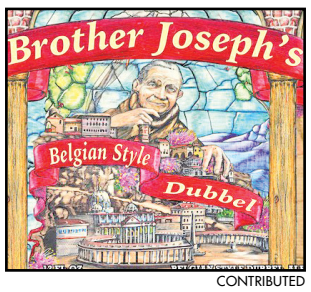
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STRAIGHT TO ALE RELEASES BROTHER JOESPH'S DUBBEL **A LOCALLY INSPIRED BELGIAN-STYLE BEER IN A CAN** P10

Hospice of Cullman County Mega Cash Draw Down set for July 24 p2

RadKIDS Safety Camp Teaches Children Vital Skills p2


CONTRIBUTED

THE FAMILY, THE FLAG, & THE FOURTH OF JULY: Highway 31 Flags Honor Those Who Sacrificed Their Lives for This Country p6

SOULMATES SWEETS & CAKE DESIGN



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

» The brightly colored mural on the side wall of Soulmates Sweets & Cake Design gives passersby a taste of what's inside the renovated building located on Highway 31 in Hanceville.

LOCAL COUPLE'S BAKERY MAKES BEAUTIFUL TREATS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE - Hanceville is proud to welcome a delicious new business to town. Located on Commercial Street, across from Hanceville Drug, Soulmates Sweets & Cake Design opened their doors for business on Monday June 9, 2014. From Highway 31, folks can't help but see their unique mural painted on the side of the old restored building. Colorful and lively, Soulmates Sweets & Cake Design is decorated brightly with lovely cakes and sweets surrounding it.

"We special- p7

SAVING LIVES

FIRST SOURCE FOR WOMEN OFFERS HOPE AND HELP TO UNBORN BABIES

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE - Unborn babies in Cullman County now have a fighting chance to be born thanks to the helpful volunteers at First Source for Women located in downtown Hanceville. Founded in 2007, First Source for Women was originally known as 'Her Choice of North Alabama'. It was founded by a group of men and women who were completely committed to life. They had a vision and wanted to help desperate woman make life-affirming decisions both for themselves and their unborn babies.

"Our primary focus is to minister to those that are maybe in a crisis pregnancy to help save the life of that baby p7


SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

» Expectant parents can earn "Mommy Money", by passing a test, that can be spent on baby items.

Cullman County Volunteer Fire Fighters Gain National Recognition

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - On Tuesday July 1, 2014 the MedicAlert Foundation and Congressional Fire Services Institute will honor the Cullman County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments with the Excellence in Fire Service-Based EMS Award. They are being recognized for creating and implementing a rigorous Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) education and licensing program which has increased the number of Licensed EMTs throughout the county.

Administered through the State of Alabama Department of Public Health and Office of Emergency Medical Service and Trauma, the training incorporates stretcher operations and how to successfully work within the local responder/ALS provider frame- p6

How to Safely Handle Fireworks this 4th of July

Will Hogue
Local Contributor

» Tips and Advice from the Fire Marshal

CULLMAN - The 4th of July is coming up, and as good southerners, it's practically mandatory to blow stuff up. However, there are a few things to remember as you and your family prepares to celebrate the country's independence this holiday.

Firstly, it is illegal to shoot off any sort of pyrotechnics within the city limits. The full list of prohibited items is accessible by going to www.cullmancity.org and selecting Codes and Ordinances under Resources.

Fire Marshal Chris Chaffin had several words of advice, at the top of which was admonishing all people to keep their fireworks outside of the city limits.

He also said that the only people who should be lighting the fireworks are "adults, or older children with qualified and substantial adult supervision."

Chaffin mentioned that it is best to shoot fireworks out in an "open space, away from buildings and structures," and to also "have a reliable water source nearby."

Fire Marshal Chaffin stated that it would be ideal to have the fireworks lit on a "non-combustible surface," and he referenced the idea of using plywood as a surface to set fireworks on, as the flat surface is more level and could prevent against a tube or rocket from falling down and causing a major accident.

Lastly, the most innocuous of fireworks – sparklers – could be the most dangerous. Chaffin stressed the importance of reading the manufacturer's warnings on the boxes of p6

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RADKIDS SAFETY CAMP TEACHES CHILDREN VITAL SKILLS

Chelsea Sparks
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» Camp teacher Cindy Rohrscheib recognized for receiving first ever Alabama D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year Award



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» Children that attended the weeklong RadKIDS program learned how to protect themselves in dangerous situations.

CULLMAN – On June 23, a weeklong safety camp began for local kids and their parents called RadKIDS (Resisting aggression defensively). The camp was held at the Cullman Civic Center for two hours each morning. The camp was taught by Cindy Rohrscheib, a local city police officer and tactical flight officer.

The classes were an in-depth look at all things safety for kids. The classes began with traditional safety talks about fire, medical emergencies, drugs, kidnapping, and learning skills to handle those situations. A prime example was teaching every child the importance of having a plan and knowing vital information like their phone number and address.

Glenda Campbell, a local resident, heard the event was taking place and knew she had to bring her grandchild.

"It's a really great idea," Campbell said. "I especially enjoyed hearing the lecture on what to do in a fire to get out safely. I learned something from that one."

The classes also tackled safety concerns about animals, and how to approach an animal you do not know, and what behaviors are unsafe. Rohrscheib also taught the kids about more modern day dangers that they may come across while surfing the Internet or playing video games online. Bullying was another heavy, but relevant subject that was covered at the camp, which has been a huge issue in our country.

"Every day we teach a different aspect of safety," Rohrscheib said. "But every day the kids also learn a self defense protective move, to use in case someone ever tries to abduct them." She went on to talk about how children in the area need to know the real meaning behind terms like "stranger danger".

"We have got to get away from stranger danger being someone you haven't seen before," Rohrscheib stated. "Most children who are hurt are by people that they know, and that is something I really push, is that it's not about a person you've never seen. Stranger danger is about anyone coming into your personal space, even if they have gained your trust."

Cindy Rohrscheib, was also recognized at the camp as being the first ever recipient of the Alabama D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year Award. It was presented to Rohrscheib on Thursday.

"I feel very blessed," Rohrscheib said. "You know you put your heart in it, passion in it, and all this hard work and it is so rewarding by itself. Then to add something like that to something you already feel blessed doing is awesome."

The camp was a success, bringing in more than 30 kids every day and receiving rave reviews from parents. One family drove for an hour to come to the camp because there was nothing like it in their area. This camp is a wonderful way for parents and kids to learn how to protect themselves and their loved ones from the real dangers faced every day.

For more information about the RadKIDS camp, please contact Cindy Rohrscheib through e-mail at cindyr@cullmanpd.com.

Hospice of Cullman County Mega Cash Draw Down set for July 24

Lindsey Doessey
CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN - CRMC's Hospice of Cullman County announced its MEGA Cash Draw Down, its largest annual fundraiser benefiting indigent patients, will be held on Thursday, July 24 at 6 p.m. in Cullman Regional Medical Center's Colonel Cullmann Room located in the Community Education Center in Professional Office Building II. This year's event features a chance to win $10,000 while also enjoying dinner, door prizes and much more!

"This year's event replaces the former Hospice Truck Draw Down," Hospice of Cullman County Board Member and Event Chair Randy Weathersby said.

"We've had more interest in the cash giveaway than the truck over the past few years; therefore, we decided to transition this year's event to a CASH-ONLY giveaway event; however, this year's event has a lot of additional features that ticket holders are sure to enjoy."

Dinner will be served to ticket holders at 5:30 p.m. with the MEGA CASH Draw Down beginning promptly at 6 p.m. This year's meal features Pesto Alfredo Grilled Chicken and vegetables over Fettuccini and accompanied by assortment of desserts, courtesy of Morrison's Food Service. In addition, the event will feature wonderful prizes and auction items, including a five night, two-bedroom unit at High Chalet Condo's in Gatlinburg, Tenn. as well as the annual cake auction. Tickets cost $100 each; however, this year, ticket holders can add $25 insurance to their ticket which allows the ticket to have a second-chance at the grand prize.

As an added BONUS to ticket holders who attend, they will have a chance to win additional cash prizes of $500 and $1,000. All monies raised will fund indigent patient care.

Thanks to Healthcare Authority of Cullman County Board Member Judy Patterson & Tri-Green Equipment Company in Cullman who has donated a 2014 Dealer's Limited Edition Child's John Deere Gator. Hospice will be taking donations for chances to win this deluxe child's toy.

The drawing for the Gator will be held in conjunction with the Draw Down on Thursday, July 24 and you do not have to be present to win.

"This event is so important to patients and families who need our care and support when dealing with difficult end-of-life issues," Weathersby said.

"The monies raised will help us provide care to anyone needing it regardless of their ability to pay."

Tickets for the Draw Down or for chances to win the Child's John Deere Gator can be purchased from the Hospice of Cullman County office located at 1912 AL Highway 157, POB I, Second Floor — or can be purchased from one of the following Hospice Board Members: Hank Allen, Jean Alexander, Wendell Copeland, Peggy Doss, Jimmy Drake, Nell Dunlap, Donald Jones, Clara Kent, Mike Manning, Rita Nicholas, Amy Walker, Randy Weathersby, or Gloria Williams.

For more information or to buy tickets for the Draw Down, please call the Hospice office at 256-739-5185 or visit online at www.HospiceofCullmanCounty.com.

ADECA seeks Alabamians' input with community needs, fair housing surveys

Russell Sellers
ADECA Contributor

MONTGOMERY - The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs wants to hear from you regarding unmet community-development needs and any barriers to fair and equal access to housing that you may have observed. You can share your viewpoint via two brief surveys that are available online until July 10.

ADECA says some residents reported difficulty viewing the questionnaires using mobile devices, but updates have resolved the problem for many devices and everyone is urged to try accessing them again from the "Community Surveys" section of ADECA's website at http://adeca.alabama.gov or through updated links to the individual questionnaires:

- **Community Needs Survey:** http://go.usa.gov/9UXJ
- **Fair Housing Choice Survey:** http://go.usa.gov/9EFe

"By taking just 10 minutes of your time, you can help us tailor our programs to more effectively address the needs of Alabama communities," ADECA Director Jim Byard Jr. said.

The community needs survey gives residents and community leaders a chance to indicate specific needs within their communities that might be addressed by Community Development Block Grant funding that the state awards each year.

Communities apply for these grants to fund a wide variety of projects including water and sewer service extensions and repairs, road repairs, parks, and community center development and infrastructure upgrades to expand businesses and create jobs.

The Fair Housing Survey will help identify barriers and policies that may prevent fair and equal access to properties for rent or for sale.

The survey results will be included in a statewide "Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice" study required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The deadline for completion of these surveys is July 10.

COMPTON'S VETERINARY HOSPITAL IS MOVIN' ON UP: LOCAL VET IS SET TO RELOCATE TO LARGER FACILITY

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Cullman's beloved Compton's Veterinary Hospital will soon make some changes that will affect many pet owners throughout Cullman County. Located on Katherine Street, Compton's has been doing business in Cullman since 1954.

Due to the expansion of the Cullman Shopping Center, Compton's will soon be relocating to a much larger facility in town. The new location will be 1 mile south of their current hospital on Highway 31 where the Candle Garden was located for so many years before; it is just south of Merchants Bank and Boozer Eyecare are going south on Highway 31.

"We are actually hoping to be opening the new facility in August," said Dr. Rebecca Durham. "We will have to close this one, of course, to move, so we ask for everyone to be patient. We are depending on several different people to get the new place completed, but we are looking at moving the first of August."

Compton's currently offers a wide variety of services for small animals. They are fully equipped to handle most surgical procedures. They offer prescription pet medications and have a large variety of flea and tick control products as well. Veterinarians Dr. Rebecca Durham and Dr. JC Wise are fully capable of all dental procedures for both dogs and cats, and they offer a variety of services including emergency services.

The new facility will offer a few brand new services. These new services will benefit both the animals as well as their owners.

"The new building is a house so we are going to try to keep the charm of the house," Durham explained. "It is impossible to keep it a house and a veterinary clinic, but we are going to make it a cozy, home-like atmosphere."

"We'll be doing more boarding because we'll be in a much larger facility and we will have more boarding spaces," Durham continued. "There will be separate dog and cat kennels. So our cat boarding and our dog boarding will be separated. And then hospitalized animals will be separated. We'll have cat wards and dog wards. We will also have a drive through window for medication pickup."

Clearly Compton's Veterinary Hospital is growing, and pets of the Cullman area will continue to be well taken care of. You can follow Compton's on Facebook, or go to their webpage at comptonsvet.com and sign up for regular e-mail updates. If you have any questions, feel free to call Compton's at 256-734-9488 or e-mail them at info@comptonsvet.com.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

» The new Compton's Veterinary Hospital, to open in August, will support upgraded boarding facilities and drive through pet medication pickup.

Current hours for Compton's Veterinary Hospital include: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., with doctor's hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They are also open on Thursday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m., with both days offering doctor's hours from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Special appointments can be made before and after hours.

United Way Seeks to Revitalize Presence

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Across the street from Depot Park in Cullman, there is a small office that does some very big work in the community. Many of the organizations that we are familiar with in Cullman depend on this group of people to keep their doors open, and yet many do not know this agency's name or that it is here in the heart of our town.

United Way of Cullman County has been working in our community since May of 1979. Their primary function as described by Katelyn Sides, marketing director and communications coordinator, is simple yet imperative.

"What we do is help fund our local agencies," Sides said. "We help a lot of different agencies, but some of our bigger ones are the Red Cross, Cullman Caring for Kids, Daystar House, Commission on Aging, and Hospice are a few, but we help fund about 14 non-profit agencies."

According to Sides, many of these groups depend on Untied Way to keep their organizations running smoothly. United Way will be hosting many fundraising events this year, including the Girlfriend Gala in October.

"The Girlfriend Gala is an event that we hold every year, and it is going to be so much fun," Sides said. "You could get a table with your friends, and you decorate it extravagantly. I mean, some girls do theirs 4-feet high off of the table, and this year's theme will be Cowgirls for a Cause."

Sammie Danford is still fairly new to her position as executive director of United Way, after retiring from working with the county for so many years, but is having some great success revitalizing the United Way name in the community.

"July the 8th, I will have been here 12 months," Danford said. "So I've learned a lot. When I started to tell family and friends that I was going to be retiring from the county and start here with United Way, I would hear a lot of, 'You mean we have one?'."

She then talked about her goal for the organization and her plans to improve their outreach. "A lot of things have fallen by the wayside," Danford stated. "And what we are trying to do is pick it back up and let people know that we're here, and our money is helping the community and that 98 percent of the money stays within Cullman County."

United Way of Cullman County currently works with a budget of about $400,000 dollars, and of that money, only 2 percent goes to the state and worldwide organizations. Ninety-eight percent of the funds raised here, stays here. This is a fact that Danford wants to be communicated to the community, and something you do not get with a lot of charities is financial accountability. Danford explained that when you donate to United Way, you know exactly where your donation is being spent.

She has even been able to open new doors and bring in new money from local companies that had previously been closed off. "We're now talking to American Proteins," Danford said. "And one of our board members put on Facebook that we got our foot in the door with American Proteins, and we had three of our board members ask how we got our foot in the door."

Danford also reached out to the Cullman County Commission about starting a yearly donation.

"What I have been trying to do is knock on the doors of those that haven't been giving," Danford said. "For instance, the Cullman County Commission. When I got here, I noticed the city had been giving $6,000 a year, but the county was not donating. So I went to them and asked for a donation of $9,000 dollars."

After some negotiation, the county wrote a check to United Way for $7,500. This new money that Danford has acquired for the organization is vital to keeping not only themselves, but 14 other organizations afloat. When one donates to United Way of Cullman County, he or she is donating to everyone in the community and helping to ensure the continuation of these organizations.

No Honor System For Sex Offenders

Today convicted sex offenders roam Cullman County on an Honor System potentially putting citizens in unnecessary danger.

As Your Sheriff Matt Gentry will have his deputies verify sex offenders' addresses every month. Convicted sex offenders will stay at an approved residence or in jail.

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Former Auburn player Philip Lutzenkirchen dies in car accident

Rick Karle
FOX 6 Contributor

AUBURN, AL (WBRC) – The Auburn football nation is mourning the loss of one of its heroes after former tight end Philip Lutzenkirchen was killed early Sunday morning in a single-car crash south of LaGrange, GA.

Gordy Wright, the Director of Public Information for the Georgia Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol says that Lutzenkirchen was one of four passengers travelling in a 2006 Chevy Tahoe at the intersection of Upper Big Springs Road and Lower Big Springs Road early Sunday morning.

According to Wright, the driver of the vehicle - 22-year old Joseph Ian Davis of Atlanta - was partially ejected while Lutzenkirchen, sitting in the back seat of the vehicle, was ejected. Both Davis and Lutzenkirchen, age 23, were killed.

Two other passengers were injured in the crash. Back seat passenger Elizabeth Craig, age 22 from Eatonton, GA was ejected and taken to West Georgia Medical Center in LaGrange. Front seat passenger Christian Case of Dadeville, AL, who was wearing a seat belt, was treated and released from West Georgia Medical.

Jeff Cook, Chief Coroner of Troup County, GA says that driver Davis ran a stop sign and lost control of his vehicle. The Tahoe travelled nearly 500 feet, flipped and came to rest in the back yard of a church. PIO Wright of the Georgia State Patrol adds the Tahoe came to rest on the roof. He says that blood was drawn to determine if alcohol was a contributing factor in the crash.

Philip Lutzkenkirchen enjoyed a spectacular football career at Auburn University. While he is perhaps best known for hauling in the game-winning catch from Cam Newton at the 2010 Iron Bowl, he also caught 13 other TD passes in his career, placing him number one in AU history for tight ends. In 2012, Lutzenkirchen suffered a severe hip injury against Ole Miss, but worked hard to rehab the hip in hopes of playing in the NFL

Lutzenkirchen signed a free agent deal with the St Louis Rams, but was released in 2013. This spring he had been volunteering with the football team at St James School in Montgomery.

Philip Lutzenkirchen was beloved by the Auburn family and respected by is opponents. His parents, Mike & Mary, were perhaps more proud of their son's faith and his giving spirit than they were of any football accomplishment. And Philip's sister Abby, a soccer player at the University of Alabama, as seen in a story last fall on FOX6, was certainly proud of her 'bro.

While former and current players, coaches, friends and fans have taken to Twitter to express their sympathy, funeral arrangements are pending.

This afternoon, Auburn head coach Gus Malzahn and Director of Athletics Jay Jacobs released the following statements about the passing of Lutzenkirchen:

Gus Malzahn, AU Football Coach

"I'm deeply saddened by the untimely passing of Philip Lutzenkirchen. He was a great young man who touched the lives of everyone he knew in a positive way. On the field, Philip was a great player and competitor, but more importantly, he was a great teammate and friend off the field. My thoughts and prayers are with Philip's parents, Mike and Mary, and all of his family and friends who are grieving his passing. This is a sad day for the entire Auburn family. I find peace knowing that even though Philip was taken from us too soon, that he lived his life to the fullest, leaving a lifetime of great memories for his family and friends to cherish forever."

Jay Jacobs, AU Director of Athletics

"Philip's death is a devastating tragedy for his family, the Auburn family and his countless friends. Today is also a profoundly sad day for the Auburn Athletics family, who loved and respected Philip not only as a great player but more importantly as a friend and the epitome of an Auburn man. I came to know Philip well and I admired everything about who he was and the way he lived his life. He had a strong faith, a big heart and a burning desire to help others. Philip was a bright light this world desperately needed, and his death leaves a void that can't possibly be filled. My prayers, my thoughts and my heart go out to his wonderful parents, Mike and Mary, their entire family and his many grieving friends."

Auburn officials are expected to release more information soon.

Cullman Bearcats are best in Summer Basketball League

Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

CULLMAN – Point guard Lawson Schaffer tossed in 23 points while his backcourt mate Seth Swalve added 16 in leading the Cullman Bearcats to a 65-48 victory over the Priceville Bulldogs Thursday night in the championship game of the Cullman Parks and Recreation Summer Basketball League.

The duo that keyed a 24-8 season for Cullman in 2013-14, accounted for 17 of the 38 points the team scored in the second half to break open a tight contest between the top two teams in this summer league that took to the floor at the Cullman Aquatics Center for the month of June.

Cullman was up by only a 27-22 margin on Priceville when the second half began. With Schaffer and Swalve getting the offense into a flow from their up tempo style of play, Cullman pushed the lead to double figures and Priceville was never able to stay with them as the final half moved on. Cullman had seven other players to score in supporting the 39 combined by Schaffer and Swalve. Chase Slocomb added five to the total, Jason McAffee hit six, Nic Handley scored five, Gage Goodwin, and Fletcher Reeling three while Joseph Franey scored two.

Marc McClendon got eight points for Priceville, but was held well under his season average. The star forward for the Bulldogs managed just only a field goal in the opening 20 minutes.

Holly Pond Broncos captured third place in the league by turning back the Cold Springs Eagles 45-36. The key in this game was the Bronco defense as they shut down the potent Eagle attack, allowing them only 14 points in the second half after the game was close at the break with Holly Pond ahead 23-22. Austin Smith's 14 points led the way for the Broncos who finished 6-2 in the summer league. Matt Cahoon scored nine while Cody Jones delivered eight, Bailey Smith, and Drew Jones flipped in five.

The Eagles' Triston Chambers ripped the cords for 14, but managed to score one field goal in the second half. He was the only double figure scorer for Cold Springs. The Eagles made only four shots in the second half, two from downtown.

Hanceville enjoyed a 61-58 victory in sudden death over Fairview. Issac Weissend hit a trey from the right wing in sudden death after the two battled to a 58-58 tie in regulation and remained even at 58-58 following a one-minute overtime period.

A 24-point performance from point guard Xavier Malcom saw the floor leader score seven shots from 3-point range. Weissend and Jose Orozco added nine and Dante' Reese along with Christian Sellers accounted for eight.

Leading Fairview was guard Austin Fletcher with 19, 15 of his points coming in the first half. Center Tyler Yearwood collected 16 with five field goals and was six of six from the foul line.

The final night of the summer league began with Corner getting by J.B. Pennington in the seventh place game in sudden death, 48-46. Dillon McCaleb had 24 points for Corner with the game winner coming on a drive to the hoop.

For the Tigers, Dylan Shook fired in 19 with point guard Christian Baker delivering 12.

Holly Pond Lady Broncos win two of three games in Danville camp

Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

DANVILLE - Life will be very different for the Holly Pond Lady Broncos next basketball season. After two consecutive appearances in the Alabama High School 3A state championship game, the Lady Broncos must replace four seniors including two key starters in Natasha Holcombe and Rachel Finley.

Holly Pond will also return to the Northwest Regional after spending the past two seasons competing in the Northeast Regional at Jacksonville.

Scott Adams had his ball club go through four rounds of playdays, finishing out Thursday at the Danville Team Camp, winning two of three decisions.

The Lady Broncos started their very busy by outscoring Lawrence County 50-41. Then the offense had some sluggish moments in which the team came up short to Decatur 42-39.

Holly Pond came back in the early afternoon to topple the Sparkman Junior Varsity 37-29. For the summer, the Lady Broncos went 6-3 with tours at Danville, Brindlee Mountain, and Samford University.

The Lady Broncos return a very valuable player in senior to be point guard Meg Gambrill. Gambrill was at her best throughout Thursday in scoring, delivering the ball to others and giving all out hustle from one end of the floor to the other.

Joining her in providing some outstanding play was Melissa Clingman. Clingman came off the bench last season and played well down the stretch with Holly Pond making a second straight trip to the title game in 3A at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center.

Determined to fill the vacancy of the graduates were the following. Taylor Tankersley, Abby Gambrill, Ruth Bowden, Adair Gillilan, and Molly Gambrill.

These youngsters played for the junior varsity last season in which they finished second in the Cullman County Tournament to Cold Springs.

In the game with Lawrence County, the Lady Broncos were down 13-5 when they went on a 17-4 run and went ahead before the half ended 22-17.

A 28-point performance in the second half featured scoring by Meg Gambrill and Clingman to give them a good start on the day.

But playing two in a row didn't serve purpose from the beginning. The Lady Broncos managed just 12 points against Decatur and looked at a double digit deficit by halftime.

However, they kept playing hard, scored 27 in the final half and pulled within three points when time expired.

The Lady Broncos were anchored in their final game by the play of Clingman. She scored several times on steals against the Sparkman JV with Holly Pond leading 21-15 at the half.

Adams' unit played the first two games inside Danville Middle School then went on the high school gym, having to deal with heavy rain that caused the parking lot of Danville High School to be flooded.

A rival from Cullman County was also there Thursday to perform.

After Holly Pond's three assignments, the Fairview Lady Aggies took to the floor and came out victorious over Winston County, Addison, and Decatur Heritage.

Mary Lauren Hartline is in her second season coaching the Lady Aggies and will have a young team with rising talent, featuring ninth grade point guard Taylor Yeager and plenty of shooters from Dalys Mullican, Jada Golden, Abby Schnittker, and Ashley Latham along with Desiree Wilhite in the post.

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SURVIVE AND ADVANCE: U.S. Moves on in World Cup and World Cup Moves on in U.S.

Will Hogue
Local Contributor

CULLMAN - Moe's Original BBQ on 1st Avenue in downtown Cullman is a pleasant place to watch a soccer match in agonizing anticipation. With nearly every seat at the bar filled, and almost every eye carefully fixated on any one of the various high-definition televisions lining the walls of the restaurant, the United States men's national team faced off against the German national team in the final game of the group stage for each country.

The FIFA World Cup kicked off on June 12 and has been one of the most electrifying World Cups in recent memory. The goal scoring occurred at a remarkable amount, even by Americans' point-hungry standards, and is on pace to be the most goals scored in a World Cup since 1998. One of the standout scores thus far came from an American. The Texan Clint Dempsey? The powerful, young Jozy Altidore? Man in the middle Michael Bradley? No, not from any of the usual big names, but from a young reserve who trotted onto the field late in the USA's first match against Ghana.

Dempsey had scored less than a minute into the match, and the following 80 minutes were spent on pins and needles for all USMNT supporters, and then Ghana struck in the 82', equalizing the score at USA 1-1 Ghana. Then, John Brooks, a late addition to the squad by manager Jurgan Klinsmann, was substituted in and bopped in a header from a Graham Zusi corner kick in the 85'. The USMNT had vanquished its ultimate villain, the Ghanaian Black Stars. Next stood the Portuguise National Team and the world Player of the Year: Cristiano Ronaldo. The USMNT ended that match with a 2-2 draw and continued the trend of putting all of the pressure on themselves, without alleviating any pressure whatsoever.

This past Thursday was an all-important day for American Soccer. Advancement into the knockout rounds and the Round of 16 depended on how the Americans performed and how the Portugal-Ghana match turned out. The USA-Germany and the Portugal-Ghana games were conveniently played simultaneously, and every break in the action during the American's game allowed all the eyes in the restaurant to slide over to a television displaying the Portugal game and check the progress of the match.

It was a nerve-racking draw through half-time against Germany and then, near the 53', pressure began to build for the Europeans, a cross came, and the United State's stalwart goalkeeper repelled a powerful strike, however, the deflection bounced right to Germany's most potent goal-scorer, and Thomas Muller, stone-faced, knocked the ball to the far post, forcing Howard to try and make a full and nearly inhuman recovery to attempt to block the shot. He didn't make it, and the ball rippled the back of the net as it bounced, heartlessly, onto the grass inside the goal. The US failed to knot the score up at 1-1 by the time the 90' whistle sounded, but thanks to the way the Group Stage in the FIFA World Cup works, the USMNT have advanced to the Round of 16 for the second straight World Cup.

Soccer is not America's sport. And that's okay, because Americans have football, basketball, and baseball. However, Americans somehow, somewhere along the line, developed this line of thinking that says it's un-American to enjoy a sport that an American didn't invent. Americans somehow started thinking it was un-American to enjoy something un-American. This is disappointing and not true. Someone can choose to not like soccer because they don't like the way soccer is played, or the lack of goals (although that arguably adds to the excitement of the game), or the just genuine disinterest, but it is unfair to blame not liking soccer on being an American. That's like someone saying he or she doesn't like the Statue of Liberty because it wasn't designed in America.

The world's game is soccer. Many countries find their pride and their relevance in their country's ability to compete internationally in soccer. Uruguay, a country with a population smaller than the size of Alabama, is a world soccer power. Countries revere the world powers of soccer such as Germany and Brazil but the United States is an international laughingstock when it comes to soccer. The only thing worse than being an international punch-line, is being okay with it, and for the majority of Americans, apathy would be a kind way to describe feelings toward the beautiful game as it's called. President Obama may not be Reagan when it comes to representing America as the power that it is, but Americans cannot get angry at not being internationally respected when Americans don't care about things that are internationally important.

CP&R announces Youth Tennis League

Waid Harbison
CP&R Contributor

CULLMAN - Tennis has been a long sought after sport in the Cullman Community, and after countless requests, the parks and recreation department is proud to announce its Youth Tennis League to begin in the coming weeks.

CP&R will host a USTA sponsored tennis league for ages 12 & under.

Plans are underway to expand the age groups through 18 years old all the way through adult leagues in the near future.

The year-round program will hold practice, games, and tournaments for ages 12 & under to kick-start the program.

An interest meeting will be held for the Youth Tennis League on July 8, 2014 at 5 p.m. at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center.

All interested players, coaches, parents, or individuals should attend the interest meeting for details and information.

For questions on the Youth Tennis League or the tennis program, contact Waid Harbison at 256-734-9157 or by e-mail at wharbison@cullmanrecreation.org.

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.

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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.

Matt Is ...

An Active Outdoorsman

Avid hunter and fisherman, President of the Mountain Side Hunting Club, and Eagle Scout.

A Life-Long Conservative

- Unwavering defender of the Second Amendment and your right to own and bear firearms.
- Determined Pro-Life advocate.
- Unafraid to pray and talk about God in public.
- Proud to be a Marine.
- Staunch supporter and member of the National Rifle Association.
- Steadfastly believes judges should judge, not legislate from the bench.

A Recognized Professional

- Recognized expert on drug trafficking, distribution, and manufacturing by the Alabama Court system.
- DEA Task Force Agent whose team has confiscated $45 million in street value drugs and cash in the last three years.
- VFW 2007 Deputy of the Year for excellence in law enforcement and military service.
- 400 Drug Awareness Classes taught at schools, colleges, government agencies, law enforcement departments and manufacturing facilities.
- Investigator, Cullman County DA's office
- Sergeant, Cullman County Sheriff's Office.

The Right Man at the Right Time!



Vote! Matt GENTRY FOR SHERIFF

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

Honorable ✪ Committed ✪ Experienced

THE FAMILY, THE FLAG, & THE FOURTH OF JULY: HIGHWAY 31 FLAGS HONOR THOSE WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES FOR THIS COUNTRY

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The Fourth of July is drawing near and many folks have been stockpiling fireworks for weeks. Others have made big plans to host fancy cookouts, promising all sorts of delicious foods and beverages. I do the same things myself. Yet, as fun and exciting as these things are, I usually do a little something extra around this time of year.

Because I'm a sentimental old gal, I tend to reflect back on specific things from the past around the Fourth of July. For example, when I was a little bitty thing, I remember admiring all the red, white, and blue American flags that lined Highway 31 through the middle of town on Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and so on. I'll never forget the time my momma told me something special about those flags and how they found their place along the road.

"Aren't those flags beautiful?" Momma said as we drove past the courthouse on the way to Smith Lake for the big fireworks show one hot Fourth of July.

"You know, my daddy was the man who got that started. He wanted to place a flag for each of the men and women from Cullman who were killed in action during wartime," she smiled sadly. "The very first flag that was set out right in front of the courthouse is in honor of my brother Ben who was killed in Vietnam," she drifted off for a moment.

"When my brother Benny was sent to Vietnam, we were sad but full of hope that he would return safely to us and our lives would resume," Momma continued. I'll never forget what my mother said as Benny loaded his plane in Birmingham. She was softly crying when she told us, 'I'll never see him again'. Everyone hugged her and promised her that he'd be just fine. They insisted everything would be all right, and he'd be home before she knew it. But Mom seemed to know something none of the rest of us knew. She must have, because my brother, Corporal Benjamin Herschell Reid was killed in action on May 23, 1968 in North Vietnam," Momma trailed off in tears and sniffles.

This year, on the Fourth of July, please keep folks like my Uncle Benny in your thoughts and prayers as you gather together with your family and friends to celebrate the birth of our nation. And as you drive down Highway 31 and see those flags a flying, please remember who and what they represent.

The United States is considered the Land of the Free, and we are truly blessed to live here. Never forget, that in order to continue to enjoy the luxury of living in such a wonderful country, millions of brave men and women have gone to war and are still fighting to keep the freedoms we all enjoy.

Keep in mind, that over the years, a lot of those brave soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice by laying down their own lives while fighting to keep our country safe and free. Sadly, they are unable to celebrate with their families, but we can keep their memories alive and well.



CONTRIBUTED

» The flags that line Highway 31 are dedicated to fallen soldiers like Corporal Benjamin Herschell Reid, left, who was killed in North Vietnam.

DIVE-IN MOVIES: FAMILY FRIENDLY FLICKS IN THE POOL AT CWAC

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Families in Cullman are finding themselves with more and more things to do for a day of family fun. Businesses and attractions across the area are finding new and creative ways to offer family activities. This is certainly true at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center, which offers a unique experience for parents and kids.

Dive-in movies has been offered by the Aquatic Center for several years now. Families can bring their kids and watch a fun, child appropriate movie, all while having fun in the pool. Waid Harbison, marketing director for Cullman Parks & Recreation, said it was designed to be not only fun but cost efficient.

"Dive-in movies were started several years ago as a way for people to enjoy family time together and have a cheaper alternative to going out to the movies, or other forms of expensive entertainment."

For those worried about safety, Harbison goes on to state that the event will still have plenty of lifeguards on duty so that parents can relax and enjoy the evening as well.

"This is a great event for the whole family because it is a safe, family oriented environment," he said. "There are plenty of lifeguards on hand for safety, and parents can feel safe letting their children play while they, too, enjoy the pool."

The event has had tremendous success and has drawn big crowds over the years, with those who are already members of CWAC able to attend free of charge, and all non-members paying only $5 per person. All of this, plus access to the pool simultaneously makes this event a must-go for parents.

"The event has been very successful so far with upwards of 350 people attending each event," Harbison said. "Families love the extra hours at the pool, and it is also a great opportunity for non-members to have access to the facility for less money and enjoy a special event all in one for just half the price of a normal day pass."

The next Dive-in will be at CWAC on Thursday, July 24, and the movie feature will be "The Lego Movie". Gates for the Dive-in movies open at 6 p.m. for $5 or free to members. CWAC allows swimming and usage of the waterslides, lazy rivers, and all other pools on the outdoor pool deck. The movie starts at 8:30-8:45 p.m., when it is dark enough for the screen to show. Once the movie begins, only the large swimming pool stays open.

Harbison said that the Aquatic Center and Cullman Parks & Recreation are happy to be able to offer this event to Cullman residents. "The movies are a great way for families to come together for a fun night out, and it is great when you can offer an event like this that everyone of all ages in the family will be able to enjoy."

Fireworks (from Front)

sparklers.

Little children all over America will be holding flaming sticks that can get up to 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit, so as parents, it is helpful that you know as much as possible about the fiery torch you're lighting in your son or daughter's hand.

Have a safe and enjoyable 4th of July, and the best way to do that is to make it to the 5th of July with all of your phalanges.

Recognition (from Front)

work.

Cullman County's new program includes 60 hours of classroom instruction, along with applied psychomotor skills development and testing, whereas the current national standard for EMR programs only require a minimum of 45 education hours. After successful completion of the course, students have the opportunity to sit for the National Registry Exam.

Because of this program, there are now 57 State Licensed EMRs, and many additional volunteers are completing the course successfully all the time.

Cullman's own program is growing quickly and is developing across the state in order to serve those in need.

Cullman County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments will receive their national award at 6 p.m. on July 1 at Cullman Regional Medical Center in the Colonel Cullmann Room, located in POB II. CRMC is located at 1912 Alabama Hwy 157 in Cullman.



HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

"We would like to say a special thank to all the men and women who've made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms"

- Cullman City Council and Mayor Max A. Townson

Cake (from Front)

ize in beautiful custom cakes," says Amber Denton, owner. "We also have a variety of cupcakes, cheesecakes, and pretty much anything sweet that you can think of. We also serve lunch and have four or five sandwiches on the menu. You can grab a bag of chips and a soft drink and make it a complete meal."

Amber feels confident she's found the perfect location for her bakery. After looking all over Cullman, Amber and her husband Casey came to Hanceville to try their luck.

"My husband [Casey] went to school at Hanceville," Amber explains. "We looked all over Cullman and then we came down to Hanceville and when I saw this old building with the big windows in front, I thought to myself, this is where we're gonna be."

Then she added with a smile, "Plus we are near Hanceville Drugs, and everyone knows where that is."

Yes, deep in the heart of Hanceville, the bakery's future location had been waiting for them.

The bakery, with its happy and colorful tables and chairs has been in the making for many, many years. Amber has been making cakes ever since she was a child.

"I watched my grandmother make cakes as I was growing up," Amber says fondly. "I was probably 7 years old when my grandma let me have my own piping bag. She helped me make roses for my very first wedding cake. It was the first one I ever got to work on."

That little girl with a fine dusting of flour on the tip of her nose, mimicking her grandmother making roses so long ago, had indeed grown up. She grew into an adult who still enjoyed making cakes, wonderful cakes.

"After watching my grandma all those years, I finally decided, at the age of 36, I wanted to make cakes just like her. It took me that long to decide it's what I wanted to do," Amber giggled.

"I began doing them out of the house, but after five or six months, we completely outgrew our kitchen, so we decided to open a bakery."

The name "Soulmates Sweets & Cake Design" has an interesting story behind it. It just came natural to the Dentons, as it was something that was meant to be.

"I hired Casey when I worked for Walmart 15 years ago, then I ended up moving about three years later," she says.

"I moved around the southeast with Walmart. I lived in Mississippi and Georgia. Eventually we both just happened back up on each other and we haven't been apart since that day. We truly are soulmates and so when we started talking about sweets, I came up with Soulmates Sweets – it's perfect. We're partners in this business together."

You could definitely say this is a sweet story that goes perfectly with the treats they make on a daily basis.

If you are interested in having Amber create a custom cake, all you have to do is give her a call at 770-826-5535 or shoot her an e-mail at coneamber@gmail.com.

Hope (from Front)

and show them that there are other options such as adoption," explained Kristy Mickle, executive director of First Source for Women.

"We discourage abortion; we're not for that at all. We want to show them that through adoption, they are being a hero rather than a bad parent or something. We want to show them love and not be judgmental. We want to care for them and show them what a valuable person they are."

First Source for Women became a medical facility in 2008.

This accreditation is a great accomplishment for the good of their clients.

Pregnancy tests and ultrasounds are available free of charge for those that are interested.

Dr. Randy Yarbrough serves as the medical director for the facility and is just a phone call away if needed.

"Everyone who has seen the ultrasounds have chosen life," said Mickle proudly.

"As soon as the women see their tiny baby inside them, all thoughts of abortion are gone. The daddies react the same way. It's really beautiful to witness."

First Source for Women also offers "Earn While You Learn" parenting classes. In this program, expectant parents must watch a video, do homework, and then pass a test.

If they are successful, then they receive "Mommy Money" in which they can spend on baby items from the 'boutique'.

The different 'boutiques' located inside the facility are stocked with all kinds of baby items such as diapers, clothes, formula, blankets, and car seats.

The 'boutiques' are fully stocked from donations given by various churches, community organizations, and individuals.

These items are supplied to new mothers who are in desperate need of them and would otherwise go without.

Although saving babies is their main goal, First Source for Women also provides many other services to the community.

Services such as post abortion counseling, adoption support and counseling, childbirth classes, a father mentoring program, and ongoing prenatal and parenting support classes are all available to the public free of charge.

"We have clients from all walks of life," Mickle smiled again.

"We have some that are having a pregnancy crisis. We have some that already have children, and some that are just starting their pregnancy. Some come in just for parenting classes that DHR and the courts have appointed."

First Source for Women depends solely on donations and volunteer work.

Because they offer all their services free of charge, the organization often faces the problem of needing additional assistance and supplies.

Currently they are in dire need of a volunteer sonographer to perform their ultrasounds.

Money is always needed, as there are plenty of bills to be paid in order to keep the establishment running.

With only one major fundraising event in October, the facility remains strapped for cash year round.

If you or anyone you know is interested in making a monetary donation to ensure this service continues to save unborn babies and teach young parents how to take care of their families, contact Kristy Mickle at 256-352-5683 or e-mail her at firstsourceforwomen@yahoo.com.



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.

USDRC Meeting in Good Hope
Everyone is invited to attend the U.S. Disaster Relief Command organization which meets tonight at 6:30 p.m. Those interested in being prepared for any possible upcoming disasters are welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting which takes place at Good Hope Town Hall. Further information may be obtained by calling Lt. Col. Dan Raley, 256-347-4732.

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.

'Summer Program' at St. Paul's Lutheran School
St. Paul's Lutheran School is offering a 'Summer Program' for ages PK 3 - 6th grade. The program started May 27th and runs until August 1. Daily hours are from 7:45 a.m. until 3 p.m. There will be a 'childwatch' session from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. The fee of $120.00 a week includes weekly field trips and daily snacks. Additional information available by contacting 256-734-6580.

Therapeutic Bowling for Those with Disabilities
All individuals with disabilities and their immediate family are invited to take part in the Cullman Parks & Recreation's Therapeutic Bowling program tonight from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the Cullman Bowling Center. Cost is $4.00 per bowler and lanes must be reserved by 4 pm on Tuesday. Please call Rhonda Davis, 256-962-2208 or Hollie Guiterrez at 256-734-9157.

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.

4th of July Smith Lake Park Festival of Music and Fireworks
Everyone is invited to attend the 4th of July Smith Lake Park Festival of Music and Fireworks, with DJ Scott Adams starting off the day at 8 a.m. Jolly Rogers Band plays at 11 a.m, Coal Rain at 3 p.m., Downsouth at 7 p.m. and fireworks completing the day of events at 9 p.m. There will be arts and crafts, food vendors and contests and golf cart parade at 2 p.m. Admission to the park is $5.00, while the swimming pool fees are $5.00 and $3.50. Putt-putt golf is $3.00. For additional info please call the office at 256-739-2916 or check out www.CullmanCountyParks.com or on facebook/SmithLakePark. Come enjoy the summer holiday with your friends and neighbors!

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!

2nd Annual 'Dirt Therapy' at Stony Lonesome OHV Park
Come join in the fun and let 'a little bit of dirt help clean your mind!' Stony Lonesome OHV Park sponsors its 2nd annual 'Dirt Therapy' event which runs from 8:30 a.m. until 11 p.m. Off-highway-vehicles are encouraged for the mud, but folks also just dive in wearing shorts. Gate fee for the day is $5.00 for those aged 13 and up. It costs $10.00 to ride the extensive trails ($5.00 for ages 6-12) up until 6 pm. Fee is $25.00 to ride from 6 pm until 11 p.m. or $30.00 from 8:30 a.m. until 11 p.m. Additional info 256-287-1133. Come join in the fun!

Next Monday

Cullman Kiwanis Club
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This Week in Local Entertainment

Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

Monday, June 30

- 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, July 1

- Summer Reading Program at the Cullman County Library at 10 a.m.
- Eat on the Street at the Festhalle from 11 a.m. to 1 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, July 2

- Story Time at the Hanceville Library at 10 a.m.
- Summer Reading Program at the Cullman County Library at 10 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, July 3

- Summer Reading Program at the Cullman County Library at 10 a.m.
- Eat on the Street at the Festhalle from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Karaoke night at Cadillac Ron's
- Bike Night at Grumpy's Italian Grill

Friday, July 4

- 4th of July Fireworks & Music Festival at Smith Lake Park from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 5

- Ladies' Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m. Half off drinks for ladies
- 2nd Annual 'Dirt Therapy' at Stony Lonesome OHV Park from 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Busy Bee Café
Try our German Food!

Have Local Fun this Fourth

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The pinnacle day of summer fun is almost upon us. Independence Day marks the time when we celebrate our freedom, and often that means doing all things considered American. For those that are still undecided about how and where to spend this 4th of July, read on for a few tips.

If you are looking for a great day of fun, music and fireworks, then head over to the 4th of July Fireworks & Music Festival at Smith Lake Park. This promises to be a day of fun for the whole family. Great food, crafts, and popular bands such as Downsouth, Coal Rain, and Jolly Rogers will be in attendance. Lots of contests and a golf cart parade will also be some fun activities that those attending can enjoy. Admission is only $5, and the night will end with a brilliant fireworks display.

A second fireworks show and festival that will be taking place in town will be at Heritage Park. Desperation Church will be hosting an evening of family fun at the park. Gates will open at 7 p.m. and admission is free. Activities like kickball, wiffle ball, and a giant slip-n-slide will all be available to enjoy. This is a must for anyone who would like to take the kids out, but on a budget.

For those that may not want to venture out this 4th of July, you can still have a fun filled day with your family from the comfort of your home. Lay a blanket out in your own backyard and have a picnic outdoors. You can also include the kids in making a patriotic dessert such as red, white, and blue cupcakes, or creating patriotic crafts. Be sure to stop by the fireworks stand and grab some sparklers!

If you want to go a little deeper this Independence Day, spend the day talking with your kids about what this day is and why we celebrate it. Reading the Declaration of Independence to them helps teach the historical relevance and importance of our nation's birth. Explain the ways in which our military men and women continue to protect our daily freedoms.

No matter how you choose to spend your day, remember to take a moment to be thankful for a nation built on life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Geologist Turned Art Aficionado Comes Home to Teach About Pottery

"I moved back to Cullman to be closer to family. I really wanted to get back to the quiet of the country and focus on my life as an artist."
- Cindy Phillips, Artist & Teacher



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

» After working as a geological field mapper for 10 years, Cindy Phillips decided she wanted to pursue the arts as not only a career, but also a lifestyle.

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Many artists channel their talent into one or two similar specialties, such as photography or sculpting, but local artist Cindy Phillips has mastered several avenues of art and enjoys sharing her knowledge and talent with the community by offering various classes around the year.

Friendly and intelligent, Phillips came back to her hometown to pursue her dream of being a full time, self-employed artist.

Phillips is a 1991 graduate of Good Hope High School and the University of South Alabama where she earned degrees in geology, philosophy, ceramics (art), and painting.

She also studied geology at University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Educated, as well as talented, Phillips chose to change careers after working for years in the field of geology.

"About 10 years ago, when I was working as a geological field mapper for the North Carolina Geological Survey, I decided I wanted to pursue the arts as a career and a lifestyle," Phillips smiled.

"I had taken a ceramics course and a drawing course while earning a B.S. in geology, and had experimented with oil pastel painting while working for the survey, and I was really attracted to both the visual aspects of color and form, and the tactile nature of various art media, especially clay."

In 2012, Phillips moved back home to Cullman. Once she arrived, Phillips buckled down and began developing a plan to work as a real artist.

"I moved back to Cullman to be closer to family. I really wanted to get back to the quiet of the country and focus on my life as an artist," Phillips admitted.

"I've been teaching pottery classes for the past two years at Shop Around the Corner, where I offer weekly adult classes and summer pottery camps for children. This fall I will begin teaching a night ceramics course at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville."

Well rounded, Phillips enjoys being around people and teaching her art classes.

She also believes in staying in shape through yoga, which relieves the everyday stresses of life.

"In July of 2012, I got my certification to teach yoga," Phillips grinned sheepishly.

"I teach classes at Sportsfit in South Vinemont and at Sardis Baptist Church in Trimble. I also offer private lessons."

Phillips happily announced that she will be offering children's pottery camps in July.

There will be a camp for pre-teens, ages 9-12 years old from July 7-11.

Teenagers, ages 13 and up, will have camp from July 14-18.

All campers meet from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is $130 per camper and includes all art supplies.

Each child should wear clothes they don't mind getting muddy, and bring a drink, lunch, and snack.

There will be an art show at 1:45 p.m. each Friday for campers to show off their finished projects to peers before taking them home.

For more information, parents should call Shop Around the Corner at 256-775-1775.

The camps fill up fast, so make sure you sign up as soon as possible.

Adults who are interested in taking pottery classes or yoga classes can call Phillips at 256-737-7262 or they can e-mail her at cindyphillips.art@gmail.com.

Phillips' personal ceramic artwork is for sale at Finders Keepers in downtown Cullman, and many of her paintings and ceramics can be viewed on her Facebook page at facebook.com/CindyPhillipsArt.

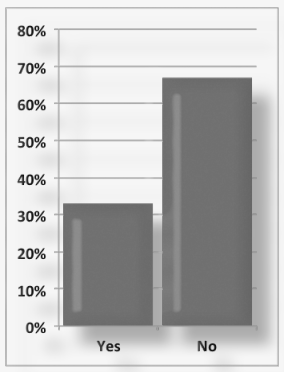
She is also happy to consider doing commissions if there is something specific a customer would like her to create.

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Christmas in July:** Will be held at CWAC June 11, 2014. Free enrollment fee on any membership, and half priced day passes (just $5 each) when you bring in canned food items for Cullman Caring for Kids. Christmas decorations, free Christmas cookies, Christmas games by the pool, and Christmas music will all be part of the event. Members are also encouraged to bring in food items for Cullman Caring for Kids; whoever brings in the most canned items will win a FREE 3 month membership to CWAC! Call 775-SWIM.
- **EvaBank Midnight Run** registration is NOW OPEN at the Cullman Civic Center, all EvaBank locations, and online at active.com. T-shirts and goodie bags will be given to all runners as well as a chance to win great door prizes like a flat screen TV, an iPad, and more. Winners receive $250 cash, masters $200. Medals to top 3 in each age division. Proceeds benefit the programs of the parks and recreation department to better our community. Call 256-734-9157 for details.
- **Eat on the Street:** No Eat on the Street this week due to the 4th of July! Have a great 4th!
- **Laughter Yoga** is a great way to stay in shape, relax, and enjoy a good laugh! This class is held Saturdays at the Cullman Civic Center at 10am Saturday. Donations will be taken, but no charge will be made. Call 734-9157 for details.
- **Nia Dance & Ageless Grace Fitness Classes:** Includes yoga stretching, anti-aging tips, and more with instructor Ann Caretti. Nia class is held Tuesdays at 10:00am at the civic center, and Ageless Grace is held on Thursdays at 5:30pm.
- **Monday Fundays** are held each Monday at CWAC, $5 admission per person for open swim, games, and more. 6pm to close. Call 775-SWIM.
- **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. The 313th Army Show Band will be playing this Tuesday, July 1 at this FREE event.
- **FREE Community Concert Series** will start at Heritage Park on Thursday July 10 and be held each Thurs. through July 31. Concerts will be from 6:30-8pm each week and feature country, blue grass, and more. Call 739-9931 for more info.

What's Online

Community Festival Honors Shawn Anderton

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. Then there are communities like Hanceville, where there is much more holding everyone together than their location.



qrne.ws/219

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

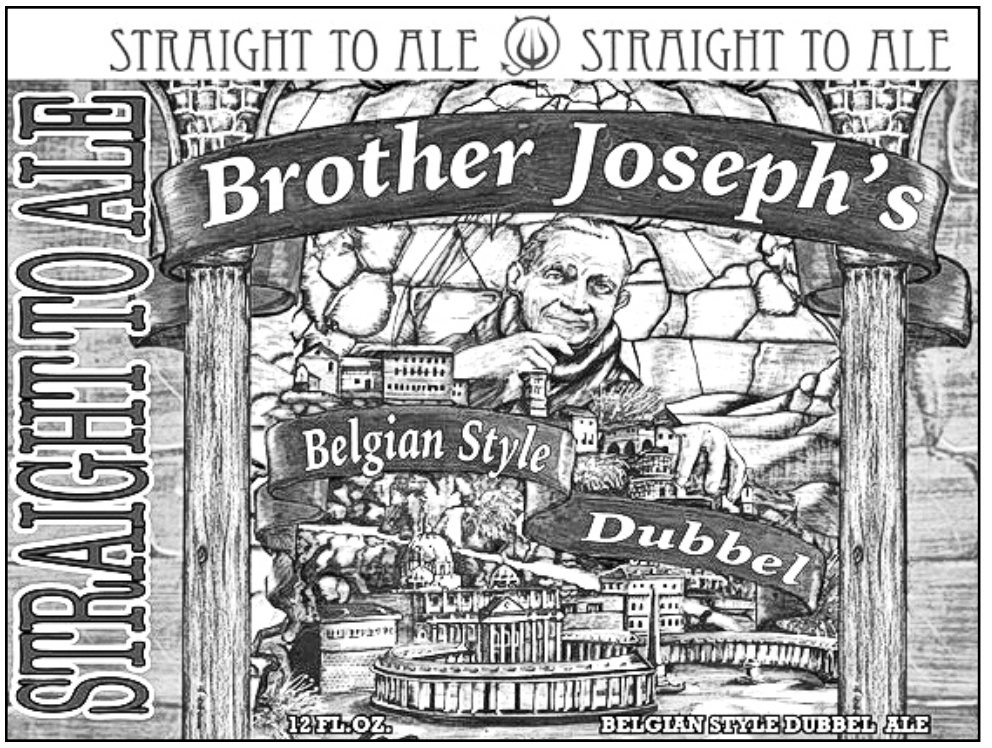
I recently had an opportunity to attend an American Legion Auxiliary meeting where I met Mrs. Vickie Thrower, the current Alabama Department Membership Chairman. At the time, I wasn't aware of what the Auxiliary actually did...

qrne.ws/220

"With Every Mile, We Inch Closer to a Cure"

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.

qrne.ws/221



CONTRIBUTED

» The full-flavored abby-style ale is named in honor of Brother Joseph Zoettle.

STRAIGHT TO ALE RELEASES BROTHER JOESPH'S DUBBEL

A LOCALLY INSPIRED BELGIAN-STYLE BEER IN A CAN

Krista Conlin
Contributor

HUNTSVILLE - Summer sun paired with canned beers by the water will never be the same as when AlaBev brings brew lovers statewide Straight to Ale's Brother Joseph's Dubbel in cans.

This Belgian-style dubbel is now available in cans year round and has an ABV of 8.0% and an IBU of 20. Brother Joseph's Dubbel will be available in retailers, restaurants, and bars within the AlaBev footprint.

"Our local breweries are starting to package more and more of their delicious beers, making their product more readily available to all brew lovers across the state," states Harry Kampakis, Owner of AlaBev.

Straight to Ale's Brother Joseph's Dubbel pays omage to Brother Joseph Zoettle, who was maimed in an accident that left him with a hunched back.

He worked in the St. Bernard Abbey power plant in Cullman shoveling coal.

In his spare time, Brother Joseph used objects that he had found such as marbles and chunks of concrete and tile to build miniature shrines and buildings on the Abbey grounds.

Over 40 years, he created 125 different models and replicas.

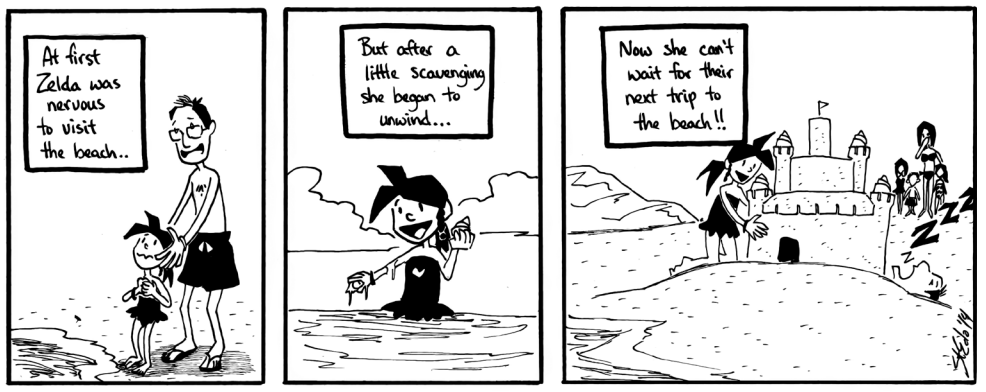
Today, the Ave Maria Grotto covers three acres and is world-renowned as both a fun roadside attraction and an awe-inspiring collection of folk art.

Straight to Ale has named their Belgian dubbel after Brother Joseph as a testament to his perseverance, his hard work, and his indomitable spirit.

Being a full-flavored abbey-style ale that has a complex taste and aroma, Brother Joseph's Dubbel is filled with specialty malt and dark fruit character.

Comics

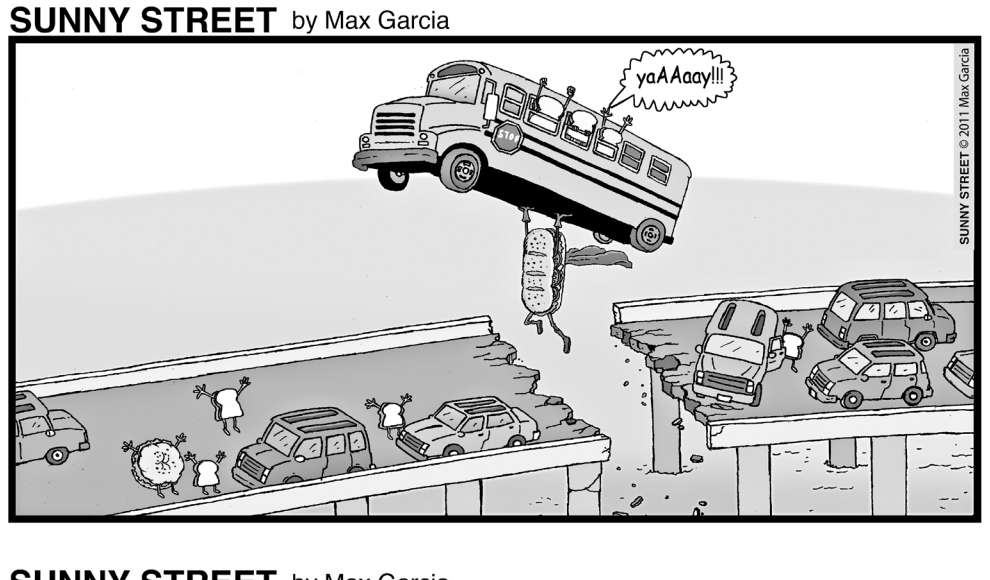
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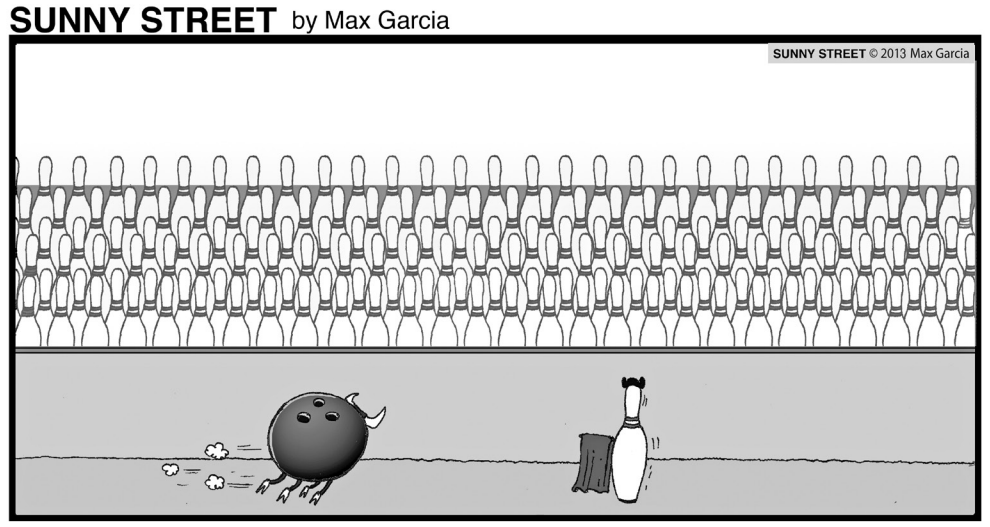
MAMA'S BOYZ www.jerrycraft.net **JERRY CRAFT**



SUNNY STREET by Max Garcia



SUNNY STREET by Max Garcia



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Pets of the Week

Betty Lou

Hello! My name is Betty Lou, and I am about 1 years old. I am believed to be a Pit mix and currently weigh 44 lbs.

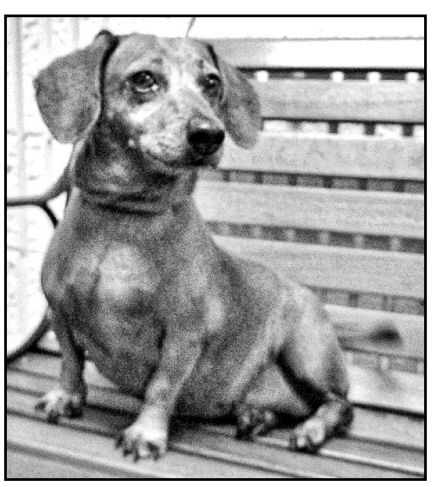
I am a stray but will be available for adoption on 07/02/14 at 8 a.m. I am full of life and I love to play. I'm ready for my new forever home.



Manchester

Hello! My name is Maya, and I am about 2 years old. I am believed to be a Hound mix and currently weigh 60 lbs.

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

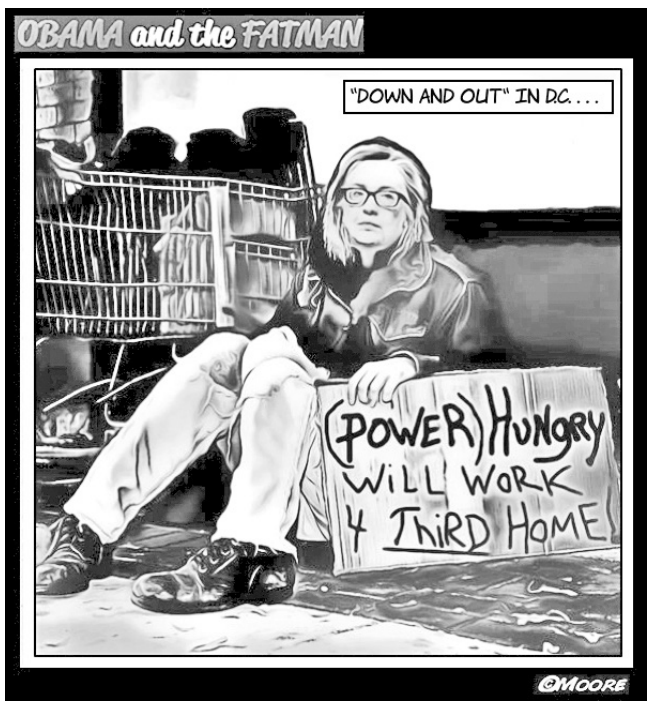


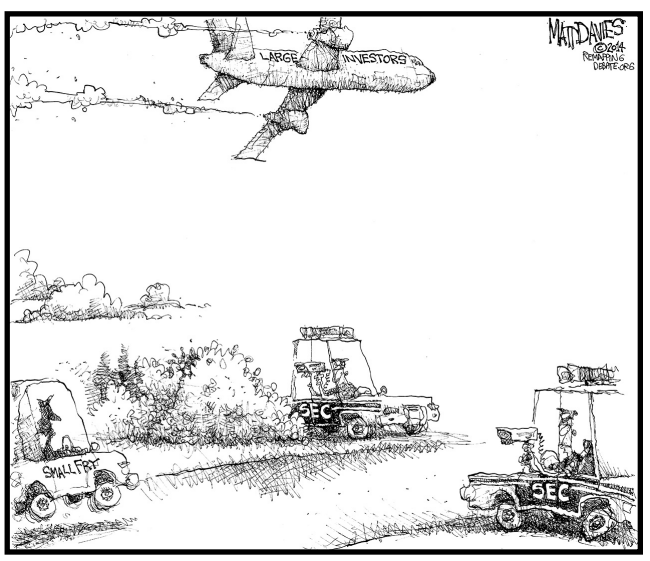
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Both of these dogs have an adoption fee of $90 that will include their general exam at the Vet, vaccines, wormer, rabies shot, microchip, spay/neuter, and free 45 days of pet health insurance. Pet Depot will give you a bag of food (you pay taxes) as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

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

Editorial Cartoons





HOW ARE WE DOING?

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

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CULLMANSENSE
Community Matters

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OPINION

THE HOT AND THE HELPLESS: THE ALARMING REALITY OF CHILDREN LEFT IN SEVERE HEAT

Natalie Bonner
natalie@cullmansense.com

You're sweaty and sticky and delirious. The air is thick and laced with excruciating heat that hurts to inhale. Not the normal level of thickness that translates to the "I can't breathe, this humidity is suffocating," kind, but the kind of thickness that breeds abrupt paranoia and the unfamiliar realization that you are about to die if you don't get out of this situation...

It happened to a mother in Homewood. It happened to another family in Anniston. And still another in Etowah County. There were three separate incidents in the state of Alabama just last year. You know what I'm talking about it. It's on every news station from here to London talking about children pronounced dead on the scene from heatstroke deaths after being left in a hot car for hours on end.

On average, the number of U.S. child heatstroke fatalities per year since 1998 equates to a whopping number of 38; still though, the total number of U.S. heatstroke deaths of children left in cars from 1998 to the present – a rage-inducing number of 619 children whose lives were lost.

As heartbreaking and tragic and unforgiveable and unrealistic and downright incomprehensible as it may seem to leave your child in the car because you forgot about him/her, this all too preventable reality is still occurring, with the latest situation possibly turning into an expose on the truth behind how many of these incidents are truly "accidents".

I bet you've heard the name Justin Ross Harris (known as Ross Harris) in the past few days. His son, Cooper Mills Harris, 22-months-old, was left in a sweltering SUV before being discovered by his father following his seven-hour work shift. Harris forgot to drop his son off at daycare. Young Cooper succumbed to hyperthermia in the soaring, scorching heat of the car.

Another sad, preventable situation? It seems both sides are screaming something so loud, none of their words are coming out audible. One side claims Harris is a loving, dutiful dad who made the worst mistake of his existence, but would never purposefully hurt his beloved son.

On the other side there are claims that Harris and wife Leanna researched on the Internet about "child deaths inside vehicles and what temperature it needs to be for that to occur." This side also claims that Ross Harris stopped through a drive-thru just minutes before arriving to work, and that he also went back to his car at lunchtime and put something in it.

It's either a combination of the worst misunderstanding and series of unfortunate events to happen or Harris is hiding something. Locked away in the Cobb County Jail in Georgia without bond, the father wasn't able to attend his son's funeral held on Saturday in Tuscaloosa, Ala., his parents' hometown.

Harris is charged with murder and second-degree child cruelty. Some say Cooper's death was a convenient plan of premeditated murder. For those that intimately know and identify the parents as close friends, they negate these claims to the fullest extent. Regardless of Harris' situation and outcome, the prevalence of these preventable incidents is all too heartbreaking and disturbing.

With campaigns such as "Beat the Heat, Check the Backseat" and one precocious 11-year-old's rubberband challenge baby saving device, the news is on the pulse of this trend and is ready to nix these travesties.

Andrew Pelham, a Nashville, Tenn. native, is the preteen responsible for the invention of the EZ Baby Saver, a simple device made of rubber bands and duct tape designed to prevent drivers from leaving the car without first removing the contraption, therefore reminding them of any backseat passengers.

With such an inexpensive product that can be constructed in as little as 15 minutes, Pelham doesn't care about patents and profits, rather he just wants to arm people with the appropriate knowledge and means to make their own EZ Baby Saver and hopefully prevent even one child's death.

With the 101 devices we have running around us all day, every day, we are lucky we remember our names half the time, let alone hectic schedules, limitless errands and family tasks. Being a parent can certainly be overwhelming, and accidents do happen, but forgetting your child shouldn't be one of them.

When one leaves a child or a pet in the car for just 10 minutes, even with the windows rolled down a crack, the heat index rises and the temperature can double in a short time frame. However hot it is outside of a car is guaranteed to be much hotter inside the car. As pets and babies can't vocally express themselves, parents are the only protectors they have.

With increasing awareness and concern in regards to this subject, the U.S. will hopefully see a decline in the numbers of those helpless little ones found thereafter the fact.

OPINION

Laid to Waste: US Depleted Uranium's Toxic Legacy Continues to Endanger Iraqis

John LaForge
PeaceVoice

A new report from the Netherlands based on US Air Force firing coördinates shows that our military fired its armor-piercing munitions made of waste uranium-238 which is called "depleted uranium" or DU into civilian areas of Iraq and at Iraqi troops during the 2003 invasion and occupation, defying the US Air Force's own legal advice that the toxic and radioactive ammunition be used only against hardened targets in compliance with the Laws of War.

The study, "Laid to Waste," by the Dutch organization PAX (http://www.paxvoorvrede.nl/media/files/pax-rapport-iraq-final-lowres-spread.pdf) found that the lack of legal obligations on US-led militaries in Iraq to help clean-up after using DU weapons has resulted in Iraqi civilians and workers continuing to be exposed to the highly toxic heavy metal years after the war.

The health risks posed by the inadequate management of Iraq's DU contamination are unclear because neither US-led forces nor the Iraqi government have supported health research into civilian DU exposures. High-risk groups include people living near or working on dozens of Iraqi scrap metal sites where thousands of military vehicles destroyed in the 1991 and 2003 bombardments are stored or processed. Waste sites often lack official oversight and in places it has taken more than 10 years to decontaminate military wreckage from residential neighborhoods.

Report urges release of targeting details to aid clean-up

"To help clean-up we urgently need to know the location and quantities of DU fired," says the report's author Wim Zwijnenburg.

The ongoing refusal by the United States to release targeting information continues to hinder the assessment and management of DU in Iraq. The Dutch military contributed a few thousand troops to the Coalition Forces in Iraq, and peacekeepers in Kosovo, and raised alarms over contamination in 2001 and 2006. A handful of US targeting coordinates held by the Dutch Ministry of Defense, and released after a Freedom of Information Act request, show that US war planes used DU weapons against a far wider range of targets and sites than previously suspected, including Iraqi troops.

Radiation exposure guidelines ignored

Depleted Uranium, a by-product of uranium enrichment for reactor fuel and H-bombs, is categorized as an intermediate-level radioactive waste; contaminated rubble and scrap metal are considered low-level radioactive waste. The Dutch study finds that international guidelines for dealing with both kinds of waste from the International Commission on Radiological Protection (http://www.icrp.org/) were ignored and that the Iraqi government did not have the technical capacity to safely manage such contamination.

Lack of clean-up obligations

Unlike anti-personnel landmines and other explosive remnants of war, no treaty currently obliges DU users to help clean-up after the war. However, civil radiation protection standards put the responsibility at the foot of the polluters.

Low estimates suggest that at least 440,000 kilograms (488 tons) of DU was fired by the United States in both Gulf Wars in 1991 and 2003. Civilians living near contaminated sites, scrap yard workers, Iraqi doctors and researchers have repeatedly voiced concerns over the effects of DU on health and the environment. Hans von Sponeck, a former UN Assistant Secretary General and UN humanitarian coordinator for Iraq, told the Guardian last October, "There is definitive evidence of an alarming rise in birth defects, leukemia, cancer, and other carcinogenic diseases in Iraq after the war."

Bill Smith

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