SERIES 4, ISSUE 24 MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2014
CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER
# CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS
$0.50 $0.50



Rock the South Brings Cullman to Life p6

**KARMA IN CULLMAN:** Organization Helps Others Through Tough Times by Paying it Forward p3

The American Legion Auxiliary is a Force of Dedicated Women Supporting Our Veterans p4



**SPLISH SPLASH:** Splash Pad Ribbon Cutting at Sportsman Lake Park Makes Waves p2

# CAMP FOR DISABLED CHILDREN BRINGS BIG SMILES



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

**» The Cullman County Center for The Developmentally Disabled gives children an opportunity to interact with others like them and takes them to different outings like the bowling alley and movie theater.**

### » Cullman County Center for The Developmentally Disabled Enjoys New Media Facility for Camp

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** - The special needs community in Cullman has always been taken care of very well. Whether you realize it or not, there are lots of resources and programs for the disabled of all ages. One of these programs is the Summer Camp for Disabled Kids.

This camp is organized and ran by Tiffany Wilson, summer program coordinator, and is an 8 weeklong day program designed specifically for special needs kids and families.

"I have been over the program about five or six years now," Wilson said. "It's school

p4

AGRIPLEX

# TOURING FARMS FOR KIDS TEACHES THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – The North Alabama Agriplex Heritage Center recently hosted two full days of farm tours in Cullman County. On Wednesday and Thursday, 35 local kids ages 7 to 13 loaded a Wallace State bus bright and early and spent the days traveling all over the county visiting various farms and hatcheries.

"We are trying to educate our kids about where their food comes from, and the effort and hard work that went into producing their food," explained Rachel Dawsey, director of the North Alabama Agriplex.

"We believe that the more our youth and adults understand where their food comes from, the more they will care

p3




CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

**» The Agriplex teaches children the origins of food.**

# PADDLE AT THE ROCK BENEFIT RAISES FUNDS FOR THE BELL CENTER

» EARLY INTERVENTION CENTER HELPS CHILDREN WHO HAVE OR ARE AT RISK FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES P4



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

**» Paddle boarders race towards victory as they raise awareness for the Bell Center.**

# Local Family Enacts Annual Fishing For a Cure Tournament

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

### » Fundraiser to benefit ALS walk in Huntsville

**SMITH LAKE** - This Saturday at Smith Lake Dam, a family hosted the first ever "Fishing For a Cure" bass tournament. Hopeful fishermen from all across the county were lured in to participate. The afternoon was hot and so were the prizes.

The tournament began at 6 p.m. and went until weigh-in at 2 a.m. The prize money was substantial, with cash prizes ranging from $1,000 for first place to $125 for fifth place. Twenty-eight boats showed up to the fundraiser, and while Adam Harris was hoping for more, he was pleased with the turnout for their first year.

"Our first tournament, in the middle of summer, and we had 28 boats," Harris said. "At 5 o'clock, we only had three

p3

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

# SPLISH SPLASH: Splash Pad Ribbon Cutting at Sportsman Lake Park Makes Waves

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** - Alabama summers can be sweltering. The heat and humidity can keep a family indoors as much as any cold winter day can. On June 16, however, Cullman was finally able to cut the ribbon and proudly open up their newest attraction, the Sportsman Lake splash pad.

The splash pad is a new addition to one of Cullman County's most beloved parks. The splash pad is a wonderful way for families to cool off this summer.

The fun fountains that comprise the pad make it a must stop for kids and parents who are in search of free entertainment.

A perfect summer day greeted all those who attended the ribbon cutting ceremony. Dozens of families were already putting the new addition to good use.

The sound of kids laughing as they played in the water was exactly what Doug Davenport had in mind.

"We left the park last night at about 6:30 or 7 p.m.," Davenport said.

"And there was nearly this many here then. It has been a huge success, and we are just glad to give something back to the community that's free."




CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

**» The new splash pad at Sportsman Lake Park provides a needed area for families to cool down on hot summer days.**

Davenport shares the credit for the completion of this project with a hardworking team.

"Well they started this project before I was here. I've been with the County about 15 years and been with the Parks for about 16 months," he said. "I can't take credit for the design. Sammie Danford was the one working on it first, and that idea became our goal."

Parents were also extremely pleased with the new addition, although they do look forward to some shady areas to sit being the next update to the splash pad area.

"I love it," Jennifer Murphree of Fairview said. "This is our favorite place. My daughter is getting older and was kind of growing out of coming, but now with this, she loves it."

This was truly a smart and ingenious idea for Cullman County to pursue. Thanks to their efforts, kids, and parents alike will have a fun and free place to come spend the day together. This is just another shining example of Cullman's growth, and the continued efforts of its officials to make this the best place for Alabamians to live.

# Decorative Concrete Solutions Brings Life to the Boring

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – If you're looking to spruce up your old flooring, look no further than Decorative Concrete Solutions. Owned by brothers Noah and Levi Whitney, these guys have what it takes to give your old concrete surfaces new life.

The Whitney brothers have been working with decorative concrete for over a year. After realizing the usefulness of their skills, however, these brothers recently decided to go into business together.

"We create decorative concrete overlays to existing concrete surfaces," Levi said.

"We can take a slab of concrete and turn it into a work of art. We can make old concrete look like stone, brick, tile, or even aged wood. These all can go down at 1/4 of an inch thickness or less."

In addition to concrete overlays, Decorative Concrete Solutions can also apply epoxy resinous coatings to indoor slabs.

"This is most common in basements," Levi stated. "It gives a more custom look to a drab grey surface."

This work is artful and tedious, but these brothers work quickly. Depending on the size of the floor, this process can sometimes take as little as a week.

"We are currently working on our biggest floor to date that is 1,850 square feet," said the brothers. "It will take us about three weeks to finish."

These guys use the Elite Crete Systems, which requires specific training. "Elite Crete Systems is the foremost authority on all things decorative concrete," said Levi.

There are so many uses for decorative concrete. They can spruce up driveways, patios, pool decks, sidewalks, garages, sports arenas, crosswalks, and more. They also offer services to hotels, schools and universities, offices, shopping malls, and restaurants.

If you'd like to take a look at the exquisite work these brothers do, visit their website at decorativeconcretesolutions.co. Or, contact Levi at 256-615-3736 or leviwhitney75@gmail.com, or Noah at 256-502-1010 or noahwhtn@gmail.com.

Don't wait to spruce up your life and your living area - contact Decorative Concrete Solutions today!



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

**» Founded by two brothers, Decorative Concrete Solutions create overlays that transform patios, driveways, garages, and just about anything else that's concrete into art.**

# KARMA IN CULLMAN: Organization Helps Others Through Tough Times by Paying it Forward

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** - Why do bad things happen to good people? It is a question that we ask ourselves a lot. Sometime in all of our lives, we need a little extra help; support in some form that lets us know that we are not alone in this world and that people care.

Rachel Bryant, founder of the "Karma" organization in Cullman, has been at that point in her life and decided to turn her unfortunate situation around. The amazing outcome was Karma in Cullman.

"We started the group after going through some major family problems. I started cleaning out closets and pantries as a way to help me get through my days," Bryant said. "After a couple of days of thinking if I should do a yard sale or should I donate it to a thrift store, I saw an online Facebook group where someone was in need of clothing, and at that point I decided why not give away my items?"

That was just the start, however. Once Rachel got others involved, the whole movement took off.

"After I got rid of all my stuff, I was thinking, well, if I have all this stuff to give away then I know there has to be others out there, and I was right, everyone has stuff to give," said Bryant. "Before we knew it, we became a family and within a month, we pulled together our First Christmas Project where we helped give 235 children a good Christmas."

The Karma in Cullman organization helps in whatever capacity they can.

They have programs to help with everything from clothes to finances, and they even offer classes on couponing and budgeting. During the summer months, parents are offered a day to bring their kids to play while the grown-ups relax. Local businesses like CiCi's Pizza and the local hangout Rack & Cue have sponsored the first two kid's days. "Right now during the summer months, we have a weekly Karma Kids Day where we find local businesses that will help us provide lunch for the kids," Bryant said.

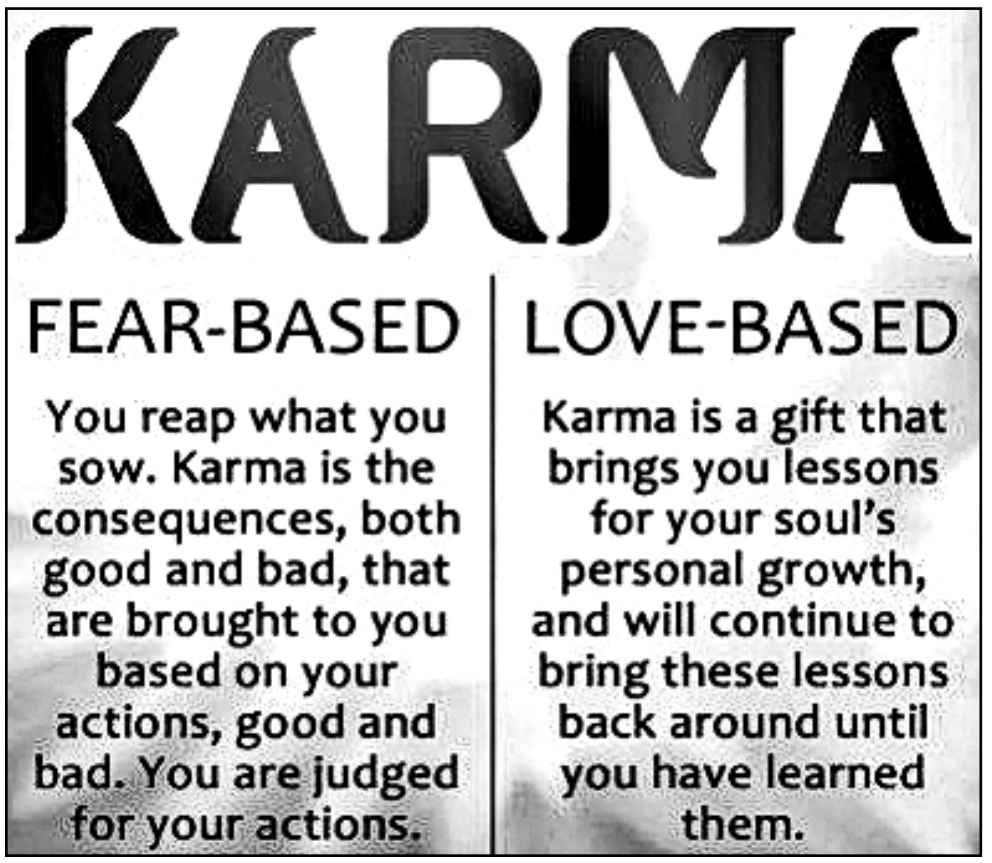
"And then each week, we plan to get together at local parks so that the kids can get out of the house, meet new kids, and enjoy summer, while the adults can sit around and talk with other adults and not have to discuss SpongeBob or Dora."

There are many more projects in the works that Rachel and the whole Karma family are excited to be working on for the community.

"We will also be doing a big back to school project," Bryant stated. "We are currently accepting gently used kids' clothes and gently used backpacks or supplies. We will then give each kid a bag with five outfits for school."

According to Bryant, Karma in Cullman has been just as much of a blessing for her and her Karma family as it is has been for those they help.

"My favorite is when I see the Karma family reaching out to each other," she said. "I am so proud of our members. If we post a need, within a few minutes, we have someone in the group step forward and say they will help. If you have ever wondered if the people of Cullman didn't care, Karma in Cullman will prove that they do."




CONTRIBUTED

**» Karma in Cullman offers several programs to assist families that are in need.**

This new, but vibrant organization is trying to make the world a brighter and more caring place.

Their efforts to improve the lives of those around them are commendable to say the least.

We all need more positive karma in our lives, and this group can certainly show you how to get started.

If you would like to learn how you can join the Karma family, or if you are interested in sponsoring an event, please like and message their Facebook page Karma in Cullman, or call Rachel Bryant at 256-735-3942.

## Farms (from Front)

about the fate of our farms and farming community. Cullman County has such a wonderful agricultural heritage and we want to help keep that alive."

Lily Chambers, one of the kids taking the tour, had a great time. This marked the third year she has attended the tours and says she wants to be a farmer one day and grow lots of squash and okra.

"I just like to come to farms to see what farmers do and explore how they do it," Lily said with a smile as she clutched a bag of potatoes she had dug while at Kress Farms.

"It's a great thing to have the kids come out here and learn where their food comes from," said Travis Kress of Kress Farms. "A lot of the problems we run into are people being so far removed from the farm, they don't understand what we're doing every day. Their parents and grandparents are always talking about their grandpa or great grandpa having a farm but none of them still own a farm. So we're just showing them where we're at, that way when they get later on in their careers, they will always remember us, wherever they end up. They will know where their food comes from and make sure we're still here growing it locally, safe."

The fact that there are so many folks interested in promoting the farming culture here in Cullman really says a lot about our town.

It places the importance and value of our local farmers into the fresh young minds of our children and it gives them something to think about and consider as they grow up.

Hopefully some will grow up and choose farming as a career, or at least realize and appreciate what farmers do on a daily basis to ensure that their community has food to eat.

"This is the North Alabama Agriplex's fourteenth year hosting Touring Farms for Kids," Dawsey said.

"Each year different agriculture sites are chosen by a planning committee for the kids to visit. Some years we have gone fishing, visited the Lay's Potato Chip factory in Birmingham, explored Hunter Sod Farm, and much more. Every year we visit the Auburn Experiment Substation and the Farmer's Market."

For more on the Touring Farms for Kids program, or other programs offered through the Agriplex, contact Rachel Dawsey at 256-297-1044.

## Fishing (from Front)

registered and we were kind of worried, but then they just started pouring in. My initial goal was 25 so I beat that by three."

The tournament will have raised approximately $2,800 dollars for its first year, and that is saying something, considering huge events like Rock the South were taking place at the same time.

The real story here, however, is the family that has come together to support Danny Harris and his wife Diane, both of whom were the inspiration for the event.

Danny Harris was diagnosed with ALS (or Lou Gehrig's disease) three years ago, the day after the tornadoes hit in 2011.

Danny had been experiencing symptoms for some time, and after consulting with a general physician, he went to see a specialist in Atlanta on April 28 of that year.

"He had symptoms for two years before his diagnosis," Diane said.

"And no one could figure out what was wrong. So we finally got an appointment with Emory in Atlanta after waiting for four months. We were traveling to Atlanta on the 27th, and his appointment was at 8:30 a.m. on the 28th, and he was diagnosed."

According to Harris, her husband's doctor had narrowed the symptoms down to three possibilities before they were sent to Atlanta.

This is not uncommon for ALS patients as diagnosing this disease can be very difficult.

The biggest problem with late diagnosis is that those who have ALS have an average life expectancy of three years after diagnosis.

"Danny is doing very well to have had it for five years," Harris said. "He has just now about lost his voice and his swallowing is getting bad, so we are looking at a feeding tube. He is beating the odds right now given that most people with bulbar onset do not make it as long."

A lot of what determines the length of life expectancy for these patients is where their ALS begins to manifest.

For some, it begins in the limbs confining them to a wheelchair, and for others, it may start elsewhere. In Danny's case, it had started in his throat. For many of us, the obstacles facing Danny and Diane would seem insurmountable, but their infectious good nature carries them through.

"There are a lot of bad diseases in this world," she said. "And we all have to get down to the fact that we're not promised tomorrow. We live one day at a time, and in the back of our heads we worry about what ifs, but mostly we live for today and try not to worry about tomorrow."

The money raised from this event will go to the ALS walk in Huntsville, Ala. through "Team Danny".

The teams raised $6,600 last year for the walk in their first year and are hoping to raise more money this year.

If you would like to contribute to Danny's team, you can do so by going to ALSA.org and look for the Huntsville walk and team Danny Harris.

**Do you have old photos or stories about a family member or event that you would like to share?**

**CONTACT US TODAY**
**HISTORY@CULLMANSENSE.COM**

# The American Legion Auxiliary is a Force of Dedicated Women Supporting Our Veterans

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

**» A Conversation with Alabama's Auxiliary Membership Chairman, Vickie Thrower**

**CULLMAN** - I recently had an opportunity to attend an American Legion Auxiliary meeting where I met Mrs. Vickie Thrower, the current Alabama Department Membership Chairman. At the time, I wasn't aware of what the Auxiliary actually did, so Mrs. Thrower agreed to tell me all about it.

"The American Legion Auxiliary is by far the largest patriotic organization for women in the world," explains Thrower. "For God and country, they advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security. As a matter of fact, 8 million hours of Auxiliary outreach service are volunteered annually for veterans and military families."

When asked about her service in the Auxiliary, Thrower smiled big. Little did I know, she has done nearly everything there is to do with the organization with her span of over 34 years of service!

"I have held every office on the Unit, District and Department level," Thrower giggled a little. "I am the second youngest State President that Alabama has ever had serving, in 1997-1998 as the Department of Alabama, American Legion Auxiliary President. I am one of five people in Alabama that has ever held a national office as I was elected as the 2010-2011 National Chaplain. I currently serve as the Department of Alabama Membership Chairman and I will be next year as well."

Clearly she enjoys her time with the Auxiliary, but when asked what her absolute favorite part of her time with the Auxiliary is, she had to think a minute. It was obvious she had many things to choose from.

"My favorite times spent in the American Legion Auxiliary were visiting our veterans in the VA Hospitals at Christmas time, throughout Alabama, Biloxi, and Gulf Port, Mississippi. I enjoy giving out cards, canteen books, and being able to listen to their stories," Thrower said excitedly. "It is a great feeling to attend Welcome Home events for our Veterans and to see them off when they are deployed. I enjoy working with children and youth programs hosting parties for them. Yes, I've shared many fun times and many sad times participating with our organization."

I asked Mrs. Thrower if there was anything she felt the community should know about the Auxiliary. Somehow I knew she had lots of things to pass along.

"The American Legion Family can assist with many events and activities that involve our service men and women and all veterans," admitted Thrower. "Many American Legion Posts host flag disposal ceremonies to properly dispose of tattered or damaged flags; they assist with veterans' funerals and can provide military funerals when service organizations are not available."

Then she follows by telling how to go about enlisting the Auxiliary's help. "You should contact the American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary in your local area and they can assist you. If not, we do have a headquarters office that is located in Montgomery that can advise you."

Membership in the Auxiliary is limited to women who have direct personal connection with service in World Wars I and II, the Korean or Vietnam War, or conflicts in Lebanon, Grenada, Panama or Operation Desert Shield/Storm/Gulf War/War on Terrorism. A member of a local unit, such as our Cullman unit, is also a member of the Department and the National Organization. Yearly dues are usually $25.00 for senior members and $5.00 for junior members, girls ages 17 and younger.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, you may visit their national website at www.alaforveterans.org or contact Mary Reid at 256-636-1916 for additional information on their local unit.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

**» Mrs. Vickie Thrower, the Alabama Department Membership Chairman of the American Legion Auxiliary, is happy to talk about the organization.**

# Camp (from Front)

age kids with disabilities all the way up until they graduate. They come here, and we go on outings like bowling, movies, and to the Aquatic Center."

In addition to the outings, children enjoy a wholesome lunch, crafts, and down time in the new facilities media room.

"We have our new media room," Wilson said with pride. "This is where they can relax and watch movies. We even have an Xbox for them to play. We have a swing and coloring, and we just really try to accommodate everybody."

Friday's activities were laid back and fun for all the kids to enjoy. Everyone was happily eating lunch and waiting for their end of the day treat.

"We have done crafts today," Wilson said of the day's itinerary. "Then we all played in the gym, and after lunch, we will enjoy Friday movie afternoon. Someone brought 'Frozen' today so they'll love that."

This program, and others like it, allows these children (and sometimes adults) the opportunity to be around others like them. These activities provide the chance to not feel different and just feel at home, a fact that Wilson hears from parents time and again.

"It's so good when the parents of my new kids say how much they love it," Wilson said. "That, and how thankful they are to have found somewhere for their kids to go during the summer."

There are many rewarding things to be had from this program for both caregivers and kids alike. Wilson told why this program is so personally rewarding for her.

"I love that the parents feel safe bringing their kids here," said Wilson. "And these kids are just so sweet. They don't care if you look like road kill, you will hear more 'I love you' and 'You're pretty' from them than anyone. They're how everyone should be, society could really learn a lot from these kids."

The Cullman County Center for The Developmentally Disabled continues to provide quality services to this amazing community.

The joy for all involved is palpable and there were smiles all around. Cullman residents should feel proud of the work that is being done in our community by people like Tiffany Wilson and her colleagues. We owe them all a great deal of gratitude.

# Paddle (from Front)

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmanense.com

**SMITH LAKE** - On a hot summer day, there is no better place to be than Smith Lake, and on Saturday, there was a great event held to embody that notion called Paddle at the Rock. The water, people, and events all added up to one successful day of fun and fundraising.

The Paddle at the Rock event took place at Silverock Cove at Smith Lake and held three different paddle boarding race events. The competition consisted of 1-mile, 3-mile, and 6-mile races that were held so that every skill level could participate. Paddle boarding is where the racer stands on what resembles a surfboard and propels themselves forward with their paddle.

The races were put together by Tommy and Susan Cost who own Smith Lake Paddle Boards. Tommy Cost talked about what the main purpose of the event was and whom it benefitted.

"My wife, daughter and I love paddle boarding," Cost said. "We decided to open our business up three years ago. This is the second year we have held this race, and the main reason is to benefit the Bell Center in Birmingham, but also just to get folks interested in paddle boarding."

The Bell Center in Birmingham, Ala. is an early intervention center that helps children from birth to three years of age who have or are at risk for developmental disabilities. Mary Ashley Canevaro, marketing projects coordinator for the Bell Center, was happy to talk about what the Bell Center is and their role with the kids.

"We are an early intervention program that serves kids with developmental delays," she said. "We serve everything from down syndrome to cerebral palsy, spina-bifida and those who have yet to be diagnosed. Each child works with a team of physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathology and special education teachers."

The Bell Center offers these services to the children based on their needs. Children can come one, two, or four days a week to receive therapy.

"We have people that commute to us once or twice a week because the program is so unique," Canevaro said.

There were approximately 50 or more racers that participated in the races. One racer was Fox 6 sports reporter, Britton Lynn, who was excited to participate in the event. She raced in the event's 1-mile race with her dog riding shotgun.

"This was so much harder than I remember," Lynn said. "I have paddle boarded before, but have never raced. It was a crazy competition, everyone was so fast, but it was fun. I think it was especially tough for me, because I had my dog with me so it was 50 extra pounds."

Lynn was happy to come to Cullman and to support a great cause and participate in a favorite activity of hers.

"What a great idea this was," Lynn said with a smile. "To go race and paddle board on a beautiful lake like this and get the community together."

Indeed, it was a great day for everyone involved. Last year $1,200 was raised with around 30 participants and more is expected this year after almost doubling the number of racers.

If you would like more information about the Bell Center, you can find them online at www.thebellcenter.org. If you would like to learn more about paddle boarding and rentals, please go online to smithlakepaddleboards.com.

PK-3 THROUGH 6TH GRADE
OPEN ENROLLMENT

Christian education, economically priced, tuition assistance available, family orientated, more intimate classroom settings, full technology and music labs, yearly Science Fair, Journalism Classes.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL
510 Third Avenue, S.E. • Cullman, Alabama • 256-734-6580
E-mail: Info@stpaulscullman.com • www.stpaulscullman.com

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.

# Winston County Native "Happy" Wilson Hits the Big Time

By: Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

A few years ago, I purchased a giant box of old photographs at a yard sale in Eva, Ala. Inside the box were all sorts of treasures. Not only were there pictures inside the box, but there was also an old scrapbook from the 1940s and newspaper clippings. Again, there were tons upon tons of old pictures in that beat up old box and I could hardly wait to get home so I could look at them!

I pulled the scrapbook out and opened it up. Inside, I found several pictures of a handsome man with the biggest, brightest smile I've ever seen. He really caught my attention and I couldn't help but flip back and look at him. I ran my fingertip across the words underneath the man's picture. They were written in pencil that said "Happy" Wilson. I thought to myself, 'Now that name fits him perfectly!'

I turned the page and found an old postcard with "Happy" Wilson smiling like a possum. He stood with a group of guys, all about the same age. They were all dressed up in cowboy outfits, and musical instruments lined the floor in front of them. The post card said "Happy Tex Wilson and His Golden River Boys." Well, I had never heard of these guys and instantly became curious. Right then and there, I decided to find out more about the dashing young Mr. Happy Wilson.

Eugene Burnett "Happy" Wilson was born in Haleyville, Ala. on June 29, 1919. His parents were Asa Eugene Wilson and Ollie Lear Wilson. As a youngster, his father insisted he learn how to play music, as well as how to sing from the various musicians that came through town back in the 1920s. Young Eugene caught on fast and showed enormous talent for such a little guy.

As Eugene grew older, he became fascinated with radio. Radios were fairly new contraptions back then, and by the time he was 15 years old, he became a radio disk jockey. Before long, he became known as "Happy" Wilson. Some of his old friends in Winston County called him "Happy Tex" Wilson. Eventually, very few folks would be able to recall his real name.

By November 1950, "Happy" had become a popular disk jockey, had his own band, and was heard over WAPI, WAFM, and WAFM-TV in Birmingham. His TV show was one of the most popular shows on the airways. Even the "city slickers" liked the way "Happy" did the hillbilly numbers. Yes, Happy had a style all his own. It just came natural with him. "Happy" was a true Winston County hillbilly, and to his credit, he never pretended to be anything else.

During World War II, "Happy" served with the United States Army in Europe. He won a Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Belgian Croix-de-Guerre. He also entertained his fellow soldiers, appearing in the Special Service Army shows "Blackout Laffs" and "Sons of Fun." He also participated in a series of Army broadcasts on WRVA-AM in Richmond, Va.

After the war, "Happy" and his band, The Golden River Boys, were more popular than ever on WAPI. His performances were syndicated across the region. "Happy" Wilson and the Golden River Boys recorded twice in Nashville, releasing four singles on Decca Records in 1949 and two on MGM Records in 1950. "Happy" and the Boys played every night at various country dances and parties throughout the area. They also had a regular weekend gig at the Narrows Inn south of Birmingham. In his later years, Capitol Records hired "Happy" to manage its Nashville operations.




SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

**» Eugene Burnett "Happy" Wilson started being a disk jockey at 15 and established a successful band.**

"Happy" Wilson – the handsome, smiling man whose picture I found in a crusty old yard sale scrapbook some years ago, died on August 24, 1979. The Winston County boy turned Hillbilly singer will be forever remembered for his charm and musical abilities here in Alabama.

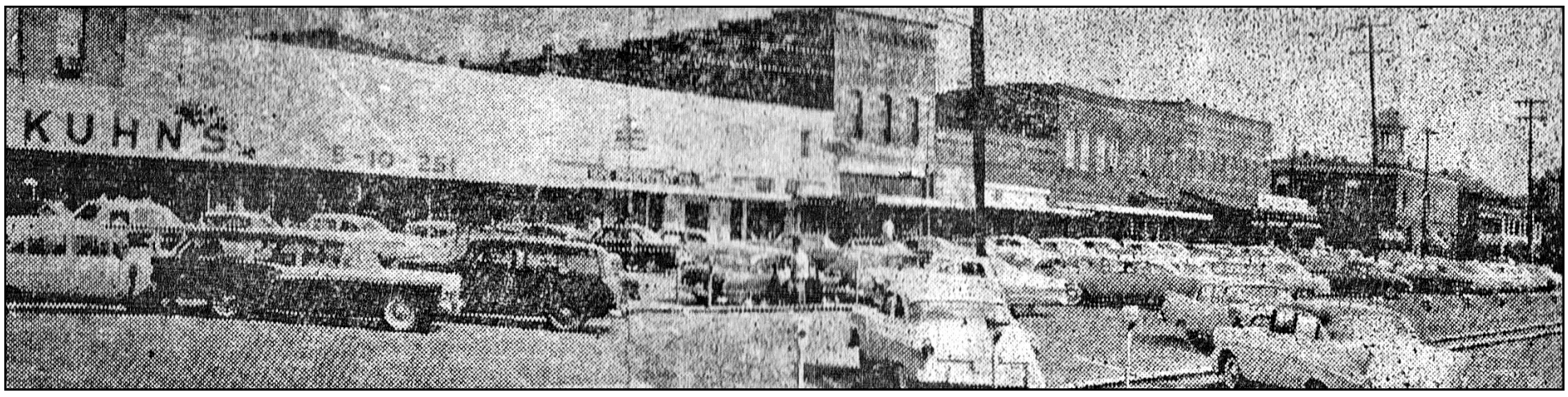
# MIRRORING HISTORY:
## FIRST AVENUE

By: Jessica Norrell
jessica@cullmansense.com

First Avenue certainly has a long and healthy history. The parking lot was first constructed in 1959 in the Park on First Avenue East between Third and Fourth Street.

Kuhn's was among the popular stores at that location during the time. The block remains a hot spot in Cullman and is now home to Michael's Flowers & Design, Berkeley Bob's Coffee House, Moe's Original BBQ, and several other stores or businesses.

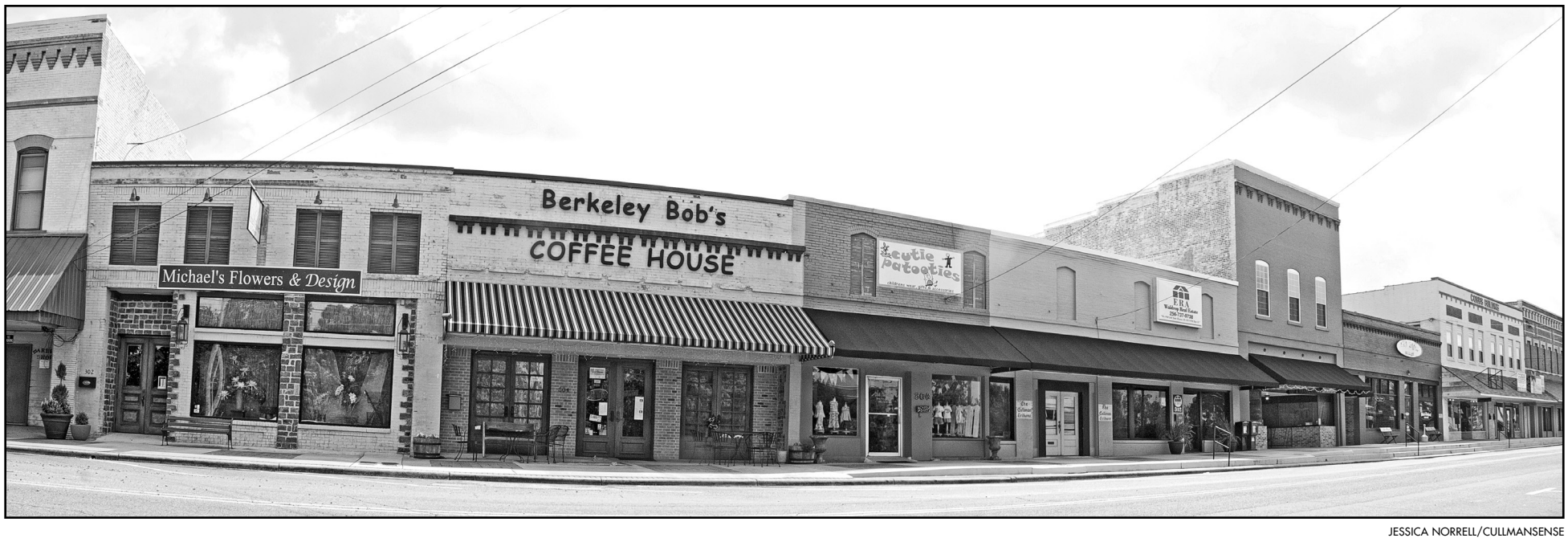
### PAST




CONTRIBUTED

**» Kuhn's and other stores along First Avenue were so popular that a parking lot was built where a park resided.**

### PRESENT




JESSICA NORRELL/CULLMANSENSE

**» The stores along First Avenue now include Michael's Flowers & Design, Berkeley Bob's Coffee House, Moe's Original BBQ, and many other establishments.**

CULLMANSENSE.COM
June 23, 2014

# ROCK THE SOUTH BRINGS CULLMA



## THIRD ANNUAL COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL FLOURISHES

**» Lynyrd Skynyrd, Little Big Town, Billy Currington, Charlie Daniels, Sara Evans, and more of country's biggest names performed at the third annual Rock the South.**

By: Kiah Crider
Local Contributor

**CULLMAN** - The third annual Rock the South, Cullman's premier music festival, was held this weekend at Heritage Park in honor of the April 27, 2011 tornadoes that caused major destruction to Cullman and surrounding areas. Some of the performers included Lynyrd Skynyrd, Little Big Town, Billy Currington, Charlie Daniels, Sara Evans, and even a special guest appearance from Duck Dynasty's Phil Robertson, interviewed by Greg and Speedy from the "Rick and Bubba Show."

The fans, especially, seemed like they were having a great time over the weekend.

"This is excellent for the city of Cullman," said Jeremiah Nolen.

"Rock the South is growing. You can see that it provides a lot of revenue for the city, a lot of exposure for the city, and I think that it is just going to continue to grow. As you can see, the crowds continue to flow in. I think this is something that could really help this community and was going to continue to make it prosper like it is."

"I think it's wonderful. I think it brings in a lot of people here, a lot of money, and a lot of revenue for the town," attendee Peggy Butler added.

Most of all, the fans seemed to really enjoy some of Phil Robertson's comments related to the infamous reality television show, "Duck Dynasty".

"These people that film us, Alabama, they're out of Los Angeles, California," said Phil Robertson.

"So, they said, 'Y'all actually kill things and eat them?' Yeah. 'And we've never heard anybody pray before they eat.' I said, Really? They actually were taking the name of Jesus out of my prayers. Did y'all notice that?"

From Charlie Daniel's version of "How Great Thou Art" to candid, but respectful remarks from Phil Robertson, not to mention the crowds that came back after after a passing thunderstorm, Rock the South has made its own name as a proud, Southern tradition.

## Rock the South 2014 Leaves Quite the Impression

By: Katy Jones
Local Contributor

**CULLMAN** - Concertgoers from all over the state of Alabama, and even the nation, gathered Saturday in Cullman's Heritage Park for the third annual Rock the South. The concert that developed from the April 27th tornadoes only three years ago has made its mark on country music here in the South.

The concert has grown from having a single day line up into a two-day festival with 14 artists. For Sara Evans, Rock the South has become a regular episode. The country music star and her husband, Jay Barker, are part owners of the concert.

Phil Robertson and Alan Robertson took the crowd by storm during their Q and A session with 104.7's Greg and Speedy. Fans awed at the "Duck Dynasty" celebrity and his forthright comments about his faith.

It was a family affair for many concertgoers, including Cullman native John Hassenbein who brought his family, including relatives from Gulf, Ga. with him to the concert. "I love it, it's great. It's been a great festival and great for the city of Cullman."

Like many members of the audience, John enjoyed seeing Phil Robertson.

"The Duck Dynasty group was fantastic. "I really like Phil, he's a good Christian and is straightforward with it. I've been watching him for sometime, but this was really unique, really different and really good," Hassenbein said.

Billy Currington was only able to perform three songs before an emergency weather evacuation due to a thunderstorm cleared out the premises.

About two hours later, the weather was clear and the concert was back on.

Billy brought back the crowd during the rest of his set with fun and soulful music. The night ended with Lynyrd Skynyrd who rocked the house down with their classic hits.

It was the first year of attending Rock the South for Regina McDonald of Decatur. "I enjoyed Little Big Town last night, and I'm anxious to see Billy Currington and Lynyrd Skynyrd tonight," said the county music fan.

Our CullmanSense contest winner, Misty Sims, took a break from her chemotherapy treatments to treat herself and her husband Daniel to a day of country music.

"It's totally different, I mean you can't explain it. It's been wonderful," said Sims.

For Misty, the best part of the weekend was meeting Charlie Daniels.

"I grew up with him and then I found out he had cancer so we were kind of on the same boat. So if I know he can do it, I can do it."

It was certainly great motivation for this cancer patient to meet a fellow fighter and to keep that solid spirit alive in the recovery efforts.

A consistent comment from citizens was that the revenue and tourism received from Rock the South is great for the city of Cullman, and that they hope to see the concert continue to flourish in the future.

One thing was evident throughout the crowd – Cullman was rocking the south!

# AN TO LIFE



ELIZABETH WATWOOD



ELIZABETH WATWOOD

**» New to this year's Rock the South attractions was a Ferris wheel.**

Coca-Cola PRESENTS
ROCK THE SOUTH

THANKS FOR LETTING
CULLMAN
BE OUR HOME!

**CITY OF CULLMAN**
MAYOR MAX TOWNSON
ANDY PAGE
GARLAN E. GUDGER, JR
JOHN W. COOK
CLINT HOLLINGSWORTH
JENNY FOLSOM
TOM CHARNEY
WESLEY MOORE

**CULLMAN COUNTY**
CHAIRMAN KENNETH WALKER
COMMISSIONER DARRELL HICKS
COMMISSIONER STANLEY YARBROUGH
HEATH MEHERG

**CULLMAN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**
PHYLLIS LITTLE
KELLY ALLEN
DANIEL HUNT

**EVENT OPERATIONS GROUP**

**CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**
CHIEF KENNY CULPEPPER
ASSISTANT CHIEF CRAIG GREEN
LT. GENE BATES

**CULLMAN EMS**
JERRY SELLERS

**CULLMAN FIRE DEPARTMENT**
CHIEF EDWARD REINHARDT, JR.
DARREN PEEPLES
CHRIS CHAFFIN
BRIAN BRADBERRY

**CULLMAN RECREATION**
CHRISTY TURNER
SHELBY WILLIAMS
JOHN HUNT

**CULLMAN AREA RURAL TRANSIT SYSTEM**
JOYCE ECHOLS

**CULLMAN PARK BOARD**

ROCKTHESOUTH.COM

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

BUD LIGHT
iLasik Eye Care Madison William E. Holcomb, MD 800-990-EYES www.eyecaremadison.com
GAME DAY TENTS WWW.GAMEDAYTENTS.COM
MITCH SMITH CHEVROLET
PEOPLES BANK of ALABAMA IN GOD WE TRUST
VALLEY HEATING & COOLING

## 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**
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!

# This Week in Local Entertainment

## Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

### Monday, June 23

- 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.
- RADkids Summer Self Defense/Safety Camp 9-11 a.m. at the Cullman Civic Center

### Tuesday, June 24

- Festhalle Farmers' Market 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Summer Reading Program at the Cullman County Library at 10 a.m.
- RADkids Summer Self Defense/Safety Camp 9-11 a.m. at the Cullman Civic Center
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Grumpy's Italian Grill from 7-9 p.m.
- BATS! Living Landscapes Program at 6 p.m. at the North Alabama Agriplex
- 'Pickin' Under the Pavilion' 6:30-8 p.m. at Donald E. Green Senior Center

### Wednesday, June 25

- Summer Reading Program at the Cullman County Library at 10 a.m.
- Story Time at the Hanceville Library at 10 a.m.
- RADkids Summer Self Defense/Safety Camp 9-11 a.m. at the Cullman Civic Center
- Preschool/Elementary Garden Camp Schedule at the North Alabama Agriplex from 9-11 a.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 26

- Festhalle Farmers' Market 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Summer Reading Program at the Cullman County Library at 10 a.m.
- RADkids Summer Self Defense/Safety Camp 9-11 a.m. at the Cullman Civic Center
- 'DIVE-IN' Movies at Cullman Wellness (CWAC). Showing "Frozen" at 7:30 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 27

- USSSA FP 'State Tournament' at Heritage Park
- RADkids Summer Self Defense/Safety Camp 9-11 a.m. at the Cullman Civic Center
- Cullman Chamber Community Luncheon at All Steak from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Ladies' Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m. Half off drinks for ladies

### Saturday, June 28

- Festhalle Farmers' Market 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Buck Shear Memorial Tournament at 8 a.m. at Cullman Golf Course
- USSSA FP 'State Tournament' at Heritage Park
- Ladies' Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m. Half off drinks for ladies
- VFW Post 2214 Saturday Night Dance 7-10 p.m.

### Sunday, June 29

- Buck Shear Memorial Tournament at 8 a.m. at Cullman Golf Course
- USSSA FP 'State Tournament' at Heritage Park

**Busy Bee Café**
**Try our German Food!**

# DIY Makeup and Toiletry Containers

By: Summer Crook
Contributor

If you're anything like me, you struggle to find space for makeup brushes, Q-tips, cotton balls, etc. A quick visit to the dollar store will yield a simple and inexpensive way to organize your brushes and toiletries in a colorful and fun way.

All you need are a few plastic spray bottles in various colors to spruce up your counter space and get organized. Your local dollar store will most likely have travel and spray bottles in different shapes, sizes, and colors to choose from.

With a knife, cut the head of the bottle off to create the size opening desired. In order to create an even and smooth edge, using an emery board along the cut plastic should give the lip of the bottle a more polished look.

To finish off, heat an iron on a low to medium setting and place a sheet of parchment paper between the iron and the bottle opening. The parchment paper will keep the iron from being damaged, should the plastic get too hot and melt to the iron. It's recommended to start at a low heat setting and increase the heat as needed. Allow the bottle opening to sit against the iron and parchment until the bottle lip begins to soften and mold to the desired look.


CONTRIBUTED

That's all that is needed to create a colorful, fun and organized display of all those bathroom items cluttering your counter space.

# WITH EVERY MILE, WE INCH CLOSER TO A CURE




## BOSOM BUDDIES ANNUAL BIKE RIDE DRAWS BIG CROWD

CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

**» Bikers from all across North Alabama made their way to the Cullman County Fairgrounds so they could ride to Guntersville State Park and back in support of the Bosom Buddies organization.**

By: Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** - A perfect blue sky, coupled with sunny, warm weather and a delightful breeze set the tone for the day's ride. Bikers from all across North Alabama showed up and registered to take part in the Annual Bosom Buddies Bike Ride this past Saturday.

The bike ride, which started at the Cullman County Fairgrounds, went all the way to beautiful Guntersville State Park and back. This route is a very beautiful and scenic drive that took the riders around three hours to complete with a pit stop at the state park for refreshments.

Approximately 126 motorcycles with 180 riders showed up to ride for this great cause. One of the bigger biker groups there were the "Sons of Liberty", led by their state president, Charles Dansby.

"Well actually, we do a ride every year for the Wounded Warrior Project," Dansby said. "And since we have been successful, the Bosom Buddies Foundation reached out to us and asked us to support their ride. Which, of course, we are more than happy to do."

"We have helped them out with how to do certain things before and with advertising," he said. This year, Dansby said that they would be taking some tips from Bosom Buddies for their next ride.

"This year they have pretty much done everything on their own," Dansby said. "I was just telling someone that I really liked their registration this year and we're probably going to copy them for our ride this year. So, they've learned from us and we have learned from them also."

When it was time for the ride to start, a short ceremony was held, and a young girl was asked to take the stage. Her name was Lindsay Jones, 18, and her story was a powerful one that left everyone with a tear in their eye and a smile on their face. Jones was diagnosed with a very rare form of cancer called Rhabdomyosarcoma at just four years old.

This particular type of Cancer has only ever affected boys, and Jones is the first girl to develop this condition of which doctors are aware. Although the condition left her permanently blind, it has not kept her from seeing the joy and beauty in life.

"I like to help people because I know that one day we will find a cure for cancer," Jones declared. "And I want to give back a portion of what was given to me when I was sick, and also because I know, and you know, that we all can make a difference!"

She went on to talk about who, in her view, the real heroes were at the event.

"I would just like to say, that each and everyone of you here today are heroes because you all showed up here today, and you are all going to ride for different reasons that you have in your hearts," Jones said. "But I encourage you to keep fighting for what you believe and keep fighting for a good cause."

With close to 200 riders taking part in this incredible event, this year's ride can definitely be called a success. Riders had the opportunity to partake in helping an incredible foundation and sharing in the joy of riding with their fellow bikers, and it all ended with a delicious barbecue dinner. Everyone at the Bosom Buddies Foundation did a fantastic job putting this event together. Their work in our community is irreplaceable, and they more than deserve all the thanks we can give them.

If you would like more information on the Bosom Buddies Foundation, visit their Facebook page at Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation.

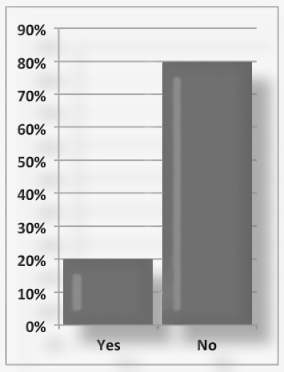
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



facebook.com/CullmanSense

## Poll

Do you monitor your children's online activity?




### This Week's Poll

Are your outdoor plants suffering from the rain?

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.

"Your Agents. Your Neighbors. Your Friends."

KNIGHT-FREE INSURANCE
256.734.4060



Auto-Owners Insurance

# What's Online

### Wallace State Flight Technology student Chelsie Sloan earns an additional FLY NOW scholarship through Ninety-Nines, Inc.



Wallace State Flight Technology student Chelsie Sloan has earned another notable scholarship, this time the Amelia Earhart Memorial Foundation "FLY NOW" scholarship through The Ninety-Nines, Inc.

qrne.ws/216

### Ave Maria Grotto is nominated for a USA TODAY and 10 Best Readers' Choice Award

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..

qrne.ws/217

### Reasons Why You're Having Trouble Losing the Belly

It gets discouraging. You've been going to the gym multiple times a week, eating a little better, but you're waistline still looks the same. Truth is, even though dieting and exercising are commendable things for your health, there may be other forces at work that are halting your...

qrne.ws/218



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» Behind the Times plays bluegrass and old country music at the Senior Center.

# PICKIN' UNDER THE PAVILLION

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – Feet danced along the floor of Donald E. Green Senior Center last Tuesday night at Pickin' Under the Pavilion. This week's band was a bluegrass/old country band called Behind the Times.

Pickin' Under the Pavilion is a program for the community presented by the Senior Center. It is a series of bluegrass concerts held every Tuesday in June and the first Tuesday in July from 6:30-8 p.m. Rain or shine, Pickin' Under the Pavilion is held near Ingle Park at the Senior Center, inside if it rains, and under the pavilion if the weather is nice.

This event was formerly held in Heritage Park and was called Concerts in the Park, but was recently taken over by Angie Jochum, director of senior programs for Cullman Parks & Recreation. "The seniors just loved Concerts in the Park so much," stated Jochum, "and when I found out they weren't going to have it at Heritage Park anymore, I asked if I could just take it over. This is our first year to have it at the Senior Center."

Last Tuesday's concert was held indoors due to the threat of bad weather. "The Senior Center gives us an indoor option, which is helpful," said Jochum. "Now we can have it rain or shine, which we couldn't do at Heritage."

Behind the Times got the seniors on their feet at this concert. Tons of people were out of their chairs dancing and having a good time. The band played bluegrass and old country with beautiful harmonies and danceable rhythms.

Jim Blankenship on the upright bass and singing harmony was excited to bring his band to Cullman.

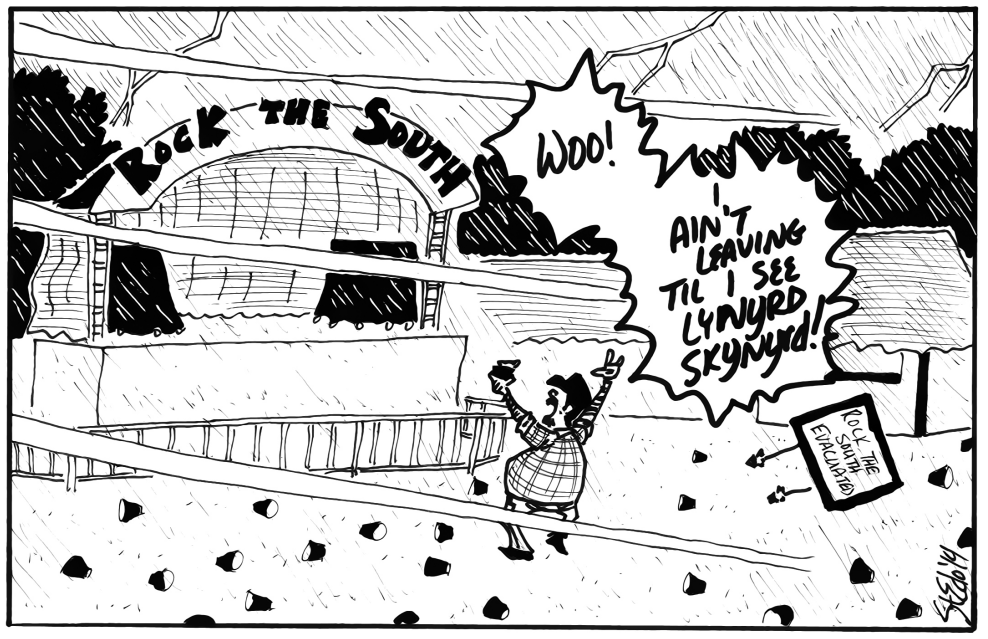
"We've been together as a band for over 20 years," he said. "This is about our fifth time to play at this event, and we enjoy it each time."

Behind the Times has an interesting story about band competition with the group Alabama. "When my brother, Derrick Blankenship (on banjo) and Landle Johnson (on mandolin) were in school at West Point High School," began Blankenship, "they were in the FFA string band. Each year, a band competition was held between the best bands in the area. The two best bands in the area were always Fort Payne and West Point, and one year in a band competition, the band my brother and Landle were in beat Fort Payne, and several members from the group Alabama were in that band." Behind the Times and Alabama eventually went their separate ways, but we're glad to have Behind the Times right here with us.

Pickin' Under the Pavilion may be held at the Senior Center, but it's not just for seniors! It's free of charge and open to anyone in the community who loves music. Check out Pickin' Under the Pavilion next Tuesday for an exclusively 50s and 60s music band.

# Comics

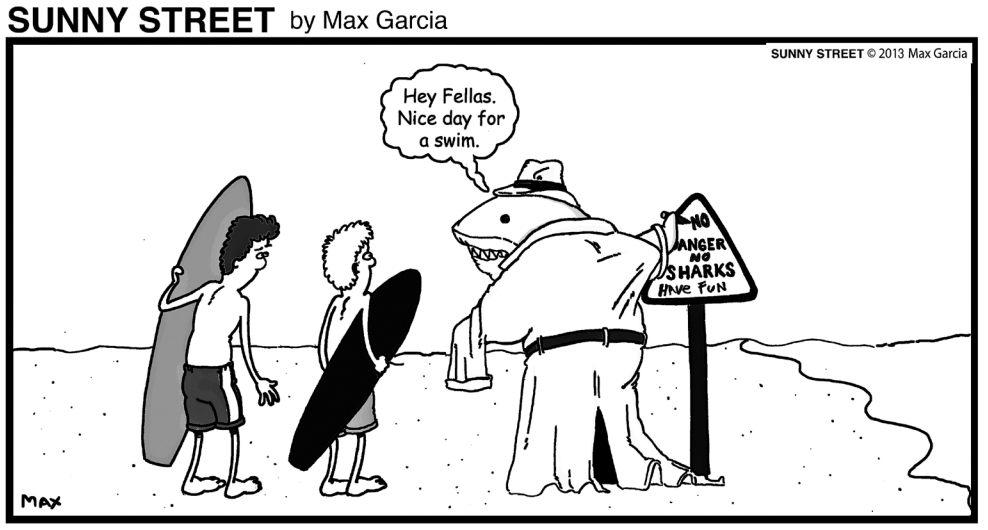
**WHITE & BLACK** • **"Rockin' In The Southern Storms"** • st.edo@cullmansense.com




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




**SUNNY STREET** by Max Garcia




**Follow us on Twitter**
**@CullmanSense**

# Pets of the Week

## Millie

Hello! My name is Millie, and I am about 1 years old. I am believed to be a Newfie mix and currently weigh 38 lbs.

I am full of life, and I love to play. I am a great little pup for a single person or a family. I am ready for my new forever home.



## Manchester

Hello! My name is Manchester, and I am about 6 years old. I am believed to be a Dachshund mix.

I am spirited, and I enjoy company. I love to play. I'm ready for my new forever home and companion.



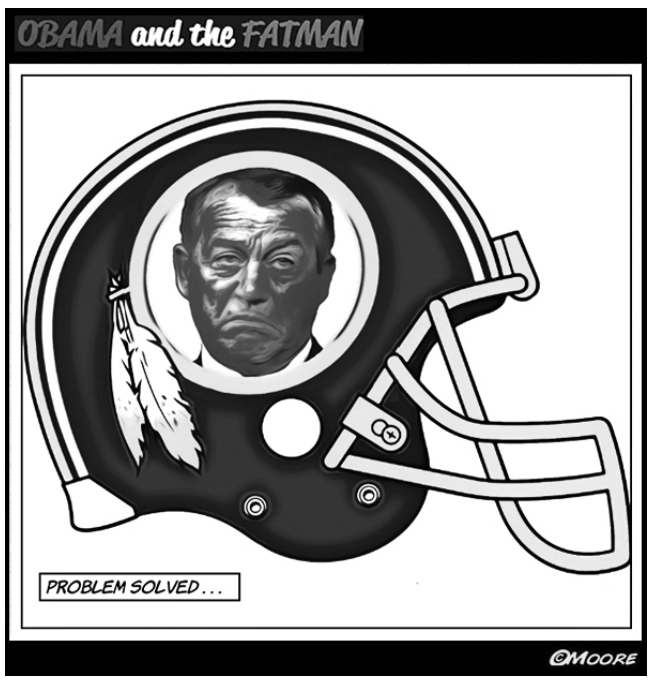
## ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

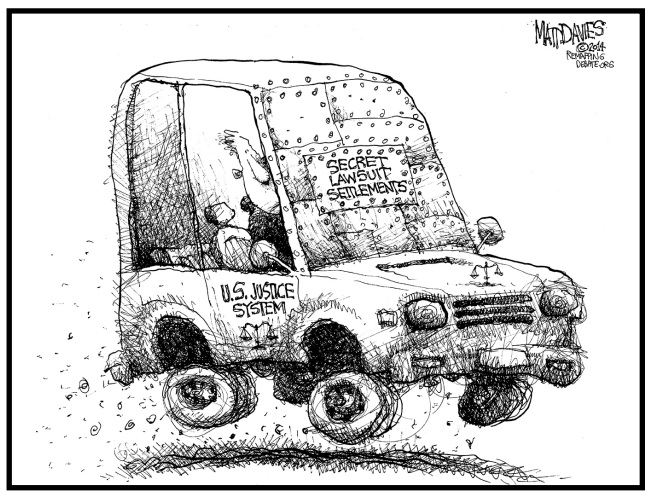
Both of these dogs have an adoption fee of $90 that will include their general exam at the Vet, vaccines, wormer, rabies shot, microchip, spay/neuter, and free 45 days of pet health insurance. Pet Depot will give you a bag of food (you pay taxes) as their way of supporting adoption.

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.

**ALL EYES ON YOUR BUSINESS**
**Contact us today to learn how CullmanSense can help your business grow.**
**256-297-1847**
**grow@cullmansense.com**
Give us a call today!

# Editorial Cartoons




## HOW ARE WE DOING?

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

E-mail feedback@cullmansense.com
or Call 256-297-1847

CULLMANSENSE
*Community Matters*

**Publisher**
Noah Chandler

**Editor**
Dustin Isom

**Address**
412 1st Ave. SE, Ste. 103, Cullman, AL 35055

**Back Issues**
issues@cullmansense.com

**Sports**
Josh McBrayer
Johnny Thornton

**Newsroom Editor**
Natalie Bonner

**Local Contributors**
Chelsea Sparks
Phillip Pryor
Allison Robertson
Summer Crook
Grace Russell
Allison Boyd
Sage Overton

**Entertainment**
Dillon Lee
Kate Mullaney

**Tips**
news@cullmansense.com or 256-297-1847

**Visit**
thecullmanpaper.com for our full digital archives.

**Cartoonist**
Anthony Saint

**OPINION**

# DEAR AMERICA: IT'S OVER (RULERS OF THE WORLD ERA)

By: Tom H. Hastings
Contributor

Reinvade, reoccupy, and redestroy Iraq. That is the solution to the inevitable civil war that happens when the US pulls out? Will we do it until either Iraq is remade in our image or until the US economy, political environment, and culture is also destroyed?

Eight years ago a group of Portland peace activists raised the funds to bring together a number of experts to produce an exit strategy from Iraq.

Ours was done, as it turns out, at the same time that the Iraq Study Group did their work.

We were just unaware that the government had finally at long last decided maybe it was time to think Exit Plan.

Duh. I expect we were all simply inspired and challenged by the insightful and cogent strategy published shortly before in the widely cited peer-reviewed journal, The Onion.

Still, despite the obvious--and our group, which was informed by military experts and conflict transformation experts alike, noted well that no matter when the US left the Iraqis would have a bloody civil war and settle on a new autocratic government that shot its way to power and repressed its citizenry--it took the US three more years to begin to leave, longer to finish leaving, and now the correctly predicted violent settling-out process is happening in earnest.

Naturally, the US conflict industry is dismayed when the US isn't spending every last centavo on weaponry and other military profiteering contracts.

Time to respond! Go bomb! Send in "advisers." No-fly attacks, hunt down insurgents with drones and war jets. Remobilize US troops because if there is one glaringly blatant truth, proxy troops no longer work in this post-Cold War era.

They seemed to be Just Fine and a great way to drain the American taxpayer when their loyalty was fairly dependable. But the era of "he may be a son of a bitch but he's our son of a bitch" (ascribed a bit dubiously to FDR about our boy Somoza, the Nicaraguan dictator) is over.

Our SOBs are now routinely driven from power by the ballot, the bullet, or the bodies--that is, by the elections we no longer control, by violent insurgencies, or by civil society nonviolent revolution.

Stop it. Stop interfering in other countries. Stop sending arms. Stop the drones. Just support civil society with helpful and requested aid, never guns or tanks or war jets or anti-insurgent helicopters or anti-government rocket-propelled grenade launchers.

And for any chance of success, keep US troops at home. Let Iraqis work it through and then try to be a friend to their citizenry with our goods of life.

It may not be as fast as the "I've got a gun to your head so go vote!" model of spreading "democracy" that is favored by our leaders and our military industrial congressional complex, but it is the only one that actually works. Can we please start now?

**OPINION**

# Rock The South Sound Off:

## CullmanSense Facebook Users Comment on 2014 RTS Event

*Below are unedited, unaltered comments made on the CullmanSense Facebook page Sunday afternoon, one day after Rock The South. We're bringing it to you the same way the people experiencing it told it to us.*

**The Good**

**Judy Fields** – It was awesome I have been attending since the first one. It just gets bigger and better with each year Skynyrd rocked the town and Sara Evens as always was awesome.

**Kim Dover** – My daughter and I had a blast! I spent all my money and withstood extreme hot, but it was so worth it!

**Ann Collins Marlowe** – Skynyrd was awesome! The vendor prices, shade & restroom facilities were no different than any other festival of this type all over the country. To be expected! Premier did a fabulous job.

**Sara Leverenz Bailey** – This was my first Rock The South concert. But i can promise i will be back next year! We had an absolute amazing time! Besides it being so hot i believe anyone and everyone can agree it was a great event!(:

**Tanya Arnold** – Awesome time! Rock the south gets better every year. We are blessed to have this event in Cullman. It brings great revenue for local businesses and the city. It also brings people to our great City so we can show them what Cullman has to offer Thanks to all the people involved in putting this event together and seeing it through

**The Bad**

**Chris Gardner** – It wasn't worth the money everything was so expensive come on this isn't disney it was a concert 22 dollars for two burgers and a drink pffft I won't be coming back if I want to see a concert I can go to one for much cheaper and stay.cooler than this one

**Maryann Michelle Walter** – Prices were ridiculous for food and drinks. A bottle of water was $4. There should have been public tents for people to get some shade since it was so hot out.

**Karen Crawford** – Okay. Loved the concert and all the performances. I was disappointed Billy Currington didn't finish. I really wanted to see him. I hated the porta potties. I think you could've at least left the main bathrooms open for the women. Everything was so expensive. I was so lucky to go this year, and ended up having to spend all my money for the whole week. I thought it was ridiculous that the water fountains were disconnected. Like really? I can't afford to pay $10 for two waters and two cups of ice. I went last year too and had so much fun! This year was just frustrating mostly.

**Charlie Vaughn Brock** – My first and last time to go. The prices of food and water were outrageous! Not being able to leave and come back is stupid! The pass is good for the next day, but you cant leave to get a cheap burger? The water fountains were cut off! The "party section" should've been behind the people with chairs. The music was the only good thing about the whole thing. I understand things are gonna be high at these places but this is Cullman for God's sake, not Disney. I took my 11 year old son to see Charlie Daniels, and he couldn't even see him for the people standing. During Friday we had 4 lemonades, 2 waters, and 2 fries and just that little bit was 42.00. What a rip-off!

**The Middle of the Road**

**Pamela Gray** – It was awesome! But way too hot. We need to choose a month in fall or spring. I'm very cold natured but was so hot I was passing out and throwing up.

**Rachel Whitlock Rodriguez** – It was a awesome weekend besides everything being so expensive ! They would have sold a lot more if they dropped the prices by a few dollars !! Also the fact they disconnected the water fountains was not very thoughtful for a super hot outdoor event !!

**Laina Michelle Fine-Crain** – Had an awesome time!! Loved the cooling stations (great idea) maybe should have more next year maybe closer to the event... The drinks and water was a little pricey, it being so hot it was harder to keep hydrated.... Location was great when Having to evacuate... People took shelter at local restaurants and other businesses. Could prob make tons more if everything a little cheaper. But it was fun

**Sharon Tilley Ellis** – As many churches as this town has they need to have tents set up passing out FREE water!!!!!

**Trent Loyd** – Fix the parking issues,paid $38 for 2 day parking pass in the front porch parking area which was suppose to be at the main entrance,even had a sign there and they had several empty parking spaces I might add ;but was not allowed to park there so instead of the front porch we got sent to the back forty field one block west across the road, definitely not what we paid good money far,yes it was still in walking distance but ,it's the principle of it..stick to your word RTS we don't like paying for something and not getting what we paid for..everything else was great tho..

# Bill Smith

BUICK GMC

ALABAMA'S LARGEST GMC DEALER

# HAS DONE IT AGAIN!

# SLASHED

# PRICES

## ON ALL BUICKS & GMCs

Save Over $8,300!



#235631

### GMC SIERRA

MSRP $36,325

**$27,995**

With Leather



#248061

### GMC TERRAIN

**$23,995**



#209599

### BUICK LACROSSE

**$26,995**

## AND WE'LL GIVE YOU TOP $DOLLAR FOR YOUR TRADE

## HOME OF THE LOW PRICE GUARANTEE

*ALL REBATES APPLIED,TAX, TITLE & FEE ADDITIONAL, COLORS MAY VARY.

# Bill Smith

BUICK GMC

WWW.BILLSMITHAUTOMOTIVE.COM

1940 Second Ave NW
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4472

WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

129211