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CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER
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Leadership Cullman County Class of 2013-14 Graduates Receive Recognition p3

Cullman County Board of Education Appoints New Superintendent p2



Prestigious Pets Recent Move Offers Luxurious Oasis for Pets p3

Unusual Job Opportunity Comes to Cullman p2

Cullman Dance Academy's Second Annual Showcase is an 80s Sensation p5



FIVE BAKERS PIZZA BRINGS ITS MOBILE WOOD FIRED OVEN TO YOU P10

LOCAL HISTORY
Bangor Cave: A History of Fun and Family p5

BRIDGING GAPS
CommUNITY Fiesta Connects Cultures p9

Affordable Rabies Vaccinations Offered Across County for Pets

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - If you or someone you know has a pet that has not been vaccinated for rabies, you may be in violation of the law. According to Alabama State law, every dog or cat owner must have proof of vaccination for animals that are three months or older. To make sure that everyone adheres to this, the State Health Department will be conducting door-to-door checks starting July 1.

This check-up has prompted rabies clinics to be held all across the county on May 31 in order to provide everyone with the opportunity to vaccinate their pets.

This will be a quick, convenient, and inexpensive way to ensure your pet is safe and lawfully vaccinated.

Vaccines will be administered by various vets and staff across the county for the low price of $10.

Below are the various locations and times of the clinics that will take place rain or shine:

Saturday, May 31, 2014:

1-2 p.m.

- Valley Grove Grocery, Old Hwy 69
- East Elementary School
- Heritage Pharmacy, Dodge City
- Etha Baptist Church
- Enon Church, Eva Road

p7

CITIZEN PROFILE

BUILT FROM CONCRETE

» 89 Year Old Craftsman Leo Schwaiger Monumental in Construction of "Little Jerusalem" at Ave Maria Grotto p6



CONTRIBUTED

» Recently celebrating his birthday, Leo has been serving the Grotto since 1963.

BEEF
Cattlemen's and Cattlewomen's Association Hosts 20th Annual Fundraiser p6



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» Money raised from the sales of the rib eye sandwiches helps fund the Association's future projects.

Seat-belt use hits record number in Alabama

By: Josh Carples

» 2014 'Click It or Ticket' campaign underway

MONTGOMERY – A record 97 percent of Alabamians buckled up in 2013, according to a report released this week by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The report comes as Alabama's 2014 "Click It or Ticket" safety belt enforcement campaign begins this week.

The state's seat-belt-use rate is up 7 percentage points from the 90 percent rate in 2012. The new data, part of NHTSA's annual National Occupancy Protection Use Survey, puts Alabama third in the nation behind Oregon and California. The national average was 87 percent.

The seat-belt rate was measured using observational surveys conducted in Alabama as part of the 2013 "Click It or Ticket" traffic safety campaign. Each year during the Memorial Day holiday period, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs provides grant funding to local law enforcement agencies to conduct seat-belt safety checkpoints and extra patrols in areas where a high number of vehicle crashes have occurred.

ADECA Director Jim Byard Jr. said he is encouraged that so many Alabamians are getting the message that seat belts save lives. "While we're happy about these 2013 numbers, it is vital that every vehicle occupant continue to buckle up and stay safe on our roads," Byard said. "The extra patrols and increased visibility of law enforcement officers serve to remind motorists that seat belts and safe driving are especially critical during major holidays."

Continuing through June 1, officers from 232 law enforcement agencies around Alabama are working overtime to enforce Alabama's seat belt laws and remove dangerous drivers from the roadways. ADECA distributed $200,000 in grants from funds made available by NHTSA to cover overtime expenses during the enforcement campaign.

In addition to programs supporting law enforcement and traffic safety, ADECA manages a wide range of programs that support workforce development, energy conservation, economic development, water resource management, and recreation. For more visit adeca.alabama.gov/ciot.

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Cullman County Board of Education Appoints New Superintendent

By: Kate Mullaney
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CULLMAN - The Cullman County Board of Education met last Tuesday to appoint a new superintendent. Chairman Chris Carter began the meeting by stating that Dr. Brandon Payne withdrew his candidacy because of a change in nepotism laws. Dr. Payne's wife works in the county school system, and because the change in nepotism law has made it unclear about whether or not his wife would be asked to resign, he decided to withdraw.

Board member Wendy Crider suggested the board take more time to choose a new superintendent.

"We need to be 100 percent sure on our decision of who we choose to lead our school system," she stated. "I recommend we discuss this further. All things considered I feel we haven't had time to really discuss this as a Board."

Board members Kenny Brockman and Randy Hasenbein agreed with Crider.

After a brief discussion, Chairman Carter shared Dr. Payne's letter of withdrawal.

"By withdrawing my candidacy, potential illegal issues that pose a threat to my family and the county school system have been eliminated," it read.

Board member Gene Sullins stated that the candidate withdrew because of a law they were unsure about.

"In my opinion, he was the best candidate," stated Sullins. "I think we should start from the very beginning."

The floor was open for nominations. Board member James Thompson nominated Dr. Greg Ross.

"We should not make a decision now," stated Sullins. "If Mr. Thompson does not drop his movement, we have to vote tonight," stated Superintendent Secretary Kim Arnold.

Thompson pulled his nomination.

After further discussion, Crider made a movement to vote that night at the meeting. Thompson seconded the motion.

Chairmen Carter again opened the floor for nominations. Crider again nominated Dr. Craig Ross. This was seconded by Thompson.

Jason Speegle motioned to close nominations. Four were in favor, two were opposed, and one abstained from voting.

Crider moved to make a contract with Dr. Craig Ross to become the Superintendent of the Cullman County School System. Thompson seconded this. Four were in favor, one opposed, and two abstained from voting. Dr. Craig Ross has been appointed as the Superintendent of the Cullman County school system.

The meeting was adjourned at this time.

Dr. Craig Ross currently serves as the principal of Robertsdale High School in Baldwin County. He completed his B.A. and M.A. degrees at Indiana University. He began his teaching career as a middle school/high school science teacher and has been an instructional leader for seven years. He completed his PhD at Auburn University.

"It is my greatest responsibility as a principal to help support our outstanding team of teachers and to help ensure each student is successful," he stated in an interview before this meeting.

"As an educational leader, I believe successful leadership requires an individual with a strong sense of character, integrity and the ability to manage effectively, so as to empower those who work with you. It is my goal as an educational leader to create and maintain the highest quality professional learning community possible."

Unusual Job Opportunity Comes to Cullman

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

» North Alabama Agriplex's Program Receives Funding for 5 VISTA Participants

CULLMAN - It is always exciting when a new opportunity emerges in the area. More jobs in our local economy are always a great thing, but chances are that you have never seen an opportunity like this one before. Rachel Dawsey, coordinator for the North Alabama Agriplex, has been working tirelessly to bring these jobs and this program to Cullman.

"I applied for the grant with the Americorps VISTA office," Rachel Dawsey said. "It is an intense grant process all submitted online. A concept paper is submitted and then if approved, the grant is completed and submitted. The North Alabama Agriplex's 'Food for Life' program qualified for a 5 VISTA member team for three years. Each team serves one year."

These five spots are open to anyone; the one and only requirement for consideration is that you not work for any other establishment during your time with them. It is a job with a lot of perks that you will not find throughout much of the state. It is a 40-hour work week with a living allowance, childcare, and health insurance to the VISTA member, and a choice of an educational stipend of $5,000 or an end of service award of $1,500, and a moving allowance package if coming from over 50 miles away.

Dawsey also talked about what the VISTA team will be doing for the Food for Life program here in Cullman.

"The VISTA program is a capacity building program for small non-profits like the Agriplex. The VISTA members cannot participate in direct service, but instead work to build your programs through indirect service," Dawsey said.

"This helps the Agriplex to have the Food for Life programs up and going and sustainable when the VISTAs leave in three years. The VISTAs will be part of the community, serving the local people during their one year of service. VISTA members could be local or from out of state. Any age person can apply. The only requirement is that they not be employed anywhere else for that one year."

This strengthens our community in several ways and ensures that Cullman is on the forefront of agricultural education.

"Cullman County is first in agriculture in the state. We come from a rich agricultural heritage. But Cullman also has a high obesity rate and a high hunger rate," Dawsey stated.

Dawsey says that the Food for Life program is designed to bridge these gaps. Through nutrition education, garden education in schools, promoting local food, and farmers, teaching people to grow and use fresh produce, and much more, this lack of understanding can certainly be amended for the greater purpose. "Food for Life will help our community be healthier and change our eating habits long term. Food for Life also hopes to provide food to those that are food insecure," said Dawsey.

This is an incredible opportunity for the community, not only for the jobs, but for the education and resources for everyone. These jobs are unusual in that they are open to everyone interested and will create a new and innovative way to connect people with healthy food choices and the rich agricultural heritage in Cullman.

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Charity Motorcycle Ride
to Benefit Cancer Victims
June 14th, 2014
(Rain Date is June 28, 2014)
REGISTRATION starts at 8am at the Cullman County Fairgrounds on Sportsman Lake Rd.
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$5 per Passenger
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Leadership Cullman County Class of 2013-14 Graduates Receive Recognition

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's 2014 Leadership Cullman County Program held its graduation ceremony last Thursday night. The evening was held at the All Steak and was a celebration for the participants who completed the program. The program is sponsored by Merchants Bank, and the graduation ceremony was sponsored by American Proteins, Inc.

Leadership Cullman County is a nine-month series of seminars and programs. It was created to bring together a group of people to study community issues such as education, healthcare, crime, government, economic development and quality of life.

The graduation ceremony began with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. 2013-14 Chamber Chair Melissa Cartee gave a brief welcome followed by a few words from LaRue Brock of Merchants Bank. Buchanan Jackson, the Leadership Co-Chair, provided the invocation before dinner was served.

Leadership Co-Chair Jenny Clark then introduced guest speaker, Dale Greer, of Cullman Economic Development who spoke briefly about leadership.

"I don't think leadership means you have to be a president or an official or something of that caliber," he said. "I think it's more than that. Simply being in this class shows you have leadership skills; they don't just accept anyone."

Greer spoke about some Cullman leaders who have influenced him, such as his coworker Peggy Smith, Dr. Vicki Karolewics, Chester Freeman, Billy Coleman and Chamber President Leah Bolin.

"People lead in different ways," he added. "You don't have to be like anyone else to be a good leader. You just have to be you. There's no road map for how to live your life. Involve yourself in whatever you do and take action."

Greer stated that he was proud of this group of leaders and is eager to see where they take Cullman County.

Participants were honored by receiving awards presented by Leadership Co-Chairs Jackson and Clark.

"It's been so neat to have this opportunity to meet so many people," stated Clark.

Leadership Cullman County graduate Christy Turner was very pleased with the program and enjoyed herself every step of the way.

"I loved it," she stated. "I grew up in Cullman, but this program exposed me to so many different parts of our community. Each part working together is so good for this town. It's that teamwork of each part of the community that makes Cullman so great. I also had the opportunity to make friendships that will last a lifetime."

If you would like to learn more about the next Leadership Cullman County program, visit www.cullmanchamber.org. Thank you to the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce for providing yet another wonderful program to benefit our community.

Prestigious Pets Recent Move Offers Luxurious Oasis for Your Four-legged Friend

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

SOUTH VINEMONT - If you are in search of a place to house your pets in a beautiful, safe and luxurious environment while you are on vacation or off on business, then look no further. Prestigious Pets has been around for a long time, but their recent move to a more remote location offers more outdoor fun with a relaxing environment.

The new establishment is a little off the beaten path, especially when compared to their old location in the middle of town. As soon as you step inside and make your way to the outside play areas, however, you will understand exactly why this move was a great choice. Melody Basch, owner of Prestigious Pets, explained why this was the right move for her company.

"I was ready to downsize in the retail area," Basch said.

"I wanted to expand the boarding because we had such a great following for that, and you know, it's just quieter out here. We have three acres, so we are able to give the dogs more room, which they really enjoy."

Basch went on to say that after 28 years in the business, she knew exactly what she needed, and that it was a thrill to be able to build exactly what was needed.

The new home to Prestigious Pets feels like just that – a home. The outside gardens and play areas are gorgeous with lots of flowers, a fountain, and the pets have two pools to lounge in on these hot summer days.

"Yeah, I did all the landscaping," Basch said. "That's my Zen place. It's just one of my favorite things to do."

While landscaping is a passion for Basch, her heart lies in grooming and pampering these precious pets.

She spoke about where this love and passion came from and where she drew the inspiration for the successful business we all see today.

"My dad was in the military," Basch said. "And so as a young child, we never got to have pets because we moved so much. Then we moved to Cullman, and I went to work for old Dr. Compton, and I just fell in love with it."

After spending her weekends at Dr. Compton's business feeding animals, Basch knew that working with animals was what she wanted to do for the rest of her life.

"It's sweet when our dogs come barreling in and just know where they're going," Basch said about her home away from home for her clients.

It is plain to see that Melody Basch has built much more than a business here in South Vinemont.

She has given pet owner's a peace of mind. Basch's reputation speaks for itself in the community and beyond.

Her love and dedication to these animals is more than evident in the quality of service she provides in both grooming and boarding.

For more information on Prestigious Pets grooming and boarding services, please call 256-734-2660 or visit them on Facebook.

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.

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State Governments Look to Entrepreneurs for Creativity, Efficiency

By: Jeffrey Stinson • Stateline

Entrepreneurs in government? The idea may sound like an oxymoron to government bashers.

Yet a move is on to bring successful entrepreneurs into state agencies, city halls and economic development agencies to help stimulate business and job growth – and, important to many advocates, help bureaucracies become more creative, efficient and responsive to the public.

"Those of us in business always say we want government to be more businesslike," said Virginia state Del. Steve Landes.

"Government is not a business. But maybe we can be more business-like, and use some (entrepreneurial) techniques and ideas and philosophy of the private sector in government."

Landes, a Republican banker, sponsored legislation enacted in March that creates a pilot entrepreneur-in-residence program.

It calls for Virginia's secretary of commerce and trade to bring as many as 10 successful and willing entrepreneurs into state agencies to advise on reaching out to business and curing any government inefficiencies they spot.

Volunteers would offer their time and advice free for up to a year, he said, ideally out of a sense of civic duty.

The legislation is similar to what Texas lawmakers approved last year and to bills introduced in California, Connecticut, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, New York and Tennessee.

It comes as dozens of cities or counties – from New York City to San Francisco to Arlington County, Virginia – are creating their own entrepreneur-in-residence programs to try to spur business activity or solve civic problems.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti earlier this month appointed two veterans of successful computer and manufacturing startups to advise the city on what it can do to "foster ideas to get businesses off the ground and create jobs."

The initiative is underwritten by Ernst & Young, the multinational professional services and accounting firm.

Up the coast, San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee chose six startup companies in March out of about 200 that had applied to be in the city's new entrepreneurship-in-residence program.

They will collaborate with city departments on issues as varied as boosting social engagement with the community to reduce crime and developing new simulation, planning and urban development tools and technologies.

The program's goal, Lee said, is "to explore innovative solutions to civic challenges that can lower costs, increase revenue and enhance productivity."

Moving the Concept to Government

Government inviting successful entrepreneurs to set up temporary residence is new. But the concept of tapping into their expertise is not.

Venture capitalists have turned to them for more than a decade for strategy and to help spot other startups possibly worth investing in. Universities have brought them into their business schools to teach.

Corporate America increasingly has sought them in recent years to help identify and develop possible new products or services, and to help shake up staid thinking.

The chief evangelist for putting them in state government, Ingrid Vanderveldt, comes from Dell, the technology giant, which in 2011 embraced the idea of reaching out to entrepreneurs as part of its strategy to sell its computing services to the business world.

Vanderveldt, who had several successful startups of her own, now oversees Dell's $100 million innovators credit fund to help startups finance technology tools, along with Dell's center for entrepreneurs that offers advice to budding businesses.

Her zeal for encouraging entrepreneurship didn't stop at the private sector. Government needed to be involved, too.

So two years ago, she worked with Silicon Valley U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., to craft legislation to set up a residency program in the federal government that he introduced with Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La.

The goal, she said, was to help change a policy and a regulatory climate that entrepreneurs tell her are stumbling blocks to launching new enterprises.

"Dell fundamentally believes that if we're going to get our ... economy turned around, it's going to be by entrepreneurs, not big companies," she said.

But, she said, "the regulatory environment is often very, very challenging for them."

The Kauffman Foundation, which has tracked new business starts since 1996, reported last month that entrepreneurial activity in the nation fell for a second straight year.

The rate of new business owners dropped to about 476,000 a month in 2013 from about 514,000 in 2012.

Jared Konczal, senior analyst with the Kansas City, Missouri, foundation, attributes the fall to better job opportunities in an improving economy.

As a result, he said, there were fewer "necessity entrepreneurs" who started their own businesses because they couldn't find work elsewhere.

States Get Involved

As the federal entrepreneur legislation languished, Vanderveldt turned to state capitals.

She began offering lawmakers model legislation shaped from Honda's bill and adaptable to the needs of a particular state.

In addition to Austin, Texas, she's been to capitals in Connecticut, Tennessee and California to testify or advocate for it.

The goal, she said, is the same: to bring entrepreneurial thinking "from the outside in" to government agencies to create a better climate for starting a business.

"Entrepreneurs could help with pinpointing any duplicative procedures for obtaining a business license and improving how to inform someone starting out a business about environmental or labor regulations," she said.

She said another benefit is to instill an entrepreneurial spirit in government to tackle the problems it faces, especially during lean budget times.

"If there is any sector of the population who knows how to do more with less, it's startups and business founders," she said.

Possibly changing the way government does business is what appeals to Assembly member Ian Calderon, who is sponsoring entrepreneur legislation in California.

"I feel like this is an avenue in which to explore the way to get people the (state) services they need and in a more efficient and creative way," said Calderon, a Democrat.

But will it work? Calderon said he isn't sure.

No state program is off the ground yet. And he foresees resistance.

"The agencies aren't going to be receptive at first," he said.

"They'll think it means more work ... or they don't want to be told they're doing something wrong or could be doing something else."

Some Examples

The idea of tapping entrepreneurs has shown signs of success. By enlisting them, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has developed a new, streamlined path to better inform, advise and adjudicate problems of foreign entrepreneurs seeking to start businesses in the U.S.

But legendary California entrepreneur Steve Blank warned not to expect too much from one or even several successful projects.

Entrepreneurs can help accomplish some tasks, he said, such as the Citizenship and Immigration Services did.

But they can't instill innovation into the culture of government long term.

"What you really want to do is change the institutional DNA (of government)," he said. "That's the legacy – not just this one sexy project."

Blank authored "The Four Steps to the Epiphany: Successful Strategies for Products that Win," which spread the so-called lean concept of starting a business and argued that to succeed, new ventures can't be miniature versions of big companies.

He also teaches entrepreneurship at Stanford, California-Berkeley and Columbia universities.

He said one experiment that may work in changing the culture of government has been launched in Philadelphia, where Philadelphia University and the city founded an Academy for Municipal Innovation.

Nineteen employees from various city agencies were chosen to attend classes this spring semester to learn about the principles of innovation and how to act on them on the job.

"That's different from bringing in entrepreneurs," Blank said. "It's teaching people to be entrepreneurs themselves."

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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Cullman Dance Academy's Second Annual Showcase is an 80s Sensation

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – On Friday, May 23, the Cullman Dance Academy held their second annual showcase featuring lots of pretty girls and music from the 1980s. Held in the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre located at Wallace State Community College, the young dancers performed for a large crowd of parents, grandparents and friends who danced and softly sang along from their seats throughout the show.

The Cullman Dance Academy is located one mile from Highway 31 on Golf Course Road and offers instruction in Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Conditioning, and Flips-n-Tricks. They hold annual showcases each year in December and May, which means both the dancers and their instructors are constantly preparing for the big event.

Friday's Showcase was a thrill, with the theme being "Flashback Music Awards – Love the 80s!" and the audience was allowed to choose the winner from each category by the amount of cheers and applause each song received as it was called out. The four categories were: Pop, Soul/R&B, Country, and Rock.

In the Pop Category, the girls danced to the following songs: Listen to Your Heart by Roxette, Billy Jean by Michael Jackson, Girls Just Want to Have Fun by Cyndi Lauper, and All out of Love by Air Supply. The crowd voted for All out of Love, which featured the dancing expertise of Kenzie O'Neil, Kate Hart, Madison Lambert, Eliana Bishop-Hollis, Alaina Smith, Savannah McKinney, Ella Payne, Kylie Calvert, Madison Carroll, Kyleigh Gobble, and Caitlin Dingler.

The audience was thrilled as the Soul/R&B nominees showed their stuff in this part of the showcase. The songs up for nomination were as follows: Ebony & Ivory by Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder, We are the World by Michael Jackson (U.S.A. for Africa), Heaven is a Place on Earth by Belinda Carlisle, and finally When Doves Cry by Prince.

Heaven is a Place on Earth was the audience choice in this division and the tiny dancers in their white fluffy tutus and matching angel wings were thrilled, naturally. The following little sweethearts made up the winning group in the Soul/R&B song: Adison Campbell, Maggie O'Neil, Camden Sanders, Kailyn Bradley, Cora Wiggins, Analyn Huff, Ayla Kate Huff, Leah Calvert, Marlee Marks, and Jaleigh Jordan.

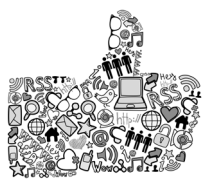
The Country nominees of the night were Footloose by Kenny Loggins, Mountain Music by Alabama, Grandpa by The Judds, and When You Say Nothing At All by Keith Whitley. This resulted in a tie for Mountain Music and When You Say Nothing At All. Mountain Music featured lots of bandanna and plaid shirts, as well as lots of exciting Flips-n-Tricks from all different directions across the stage. The talented girls who made up this group were Emma Hart, Bailey Keef, Angelina Cruz, Brianna Carrol, A.J. Hill, Ellie Wiggins, Lylianna Emma Hancock, Mary Rodrigues, Samantha Aaron Orona, Anna Hill, Lindsey Skinner, Caroline Hill, and Allison Driver.

When You Say Nothing At All, which tied with Mountain Music, featured a little older group of students. They are Abby West, Cynthia Oden, Kelsey Lowery, Emma Murphree, and Catie Jowers. The girls looked lovely in their pink and grey outfits with flowers in their hair.

The final group for the night was the Rock Nominees. The songs that were chosen to be voted on were Hit Me With Your Best Shot by Pat Benatar, Don't Stop Believin' by Journey, Every Rose Has Its Thorn by Poison, Love Shack by The B-52's, and Heartbreaker by Pat Benatar. The winning song, Hit Me With Your Best Shot, was clearly chosen from the roar of applause throughout the entire auditorium. The little girls who danced their hearts out, wearing pink and black zebra stripped costumes were Karly Woddle, Kenley Dye, Makayla Leusby, Raegan Phillips, Allison Felix, Brinley Pair, Arianna Wilson, Kara Day, Lexi Myrex, Macey Apel, and Molly Kilpatrick.

The Showcase was a wonderful success and a big thank you goes out to all the instructors who worked with the girls patiently throughout the year. Courtney Rhea Dennis, Jordan Layne Burns, Peyton Parker, Melanie Mae Roberts, and Emily Carroll each deserve a pat on the back for what they have done to inspire these young girls and teach them the art of dance.

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LOCAL HISTORY

Bangor Cave: A History of Fun and Family

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

When I was a little girl, my family and I spent many hot summer days grubbing around inside Bangor Cave. I remember how nice and cool it was inside the cave's walls and how the mud, which coated the cave's floor, was extremely slick. We had to be extremely careful not to fall and break anything. Each of us had our own flashlight, complete with a brand new set of batteries, and we enjoyed combing the damp cave in search of a new discovery. Sometimes we'd find a bat hanging upside down, snoozing away, and other times we may have found an interesting rock, which we'd quickly pocket as we made our way through the cave.

As children, we thought the cave was terrific, but we had no idea how truly amazing Bangor Cave had been in the past. Located in Blount County, not far from the former resort town of Blount Springs, the cave had once been the place to be when people wanted to celebrate the 4th of July, go to a picnic, dance or even a band concert in the early 1900s.

Because it was the center of activity for most of the surrounding areas, a spur of the L&N Railroad stopped right at the Bangor station, which was practically located at the cave's entrance. Most of the cave's activity came from visitors from the Blount Springs resort. Unfortunately, the popular resort burned to the ground in 1915, leaving the cave abandoned not long after.

In 1937, J. Breck Musgrove, the property owner, and four other men, Carl Burkes, Jabbo Carter, R.C. Williams and Richard "Smitty" Melvin, invested $70,000 into the property and converted the abandoned cave into a nightclub like no other place around – especially in the state of Alabama. It was advertised throughout the U.S. as being the "only underground nightclub in America" and people came from all over to be a part of this one of a kind attraction.

In order to turn the cave into a nightclub, the first chamber was leveled with the addition of concrete then covered with green and white tile and scattered with café tables. An orchestra pit had been carved out of a huge boulder and was perfect for 20 musicians to sit comfortably and play. The ledge of the orchestra pit was covered with chrome and hung over the dance floor. It was one of the premier places for entertainers to appear here in Alabama at that time. As a matter of fact, many acts were booked from all over the U.S. The biggest attraction to the nightclub was the casino, which was located in the second room of the cave. With a wall of slot machines, roulette wheels and several black jack/dice tables, the casino proved to be a success. Bangor Cave enjoyed the sounds of laughter, music and the clunky noise the "Roscoes" or slot machines made.

Unfortunately, because of the sale of alcohol and with the gambling that took place in the cave, raids and legal proceedings occurred shortly after it officially opened. In January 1939, Bangor Cave was closed for good when Governor Bibb Graves ordered a local sheriff to shut the place down. A year later, a fire burned the inside of the cave and destroyed the wooden structures inside, leaving the cave officially abandoned except for the spelunkers and folks like my family who continued to visit over the years.

Sadly, the cave has been subjected to vandalism and the once beautiful site became covered with graffiti. Broken glass and trash cover the main entrance where teenagers have had their parties. The bar and bandstand can still be seen, but other than that there is nothing left of the once famous nightclub.

Bangor Cave is currently privately owned and is closed to the public. The current owner is in the process of cleaning up the cave by removing the graffiti and trash for starters. It is unsure if the cave will ever be open to the public again. Hopefully future generations will be able to have the fun I once enjoyed in that special cave.

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CHRONIC LOWER BACK PAIN? NO RELIEF?
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Join Dr. Robert Ward, Orthopedic Surgeon
THURSDAY, MAY 29
11:30 am - 1 pm
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As he discusses the sacroiliac joint as alower back pain generatorand a new procedure, using the iFuse Implant System, now available to relieve this type of lower back pain.

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Fundraiser (from Front)

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - If you were craving beef this past Saturday and didn't stop by the local Cattlemen's fundraiser in front of Books-A-Million, then you missed out. The grill was hot, and the delicious item on the menu was beef. People around town stopped in to buy one, two, or even a sack full of mouth-watering rib eye sandwiches.

The Cattlemen's Association started in the late 1940s with only a handful of members and has grown into a large and proud organization. The Cullman County chapter is a part of the larger state organization and is easily the number one beef promotion association in the state, if not the country.

Treasurer and long time member, Edwin Calvert, explained the simple but important reason for the association.

"Basically our reason for being is to promote beef," Calvert said. "And to try and make the situation for folks who grow cattle better so that they can make a little money on their efforts. In addition to that, at the state level, our executive director is very active down there in the House and Senate when they're in session."

Politics seem to play a large role in the lives of these cattle farmers. Calvert went on to talk about how the government plays a role when natural occurrences like a drought happen. The Director of the Cattlemen's Association stepped in and acquired some government assistance for feed and supplies. Regulations, property laws, and many more laws and legislation affect these farmers and their cattle.

According to Calvert, however, the Association's focus is not all on politics. They also take an interest in the youth around the county.

"There are lots of other things we do," Calvert stated. "Like our Junior Cattlemen's program. We've had it going now for several years and there are a lot of special activities for young folks to educate them about growing cattle."

Another aspect of this association that may not be well known, but is certainly worth mentioning is that they are not strictly a "men's club". There are a number of Cattlewomen who grow their own cattle independently. They have their own club that is a sister group to the Cattlemen's Association.

"We split all the earnings from this fundraiser," Calvert said. "Everything is split 50/50. And we give the Cattlewomen several thousand to go with their money to do scholarships. We have a lot of cattlewomen in the association."

The Cattlemen and Cattlewomen's Associations have been putting this event on since 1994.

The original purpose was to buy their office a new computer. They sold 1,800 sandwiches, purchased their computer, and decided to keep going with the fundraiser to promote their group and raise money for future endeavors.

These associations do a lot for our community. Cullman has always been one of the top regions in the state, and even the country, for all manners of agriculture. Their dedication to raising cattle is what keeps our hungry stomachs full with burgers, steaks, and so much more.

Their next rib eye sandwich event will take place on Labor Day weekend. It is a great meal for $7, and it continues to support a part of our county that is so very important to our economy. Make plans to come on out to the next event in September and fill up your stomach while you support local farmers.

Leo (from Front)

By: Natalie Bonner
natalie@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Leo Schwaiger is 89 years old. A walking testament of time, he recently celebrated a birthday and has been working at the Ave Maria Grotto since 1963 constructing concrete works of art in the shapes and shadows of the most monumental buildings and sites ever known to man, ultimately helping to create the "Little Jerusalem" we all stare in awe at today.

"I feel like everyday that I get up and can still walk around, it's a great day," Schwaiger humbly stated. His heart and hours are rooted in the investment of the Ave Maria Grotto.

Just how did Schwaiger come to be in this lifelong position? Two years after Brother Joseph died, a tornado came through and knocked a big pine tree down on his model of the Tower of Babel and crushed it. Doing stonework at the time, Schwaiger was called up by Father Lambert and recruited to rebuild the structure.

"In my spare time and on Saturdays, I rebuilt it and I've done the work ever since then. He [Brother Joseph] and I are the only two that's ever added buildings in the Grotto," he said.

Schwaiger comes from a long lineage of creative constructers: his grandfather was a stonemason in Munich, Germany, his father was a stonemason and a concrete contractor, and his mother made concrete lawn ornaments, birdbaths, flowerpots, lawn seats, etc.

"Growing up, I was a meddlesome little kid, I couldn't keep my hands off of her concrete, I kept messing up the finish, so to keep me out of the way, she gave me a little trowel, some concrete and mortar, and some little rocks, and they put me off in a corner and said, 'You work over there.'"

By the time he was 12, Schwaiger was building little castles. A self taught artist, he has a true eye for detail while bearing in mind the big picture.

Of course, nothing is perfect and as these tiny replicas are exposed to the elements at all times, there are bound to be issues occasionally.

"There have been times when youngsters got in among the buildings. Some [replicas] are brittle and they break, or if a limb falls off a tree, they break. There have been a few times when freeze damaged them and I had to repair them. I always have to repair them with colored concrete, not paint," he explained.

The most interesting factor of Schwaiger's creations is that they are made from mainly one element.

"It's all concrete, but we use ceramic tiles, pieces of marble, seashells, and things like that to repair them. The base material is concrete made from cement and sand. Cement is the universal component of everything here."

Not only is knowledge of this field mandatory in order to do this work, but Schwaiger explained three other key elements that are necessary for him to do his job. "One is an imagination and the patience to handle these little objects. Two is the ability to visualize what it's going to look like before you build each part or it won't fit together in the end. And three you have to be able to work concrete. It's not an easy medium to work with," he said with smile.

When asked what his favorite part of the Grotto is, he responded: "All of it. I really have no favorite because, to me, all of it is a part of it and I try to live under the theory that I hope this is what God wants me to do, and if Brother Joseph's work and my work combined can inspire one person to seek God not now doing so, then it's all worth it."

Elect MATT GENTRY
SHERIFF



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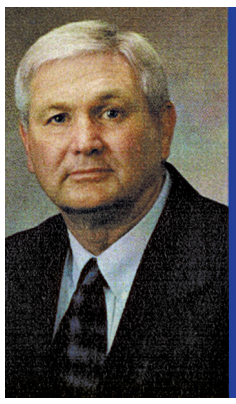
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>TOP PRIORITIES

- 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.

•Honor •Commitment •Integrity

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



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

Happy Memorial Day from the City of Cullman



On behalf of the Cullman City Council and Mayor Max A. Townson, we wish you and yours the best this Memorial Day weekend.

www.cullmancity.org
Phone: 256-775-7109
facebook.com/cullmancity

Vaccinations (from Front)

• Springhill Church, Hwy 278 West
• West Elementary School
• Holly Pond High School

2:30p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
• Good Hope High School
• Cullman High School
• Fairview High School
• Hanceville High School
• Vinemont High School
• Jones Chapel School

• Whitlock's General Store, Trimble
• Cross Creek Tractor

4-5 p.m.
• Calvert's Store, Brushy Pond
• Simcoe Baptist Church
• Garden City School
• Parkside School
• Battleground School
• West Point High School
• Skinner's E-Mart, Crane Hill

• South Walter Gin

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
• Cold Springs High School
• Welti School
• Arkadelphia Fire Station
• Old Joppa School
• Tractor Supply Co.
• Logan Baptist Church
• White City Community Center

ELECT JEREMY
ODEN
PSC PLACE 1



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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER
PLACE 1

A PROVEN PUBLIC SERVANT

Small Business Owner
◆ Farming ◆ Retail
◆ Construction ◆ Timber

Served as VP & Branch Manager, Eva Bank of Cullman

Ordained minister at Abundant Grace Church in Cullman

Graduated Eva High School & Asbury University



ELECT
COREY
HARBISON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 12

Corey Harbison is a lifelong Republican and lifelong resident of Cullman County. As the two-term mayor of Good Hope, Corey knows what it takes to run government with honesty, openness, and transparency.

He wants to take those same Cullman County values to the House of Representatives, where they are sorely needed.

Corey will fight for our values while working to:

- Repeal Common Core
- Return education dollars back to Cullman County
- Clean up government corruption
- Eliminate wasteful spending
- Reduce the size and scope of government
- Create jobs

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.



While others talk, Sheriff Mike Rainey delivers results for Cullman County.

Vote to keep Cullman County safe for our families.

Re-Elect Sheriff Mike Rainey
Republican Primary - June 3

Mike Rainey: Proven Results

LARGEST CRACK DOWN EVER NETS 96 ARRESTS[1]

Stolen Equipment Recovered[2]

DRUG SWEEP NETS 81[3]

Sheriff Deserves Credit[5]

Investigation leads to 58 arrests[6]

Gambling Machines Seized[7]

ROUNDUP NETS 73 ARRESTS[4]

1. Cullman Times - 6/10/11 | 2. Cullman Times - 5/11/11
3. Cullman Times - 12/11/12 | 4. Cullman Times - 12/19/11
5. AL.com - 6/27/12 | 6. Cullman Times - 6/8/13 | 7. Cullman Times - 4/9/13



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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.

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!

Next Monday

Cullman Kiwanis Club
The Cullman Kiwanis Club invites all local men and women who are interested in taking part in community service along with great fellowship, fun, networking, and learning to attend their weekly luncheon meeting at 12 noon each Monday at the All Steak. Come see what Kiwanis is all about and enjoy a great luncheon meal as well.

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

The City of Cullman's Alcohol Review Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 27th, 2014 at 5:00 pm, in the Administrative Conference Room of City Hall, located at 204 Second Avenue NE.

Comments will be received on the proposed approval for the sale of alcohol in the City of Cullman by the following applicants:

CVS Pharmacy, LLC
1906 Cherokee Avenue SW
Beer and Wine Off-Premises Alcohol License

Supreme Properties, LLC
1705 Lee Avenue SW
Special Events On-Premises Alcohol License

This Week in Local Entertainment

Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

Monday, May 26th

- 79-cent wings at Rodney G's Hickory Grill from 6-9 p.m.
- Happy Memorial Day!

Tuesday, May 27th

- Farmer's Market is open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Papa Duke's Food Truck at Farmer's Market for Eat on the Street 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 28th

- 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 starting at 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 29th

- Farmer's Market is open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Johnny's Bar-B-Q On the Road Food Truck at Farmer's Market for Eat on the Street 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 30th

- USSSA 'AL Sub-State' Tournament at Heritage Park
- Ladie's Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m. Half off drinks for ladies
- Musician Derek Sellers at the Local Standard starting at 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 31st

- Heritage Park Celebrates 20 Year Anniversary starting at 10:30 a.m.
- USSSA 'AL Sub-State' Tournament at Heritage Park
- Farmer's Market is open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Ladie's Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m. Half off drinks for ladies

Sunday, June 1st

- USSSA 'AL Sub-State' Tournament at Heritage Park

Busy Bee Café
Try our German Food!

Bulldog Scramble Golf Tourney to Benefit Hanceville High Tech Fund

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE - At 8 a.m. on Friday, May 30, 2014, Cullman Golf Course will host Hanceville's annual Bulldog Scramble. The Bulldog Scramble is a golf tournament dedicated to the entertainment of the participants and to the raising of money for the Hanceville High School's Technology Fund. This year marks the 15th anniversary of this exciting and unique fundraiser. To date, the Bulldog Scramble has raised over $120,000 for technology and has become one of Hanceville High School's major fundraisers.

Not only will there be loads of fun, but there will be many great prizes given away at the Scramble. The First Place Team will receive $400 ($100 for each team member). The Second Place Team will receive $200 ($50 for each team member). The Senior Division (Teams age 60 and older) will receive $200 ($50 for each team member). The Women's Division (All Women) will receive $200 ($50 for each team member). Par 3 Holes Closest to the Pin will receive $100. The Longest Drive (Men's, Women's and Seniors) will receive a golf bag. The Putting Contest (the top three putting closest to the hole) will compete for $100. Each golfer will enter their name for a chance to win the Grand Prize (a golf bag), but note - they must be present in order to win.

If you or anyone you know is interested in participating in the Bulldog Scramble as part of a four-member team, the registration fee is $50 per person or $200 per team. Registration will be ongoing up until the time the Scramble begins. If you have any questions or if you'd like to participate in the event, please contact Hanceville High School at 256-352-6111 during regular school hours.

CommUNITY Fiesta Connects Cultures

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Diversity is a wonderful thing to have in any community. Having groups of different races, religions, and walks of life is what makes this an interesting world in which to live. It is a great thing to celebrate our differences, but an even better feeling is when we realize that we are all the same. That was the theme of the CommUNITY Fiesta that took place this past Saturday at Sportsman Lake Park.

Joe Holmes, long standing member of the Rotary Club, had an idea to unite the community and bridge the gap that seemed to have formed with the Hispanic community.

"I've been over in foreign countries before and sometimes when you're in a foreign country, you feel lonely and displaced," Holmes said. "And about three years ago, the state started enforcing this new immigration law. You can imagine if you lived in a foreign country, and all of a sudden everyone was looking at you. So I just thought it would be a good thing if the two communities could get to know each other better."

Since the inception of this idea, Holmes has developed close relationships with several families of Hispanic origins and has said it was an eye opening experience for him.

"I've gotten more out of this than anybody," he said. "I have become very close to some of the people and I have found out that they are very loving, Christian, family oriented, and hard working people."

The weather was beautiful and the amount of free food and drinks available was staggering.

Local restaurants like Lupe's served up free Mexican dishes, while the Rotary Club provided free hotdogs.

Everywhere you looked people were smiling and laughing, and it was apparent that racial divides were not present. This is what Yenny Laney, Director of Hispanic Ministries at First United Methodist Church, wanted to see and has seen over the past three years.

"The main purpose of this event is to bring the two communities together," Laney said. "To know that we are all created by God and that we can have a good time as one community, as a family."

There was no shortage of entertainment to go along with the food. Raffles, music, bounce houses, family photos, paddle boats, and train rides were just some of the fun to be had. The event provided a way for families from all parts of the community to come together in fellowship and reach out to one another. The Hispanic community is a rich and beautiful culture that brings new businesses, hard workers, and loving families to Cullman.

Cheers to Peaches: Maggie's Peach Farmhouse Ale is a Must Drink

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

This week I review a delicious Maggie's Peach Farmhouse Ale by Terrapin Brewing Company out of Athens, Ga. This beer is bursting with peach flavor; a perfect beverage to enjoy this summer.

John Cochran and Brian Buckowski founded Terrapin Brewing Company in 2002 with their first beer: the Rye Pale Ale. Now, Terrapin produces five year round beers, as well as several seasonal beers. Among these seasonal brews is their delicious peach farmhouse ale.

Farmhouse ales, or saisons, were originally brewed on farms during the winter months to be consumed in the summer months. Though farmhouse ale styles can vary, many are slightly sweet, yeasty, and mildly bitter.

Maggie's Peach Farmhouse Ale is 5.3 percent alcohol. It is made with US Golding hops and 1,000 pounds of peaches per 100 barrel batch. Best of all, Terrapin uses locally grown Georgia peaches!

Smell. The overwhelming aroma of this beer is, wait for it... peaches. It also has a lighter note of, well, peaches. Besides this, there are slight notes of wheat and peppery yeast, but it mostly smells like peaches... and I'm not complaining!

Appearance. This beer is a beautiful golden color. If you hold it up to the light, you can see right through it. It has a foamy white head that diminishes fairly quickly and has very little lacing. Until the head diminishes, this beer is picture perfect, so be sure to take a selfie with one.

Taste. It was quite hard to distinguish one particular flavor of this beer. Oh, who am I kidding? This beer tastes like peaches! And I love it! It's not too sweet, it's slightly hoppy, and it's so peachy.

Palate. This brew has a light body with carbonation that will kick you in the mouth. It has a slightly dry finish that will leave you wanting more.

If you like peaches then Terrapin's Maggie's Peach Farmhouse Ale is a must drink.

RESIDENTIAL RECIPES

Taco Soup

By: Chelsea Sparks • chelsea@cullmansense.com

Taco soup is a fairly common soup to make nowadays. It's quick, extremely cost efficient, can feed a big family, and most important of all, is that it is delicious! Seriously, I cannot get enough of this stuff. Great for potlucks, family gatherings or any occasion where you want to give your taste buds a treat.

Ingredients:

- 1 lb - ground beef
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 package – taco seasoning (or your favorite homemade taco seasoning)
- 3/4 cup - water
- 1 15-oz can - black beans
- 1 15-oz can - corn
- 1 4-oz can - diced green chiles
- 2 cans (15 oz) - diced tomatoes
- 1 15-oz can - tomato sauce
- Dash of Tabasco sauce to taste
- 1 cup - shredded cheese (to garnish)
- 1 tablespoon - sour cream (to garnish if wanted)
- Tortilla chips or corn chips

Instructions:

- In a large stockpot, brown the ground beef until crumbly. Add onion and cook until translucent.
- Add taco seasoning and water. Stir until meat is evenly coated.
- Add in black beans, corn and chiles. Mix well and allow to simmer for 5 minutes. Do not drain the cans first.
- Add tomatoes and tomato sauce and simmer for up to 20 minutes to combine flavors.

If you like your soup spicy, add a dash of Tabasco sauce and use hot green chiles.

Serve with grated cheese, sour cream and tortilla chips.

Chicken Roll Ups

By: Chelsea Sparks • chelsea@cullmansense.com

As you all know, my main goal in my recipes is to save you time and money without skimping on flavor and quality. Well, this is an embarrassingly simple yet delicious dish that meets all my criteria as a keeper. Chicken, cheese and crescent rolls, what's not to love?

Ingredients:

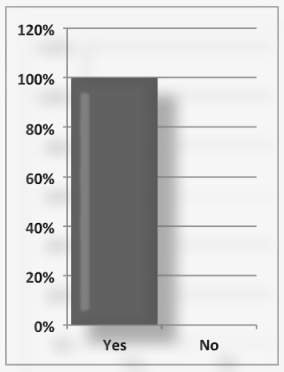
- 1 can - large crescent rolls
- 2-3 chicken breasts, shredded
- 1 can - cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup - milk (I use 2%)
- 1/8 teaspoon - garlic powder
- 1/8 teaspoon - basil
- 1 bag - shredded cheddar cheese

Instructions:

- Cook chicken and shred. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Open crescent rolls and stuff with chicken and roll up.
- In a saucepan, mix milk, cream of chicken, 1/2 cup of cheese, garlic and basil. Stir until creamy.
- Place rolls into baking dish, pour mix on top and place in the oven for 10-12 minutes.
- Five minutes before removal, sprinkle more cheddar cheese on top of rolls and wait for it to melt.

Poll

Do you shop locally?



This Week's Poll

Do you have a family member who served in the military?

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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

Hooked on Hummingbirds

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/204

Heritage Park to Celebrate 20 Years of Community Fun

Heritage Park is a landmark and treasure to the Cullman community and has been for 20 years now. Countless events and games have been held here and thousands of feet have walked its trails and enjoyed all this great park has to offer. That is why it is high time this landmark...

qrne.ws/205

Cullman Caring for Kids Seeks Child Advocate Volunteers

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.

qrne.ws/206

Five Bakers Pizza brings its mobile wood fired oven to you

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - If you are a pizza lover, you are in for a treat! Five Bakers Pizza is a brand new mobile oven, which is unique to Cullman in that it uses wood fire to cook its amazing pizzas. The finished product is absolutely out of this world. With fluffy crusts and fresh toppings on a pizza that is cooked in a wood fire oven, you can taste each ingredient in a vibrant new way.

"I had my first wood fired pizza while in France during 1997 while deployed with the Air National Guard," said Trevor Baker, owner of Five Bakers Pizza.

"I loved the pizza so I built a brick wood fire oven in the backyard. From there, I learned about the mobile trailer ovens that were available to use at festivals."

Once Baker realized there was a way to take his favorite wood fired pizzas on the road, he talked it over with his family and from there the Five Bakers Pizza idea began to take shape.

"In 2012, I visited a company out in Colorado and attended a workshop on how to start your own business with the mobile oven," Baker mused.

"I received my oven in January of this year and have been working to establish my business here in Cullman."



CONTRIBUTED

» After having his first wood fired pizza in France while deployed with the Air National Guard, Trevor Baker purchased his own mobile pizza oven.

Five Bakers is a family owned and operated company.

"As the name states, Five Bakers is me, my wife, and our three kids so right now, I employ four on a tight budget." Baker said, smiling proudly.

"I plan to work festivals, farmer's markets, and hope to begin catering events as people become more aware of our business and the great taste of wood fired pizza. It's unique to work with a brick oven and makes everything taste better."

If you are in the mood to try a few slices of the newest pizza in town, make plans to come out and visit Five Bakers Pizza at upcoming shows and festivals.

"I will be at the annual fireworks show at Smith Lake Park on July 4th. We hope to participate in more events as we become more experienced in the business," Baker said.

Five Bakers Pizza also offers catering for your convenience.

The delicious pizza would be excellent for family reunions, pool parties, and anywhere delicious food is required.

Humble and honest, the Baker family will treat you right. From the food to the fellowship, they will deliver.

If you or anyone you know is interested in having Five Bakers Pizza at an event, please give Trevor a call at 256-734-8913 or e-mail him at Fivebakerspizza@gmail.com.

Comics

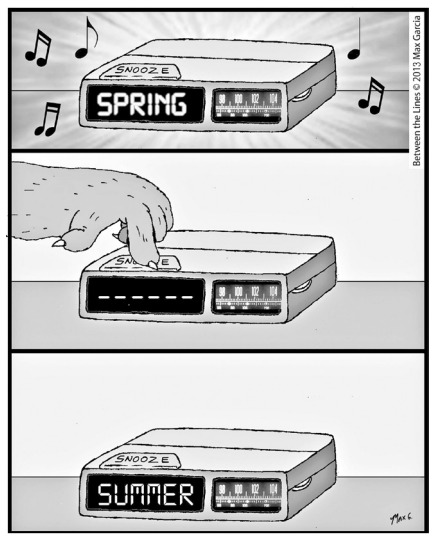
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Pets of the Week

Gunner

Hello! My name is Gunner, and I am about 3 years old. I am an English Bulldog and I currently weigh 59 lbs.

I am full of life and I love to play, however, I do not get along with other dogs and I am not good with small children.

I am ready for my new forever home.



Nova

Hello! My name is Nova, and I am about 11 months old.

I am believed to be a Lab mix and I currently weigh 68 lbs. I am spirited and enjoy company.

Please stop by and visit me today.



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

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



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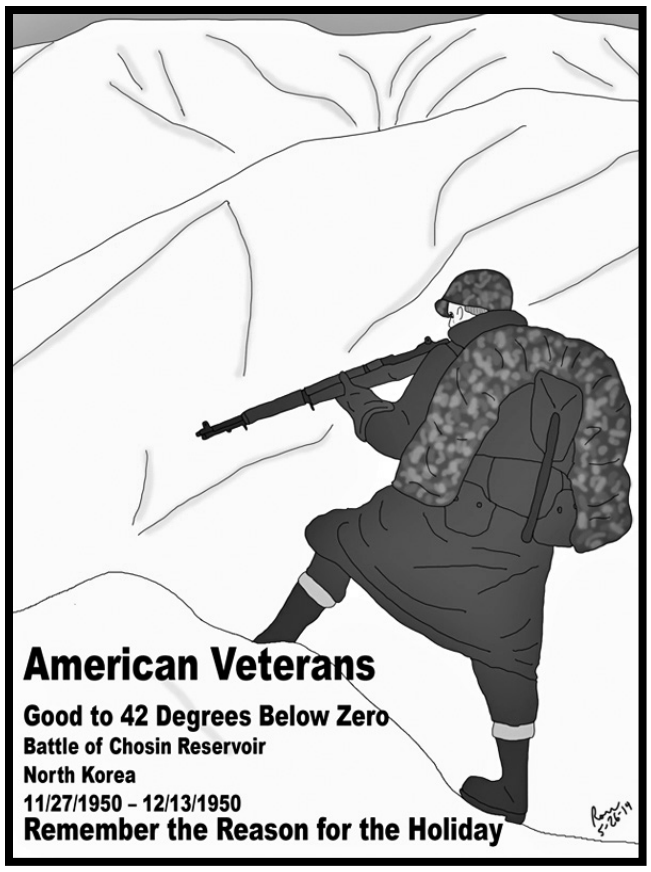
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Community Matters

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NO(AH)-IT ALL - OPINION

MYSTERY LEAK AT CRYPT NOT SO MYSTERIOUS

By: Noah Chandler
noah@cullmansense.com

Following wild reports of a mystery fluid leaking from crypts at Cullman Memory Gardens, I decided to go out to investigate this peculiar claim.

Upon arriving, Ron Foust, owner of Stone Bridge Farms, was speaking with a local police officer and a former employee of the now seemingly deserted mausoleum and gravesite. The trio was discussing the puddle which has been drawing a lot of attention lately.

The former employee, who asked to remain nameless, walked me to the site pointing out the various puddles and leaks between the outer marble façade. He explained since the grounds have been in limbo for several years, the building, along with the gravesites, have fallen into disrepair.

Over the years the building has taken some hard hits, whether it is with the electricity being cut off to the sanctuary area inside the mausoleum to a tree falling on the southeastern wall – the same side as the mystery leak – causing a bit of damage to the roof.

After explaining these few simple details, we walked roughly 20 feet to the front of the building where he pointed out that the front door remains unlocked year round. This may seem insignificant on the surface but if you're looking into a claim of mystery fluids, one may want to enter the building in question to see if there were any other such fluids.

Of course, to no surprise, there was a giant pool of fluid pressed against the southeastern wall, completely soaking the carpet. While standing back to take a photo, a drop of water fell onto the camera. We looked up and spotted the culprit. A leak in the roof, well three leaks to be exact.

Once discovering the leaks in the ceiling, I looked closer at the carpet and wall to find mold, signaling these leaks have been present for quite a while. The former employee departed and I exited the building and went back to the not-so mysterious puddle with one nagging question.

Why did multiple agencies report smelling death emanating from the crypts? This quirky answer was solved with a bit of insight from the former employee just before he left. I was informed that less than 40 days ago, an individual was placed into his final resting place, which so happened to be located two spaces to the right and two spaces up from where the puddle was gathering.

Anyone with any basic level of understanding about the decomposition process would know a body will be emitting various gases at this stage, some of which can leak out of the crypt and into the surrounding areas if it is not properly vented or maintained.



NOAH CHANDLER/CULLMANSENSE

» The "mystery" fluid that soaked through the carpet of the mausoleum appears to be only water.

Knowing the cemetery has been without a caring owner for some time now, while adding in the information regarding the loss of power and possible damage from a fallen tree, it all tends to make sense that the leak was in fact nothing more than a water leak.

But then again, I actually like to find out as much as possible about a story before writing about it, so I took to the sky for some aerial photos of the building. A quick inspection of the roof began to reveal that it, in fact, has drainage issues and some areas where water collects.

Zooming into the section of the wall that produced the puddle of not-so mystery fluid revealed that leaves and debris, forcing water to divert in order to find a way off the roof, block the drainage port.

After seeing the roof, examining the inside of the building and staring at the puddle, I could only come to one mind-boggling conclusion. Why did anyone freak out over a leaking roof?

Here's how it goes. If it were a health issue, the government would have moved in quickly to quarantine the area. Since this isn't the case, and knowing all the other details, I can only reason that the leak is nothing more than water being forced down an exterior wall due to a blocked drainage pipe on the roof. This water is being forced to run down the face of the inside of the mausoleum, ultimately collecting at the base of one particular crypt.

OPINION

Lost and Found: News Stories that Left an Impact

By: Sage Overton
Contributor

News becomes old very quickly these days. Headlines that could last for weeks now disappear in days in the digital world. News stays new. Occasionally though some important ones fall through the cracks and get lost. Below we take a look at four of the biggest breaking stories in 2014 so far that either ended with a whimper or simply lacked a clean closure.

The Affordable Care Act Deadline

2014 is the first year the Affordable Care Act, known better by its more popular shorthand Obamacare, gains teeth. Those who go three months or more this year without health insurance must pay a tax penalty next year, either $95 or 1 percent of their gross income, whichever is greater. The original deadline to apply was March 31 but due to technical glitches, this was extended to April 19. Healthcare.gov reports just over 8,000,000 enrolled. One-fourth of them were between the ages of 55 and 64. Eighty-five percent of those received some kind of financial assistance. California had the most people enroll with 1.4 million. Alabama had just over 97,000.

Russia Invades Ukraine

On February 22 of this year, Ukrainian unrest culminated in the overthrow of President Viktor Yanukovych. Yanukovych had angered citizens by going back on deals with Europe and attempting to strengthen ties with Russia. Shortly after, unmarked troops began showing up in Crimea, a province in southern Ukraine, securing bases and political buildings.

A controversial referendum was held in Crimea on March 16 where a supposed 95 percent of voters elected to split from Ukraine and rejoin Russia. Despite warnings from Western leaders, Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Russian Parliament accepted the offer. Many of Russia's most powerful people are now under international sanction, and many of the provinces in eastern Ukraine are in turmoil. The conflict is pitting Ukraine forces and supporters against others who wish to split off and join Russia as Crimea did.

The Trial of Michael Dunn

On November 23, 2012, Michael Dunn was at a Jacksonville gas station when a confrontation erupted between him and a group of teenagers in an SUV. Reportedly, the argument centered on him asking the teenagers to turn down their music, which he referred to as "rap crap."

What exactly happened next is unknown but it ended with Michael Dunn firing into the vehicle at the four teenagers inside. Seventeen year old Jordan Davis was killed.

On February 15, a jury found him guilty of three counts of attempted second degree. They were hung on the decision of whether or not he was guilty of murdering Jordan Davis after deliberating for 30 hours. Each of the three counts he was found guilty of carries a minimum of 20 years. A new trial is being set up to retry Dunn for the murder charge.

Missing Malaysian Airline Flight 370

One of the biggest mysteries in a decade is what really happened to the Boeing 777 carrying 227 passengers onboard. After departing Malaysia on March 8, it failed to land in China later that same day.

No distress signal was received from the plane. Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia announced on March 24 that evidence concluded the plane went down in the South Indian Ocean. However, so far international search teams have failed to turn up a single piece of debris from the plane. The hunt for answers is still ongoing, but the search has been significantly downsized. It now mainly involves special ships and equipment to scan the ocean bottom floor. The passenger list included citizens from 14 different nations.

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