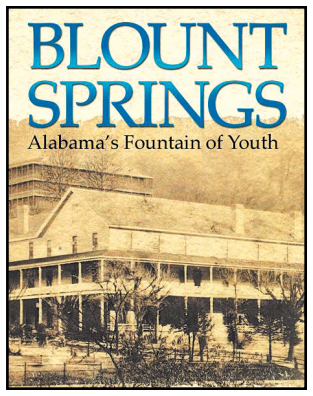
SERIES 4, ISSUE 21 MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014
CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS
$0.50 $0.50



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Local Postal Customer

LOOKING FOR A FOREVER HOME

» Weekly pet adoptions at Pet Depot save countless lives, but many local pets still struggle to find a loving family p2



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» Dogs with great personalities are often overlooked because they don't appear a certain way and are in desperate need of a permanent place to call home.

City set to unveil Fallen Firefighter Memorial

By: Leanne West
Contributor

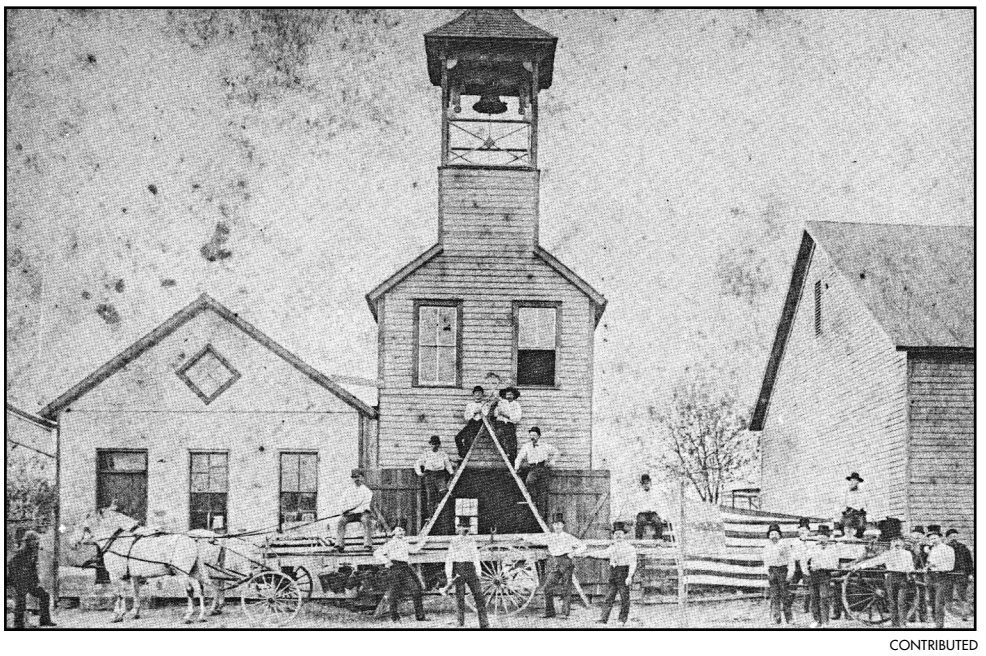
CULLMAN – The unveiling of the Fallen Firefighter Memorial will be held this Wednesday, June 4, 2014 (weather permitting), at Fire Station Two, located at 1711 Main Avenue SW.

The new memorial, that is dedicated to fallen firefighters, will feature the original fire bell used in Cullman's first fire station that was built in 1895.

This fire bell, recognized as being one of the original three bells cast for the City of Cullman in the late 1800s, sounded the alarm for fires.

At that time, firemen responded with horse drawn hose buggies and fire equipment.

Not much is known about where the bell was kept after the first fire station until it was rededicated to the Fire Department in 1974.



CONTRIBUTED

» To be unveiled on June 4, the Fallen Firefighter Memorial will feature a bell used in Cullman's first fire station, built in 1895.

The unveiling ceremony is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m., and is open to the public. In the event of inclement weather, the unveiling will be postponed to a later date.

Please come out and join us in celebrating the service and dedication of fallen firefighters everywhere.

All past and present firefighters as well as their families are invited to attend. We hope to see you there.

Please forward any questions to jpatton@cullmancity.org or 256-775-7186.

ADPH practices procedures for dispensing medication to public during emergencies

By: Wanda Heard
ADPH Contributor

MONTGOMERY – On June 5, the Alabama Department of Public Health will conduct a full-scale exercise focused on operating a Point of Dispensing Site, also known as a POD. This event will serve as a real-time exercise that demonstrates the emergency operations for any future occurrence that would require dispensing medication to the mass public in Alabama during a man-made or natural emergency.

"This exercise will allow us to test the plans we have in place p19

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

Home (from Front)

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Every Saturday at places like Pet Depot, Tractor Supply, or even Heritage Park, you can find animals and their loving foster families searching for that perfect match. It is the match that will change an animal's life – to find that one of a kind forever home.

These generous and loving families open their homes to dogs and cats that are in need and deserve a chance to be saved. Every Saturday, you can find them sitting in all weather waiting patiently and hoping to save an animal's life that day. For some, this past Saturday was a successful one and still for others, they continue to struggle to be adopted.

One such family has been fostering animals for some time now and has helped many find the forever homes they desperately needed. Christy Patterson talked about how she became a foster parent to animals after the passing of her cat.

"My husband told me I could go get a cat at the shelter," she said. "And that's when they told me about fostering, and I came home with eight. It just went from there."

While it was not something she expected to get into, it has become a passion in her life.

"Over time, it's just one of those things that once you start, it is hard to abandon it," Patterson said.

She went on to discuss what her focus lies on and what drives her to keep pushing to find as many homes as possible.

"One of the reasons people are afraid to foster is that they're scared they will get attached to the group they have," Patterson said.

"I get attached to the group at the shelter because if I don't get attached to the group at the shelter, then I will lose my motivation to get these in homes."

Another big issue when trying to get any animal adopted, and a big frustration for foster homes, is when a great dog is repeatedly passed up.

"That is one of the most frustrating parts of fostering," she said.

"Because the dogs we have, we know their personalities. Too often I think, people are more concerned with what the dog looks like. When the true concern should be how the dog's behavior is and how is that going to fit in with our family."

She went on to say that often times, people end up bringing back the flashy dog because the dog just wasn't a good fit.

This is sadly a common occurrence when the wrong things are taken into consideration when rescuing a pet.

Patterson says to always ask a lot of questions on a dog's behavior before taking them home.

Adoptions are taking place every Saturday at Pet Depot in the Town Square Center in Cullman from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Christy Patterson, and people like her, have saved countless animals around the area, but they are always in need of help because of the large population of animals.

If you cannot adopt or foster, then the other most important thing you can do is to make sure all your animals are spayed or neutered. The stray population in Cullman County is a big problem, and everyone needs to do their part to help. Small steps can lead to big changes.

If you would like more information on fostering, please call the Cullman County Animal Shelter today at 256-734-5448.

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- 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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Bentley awards $30,000 grant for worker training at Cullman's Yutaka Technologies Inc.

By: Josh Carples
Contributor

MONTGOMERY - Gov. Robert Bentley has awarded a $30,000 grant to help 10 workers at a Cullman manufacturing company to learn new job skills.

The grant to Alabama Cullman Yutaka Technologies Inc. will help provide on-site training to boost productivity at the supplier for the automotive industry.

"By learning new skills, employees can increase productivity and help companies stay competitive," said Bentley.

"I am pleased that we can assist these employees to gain skills that will increase their value to their employer."

Yutaka Technologies is a Tier-1 manufacturing facility for Honda, producing parts for their Ridgeline, Odyssey, Pilot and Acura MDX vehicles.

The Cullman facility currently employs more than 400 people.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is administering the grant from funds made available by the U.S. Department of Labor.

ADECA administers a wide range of programs that support law enforcement, workforce development, energy conservation, economic development, water resource management, and recreation.

Bentley notified Kimeral Wilson, the company's human resources manager, that the grant had been approved.

The company is providing $68,699 for the training, which will be conducted by the Alabama Technology Network's Hanceville/Cullman Center.

Paddle Board Water Yoga: Getting Fit in H2O

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - A new way to stay in shape has splashed into Cullman. The Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center is now offering paddle board yoga classes, great for those who love a challenge.

Paddle Boards are traditionally used to stand on and paddle across larger bodies of water such as a lake. But in paddle board yoga, you're in a pool.

And you're not just standing, you're lunging, planking, posing, and downward facing dogging.

Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center's yoga instructor, Debbie Leopard, is thrilled to offer this new class.

"We started here in February so it's pretty new in Cullman for sure," stated Leopard. "I talked to Susan Cost at Smith Lake Paddle Boards and she kind of started talking to me about bringing paddle board yoga to CWAC. So that's how it came about."

Paddle board yoga is a challenge, even to those who are already yoga masters because balancing on the board while posing engages more muscles than traditional yoga.

"Anything you do on a paddle board is straight up core so your whole body is engaged. So, let's say I'm doing a chair pose on the floor," demonstrated Leopard. "I'm engaging my core, but I'm on steady ground. But if I'm doing a chair pose on a paddle board in the water, I'm having to balance myself more which engages your whole body. So it's like a complete body workout. You could just be sitting on a paddle board and still feel like you're getting a workout."

Paddle board yoga forces those comfortable with traditional yoga to rebuild their poses. It's like yoga outside the box.

"On the ground you can have a wider stance," stated Leopard, "but in the water you have to keep everything a little more concentrated."

Leopard added that those currently attending the classes are loving it and some are advancing quickly.

"Some people who come are already starting to get into inversions like head stands," she said, "but a lot of people aren't ready for that yet."

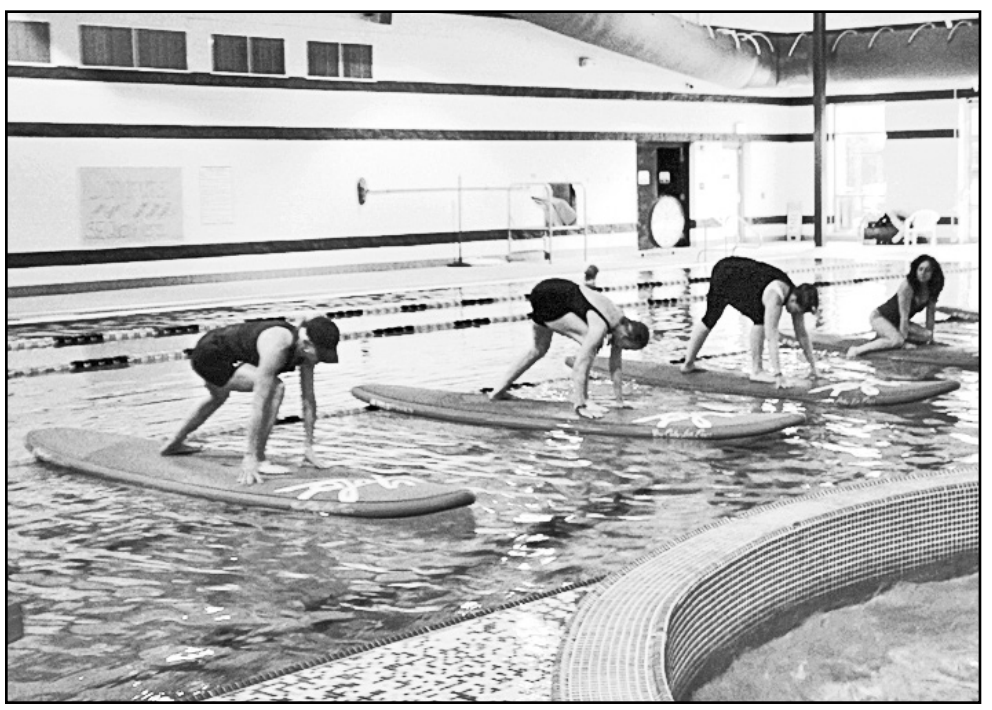
And do people tend to fall in the water a lot?

"Yes!" laughed Leopard. "Yes, yes, yes. Most of the time it's when we go into a lunge position because you're changing your center of gravity."

Paddle board yoga is great for anyone! Even if you've never taken a single yoga class.

"It's beginner yoga," claimed Leopard, "so we're doing a lot of dogs, warriors, and stuff like that. The only differences are that you're on a paddle board and you're in the water."

Leopard encourages anyone at all levels of yoga to come try this class. Classes are offered Monday and Wednesday at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center at 10 a.m. It's great exercise and great fun - as long as you don't mind getting wet!



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» Participants get a whole body workout as they practice paddle board yoga at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center.

Summer Jobs Offer Endless Options for Teens

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Summer is here, and for most teens, that means it's time for a summer job. Finding a job can be difficult, but with a little creativity, you will be on your way to making money in no time. Here is a list of the best summer jobs for teens.

Fast Food: If you're willing to give it a try, the fast food industry can be a great place to make money, and since Cullman is so close to the interstate, there are quite a few options. You could be working some crazy hours, around 30 hours per week, but you will develop a great work ethic. McDonalds on 2nd Avenue is currently hiring new team members to work a maximum of 28 hours per week. Starting pay is $7.25 per hour. Starbucks is currently hiring baristas. You must be willing to work flexible hours, such as early mornings and weekends, but it's far less greasy than other fast food joints. Fast food restaurants are constantly looking for new team members. If you're interested, go by and pick up an application or simply find them online.

Retail: If you're a fashion guru, try snagging a job at one of our retail stores. Maurices is currently hiring for a new sales associate. The job is mainly for closing hours, so around 5-9 p.m. each day and around 4-15 hours a week. Pay will depend on your retail experience. Rue 21 is also currently accepting applications. If you're looking for something a little bigger, Belk is also currently looking for a fresh new sales associate. You can apply online. Hours will vary and pay will depend on your experience.

Book Stores: If you're a book lover, this would be a great job for you. You'll enjoy easy access to thousands of books every day, plus, you'll get some great retail experience. Books-A-Million is currently hiring for both booksellers and café baristas. If you love books or coffee (or both), apply online at booksamillioninc.com/careers.

Ice Cream Shops and Bakeries: Perhaps you have a bit of a sweet tooth. You're in luck because Cullman is packed full of delicious sweet treats. If you love ice cream and yogurt, try Dairy Queen, 32 Degrees, and Yogurt Mountain. All have online applications you can fill out and bring to the stores.

Babysitting: Summer is the perfect time to look for babysitting gigs; parents are dying to get out of the house in the summer time. Spread the word that you're available for babysitting through Facebook, Twitter, and word of mouth. A great way to start is by telling your parents. They'll probably know plenty of people with children that could use a break. You can also check out websites such as care.com. Here you can post a profile with your experience and availability, which will be visible to moms and dads eager to find a babysitter. If you're lucky, you could be asked to babysit for a family vacation.

Lawn Care: If you're good at working outside, put it to good use. Lawn care is a great summer job; you can set your own rate and be your own boss. Get the word out about your lawn care business through social media. You'll also stay in great shape over the summer by working so hard outside. Don't forget your sunscreen!

Tutoring/Giving Lessons: Tons of students are vying to keep their brains sharp over the summer. Tutoring in any subject is a great way to earn some cash over the summer. If you speak another language, you could even offer language lessons to people of all ages. Giving lessons in something you're good at is also very valuable to a broad age range. If you play an instrument, teach lessons over the summer. Swim lessons are also very popular and fun. Maybe you're good at a sport and you can offer lessons to teach children how they can be better athletes. You'll both get a workout and the children will adore you. If you're an artist, offer lessons in your craft. This is also great for all ages. Use social media to spread the word about the lessons you're offering and with persistence you'll soon build a clientèle.

There are multiple options when it comes to finding a summer job. Don't let this tough economy stop you from earning money this summer. Get creative and go get a job!

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Up-front fees are not refundable and are required for each student enrolled. The registration fee must be paid before a student can be guaranteed a place on the school's roster. The balance of up-front fees is due by Aug. 1 of the school year.

Annual Castille Character Camp Inspires Through Football at Heritage Park

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The Castille Foundation Character Camp was held last weekend at Heritage Park. This is the seventh year this uplifting football camp has hit Cullman and it was quite the success.

This camp is part of the Castille Foundation, created by Jeremiah Castille. Castille is a former University of Alabama football player. After that, he played football professionally with Tampa Bay and Denver. During his professional athletic career, he discovered that his purpose in life was to reach out to at risk youth. He and his wife, Jean, founded the Castille Foundation in 1999.

The Castille Foundation's mission is to preach good tidings to the poor, heal the broken hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, open prison doors to those who are bound, and glorify the Lord through preaching. This mission is based on Isaiah 61:1-4. The Foundation's vision is to invest, influence, impact, and inspire lives so they will rebuild and restore generations.

"What we do at our foundation is try to inspire young people to become everything that God created them to be," said Castille.

Part of the Castille Foundation is Castille Character Camp. It was created after a West Point Middle School student's house burned down. Jeremiah Castille brought him a Bible, as well as some collegiate memorabilia. From here, he spoke with several teachers about opening a character building camp.

"Our goal for the Character Camp is to equip and encourage our athletes to approach what they do with energy, effort, and enthusiasm," Castille stated. "That's our theme here. We also do our character corner, which is where we talk about what character is and how to build it in your life."

Special Projects Coordinator of the Cullman County Schools, T.J. Franey, is actively involved with this camp.

"I help bring whatever is important for our students to them," she stated. "Character building is part of our curriculum, so this camp is important."

Franey stated that part of the mission of the Castille Character Camp is to make it affordable for everyone.

"We have a lot of community support and a lot of sponsors," said Franey. "This is the seventh year we've held the camp and the sixth year it's been free. We couldn't do it without the support from the community."

The camp itself is two days long. "We have two different settings," Franey stated. "Friday is for the older kids and it's a football camp held in four quarters. Between each quarter, they take a break and Jeremiah talks to them about character. There are two Saturday sessions, one in the morning for the younger kids and one in the afternoon for the older kids. Saturday is a speed and agility camp with Willie Smith, a former Olympic gold medalist. He's been here every year since we started."

100 athletes registered for this year's camp. Thank you to Jeremiah Castille and the Castille Foundation for teaching our young people how to build character in their lives and to live each day with purpose.

2014 Hanceville Bulldog Scramble is a successful swing for school's technology department; golfers

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Hanceville High School's 15th Annual Bulldog Scramble was held this past Friday at the Cullman Golf Course. The Bulldog Scramble is the school's major technology department fundraiser. This year, 15 teams of four (60 golfers total) arrived bright and early to enjoy a round of golf, as well as support Hanceville High School.

At 7:55 a.m., a herd of golf carts were let loose, each driver set out to find the hole with which they would start the game.

Then at promptly 8 a.m., the starting bell rang sending the Bulldog Scramble into full swing. Thankfully the rain held off, allowing a beautiful day to enjoy the picturesque scenery for which Cullman Golf Course is known.

This year there were three Corporate Sponsors, which included American Proteins, Merchants Bank, and Faith Hammock, who donated $1,000 or more to the cause. Each received a beautiful plaque in appreciation of their contribution before the tournament began.

Special thanks goes out to all who supported the school in the Bulldog Scramble, including the faculty and staff of Hanceville High School, Cullman Golf Course, and all those that came out to play.

The Bulldog Scramble was born after the need for additional funding was fully established.

Bob Burgess, former Hanceville High School principal, explained, "Fifteen years ago, technology was expensive, a lot more expensive than it is now, and the State hadn't figured that out yet," he smiled.

"So they would allot a little bit [of money] and we'd try to do as much with it as we could with what we had. We decided to do something about it ourselves."

Over the years, the Bulldog Scramble has risen on average $10,000 to $15,000, and all of the money is used to purchase much needed technology for the school.

"We have been real contentious about how we spent the money to supplement what the State has given us," Burgess stated.

"And folks like Bryan Kreps and Steve Almond who have used what we've already got very well. They really know what they're doing and what we've needed. They have really used the money we have wisely by shopping around and getting the most they can with the money raised."

Former principal Bob Burgess and current principal Jimmy Collins admit the main reason for the Bulldog Scramble's success each year is due to the hard work and dedication of the the school's entire faculty.

"This is the first golf tournament I've been a part of," said Collins.

"The whole faculty has worked hard to organize everything. They have told me exactly what I need to do today," he chuckled.

As a reward for all their hard work, the faculty, staff, and students are rewarded with updated computers and technology for them to use each day.

"The overall winner is our technology department because all the money goes to that," Collins stated proudly. "After all, that's what it's all about."

Register Your Children Now for Basketball Camp at the Aquatics Center

By: Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - With summer upon us, there will be camps galore in the hot months to come. Some will be filled with time out in the woods, communicating with nature, or spent by the pool relaxing. But there is another type of camp going on in Cullman.

Branch Whitlock, East Elementary physical education director, along with the Cullman Parks & Recreation Department will be holding a Basketball Camp from June 9-12 for boys and June 16-19 for girls.

The Basketball Camp will be held at the Cullman Aquatics Center and pre-registration is encouraged, as the camp will only accept 60 campers each for the two camps.

Camps will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day and are for children of ages 10-13. Cost is $110 per camper. The camp will be conducted in the style of the camps ran by Lipscomb University legend Don Myer.

This not only is a complete skills camp focused on fundamentals of the game, but will also include small games and full team play.

There will be current and former high school coaches, and players helping, and others speaking from the City and County schools.

Payments can be mailed to Mr. Whitlock at 195 Co. Rd. 700 Cullman, AL 35055 or dropped off at the Cullman Civic Center or Cullman Aquatics Center.

For more information, you can call Branch Whitlock at 256-338-0718 or via e-mail at bwhitlock@cullmancats.net.

This will be a very informational camp conducted by some of the best coaches and former student athletes around. Don't miss out on this opportunity for your child to learn the game of basketball.



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Cullman Celebrates Heritage Park's 20th Anniversary

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - There was something for everyone at Heritage Park's 20th Anniversary celebration last Saturday. The beautiful park was packed with people enjoying the warm weather.

Gates opened at 11 a.m. on this hot Saturday. A craft fair was held in one of the fields at the park. In the same area was a children's zone, complete with inflatables. Vendors lined the edges of the field selling everything from fresh squeezed lemonade and shaved ice to jewelry and handmade baskets to delicious desserts and funnel cakes.

"Yappie Hour" in the dog park was held from 2-4 p.m. Tons of dog owners came to take advantage of the free treats and toys and fun in the park. Several dog competitions were held, such as best trick, look alike, as well as a Frisbee contest. Several dogs from the local animal shelter were also on site and available for adoption. The dog park is a positive addition to Heritage Park and last Saturday the dogs may have had more fun than their owners.

The Senior Spirit Singers, as well as other live music, performed at this celebration. Demonstrations were given in gymnastics, cheerleading, archery, Zumba, disc golf, softball, baseball, golf, and much more. There was something for everyone to love at this event.

Mello Yello was one of the vendors providing refreshing and cool beverages free of charge as part of the anniversary.

"Mello Yello and Coca Cola Bottling Company United is happy to be part of the Heritage Park 20th anniversary celebration," said Sean Taylor with Mello Yello.

On a hot day like last Saturday, nothing is better than a tall glass of fresh squeezed lemonade, and that's exactly what vendor Steve Cooke had at his booth.

He and his team gave you an option of delicious lemonade or quenching strawberry lemonade. Though the sun was hot, they managed to keep a positive attitude.

"Everybody that's been here has had a good time," he stated. "The kids seem to be having a lot of fun.

This dedicated group of lemonade makers supports the Peru mission work with Crosshaven Church in Cullman.

"We try to help pay the missionary's way for these mission trips," said Cooke. "We also help some local families struggling with special needs kids."

Director of Marketing Waid Harbison was pleased with this celebration of one of Cullman's biggest parks.

"We're just trying to celebrate everything Heritage Park has done throughout the years," stated Harbison. "So we have a disc golf demonstration, "yappie hour" in the dog park was from 2-4 p.m., we've got some softball games going and, of course, we have a 'Day in the Park' style celebration in the soccer fields with some music and games."

Harbison was pleased with the success of the event.

"It's went really well today," he stated. "We had a great turn out this morning for our opening ceremony where Mayor Townson came to speak."

Later in the evening, fireworks lit up the sky as the final celebration of Heritage Park's 20th Anniversary. This park has been a wonderful part of our community for years.

It has provided Cullman with entertainment, athletic opportunities, social interactions and, quite simply, a whole lot of fun. This park is a staple in our community, which we should approach with appreciation, celebration, and respect.

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CAMP CULLMAN

TWO SESSIONS...
June 2nd-27th & July 7th-Aug. 1st
7:45am - 5:15pm
Base Camp will be at Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center

REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 1ST!!
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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

CULLMAN COUNTY BOSOM BUDDIES FOUNDATION
Charity Motorcycle Ride
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June 14th, 2014
(Rain Date is June 28, 2014)

REGISTRATION starts at 8am at the Cullman County Fairgrounds on Sportsman Lake Rd.

DOOR PRIZES!
$20 per Rider
$5 per Passenger
50/50 DRAWING!
Ride begins at 10:00 a.m.

Biscuits furnished by Bojangles'
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Members of AL-VIII of the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club will lead the ride!

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

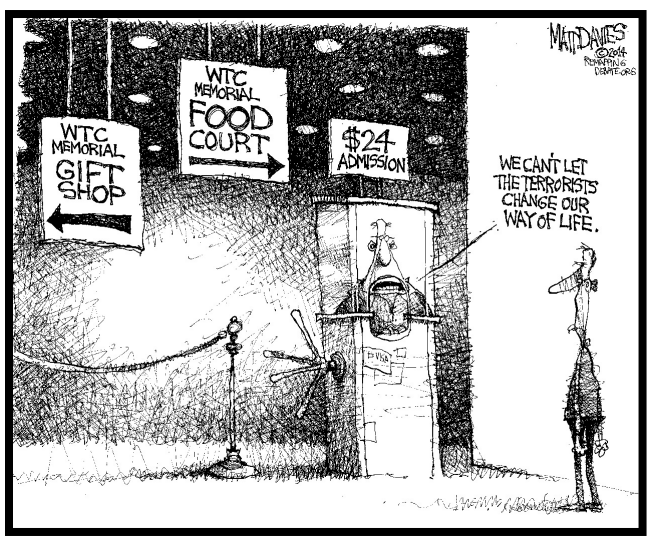
USATF SUMMER TRACK & FIELD
CP&R will be hosting a summer track program for ages 6-18. Great for high school and middle school athletes as well as younger children to introduce them to the sport and a mandatory interest meeting will be held May 20 at 5:15pm at the Wellness & Aquatic Center

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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Editorial Cartoons





HOW ARE WE DOING?

Tell us what we're doing right and how we can do better.

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CULLMANSENSE
Community Matters

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OPINION

WHY DEMOCRATS LOVE THE TEA PARTY

By: Sage Overton
Contributor

The enemy of my enemy is my friend. It's an old proverb used all the time. For the last four years, it could also be the headline for the Democratic Party strategy. Despite a huge national movement against President Obama and established Democrats following the passage of the Affordable Care Act, the Left held onto both the White House and the Senate in the 2012 election cycle. A lot of it is in part thanks to the Tea Party.

First, it's not a perfect relationship. In fact, it's a very dysfunctional love-hate one. The Tea Party can contribute much of their early success to Obama and Democrats ramming the ACA through Congress when they controlled both Houses. The partisan passing caused national backlash, pushing many centrist voters opposed into the welcoming arms of Republican candidates. It also gave many conservative candidates outside the establishment a platform to run on, citing incumbents weren't doing enough to stop the Obama administration. This allowed many now household names a chance to claim their first seats, such as Representatives Michelle Bachman and Todd Young, and Senators Ted Cruz, Mark Cuban, and Rand Paul.

Not all of the Tea Party candidates have had their Cinderella story lead them to a job on Capitol Hill. Over the last two election cycles, Tea Party hopefuls have cost Republicans five seats in the Senate. They were five very winnable, almost guaranteed seats that would have prevented a Democratic majority which still exists. Five candidates beat out establishment Republican choices in primaries then went on to lose the general elections to Democratic candidates.

In 2010, Sharon Angle, Christine O'Donnell and Ken Buck all stumbled after clinching primaries. The Tea Party Express backed Sharon Angle when she was running against Democrat Harry Reid in Nevada. Reid had become incredibly unpopular and was poised to lose. However, when stories broke about her opposition to abortion, desire to transition out Social Security, and calling those on unemployment spoiled, her favorability with voters dropped quickly. Reid claimed over 50 percent of the vote that year and kept a Senate seat in Democratic hands.

Christine O'Donnell defeated nine term Republican incumbents in the Delaware primaries. Her endorsements included conservatives across the board, including the Tea Party Express, Susan B. Anthony List, Family Research Council, NRA, Sarah Palin, Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, and Mark Levin. But two stories emerged shortly before general elections, tanking her campaign. The first was remarks she made in 2006 where she claimed homosexuals had a psychological defect. The second was an interview in 1999 where she admitted to dabbling in witchcraft. An ad she ran to counter the interview titled "I Am Not a Witch" produces multiple parodies. The general election kept the Democrats another seat when Chris Coons won with almost 60 percent of the vote.

The third Tea Party candidate meltdown in 2010 came in Colorado when Ken Buck beat out Republican favorite Lt. Governor Jane Norton. After it came to light he refused to prosecute a rape case in 2006, even after the suspect admitted to it, his campaign tanked. Buck also went on record to claim homosexuality was a choice. Two more conservative candidates went down in 2012 following poorly worded rape remarks. Richard Murdock was the Republican candidate in Indiana before losing to Democrat Joe Donnelly after saying, "Life is that gift from God that I think even if life begins in that horrible situation of rape, that it is something that God intended to happen." Todd Akin made the similar mistake in Missouri, claiming pregnancy rarely resulted from "legitimate rape."

The comments from those candidates has been fuel for Democrats. It gives them ammo to sway female voters, a struggle for Republicans over the last several election cycles. Sitting Republicans are forced to come out against members of their own party. This also takes away their focus on producing the headlines and controlling the stories they could be using to their advantage, issues like unemployment, Obamacare, and the economy. Radical Tea Party actions like the government shutdown last October and forcing unwanted budget stand votes further the Republican migraine, much to Democrats' delight. The Tea Party forces moderate candidates to take ultra-conservative stands in primaries, weakening odds of swaying moderate, independent voters in general elections. It also forces them to spend hundreds of thousands in campaigning during primaries, monies they would rather spend producing results in November.

But it's not all roses for the Democrats. The Tea Party makes it harder for Republicans to compromise on important issues. The normal wheel and deal either breaks down completely or comes under such scrutiny Republicans become afraid to give even the slightest, less they be accused of being liberals in front of constituents back home. As a result, Congress gridlocks. This drives up voter frustration with Congress as a whole, making it harder for all incumbents to seek reelection.

This past Tuesday marked the first big day of primaries nationwide. Establishment Republicans have sworn to crush the Tea Party and get Washington moving again. Conservatives hope to take at least six seats in November. The odds are in their favor. Of the 36 seats up for grabs, Democrats are defending 21 of them. Seven of those states were carried by Mitt Romney in 2012. Eyes around America will be focusing on Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Montana, North Carolina, South Dakota and West Virginia. Those are where Democrats are the most vulnerable.

It's a very interesting race, more of a three-way runoff than a two-way battle. The Tea Party needs a few wins to remain viable. Republicans need wins to take the Senate and move Obama into a lame duck position. Democrats need wins to prevent just that. Certainly something that will merit plenty of attention from now until November.

OPINION

Why I Still Have Faith in Congress

By: Lee H. Hamilton

It's depressing to read poll after poll highlighting Americans' utter disdain for Congress. But it's my encounters with ordinary citizens at public meetings or in casual conversation that really bring me up short.

In angry diatribes or in resigned comments, people make clear their dwindling confidence in both politicians and the institution itself.

Yet as people vent their frustration, I hear something else as well. It is a search for hope.

They ask, almost desperately sometimes, about grounds for renewed hope in our system.

Here's why I'm confident that we can do better.

Let's start with a point that should be obvious, but that people rarely notice:

Our expectations are too high. Public officials routinely over-promise and under-perform, but the problem is also with Congress itself.

On almost every issue there, progress only comes in increments.

Focusing on any one moment in our legislative history is to miss the slow but undeniable advance of progress on Capitol Hill.

I also tend to be more patient with congressional leaders than many people who share their frustrations with me.

Our political leaders confront a terribly difficult political environment: the country is both deeply and evenly divided along partisan and ideological lines.

It takes skill, competence, and a great deal of passion to make progress in this kind of environment.

This brings me to a third point. Members of Congress are good politicians.

Most try hard to understand what the people want. It may take a while, but Congress in the end responds to public sentiment.

Finally, Congress has proven over its long history that even in the most difficult circumstances it can be astoundingly productive.

At one of the darkest times in our recent history, during the height of the Watergate scandal — when tensions between Congress and the White House and between Democrats and Republicans were no less pointed than they are now — Congress and President Nixon were still able to collaborate on such key legislation as the Federal Aid Highway Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Congress often has risen above periods of great contention. It possesses a resilience that is obvious from the perspective of decades.

Building on that search for hope in our system, and on the long historical record, Americans have good reason to believe that Congress can and will do better.

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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.

'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.

Cullman Civitan Club Yard Sale
Cullman Civitan Club is hosting a yard sale at CCCDD (pavillion next door) with all proceeds going towards a Sensory Trail at HOPE. Yard sale will begin at 7 a.m.

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!

Arts & Crafts Trade Day
Cullman County Parks organization is sponsoring a monthly 'Arts and Crafts Trade Days' the first Saturday and Sunday of each month at Sportsmans Lake Park. Free admission and the sale runs from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. There will be arts and crafts, antiques, clothing, gift items, paintings, plants, produce, purses, pottery, etc! You get the general idea!! Vendors can reserve booths by calling 256-734-3052 and general info available at www.CullmanCountyParks.com. Come to the park to see what there is to offer or to set up your own booth. $25.00 for each 15 x 20 space. The sale dates run from February through to November.

Farm Kids' Club - The Little Red Hen
Also upcoming Farm Kid's Club, Saturday, June 7, beginning at 9 a.m., The Little Red Hen, The Story of Wheat. We will see wheat planted at the agriplex, grind wheat berries, and make our own bread to eat! Call256-297-1044 to register, $5 per child, adults free.

Daystar House, Inc. 3rd Annual Music Fest and Car Show
Daystar House Inc. Music Fest and Car Show is a free annual event open to the public and held at Sportsmans Lake Park. The music will be provided by four groups and two individuals from Cullman, Marshall, Blount, Morgan, Lawrence, and Walker counties. Proceeds from concessions and silent auction will benefit the Daystar House Inc. a shelter for homeless women and homeless women with children. Daystar House was incorporated in 1989 and became a United Way Agency in 1991. Their goal is to enable homeless women to return to the mainstream society.

Next Monday

Cullman Kiwanis Club
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This Week in Local Entertainment

Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

Monday, June 2

- 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, June 3

- 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 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, June 4

- 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, June 5

- Summer Samplers in the Chamber of Commerce Breezeway from 5:30-7 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Karaoke night at Cadillac Ron's
- Bike Night at Grumpy's Italian Grill

Friday, June 6

- Big Bluegrass Gospel Concert at the Cullman Civic Center from 7-11 p.m.
- Ladie's Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m. Half off drinks for ladies

Saturday, June 7

- Arts and Crafts Trade Days at Sportsman Lake from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Daystar House Inc. Music Festival and Car Show at Sportsman Lake from 3-9 p.m.
- Ladie's Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m. Half off drinks for ladies

Sunday, June 8

- Arts and Crafts Trade Days at Sportsman Lake from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Busy Bee Café
Try our German Food!

Summer Samplers in the Breezeway to Bring the Flavor

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

» Business After Hours Event to Serve Up the Tastes of Cullman, Offer Unique Homebrews

CULLMAN – The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce is excited about their next event: Summer Samplers in the Breezeway. This Business After Hours event is an efficient way to network and to get a taste of some local flavors. HH Technologies is the sponsor for this long awaited event.

Locals are excited to bite into this unique event that will offer a variety of samplings from Cullman area restaurants that are Chamber members.

Summer Samplers was started last year as a way to help promote local restaurants in the Cullman area.

"Over 20 restaurants and beverage vendors will be participating," stated Leah Bolin, president of the Cullman Chamber.

"This is the event of the year for sampling local flavors. We will feature a live band, 'Old Spice' with plenty of opportunities for socializing and networking."

Bolin stated that beverage samples are new to this year's Summer Samplers event.

"The Cullman Brewers Guild will also be offering up some unique homebrews," she added.

Summer Samplers is a great reminder that we have delicious food available here in town. "There is no need to drive up the interstate to enjoy a great meal," Bolin said.

"You have so many fabulous choices in your own backyard."

The Chamber hopes to attract a few other communities through this event.

"Summer Samplers is also an opportunity to showcase Cullman to other communities around the state," Bolin said. "Food is a major tourist attraction!"

You do not want to miss out on this event. It will be held June 5th from 5-7:30 p.m. in the breezeway of the Chamber of Commerce.

Tickets will be $15 for pre-registered members, $20 at the door for members, $20 for pre-registered non-members, and $25 for non-members at the door. Register online today at cullmanchamber.org or call 256-734-0454.

CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

Official Newsletter

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From the Chamber President

Joe is Moving to Florida

Leaks, blocks, bursts, and heaven forbid overflows! Who you gonna call? A plumber? Think again! Haven't you heard, Joe the Plumber is retiring; you had better grab a plunger! Seventy to eighty percent of our current tradesmen are between the ages of 45 and 65. Baby boomers are looking toward retirement while the rest of us are left scratching our heads wondering where all of the plumbers, electricians, and mechanics have gone. For two to three generations, parents and educators have encouraged children to become doctors, lawyers, or astronauts. The focus has been to go to college and get a degree. The shift to four-year college preparation rather than vocational education has created a shortage for manufacturers, construction companies and consumers. Why the shift?

We have an image problem. People tend to think of vocational or technical jobs as dirty, dark, or low-paying. That stereotype is one reason why companies are struggling to find candidates for about 237,000 job openings in the United States. To put that figure in perspective, it's 89,000 more than the entire US economy created last month. Factory jobs are not what they were in the old days. Many of these jobs involve sophisticated technology — and they pay accordingly: Salaries can start at $50,000 or more, and climb to well over $100,000 a year for skilled, experienced engineers and technicians.

Many of our partners such as Wallace State, CAWS, our legislators and our economic development offices are working together to educate students, teachers and parents about new and old career opportunities in the field of vocational studies and technical studies. Becoming a welder or computer controlled machine operator isn't for everyone but pursuing a college degree doesn't fit every student's skill set either. Parents, you know better than anyone else where you child's strengths lie. There are real opportunities right here in the Cullman area. Reach out to your schools or to the chamber. We will be happy to point you in the right direction. In the meantime, grab a bottle of Drano at your local hardware store - you may need it!

* Forbes & Fortune



Leah Bolin

President & CEO,
Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce

Football and Politics... May's Chamber Update

If you happen to see Chamber staff or members laying around in the floor, don't mind us, just politely step over and maybe hand us some coffee. Just kidding – but we have definitely been busy over here. May was our first month to launch our highly anticipated and monthly event, Hops & Shops Cullman. Read on to find out more about how this restaurant and retail event turned downtown Cullman into the most hoppin' place to be. Speaking of new programs, we had our first ever Cullman Area Tourism Awards, wherein we celebrated excellence in tourism for the Cullman area. This morning event was just what the doctor ordered as an excellent way to embrace and commend all of those businesses, organizations, companies and individuals without whom our tourism industry couldn't exist. We also held a Membership Appreciation Cookout & Open House for our beloved and hungry members, graduated our elite and talented 2013-14 Leadership Cullman County class, and held informative Sheriff's and Commissioner's Forums. Of course, we had our Morning Blend where Chamber members and the community discuss the hottest topics around with plenty of espresso flowing to keep you awake and engaged. Our second quarter Biscuits & Business was a delicious discussion – hearty biscuits and an enlightening speaker, Les Bales, project manager at Alabama Technology Network (ATN), spoke about OSHA and the standards, regulations and expectations that the area businesses are expected to abide by and the potential issues that could arise. Finally, to cap off our month of May, the guest speaker for our Community Luncheon, Jay Barker, of Rock the South and football fame (not to mention that beautiful country singer for a wife, Sara Evans) entertained the crowd with an inspiring speech about character and confidence, passion and perseverance, peppered with a laugh here and there. We didn't have long before we had to hurry over to the Chamber to greet our hardworking Governor! Governor, you say? Indeed. We were asked to host a Roundtable Discussion with Governor Robert Bentley where business members in the community could ask the official some impromptu questions related to small business issues. So, there you have it, readers. That's been our whole month – the whole shebang. But don't worry, we are looking forward to a jumpin' June. Our highly requested Business After Hours event, Summer Samplers in the Breezeway, is coming up on June 12 from 5:30-7 p.m., and you do not want to miss this celebration of the best local foods in the area. And, hey, we are still waiting on some coffee over here!

– The Chamber Staff

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www.CullmanChamber.org

Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce
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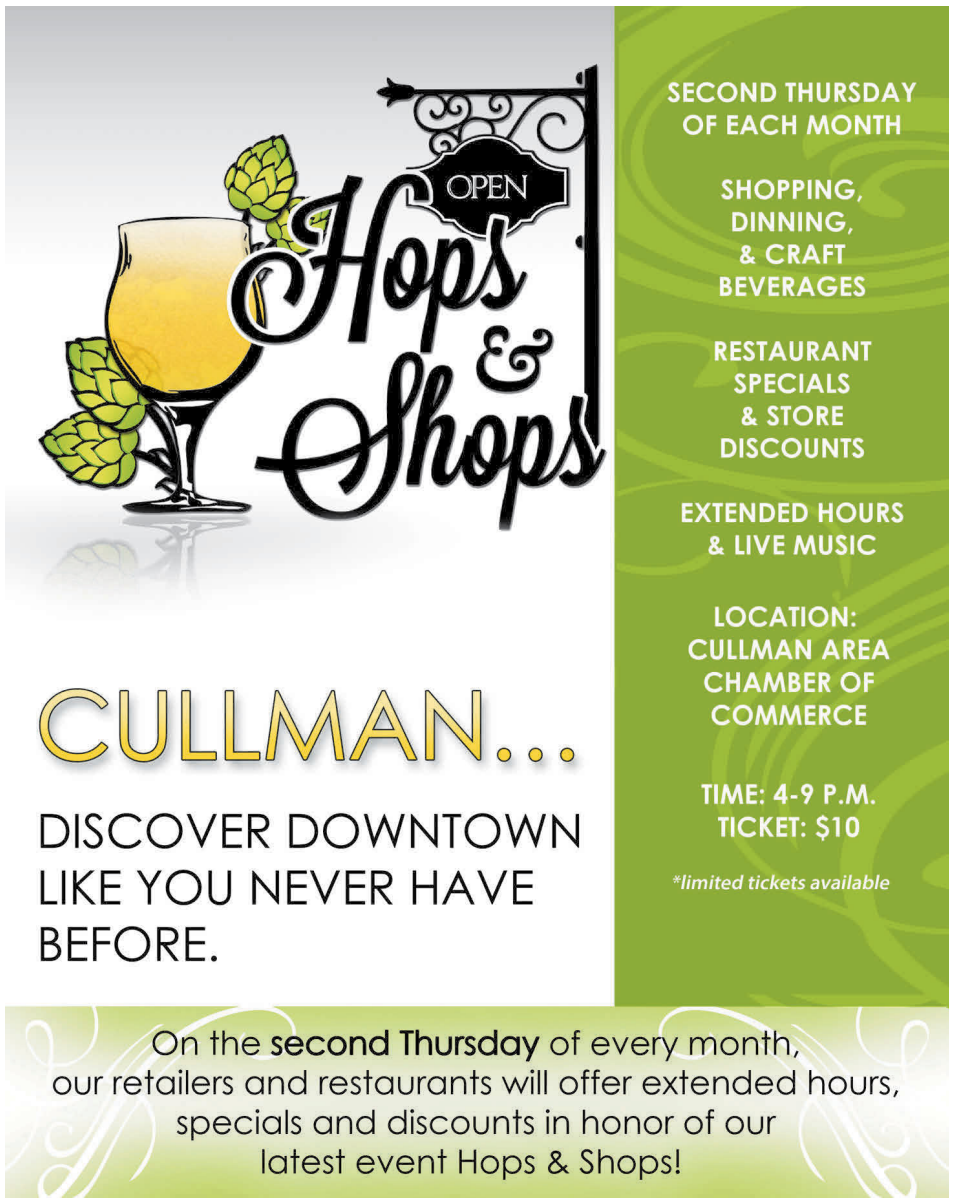


Make plans for the 2014 Farm to Fork Dinner on August 16, 2014. This growing event is sponsored by Alabama Farm Credit and will be held at the Wallace State Community College School of Nursing and Center for Science Conference Center. Mauricio Papapietro, owner of Brick and Tin restaurant in Birmingham. brings high-end, "slow-food" cooking techniques to a fast-casual setting specializing in homemade breads, farm-to-table meats and produce, soups, sandwiches and salads. Tickets are $50 each, tables of 6 and 8 are available for purchase. Register online at www.cullmanchamber.org/events. Limited tickets are available.

Farm Y'all Festival will be held on August 23, 2014, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Festhalle Market Platz, sponsored by TriGreen Equipment. Local farmers will be on hand with a supply of local fruits and vegetables. Along with entertainment, games and food there will also be The Great Pumpkin Weigh Off!

Hope to see y'all there!





The Retail Committee of the Cullman Chamber recently launched a new night-time event called Hops & Shops Cullman. This exciting event will take place every second Thursday of each month and highlights our downtown area, with restaurants and retailers offering extended hours, deals, discounts, drawings, craft beverages and live music. This month's date is set for June 12, 2014, from 4-9 p.m. June's breweries are Good People based out of Birmingham, AL and Back Forty based out of Gadsden, AL. This is how the process works: You'll start at the Chamber's Visitor Center. Your $10 ticket will include: wristband, passport and map, 20 pennies and a souvenir sample glass. There will be two special drawings this month – one for the Hoppers and one for the Shoppers! For the Hoppers, take your passport to each participating restaurant and get it stamped; you'll be entered to win a $50 gift certificate to the restaurant of the month. The restaurant drawing will be held at 9 p.m. at Busy Bee Café. For the Shoppers, just bring your receipt* from one of our participating stores to Busy Bee Café at 8:15 p.m. and be entered into a drawing to win 2 Platinum tickets & 2 Meet and Greets with Phil Robertson!!

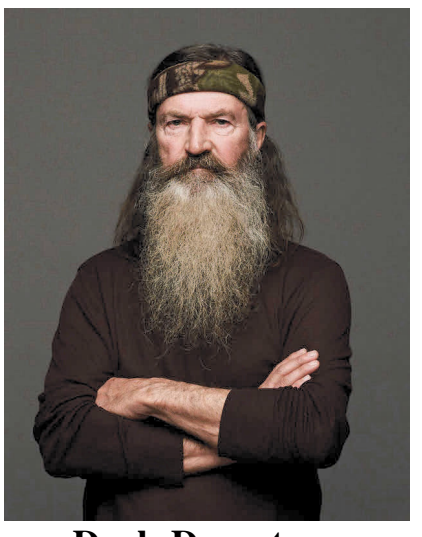
There are a limited number of tickets available for Hops & Shops Cullman! You may register online in advance. Pre-registration is encouraged. For more information, please call 256-734-0454 or email info@cullmanchamber.org.

*1 receipt per store

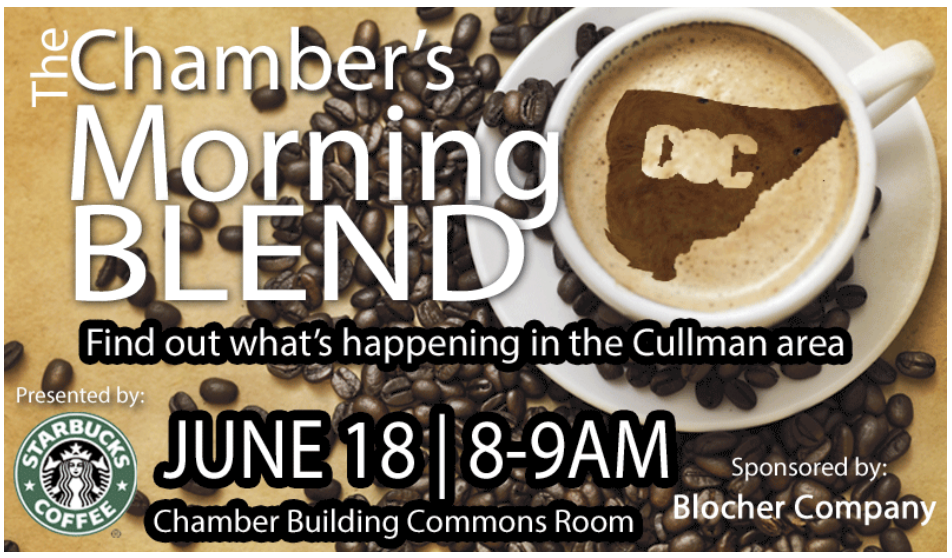
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Duck Dynasty: Phil Roberston



You never know what the topic will be, always great company & great conversation! The Chamber's Morning Blend June 18, 2014.



The Chamber's 2nd quarter Business After Hours event will be on June 5, 2014, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the Breezeway located beside the Chamber. Come join us for a night filled with great food & networking! Cost for Members is $15.00 & Future Members is $20.00. Come with an empty stomach and business cards!





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- ***Third Party Receivables - Moves the effort to an outside company which increases urgency**
- ***Training– We train your existing staff to effectively and legally manage your accounts**

Call for a free, no obligation consultation
205-406-8862

We are excited about our Total Resource Campaign! What is TRC? TRC is the Chamber's sponsorship and membership drive. Sponsorships will go on sale in August; we've added several new items! We need volunteers to help us; this is a great way to promote your business. If you interested, please call us today! During the 7 week campaign there will be parties to reward you for all of your hard work! Our top producers will be rewarded with a trip- last year we went to Cancun; we will announce the destination during the campaign. If you are a member and are interested in promoting your company, sales begin in August.

Chamber Helped to Celebrate Growth in the Cullman area



Options
2201 2nd Avenue N.W. Cullman, AL 35055
www.optionsofnal.com
(256) 347-5993



Prestigious Pets
140 County Road 1332 Vinemont, AL 35179
(256) 734-2660



O'Reilly Auto Parts - Hanceville
836 Main Avenue N.E. Hanceville, AL 35077
(256) 352-8985



Clarkson Covered Bridge - Pond Clean Up
1240 County Road 1043 Cullman, AL 35057



Medical Weight Loss by Healthogenics
1208 Cullman Shopping Center N.W. Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 739-4010



CCCDD - The Beech Center
1803 Beech Avenue SE Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 737-1915

Schedule your Ribbon Cutting or Groundbreaking!

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

www.CullmanChamber.org

Welcome New Members

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

April 23, 2014- May 20, 2014

Classic Printing and Signs
917 2nd Ave North
Birmingham, AL 35203
205-326-6540

O'Reilly Auto Parts - Hanceville
836 Main Street N.E.
Hanceville, AL 35077
256-352-8985

Cynthia McCarty
4716 Amberwood Lane
Anniston, AL 36207
256-310-6048

Straight to Ale Brewing
3200 Leeman Ferry Road
Huntsville, AL 35055
256-489-0820

Alfa Insurance – Ethan Ponder
307 Main Ave. N.E.
Cullman, AL 35056
256-734-4660

Ally and The Alley Katz
350 County Road 388
Cullman, AL 35057
256-338-1410

Cullman Brewers Guild
256 590-9081

Thank you to our Renewals

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

April 24, 2014 - May 20, 2014

Southern Accents Architectural Antiques, Inc.
Alabama Allergy & Asthma Center
Cultured Marble of Cullman
Spirit Coach, LLC
Evelyn Burrow Museum of Wallace State College
North Alabama Agriplex
Dr. R. Clyne Adams
JIT Services, LLC
Periodontal & Implant Associates
Principal Financial Group
Selah Therapeutic Massage
Sun Loan Company
The Robson Company, Inc.
The Surgery Center of Cullman
Farmers Insurance - The Warhurst Insurance Agency
Fuller, Willingham, Fuller & Carter, LLC
Southeastern Telephone, Inc.
Trav-Ad Signs & Electrical, Inc.
Cullman MGMA
Deb's Bookstore
American Pest Control
PETRO - Dodge City/ IRON SKILLET - Dodge City
REHAU Automotive, LLC
Tommy Little Animal Clinic
Alabama Cullman Yutaka Technologies, LLC
Cullman County Economic Development
Cullman County Sheriff's Office
Goss Electric, Inc.
Jimmie Hale Mission, Inc.
Wendy Childers — Carter & Company Real Estate, Inc.
Advanced Rotors, Inc.
Cash Acme LLC
Custom Catering by Teresa - V
Modernistic Printers Inc.
Northwestern Mutual
Sherwin-Williams Company
The Pavilion
Wal-Mart Super Center
Walgreens- South Location
April Flours Catering
Bill Smith Pontiac-Buick-GMC, Inc.
Hanceville Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Inc.
Hydra Service, Inc.
Sue-Jac, Inc.
Valley Group, Inc.
Zaxby's of Cullman
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama
Cullman City Primary School
Dale Pearson Construction, Inc.
Dunn Real Estate
Echols, Jonathan B., DMD
Heritage Self Storage
Wells Fargo & Company
Brickyard Meat Processing
Cullman City Head Start
Margo's Antiques & Gifts, Inc.
Jeb Williamson, CPA, LLC

ATTENTION MEMBERS!!!!

We have had some members mention they are not receiving our monthly E-Blast sent through Constant Contact. If you are not receiving updates or notifications of events, please answer the following.
Does the Chamber have your current email?
Is this email being caught as spam? If so, please mark as "safe".
If you have moved companies, please call us so we can update your information!

- COMMUNITY LUNCHEON -



The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center's June Community Luncheon will feature guest speaker Armand DeKeyser.

Armand DeKeyser is the executive director of the Alabama Humanities Foundation. A native of Mobile and a graduate of Auburn University, DeKeyser returned to his home state after a number of years working in Washington, DC, most notably as Chief of Staff to Alabama's Senator Jeff Sessions.

DeKeyser's experience across Alabama fits with the AHF's recently renewed commitment to offer programming in every county in the state.
A success as a small group manager in both the private and public sector, he is well-versed in communicating and interacting with a variety of competing interests.

DeKeyser will be speaking about "The Way We Worked" brought by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. This exhibt will be in Cullman Febuary 2015. The June Community Luncheon .is scheduled for Friday, June 27th from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the banquet room at All Steak.

The program is presented by Mickey Parrish State Farm Insurance & Financial Services and sponsored by Charter Business. To register for the luncheon, email info@cullmanchamber.org or call 256-734-0454. The price is $15 for Chamber members and $20 for future members.

** 48 hours cancellation notice or subject to billing. Payments will be taken at the door but can be invoiced or paid online.*

The June Community Luncheon is brought to you by: Charter Business

THE 2014 COMMUNITY LUNCHEON PROGRAM IS PRESENTED BY:

STATE FARM INSURANCE

Mickey Parrish State Farm Insurance & Financial Services

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



Member Spotlight

Be sure to visit these Chamber Member businesses to get your lawn & pool looking great!

Blue Dolphin Pools, Inc.
3301 AL Highway 157 NE
Cullman, AL 35058
(256) 734-5452

Burks Brothers Pools & Spas, LLC
309 3rd Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 739-0799

Clarke's Lawn Care
875 County Road 1177
Cullman, AL 35057
(256) 739-1705

Bryan's Landscaping & Lawn Care, LLC
1411 County Road 436
Cullman, AL 35057
(256) 339-9940

Cedric Williams Tree Service & Landscaping
1393 Wilhite Road
Faulkville, AL 35622
(256) 775-7682

Correction from May's Newsletter
Crooked Creek Civil War Museum
516 County Road 1127
Vinemont, AL 35179
(256) 739-2741
Hours of Operation:
Open Daily 9-5
Fee: $5.00
Wheelchair Accessible

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

This first annual event featured two separate divisions to recognize those incredible businesses, companies, organizations and individuals active in the tourism industry that go above and beyond what is expected to ensure that the visitor experience in the Cullman area is anything but typical and ordinary. The event was held at Stone Bridge Farms in the new Brown Stone Centre in the wee hours of the morning from 7:30-10 a.m., complete with a bountiful breakfast buffet and exotic carved fruits bearing the CoC emblem and the name of the hosting facility. There were 14 total awards presented in the two areas of Business Awards and Individual Service Awards. Presented by The Community Shopper's Guide and sponsored by The Cullman Times, Hampton Inn and Rock the South, the newest embodiment to honor tourism was well received and the following honorees were recognized for their remarkable efforts.

The Business Awards:
Exceptional Festival – Bloomin' Festival
Best Attraction – Heritage Park
Near Nature, Near Perfect Award – Ave Maria Grotto
Sprit of Cullman – Stone Bridge Farms
Rockin' Retailer – Southern Accents
Extraordinary Everyday Eatery – Rumors Deli

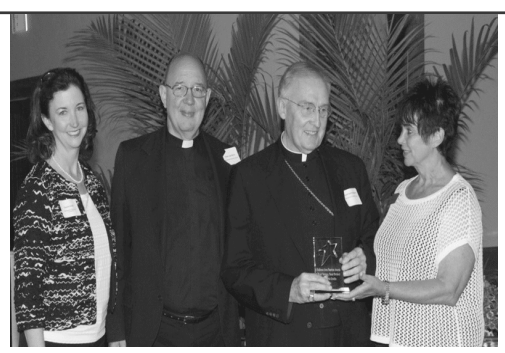
The Individual Service Awards:
The White Glove – Lina Campos
The Silver Spoon – Julius Valentine
Superior Service – Donny Wilson
Savvy Retail Sales Associate – Bonita Hutchinson
Heart of the House – Bob Keefe
Hospitality Volunteer of the Year – Ron Buker
Rising Star – Waid Harbison
Tourism Professional of the Year – John Hunt



Exceptional Festival or Event Award - Bloomin' Festival - Father Joel & Joyce Nix



Best Attraction Award - Heritage Park - Shelby Williams



Near Nature, Near Perfect Award - Ava Maria Grotto - Father Joel Martin & Abbot Cletus Meagher



Spirit of Cullman Award - Stone Bridge Farms - Janet Fortner, Connie Moore & Ron Foust



Rockin' Retailer - Southern Accents- Dot Gudger & Garlan Gudger Sr.



Extraordinary Everyday Eatery - Rumors Deli - Annette Harris



The White Glove Award - Lina Campos from Hampton Inn



The Silver Spoon Award - Julius Valentine from All Steak



Superior Service Award - Donny Wilson from the Evelyn Burrow Museum



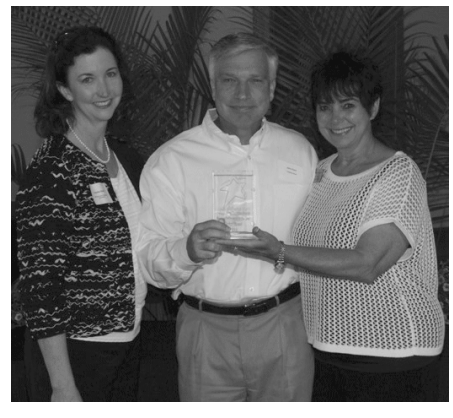
Savvy Retail Sales Associate - Bonita Hutchison from Deep South Classics



Hospitality Volunteer of the Year - Ron Buker - Volunteer at Clarkson Covered Bridge



Rising Star Award - Waid Harbison from City Parks & Recreation - accepting award Christy Turner



Tourism Professional of the Year Award - John Hunt - formerly Director of City Parks & Recreation

* Not pictured Bob Keefe-Berkeley Bob's Coffee House- Heart of the House Award

CHAMBER REWIND

Leadership Cullman County Graduation

Leadership Cullman County graduated its 2013-14 class on the evening of Thursday, May 22. The Leadership Cullman County program is sponsored by Merchants Bank, and the graduation banquet, held at the All Steak, was sponsored by American Proteins, Inc. The evening of graduation included comments on leadership from the keynote speaker, Dale Greer, Assistant Director of the Cullman Economic Development Agency. Graduates were honored and presented with awards for their outstanding dedication and completion of the program. During their time in the program, these individuals experienced a range of courses that attribute to the character of the state of Alabama, including those in education, criminal justice, local government, health care, quality of life, state government, economic development and agriculture. Co-chairs Jenny Clark of Merchants Bank and Buchanan Jackson of Temple Baptist worked diligently this year alongside Leah Bolin, President & CEO of the Chamber, to make the program a success.

The 2013-14 Leadership Cullman County graduates included: Martha Abbott, Traditions Bank; Nathan Bergquist, Alabama Technology Network; Kelsie Butler, Traditions Bank; Markus Erlbacher, Rehau Automotive, LLC; Doreen Griffeth, Cullman City School District; Will Harding, First South Farm Credit; Melissa Henderson, Merchants Bank; Kristen Holmes, Wallace State Community College; Matthew Kinsland, Cullman County Economic Development; Kolby Lawrence, JCR Recycling; Jerry Lawson, Daystar Church; Tonya Mattox, Rehau Construction, LLC; Heath Meherg, Cullman County; Teri Mobley, Heart Care, PC; James Rooker, American Proteins, Inc.; Jennifer L. Smith, Hospice of Cullman County & CRMC Home Care Services; Heath Stewart, Cullman County Economic Development; Christy Turner, Cullman City Parks & Recreation; and Ross West, Merchants Bank of Alabama.

If you would like to apply for 2014-2015 Cullman County Leadership , you may submit your application by going to www.cullmanchamber.org> forms>Cullman County Leadership Application. Applications are due by July 31, 2014.



Dale Greer; Assistant Director of Cullman Economic Development Agency; motioned to start Cullman County Leadership in 1998.



2013-14 Leadership Cullman County Program is brought to you by:

Merchants Bank of Alabama Member FDIC
www.merchantsbankal.com

2013-14 Leadership Cullman County Graduation is brought to you by:

American Proteins, Inc.

Membership Appreciation Cookout & Open House

With the beautiful weather we've had in the month of May (we are ignoring those cold, brisk days), we decided to honor our dedicated and hardworking members by providing them with a complimentary lunch out in the breezeway from 11 a.m to 2 p.m. on May 2nd. Sponsor Jim 'N Nick's Community Bar-B-Q provided a mouthwatering lunch of barbecue sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, those trademark cheese biscuits, and a heaping of banana pudding, complete with a sweet tea. Pepsi Cola Distributing Company sponsored the event as well, delivering all the ice cold drinks possible. Nearen Construction was a proud sponsor of the event that served as a special way for the Chamber to say 'thank you' to those who continually invest in Cullman's future.





Be informed when voting!

Sheriff's Forum

The 2014 Sheriff's Forum was co-hosted by the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee and The Cullman Times and was held in the Freedom Insurance Room at the Cullman Chamber. This forum featured candidates running for Cullman County Sheriff, which included Sheriff Mike Rainey, Mike Gentry and Tim Creel. The event was held on May 12, starting at 4:30 p.m. The event was free of charge and provided those in attendance the opportunity to hear the candidates respond to questions that were selected prior to the event.

Commissioner's Forum

The 2014 Commissioner's Forum was held on May 6, starting at 5 p.m. in the Freedom Insurance Room at the Cullman Chamber. The Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee and The Cullman Times co-hosted this event together. There was a great turnout for the event and those candidates running for the Cullman County Commissioner Places One and Two were on hand to answer important questions regarding the Cullman area. Those candidates running for Place One included Kerry Watson and Darrell Hicks. Those candidates running for Place Two included Gary Marchman, Doug Williams, Stanley Yarbrough, J.P. White and James Graves.

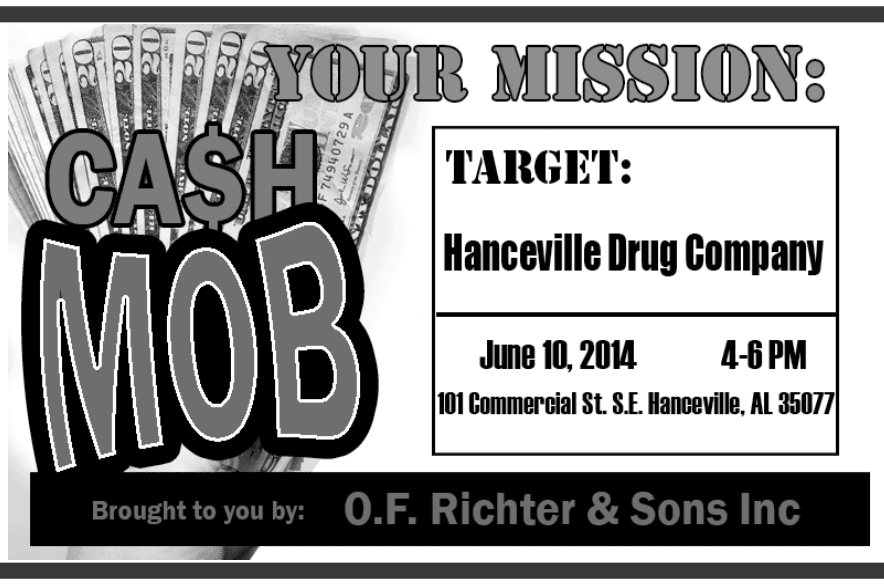
The 2014 Primary Election is June 3, 2014.

Vote

Not a Member Yet? Not a Problem!

Your business can join for @ 50 cents a day!
Visit www.CullmanChamber.org or call the Chamber at 256-734-0454 any time for more information.

CULLMAN AREA COC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER



SMALL BUSiNESS OF THE MONTH

QUICK TIRE SALES
CULLMAN, ALABAMA

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

SEMINAR: UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL SECURITY

Edward Jones®
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

JUNE 24, 2014
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Freedom Insurance Room at the Chamber
Free of charge - must RSVP (256) 734-0454



Bridging the Generation Gap

June 25, 2014

For the past few months, Chamber President Leah Bolin has been discussing differences between generations in the workforce. We feel this is a great opportunity to offer a Seminar focusing on just that! Karen Sladick will be here at the Chamber on June 25, 2014 to help us understand where each generation is coming from and how to maximize different skills to develop a greater synergy, creativity and productive workplace. This seminar is open to anyone regardless of position or responsibility in the workplace. If you would like to register please do so online at www.cullmanchamber.org/events or call the office at (256) 734-0454. Members: $129.00 Future Members: $159.00



Katy Jones - Intern

We would like to introduce our second quarter intern, Katy Jones. She is sponsored by Werner's Trading Company. Katy is a 2014 Auburn University graduate with a B.A. in Communication and a minor in Philanthropy and Non-Profit Studies. She plans to attend graduate school in the fall to pursue her master's in Communication at Auburn University where she will be a graduate teaching assistant. Katy is enjoying her time at the Cullman Chamber and is thankful to be able to intern in her hometown at a place of business that encompasses all of what she has learned in her college career at Auburn.

WERNER'S trading company

Upcoming Chamber Events:

June 5- Summer Samplers in the Breezeway
June 12- Hops and Shops
June 18- Morning Blend
June 24- Seminar: Social Security
June 25- Seminar: Bridging the Generation Gap
June 27-Community Luncheon; Armand DeKeyser
July 10- Hops and Shops
July 16 Morning Blend
July 23- TRC Pre-sale Kick off
July 25- Community Luncheon

Check out www.cullmanchamberorg/events for more Chamber and community events. If you need an event added to our calendar, email info@cullmanchamber.org or login into your Member Dashboard!

Take Advantage of Your Membership!

Need some summer help?
Post your job posting on the Chamber website!
Follow the steps below:

Go to: http://business.cullmanchamber.org/login/
at the top of the page you will see a blue bar select
"Share"
"My Job Posting"
"Create Job Posting"

CULLMAN AREA COC
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

Hanceville Native Has First Official Book Signing in Hometown

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE - There's a brand new author in town! Greg Burden, a graduate of Hanceville High School, has published his first book, "Blount Springs – Alabama's Fountain of Youth" and had his first official book signing Saturday May 24 at the Hanceville Public Library.

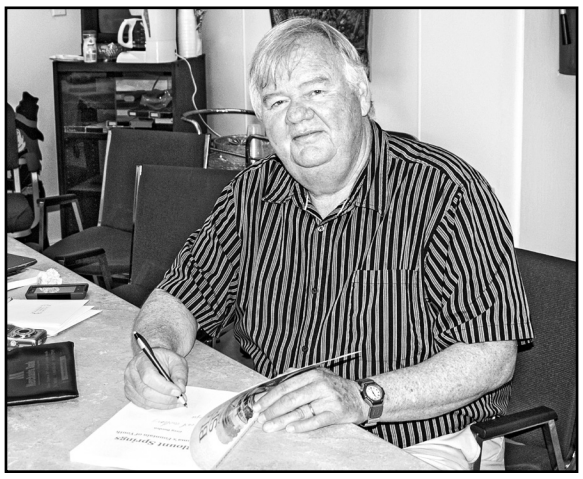
"The book is about the small community of Blount Springs when it was one of the most famous places in the South." Burden says. "From its beginnings in the 1820s until 1915 it was the Disneyworld for the rich people of the South."

Filled with historic photographs and newspaper clippings, the book is a true example of dedication and research, allowing the reader a full vision of what an amazing place Blount Springs is and has been in the past.

"All my life I'd heard about Blount Springs being a resort, but I had no idea the scope and scale of the place," Burden smiles. "I love to do research and now there is so much information available on the computer through many databases like the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the Birmingham Public Library, and many others."

When asked why he wrote a book about Blount Springs, Burden had this to say: "Previously I had put together a website about another interesting place that was also tied in with the Springs, Bangor Cave."

"I had met and talked many times with Amy Rhudy who administrates the Blount County Museum in Oneonta. She encouraged me to put all the research I'd been doing into a book that would be sponsored by the Blount County Historical Society."



CONTRIBUTED

» Greg Burden reveals the history of the former "Disneyworld for the rich" in his book "Blount Springs – Alabama's Fountain of Youth".

It took some time, but thankfully Burden took Rhudy up on the idea, and in August he started putting it all on paper, or rather on screen.

Every author has a different writing process. Burden grins as he thinks back to all the time spent working on the book.

"Writing for me is sometimes joyous and sometimes arduous. Most of the time the words flow fairly easily and then I'll read back over what I've written and wonder what was I thinking?" He giggles. "Sometimes I can't type fast enough to get the words down. "

When a new book is finally out and on paper, the next part is the editing phase.

"My wife and mother did the hard work of editing and pointing out places with typos and wording so I really need to thank them for helping so much," He explains while looking over at his proud mother, Mrs. Shirley Burden, who is one of Hanceville's librarians.

Burden grew up in Hanceville and clearly enjoyed seeing people he hasn't seen in years.

"It's really a lot of fun being here!" he beamed, "I went off to college at the University in 1974 and have lived in Trussville and Irondale since about 1980 or so, and it's sweet to be back home for this day."

In speaking of the book, Burden states, "Honestly I hope the book inspires people to look in their attics for more about Blount Springs and history in general and talk to their older relatives while they can and get as much information about the past as they can. We need to do all we can to preserve history while we can. I look back and think of all the information I could've gotten from my dad and grandmother and my great uncle if I had just realized then how important that information was."

If you missed the book signing Saturday, there is still a chance to purchase a copy of Greg Burden's informative book. There will be additional copies available at the Hanceville Library, the Blount County Museum in Oneonta, and at Top Hat Barbecue. You may also visit the publisher, Fifth Estate, at fifthestatepup.com and order a copy at any time.

RESIDENTIAL RECIPES

Heavenly Cheesecake Stuffed Strawberries

By: Chelsea Sparks • chelsea@cullmansense.com

Do you want to make an elegant dessert for a shower or party? Do you want your friends to hate you for ruining their figures with your scrumptious food? Well, I have the absolute prefect recipe that will do all that and more. Strawberries are delicious all by themselves, but stuff them with cheesecake and forget about it! I could eat a million.

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs - strawberries
- 8 oz - softened cream cheese
- 1/2 cup - powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon - vanilla extract
- 3 sheets - graham crackers, crushed

Instructions:

- Cut the tops off the strawberries and using a paring knife, hollow out the insides.
- Combine softened cream cheese, powdered sugar and vanilla together in a bowl, then transfer to a piping or Ziploc bag. Snip the corner off the bag and pipe filling into the strawberries, allowing the filling to come a little over the top of the berry.
- Pour the crushed graham crackers into a shallow dish or bowl. Dip the exposed top of the cheesecake stuffed strawberry into the crumbs.
- Place in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes before serving.

Crispy Fish

By: Allison Robertson • Recipe Contributor

Okay, so I am known for throwing things together in the kitchen when I am out of something that I need. In this case, I was out of breadcrumbs. So as I am scrounging through my pantry, I see Rice Krispies cereal. It turned out to be such a success that even my food snob of a husband liked it.

Ingredients:

- 4 tilapia filets
- 2 cups - Rice Krispies cereal, crushed
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon - milk
- 1 1/2 cup - flour
- 2 teaspoons - seasoning salt
- 2 teaspoons - cracked black pepper
- 2 tablespoons - butter

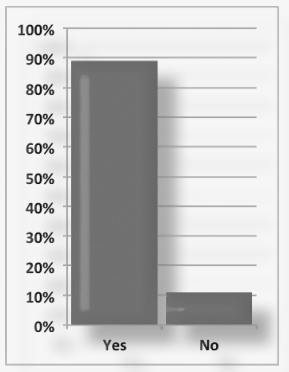
Instructions:

- In a bowl, crack your egg and add the milk, whipping them together to make an egg wash. Set aside and put the flour in a plate and add the seasoning salt and pepper mixing thoroughly.
- Now, on a separate plate put the crushed Krispies. Take the filets, one by one, and coat evenly with the flour mixture.
- Then dip in the egg wash and coat in the Rice Krispies. When you have done this process to all the fish, melt the butter in a saucepan over medium high heat.
- When the butter is hot and melted, place the crispy fish in the pan and fry about 4 minutes on each side or until crispy and flaky.

Rice Krispies will be replacing breadcrumbs on my fish from now on.

Poll

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



This Week's Poll

Do you try to conserve energy?

Vote Today at
CullmanSense.com/Poll

cp&r cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

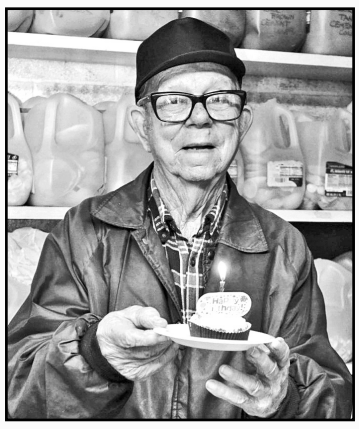
- **Eat on the Street:** Food trucks will be on site at the Festhalle Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am-1pm. Come eat, shop, and relax with us this week with Earth & Stone Pizza Tues. & Cantina on Wheels Thurs. See our full lineup online.
- **USATF Summer Track & Field:** Mandatory meeting for interested 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 & up can participate with sessions Mondays & Wednesdays at 11:15 each week. 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.
- **CWAC Outdoor Pools Open** 7 days a week; Monday-Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 1pm-6pm. The pool will also be open for swimming Monday nights from 6pm-11pm for $7, and for church groups on Wednesday nights from 6pm-11pm for $5 per person. Call 256-775-SWIM for details.

What's Online

Built from Concrete

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.

qrne.ws/207



Big Turnout at Rabies Clinics Across the County

All across the county this past weekend, hundreds of pets were vaccinated for rabies. The annual rabies clinics that are sponsored by the Alabama Department of Public Health were taking place all throughout the county and owners were turning up in droves.

qrne.ws/208

Classy to Sassy: Time to Accelerate Your Personal Style

Classy to Sassy is located at 103 3rd Street SW in Cullman. It is your one-stop for a healthy sunless tan, clothes and jewelry! Owner Stacy Lindsey opened the shop in her home in October 2011 and then in May 2013, purchased Ageless Tan to combine her boutique with the...

qrne.ws/209

A Country State of Mind: WSCC graduate finds her niche at Dollywood

By: Gail Crutchfield
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE - As Breanna Moore steps off the stage of the Valley Theater at the Dollywood theme park in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., fans surround her and compliment her performance during the Country Crossroads show. A smile on her face, she graciously accepts their praise, thanks them for coming to the show, and poses for photos.

"It's great," she said of the attention. "I like having my picture made, I'm kind of a ham."

The Arab, Ala., native is a 2008 graduate of Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, Ala., where she was a member of the show and concert choirs. As the show captain and senior member of the Country Crossroads cast, Moore makes sure her colleagues are ready to hit the stage. Moore said she uses techniques she learned from her instructors at the college.

"Every day I have to hear whether they're going sharp, flat, are their harmonies together," she said. "Leading warm-ups, I do half the warm-ups that Mr. (Mike) Sparks and Mrs. (Tiffany) Richter do."

Her former instructors expected Moore to flourish in her career.

"She's very talented," Mike Sparks said. "I'm not surprised at all she's had the success she's had at Dollywood."

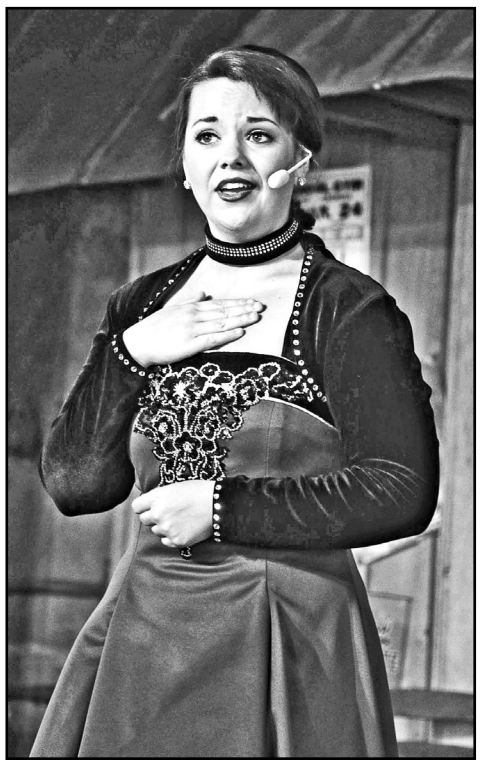
"Breanna is a little firecracker," said Tiffany Richter. "I knew she was meant for the stage the moment I first saw her perform."

Of course, there are some things one can learn only by experience, like how to deal with the elements while performing in an outdoor theater.

"We have to deal with the train," Moore said of the World War II era steam locomotive that passes by on elevated tracks nearby. "If it's a very humid day, the smog likes to sit, so we're breathing in those fumes for the entire show."

The heat and insects are other factors. "If you get stung you've got to keep on going," she said.

"I got bitten last year by a big ole' horst bug, right in the middle of my song. I just had to sit there and deal with it until I get done. It's just part of it."



WSCC

» Wallace State alum Breanna Moore is in her third year of performing at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., where she is the show captain of the Country Crossroads show.

Moore and her fellow cast members have to deal with those things no fewer than four times a day, as they perform four 30-minute shows on regular days and five on Saturday.

That will change to five shows on regular days and six shows on Saturdays during the Great American Summer months.

But Moore loves it. "I love this show," she said. "It's my kind of music. Old country is what I like the best."

Moore said she's the belter of the group. "And I like it that way," she said. The show is a revue of classic country music, with Moore singing portions of songs from some of country music's greatest female vocalists, such as Reba McIntire and Martina McBride.

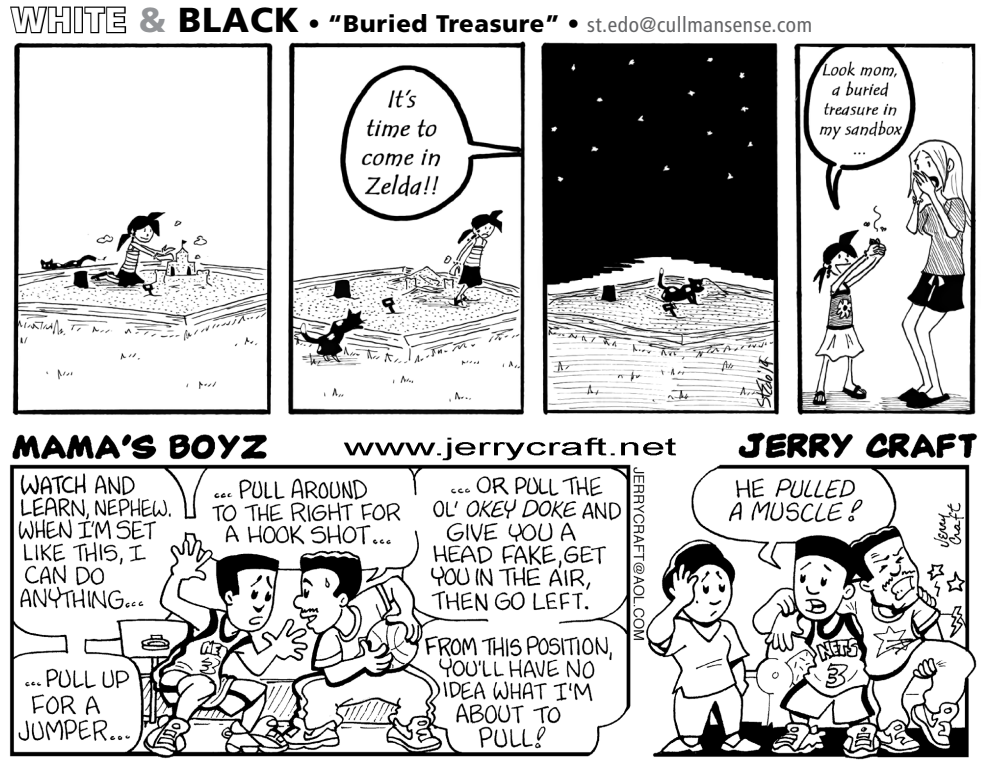
Her greatest experience in her three years at the park, however, was getting to sing with Dolly Parton.

"We got to sing '9 to 5' and 'I Will Always Love You' and when you get to sing '9 to 5' with Dolly Parton, kind of nothing is bigger than that," she said.

Moore was joined at the park this year by another Wallace State alum, Paige Harbison, who now performs in the Dreamland Drive-In show. "She's phenomenal," Moore said of Harbison. "She fit right in perfectly."

For more information about Wallace State, visit www.wallacestate.edu, or call 256-352-8000 or toll free at 866-350-9722.

Comics





Pets of the Week

Chugs

Hello! My name is Chugs, and I am about 3 years old. I am believed to be an Old English/Boxer mix and currently weigh 43 lbs. I am full of life and I love to play. I am a stray but will be up for adoption on 06/02/14 at 10:30 a.m., and they are currently taking names on my waitlist. Please come visit me.



M&Ms

Hello! My name is M&Ms, and I am about 1 years old.

I am believed to be a Sitz mix and currently weigh 35 lbs.

I am spirited and enjoy company. I am ready for my new forever home and companion.



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.

Cullman Regional Offers Etiquette Class to Young Girls

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Cullman Regional Medical Center's WomenFirst Program is calling all young ladies ages 9 to 11 to come learn a skillset and grow their confidence. This program will teach your daughters all about proper table manners, table setting, telephone etiquette and much more.

According to Amy Linton, community relations coordinator, this class is building a lot more than just proper manners.

"This is a really good hands on class, where young ladies that are shy learn more about how to grow confidence and self esteem," Linton said. "They will learn proper behavior in different settings. It develops a confidence and teaches how to develop good social skills that they can use in day to day life."

The rules of etiquette may seem to be a bore, but are necessary in many situations in both personal and professional life. This class is designed to cover it all in fun and entertaining ways. Those girls who take this class are sure to dazzle everyone with their pristine manners and will hopefully leave with the confidence to talk to anyone in any situation.

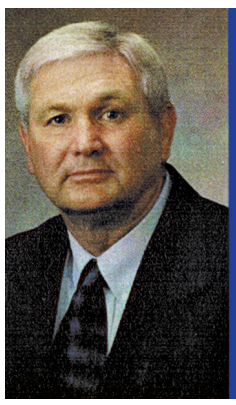
The class called Yes Ma'am, A Young Lady's Guide to Etiquette will be held June 2 and 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in CRMC's Depot Room in the Community Education Center in Professional Office Building 2. The fee is $50 for all WomenFirst members and $70 for all non-members.

To register your daughter, visit crmc.com or call 256-737-2600.

Procedures (from Front)

to protect the public in the event a disease outbreak, terrorist attack, or other emergency severe enough to cause local supplies to run out occurs," said Wanda Heard, Public Relations Coordinator for Jefferson County Health Department. "We want to ensure that medicine and medical supplies are delivered in time to be effective."

The exercise will be held at Tarrant High School located in Jefferson County, one of the state's seven Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) counties. CRI counties are part of a federally funded program that is designed to enhance preparedness in the nation's major metropolitan statistical areas. Exercise activities will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The exercise is a collaborative effort with federal and state partners including Public Health, Alabama Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Marshals Service, Alabama State Capitol Police, Alabama Marine Police, and the Alabama Department of Public Safety. Staff from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be attending to both observe and evaluate the department's readiness to receive the Strategic National Stockpile and administer medication to the public. For more visit adph.org/cep.



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