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CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER
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COMMUNITY MATTERS
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Military Appreciation Month

» Our Armed Forces Are Our Real Heroes

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

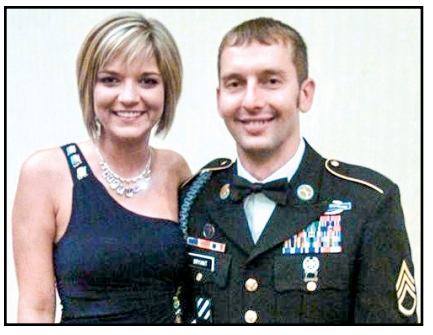
CULLMAN - There are many important jobs in this world. All works of public service require a lot of time and sacrifice to ensure that our society runs smoothly and efficiently. There is, however, a group that gives more than all. They sacrifice time with family, health, move from home, and if necessary, will lay down their own lives. This amazing group of individuals is our troops.

The brave men and women that serve in the U.S. military are some of the most selfless people you will ever meet.

Their tireless dedication to their fellow Americans is something of which we should be appreciative, grateful and truly thankful. Regardless of political affiliations, the one thing that should be unanimous is that none of us would be where we are today without people like them.

Michael Bryant, 31, of Cullman is one such individual. He has served for 14 years in both the active military and the National Guard.

He has been deployed four times since p7



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» Deployed four times since 2001, Michael Bryant has served the military a total of 14 years.

CONQUERING ADVERSITY

Cancer Patients of Cullman Now Have Options

» NEW STORE OFFERS PROMISING SOLUTIONS P2



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» Owner Judy Watts' business, Options, sells wigs, bras, and prostheses pieces for women who have had breast cancer.

COMMUNITY CENTER

A DREAM FINALLY COME TRUE

» Handicap-Accessible Cold Springs Community Center Holds Grand Opening p7



NOAH CHANDLER/CULLMANSENSE

» In addition to being a place for residents to vote, the Cold Springs Community Center can be rented by interested parties and will also begin serving potluck lunches to seniors starting in July.

Voter Registration Deadline May 23rd for Primary Election

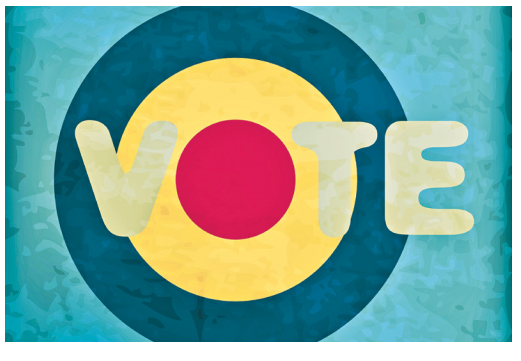
By: Tamara Cofield

MONTGOMERY - Secretary of State Jim Bennett is reminding Alabama citizens the deadline to register to vote for the upcoming June 3rd primary election is May 23rd.

To make sure citizens are registered to vote, to view a sample ballot, get information on voting an absentee ballot, or find their polling place, voters may visit Alabama's official election website at www.alabamavotes.gov.

Voters may also locate polling places and find out more information about their registration status by contacting their county board of registrars. If a voter has moved, the voter needs to update their voter registration information with the county board of registrars so they may cast a regular ballot in their correct polling place for this election. The deadline for those updates is also May 23rd. "We want to ensure that every person who is eligible to vote is able to do so," said Bennett.

"My staff and I will continue to work diligently to promote fair and honest elections for the citizens of Alabama. We're here to serve."



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Addison man admits to 10 burglaries in Crane Hill, Jones Chapel area

By: Noah Chandler
noah@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Investigators with the Cullman County Sheriff's Department recently announced they had charged Sean Morgan Henley, 21, of Addison, with 10 counts of burglary, following a series of confessions he made at the Cullman County Detention Center.

Henley was brought to the CCDC on an unrelated charge on Friday, May 9. Investigator Joey Clark said a tip from a fellow deputy put Henley on his radar as to possibly having some answers to several unsolved burglaries.

"We started interviewing him Friday night of last week and he confessed to the burglary in Winston County," Investigator Clark said.

The burglary in Winston County was a residence of a bondsman who had recently bonded Henley out of jail on a previous theft charge. "Henley confessed to breaking into the residence and stealing 16 firearms," he said.

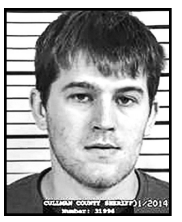
Investigator Clark said Henley then made a second confession on Monday, May 12 where he admitted to stealing electronics, gaming consoles, and in one instance, a package of bacon and other household items.

"He (Henley) confessed to an additional 10 burglaries, the first of which started on February 18, inside of Cullman County" he said.

A variety of items have been recovered including, multiple television sets, assorted tools, clothing, silverware, and other household goods. Sheriff Mike Rainey said he's glad 19 of the 21 guns have been recovered, which were stolen from several locations, but is looking to the public to help find the remaining missing firearms.

"It's always dangerous when someone steals a firearm, but when so many are involved it adds a bit more urgency to finding them quickly," Sheriff Rainey said. "There are two firearms still missing from the burglary in Winston County and we'd like to see those recovered as soon as possible."

Henley confessed to burglaries which took place in the Crane Hill and Jones Chapel communities. Among those was one incident on Co Rd 895, one incident on Co Rd 1043, two incidents on Co Rd 953, three incidents on Co Rd 950, and three incidents on Co Rd 939.



CCSO

» Sean Morgan Henley

Sean Morgan Henley is currently being held at the Cullman County Detention Center where he is being held without bond.

Cullman Caring for Kids Seeks Child Advocate Volunteers

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - One of the most heartbreaking realities in this world is an abused child. Every year, so many children are in need of help and guidance when they are forced to undergo court proceedings due to abuse and neglect. Cullman Caring for Kids aims to ease some of this stress and provide these children with an understanding and caring advocate.

Lana Thornton, coordinator of Court Appointed Special Advocates, spoke about what role these volunteers play.

"Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) are trained community volunteers appointed by District Court judges to speak for the best interests of children who are brought before the court for reasons of abuse or neglect," Thornton said.

"Once a volunteer is assigned a particular case, he or she will conduct an independent investigation including: reviewing pertinent records and reports, and speaking to and observing the child(ren) and relevant adults. All relevant facts gathered from this investigation will be compiled into a court report that will be submitted to the District judge. The CASA volunteer must attend all court proceedings concerning the child(ren)."

The process to become an advocate can be lengthy, but the rewards are great. There are far too many children in need of someone who cares and can be their voice in a situation that is scary and strange to them.

"Although I'm not sure of the exact number of children in need of an advocate in Cullman County, since it varies as cases are brought before the judge, I am confident in saying there are hundreds at any given time," she said. "It is our goal for every child involved in the court system due to abuse and/or neglect to have a CASA Volunteer."

To become a volunteer for CASA, applicants must be 21 years of age and pass a number of tests including a background check, fingerprints, and 40 hours of CASA training. These are necessary measures taken to ensure every volunteer is a competent and capable advocate for the children. It is unlike any other volunteer position you will ever come across; the impact is unforgettable, life changing, and can be emotionally taxing.

"A caring person in a child's life at a crucial time makes a difference. If the presence of a CASA volunteer who cares about them can prevent their dropping out of school, running away, becoming drug addicted, or pregnant, that is a huge impact on their lives and the most rewarding for their advocate," Thornton said.

"Although we are volunteering as a CASA because we care about children, it is important to remain somewhat detached. They don't need us to feel sorry for them; they need us to help them, and we cannot do that if we are too emotionally involved."

The CASA Program (c/o Cullman Caring for Kids) is accepting volunteer applications until May 31. Volunteers will begin the training class late July - early August 2014.

If you or someone you know wants to be part of a life-changing project to enrich a child's life, contact Lana Thornton at Cullman Caring for Kids at 256-739-1111 or e-mail cullmancountycasa@msn.com.

Center (from Front)

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Having Cancer is one of the most challenging, if not the most challenging experience, a person can endure. You hear the diagnosis and suddenly your life becomes a whirlwind of decisions and apprehension as you try to navigate through insurances, multiple doctors' appointments and treatment plans.

All of these things can become overwhelming and before you know it, your newest worries are ones that you never thought you would have to worry about. For example, what do you do and where do you go when you lose your hair from chemotherapy?

Judy Watts wanted to do something more with her life after the loss of both her parents within six weeks in 2012. She talked about the odd, yet beautiful start to a fulfilling life and successful company.

"It kind of started odd because in January of 2012, I opened High Tide Sports Grill," she said. "Then we lost my dad in August, and then my mother, we lost her six weeks later. So it was kind of during that period of time that I was away from the Grill and had great employees that just took over. So after mother passed away I just had this feeling that I needed to be doing something different."

Watts set out to turn her grief into something wonderful and positive in the community. She sold High Tide by chance and started her journey to her true calling.

"So at the first of the year, I just casually mentioned to someone that I was thinking of selling the Grill," she said. "The woman I was talking to actually said that her husband has always wanted that kind of business so they ended up buying it and all the contents."

After taking an interest in opening a wig shop, she turned to a knowledgeable friend for advice.

"I had talked to my friend Mary Dyer from Bosom Buddies," she said. "And she told me that the wigs would go over well, that we need that here in Cullman, but I should look into selling some other things too."

After considering the advice and her own options, Watts decided to open her own shop called Options where she sells wigs, bras, and prostheses pieces for women who have had breast cancer.

Her building is filled with beautiful, unbelievably realistic wigs of all different colors and cuts.

Her private room in the back houses all different types of prostheses to suit any client's needs.

Fate, it seemed, was not without a sense of irony as Watts herself ended up having to undergo a double mastectomy. Now, she is not only the owner of Options, but she is a customer as well.

"We actually had my ribbon cutting on May 1, 2013, which was my mother's birthday," she said. "And then on the 11th of June, I had a double mastectomy."

With a firsthand understanding of what women living with cancer want, Watts has managed to turn a situation that would knock a lot of us out into an incredibly positive endeavor for others. She has a lot of new and exciting projects in the works, and the community is richer for having her in it.



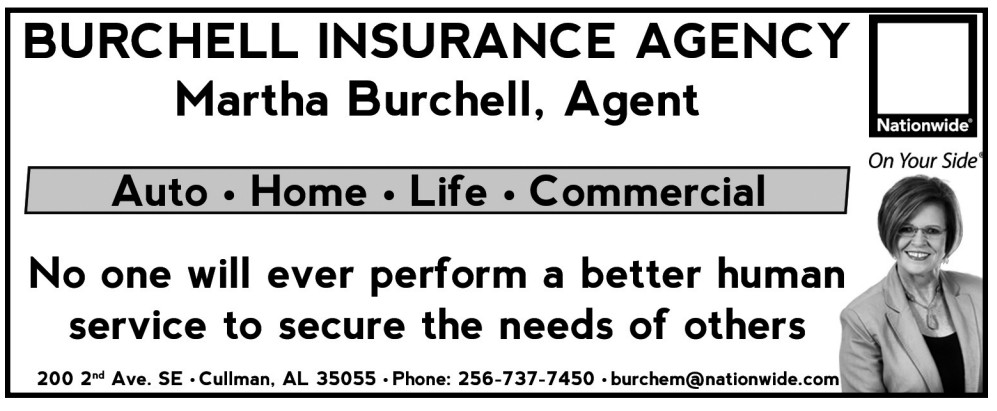
CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» After losing both her parents and selling her restaurant, Judy Watts opened Options, a shop specializing in wigs for women that are enduring chemotherapy.

Her story is one of loss, strength, and triumph, and one that everyone should hear. She is the embodiment of the saying, "It is not what happens to you, it is how you react to what happens that matters".

To contact Judy Watts at Options, call 256-734-7730.





Alabama's April Unemployment Rate is 6.9%; Cullman at 5.1%

By: Tara Hutchison
ADOL Contributor

Wage and Salary Employment Up by 10,000

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Tom Surtees announced today that Alabama's preliminary, seasonally adjusted April unemployment rate is 6.9%, up from March's rate of 6.7%, and above April 2013's rate of 6.5%. April's rate represents 147,341 unemployed persons, compared to 144,447 in March and 139,322 in April 2013.

"Seasonal adjustment certainly played a role in this month's unemployment rate increase," said Surtees.

"The state data did not meet seasonal expectations, while at the same time, only one of Alabama's 67 counties showed an increase in their rate this month.

The state data are seasonally adjusted while the county data are not.

However, this is an estimate and will probably be revised as the seasonal factors become more quantifiable as the year goes on."

Only Greene County registered an increase in their unemployment rate, while all other counties saw declines ranging from .4% (Winston County) to 1.2% (Perry County).

Wage and salary employment increased in April by 10,000, rising to 1,920,600. Monthly gains were seen in the leisure and hospitality sector (+4,700), the professional and business services sector (+2,900), and the construction sector (+600), among others. Over the year, wage and salary employment increased 15,200, with gains in the leisure and hospitality sector (+6,200), education and health services sector (+3,900), and the trade, transportation, and utilities sector (+3,300), among others.

"Other facts are more promising: there is a significant increase, both over the month and over the year, in the number of jobs employers are reporting, we are registering record numbers of job orders on JobLink, online job ads are up over 17%, and initial unemployment compensation claims and payments remain at five year lows," Surtees continued. "All of these things point to a much healthier job market than we have seen in some time."

JobLink, the state's online free jobs database (www.joblink.alabama.gov), registered a record 23,691 active job orders in April.

The Help Wanted Online (HWOL) data showed 57,396 total job ads were placed online in Alabama, up 17.8% from March.

The most advertised careers are: heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, first line supervisors of retail workers, and registered nurses.

There were 15,024 initial unemployment compensation claims and benefit payments totaled $22,821,948, the lowest amounts in five years.

Counties with the lowest unemployment rates are: Shelby County at 4.2%, Lee County at 4.9%, and Cullman County at 5.1%.

Counties with the highest unemployment rates are: Wilcox County at 15.5%, Greene County at 12.7%, and Perry County at 11.9%.

Be sure to vaccinate your children; measles remains a problem in the U.S.

By: Karen Landers, M.D.
ADPH Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus. Each year approximately 60 people in the United States are reported as having measles; however, this number more than tripled to around 189 people infected with the disease in 2013. So far, there have already been 187 cases reported nationally for 2014.

Measles can stay airborne or live on surfaces for up to two hours. Symptoms include fever, runny nose, cough and a rash all over the body. Those infected can transmit the virus for about five days before the typical rash appears. Symptoms occur within one to two weeks after exposure. Measles is so contagious that any child who is exposed to it and is not immune will probably get the disease.

"Measles is still common in many countries," Dr. Karen Landers, pediatrician and medical consultant for the Alabama Department of Public Health Immunization Division, said. "People who get measles put others who are not vaccinated at risk." In addition, communities with pockets of unvaccinated people are vulnerable to measles outbreaks.

State law requires children to be up to date on their accinations prior to attending school and adolescents and college students must also be up to date on their MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) immunizations.

About 1 in 10 children with measles also gets an ear infection, and up to 1 in 20 gets pneumonia. Rarer complications are encephalitis and death. Routine MMR vaccination is recommended for all children, with the first dose given at age 12-15 months, and a second dose at age 4-6 years. Unless they have other evidence of immunity, adults born after 1956 should get at least one dose of MMR vaccine. Two appropriately spaced doses of MMR vaccine are recommended for health care personnel, college students, and international travelers. Where possible, persons suspected of having measles should be promptly screened before entering waiting rooms and appropriately isolated, or have their office appointments scheduled at the end of the day to prevent exposure of other patients.

For more information, contact your local health department or visit www.adph.org/immunization.

Follow us on Twitter @CullmanSense

cpr Call 256-734-9157 for details! cpr

SPEED & AGILITY CAMP
Ages 7-11; 11:30-12:15
Tuesdays & Thursdays June 10-July 17
Ages 12 & up ?am-8:30am
Mondays June 9-July 14
Includes introductory and advanced weight-lifting, speed and agility drills, and other training. Great for football, volleyball, other fall sport preparation.

SUMMER TENNIS LESSONS
Beginning June 2, three 2-week sessions will be held for beginners, intermediate, and advanced players coached by Ryan Hunt.
Sessions will fill up soon, so register ASAP!

JUNIOR GOLF CLINICS
Held at the Cullman Golf Course
Tuesdays June 3 - July 10 at 8:30am,
Cost is $60 for all 5 sessions,
or $15 per session.
Includes PGA instruction; ages 6-18.
Call 256-739-2386 for details

ARCHERY CAMPS
Mark your calendars for summer archery camps
June 11-June 13 and
July 28-August 1
Held at the Cullman Archery Park

USATF SUMMER TRACK & FIELD
CP&R will be hosting a summer track program for ages 6-18. Great for high school and middle school athletes as well as younger children to introduce them to the sport and a mandatory interest meeting will be held May 20 at 5:15pm at the Wellness & Aquatic Center

SWIM LESSONS
Swim Lessons will be held at the Cullman Well ness & Aquatic Center in 2 week sessions. Session I starts June 2. Class times are 7am, 8am, or 9am.
Registration is open at the center 256-775-SWIM for details.

cp&r AQUATICS
Cullman Wellness & Aquatics Center
POOLS OPENING
MAY 24-26 • 10am-6pm



Pools Open 7 Days a week Starting May 30th!
Mon-Fri 10am-6pm
Saturday 10am-5pm
Sunday 1pm-6pm

Monday FUNday!
JUNE 2 - AUGUST 4
6pm-11pm
Open Swim, Games, Activities, Free Giveaways & More!
$7.00 per person
No reservation necessary

Wednesday Night Fun: Church Groups!
JUNE 6 - AUGUST 4
6pm-11pm
Open Swim & Games
for Sunday School Classes
Youth Groups, Churches, etc.
$5.00 per person
No reservation necessary

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Vinemont's offense heats up against Falkville

By: Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

FALKVILLE – A new offense was introduced by the Vinemont Eagles to the Falkville Blue Devils in their spring jamboree Friday evening. Coach Alan Scott was very pleased with the results as his squad left Burl Vest Stadium winning a shootout from their Morgan County rival 36-26.

The Eagles racked up 356 yards of offense in this game, 338 by a vaunted running attack. John Michael Dye set the tone for the Eagles by rushing for 148 yards on 23 carries and scoring three touchdowns.

"I am proud of the way we played," coach Scott said following the victory. "We are starting from scratch with a new offense and new defense. We got after it pretty good. We are right where we need to be."

The Eagles stunned the Devils on the first play from scrimmage with Dye racing free for a 75-yard run to the end zone. But an illegal block in the back penalty around midfield took the TD off the scoreboard. All that did was inspire Vinemont in finishing off the first series with a score.

A 25-yard run following the penalty from Bo Wright was followed by a 22-yard scamper to the end zone by Dye. The two-point conversion was good on a run by Wright as it was Vinemont 8-0 at the 10:40 mark of the first.

Falkville's offense then showed what they could do. Led by quarterback Ryan Sullivan, the Devils were pass happy with Sullivan competing six of six on the first series.

The drive ended on a four-yard score to Logan Vinson. The conversion pass failed with the Eagles leading 8-6 with 7:13 remaining in the period.

Another 75-yard drive by Vinemont ended in the Falkville end zone. Quarterback Garrett Boland completed his only pass of the night, an 18-yarder to Trey Guthrey. That enabled the Eagles to get back to the running game with Wright finishing the series scoring from six yards out. Dye took it in for the two points and Vinemont was up 16-6.

The next series for Falkville was six plays, 75 yards, and 1:49 off the clock. A 44-yard bomb from Sullivan to Vinson set up Sullivan's five yard sweep around left end.

Sullivan followed with the two-point play and the score after the first period was Vinemont 16, Falkville 14.

Both teams had the ball three times in the second quarter.

Vinemont's Orey Woods stopped a Falkville drive by intercepting a Sullivan pass and returning it 40 yards to the Falkville 42.

After a Falkville punt, the Eagles closed out the first half with a 49-yard series for their third touchdown and a 22-14 lead at the break.

Dye was the workhorse in the drive with 63 yards rushing and scored on a 10-yard run with 35 seconds to play until intermission.

As the second half began, both varsity units opened with possessions then the rest of the evening belonged to the youngsters.

Falkville closed to 22-20 as Sullivan and Vinson teamed up on a 25-yard scoring pass with 8:56 to play in the period.

Sullivan would finish the night completing 14 of 19 passes for 192 yards and two touchdowns. The conversion pass that could have tied the game was broken up in the end zone by Eagles' linebacker Deke Wright.

Vinemont went to work with the running attack and finished its first series of the third on a 75-yard drive that consumed six plays and 3:20 of the clock. Dye drove in from the one.

Woods got the call on the two-point play and the Eagles held a 30-20 advantage.

A drive by the Falkville reserves brought the Devils within four points at 30-26 by the end of the third period.

Then coach Scott watched his reserves go on a 75-yard series, using 5:02 of possession and running 11 plays.

The touchdown came with 2:58 remaining that gave the Eagles a 10-point cushion, 36-26.

Falkville had the ball for one more series but turned it over on downs at its 29-yard line. The Eagles took a knee to run out the clock and head back to Cullman County with a smile on their face for the hard work they have put in during spring workouts.

The Eagles will meet the Good Hope Raiders at Mark Smothers Stadium Aug, 21 in the fall jamboree.

The regular season kicks off Aug. 29 when Vinemont goes to A.G. Hicks Stadium to face the Addison Bulldogs.

Addison coach David Smothers was in attendance Friday night, scouting the Eagles and Falkville.

The Blue Devils are in 2A, Region 6 with the Bulldogs. Smothers' team was coming off a 6-3 upset the night before against the Cullman Bearcats.

That game was seen by Scott in getting set to put together a game plan in which will be his fourth season at Vinemont starting in August.

Spring practice ends for Hanceville with Purple-White Game

By: Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

HANCEVILLE – A conflict kept the Hanceville Bulldogs from participating in a spring jamboree. So the Bulldogs closed out spring football practice with a purple and white game Thursday afternoon at Ray Talley Stadium.

Four long scoring drives highlighted the action with the Purple coming out on top by the score of 20-6.

The spring has been a challenge for the Bulldogs, coach Danny Miller said after the contest. "I am proud of these kids who have worked hard and stuck it out."

Hanceville will go into 2014 with a new signal-caller, but has been under center in the past. Branen Hurst is the young brother of Caleb Hurst who led the Bulldogs to a 9-2 record last season and the 3A, Region 7 regular season championship.

Hurst took control on the first series for the Purple, leading them on a 70-yard drive that ended with a five-yard pass on fourth down to receiver Dante' Reese. The conversion gave the Purple an 8-0 lead with Reese hitting Koby Smith for a two-point play.

Two possessions in the first half for the White ended with very little yardage gained and a turnover. The Purple couldn't cash in on the miscue and left the field with the 8-0 lead.

A good start by the White opened up the second half. Hurst was sent to their side to take snaps and moved the White into scoring range with a 70-yard drive.

Jose Orozco hauled in two passes on the drive with the second covering 13 yards and a touchdown. A pair of good runs from Carlos Chacon accounted for 28 yards with the White using seven snaps from scrimmage to get on the board.

But the conversion failed and the White was down 8-6 early in the final half.

Following the TD for the White, the Purple answered with another 70-yard scoring series.

The drive came to a close when Smith was on the end of a 20-yard strike in the left corner from Hurst to push the advantage to 14-6.

Both teams had turnovers moments later then late in the game an insurance score came from the Purple thanks to Torrey Green getting free on a 20-yard run.

The conversion was no good and the Purple was up by two touchdowns at 20-6.

Coach Miller was pleased on how Hurst, John Messersmith, and Andrew Aldredge operated at quarterback. All three will be going into their sophomore season.

Green and Chacon gave some good runs during the afternoon with Reese being the main target in the passing game along with Orozco getting a couple of receptions and Smith accounting for two catches for 39 yards.

Now the Bulldogs will enter their off-season conditioning program and prepare for the 2014 campaign.

It will get under way on August 29 when Hanceville goes to Dafford Smith Stadium to take on the Fairview Aggies.

Hanceville will be paired in Region 5 of Class 3A in the new realignment for this season. Among the opposition in the region for Miller's team will be the Vinemont Eagles and Holly Pond Broncos. The Bulldogs play at Vinemont Sept. 12 and have Holly Pond coming to Talley Stadium Oct. 17.

Good Hope has good first half, falters in second

By: Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com

GOOD HOPE – It is that time of year again for some spring pigskin action. The Good Hope Raiders slid on the pads, laced up their cleats, and snapped on their head gear in a showdown with the Winston County Yellow Jackets Thursday night in a precursor to the upcoming season.

The night started out rough for both squads. Winston County won the toss and elected to receive but the ball was quickly in Good Hope hands as the Yellow Jackets went three and out. The Raiders followed suit and the two squads continued to swap three and outs for the majority of the first quarter.

Good Hope finally gained some traction on their third possession of the quarter. Following a Winston County punt, Good Hope set up shop at their own 40. Reiley Eisner started the drive with a bubble screen to Kainan Smith who scampered up the field for 11 yards and a Good Hope first down at the Winston County 49. This was the first time either team had crossed the 50 yard line. Eisner followed on the next play finding Matthew Cofer but he was unable to slip a tackle and went down for no gain.

Undeterred, Eisner went back to Cofer in the next play but this time he hit the Sophomore wide out in stride, good for a 49 yard touchdown toss, and gave the Raiders the lead. Preston Calvert booted the PAT through the uprights and Good Hope found themselves up 7-0 with 5:59 left to go in the first. The rest of the quarter went much like the first five possessions, with each team trading the ball for the remainder of the quarter.

The Raiders made the most of their first possession in the second quarter. After Winston County punted the ball for the third time in four possessions (one was a turnover on downs), Good Hope was in business on their own 37. Eisner again went to the air and again found his favorite target in the form of Cofer who hauled in the pass for a 32 yard gain.

On the next play Eisner tucked the ball and kept it himself, picking up 11 and another Raider first down. Two plays later he would find Smith paralleling the plane of the end zone for the catch and the score putting Good Hope up 14-0.

Winston County finally dented the scoreboard on their next possession. Cody Henderson got the drive started with an 11 yard rush to the Yellow Jacket 41. QB Timber Blankenship kept the ball on the ensuing down and picked up a first down, rushing eight yards to the 49. Blankenship and Henderson would hook up in the air two plays later as Henderson received the pass on the run for 43 big yards. Blankenship would cap the drive with a nine yard strike to Jarred Gravitt for the score.

Good Hope quickly answered with Eisner continuing to chew up yardage through the air, hitting three different receivers on the drive before taking it in the final yard himself. Following the missed PAT, Good Hope took a 20-7 lead to the locker room.

Good Hope started the second half with the ball but they were met with a Winston County team with renewed vigor and winning on their mind. The Yellow Jackets forced a Good Hope three and out and took possession of the ball on their own 30. From here they took a methodical approach, marching the ball 70 yards down the field in 12 plays. The big play came when Blankenship found Henderson for a 22 yard gain and again in the end zone on fourth and goal for the seven yard score. The Yellow Jackets had forced their way back into the game and making the score 20-14 with 4:26 left to play in the three quarter game.

Good Hope had the ball and could have effectively ended the ballgame by milking the clock but they chose instead, being a spring game, to air the ball out. Unfortunately the decision came back to haunt the Raiders as an Eisner pass wound up in the hands of Payton Taylor for the interception. The pick spelled the end for Good Hope as Winston County drained all but one second off the clock before Blankenship and Henderson hooked up for a final time, this one a 20 yard TD strike in fourth and two. Marcus McKissnack booted the PAT home to finish a perfect three for three in PATs giving Winston County the 21-20 spring game victory.

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LOCAL HISTORY

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

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

LETTER 3

The following is the third 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 when he was struck in the head, just above his left ear, by a mini-ball.

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 – Daniel after his daddy and Richmond for the place his daddy breathed his last breath. Fannie never remarried.

In the last letter, Dan was happy to hear from his wife. He told her he was doing just fine and the overall health of the troops was "tolerable". He mentioned a few cases of the measles scattered about but again assures her he is fine.

He told her of his concerns about the lack of rain they were having and he had no idea if he would be able to get home any time in the near future.

With nothing else of interest to tell his wife, Dan lovingly ended the letter by telling her "he remains her husband until death."

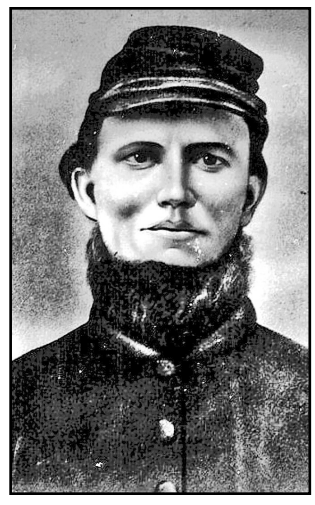
Dan and Fannie Brock are my third great grandparents and I want to share these moments of interaction, their intimate letters with you. The letters were written during a very difficult time in their lives. Welcome to a very special part of my family. I want to share their story with you the only way I know how. 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.

Ringgold July - - 1862
Dear wife
There was a collision between two trains a few miles above this place yesterday evening. Four men were killed in our company. Their names are Thelps, Bullard, Martin and Lane, with a number wounded also. One man was killed in Capt Johnson's Company. Three negroes were killed belonging to the different Companies. Over a dozen horses killed. But thanks to God I am unhurt I am also well at this time and getting on as well as could be expected I hope we will start for Chattanooga again this evening.

I am not situated so I can write fully as I desire, and will close, but will write you again when I get to Chattanooga. My object now is simply to let you know that I came out safe and sound.

Your affectionate husband
J. D. Brock



CONTRIBUTED

» James Daniel Brock



CONTRIBUTED

» Fanny Hogan Brock

Mrs. Francis R. Brock
Palmetto
Ga

P.S.
We came back to this place after the collision.

Mirroring History: Stiefelmeyer Building

By: Jessica Norrell
jessica@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN = The first C.A. Stiefelmeyer Building burned down in 1892 and the second (pictured) was constructed after the first building was destroyed.

The store offered Cullman's first delivery service using a horse-drawn wagon in 1914.

Not only did Stiefelmeyer own the well-known store but also established Cullman's first cotton gin.

The second Stiefelmeyer Building still stands today at First Ave. and Second St. SE as a prominent Cullman landmark with an extensive history. Today it houses Lombardo's Italian Restaurant as well as several other businesses and has been vastly expanded and remodeled throughout the years.

Past



CONTRIBUTED

» After the original C.A. Stiefelmeyer Building burned down in 1892, the second iteration housed Cullman's first delivery service and cotton gin.

Present



JESSICA NORRELL

» The Stiefelmeyer Building now houses Lombardo's Italian Restaurant and several other businesses.

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7:45am - 5:15pm
Base Camp will be at Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center
REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 1ST!!
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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

Center (from Front)

By: Natalie Bonner
natalie@cullmansense.com

BREMEN - Jerrell Crook had a huge smile on his face and a wonderful reason for it. After years of yearning, the Cold Springs Community Center became a reality for those citizens in the Bremen/Cold Springs area. Crook is the president of the Cold Springs Community Center Incorporated, and this new venue recently held their Grand Opening celebration this past Sunday. The Center is located at 8821 Co. Rd. 109 in Bremen.

"A group of us in the community got together and my uncle, W.F. Davis, while he was still living, this was his dream – to have a voting place that would be accessible to handicapped people," Crook said.

"Down in the old fire department, they had to carry people in sometimes. There was no way to get them in there. So we got together and formed this incorporation. Zeb Little and James Fields and some of those folks helped us."

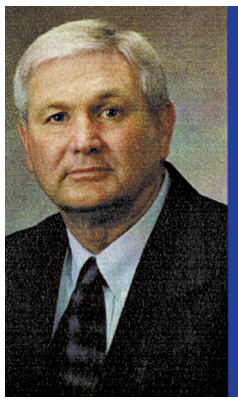
Through the help of grants, donations, and simple generosity through several different mediums, the Cold Springs Community Center has come to exist.

The Center will function as the primary place to vote, of course, but will fulfill a multipurposeful role in the community. The Center is available for rent to those in the community, should you need a venue for a wedding, a birthday party, a shower, or any events for which one could utilize the facilities.

The Center will also be open on the first Tuesday of each month, starting in July, when they will begin hosting potluck lunches for seniors. There is no fee to attend but donations are welcome.

The rest of the officers for the Cold Springs Community Center Incorporated include Dale Harris, vice president; Donna Calvert, secretary; and Janice Crook, treasurer. The group is thrilled to have the new location.

"We've been working on this for about three years. We just want to thank everyone who has helped us – the Cullman County Commission, the Cullman County Community Development Commission, the grant people, and all of the people in this community who have come out and worked and helped us to put this whole thing together," Crook commented.



Elect
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Pd. Pol. Adv. By Darrell Hicks, 3853 Co. Rd. 781, Cullman, AL 35055

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>TOP PRIORITIES

- Set a new standard in Cullman County in drug enforcement by using my extensive training, experience and relationships with other agencies.
- Require increased accountability for registered sex offenders, maintaining vigilant monthly checks. Sex offenders will no longer be allowed to operate on an honor system.
- 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.
- Maintain an open door policy creating an open line of communication that will allow the citizens to voice their needs & concerns.
- Rebuild the partnerships with local city and county departments & other law enforcement agencies.

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Pd. Po. Adv. by Matt Gentry for Sheriff, P.O. Box 655, Cullman, AL 35056

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Military (from Front)

2001.

He has served in Iraq for three years on two separate deployments and in Afghanistan for one, as well as serving for a year in Kosovo.

Being a soldier has been a lifelong ambition for Michael, but it has taken somewhat of a toll on him and his family.

"It's something I've wanted to do since I was seven years old. I stuck with it, and being patriotic became a huge part of my life," he said.

"I have deployed 4 times: Kosovo '01, Iraq '03, Iraq '07-'08, and Afghanistan '12-'13. It was stressful for family, but overall they handled it very well. My mom, Judy Jones, probably worried the most. My brother and I both have four deployments. All were at different times, except this last one to Afghanistan. So our mother worried a good bit with both her sons in Afghanistan at the same time."

He went on to speak about what drives these men and women to get through the hard times when home is so very far away, and the understanding of what comes with the territory of being a soldier.

"Deployments are a part of life in the military. It's the dedication we devote to our country, family, and fellow soldiers that give us a sense of pride," Bryant said.

"We all sacrifice a lot to an extent for what we do. Others have made the ultimate sacrifice. During deployments, we have a job and we all know our jobs over there come with high risks. All we can do is train for deployments and stay as ready as possible for any situation."

Michael spoke earnestly of his feelings during a deployment and the complex emotions that go with it.

"Overseas there are moments where times go by so fast and adrenaline is at an all time high. Other times things are very calm, as if we were back home to a certain extent. Regardless of what happens over there, we build a bond very close with fellow soldiers that will last a lifetime," he said.

And that bond certainly does last a lifetime. The endless days spent with one's troops transforms friends into a second family.

"Life in the military, especially during deployments isn't for everyone. To me, deployments have their ups and downs. You miss the family, friends, and home life a lot once gone and can't wait to return home. Once home, it feels great and we tell ourselves 'I never wanna go back!' But I can probably speak for most combat vets when I say, we'd all go back in a heartbeat. A lot of us feel a huge sense of purpose while deployed, and the overall aspect of what we do makes it worth it. Some of us have lost guys, seen things most do not want to, but it's part of it."

Bryant currently works in Cullman. He and his wife just welcomed their first child together, Jasper.

Military Appreciation month is a wonderful gesture, but our appreciation for our soldiers should be felt by them year round.

It is the only way we can honor those serving and those that have fallen and given their lives.

If you see a soldier today, please go shake their hand and thank them for writing a heavy check to this country, for which some soldiers, equaled the amount of their lives.

Do you know a member of the military we should highlight? Send an e-mail with a short description to submissions@cullmansense.com or call us at 256-297-1847.



RE-ELECT

Mike
RAINEY
SHERIFF
Cullman County



ALGOP RISING STAR POSTED AUGUST 2013

We are honored that Cullman County's Republican sheriff and winner of the 2013 Public Service Official of the year is this week's Rising Republican Star. Sheriff Mike Rainey's courageous commitment to protect the people of Cullman County, fulfilled campaign promises, and family values are only a few reasons why he is recognized as one of the best sheriffs in the state.

A native of Holly Pond., Sheriff Rainey was elected by the voters of Cullman County on Nov. 2, 2010. During his time as Sheriff, he has developed the Cullman County Sheriff's Office into an organization dedicated to professional public service. **He has brought hundreds of drug offenders to justice in a very short amount of time through coordinating efforts among the Cullman County Narcotics Enforcement Team, Cullman Police Department, the Cullman District Attorney's Office, and patrol deputies.** Sheriff Rainey has also promoted a dynamic professional command staff, has implemented new computerized dispatch systems with GIS mapping, integrated records and reports systems, and reorganized patrol districts so deputies can respond in record time. Because of these improvements, more people have been saved when seconds count.

Sheriff Rainey's success in this position is in large part to his 28 years of experience, training and family background. At first he served as a patrol officer for five years, later becoming a special investigator for the Alabama Bureau of Investigations where he performed investigations and executive security both nationally and internationally. Then he became a special agent for the Northwest Alabama Drug Task Force, working undercover. **In this position he caught drug dealers in the act by offering to purchase narcotics from them. This experience sparked Sheriff Rainey's passion for fighting the war against drugs.**

Sheriff Rainey has been educated and trained by the Alabama Police Academy at the Criminal Justice Training Center, the Northeast Alabama Police Academy, North Carolina Highway Patrol Training Center, and the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences. He has completed courses in "Terrorism, Security, and Survival," "Advanced Weapons Training," and "Crime Scene Investigation." His extensive knowledge and background in law enforcement is truly remarkable.

On top of his law enforcement career, Sheriff Rainey is a small-business owner of 20 years, a husband, and a father of two children. These characteristics make him a sheriff who truly relates to the people of Cullman County and deepens his desire to protect their families.

Sheriff Rainey gives most of the credit to the people of Cullman County for success due to their partnership with law enforcement to provide information on criminal activity and to be vigilant in reporting suspicious behavior. We know, however, that good relationships between a county's people and a sheriff's office can only be formed when the sheriff is committed to reaching out.

Sheriff Rainey says, "I have emphasized to our staff to be service oriented. I want you and your children to feel comfortable in reaching out to law enforcement for help. Our deputies and staff continually work to provide better public relations with senior citizens, schools and other organizations that promote trust and interaction between law enforcement and Cullman County citizens. As sheriff I will never compromise my integrity and the standards that have been set before me as a law enforcement officer."

We are proud to claim Sheriff Rainey as an Alabama Republican Rising Star! And, we thank you for all of your outstanding work as a dedicated law enforcement official.

Paid for by Mike Rainey For Sheriff 816 County Road 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.

Cullman County Cattlemen and Cattlewomen annual Memorial Day Sale
Come get your fill of Ribeye Steak Sandwiches at Cullman Shopping Center as the members of the Cullman County Cattlemen and Women sponsor their annual Memorial Day Sale. Friday hours are from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. at Cullman Shopping Center. Each sandwich costs $7.00. Drinks and chips also for sale. You may place orders in advance by calling Edwin Calvert at 256-734-9337 BEFORE 9 p.m. on May 22. On the two days of the event large orders may be placed by calling 256-339-9869. Come enjoy some good old beef and don't worry about cooking or washing dishes tonight!

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!

commUNITY' Fiesta
Everyone is invited to attend the annual 'commUNITY' Fiesta' today at Sportsmans Lake Park from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cullman, this family fun afternoon will include FREE food, rides, music, paddle boating, putt-putt golf, train rides, inflatable bouncers and slides, hourly cash prizes, zumba, and lots of fun for all. Bring the family and take part in this special event.

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This Week in Local Entertainment

Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

Monday, May 19th
- 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 20th
- Shindigs at 'Eat on the Street' at the Farmer's Market from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Square Dancing Lessons at East Point Community Center from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Grumpy's Italian Grill from 7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21st
- Story Time at the Hanceville Library at 10 a.m.
- Musician Derek Sellers at the All Steak from 6-9 p.m.
- Karaoke night at Grumpy's Italian Grill at 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 22nd
- Devil Dawgs at 'Eat in the Street' at the Farmer's Market from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Karaoke night at Cadillac Ron's
- Bike Night at Grumpy's Italian Grill

Friday, May 23rd
- Ladies' Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m. Half off drinks for ladies

Saturday, May 24th
- Fiesta De La Comunidad at Sportsman Lake Park from 1-5 p.m.
- Ladies' Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m. Half off drinks for ladies

Sunday, May 25th
- Happy Sunday!

Busy Bee Café
Try our German Food!

Annual Car Show at Sportsman Lake Brings in the Crowd

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - It was not ideal weather for a car show. Rain and a chilly breeze greeted those who came out to Sportsman Lake on Saturday, but that did not dampen the spirits of those who attended. The 29th Annual Pontiac and GMC Car Show celebrated its yearly display of unique cars, and a large crowd showed up to enjoy the beautiful cars and great friends, regardless of weather.

Music was provided by the golden oldies band, The Cadillacs. Hits through the decades of the 50s, 60s and 70s set the tone for the show, which helped to illustrate what Peggy Cox, southeast director of the Pontiac Club, says that owning a classic Pontiac car is all about.

"It was sad the last day Pontiac was in business because it takes you back to your youth," she said. "It takes me back to a time when things were simpler and not so complicated. Now we can work on them, and the thing is that these cars don't break."

It is well known that Pontiac was a dependable car to own over the years.

If you took care of it, it would take care of you. To keep a show car in competition ready condition, all parts, paint, and accessories must be original to the car. This requires countless hours hunting and preparing to restore and maintain any of these vehicles.

"Two or three people from our club have one the best of the best titles in the nation," Cox said. "Judges are looking for everything to be original. They want the numbers to match up, the paint, how well they run, and then the rarity of the car, like mine is one of only 159 made."

Jim Ketchersid, who is the president of the Southern Region Pontiac-Oakland Club, talked about what makes a person put so much time into these cars. The answer, it seems, is nostalgia.

"What drives this organization is that we are driving the kind of cars that we wanted to drive when we were kids," he said. "Pontiacs used to have hood ornaments that light up. I remember that as a kid and now I own a '52 Pontiac with one."

For more information about the Pontiac-Oakland Club International, contact Jim Ketchersid at jimketcher@aol.com.

AGRIPLEX

Hooked on Hummingbirds

» Local expert shares tips on attracting avian

By: Jessica Norrell
jessica@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The North Alabama Agriplex Heritage Center recently hosted an informative event called Hooked on Hummingbirds, illustrating the natural history of hummingbirds and how to attract them to your yard. Local hummingbird expert and enthusiast Melissa Kirkendall was on hand to educate those in attendance.

Kirkendall's own garden is a certified wildlife habitat and she is a passionate birder. She is active in numerous events and programs each year.

She loves hummingbirds and gladly shared how to attract and enjoy these amazing avian.

The class introduced the wide range of hummingbird varieties, habits, regions, sizes, and other hummingbird facts about the little studied and sometimes misunderstood birds.

There are around 320 varieties of hummingbirds worldwide and over 17 in the U.S.

The birds range in size from the smallest, the Bee Hummingbird, which is around 2.25 inches from beak to tail, to the largest hummingbird, the Patagona gigas or Giant Hummingbird, which measures up to 8.5 inches from beak to tail.

The hummingbird most common in Alabama, and the kind you mostly see in your own yard, is the ruby-throated hummingbird, which is about 3.5 inches in size and weighs about one-tenth of an ounce.

Bird banders help to gather the information we have about hummingbirds and continue to expand our knowledge and understanding of them by measuring wingspan, weight, fat, heartbeat, and other important data.

In order to gather this data, specially trained bird banders who have been educated on how to capture and handle the tiny birds without hurting them, capture the birds, measure, weigh, and record any information, and then put a tiny numbered band around each bird's leg that is unique to that hummingbird. The data on the hummingbird can be accessed if it is recaptured.



JESSICA NORRELL/CULLMANSENSE

» A mixture of one-part sugar to four-parts water is suggested for hummingbird feeders.

Bob and Martha Sargent, founders of Hummer/Bird Study Group, are Alabama residents who have worked in gathering information and advancing the study of hummingbirds and have even personally worked with Kirkendall.

Landscaping for Hummingbirds was the next portion of the class and gave an introduction on how to attract hummingbirds to your yard.

"The best plan is to provide flowers that they love from the time they arrive in the spring 'til they depart in the fall," Kirkendall said.

Planting their favorite flowers and keeping them for every season will guarantee plenty of sightings in your own yard. Hummingbirds begin coming to Alabama in the springtime, starting in March.

An excellent resource to keep up with this movement and see where the birds are being sighted is on the website www.humingbirds.net.

The site plots the spring migration on a map. People who visit this website e-mail in their first hummingbird sighting of the season and their zip code and it is plotted on a map, coded by date.

A few favorite flowers of hummingbirds are red buckeye, native columbine, native honey suckle, and salvia.

The key is to plant several of these plants, which will keep the birds coming throughout the year before migration.

"When you can attract a lot of hummingbirds is during the fall migration. This begins in July up north. You need a lot of feeders and a lot of plants to attract large numbers of hummingbirds but here we can attract them from mid-August through September."

Hummingbirds are also known to be faithful to feeders and return the next year. A nectar or sugar-water mixture is used in these feeders that is one-part sugar to four-parts water.

According to Kirkendall, "The great thing is that hummingbirds will come to nectar feeders. The nectar feeders are more for you than they are the hummingbirds, so place them where you can see them and enjoy them and where they are going to be convenient for you to get them and change out the nectar."

A good way to estimate how many hummingbirds you have is to count how many you see and multiply it times five or six.

Learning to beautify your green space while making it a paradise for hummingbirds is well worth the effort and will bring much enrichment and excitement to you and your backyard.

RESIDENTIAL RECIPES

Quick and Easy Teriyaki Chicken

By: Chelsea Sparks • chelsea@cullmansense.com

Almost everyone loves Teriyaki Chicken, and with this recipe you are not going to believe how simple it can be for you to make delicious teriyaki chicken. With only four ingredients, freezer friendliness, and the fact that it can be tossed into the crockpot to cook makes it one of my all time favorite recipes to stockpile. Serve this dish over rice or noodles and your family will be asking for it every week.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup - pineapple juice
- 1/2 cup - packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup - soy sauce
- 2 lbs – chicken, cubed

Instructions:

- If freezing, combine all ingredients into a freezer Ziploc bag or Tupperware and freeze flat. Be sure to write the date the dinner was made. Thaw in refrigerator for 24 hours before cooking with directions below.
- After the ingredients are mixed together or when meal has been thawed in refrigerator, cook in crockpot on low for 4-6 hours.

Presto! Chicken Pesto!

By: Chelsea Sparks • chelsea@cullmansense.com

If you want a great meal that is light and wonderfully flavorful at the same time, then look no further.

This recipe is light, takes less than a half an hour to make, will fill you and yours up, and if you happen to have some left over, they reheat wonderfully. The pesto sauce, noodles, and chicken come together in a beautiful way. You will not believe how good it is when you see how little it costs to make.

Ingredients:

- 4 to 6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1/2 teaspoon - garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon - salt
- 1/2 teaspoon - pepper
- 1/2 cups - water
- 1 can - cream of chicken soup
- 1/4 cup - pesto sauce
- 1 box - bowtie pasta

Instructions:

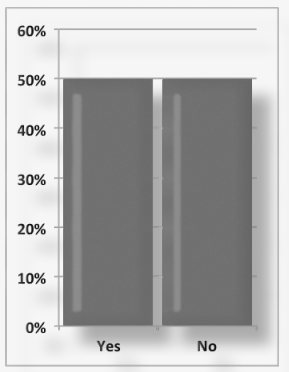
- Arrange chicken breasts in the slow cooker.
- Mix the water, garlic powder, salt and pepper and pour over the chicken.
- Cook on low for 6-8 hours or on high for 4-6 hours.
- Prepare bowtie pasta according to package directions.
- Mix cream of chicken soup and pesto then add to drained pasta.
- Cut chicken into cubes and add to pasta mixture.

GET YOUR RECIPE PUBLISHED

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS TO RECIPES@CULLMANSENSE.COM OR MAIL TO 412 1ST AVE SE, SUITE 103 CULLMAN, AL 35055

Poll

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



This Week's Poll

Do you shop locally?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

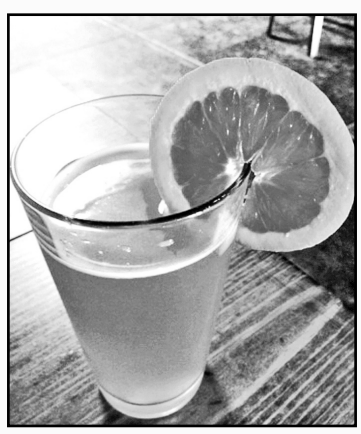
- **Heritage Park 20 Year Celebration:** May 31 at Heritage Park, the event will feature a craft show, kid's zone, food vendors, athletic demonstrations, 3-on-3 basketball, Yappie Hour at the Dog Park, music, and more. Fireworks will complete the day at dark; $5 admission, gates open at 10am. Visit us 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

Blue Moon Receives a Thumbs Up

Tucked safely away at Cullman's new Brothers Kitchen and Pourhouse, I sat content reviewing a Blue Moon. Blue Moon Brewing Company makes a variety of beers, but their most common is their year round Belgian White Belgian Style Wheat Ale.

qrne.ws/201



Locals compete for a championship at ASHAA golf tournament

PRATTVILLE – Four individuals and one team did what they could to raise their level in trying to claim a championship in the Alabama High School Athletic Association golf tournament Monday and Tuesday at the Robert Trent Jones trail on the Capitol One Course.

qrne.ws/202

Hops & Shops Celebrates Local Restaurants and Retailers

Cullmanites got a taste of Straight To Ale this weekend at our very first Hops & Shops. Live music, beer sampling and lots of good fellowship filled the Central Business District during this one-of-a-kind event.

qrne.ws/203

Reading Nooks & Great Books

» Cullman's Hidden Spots for Enjoying a Good Read

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - There's never a bad time to read a book, and summer is no exception. Grab a book you've been eyeing for a while and check out some of the best reading spots in town or in your own backyard.

Deb Laslie, owner of Deb's Bookstore, encourages reading all summer long and thinks there's never a bad place to read a book.

"My favorite place to read a book is with my husband in our front porch swing with the dogs, the hummingbirds, and a glass of sweet tea," she said.

There's nothing like the sweet combination of nature and a book. Whether it's on your porch, on your deck, or in your backyard, nature provides the best backdrop for your reading time.

Cullman also offers several outdoor reading areas. Heritage Park and Depot Park are two beautiful examples. These parks are great for light reading when you don't mind taking breaks to say hello to someone in passing. If you need a more secluded area, try Hurricane Creek Park. This luscious forest provides the perfect enclosure for you and your book. It's impossible to find a bad place to sit and read in this park because everywhere you look is peaceful, quiet, and relaxing. The only breaks you'll be taking here is to absorb the beauty surrounding you. With the wind in your hair and a page in your hand, it's time to get outside and enjoy a good read this summer.

Cullman also has several options for the avid indoors men and women. The first and most obvious is your bed. There's nothing like getting comfortable under the covers with a good book and a cup of chamomile tea. If you're entertaining a child (or if you just want to bring out your inner child), make a fort, find a flashlight and some snacks, and read some spooky stories.

Cullman's own Berkeley Bob's is another great place for reading. Grab a cup of coffee and lounge on the couches or chairs (or tables if you prefer) and read a chapter or two. I can't imagine a better hobby.

If you're looking for a new book, Starbucks has a great little book exchange shelf. On a bookshelf in a nook of this coffee shop hangs a sign that reads 'Leave a Book, Take a Book'. What a great way to encourage reading! There's also plenty of space to sit and read here as you enjoy your triple grande, non-fat, decaf, iced mocha.

Okay, so you've found your favorite Cullman reading spot, but what should you read? Don't worry, Deb has tons of suggestions for you.

"Some fun summer reads?" she began, rattling off her list.

Her list includes: "William Shakespeare's Star Wars: Verily A New Hope" and "William Shakespeare's The Empire Striketh Back" both by Ian Doescher, "Fair Play" by Deeanne Gist, "The Collector" by Nora Roberts, "Good Call" by Jase Robertson, "The Fault in our Stars" by John Green and "One Second After" by William Forstchen. Laslie also recommends "Flora & Ulysses" by Kate DiCamillo, "The Auschwitz Escape" by Joel Rosenberg, "Striker" by Clive Cussler, "The Professor" by Robert Bailey, "More Things In Heaven and Earth" by Jeff High and the 12 volume set of "The Foxfire Series" by Eliot Wigginton.

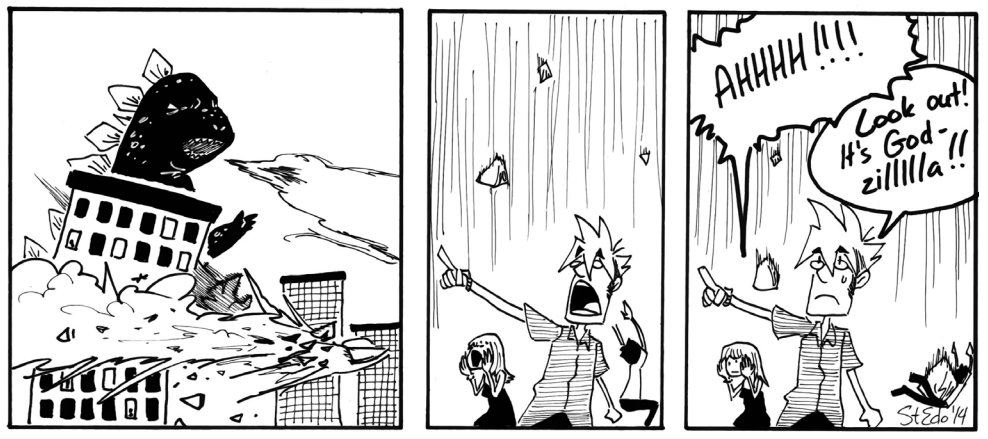
Laslie has a book for everyone! And just what is this book guru reading right now? "I'm finishing the final book in "The Walk" series by Richard Paul Evans," she said. "I'm reading "Still Missing" by Chevy Stevens, "The Postmistress" by Sarah Blake, and I've just finished for the twentieth time "The Pigeon Needs a Bath" by Mo Willems. It's a quick read."

And, yes, Laslie is almost always reading three or four books at a time. "Next in queue is "Magnolia City" by Duncan W. Alderson, "The Turning" by Davis Bunn, and something by Penny Vincenzi I haven't read yet," she adds.

Do yourself a favor and get outside this summer and enjoy the weather or stick to the comfort of the indoors. Either way, get yourself a good read.

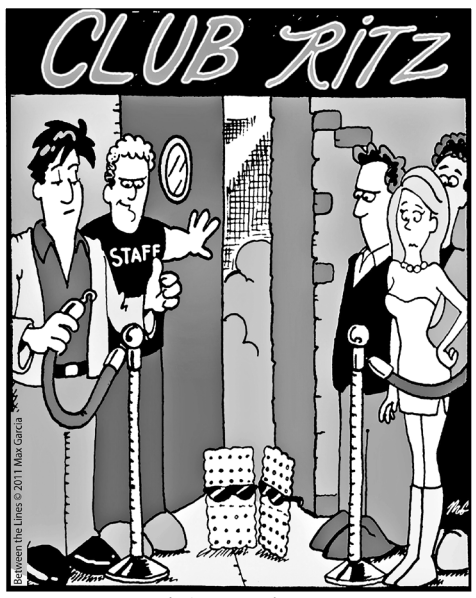
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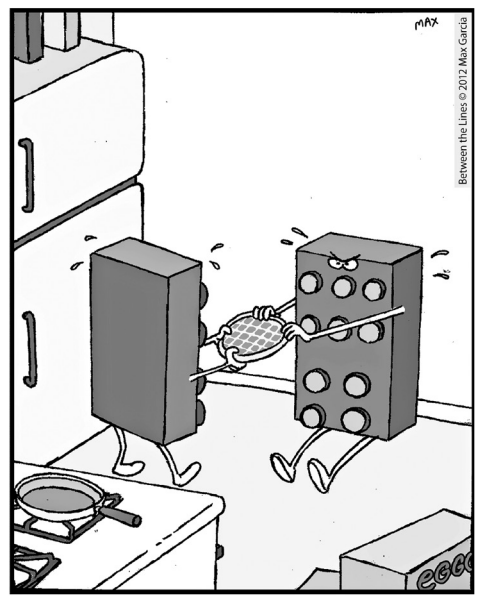


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Club Crackers



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.



Candyland

Hello! My name is Candyland, and I am about 1.5 years old.

I am believed to be a Shep/Chow mix and currently weigh 40 lbs.

I am spirited and enjoy company.

I can't wait to find my new companion. Please consider meeting 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.



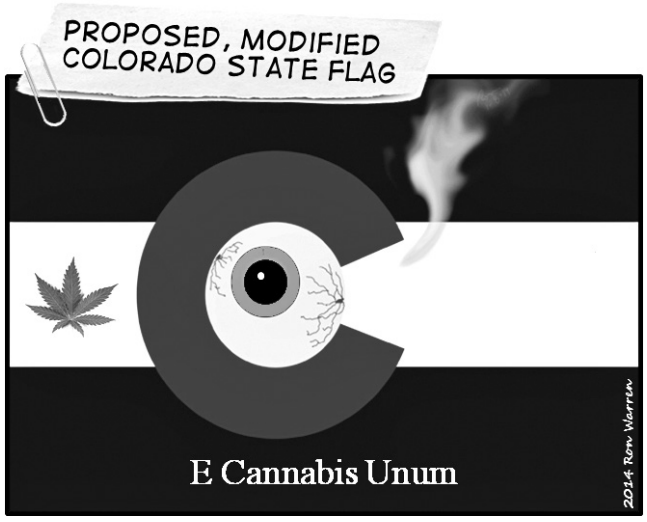
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Editorial Cartoon



OPINION

Get Ready for More of the Same

By: Lee H. Hamilton

I felt a brief surge of hope a few weeks ago about Congress. It was returning from Easter recess, and Capitol Hill was filled with talk about immigration reform, a minimum-wage bill, a spending bill to keep the government operating, and maybe even funding for transportation infrastructure. But, as I said, it was brief.

That's because the talk turned out to be just that. Immigration reform appears headed nowhere. Likewise, tax reform and budgetary discipline. The minimum-wage increase died in the Senate. Shoring up the Highway Trust Fund, which could go bankrupt at the end of summer, requires either massive new spending or a hefty rise in the gasoline tax — and Congress, of course, is inclined to do neither. The one step it appears ready to take is to approve a short-term spending bill, and that's only because no one in either party wants to risk the public outrage that would attend a government shutdown right before an election.

Sure, with this year's congressional elections fast approaching, neither party wants to force its members into tough votes. Yet listening to each party in Congress, it's hard to imagine that they inhabit the same country.

As a nation, we face a lot of challenges we're not addressing. Immigration reform, tax reform, trade liberalization, reforming the International Monetary Fund — all need congressional action. So do the nation's armed services and the Defense Department. Climate change isn't even on the congressional agenda.

Which is why local governments are trying to deal with a global issue by passing zoning laws and ordinances. Indeed, congressional inaction is spurring states to cancel planned summer bridge- and road-repair projects, and big-city mayors to fill the national power vacuum by going ahead with their own minimum-wage measures, tax increases, and other initiatives designed to legislate where Congress won't.

Here's my fear. Congress is already derided at home as bumbling and ineffective. The perception abroad is even more worrisome: Capitol Hill's inability to act is seen as a key piece of America's decline as a superpower. If we've got several more years of drift and dysfunction ahead of us, then the institution that our founders considered to be the keystone of American democracy risks becoming not part of the solution, but the core of the problem.

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OPINION

Get Informed on 2014 Midterm Election Issues

By: Sage Overton
Contributor

Every election cycle brings familiar and new concerns to the political debate table. Every election cycle also watches those issues reorder with a new set of priorities. This year's midterms will be no different. Familiar favorites from recent years like Obamacare, the economy and troop deployments are expected to be on the agenda of candidates from both parties. Primary season has already kicked off giving all their first taste of what lies in store. This is a basic breakdown of current events and recurring issues, the parties' likely to take on each subject, and the priority they are expected to have in the upcoming election.

Obamacare: high priority
Formally known as The Affordable Care Act, it has been one of the most divisive issues the country has ever seen. Democrats hail it as the most recent crowning achievement in the battle to help the middle class. Republicans paint it as one of the most erroneous abuses of big government of all time.

In his State of the Union address this year, President Obama attempted to nail the coffin closed on this issue and demanded Republicans give up attempts to repeal it. They won't though.

Expect any conservative candidate this year to promise at least attempts at reforming the widely unpopular legislation.

Incumbent Status: mid priority
Over the last several years, Congressional approval ratings have fallen to historical lows. Expect candidates of either party to bend this to their advantage. Americans, as a whole right now, have little faith in those who currently hold office, regardless of party affiliation. Fifty percent of Democratic and Republican voters feel half of their own party doesn't deserve another term. How much affect this will really have remains unseen. In 2012, only 36 percent of voters felt sitting officials deserved more time on the tax payers' dollar, but 90 percent of House members won reelection.

Minimum Wage: high priority
While voters won't place it as a top priority, candidates will spend significant time debating it. It ties directly into economic concerns and has begun seeing new legislation efforts, with a goal of $10.10 an hour as the new mark. Democrats say it's a way to level the playing field for the middle class and lift some out of poverty.

Most Republicans argue it will cost jobs and drive up prices. Economists remain split on the issue when it comes to the pros versus cons and how much help it will actually provide. They do all agree it will certainly take money out of the pockets of the top one percent of earners and increase the cost of business, costs expected to be passed on to the consumer.

The Economy: high priority
While the Dow is still hovering near record highs, markets remain shaky and consumer confidence is worse. Global issues abroad continue to mean one misstep on fiscal policy could launch a recession. While there has been significant recovery since the crash in 2009, most of it has been consolidated to the top 10 percent of income earners.

Many in the middle class who lost comfortable full time jobs are still relying on multiple part time jobs to make ends meet. The bottom-line is, the economy is simply not growing fast enough to support the American workforce. Expect both parties to claim the other is at fault and their opponent's fiscal policies will simply make things worse.

Gun Control: low priority
Despite numerous public shootings in recent years, this is one of the trickiest issues for a politician to tackle. Democrats typically will propose more gun control legislation and Republicans will sight the need to defend personal liberties. Expect Southern Democrats to make the most of this issue, claiming to promise no changes to existing laws. Equally, expect liberal candidates from very blue areas with messages pushing tougher laws. Conservatives in red areas will come out promising to oppose any changes.

Foreign Affairs: low priority
This is an area neither party will harp on too much. After the last decade, America is sick of war and both Republicans and Democrats know it. Unless something occurs which provides an extreme and clear danger to America, both parties will call for less foreign intervention and more troops at home. Russian involvement in Ukraine over the next few months may make this a more pressing matter as elections approach.

Gay Marriage: high priority
Expect this issue to come up and be split along party lines. Republicans must oppose it to keep their core base and Democrats must support it to retain theirs. Younger and independent voters have an ever-growing favorable view on the issue though, giving Democrats a definite edge as time goes. The real debate will be if the issue should be decided on a national level or left up to the states.

Legalizing Marijuana: mid priority.
This is an issue that has both support and opposition inside of each party and may be one of the more interesting debate topics in each contest. More and more states are legalizing it, and the call to do so on a national level is slowly growing louder. It can still be a landmine issue though. Certainly expect core conservatives to oppose.

VOICE

You're An Uncle!

By: Noah Chandler
noah@cullmansense.com

"You're An Uncle!" is what the subject line in a recent e-mail read. It came from an old friend, a kindred spirit, the lost twin to the pair or simply put, my bearded brother from another mother, Mr. Adam Lamar.

Yes, I actually do have friends who've known me for more than a few years and they do in fact claim me as family.

Adam was letting me know that his wife, Cassie, just welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Frankie, to this mad, mad world. Of course, elation is the only way to describe this moment, as I've known the couple since we were in middle school.

See, Adam and Cassie are what I refer to as lifers. They met, fell in love, and have been together since those late middle school years.

The couple genuinely is the definition of love personified. They are polar opposites on most levels, yet, meld perfectly as one solid being.

While I shutter when most people inform me of their impending arrival, with Frankie's announcement I knew she would be cared for, loved, protected, and guided correctly in the ways of being a proper young woman, while also learning how to change pistons in a late model Chevelle.

All of this is possible because two people, who seem to stand on polar sides of the field, find love, worked hard at crafting it, and now have brought a beautiful, brilliant baby girl into this world.

I am a proud uncle to a 9-year-old nephew Clark Wyatt McClung and now it's an honor to have a niece in the picture.

I'd like to say a special "Welcome to the world" to Frankie Elizabeth Lamar, who was born May 7, 2014 at 12:15 p.m., weighing 8 lbs. and 2 oz. and measuring in at 20-3/4" long. Frankie my dear, you're blessed with a terrific set of parents and many, many bearded uncles who will keep you protected for an eternity.

Congratulations Adam and Cassie! And please keep giving gents like myself hope that genuine love is attainable in this lifetime. I love you all greatly!



CONTRIBUTED

» Frankie Elizabeth Lamar

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