat an already catastrophic epidemic of prescription drug abuse. Although there haven't been specific cases of Zohydro abuse in Massachusetts, Democratic Gov. Deval Patrick fears the powerful new drug will make the painkiller abuse crisis even worse.

In the first round earlier this month, U.S. District Court Judge Rya W. Zobel came down on the side of Washington, ruling that Massachusetts could not ban a drug deemed to be safe and effective by the Food and Drug Administration. In thwarting Patrick's move—perhaps the first time a state has ever tried to ban a drug approved by the FDA—Zobel emphasized that federal law trumps state law.

But Patrick responded to his loss in court by slapping other restrictions on Zohydro, beyond those mandated by the federal government. Whether those steps will invite another court challenge remains to be seen.

Next door in Vermont, Democratic Gov. Peter Shumlin has already taken similar steps. Meanwhile, the GOP-controlled Ohio legislature is considering its own ban on Zohydro.

There also has been action in Washington, D.C. Members of Congress from Massachusetts, Kentucky and West Virginia have introduced bills to ban the drug, and 29 state attorneys general – representing both parties – have asked the FDA to reconsider its October approval of Zohydro.

And in February, nearly four dozen consumer and anti-addiction groups signed a letter to FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg urging her to overturn the approval of Zohydro.

"We're in the context of a very serious epidemic of opioid drug addictions and opioid deaths and that's a public health crisis that has been growing over the last decade and half," said Michael Carome, director of the Health Research Group at the consumer organization Public Citizen, which signed the letter to Hamburg. "The last thing we needed was another extended release opioid for treating chronic pain."

No Liver Damage

Zohydro is in the class of naturally occurring or synthetic chemicals containing the psychoactive chemical opioid, as are a number of legal prescription pain medications such as Vicodin, Percocet and OxyContin. Heroin is also an opioid. The opioid painkillers not only are easily abused, but they often prompt users to try heroin, which is far cheaper.

According to a 2013 report by the Trust for America's Health, 6.1 million Americans abuse or misuse prescription drugs. Overdose deaths involving prescription painkillers have quadrupled since 1999, and now outnumber those from heroin and cocaine combined.

Zohydro is the first single-ingredient, long-acting product containing the semi-synthetic opioid hydrocodone. Until Zohydro, which is just reaching the market now, all the other painkillers on the market containing hydrocodone were combined with the anti-inflammatory analgesic acetaminophen. The use of acetaminophen, which is not addictive, allows patients to take less potent opioids which are both addictive and can cause nausea, constipation and dangerously shallow breathing. Acetaminophen is a common ingredient in over-the-counter painkillers, such as Tylenol and Excedrin, as well as opioid medications like Percocet and Vicodin.

The problem is that in high dosages, acetaminophen is highly toxic to the liver and can cause irreparable, even fatal damage to the organ. One University of Pennsylvania study found that half of the deaths caused by acetaminophen overdose were unintentional. That explains why the FDA last year began limiting the amount of acetaminophen in painkilling medications to 325 milligrams. But even that amount may be too much for those with compromised livers. Until now, many of them were forced to either do without hydrocodone painkillers, risk further damage to their livers, or take other opioids that do not contain acetaminophen.

That is why Zohydro represents a welcome advance to many. "It does have an advantage for some people in that it delivers hydrocodone without the risk of acetaminophen," said Lynn Webster, immediate past president of the American Academy of Pain Medication.

Potent—And Easily Abused

But it is the potency potential for illegal users that has opponents so worried and angry at the FDA, not only for its approval of the drug but also its failure to require the manufacturer, Zogenix, to develop a version that is more difficult to abuse. Critics have seized on the fact that the FDA's own advisory committee voted 11-2 against approving the drug. An FDA spokesperson, Sandy Walsh, said the agency often takes the counsel of its advisory committees, but not always.

Walsh acknowledged the potential for Zohydro's misuse. But she argued that revised labeling—including a boxed warning about the serious risks of addiction, abuse, and misuse—along with other safeguards would "support its safe and appropriate use."

Unlike some other extended release opioids already on the market, Zohydro doesn't yet come in an abuse deterrent form, which would cut its potency when crushed for the purpose of smoking, snorting or injecting.

Zohydro pills can come in dosages as high as 50 milligrams, which isn't unusual for a drug released over 12 hours. But when crushed by illicit users, the entire 50 milligrams can be delivered at once.

Zogenix argues that on a per milligram basis, Zohydro is no more potent than Vicodin and equally as potent as oxycodone. It also points out that when used appropriately, Zohydro is released into the body over 12 hours rather than two or three hours as is the case with quick-release medications.

The company also says it is developing an abuse deterrent version of Zohydro. In the meantime, it said it has implemented other safeguards, such as compensating sales representatives for educating doctors, pharmacists and patients on the risks and benefits of extended-release opioids. The company also says it is giving patients free locking pill bottle caps and discounted safe-storage units.

Other Painkillers in Pipeline

Vermont's Shumlin was the first to slap restrictions on the use of Zohydro in his state. Earlier this month, he issued an emergency rule that, in addition to other measures, requires prescribers to ascertain that other pain medications have proven ineffective before prescribing Zohydro to a patient. Patients also are required to be observed and monitored for abuse potential by way of the state's prescription monitoring program. Such programs are designed to detect abusers who may be going to multiple prescribers to get painkillers.

"I didn't want to make the same mistake here that we made with OxyContin in the '90s," said Harry Chen, commissioner of the Vermont Department of Health. "The reality is that it was given out like candy."

Chen does not believe the state's authority to regulate doctors and pharmacies gives it the ability to place restrictions on Zohydro. So far, however, no one has filed a legal challenge.

Chen said Vermont and Massachusetts conferred about what to do about Zohydro, but Vermont decided not to issue a ban, fearing that it would not stand up in court, which proved to be the case in Massachusetts.

Zogenix, not the FDA, asked Zobel for an injunction to overturn the Massachusetts ban. The company also objects to the restrictions Patrick placed on Zohydro last week in Massachusetts, which appear to resemble Vermont's. The company said it is being unfairly targeted.

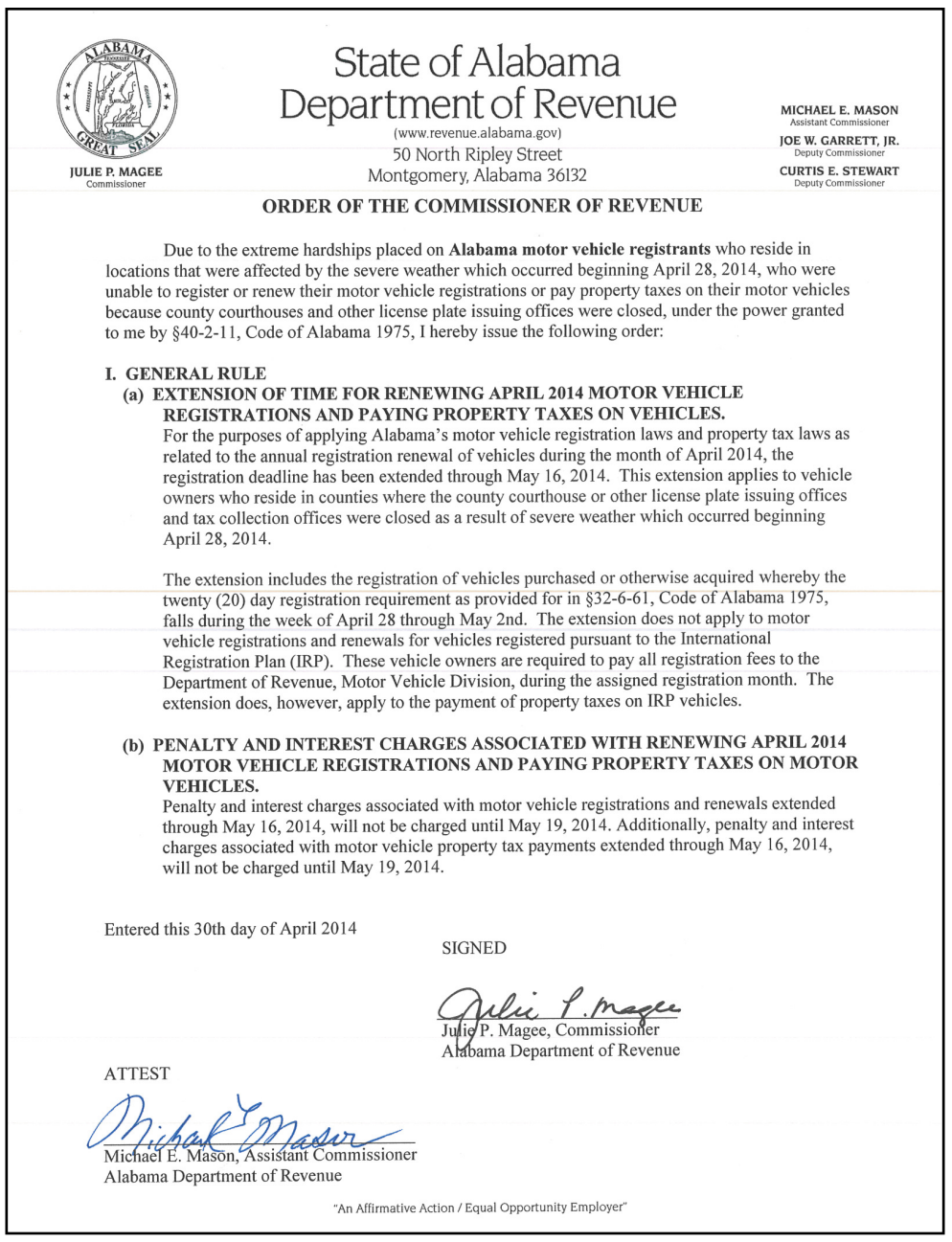
Sherry Green, chief operating officer of The National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws, agreed with Zogenix that taking action against selective prescription drugs is the wrong approach.

"When we focus almost solely on an individual drug we tend not to put as much attention on the underlying problem which is the abuse and addiction. Obstructing illicit routes to one medication only creates pathways to another one," Green said.

The issue isn't likely to fade away: The FDA is now considering approval of a combination of oxycodone and morphine called Moxduo, which frightens anti-addiction advocates as much as Zohydro. As with Zohydro, an FDA advisory committee has recommended against approval.

"What crossed my mind is whether the FDA will again disregard its advisory board," said Vermont's Chen. "I hope not."

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



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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

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Cullman blasts their way into the state baseball championship series

By: Josh McBrayer
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CULLMAN - The Cullman Bearcats are no strangers to winning, posting 40+ wins this season and running through the 5A baseball playoffs near unopposed and Saturday was no exception. After having games postponed Friday due to weather and start times pushed back Saturday, the Bearcats were finally able to hit the field and they did so in a big way.

Ethan Simmons toed the rubber in game one for Briarwood and he was greeted with back to back blasts off the bats of Christian Martinez and Lance Cleveland, putting the Lions in a 2-0 hole before they could blink. Cullman added four more runs in the top of the fourth, capped by a three run blast from Freshman Owen Lovell. Martinez, Cleveland and Lovell combined to go 5 for 10 with five RBI.

Jesse Scott cruised through the early innings before giving his first run in the bottom of the third. Scott finished with five strong innings of work, striking out seven Lions.

Briarwood would get some offensive production late, as well as taking advantage of some Cullman miscues, to scratch across two runs in each of the fifth and sixth innings but it was not enough as the Bearcats took game one by a final score of 7-5.

In stark contrast to the competitive first game, the second game left no doubt in anyone's mind who should take on top ranked Spanish Fort for the 5A state baseball title.

As he has been throughout the playoffs, Auston Neal was brilliant on the bump. He threw six scoreless innings, giving up just two hits and a single walk while fanning nine baffled Lions.

Rewarding Neal for his gem of a game was, you guessed it, Martinez and Lovell. Martinez plated two with the stick while Lovell drove one home but the biggest blow may have come off the bat of Neal in the fourth when he chased home three teammates with a bases clearing double. The Bearcats added a single run in the bottom of the sixth to force the invocation of the 10 run rule and secure their spot in the championship game.

Cullman will face the #1 ranked Spanish Fort Toros Friday at 4pm at the aptly named Patterson Field in Montgomery.

When asked about how his team would prepare for the showdown with Spanish Fort and a state title on the line, Patterson had this to say, "You try to cover what the other team does well. But you really just have to prepare for what your team does well. Making sure that you are solid in your game."

CullmanSense wishes the best of luck to the Cullman Bearcats as they attempt to bring home yet another 5A State baseball title to the hallowed halls of Cullman High School.

Area teams make run at AHSAA Softball Tournament

By: Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

Four area teams took to the diamond this weekend with the quest of getting into the elite eight of the Alabama High School Athletic Association softball tournament.

The regionals were held during the weekend with Cullman and Holly Pond taking part in the North Regional in Huntsville while Cold Springs and Good Hope were battling opponents in their respective class in the North Central Regional in Tuscaloosa.

At the Kiwanis Sportsplex, Cullman went out in two hard fought games in Class 5A. The Lady Bearcats fell to Scottsboro in the first round 9-8 then suffered a 6-5 loss in 9 innings to Etowah to finish the season at 26-16.

Cullman got behind Scottsboro 8-0 after 5 innings then made a sensational comeback to tie the game, having to deal with a rain delay Friday morning in the Rocket City. They tied the score at 8-8 in the top of the seventh before the Lady Wildcats punched in the winning run in the bottom of the inning.

In their next game with Etowah, Stephanie Barlow's Lady Bearcats were ahead going into the seventh when the Blue Devils got the tieing run in and sent the game into extra innings even at 5-5.

It went two extra frames with Etowah coming out on top thanks to a walk off home run in the last of the ninth.

Cullman loses only one starter, senior third baseman Hayden Short. The Lady Bearcats will be a very mature team next season, led by the talent of Claire Jenkins, Hannah Morton, Elle Dixon, Oliva Schwaiger, Tiffany Schwaiger, Kaitlyn Brannon, Taiya Ponder and McKensie Burks.

In the 3A region, Holly Pond started out with a 1-0 win in nine innings against Westminster then was sent to the loser's bracket with a 3-1 defeat to Mars Hill Bible.

The champions from Area 14 bounced back by shutting out Colbert County 1-0 before the season ended in Huntsville by a 3-0 loss to West Morgan. Coach Steve Miller's squad concludes the year at 29-13 and were ranked No. 7 in the final 3A rankings.

Montana Holcombe concluded a great career in a Bronco uniform and will now look ahead to playing for one of the top teams in the Gulf South Conference, the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Good Hope, a very different ball club this season without the likes of Cara Goodwin, Darcie Wilson, Kayla Tillman and others, hit stride right at the end of the season to finish second in 3A, Area 11 behind Danville and get to the North Central Regional at Sokol Park in Tuscaloosa.

But the Lady Raiders were roughed up by Gordo in the first game 13-2 and fell in the elimination bracket to Northside by a score of 19-2.

Also down in T-town was Cold Springs. The Lady Eagles playing in the 2A regional, defeated Vincent in the first game 7-3 and went on to claim a 5-0 win against Pleasant Valley.

Then came the Lady Eagles' rival from Area 9, Lamar County. The Lady Bulldogs once again prevailed over Patrick West's squad with a 3-2 decision, sending them into the loser's bracket. Needing a win against Hale County to punch a berth to the state tournament, the Lady Eagles fell short by a 2-1 margin. They complete the season at 17-11.

The runners-up from the recent Cullman County Tournament, Cold Springs will lose senior pitcher Rilee White who will take her skills to Wallace State Community College. They also say goodbye to Haley Freeman who recently received a scholarship during the Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame banquet.

EES Archery team travels to Kentucky

By: Josh McBrayer
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CULLMAN - This past weekend was huge for sports in the Cullman City School system. Not only did the Cullman Bearcat baseball team move to within one series win of claiming another 5A state baseball title, but some of the best young archers in the country took aim at a National title as the East Elementary Archery team traveled to Kentucky to compete on a national stage.

"We have a very consistent, hardworking team," EES archery coach Brant Whitlock said of his squad. "They're dedicated to becoming the best individual archers possible as well as determined to have a very successful year as a team. They're so proud to be on the team not only to compete in archery but to be able to represent East Elementary. That's one thing that is so special about our school, the kids love saying that they're part of an EES team!" The East Elementary archery team is full of great archers from top to bottom and each team member brings something to the table and contributes in their own, unique way.

"We're so competitive across the board that at any one tournament we could have a different top scorer," said Whitlock. "Our team scores have gotten better each tournament this year, including Nationals. A few of the archers who've been consistently at the top of our team include: Jed Wilson, Alex Shephard, Ashlen Heatherly, Carly Starnes, Luke Troutman, Samantha Johnson, Jackson Miner, and Conner Laney."

The team has performed well all year. They earned their way to Nationals by winning a handful of tournament throughout the season, including the inaugural Cullman County Tournament and the Cullman City Parks and Recreation Department's Pre-Season Tournament. The East Elementary team then went on to place second in regionals and eighth in state to earn their spot in Kentucky.

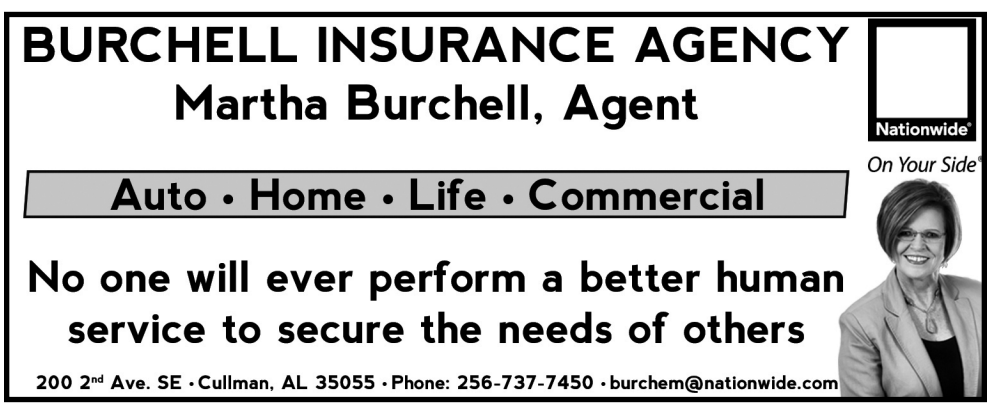
When asked about how his team performs so well each and every tournament, coach Whitlock had this to say; "Dedication to Archery. I know that's a simple answer but with the way the sport and academic world works today, often times archery takes a back seat. Our students made archery a priority and just as important as some of the main stream sports, as well as academic teams. One big reason for our success was the dedication by assistant coach Beth Binkowski or "Ms.B" as she is known at East. She practiced the students during weekdays after school while I was tied up with 9th grade basketball or middle school soccer. Our success was due in large part to her time spent with our kids. Parental support was also a key factor in making it to Nationals. Allowing their children the time after school to practice as well as the constant support given to us as coaches plays a huge role in success."

In closing, Whitlock shared his feelings on his team's season and expectations looking forward to next year.

"I feel that our team did very well overall. Our goal was to return to State like we did last year. We reached our goal and created East Elementary tradition along the way. We finished 106th in the national (traditional shoot) & 37th in the nation in the 3-D shoot. I would say we exceeded expectations, set a standard for next year, and started a tradition at EES that we'll strive to uphold year to year."

As coach Whitlock eluded to, sometimes sports outside the "big three" of baseball, football and basketball, get overshadowed. But, through hard work, dedication and a will to win, the archers at East Elementary are bringing archery to the forefront of sports in Cullman.





LOCAL HISTORY

Civil War Letters from James Daniel "Dan" Brock to His Beloved Wife Fannie

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

LETTER ONE

The following is the first in a series of letters written by James Daniel Brock to his wife Francis "Fannie" Rebecca (Hogan) Brock while he was away fighting in the Civil War. The letters begin May 7, 1862 and end May 25, 1864 as he was killed in the Battle of Cold Harbor near Richmond, Virginia.

The letters are scattered over a two-year period. During this time, the couple was forced to suffer many heartaches and trials – alone. For example, Dan and Fannie suffered the death of their daughter, one-year-old Mary. Dan's father also passed away while he was away at war.

The letters are more than just correspondence. In them, Dan encourages Fannie as she is left to run the farm and raise their seven children completely on her own.

Over and over, he tells her to ensure the kids go to school and learn all they can possibly learn. Education was a must and good manners were expected.

Clearly, Dan is terribly concerned with the state of their crops. He is forever instructing Fannie about hiring help and taking care of the animals. The older children were put to work at an extremely young age in order to keep things going.

Yes, Dan was under extreme conditions with his unit, but Fannie was under massive amounts of stress and pressure to keep their young family alive, fed and clothed.

Dan was killed On June 2, 1864 when he was struck in the head, just above his left ear, by a mini-ball during the Battle of Cold Harbor. He died shortly after he was hit.

Fannie was left to care for their children alone. She was pregnant with their eighth child when she heard the news of her husband's death.

Two months later, she gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Daniel Richmond Brock.

The following is the first in a lengthy list of letters, mainly from Dan to Fannie. They are my third great grandparents. Welcome to my family. Enjoy the rich history.

Admire Dan and all the brave men that fought for our country over the years. But please don't forget Fannie and all the other heroic women who kept things going in the men's absence during times of war.

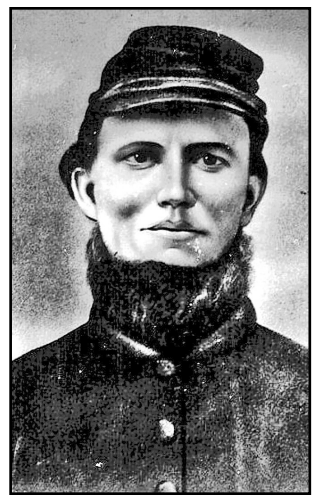
Augusta, Ga.
Camp Jackson, May the 7.1862

Dear wife,
In answer to your letter I can say that I am well at present and was glad to hear that you and children are well and getting along so well. You wanted to know what I have to eat, I have flower, rice, sugar, sometimes meal. Water is tolerable, only I can say to you that the spoilt and the conductor busted the hinges and broke the lock last the clothes all came to safe to hand. Major Capes says that (if) we that have wheat to cut we may come home to cut it. I expect to come if I can get off. I talked to (the) lieutenant and he says he thinks that there will be a chance.

I heard that Sally Humphries is very sick. I would like to hear how she is a getting. I want you to write as soon as you get this. I hant got anything more worthy of writing to you so I will come to a close

J. D. Brock
to Francis R. Brock

I am better satisfied than I expected to be. If I had no family I would be better satisfied here than anywhere else.



CONTRIBUTED

» James Daniel Brock



CONTRIBUTED

» Fanny Hogan Brock

Mirroring History: Wallace State Community College

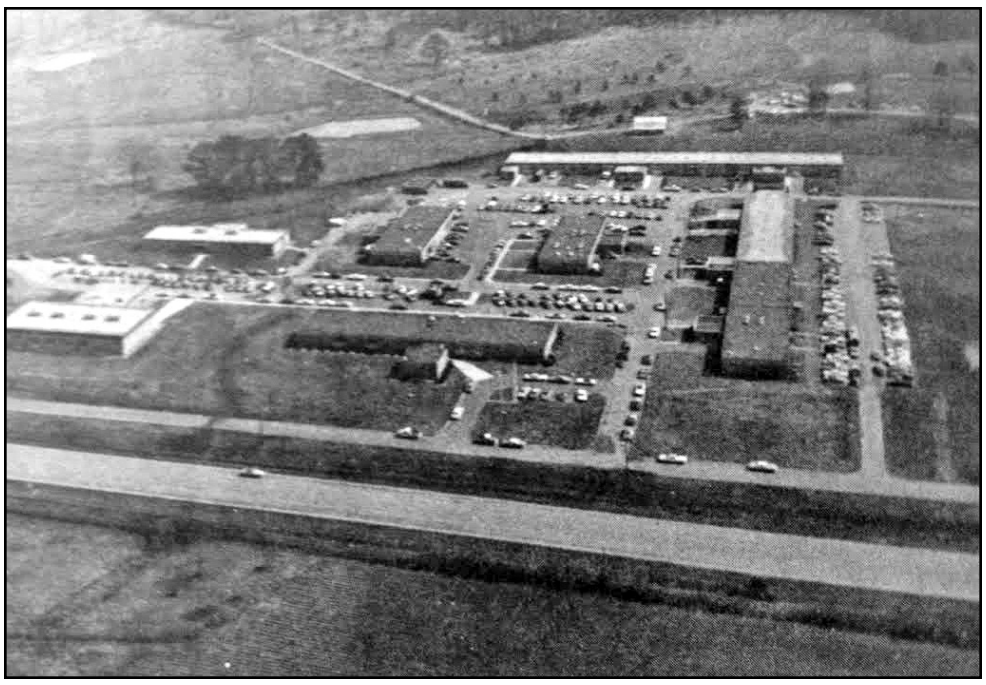
By: Jessica Norrell
jessica@cullmansense.com

Wallace State College was established in 1947 by the Alabama Regional Trade School Act and was originally called George C. Wallace State Technical Trade School.

In 1969, the technical school and junior college were combined to form Alabama's first comprehensive community college and also became accredited to award associate degrees and certificates as George C. Wallace State Community College.

The college has vastly expanded since then with the addition of several new buildings and degrees offered, with the latest installment to the campus being the new School of Nursing and Center for Science.

Past



JAMES C. BAILEY

» Established in 1947, WSCC was originally called George C. Wallace State Technical Trade School.

Present



WSCC

»The Wallace State campus continues to grow as expansions happen regularly.

"Your Agents. Your Neighbors. Your Friends."
KNIGHT-FREE INSURANCE
256.734.4060



Auto-Owners Insurance
Auto-Owners Insurance
Life Home Car Business

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

Disney (from Front)

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE - Hanceville High School Band recently returned from a trip to Orlando, FL where they performed for crowds of people at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom. Forty-five band students, along with a host of parents and chaperones, loaded two charter busses Wednesday night on April 30 and anxiously took off to the Sunshine State.

After an entire night on the road, the group arrived at Disney's Hollywood Studios just as the gates opened Thursday morning. They spent the entire day having the time of their lives.

After a good night's rest, the band woke up early and dressed in their beautiful purple and gold uniforms.

With their instruments in tow, the group headed for Disney's Magic Kingdom where they marched like pros down Main Street USA.

For most of the group, the trip was a once in a lifetime chance to visit Disney World, but for the kids in the band, it was a dream come true.

"Playing at Disney is a big deal," said Bryan Kreps, Hanceville's band director. "A lengthy process must be completed in order to be chosen to play. Not only is there an actual application that has to be filled out, but pictures and video are also sent to Disney for consideration."

Once the band got word that they had been chosen by Disney to play, they got down to business and worked to raise enough money to fund the trip.

They participated in several different fundraisers, which proved to be quite helpful in obtaining the required amount of money needed.

They raffled off tickets for an 8x5 foot utility trailer, which was given away during the last home football game. Homecoming supper tickets were also sold in order to raise money for the trip. Cheesecakes and bed linens were sold, as well as Visa gift card giveaways.

The annual Mud Creek Marching Festival held at Hanceville High School also helped in funding the trip.

The band proudly paraded throughout the Magic Kingdom and impressed the crowds of people who stood along the way, clapping and cheering the kids on as they went.

Once the show was over, and the band members were free to enjoy the park, a heavy rain fell and continued to fall the rest of the day and night.

Thankfully the rain didn't fall on Hanceville's parade, and the kids didn't seem to mind much. As a matter of fact, the rain fell all the next day while the band enjoyed Disney's Animal Kingdom and Epcot Center.

True to their amazing character, the kids from Hanceville never complained about the weather and made the best of the situation.

The tired group of musicians returned to Hanceville that Sunday evening after a long bus drive home.

Wilted and worn, the kids slowly dragged themselves and their luggage out to the parking lot of the school to find their rides home.

Topped with stuffed Mickey and Minnie Mouse dolls and a vast array of other colorful souvenirs, the kids were happy to be home.

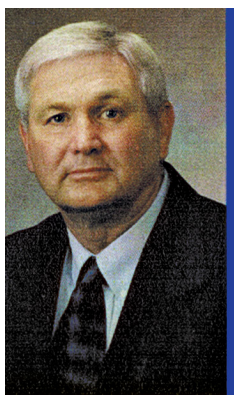
The only drawback to their exciting trip was the fact that they had to be up bright and early for school the next morning.

All in all, everyone had a great time and represented the city of Hanceville remarkably. Go Bulldogs!



CONTRIBUTED

» Once chosen to play at Disney World, the Hanceville band hosted several events to fund their journey to Orlando.



Elect
DARRELL
HICKS
ASSOCIATE
COMMISSIONER
Place 1
Pd. Pol. Adv. By Darrell Hicks, 3853 Co. Rd. 781, Cullman, AL 35055

MATT
GENTRY



Elect MATT
GENTRY
SHERIFF

AS YOUR SHERIFF, I will make it a priority to address several areas of concern that face our county today.

I will set a new standard in Cullman County in drug enforcement by using my extensive training, experience, and relationships with other agencies.

I will require increased accountability for registered sex offenders, maintaining vigilant monthly checks. Sex Offenders will no longer be allowed to operate on an honor system.

I will make the office of the Sheriff more responsive to the needs of the victims of crime by establishing a Victim Service Unit to assist in keeping victims informed about their cases and how to navigate the complex legal system.

I will maintain an open door policy creating an open line of communication that will allow the citizens to voice their needs and concerns.

GENTRYFORSHERIFF.COM



ELECT
COREY
HARBISON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 12

"I believe the main issue I want to hit on is corruption. Rep. Mac Buttram has taken a lot of money from Alabama 2014. This is a PAC funded by huge corporations, big money, and pharmaceutical companies. In recent months there have been two house members arrested on felony charges pertaining to government corruption and these same pharmaceutical groups.

It's hard to clean up the corruption when you are linked to their money. I will never support a tax increase. I will actually read the bills and understand them before casting my vote. I support the Second Amendment as it is written."

JUNE 3, 2014

Vote for a True
Conservative Republican

PAID FOR BY COREY HARBISON FOR HOUSE, 381 NORTH MONTHCREST, CULLMAN, AL 35057

I will work and vote for the people of District 12, not big money or Montgomery insiders. Please feel free to call me and discuss any issues.
My number is 256-338-2605.

Advocate (from Front)

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - School can be a challenging place for students and parents alike. Making sure that your child is doing well socially and academically is a top priority, as is making sure that your child has every tool to do so. This is especially essential for children with special needs. Sometimes in an effort to ensure the best for the child, miscommunication and misinformation can lead to tension between parents and educators.

This is the very situation that James Gallini wants to help reduce and mitigate. James is a special education lawyer. He started this practice when his daughter, who is now 10, was diagnosed with classic autism. In fact, her case was the first he won and he hasn't lost a case since. However, he and his partner, Gina Lowe, do not see themselves as adversaries but advocates for students and for schools. "Gina and I do not view ourselves in an adversarial role," he said. "We see ourselves more as solution oriented people."

Over the years, James and Gina have helped to bridge the gap between school systems and parents. According to Mr. Gallini, the culprit of the gap is often simple miscommunication. "What I end up finding out is that knowledge is power," Gallini said. "So many of these problems that we have with our school systems is communication or miscommunication."

He went on to discuss how the school system and the relationship with that system are drastically different when you have a child with a disability.

"The thing you have to understand is that you're under a different situation," he said. "You have a child with a disability now, you've been handed 50 percent of their education. You have a responsibility to educate yourself on this process because I am telling you that the state does not spend enough money on training, and that is why we have so many complaints in this state."

All too often, there is just not enough money from the state trickling down to the schools to accurately and efficiently help the teachers and administrators get the training they need. This presents a problem for everyone involved. When teachers do not receive the training and resources available to them, and parents as well, to be well versed in the laws and regulations of special education and IEPs (individualized education program), then more problems will continue to arise.

"I have a lot of well meaning administrators and staff members that make mistakes. This is not an easy area of law; there are a lot of grey areas."

The main point that Mr. Gallini wanted to reiterate was that while the school is boss over their side of the table, you as a parent and advocate are also a CEO of your child's education.

"When you go into an IEP meeting, you are having a conference. You're having a discussion over a common product, your child, and you come to an agreement on that."

The most important part of the hour and a half lecture to the group was not one of hostility, it was the opposite. The point that Mr. Gallini was making is that communication and education are both key ingredients to a successful and prosperous relationship with the school system for special needs parents.

These kids, whether they be three years of age or 18, need every resource and every ounce of support they can get. Educators want that as much as parents do; if everyone on both sides of the aisle can come together and build or rebuild trust, then the sky is the limit for the amount of help that these kids can receive.

For more information on Cullman's Autism Networking Group, please call Rhonda Davis at 256-962-2208, or if you would like to talk to James Gallini about his efforts, you can reach him at 256-970-6090.

Activities (from Front)

fellow FUNZONE goers.

The track is a great activity for kids ages 7 and up, and there is also a separate track for 4-6 year olds or they can ride along with a parent on the 500 track. Miniature golf is also a lot of fun and offers a great course to play on, complete with sand traps, water hazards and other obstacles. Ticket packages are available for purchase at FUNZONE, which is located behind Heritage Park at 1635 Main Ave. SW in Cullman.

Another great family outing place is Steele Orchard, a family owned business that offers a gift shop, bakery and, of course, it boasts a delicious variety of apple, peach and plum trees. It is a fun learning experience for kids to see where their fruit comes from. Steele Orchard offers tours that kids and adults alike can enjoy. Minimum group size is 15 and welcomes schools, youth, sports, churches or any groups to participate.

The tour includes the story of Johnny Appleseed, The Bee Station to discuss pollination (don't worry... no live bees!), The Grading Station to talk about apple picking and how they are washed and graded, and The Nutrition Station to learn fun facts and taste apple varieties. Every child receives a goodie bag with apples, dried apples, a coupon good for a return visit and a few other surprises. Other activities include an apple face painting, an apple seed planting to take home, a cup of cider, candied apples and apple picking. A schedule for fruits in season or hours of operation schedule can be found at steelorchard.com. Steele Orchard is located at 1695 Co. Rd. 1141 in Cullman.

Another great option is Hurricane Creek Park this spring and summer as a fun destination here in Cullman. It boasts beautiful hiking trails and a picnic area and even offers climbing lessons for ages 6 and up that you can call ahead and reserve. Hurricane Creek Park is fun if you're looking for a little adventure with the kids at an affordable price. Of course, Heritage Park offers a playground, soccer fields, disc golf and other amenities at no cost for kids and parents to enjoy. Sportsman Lake is another free destination that offers a large playground, wildflower trail and a few other facilities.

There are a variety of activities that can offer fun for the whole family right here in Cullman. Of course, if you are ready for a road trip, some of these options are along the drive as well. No matter what, get outside and soak up the sun with the little ones.

RE-ELECT

Mike

RAINEY

SHERIFF

Cullman County



- Courageous commitment to protect the people
- Fulfilling campaign promises
- Family values

"My brother Sheriff Mike Rainey was honored as a rising star by the Alabama Republican Party, which singled him out as one of the best sheriffs in the state. I am proud of my brother, and we ask for your prayers and vote on June 3rd."

Dellie Wood

Paid for by Mike Rainey For Sheriff 816 County Rod. 1711 Holly Pond AL 35083

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.

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!

Inaugural Nicholas Fillinger 5K Memorial Run
Cullman First Baptist Church Chapel Choir is hosting the Inaugural Nicholas Fillinger 5K Memorial Run starting at 8 a.m. on the trails at St. Bernard Monastery/Prep School. Monies raised will go to support the Chapel Choir Consumed 2014 Mystery Tour, an event in which Fillinger took two weeks each summer to partake in with others. For additional information please contact ejnfillinger@yahoo.com.

Next Monday

Cullman Kiwanis Club
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This Week in Local Entertainment

Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

Monday, May 12th
- CRMC Farm Fresh Produce Sale at CRMC at 3 p.m.
- 79 cent wings at Rodney G's Hickory Grill from 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13th
- Hooked on Hummingbirds Program at the North Alabama Agriplex at 6 p.m.
- Square Dancing Lessons at East Point Community Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Grumpy's Italian Grill from 7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14th
- 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 15th
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Karaoke night at Cadillac Ron's
- Bike Night at Grumpy's Italian Grill

Friday, May 16th
- Ladies' Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m.: Half off drinks for ladies

Saturday, May 17th
- Annual Pontiac/GMC Car Show at Sportsman Lake at 9 a.m.
- Ladies' Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m.: Half off drinks for ladies

Sunday, May 18th
- Happy Sunday!

Busy Bee Café
Try our German Food!

THE OLD COOK STOVE: Home-cooked Meals That Will Make Your Mouth Water are Just a Short Drive Away

By: Jessica Norrell
jessica@cullmansense.com

DANVILLE - The Old Cook Stove is a restaurant just outside of Cullman but is worth the drive. The Mennonite owned restaurant, located in the heart of Mennonite country, is known for the homemade, home-cooked buffet items they offer.

A different selection is always available and there is something to satisfy any palate.

The restaurant has gained popularity by word of mouth and is always busy, so don't be surprised if a little wait time is required; however, the large wrap around porch complete with rocking chairs and a bench swing offers a relaxing environment to sit and talk with friends or family while you wait.

Fried chicken, meat loaf, fried fish, smoked ham, fresh vegetables, home-baked breads and their own jarred jellies and jams are a few favorites offered.

They also offer country fried steak, BBQ, baked chicken, squash casserole, stewed tomatoes, cheesy potatoes, popcorn shrimp, baked fish, and hush puppies.

Seafood is available on Friday nights from 4-7 p.m. and all in a Christian environment. The desserts are sure to impress as well.

Coconut or German chocolate cake, topped with housemade churned vanilla ice cream, strawberry shortcake, brownies and pecan pie are just a few of the mouth watering dessert selections.

The Old Cook Stove Restaurant is located in Danville, AL at 89 Reeder Rd. and is only open Thursday from 4-7 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

For more information, give them a call at 256-476-3320 or visit them online at: http://www.oldcookstove.com/index.html

The atmosphere is reminiscent of a family get together. Families eat beside other families at the long tables yet offers a comfortable, fun dining experience.

The Old Cook Stove restaurant is truly one-of-a-kind and offers a wide selection of delicious, home-cooked items and is simply a must try.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Michael's Flowers and Design Takes the Extra Step

» A great experience is in the details

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - If the people of Cullman want a great florist that is sure to deliver, they should think of Michael's Flowers and Design. There is something undeniably classic and elegant about a beautiful bouquet of flowers. They can say so many things, like 'Congratulations', 'I Love You', 'Get Well Soon', or 'I'm Sorry for Your Loss'. These are the moments that Michael Richards wants to make the most memorable or heartfelt for you and your loved ones.

The elegant shop on 1st Ave SE is located in a building with lots of history and character just like our artist and his business. Michael can date back his years of experience all the way to the 1960s when his family opened a small flower shop in Cullman.

From those beginnings came a long and hugely successful career. Michael's business has been at its new location on 1st Ave for one year in June.

"We opened up here in the middle of June last year," he said. "So this is our first Mother's Day here and it's been good. I've been really pleased with it."

With all the likes on their business Facebook page and tons of rave review comments filling the screen, it is easy to see why business is booming. The secret seems to be no secret at all, simply great customer service coupled with originality and quality products are what makes this particular small business a big success.

Michael's Flowers and Design is so much more than just your typical floral shop. They carry a wide array of items from gourmet cookies and chocolates to furniture and décor, and now they are offering a wonderful selection of wines. This shop carries an assortment of styles and flavors that will satisfy all palates.

"We have a great selection of wine," Richards said. "We have our French, Italian, domestic and international sections. We get our selection from three different buyers in Alabama, and then we try to have things that no one else has from upper end to lower end. We can also get whatever clients want if we don't stock it."

A new selection of wine gift baskets and gourmet gift baskets have been big sellers this year for Mother's Day. Many cut flowers have been purchased for moms across the county keeping Michael and his team busy. In addition to their general orders, they also delivered flowers to Sacred Heart for those children to give to their moms.

If wine is not your thing and flowers just seem too old fashioned for a gift, then you may still find the answer at Michael's.

He has a wonderful selection of home décor, including some unique bottle chandeliers where he upcycled items to create a beautiful and engaging piece to display in your home.

The creativity required to create all of these artistic arrangements and pieces is what seems to drive Michael and his team.

"The best thing about doing this is never having to duplicate and continuing to be creative and then they're surprised that you didn't do it like something else you had already done," Michael said. "Every time is something different."

Michael went on to talk about the emotional satisfaction that comes with the job.

"It's always nice to see the smile on their faces and read Facebook comments," he said.

"But the best feeling is when you satisfy a family that is going through sorrow. When they come back or they come in and say, 'I know you'll do it right, you always have'. I'm just glad to be a part of all of those moments in their lives from weddings, graduations, new babies or the passing of a loved one."

Michael's Flowers and Design is a beautiful store with a wonderfully kind and caring owner who only wants to bring beautiful flowers and gifts to people's lives. The main goal is to commemorate every phase of life in a unique and elegant way. So for the next big event in your life, give Michael a call and see what he can do for you. They will be having a special for the next year, starting in June, for all clients who book their events with the store in advance. Freebies and discounts will be included.

For more information visit their Facebook page or website at michaelsflowersanddesign.com.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



facebook.com/CullmanSense

RESIDENTIAL RECIPES

Chinese Take Out Sesame Chicken

By: Allison Robertson • Recipe Contributor

I have been craving Chinese food for months. Sadly, my husband hates getting Chinese so I am stuck with an unsatisfied tummy.

So when my mother-in-law got me a wok for Valentine's Day, I decided to be brave and make some of my favorites right at home.

Ingredients:

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts cut into 1-inch pieces
- 4 tablespoons - soy sauce, divided
- 3 tablespoons - sesame oil, divided
- 1/4 cup - flour
- 1/4 teaspoon - baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon - salt
- 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons – water, divided
- 1 teaspoon - canola oil (plus 1 1/2 cup for frying)
- 1 cup - chicken broth
- 1/2 cup - white sugar
- 2 teaspoons - chili powder
- 1 clove - garlic, minced

Instructions:

- Combine 2 tablespoons of soy sauce, 1 tablespoon of sesame oil, flour, 2 tablespoons of water and 1 teaspoons of canola oil in a large bowl with the chicken. Coat it evenly and set aside.
- In a medium saucepan, combine the rest of the water, soy sauce, sesame oil, chicken broth, sugar, chili powder and garlic. Bring to a boil. Once it boils, turn the heat down and stir occasionally.
- In a wok or large skillet, heat oil and fry chicken until they are golden brown. You can do this in batches, transferring the cooked chicken onto a plate or dish lined with paper towels.
- When finished, plate the chicken on a serving platter and drizzle sauce over top. Serve remaining sauce on the side. I served mine with noodles but you can also serve with rice. Now you can have Chinese take out whenever you please!

Strawberry Punch Bowl Cake

By: Phillip Pryor • Recipe Contributor

This cake is super simple and fun to make. It's a light, refreshing treat to eat on hot summer days.

Ingredients:

- 1 box - yellow cake mix
- 2 - eggs
- 1/4 cup - cooking oil
- 1 container - fresh strawberries
- 1 jar - strawberry pie filling
- 1 container - Cool Whip

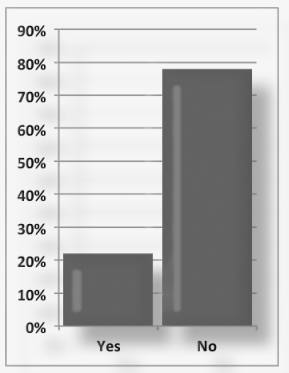
Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Coat cake pan with light nonstick spray.
- Combine cake mix with eggs and oil.
- Bake in oven 20 to 25 minutes.
- Let stand and completely cool.
- Slice strawberries.
- When cake is cool, layer a trifle pan with Cool Whip, strawberry filling, and strawberries. Continue to layer until pan is full.
- Chill and serve.

Makes 12 to 16 servings

Poll

Have you ever lied on a résumé?



This Week's Poll

Do you plan on running in a 5K this spring?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

cp&r cullman city parks & recreation

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

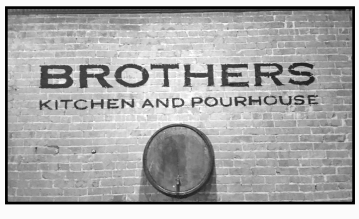
www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Heritage Park 20 Year Celebration:** May 31 at Heritage Park, the event will feature a craft show, kid's zone, food vendors, athletic demonstrations, 3-on-3 basketball, Yappie Hour at the Dog Park, music, and more. Fireworks will complete the day at dark; $5 admission, gates open at 10am. Visit us online to get involved or for more information!
- **Eat on the Street:** Food trucks will be on site at the Festhalle Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am-1pm. Come eat, shop, and relax with us this week with Earth & Stone Pizza Tues. & Cantina on Wheels Thurs. See our full lineup online.
- **USATF Summer Track & Field:** Mandatory meeting for interested participants will be held Tues, May 20 @ the Wellness & Aquatic Center. Ages 6-18 can compete, great for track and field athletes to continue summer training or younger athletes to learn the sport. 734-9157 for more info.
- **Swim Lessons:** Summer swim lessons will be held in two week sessions this summer with the first session beginning June 2. Lessons are held at the Wellness & Aquatic Center at 7am, 8am, or 9am each day. Register now at the center, 775-SWIM.
- **Archery Camps:** Summer Archery Camp will be held June 11-13 at the Cullman Archery Park. Beginners and advanced archers alike will be able to develop their skill and shoot a better round. Sign up is now open at the Civic Center. 734-9157
- **Speed & Agility Camp:** Will be hosted by ASPT and work on speed, agility, & weight training. Cost is $135 for 6 weeks; ages 7-11 will be Tuesdays and Thursdays 11am-12:25pm and 12 & up will be Mondays from 7am-8:30am beginning the week of June 9. Reg. now at the Civic Center.
- **Tennis Lessons:** CP&R will hold tennis lessons for beginners, intermediate, and advanced players in 2 week sessions with Session I beginning June 2. Ryan Hunt will serve as the instructor; register now at the Civic Center or call 734-9157.
- **Junior Golf Clinics:** Includes PGA instruction, clinics held June 3-July 10 on Tuesdays at the Cullman Golf Course. Ages 6-18 $60 for 5 sessions or $15 per session, call 739-2386.
- **Pickin under the Pavilion:** Summer concert series held at the Donald E. Green Sr. Center, Tuesdays starting June 3 at 6:30pm. Music will include bluegrass, country, oldies & more, call 734-4803.

What's Online

Rustic Restaurant Brings in the Company with New Opening

Your new weekend hangout is finally open! Located in the heart of beautiful downtown Cullman, Brothers Kitchen and Pourhouse is the cool new place to meet up with your friends.



qrne.ws/198

Cullman County Strawberries – A Reason to Celebrate

Some of my fondest memories of my childhood was going to the garden with my grandmother and picking a basket full of bright red strawberries. Ripe and juicy, they stained my clothes and made my fingers nice and sticky but I didn't mind. The berries were wonderful!

qrne.ws/199

Team Crew Charity Day

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.

qrne.ws/200

Southern Comedy Routine Captivates Audience with Hilarity and Pride

» So Southern – The Seven Keys to Cullman

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - As part of this year's annual Strawberry Festival, a one-person comedy act was held in the Train Depot. Admission was free and the Depot was packed with a laughing audience.

The show was a spunky comedy routine about being from the south and loving it. It was called "So Southern". Written by Cullman's own Ben Johnson, this comedy featured actress Tanja Miller.

According to the play, there are seven keys that make Southerners unique: tradition, family, heritage, hospitality, nature, passion, and pleasure. Miller gave a brief comedic presentation on each of these topics, delivering witty anecdotes and riling up the audience with laughter, all with an old southern accent.

While talking about celebrities from the south, of course, Miller mentioned Miley Cyrus.

"Good Lord in Heaven!" she exclaimed. "Someone get that girl some britches!"

To no one's surprise, a large part of the presentation was talking about how Southerners are better than Yankees.

"Does anyone remember what happened in 1768?" she asked. After a long pause and a few giggles from the audiences, she reminded everyone that this is when the Mason-Dixon line was drawn.



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» Tanja Miller entertained the crowd with her southern charm and witty anecdotes.

"Those cold-blooded Yankees said the Southerners were having too much of a good time," she said. "It might just be my upbringing but I've never had too much of a good time, and I know jealousy when I see it!"

Miller also spoke about how Southerners love to wave when passing people they know.

"Northerners never wave," she said in comparison. "They have to keep their arms by their side so they can keep in body heat."

She spoke about how Southerners love soft things and walking barefoot outside. She handed out cheese straws and explained how and why Southerners make them better than Yankees. She talked about how Southerners love hymns and even beautifully sang a portion of "Softly and Tenderly".

But perhaps the most realistic thing she said about Southerners was that tradition is the most southern trait.

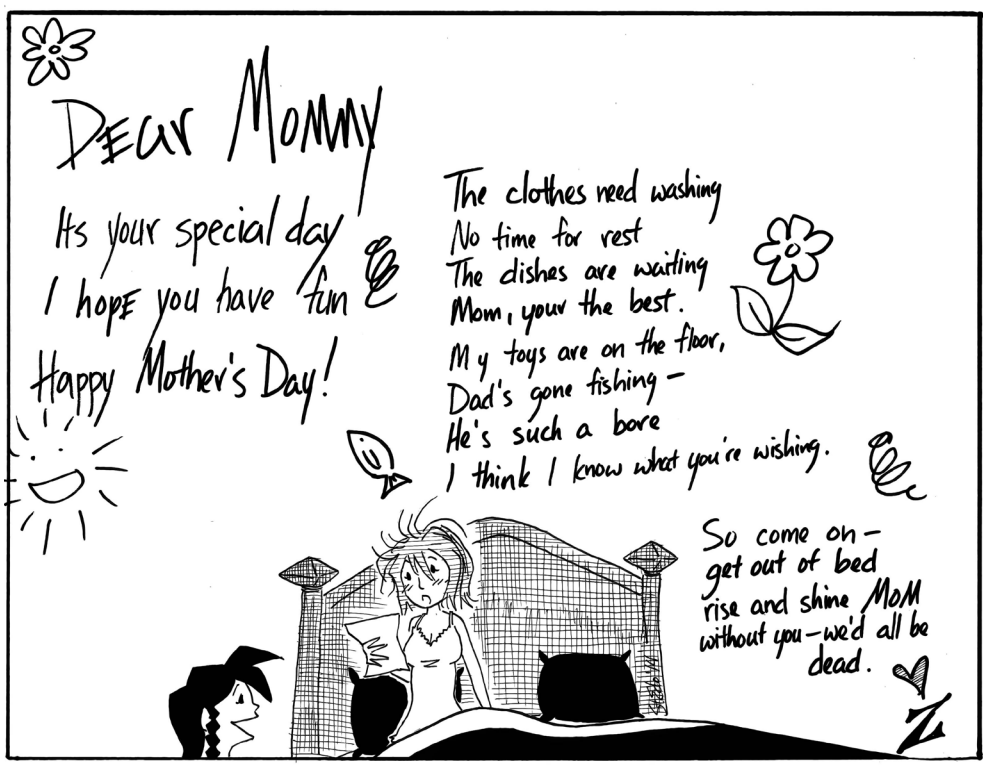
"We're steeped in tradition," she said. "It runs through our veins."

The rest of the show was full of more witty anecdotes, funny stories, and a nice southern drawl.

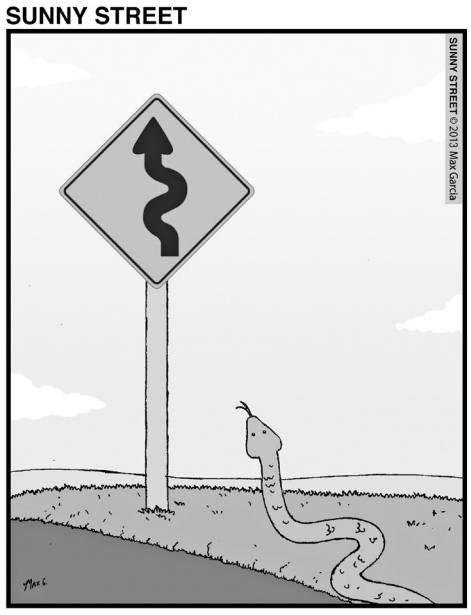
This comedy routine had everyone laughing out of their seats, reminiscing about family traditions and especially about being proud to be a Southerner.

Comics

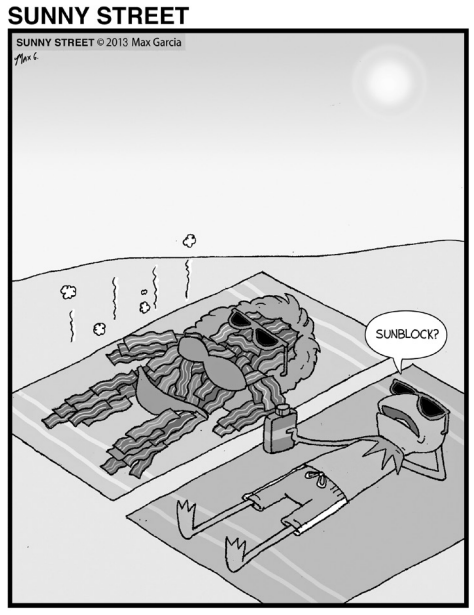
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SUNNY STREET



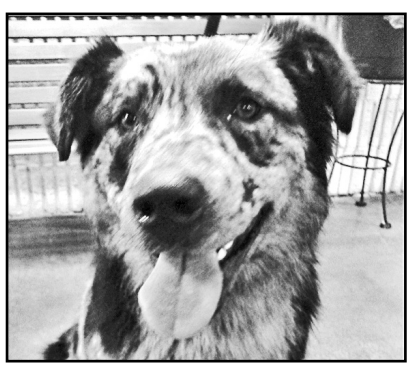
Pets of the Week

Huckabee

Hello! My name is Huckabee, and I am about 2 years old.

I am believed to be an Australian mix and I currently weigh about 50-60 lbs.

I am spirited and enjoy company. Come see me today. I'm ready for my new forever home.



Masago

Hello! My name is Masago, and I am about 2 years old.

I am believed to be a Hund mix and I currently weigh 35 lbs. I am full of life and I love to play.

I'm a great dog and would love the chance to meet you. Come visit me today!



ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

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

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



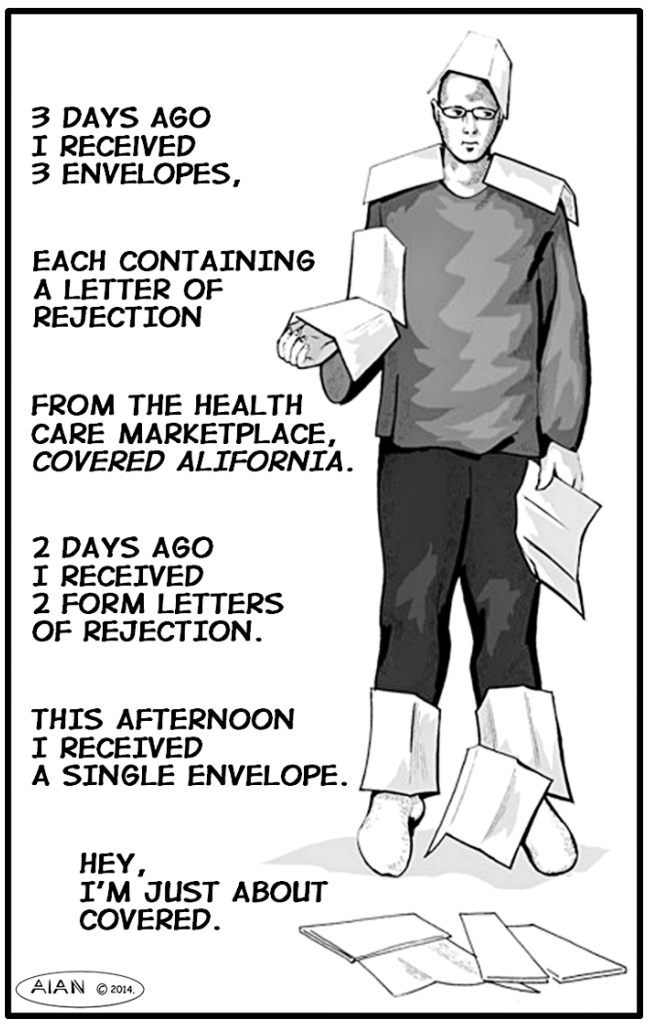
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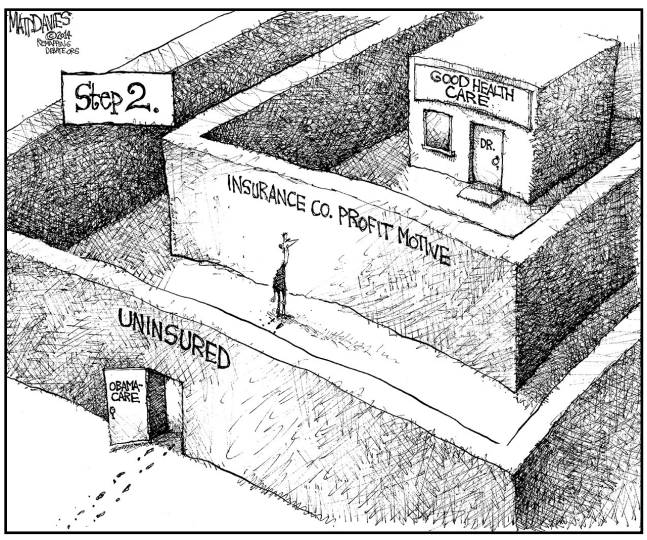
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VOICE

THE HEARTBLEED BUG

How Secure Are We?

By: Sage Overton
Contributor

It's become known as the greatest mistake on the Internet of all time. It is the largest security breach online ever . . . and it was a total accident. The Heartbleed Bug, as it's become known, was first reported and named by Codenomicon on April 1, 2014. The bug was a result of a coding mistake in the open-source OpenSLL cryptography library, which is used to handle the Internet's transport security layer (TSL). Specifically, the bad code is in the heartbeat extension of the file, hence the nickname "Heartbleed."

OpenSSL / TSL is a type of security used to encrypt and protect information transmitted between clients and servers. Clients are computers, like your home PC, laptop or even your phone. Servers are specialized computers. They hold incredible amounts of information including hosting websites and storing emails. Imagine that every time you open your browser (the Mozilla or Internet Explorer icon you double click) to pull open the Google home page, you're mailing a letter from your PC to the Google server. The letter is the information you're sending and you don't want anyone else to read it. To stop everyone else from seeing what's in it, you put the letter in an envelope. Your computer and the server do this automatically and one of the envelopes it could use is the OpenSSL / TDL protocol. That is largely determined by the site you're attempting to visit.

Heartbleed is classified as a buffer over-read error. Essentially, a request is sent to a server and the server should respond with a request the same length. During a Heartbleed attack, a large return request attached to a small payload is sent to the server. The Heartbleed error means the server fails to check the size of the payload before responding. It "over answers" the request, sending back chunks of recent memory. This may include user login names or passwords. In a worst case scenario, an attacker may gain access to the server's private master key. With this, someone may be able to decrypt all traffic coming and going on a server.

The worst part about a Heartbleed attack is it is virtually impossible to detect and has been around for over two years. The bug was first introduced on March 14, 2012. Almost 20 percent of the world's servers use the afflicted files. Also, Android confirmed its version 4.1.1 (or Jellybean) contains the bug. This affects over 50 million devices.

So far the following sites and services have been confirmed free of any effects from the Heartbleed bug:

• LinkedIn, Apple, Amazon, all Microsoft products and services, AOL, Hotmail, Outlook, Ebay, Groupon, PayPal, Target, Walmart, Hulu and Pandora.

The following sites have been confirmed as affected by the Heartbleed bug. All have been patched, but it is highly recommended that you change your passwords if you use any of these sites or services if you haven't already done so:

• Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, Google, Yahoo, Gmail, GoDaddy, Flickr, Minecraft, Netflix, YouTube, OKCupid, Healthcare.gov, Steam, League of Legends and Sony Online Entertainment.

OPINION

Imagining the "Unimaginable"

By: Michael N. Nagler

Recently the quiet town of Waseca, MN narrowly avoided becoming "one more in a long list of school shootings" (I will come back to this language of the CNN report). A boy, 17 years old, had plotted to kill his family and bomb the town's junior and senior high school, to "kill as many students as possible" and then be killed by a SWAT-team. Thank God a neighbor caught on to his suspicious behavior and called the police. It turns out he had already planted a couple of crude bombs in neighborhood playgrounds that, by grace or good fortune, did not go off.

Throughout the coverage of the boy's nick-of-time arrest the expression used by one police officer became a refrain: we have averted an "unimaginable tragedy." But the problem is, it was all too imaginable.

Teenagers in particular – though not they alone – spend more hours consuming media than they ever did in school, more than they spend hanging out with friends or in any kind of human interaction.

This would be harmful even if the content of those media were not so disturbing, so damaging to the human image.

The choice seems to be violence, sex, or both (and sex, the loveless way that it's presented in most of these formats, is just another form of violence).

By contrast, most examples of a potentially uplifting alternative, where human beings are presented with dignity and their connectedness acknowledged – the would-have-been reality check on all this alienating stuff – are sappy and unrealistic.

This is new in human evolution. Our ancestors would sometimes listen to war epics at an annual festival, but we are putting the fire of artless violence in our minds upwards of five hours a day.

Once we've made violence imaginable, and for some an idée fixe which at some point they can't help acting out, we also make sure the tools of violence are readily available.

Anyone can earn how to make a bomb on the internet; we have become a nation armed against itself, full of people who harbor weapons in a desperate attempt to find some meaning and some security – which, as we almost saw yet again last week in Minnesota, has the opposite effect.

And so for this 17-year-old, who idolized the mass murderers of Virginia Tech, Columbine, and Newtown, such violence was all too imaginable. And for how many others? In a nation where CNN can almost off-handedly refer to "one more in a long list of school shootings," how can children feel safe in their schools?

And if they cannot feel safe, how can they learn?

On the whole, I think we would almost be better off not even hearing about those massacres; but that is not what I'm advocating.

Of course we have to read about these horrors; but we also have to learn from them.

And from the relentless scientific studies that show how media violence and, for that matter, the mere image of weapons, makes people more aggressive. And, for that matter, from our own experiences.

When I was very young, and had already seen my share of cowboy and gangster movies, I had a bad dream one night that I was being chased by a fiendish giant.

But I somehow had a gun, and turning around I frantically pulled the trigger. Nothing. Click, click. It was a dud.

At that point I woke up, but I remember to this day how I would have given anything in that dream moment for a gun that worked.

So I sympathize with the fears of gun owners, and I can sympathize with the hunger of television and movie viewers, with video game players who may be seeking some excitement from the drab realities of everyday life or giving themselves the feeling that violence will make them strong and protected.

But the difference is, I woke up. I call out to gun lobbyists and gun buyers, to movie producers and viewers of media where the human image is degraded and mayhem extolled, to wake up from their nightmarish fascination with violence.

Maybe a kind of awakening is beginning. Former New York Mayor Bloomberg is setting up a $50 million fund to counteract some of the political muscle of the NRA, which is an interesting first step.

But most politicians, when in office, are apparently unprepared to listen to this kind of reason. When that happens it is opportune to start small – simply don't expose yourself to violent media and try to live in trust instead of fear.

We make a difference as individuals, and we must make our difference in the right direction.

Michael N. Nagler writes for PeaceVoice, is Professor emeritus at UC, Berkeley, and President of the Metta Center for Nonviolence. His latest book, The Nonviolence Handbook, is available from Berrett-Koehler publishers, San Francisco.

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