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New Beech Center at CCCDD Better Serves Special Needs Community

"Now, we can just let them run and have a good time."
- Tiffany Wilson, Summer Coordinator for the Beech Center

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman County Center for The Developmentally Disabled has helped those with disabilities of every age group for years. Their hard work and dedication to those with special needs in our community has been a tireless mission and has recently been rewarded.

The CCCDD finally opened the doors to a facility that has been in the works for years – the new Beech Center. According to Tiffany Wilson, summer p6



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» Long time dream of CCCDD Director Terry McGill and new home of the local Red Cross, the handicap accessible Beech Center has opened its doors just in time for annual summer programs.

HANCEVILLE COMES TOGETHER FOR ONE OF ITS OWN

» Community festival honors Hanceville High School student Shawn Anderton after having two of his vertebrae crushed by a wave while on a family vacation p3



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» To the surprise and excitement of many, Shawn Anderton was given a pass to come home from rehab to be at the festival dedicated to him.

Rock the South is Right Around the Corner:
Buy Tickets Now While You Still Can

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Rock the South is right around the corner, so get your tickets while you still can! As Cullman's biggest event of the year, Rock the South will bring two days of non-stop music and fun.

The third annual Rock the South country music festival will be held at Heritage Park June 20-21. This festival is held in celebration of our town's recovery from the torna- p2

Common Core Sparks Flood of Legislation

By: Adrienne Lu • Stateline

Stephen Colbert mocked it. Comedian Louis C.K. called it a "massive stress ball that hangs over the whole school." And lawmakers in state capitols spent countless hours over the past few months debating it.

Their target is the Common Core, a set of math and English language arts standards voluntarily adopted beginning four years ago by all but a handful of states. The standards define what students should know and be able to do by the end of each grade.

Forty-five states and the District of Columbia initially signed onto the standards in both math and language arts (Minnesota adopted only the language arts standards), hoping to better prepare students for college and careers by the time they graduate from high school. Supporters say the Common Core encourages critical thinking and analytical skills, rather than rote memorization.

But in the past year, criticism over the Common Core has ramped up in state legislatures, school board meetings and classrooms. Critics from both the right and the left, including a very vocal tea party contingent, want to throw out the standards.

As of May 15, lawmakers introduced over 340 bills in 46 states—every state that had had a regular legislative session this year— that addressed college- and career-readiness education standards, including the Common Core. Of those, 30 would slow down or delay college- and career-readiness standards and 35 would halt or revoke implementation altogether.

At the same time, implementation of the standards is well underway in most of the states that originally signed on. Despite widespread debate, only a handful of states have officially backed away from the Common Core, with a few others on the fence.

Criticism has come from the left and right. Opponents argue that the federal government is forcing Common Core on states. (Although the standards were a state-led effort, the Obama administration has given states incentives to adopt the Common Core through the competitive Race to the Top grant program and No Child Left Behind.) Some argue the standards aren't academically demanding enough. Others say the implementation has been sloppy, with p3

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Second Annual Childhaven Alumni Reunion Celebrates Fellowship: Friends Are Family Where Many Call Home

By: Kate Mullaney
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CULLMAN - Childhaven held an Alumni Reunion on Saturday at Sportsman Lake Park. This was an opportunity for Childhaven alumni of all ages to get together and visit as a family.

Alumni Jimmy Boyd and Lois Lay organized this exciting event. They are appreciative of Childhaven and consider all the alumni to be part of the Childhaven family.

"This is really the second year to have an official reunion," said Boyd. "They've had a few less organized reunions in the past, but last year we had an idea to organize one at Sportsman Lake."

Childhaven was founded in the early 1950s. The original generation of Childhaven children were eager to get together and visit with each other.

"We're all getting old and we're not going to live forever," Boyd stated, "and we would like to see each other. Some of us haven't seen each other since we left the home so we decided we'd get together and celebrate."

These alumni came together from various walks of life all over the U.S. They met by chance, but they became a family.

"A lot of people say the past is bad and you need to leave it alone, but we don't feel that way. We're a family," stated Boyd.

"In our minds we're brothers and sisters with a common cause and a common upbringing and that's precious to us. We don't look at our differences, we look at our common ground."

The Childhaven alumni plan to make this reunion a yearly event just like a traditional family reunion.

"We just want to get together and enjoy each other under good circumstances," Boyd said. "There's less pressure now. Hopefully we'll get to do a tour of the home in a little while and see how it looks now."

"We're just going to enjoy some food and fellowship with each other," added Lay. "This is the first year that current Childhaven children are participating in a reunion, so there are a lot of things to talk about."

Lay was at Childhaven from 1964-1972 while Boyd was there from 1953-1964. While the mission of Childhaven has remained the same, several things have changed. Boyd reminisced about his time at Childhaven.

"We had a farm, raised chickens, milked cows every morning," he began.

"We went out in the hay field, we took care of the gardens, and stayed busy, and they took care of us. They kept us safe, fed, clothed, and gave us a place to sleep. And if you stayed long enough they'd pay for you to go to college."

"And if you got married, they'd pay for that too," added Lay. "They paid for my sister's wedding."

Childhaven continues to be a blessing to several children who come from broken homes and families.

Current Childhaven resident Jacqui feels that this home has completely changed her life.

"I put myself in DHR custody to better the lives of me and my child," she said with her daughter, Emma, by her side.

"Since I've lived there, I've been back to high school and I graduated in May."

Because Jacqui chose to live at Childhaven, her stay has been totally unique.

"It's been a really positive experience for me because I want to be here. And that's the big difference between me and some of the other kids," she said. "It gives me the opportunity to be a positive influence."



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» Alumni and current children enjoy food and fellowship at the second annual Childhaven Reunion.

Jacqui has been at Childhaven for two years and has exciting plans for her future.

"I'm starting Wallace in the fall," she said. "I'm going to school to become a nurse."

Childhaven is a blessing for those in need. The bond these people have made over the years is special, and despite their circumstances, this group will always be a family.

Free Drive-in Summer Movies at Nesmith Park Attracts Families for a Night of Fun

By: Kate Mullaney
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CULLMAN – Cullman Parks & Recreation hosted a free drive-in movie last Friday night at Nesmith Park. After a fair amount of effort, an enormous screen was inflated to display the movie thanks to Parks & Rec lifeguards. Tons of families gathered around to enjoy the movie "Despicable Me 2".

"Despicable Me 2" is a charming story about an ex-super villain, Gru, who decides to leave his evil life behind and embrace fatherhood, while running a jam making business with the help of his many minions.

Soon the Anti-Villain League hears that Gru has abandoned his life of crime and asks him to join their efforts to catch a criminal who has stolen a lab full of PX 41, a substance which has the power to turn any harmless animal into a ferocious monster.

This lighthearted story follows Gru as he struggles to raise and bond with his three adopted daughters, all while saving the world.

Programs and Event Director of Cullman City Parks & Recreation Christy Turner is pleased to provide this delightful event to the community.

"We thought a drive-in movie would enhance Cullman and provide a stronger spirit of community," she said. "It's fun, different, and a great way for families to get together."

One of the many families who enjoyed this evening were the Hocks.

Richard and Haley Hock are eager to find family friendly entertainment for themselves and their two girls, Lilli and Peyton.

"It seemed interesting, so we decided we'd give it a shot," said Richard.

"It's different and fun and we didn't have to drive too far. You never see drive-in movies anymore so this was really cool."

Lilli and Peyton were full of giggles at the thought of watching a movie outside from your car.

"I'm always looking for cool things like this to do," stated Haley.

This event created a sense of community and was perfect for this warm summer weather.

Don't worry if you couldn't make it this time, though. Parks & Recreation will be showing "The Nut Job" on July 18 at Nesmith Park.

Don't miss this family friendly and great night out opportunity!



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» Families gather outside and in their vehicles to watch "Despicable Me 2" on a giant inflatable screen at Nesmith Park.

Ave Maria Grotto Nominated for USA TODAY and 10 Best Readers' Choice Award

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – The Ave Maria Grotto has been nominated for the title of USA TODAY and 10 Best Readers' Choice award for "Best Quirky Landmark".

Yes, Cullman's Ave Maria Grotto is up for an award and they need everyone's help to ensure they win.

To place your vote for your favorite quirky landmark, go to 10best.com/awards/travel/best-quirky-landmark and vote. The deadline is Monday, June 23 at noon E.T.

"We are thrilled to be nominated for this award," said Marion Harris, Ave Maria Grotto employee.

"We encourage everyone to come out and visit us. It's such a beautiful and peaceful place to spend the day."

Antonio Cipollari, another Ave Maria Grotto employee, stated, "The Ave Maria Grotto is the most interesting place to visit for all faiths."

Clearly the folks at the Grotto are thrilled with the opportunity to show the world what a special community Cullman has. The Grotto was the only attraction in Alabama recognized for its uniqueness.

Proudly displaying the exquisite details of Bavarian Benedictine monk, Brother Joseph Zoettl's, "Jerusalem in Miniature", the Grotto definitely deserves recognition.

"We are thrilled that Cullman's own Ave Maria Grotto is being considered for this award. The Grotto is an incredible feature of the Cullman area and we are proud that others have taken notice of Brother Joseph's unique creations," Cullman Chamber Tourism Director Cecelia Smith said.

Don't forget to cast your vote. This is an excellent way to recognize one of Cullman's most beloved attractions and reward the monks and staff at the Grotto for a job well done.

Tickets (from Front)

does of 2011.

This year's line up is unbeatable. On Friday, we'll hear from Little Big Town, Easton Corbin, Charlie Daniels, The Welch Brothers, The Springs, Weston Burt, and DJ Hish. Saturday's Lineup includes Lynyrd Skynyrd, Phil Robertson, Billy Currington, Colt Ford, Sara Evans, Drake White and the Big Fire, DJ Hish, and Shelbie Z.

Nick Canaday, Head of Sponsor and Partner Relations for Rock the South, urges you to buy your tickets now while they're still available.

"They're going quick," he stated. "Better jump on it fast at rockthesouth.com."

Canaday is excited about this year's Rock the South and watching the festival's growth.

"I think everyone is going to see that this is a first rate well run event and because of that, they're going to get to see first hand how big this thing could become," he said.

Rock the South is about celebrating the Cullman community. Canaday encourages everyone, Cullman citizen or not, to attend this event in order to be a part of Cullman's ongoing recovery from the historical tornados in 2011.

"This event is about our ability to pick each other up and dust each other off after the April 27th tornadoes," he said.

"This event is to showcase not just Cullman, but the people of Cullman who define our community. That's what makes this town and this event so special to me and the entire Rock the South team. I love this city and desire to see something big happen here. Why wouldn't you want to be a part of that?"

Together (from Front)

By: Chelsea Sparks
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HANCEVILLE - There are two kinds of communities. There are some that are only neighbors who give the occasional wave to one another and are connected only by the distance of one house to the next. And then there are communities like Hanceville, where there is much more holding everyone together than their location. In Hanceville, they are held together with love.

This love and support was evident recently at the community festival for Shawn Anderton and his family. Shawn Anderton was at Panama City Beach with his family on March 29 of this year when an ordinary day of playing in the ocean unfortunately ended in a life changing way. When Shawn went to dive into a wave, he was pulled under and flipped, which resulted in his sixth and seventh vertebrae being crushed.

This past Saturday was a day of celebration and fellowship for everyone. Anne Marlowe, who played a major role in organizing the event, told about how perfect strangers were even showing up.

"It has been so great. People have come out, and even people we don't know from the ballpark that are at games came over," she said.

The big surprise and highlight of the event for everyone was that Shawn was given a pass to come home from rehab to be at the event.

"The highlight was him showing up, definitely," Marlowe said with a smile. "The look on everyone's face when they got here, because so many people haven't gotten to see him, so for me that was the best part."

The most amazing part of the day was to see Shawn, his family, and the amazing spirit they have. Shawn's mom, Diane Anderton, talked about how great the support has been and what it means to their family.

"It's amazing," she said. "The support, people, and community, we wouldn't want to live anywhere else. I mean look at this, everyone here has a smile on their face."

She continued about how amazing Shawn has been through all of this and how his main concern is still for others.

"Even though he is the one that is injured, not one time has he made it about him," Anderton said.

"He's been telling us all day 'Mom, I think I made their day, and I made them smile'. We are so blessed."



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» The dunking booth became an especially popular attraction after the Hanceville High School principal took his turn.

The day was filled with food, amazing raffles with items donated from many generous businesses, and even a dunking booth. The dunking booth became an especially popular attraction when the Hanceville High School principal took the hot seat.

The love that was emitting from every person at this event was incredible to witness. We wish the best for Shawn and his continuing recovery.

Core (from Front)

confusing or subpar curricular materials and inconsistent teacher training.

Battles Rage

About a half dozen governors have weighed in since last year with executive orders on the issue, generally reasserting the rights of states to determine their own education standards. In March, Democratic Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy signed an executive order creating a task force to study and make recommendations on the implementation of the Common Core.

State lawmakers also spent a lot of time discussing related legislation sparked by the standards. Bills inspired by the Common Core touched on student data privacy, how to assess student learning, professional development for teachers, and how, in the future, states should decide on education standards.

The Common Core "really dominated the conversation, mood and the ability of the legislatures to discuss other issues," said Michelle Exstrom, who focuses on education policy for the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Chris Minnich, executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, one of the groups that spearheaded the Common Core, noted that despite all the debate, the vast majority of states have decided to stick with the Common Core, which he sees as a reaffirmation of the standards.

"The debates have happened in a lot of these places and they have decided that Common Core standards are strong standards," Minnich said. "I think this closes the door on some of that conversation."

But Common Core critics like Emmett McGroarty, education director at American Principles Project, a conservative nonprofit that has helped to push grassroots efforts to end the Common Core in numerous states, say momentum is on their side.

"I think this movement is going to explode," he said. "We're entering a new era of the activist mom who's really going to be directing government as the founders intended."

Most of the states that signed on to Common Core joined one of two main consortia set up to design new student assessments. But these groups are also starting to splinter, with every week bringing news of yet another state venturing off to create its own assessments.

About a dozen states have dropped out of the testing groups or delayed implementation of tests for at least a year.

The states that have dropped out include Alabama, Arizona (which withdrew to request proposals to solicit bids for the new standards but will continue to participate in the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers), Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Utah. These states will delay implementation for at least a year: Iowa, North Carolina and Wyoming

The assessment groups received $438 million in economic stimulus funding and were considered one of the key benefits of the common standards, allowing states to save money while creating better student assessments.

Same Standards by Any Other Name?

Indiana, one of the first states to adopt the Common Core, became the first to drop the standards when Republican Gov. Mike Pence signed legislation in March. The move followed a vote by the Republican-controlled state legislature in 2013 to pause implementation.

"I believe our students are best served when decisions about education are made at the state and local level," Pence said. Some Common Core opponents, however, complain that Indiana's new standards, adopted by the state in April, are essentially the same standards with a new name.

State Sen. Dennis Kruse said parents complained to lawmakers about three main issues: fuzzy math, the emphasis on informational texts over classic literature and what parents saw as pornographic texts in the recommended reading selections.

Another important issue was the state's ability to determine its own education standards.

"I felt that we should be in charge of education and we should not allow a national or federal effort to take over education from the states," said Kruse, who voted in favor of the bill to repeal the Common Core.

In South Carolina, Republican Gov. Nikki Haley signed a bill May 30 that will keep the Common Core in place for the 2014-15 school year, but require a review of the standards. Any new standards that result from that review would be implemented by 2015-16. The law also requires that in the future, the General Assembly approve any education standards that are not developed by the state Department of Education.

Last Thursday, Republican Gov. Mary Fallin of Oklahoma signed legislation to repeal the Common Core and direct the state Board of Education to develop new standards by August 2016.

Fallin said the Common Core was created with good intentions in mind but became tainted by federal overreach. "We cannot ignore the widespread concern of citizens, parents, educators and legislators who have expressed fear that adopting Common Core gives up local control of Oklahoma's public schools," she said.

Oklahoma Rep. Mark McCullough, a co-sponsor of the bill to drop the Common Core, said lawmakers felt there was a lack of consensus on the standards. "Better to stop now and cause some disruption than to tie ourselves to something we'll be sorry we tied ourselves to down the road," McCullough, a Republican, said. "This was not a reactionary thing. This is something that took many many months of thoughtful consideration and examination before we decided to move in that direction."

Last week, anti-Common Core legislation advanced in North Carolina's General Assembly. Republican Gov. Pat McCrory has previously voiced support for the Common Core but has not said how he will respond to legislation to reverse course.

In Missouri, Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon has until July 14 to decide the fate of a bill from his Republican-controlled legislature that would create work groups to decide new education standards.

Split Partisan Support

Earlier this month, the GOP-led legislature in Louisiana approved a bill endorsing the Common Core. In Democrat-dominated Illinois, a House resolution to delay implementation of Common Core over concerns about costs failed to advance from the committee level. And in Georgia's Republican-dominated legislature, an anti-Common Core bill also failed to advance.

States have also started to take action on the Next Generation Science Standards, the science equivalent of the Common Core. South Carolina was also the first state to pre-emptively reject the science standards, when the state legislature adopted a budget in 2012 including a provision prohibiting the state from spending money on the Next Generation Science Standards. In March, the Wyoming state legislature, controlled by Republicans, adopted a similar provision in its state budget in part over concerns about what the science standards say about global warming. And in Kentucky, Democratic Gov. Steve Beshear last fall ordered the state to adopt the science standards by executive order, after a legislative committee voted to reject the standards, which had previously been adopted by the state Board of Education.

Protecting Student Data

The Common Core kicked off an unprecedented amount of controversy and legislation this year on student data privacy even though schools have been collecting and storing electronic "student data" such as attendance records and test scores for years. Some critics say the new standards would lead to the state or federal government improperly collecting, storing or selling student data.

The NCSL counted about 100 bills introduced in 33 states on student data privacy. More than a dozen were enacted. And in April, the nonprofit inBloom, which had planned to store and manage student data for schools across the country, announced it would close after parents and state lawmakers expressed concerns about student privacy.

In New Hampshire, legislation approved in May limits the kind of information that can be stored in the statewide student data system, prohibiting such information as student Social Security numbers, criminal records, records regarding sex behavior and attitudes.

Florida Republican Gov. Rick Scott last month signed a wide-ranging student data privacy bill, which, among other measures, prohibits schools from collecting biometric data, including fingerprints.

And New York's new budget provides for the creation of a Chief Privacy Officer position within the state education department to establish standards and privacy policies for education data to respond to concerns over implementation of the Common Core.

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

St. Bernard to Honor Veteran Teacher at Reunion

By: Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Contributor

CULLMAN - Helen Glasscock is a name that every student who has graduated from St. Bernard Preparatory School will recognize. The image that comes to mind is of a lady with a soft Southern accent, quiet charm and a will of steel when it comes to teaching English to high school students.

Helen Glasscock was born and raised in Cullman County on a farm in Oak Level, the same area homesteaded by her grandfather who came from Berlin, Germany in 1850. She married her husband, Kent, 61 years ago and they have three daughters: Debra, Mary, and Melanie. They have seen their family grow so that today, Glasscock, along with being a lifelong student and teacher, is a grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great, grandmother.

After graduating from Holly Pond High School, Glasscock attended Sacred Heart Academy before she enrolled at St. Bernard College. She graduated from St. Bernard in January of 1966 with highest honors, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. She immediately began graduate studies at the University of Alabama and began teaching at St. Bernard College in the fall of 1966. After several years of teaching she received a grant from the National Defense Education Act to attend Florida State University. Later, she received a National Endowment Humanities grant and did further studies at the University of Florida in Gainesville. She did further graduate work at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa where she had earned her masters degree in English.

She began her teaching career in the fall of 1966 at St. Bernard College where she taught in the English Department until 1979 when St. Bernard closed its Liberal Arts College. From 1979 till 1984 Glasscock taught as a member of the faculties of Alabama State College, Snead State Junior College and Wallace State Junior College. When St. Bernard reopened its high school program in 1984, Glasscock rejoined the St. Bernard English Department and, for the past three decades, has been an integral part of its teaching faculty.

"Times and the way things are done in education have changed over the past thirty years," said Glasscock. "In the past, a teacher could assume that the students shared a common background such as scripture, books, and the like. Today, that's no longer the case. Often times, there is no body of common knowledge which students bring with them. Especially is this true with our international students. It makes for a greater challenge in the classroom."

"We live in a society where a teacher must be watchful, perceptive, and judicious in teaching the material as well as managing classroom behaviors," she continued.

"Technology is a necessary part of education today so students are allowed to use e-tablets and e-readers. Still I require a hard copy of all papers."

Glasscock is very mindful of reading materials which she assigns to her students. "Teenagers need guidance. If they are curious readers then allow them to read what interests them. We want our students to have an appreciation for learning so they can understand the wide variety of human needs. Seeing these needs, they learn to respond in a way that shows man's humanity to man."

Despite being a demanding teacher, students often return after graduation to visit with their English teacher.

One compliment she remembers lightheartedly was from a student who said, "I only made a 'B' in your class but I received an 'A' for the same material in college." More than a few students have said, "College English was easy after having Mrs. Glasscock's class."

Mrs. Glasscock ended by saying, "I enjoy every minute spent in the classroom and plan to return to St. Bernard next fall and will again teach more English classes."

Glasscock will be honored for her distinguished years of service at St. Bernard on Saturday, June 28, 2014 at the St. Bernard Alumni Reunion beginning at 6:00 p.m.



ST. BERNARD

» Born and raised in Cullman, Helen Glasscock has been teaching at St. Bernard for decades.

CRMC Awards Scholarship to VHS Salutatorian

By: Heather Roberts
CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN - Cullman Regional Medical Center (CRMC) recently awarded Allison Fowler with a scholarship to use at the school of her choice.

Allison Fowler is the Salutatorian at Vinemont High School, where CRMC is the Adopt-A-School Sponsor.

Each year CRMC presents the school Salutatorian with a $500 scholarship to be used to defray school expenses and further his or her education.

For more information about CRMC, call 256-737-2600 or visit the hospital's website at www.crmchospital.com.



CRMC

» CRMC's Marketing and Public Relations Manager, Lindsey Dossey presents Vinemont High School Salutatorian, Allison Fowler with a $500 scholarship.

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CONTEST ENDS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2014 AT 11:59 P.M. WINNER WILL RECEIVE TICKETS VIA E-MAIL.

Blount Springs: Former Resort Town Now Just Memories

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
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BLOUNT SPRINGS - From the 1820s to the 1930s, Blount Springs was a famous resort for thousands of wealthy people from Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

The sulfur springs that freely flowed were well known for their curative properties. People came to the resort to relax and bask in the rich mineral springs.

As a matter of fact, by the end of the 1880s, Blount Springs had become one of the foremost health resorts in the South.

Other than the many health benefits, Blount Springs became well known for its social scene as folks came from far and wide to stay there.

Antebellum hotels, such as the Goff House, the Duffee House and the Jackson house (later to be known as the Blount Springs Hotel) and many small cottages were available to visitors. The hotels were luxurious and the food that was served there was considered to be the finest in the area.

Besides enjoying wonderful meals, guests were able to go horseback riding, gamble (which was permitted by state law only at water places), play ten pens (bowling), and drink alcohol.

Nearby Bangor Cave was a favorite stop while hanging out at Blount Springs. The cave had been turned into a nightclub with lots of music, gambling, and dancing.

It was very unique and people came from all over the States just to be a part of the wonderful cave/nightclub.

Not only did the very wealthy come to the resort, but many important people also came during this time. Governors, senators, movie stars, and other celebrities vacationed there.

President Teddy Roosevelt even visited the resort once. Marching bands and picnics were a constant thing during the summer time, especially when somebody famous was there.

Yes, Blount Springs was the place to be at the time.

Sadly, the beautiful resort would come to an end. The place where so many people came to enjoy the wonderful mineral springs, the cave, and lush meals is now overgrown and neglected.

It all began when a fire started in the kitchen of one of the hotels and spread. Most of the town burned that fateful day in June 1915.

The fire was just one part of the town's demise. The railroad had changed its tracks so that it no longer went through Blount Springs.

The combination was deadly to the once lively place. Slowly but surely, the place just dried up and went away.

Mirroring History: The Theaters of Cullman

By: Jessica Norrell
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CONTRIBUTED

» The 775-seat Ritz theater was a popular attraction in the 1950s until it was closed and sold to Martin Theaters.

The Esther Opera House was opened in 1908 by John Beyer and located on Second Avenue East. Beyer named the Theater after his daughter Esther. "As You Like It" starring May Stewart was the first performance at the theater on the second floor. A skating rink was on the first floor.

The Lyric Theater that was located on the same block as Berkeley Bob's Coffee House opened in 1938 and seated 900 people. A movie written by Fr. Patrick O'Neill, OSB, from St. Bernard College in Cullman premiered at the theater in 1939.

The movie was called "O'Neill" and portrayed his role in a 1929 riot at Colorado State Prison. Famous entertainers including Minnie Pearl, Mickey Rooney and Bobby Breen gave stage shows at the theater during World War II in an attempt to help sell war bonds. The theater closed in the 1950s.

The Lyric Theater was first located on the block where Berkeley Bob's is today and then in the parking lot behind Band and Trust on Second Avenue and Third Street Southeast.

The building was torn down in the 1970s.

The Ritz was another popular theater in Cullman in the 1950s. The 775-seat theater was opened in May 1949 at the corner of Second Avenue and Fourth Street East. It was closed in December 1958 and sold to Martin Theaters.

Town Square Triple was located in the Town Square Shopping Center near where RadioShack and Tuesday Morning are today. The theater featured three screens and served as a hangout in Cullman for several years.



CONTRIBUTED

» John Beyer opened the Esther Opera House, with a skating rink on the first floor, in 1908.

The Town Square Theater was replaced by Carmike 10 Cinemas, which is Cullman's present day theater. The Carmike 10 has ten screens and is located at 1950 Marketplatz Center near Walmart.

cpr Call 256-734-9157 for details! cpr

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Cabanas!
Host a pool side event!
•birthday parties •groups
•family treat
All Day Rental! Small Groups...$75 Large groups...$85

CULLMANSENSE.COM
June 16, 2014

CCSO Dive Team recovers evidence from Lake George in Galin murder investigation

By: Noah Chandler
noah@cullmansense.com

VINEMONT - A crucial piece of evidence in the murder investigation of 71-year-old Fredrick William Galin was discovered by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office Dive Team shortly before noon on Thursday in the waters of Lake George, located just off Co Rd 1338.

"To finally get this piece of evidence and get it in, makes you feel real good. We've worked really hard to find this and it's the last piece in the puzzle to give closure to Mr. Galin's death," Clay said.

Cullman County Sheriff's Office patrolman and member of the CCSO Dive Team, Deputy David Dover made the discovery in waters measuring roughly 12-feet deep.

"It's a team effort whenever we do dives, so we all put in the effort to make the discovery today," Dover said. "I'm grateful we were able to locate it [weapon]."

Thursday's dive marked the third time the CCSO Dive Team has made an attempt to recover the suspected murder weapon, after receiving information from one of the men accused of murdering Galin.

"This is our third time trying to dive at this scene. The first couple times we tried to dive the weather was roughly 20 degrees, so it made it very difficult for the divers to stay down long enough to fully search the area," Clay said. "Today was one the best days we've had in a while, so we began searching around 8 a.m. and the discovery was made just before noon."

Clay stated the location of the suspected murder weapon was consistent with the information investigators were provided by a cooperating individual during the initial interviewing.

CCSO Chief Deputy Max Bartlett explained what divers have been trying to locate over the last six months.

"Based on what we knew in the previous interviews with the two individuals, we knew specifically what type of weapon we were looking for and what it was wrapped in. What the divers discovered today was the pipe wrench wrapped in a shirt," Bartlett said.

Bartlett said the pipe wrench and shirt are being sent to the F.B.I. for a complete forensic analysis.

"I would like to thank all the guys on the dive team who've been instrumental in recovering the evidence today," Sheriff Mike Rainey said. "Major Scott Clay, Sgt. Brannon Hammick, Inv. Corey Freeman, Patrolmen Phillip Harris, Brandon Woods, Kevin Folds, and David Dover, I just want to thank you for your hard work and dedication to this case."

Robert Espy Jr. has been charged with Murder and John Edward Cole has been indicted for Capital Murder. Both are currently incarcerated at the Cullman County Detention Center.

The Background Story

Fredrick William Galin was found deceased in his home on St. Joseph Dr. in the late evening hours of December 19, 2013, prompting authorities to treat the situation as a possible homicide.

"The man's caregiver came to the home earlier this evening. When the man could not be reached the caregiver called the police department," Sheriff Rainey said in an interview in December.

Once officials arrived on scene, officers had to make a forcible entry into the residence, where the elderly gentleman was found.

"They forced their way in and he was deceased there inside the door. At this time we do suspect foul play but as far as cause of death we don't have that right now," he said.

January 17, 2014 Article

The Cullman County Sheriff's Dive Team spent the morning hours on Friday combing a section of Lake George, located on County Road 1338 in Vinemont, for evidence that links two suspects to the murder investigation of 71-year-old Cullman County resident William Fredrick Galin.

"As Sheriff of Cullman County I am pleased to announce to you today that we have arrested two individuals in connection with the murder investigation of Fredrick William Galin. Fredrick Galin, age 71, was discovered murdered in his home located on St. Joseph Drive here in Cullman in the late evening hours of December 19th 2013," Cullman County Sheriff Mike Rainey said.

"Since that time the Cullman County Sheriff's Office has been diligently searching for the person's responsible for this heinous crime. At this time our department is still conducting additional interviews and trying to secure additional physical evidence related to this murder investigation."

Presently John Edward Cole has been charged Theft of Property 1st degree which stems from the theft of a 1966 Chevrolet Super Sport stolen from the murder victim on Monday Decemeber 16, 2013 and Receiving Stolen Property 1st degree.

It is on this date that we believe the victim was murdered. Robert Espy Jr. has been charged with one count of Burglary 3rd degree and Receiving Stolen Property 2nd degree, both unrelated to the murder investigation.

However, Espy Jr. has been linked to this murder investigation. Bond for John Edward Cole and Robert Espy Jr. has been set at $200,000.00 cash each.

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office anticipates filing additional formal charges against both John Edward Cole and Robert Espy Jr. in the near future.

For more on the background story concerning the murder investigation of Fredrick William Galin, please visit these links:

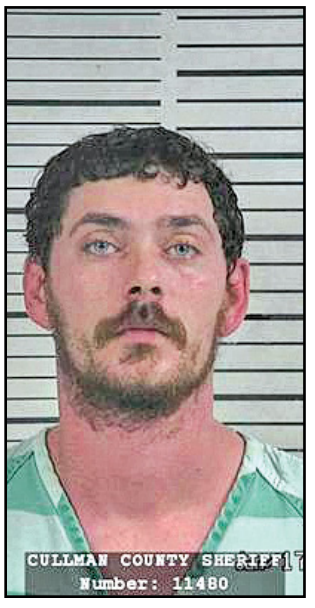
http://cullmansense.com/articles/2013/12/19/possible-homicide-being-investigated

http://cullmansense.com/articles/2014/01/17/breaking-arrest-made-murder-investigation-ccso-dive-team-searches-evidence



CCSO

» The suspected murder weapon is immersed in lake water to preserve the integrity of the investigation. The marker in the background shows the weapon was not thrown far from the roadway.



CCSO

» John Edward Cole



CCSO

» Robert Espy Jr.



CCSO

» CCSO Major Scott Clay, CCSO Chief Deputy Max Bartlett, Cullman District Attorney Wilson Blaylock and CCSO Investigator Justin Tyus examine the freshly recovered piece of evidence in the murder investigation of 71-year-old Fredrick William Galin.



CCSO

» CCSO Investigator Justin Tyus takes photos of the pipe wrench wrapped inside a shirt, which is currently being preserved in a small tub container of lake water.

Center (from Front)

coordinator for the Center, she said that this facility will help incorporate more programs for those with special needs and is a long time dream for their director Terry McGill.

"Terry has always wanted to build an extra building for our summer program," Wilson said.

"And for those that are graduating in the school system that can't get into our day program just yet. It's just a way to better serve our special needs community."

The facility contains two offices, four classrooms, a kitchen, and an expansive gymnasium. Every effort is made to make sure that all those that come to the new facility feel relaxed. In fact, there is one room dedicated entirely to that objective. A room filled with cushy sofas, a TV, an Xbox, sensory items, and more have all been provided for the sole purpose of relaxation for all who come.

There is also a sizable basement area, which is where the local Red Cross has found a new home since the old Red Cross building was destroyed in the April 27th tornadoes.

"It was great to incorporate the Red Cross because that was something Cullman really needed," Wilson said.

"They are in our basement and can now house up to 250 people."

Everything in the new building is more handicap friendly. The stage in the gymnasium was specifically designed to make it easier for the kids. "The stage is more handicap appropriate," Wilson stated. "It has ramps and isn't as high, so it is easier to get up and down." With summer programs beginning soon, the new facility opened at just the right time.

"We were just super excited to get this finished before the summer program started," Wilson said with a smile.

"Because when we were in the other building with the adults, it was packed. So now, we can just let them run and have a good time."

In addition to the summer day camp program, Tiffany is excited to be able to house the annual "Fun Fest", an annual day of games, food, and fun for all ages at the Beech Center.

"This is where we will hold Fun Fest," Wilson said. "Normally we do it at Miracle Fields, but now we can have some indoor and outdoor stuff. Some of our older folks don't do well with the heat, so this just gives us a better option."

The addition of this new facility ensures that all of our special needs individuals and their families are better served.

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DJ HISH AND MORE!

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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 p.m. at Abundant Grace Church. 'Root Ministry' has the aim of radically overcoming obstacles together for anyone with any types of hurts, hang-ups, or habits in their lives. Please call 256-739-7091 for additional information. All welcome!

Thursday Afternoon Overeaters Anonymous Meeting
Those interested are invited to attend the weekly Thursday afternoon meetings of Overeaters Anonymous which begin at 4:45 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church's Carriage House. For additional information please call 734-376-2124 or 256-352-1143.

Friday

'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center
The entertainment for senior citizens is 'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center starting at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited. Come enjoy some exercise (but not too physical!) and fellowship with friends. They bowl every Wednesday and Friday afternoons at 1 p.m.

Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild of Cullman
Members of the Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild of Cullman will gather at the Colonel Cullman Museum starting at 9:30 a.m. All interested quilters are invited to attend this meeting.

Friday Night Dance at the VFW
Cullman's VFW Post 2214 invites everyone to come to their weekly Friday night dances at the VFW Hall from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. The cost is $5.00 per person and music by the Golden Oldies and Country with the Midnight Highway Band will be filling the air. Funds raised go toward the building rental. Get your dancing shoes on and come out for a great evening of fun and entertainment tonight.

Saturday

VFW Saturday Night Dance
The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2214 invites everyone to their weekly Saturday night dances which begin at 7 p.m. and last until 10 p.m. The Boogie Night Band provides music on Saturday nights. Entrance fee is $5.00 for each individual. Come on out and bring your dancing shoes and enjoy an evening of great music, fun, and fellowship!

Next Monday

Cullman Kiwanis Club
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This Week in Local Entertainment

Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

Monday, June 16

- 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 17

- Summer Reading Program at the Cullman County Library at 10 a.m.
- Square Dancing Lessons at East Point Community Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Grumpy's Italian Grill from 7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, June 18

- Story Time at the Hanceville Library at 10 a.m.
- Preschool/Elementary Garden Camp Schedule at the North Alabama Agriplex from 9-11 a.m.
- Touring Farms for Kids from at the North Alabama Agriplex 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Musician Derek Sellers at All Steak from 6-9 p.m.
- Karaoke night at Grumpy's Italian Grill from 7- 10 p.m.

Thursday, June 19

- Touring Farms for Kids from at the North Alabama Agriplex 8 a.m.-4:30 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 20

- Ladies' Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m. Half off drinks for ladies
- Musician Derek Sellers at Grumpy's Italian Grill at 7:30 p.m.
- Rock the South Music Festival at Heritage Park

Saturday, June 21

- Ladies' Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m. Half off drinks for ladies
- First Annual Fishing for a Cure Bass Tournament at the Lewis-Smith Lake Dam Launch; Registration at 3 p.m.
- Paddle at the Rock Paddle Board Race at Silverock Cove at Smith Lake from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Rock the South Music Festival at Heritage Park

Busy Bee Café
Try our German Food!

Contest offers cash prize to design logo for Wallace State program

By: Gail Crutchfield
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE - Wallace State Community College is hoping their students can help them with a project to design a logo for its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), with cash prizes being offered to the top three contestants.

"Our plan is called 'GPS (Goals-Planning-Success): Navigate Your Future,'" said Dr. Kathy Buckelew, English instructor and QEP co-chair. "This plan is designed to improve student learning at Wallace State through a freshman seminar course and an ePortfolio."

A freshman seminar is a course that helps freshmen navigate college successful. An ePortfolio is an online portfolio of a student's learning experiences.

"We want logos that reflect our theme of GPS and navigation," Buckelew said. "We envision a design that includes such things as pathways, maps, compasses, GPS symbols and/or guidance." The winning logo will be used on the cover of the plan and other promotional items related to the QEP, such as flyers, handouts, etc.

The prizes offered in the contest are $100 for first place, $50 for second and $25 for third. The contest is sponsored by WSCC's Roadmap Team and a grant from the Association of American of Colleges and Universities.

All entries must be original creations, and any images included must be free of copyrights. All entries must include the letters GPS and, preferably, additional phrasing from the title of the QEP — "Navigate Your Future" or "Goals-Planning-Success."

Graphics for the logo may be composed in any software the entrant finds suitable. Entrants are free to incorporate their own photography or hand-made artwork into their submissions.

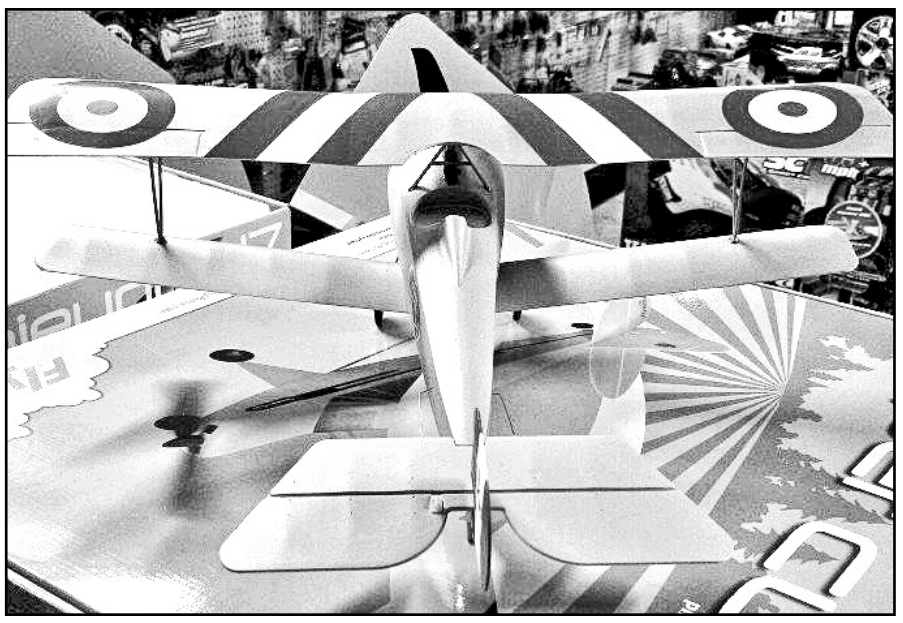
The finished products should be submitted as PDF or PNG file formats of at least 300 dpi/ppi.

The deadline for submission is July 2. Notices will be sent to the top three entrants on July 8, with notes on any requested design adjustments. The entrants will return revised logos by July 10, and the winners will be announced on July 14.

Submissions should be delivered to Dr. Kathy Buckelew (Office 17, Computer Science Building) or Dr. Rebecca Reeves (Office 110, Social and Behavioral Science Building) on a USB flash drive, or via e-mail attachment to kathy.buckelew@wallacestate.edu or rebecca.reeves@wallacestate.edu.

For more, contact Buckelew at 256-352-8192 or Reeves at 256-352-8262.

Cullman R/C Hobbies Flies in with Fun for the Family



JESSICA NORRELL/CULLMANSENSE

» Not only does Cullman R/C Hobbies sell radio controlled airplanes, helicopters, cars, and trucks, but they also teach how to use them on premise.

FAMILY-OWNED STORE OFFERS A HAVEN OF HOBBY MERCHANDISE

By: Jessica Norrell
jessica@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – If you are in need of a belated Father's Day gift or just want something cool for yourself, then stop by Cullman R/C Hobbies. Cullman R/C Hobbies carries a wide range of radio control cars, trucks, planes, helicopters, and boats, as well as trains, puzzles, plastic models, and much more to suit any variety of needs.

The store has something for every age and many of the products offered can be shared by the whole family, which was one of the reasons owner Daniel Lolies opened his business in the first place – for family.

Not only does Cullman R/C Hobbies sell an extensive selection of merchandise, but they also teach the skills needed to fly the planes and helicopters, as well as provide instruction on the essential operating procedures needed to drive various remote controlled cars and trucks.

Cullman R/C Hobbies is a full-service hobby shop that offers an extensive knowledge and understanding of their merchandise while relating the inner workings of it all to its customers. "We do have a track for testing and tuning and, of course, just playing and having fun," commented Lolies of the off-road racetrack on the premises. There is also plenty of room to fly planes and helicopters outside the shop. Trucks and helicopters are among the best selling items at Cullman R/C Hobbies and certainly make for great gifts.

On the Cullman R/C Hobbies Facebook page you can catch updates on new products and even demonstrations of what these machines are capable of. They even carry products similar to CullmanSense's own drone that can be seen hovering overhead at community events.

"Over the years I have really enjoyed racing cars and flying helicopters with my son," Lolies said of his experience since opening the store.

Cullman R/C Hobbies is a family owned and operated business that started around 15 years ago.

Lolies has enjoyed working with his family at the hobby store over the years, and being that connected with family is one of the elements that inspired the very opening of Cullman R/C Hobbies.

"We wanted a business that we could include our children in. Over the years, Kevin [Lolie's son] and I have traveled to various races and gone to many fly-ins."

Stop by Cullman R/C Hobbies to find the perfect product to bring your family together or whatever needs you may have.

Cullman R/C Hobbies is located at 1631 Alabama Hwy 69 N and is open Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, call 256-775-2491 or e-mail cullmanrchobbies@yahoo.com, and make sure you stay updated by "liking" and following them on Facebook.

RESIDENTIAL RECIPES

Crock Pot Pork Steaks

By: Allison Robertson • Recipe Contributor

I have mentioned before that I love my slow cooker. I especially love it when I have to bring food to someone's house for a potluck. It is easy to just throw it all together and let it go.

Ingredients:
- 4 pork steaks
- 1 cup - ketchup
- 2 cups - chicken stock
- 1/2 cup - spicy mustard
- 1 teaspoon - soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons - pepper blend
- 1/4 cup – flour

Instructions:
- Rub the pork steaks with the pepper blend and place in the crockpot with all of the other ingredients besides flour. Cook on low for 6 hours.
- Remove 1 1/2 cup of the liquid and put in a saucepan over medium high heat.
- After it comes to a slight boil, whisk in the flour. It will thicken into a lovely gravy to pour over your pork steaks or mashed potatoes.
- There will be bones in the pork steak, but you will want to leave them in for flavor. The meat will fall off of them afterwards.

Best Ever Pork Rub

By: Allison Robertson • Recipe Contributor

The weather is getting warmer and it's time to start having those spring and summer barbeques. I love having family over and spending time together.

Life is busy and hectic but sometimes you need to slow down and play some games and have a good meal with the ones you love.

I developed this seasoning after one of my in-laws built us an Ugly Drum Smoker (if you haven't heard of it, look it up. It's amazing).

I wanted a taste that was all my own and using just what I had in my spice rack, I was able to come up with a wonderful rub/all-purpose seasoning that got rave reviews.

Ingredients:
- 1 teaspoon - smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon - garlic salt
- 1 teaspoon - chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon - cumin
- 1 teaspoon - salt
- 1/2 teaspoon - black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon - ground mustard seed
- 2 teaspoon - white granulated sugar

Instructions:
Mix all together and you have a great rub and seasoning for pork, beef, or chicken.

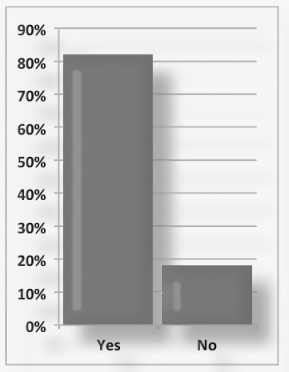
GET YOUR RECIPE PUBLISHED

E-mail your submission to

recipes@cullmansense.com

Poll

Do you donate to charities?



This Week's Poll

Do you monitor your children's online activity?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

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 Papa Duke's Tues. & Devil Dawg's Thurs. See our full lineup online.
- **FREE Drive-in Movie:** A FREE Drive-in Movie will be held in front of Nesmith Pool on Friday, June 14 playing Despicable Me 2. Movie will begin at dark and is free to the public. Call 256-734-9157 for more details.
- **Dive-in Movie at CWAC:** Frozen will be playing by the poolside on Thursday, June 26 at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center. The pool will open at 6pm for open swim for $5 per person, and the movie will begin at dark. Admission to the open swim and movie is $5 per person. Call 256-775-SWIM for any details.
- **Monday Fundays** are held each Monday at CWAC, $7 admission per person for open swim, games, and more. 6pm to close. Call 775-SWIM.
- **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.
- **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. Behind the Times will be playing this Tuesday, June 10 at this FREE event.

What's Online

Quick Tire Sales named Small Business of the Month

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce recently awarded their Small Business of the Month award to Quick Tire Sales of Cullman. The award is given monthly to a local small business that meets nomination requirements. Victor Quick of Quick Tires Sales was thrilled...



qrne.ws/213

Hops & Shops Rocks Cullman

Downtown Cullman was packed again last Thursday thanks to this month's Hops & Shops Cullman. This was the second time Hops & Shops was held, and this month brought a few positive changes The evening began at the Visitor Center of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, just like last month.

qrne.ws/214

Daystar Church Offers 'Real Recovery' for Those with Addictions

Daystar Church, located in Good Hope, has a program that offers help for a special group of people in the community. The 'Real Recovery' program offers a place where folks can gather together and support each other as they travel the long road to recovery.

qrne.ws/215

Called to Write: Meet-up Group Helps Local Writers Spread Their Message

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – 'Called to Write – Cullman' is a group started by Jason Zinsmeister using Meetup.com as a way to connect with other people in the area who are interested in writing and are actively practicing the craft of writing. It's an informal group initially created for the purpose of finding a way to connect with other writers and spend time getting to know one another.

"I named it Called to Write because I find that with people who have a passion for writing, we see it as something we are called or compelled to do in life," Zinsmeister said. "Although none of the members who have joined or others who have attended the meetings makes a full time living writing, all of us have something we want to say to the world. We all have a message we want to convey."

The initial goal of the group was to get to know other writers. However, as the members have gotten to know one another, the conversation has turned to finding ways to get their writing out into the public's hands more effectively. The group now discusses marketing and promotion, exploring the opportunities that are currently available.

"After all, the best books by the most talented authors that share the deepest meaning and have the ability to move people to take action can do nothing if it is never read." Zinsmeister said. "While none of us may be Shakespeare or Clancy, we each believe in our work enough to find ways to put it out there and let the world be the judge as to its quality."

Called to Write – Cullman got off to a small start with the first couple meetings only having three members in attendance. But over time, there have been folks stop in and meet from all over the area. Each person brings with them something different to the meetings. Whether it is in the form of short stories, fiction novels, poems, non-fiction books, songs, or blog posts, everyone has something to share.

Jason Zinsmeister is a Cullman native who later returned as an adult to give his children the benefit of growing up in small town Cullman. A former college football player, Army veteran, and construction company manager turned financial consultant, Jason writes to feed his soul.

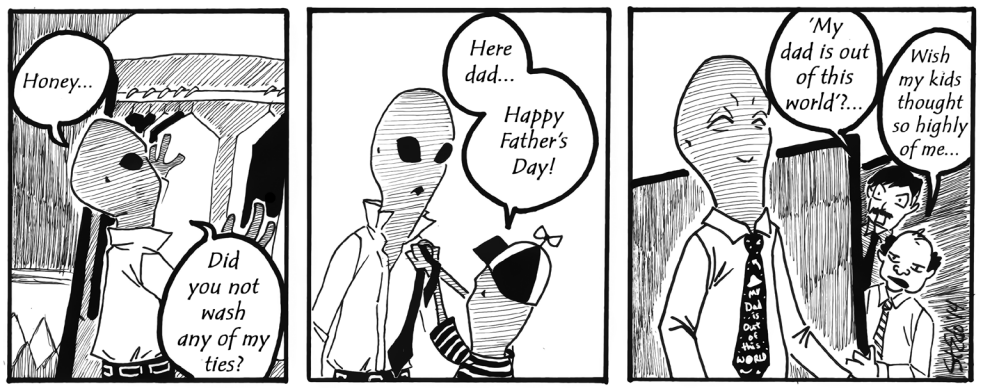
He currently has two books available on Amazon.com and both are non-fiction. The first book, which is really more of a booklet is called "The 10-10-80 Principal" and is centered on an idea that John D. Rockefeller credited as the cause of his great wealth.

His second book, "Battle Ready Finance: Basic Training", is the first in a series of personal finance books for Christians. The idea is that we are engaged in a fierce though unseen battle with our enemy, Satan, and he wants nothing more than to destroy our lives. "My goal is to help believers move their finances to a place where there is one less weapon that can be used against them in that fight," Zinsmeister stated quite seriously, as he talks about his books.

To find out more about the group, visit meetup.com/Called-to-Write-Cullman/ or call 256-339-8553. Anyone who is or is interested in becoming a writer is welcome to attend a meeting. If you want a group to run your ideas by, need to be encouraged, or just want to hang out and talk about writing, you are invited to this group. Called to Write – Cullman meets the second Tuesday evening of each month at 7 p.m. at the Cullman Books-A-Million.

Comics

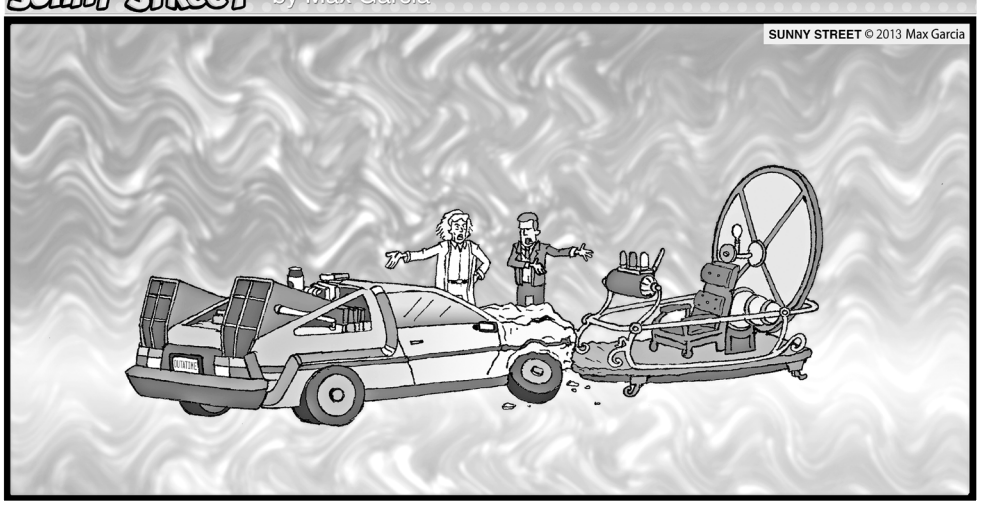
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MAMA'S BOYZ www.jerrycraft.net **JERRY CRAFT**



SUNNY STREET by Max Garcia





SUNNY STREET by Max Garcia



Pets of the Week

China

Hello! My name is China, and I am about 5 years old. I am a Black Lab and currently weigh 75 lbs.

I am full of life and I love to play. I am ready to find my forever companion. I am a great family pup and am ready to find my new family.



Jorja

Hello! My name is Jorja, and I am about 10 months old. I am believed to be a Retriever mix and currently weigh 30 lbs.

I am spirited and enjoy company. I'm ready to find my new forever family.

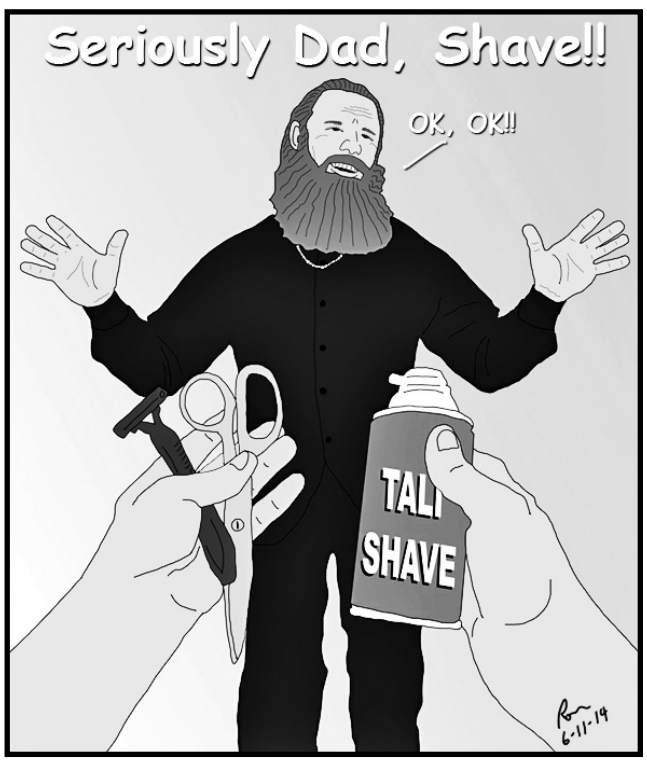


ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

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.

Editorial Cartoons







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Community Matters

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OPINION

THE CASE OF BOWE BERGDAHL

By: Sage Overton
Political Contributor

The release of U.S. Army Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl has quickly become the largest controversy in an administration that has come to be defined by them. At the base of the story is a prisoner exchange on May 31 of this year, where Bergdahl was swapped for five Taliban prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay. The exchange followed almost five years of captivity for Bergdahl, after he was taken the night of June 30, 2009. That's where the simple ends and the complicated begins. Below we examine four of the biggest questions surrounding the Bergdahl controversy.

Is Bergdahl A Deserter?

Shortly after Bergdahl's release was announced, details began to emerge surrounding the conditions of his capture. What is certain is that he was taken the night of June 30, 2009. What is uncertain is how he came to be where he was captured. Army Sgt. Bergdahl claims he fell behind while on a patrol that night. Another story says he was grabbed from a latrine. The Taliban claims they picked him up when he wandered off base drunk. In an AP article from 2009, the Department of Defense said he left base without permission with three Afghanistan counterparts and was captured.

A Pentagon investigation in 2010 concluded Bergdahl walked away from his unit. Former squad mates have come forward and said Bergdahl didn't just leave the base without permission, he was attempting to desert. In the coming weeks, the question will have to be answered. As it stands right now, Bergdahl has not been charged with anything, and here in America, you are innocent until tried and proven guilty.

Does the United States of America Now Negotiate With Terrorists?

President Ronald Reagan is credited with being the first United States leader to openly declare, "We do not negotiate with terrorists." President George W. Bush declared the Taliban a terrorist organization in 2002 by executive order.

At that time, they were the ruling government in Afghanistan. However, the State Department does not have the Taliban listed as a terrorist organization. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and the Obama administration have taken the stance that the five Taliban members exchanged for Bergdahl were members of that government.

Their argument is that this was a prisoner of war exchange between two governments.

Many legislatures on both sides of the aisle disagree. The old saying "perception is reality" certainly applies here. The short and long term geopolitical ramifications of this for the United States are anyone's guess now.

Did President Obama Break the Law?

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2013, signed into law by President Obama, clearly mandates that all prisoner transfers from Guantanamo Bay require 30 days notice to Congress. The short and simple answer is: yes, he broke the law.

The White House has said Bergdahl's health and the risk of a leak prevented them from complying with the law. They have also referenced a signing statement by President Obama that accompanied the law, which said the law prevented the president from acting in accordance with his powers as commander-in-chief. Technically, a signing statement has no authority.

They are not found in the Constitution and the Supreme Court has never taken up the issue. The Defense Act did not give the President authority to act without notifying Congress, regardless of the situation. The follow up question to this one is: what next?

Will Congress Act to Impeach President Obama?

This is another question with many possible answers. The Constitution grants Congress the power to impeach officials for "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." It is up to Congress to decide what those crimes may be. Impeachment is a two-step process.

The first requires the House of Representatives to draw up Articles of Impeachment, which define the crimes for which the accused may be impeached. It requires a simple majority to pass. Given the Republicans have been trying to undo everything Obama has done since first taking office, it is likely this may come to pass. The second step is a trial held by the Senate, which then requires a two-third majority to find the defendant guilty. This will most certainly not happen.

So, what does all of this mean? Domestically for President Obama, it means trouble. Any other legislation he intended on passing before the end of his term is dead in the water. He will most likely find himself impeached by the House and then cleared by the Senate.

The Democrats will find their back against a hard wall this election cycle. If the Republicans think and act fast, they can force an impeachment vote before November and force the Democrats to take a stand.

Internationally, the United States is bleeding chips at the world poker table. Following Syria, Crimea, and now the appearance of negotiating with terrorists, finding people willing to take America as a credible threat is getting difficult.

While many things are uncertain and some of the answers will slowly fall into place over the next couple of weeks, one thing that is certain now is there are very rough waters ahead for the White House.

OPINION

What Our Country Needs From the Press

By: Lee H. Hamilton

These days, the scandal involving long wait times at VA hospitals can feel like some made-in-Washington spectacle generated by politicians looking for headlines. But it isn't. It had its genesis in a late-April report on CNN that as many as 40 veterans may have died waiting for appointments at VA hospitals in Phoenix.

This investigative piece was notable for two reasons. It's been a while since a news story so quickly provoked such a storm of public indignation that a cabinet secretary — deservedly or not — had no choice but to resign. And it's a reminder of just how important old-fashioned shoe-leather reporting remains to our system of government, especially when it uncovers official misdoing.

One of the basic truths about our representative democracy is that it does not work without solid information. Public officials, both elected and appointed, need to know what's happening in the communities they serve, and the people who live in those communities need to know what the government they elect and fund is doing in their name.

A lot of forces try to distort that flow of information, or even block it altogether — from officials who aren't living up to our expectations to politicians counting on public ignorance to lobbyists and advocates hoping to sway public opinion. This is why the press — and by this I mean print, broadcast, and online journalists — is so crucial to our country's health. It is, or ought to be, a steady, dispassionate, truth-seeking, skeptical, and tough-minded force for public understanding. These are not easy times for journalists, however. I don't pretend to understand all the forces that are reshaping what we see, hear, and read in the news media, and I know that news executives are struggling with a host of formidable economic and social challenges. Yet if the line between news and entertainment gets blurred, if loud opinion replaces accurate reporting, and if journalists take the easy road of covering politics and the horse race rather than the core of policy-making — substance, consensus-building, and the painstaking search for remedy — then representative democracy is in trouble.

New organizations and websites are trying to make up some of the ground that's been lost in the years of news-industry turmoil: investigative outfits like ProPublica and the new wave of "explanatory" and data-driven sites like Vox and 538.com. These days, only a handful of news organizations in the country have the resources — both human and financial — to spend weeks or months chasing an investigation. Given the cuts that have stripped newsrooms of the expertise they once contained, I sometimes wonder whether the kind of reporting that brought us Watergate could still occur.

Because make no mistake: we need maximum oversight. You and I need it if we're to be certain that misdeeds cannot hide in the darker corners of government. And Congress needs it if it's to carry out one of its core responsibilities: overseeing the operations of government. All of us rely on the press to check abuses of power, see that laws are properly implemented, hold officials accountable, and tell those officials when their policies and operations are failing or going astray. Without a strong independent press, those in power could simply tell us what they want us to know and we'd be none the wiser. And that is no state of affairs for a democracy.

Bill Smith

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