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DIRT THERAPY IS FUN FOR EVERYONE



CONTRIBUTED

» Children and adults alike slid around in mud-laden foot races, tug-of-wars, and other activities as they enjoyed the day at Stony Lonesome OHV Park.

STONY LONESOME OHV PARK HOSTS 2ND ANNUAL DIRT THERAPY DAY

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

BREMEN - We all need a little escape from the norm. Everyone needs a way to cut loose and let go of the stresses of everyday life. For some, it might be a relaxing game of golf, while others may prefer to go out on the town, but at p19

CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER
CULLMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CULLMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S EYES OF PROGRESS NEWSLETTER P9

Duck River Reservoir Construction Begins After 20 Years; Dam to Meet Water Needs for 75-100 years p2



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Cullman County's Oldest Pharmacy Serves up Nostalgia One Handmade Milkshake at a Time p6

COLONEL CULLMANN CELEBRATES 191ST BIRTHDAY

Cullman's Founder Shares a Few Words on His Special Day p7

RIDE ACROSS U.S.A.

LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS VISIT CULLMAN

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Hope for the Warriors is an organization whose goal is to assist and enhance the lives of post 9/11 servicemen, servicewomen, and their families. There are eight cyclists who are helping this fantastic cause in a unique and impressive way. On June 8, 2014, Tracy Draper and Ed Bennett, along with their six other team members, dipped their back wheels in the Pacific Ocean in Malibu, Calif. Their destination: the Atlantic Ocean.

When Tracy Draper read the statistic that 22 military veterans commit suicide each day in America, she was shocked. But, more than shocked, she was inspired. She had now an idea, and that idea was the product of two things in her mind: her goal to bike coast to coast across the United States and help servicemen, servicewomen, and p19



CONTRIBUTED

» Tracy Draper, along with her fellow team members are riding across the country for servicemen, servicewomen, and their families.

National Award Given to Cullman County Volunteer Firefighters

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - On Tuesday, the MedicAlert Foundation and Congressional Fire Services Institute awarded Cullman County's Association of Volunteer Fire Departments with the Excellence in Fire Service-Based EMS Award. The award recognizes our Cullman Volunteer Firefighters for creating and implementing a rigorous Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) education and licensing program, which has resulted in an increased number of Licensed EMTs throughout the county.

There were many volunteer firefighters who sat proudly alongside their families as the award was presented to the group. The ceremony was held in the Colonel Cullmann Room at Cullman Regional Medical Center where p5

Natural Remedies: Local Master Iridologist and Herbalist Discusses Alternatives for Common Summertime Hassles

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The dog days of summer are here and the children are out of school. Wild adventures and sweet memories are just waiting to be made. I remember playing hide and seek with the neighborhood kids at Grandma and Grandpa's house during summer vacation as a kid. At the end of the day, at least one of us would either be sunburned, bug bit, or sometimes even covered in poison ivy. Bee stings were awful, especially when my Great Grandma Hendrix was around. With hot tears streaming down my face as the happy little bee flew away, Grandma would slop a big ole handful of snuff mixed with slobber into one of her hands, then plop the goo on top of the sting. I don't remember the pain going away, and I'll never forget the awful mess I was covered in.

There are all sorts of over-the-counter medications for the summertime dilemmas mentioned above. For example, Solarcaine spray is pretty standard for temporarily relieving the painful sunburn, and pink, sweet-smelling Calamine lotion has dotted the legs of itchy children covered in poison ivy for years. But there are older, lesser-known remedies available that just might be better for us than what we may currently be using.

"There are several herbs you can use for poison ivy and poison oak, such as sassafras," said Robert N. Lang, master iridologist, herbalist, and owner of Huckleberry Lang in Cullman. "You can take it internally p5

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CULLMANSENSE.COM
July 7, 2014

DUCK RIVER RESERVOIR CONSTRUCTION BEGINS AFTER 20 YEARS; DAM TO MEET WATER NEEDS FOR 75-100 YEARS

Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com



SUSAN ELLER/CEDA

» Though the Duck River Reservoir construction area is off limits for safety reasons, the public is welcome to view the activies and construction from a designated overlook any time of the day.

CULLMAN - The Duck River Reservoir project will soon begin construction after years of planning. This soon to be 650-acre reservoir will meet Cullman's water needs for the foreseeable future. Cullman Economic Development Assistant Director and Duck River Dam project representative Dale Greer provided insight to the past, present, and future of this time consuming project.

"This project has been going on for 20 years," he stated. "It is a joint effort between all of the water systems involved. Every water system will get water out of this new reservoir."

This project ended up at a total cost of $100 million. That's a pretty steep price, but the benefits are even greater.

"It will meet our water needs for the next 75-100 years," said Greer, "and we will totally control the source. The entire drainage basin is in our community. This puts us in a really unique and very good situation."

The contractor for the physical construction of the dam is onsite.

"We're using ASI Constructors out of Colorado," Greer said. "They're being priced for Phase 2 at $51.8 million. About 300 feet in the center of the structure will be roller compacted concrete. Two wings will be earth and rock fill."

The majority of the material used in the construction of the 2,000-foot long, 135-feet high dam will be from the site itself.

"They're also going to install a large conveyor system that will move the bulk of that material around on the site."

Construction for the Duck River Reservoir will be an open construction site.

Greer and the construction company urge people to stay out of the area during construction.

"Particularly the east side of the river, which is where they'll be staging their equipment," stated Greer.

"They're going to fence in that entrance so that they can control the area because they're going to have blasting and large equipment. We've done one phase of the trail around the reservoir and we're also asking that no one goes on the trail from Tanner Bridge south of 1651 for the next year or so where they're doing the construction. It's purely a safety thing."

Though Greer encourages the public to stay away from construction, he is confident that this project will be constructed as safely as possible.

"All the typical safety precautions will be done before the blasting begins. ASI knows what they're doing. They've built hundreds of dams. It will be very controlled."

But if you're interested in following the construction of this dam, you're in luck.

"There's an overlook on the west side of the dam," said Greer. "If you're driving east on 278 just before you cross Duck River, turn left, drive north, and the first real paved road to the right leads to that overlook. It'll be open 24/7. You're able to see the activity and the construction of the dam."

Though it's taken 20 years, the Duck River Reservoir project is finally underway. This dam will provide Cullman with drought resistance and an extra water source, and offer Cullman complete ownership of the facilities and water rights. Best of all, the Duck River Reservoir will meet our water needs for years to come.



SUSAN ELLER/CEDA

» Colorado based ASI Constructors readies their equipment in preparation for the upcoming dam construction.



BENTLEY MAKES APPOINTMENTS TO ALA. WORKFORCE COUNCIL

Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

MONTGOMERY - On Tuesday, Governor Robert Bentley announced several appointments to the Alabama Workforce Council to advise and support members of the State School Board, the Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System, college and university presidents of Alabama's four year institutions, and the Superintendent of the Department of Education. Those appointed to this council will work on more closely tailoring the state's workforce education programs to the needs of existing and future businesses and industries in Alabama.

"There is nothing more important to our state than job creation, and having students who are college and career ready is one of the critical components of economic development," Governor Robert Bentley said.

"The Alabama Workforce Council is a world-class representation of many of the state's top business and industry leaders and will be vitally important to building and maintaining high-quality partnerships between industry, education, and workforce training institutions. Preparing Alabama workers for high-wage, high-demand jobs is our number one priority."

Governor Bentley announced almost 30 appointments to the Alabama Workforce Council, including the Cullman Economic Development Center's Dale Greer.

"It is truly an honor to be appointed to the Alabama Workforce Council, and I am excited about the opportunity to play a role in addressing the workforce training needs in our state," said Greer. "I hope to be able to add the perspective of the economic development professionals - task with recruiting new industry and growing our existing industries- to the committee discussions."

The Council was a recommendation from the Governor's College and Career Ready Task Force, which was created in 2013 to improve education and promote workforce and economic development.

In 2014, Senate Bill 217, sponsored by Senator Paul Bussman (R-Cullman), created the Alabama Workforce Council.

The goal of the Council is to ensure Alabama's workforce development programs are meeting the most pressing job needs of the state's business and industry.

The Workforce Council will be responsible for reviewing and developing recommendations associated with, but not limited to the following:

• Streamline and align the existing workforce development functions of the State.

• Increase awareness and educate students on available opportunities in the various industry sectors.

• Create a statistical feedback loop between industry and education.

• Propose funding opportunities to increase established industry-funded and Education Budget allocations to be used as scholarship programs for college technical education and dual enrollment programming.

• Enhance public relations and marketing associated with career readiness and skilled craft trades.

• Develop a mechanism that will ensure continuous emphasis on pre-kindergarten through graduate education.

• Provide leadership and recommend standards for increasing membership and expanding operations of the existing ten Regional Workforce Development Councils.

• Identify and address critical unmet needs such as specialty skills in a specific region of the state.

• Develop a methodology to guide program decisions and gauge the success of students as they enter the workforce.

The first meeting of the Alabama Workforce Council will be July 21, 2014 in Montgomery.

Alabama Medicaid monthly enrollment tops 1 million for first time

Contributed by
Medicaid

MONTGOMERY - Alabama Medicaid's monthly enrollment topped 1 million for the first time in February 2014, boosted largely by the federally-required transfer of children from the state's All Kids program and changes in how Medicaid eligibility is determined. The milestone increase also reflects the first enrollment of individuals who applied for coverage through the federal "marketplace" under the Affordable Care Act.

In a review of data from the first five months of 2014, Alabama Medicaid's monthly enrollment increased from 997,545 in January to 1,000,824 in February. That number increased to 1,014,931 in March, 1,020,802 in April, and 1,024,358 in May.

Much of the initial increase – 93 percent – was due to the addition of 23,653 children in January who were required to transfer to Medicaid from the state's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The Affordable Care Act required that children in families with incomes under 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level to transfer to Medicaid in January 2014.

As expected, the increased enrollment was primarily seen in the aid categories impacted by recent federal changes in the way income is calculated. The state is now required to use Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) in determining eligibility for most non-disabled children and adults. Disabled recipients certified by the Social Security Administration, as well as elderly and disabled individuals certified by Alabama Medicaid Agency, do not use MAGI rules to determine eligibility. The rise in enrollment also includes all Medicaid recipients, including those who receive partial or very limited benefits, such as pregnancy-related or family planning services only.

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- DEA Task Force Agent whose team confiscated $45 million in cash and street value drugs in the last three years.
- DEA Drug Unit Commanders Academy, 2009; one Alabama officer is tapped annually for this specialized training.
- Recognized by the Alabama Court System as an expert on drug trafficking, distribution and manufacturing.
- Taught more than 400 Drug Awareness Classes throughout Alabama at schools, colleges, government agencies, law enforcement departments, and manufacturing facilities.
- Recognized for his outstanding dedication and sacrifice in the field of Drug Enforcement by the Alabama Narcotics Officers Association, 2006.
- VFW Deputy of the Year for Excellence in Law Enforcement and Military Service, 2007.
- Director of CNET, Cullman Narcotics Enforcement Team.
- Investigator, Cullman County District Attorney's Office.
- Patrol Officer and Sergeant for Cullman County Sheriff's Department.

The Right Man at the Right Time!

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SHERIFF

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Summer Archery Camps Show You the Way of the Arrow

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Summer is a great time for children to get out and learn new things. Camps all across the country take place to offer kids a unique experience that is fun and educational. Cullman is no exception, offering several different types of day camps to local kids throughout the summer.

An archery camp is being offered by Cullman Parks & Recreation, in conjunction with Robin Green, who will be the instructor for the week-long camp.

This fun and unique camp will teach children all about the world of archery and how to practice this hobby safely.

Robin Green, instructor and archery director for the city of Cullman, said that the camp includes many different activities that will appeal to every age participating.

"They'll be doing a lot of different things," Green said. "They will be shooting at different targets and 3D targets. At my first camp, we shot at water balloons, explored in the woods, tie-dyed t-shirts, and we also do a craft every day."

This is Green's first year teaching the camp after being approached by Cullman Parks & Recreation.

"This is my first year," said Green.

"I just became the Director of Archery last year for the city. I have been shooting competitively for 10 years, and I was approached last year at the state tournament, and they offered me the position of Archery Director."

This will be the second camp offered this summer. The earlier camp that took place in June was a huge success according to Green.

"I had a three day camp in June," she said. "We really enjoyed it. We had 39 kids attend, and it really went well. So we will be offering the 5-day camp at the end of this month."

There are 50 spots open for the camp this July.

Those interested are able to register their kids up until the day of the camp, as long as there are spots available. The camp in June was such a success, however, that spots for July's camp are expected to go quickly.

The camp will start July 28 and run until August 2. Registration costs $100.

If you are interested in your child learning all about the fascinating world of archery, then do not hesitate to call 256- 734-9157 to reserve your spot.

I Believe That We Will . . . When?

The United States Soccer Team Eliminated By Belgium

Will Hogue
Local Correspondent

They were supposed to be dead a long time ago. This wasn't their sport, this wasn't their game, but they refused to capitulate and be what the world said they were. The USMNT bullied their way onto the world's stage and gave a valiant performance. The keeper of their fortress, the ultimate defender of everything they aspired to be, he, with a bald head and a bearded chin, stared right at death and snickered.

The USMNT were dead on arrival; the world said so. But, those weren't zombies sprinting around Brazilian soccer fields with the U.S. crest on their shirts.

Those were men who, although bloodied, bruised, weary and their muscles tight from the Amazonian humidity, refused to die.

They were supposed to arrive in Brazil in a hearse; instead, they flew all around the onetime Portuguese settlement with vigor and passion.

Every four years the FIFA World Cup comes around, and yes, the big cities – New York, Kansas City, and Chicago – go completely hysterical about it.

Sure, most of those people don't care about soccer for the four years between World Cups, but for the little bit that America is in it and there is an excuse to chant 'U.S.A.,' soccer matters in America.

But, in a non-metropolis, like Cullman, Ala., this soccer tournament isn't supposed to matter: but something was different about this World Cup.

As I sat, once again, in Moe's Original BBQ in Cullman, and as regular time in the match between the USMNT and the Belgian national team dwindled, I saw all sorts of people, all of them with their eyes glued to any one of the many televisions in the restaurant.

These people weren't here to have a few beers and laugh with their friends and let the World Cup be the backdrop for their evening; the World Cup was their evening.

There were men wearing dress shirts who had come from work to watch, and there was even a man wearing a John Brooks shirt. Remember the hero from the U.S.-Ghana match?

Once again, in case you forgot, this was in Cullman. Alabama.

You know, where we hardly ever kick a ball with our feet (and if you're an Alabama fan, you wish we never did).

The match was spent in hair-raising fear, the kind of fear that strikes one when euphoric elation sits as close to the heart as total despair.

The Belgians had their chances to take the lead plenty of times. It seemed as if for the entire length of regular time, United States goalkeeper, Tim Howard, had taken the form of a wall.

He collected poor attempts and he repelled venomous strikes. He sent Twitter abuzz: "Tim Howard for just regular Mount Rushmore?" (@Sportspickle).

The assistant referee held up his Hublot digital clock displaying that there would be three minutes of added time to the end of the match.

Manager Jürgen Klinsmann had substituted Chris Wondolowski in late in the game.

It was 91 minutes and 55 seconds into the match when American magic struck. U.S. defenseman Geoff Cameron knocked a ball into the box toward Jermaine Jones who then deftly tapped it with his head over to Wondolowski who was miraculously five yards away from the goal and completely wide open.

But, there's a reason this piece isn't titled something like "Wonder Wondo."

Wondoloski smashed the ball over the crossbar and into the crowd. He bowed his head into his hands and later said that he was "gutted."

The Belgians went on to win the match in extra time, somewhat thrillingly, but none of that would've mattered had one man been able to put the ball in the back of the net.

Wondolowski is not solely to blame for the loss, but the USMNT would have been watching film on Lionel Messi and Argentina the following morning had he scored.

Jack Holbrook, a 45-year-old pastor at Concord Baptist Church in Fairview, said he watches the World Cup because he just loves sports.

He said that he loves events like the World Cup and the Olympics because it's a time when "we can all come together and pull for the same team." In other words, the World Cup is a time when Orange and Blue and Crimson don't matter.

It is a common chant, perhaps the main cheer for USMNT supporters, both here in the States and in South America: I believe that we will win! You could find this phrase on t-shirts, under Instagram posts, on Facebook statuses, and most of all, in most of the sports bars throughout America.

Although the United States lost to Belgium, the concatenation of World Cup patriotism and Fourth of July festivities has me looking forward to the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Four years from now, the chants will start up again, I'm just beating the crowd: I believe that we will win!

As soon as this World Cup ends, most Americans who hopped on the Freedom Train (a colloquialism for the USMNT) will hop off and forget about international soccer until the next Cup.

For four years, soccer for Cullmanites will mean droves of young neon-clad AYSO players at Heritage Park.

But for the USMNT, the next four years will be spent sweating and aching and striving so that when the next World Cup comes around, they might enthrall us all once more.

Final Score: United States 1-2 Belgium.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program. Full time, BS degree required. Send resume to: vsoced@vsoccullman.org

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Honorable ★ Committed ★ Experienced

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Remedies (from Front)

and externally and it dries up the lesions. "Bentonite clay also works very well. Bentonite is a drawing clay; it draws the oils from the plant out of the skin."

When asked about sunburn remedies, Lang really perked up. He began to tell of all sorts of things that can be used to both prevent, as well as, relieve the burn.

"For sunburn, you can use either coconut oil or a supplement called Cataplex F," Lang explained "Cataplex F is real interesting, it works on the prevention of sunburn, sun poisoning, and sun sensitivity."

"The other thing that is really quite good is something called plantain goldenseal," Lang said as he reached for a small jar. "It is a plant salve. Plantain is a plant with a long leaf and has five ribs running through it. If you notice you are getting sunburned, you can chew the plantain and then dab it on your skin over the burn."

There is a special, eco-friendly spray made especially for bee stings and mosquito bites. Lang knew all about it and recommended its use for everyone, both young and old.

"Badger is great; it's an anti-bug spray," Lang smiled proudly, while holding up a bottle of the spray. "It is 100 percent organic and you can use it on your whole family, especially the kids. It will definitely keep the bugs off. What makes it safe is the fact that it doesn't have deet in it like all the other bug sprays on the market today."

Deet is a commonly used bug repellant, which causes skin irritation in some folks.

I could have stayed and talked to Mr. Lang about herbs and natural cures all day, but he is a very busy man. As the owner of Huckleberry Lang, Iridology and Herbal Consultations, he always has a full schedule but is never too busy for his valued customers.

If you would like more information about the natural remedies for the pesky discomforts that come from living in the Deep South, please feel free to stop by and see Mr. Lang. He is located at 216 2nd Street SE in Cullman. You may also visit his webpage at www.HuckleberryLang.com or e-mail him at huckleberrylang@yahoo.com.



SUSAN ELLER/CEDA

» Robert N. Lang, master iridologist, herbalist, and owner of Huckleberry Lang in Cullman provides natural remedies for common ailments.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

The City of Cullman's Alcohol Review Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 8th, 2014 at 5:00 pm, in the Administrative Conference Room of City Hall, located at 204 Second Avenue NE.

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

Dollar General Store 14825
121 County Road 1435
Beer and Wine
Off-Premises
Alcohol License

Dollar General Store 15211
120 US Highway 278W
Beer and Wine
Off-Premises
Alcohol License

Margaronas Mexican Restaurant
311 2nd Avenue NW
Restaurant Retail
Liquor On-Premises
Alcohol License

Award (from Front)

many delicious deserts were served by the CRMC staff for the occasion. The chatter that filled the room was that of excitement. A great sense of accomplishment radiated from the great men and women who had worked so hard in obtaining national recognition.

"The Excellence in Fire Service-Based EMS Award is a national award that honors volunteer, career combination fire departments, as well as fire associations that have developed and implemented new EMS programs or enhanced existing programs to advance emergency medical services in your jurisdictions," explained Bill Webb, executive director of the Congressional Fire Services Institute."Each year we receive applications from all across the country, which means this is a very competitive program," Webb continued. "In adding greater significance to the award is the panel of judges that review the applications itself. They consist of the brain trust of the national level, in terms of the fire service looking at the applications so when we do select the recipients, it's a very distinguished honor. We are proud to be able to provide this award this evening."

Andrew Wigglesworth, chief executive officer and president of the MedicAlert Foundation, made a few remarks just before awarding the beautiful crystal award to Dr. Josiah Dailey, M.D., on behalf of all the firefighters and EMTs who participated in the program. Dr. Dailey is currently the Medical Director for the Cullman County's Association of Volunteer Fire Departments.

"This is a county where everyone pulls together when they need to," Dailey beamed. "They pull together, they work together to expand and do the best they can for their citizens. I am proud to be a part of this community, as a transplant into Cullman, I am very proud that you have allowed me to work with you and help receive this great award."

"There are 26 fire departments in this county and over 600 volunteers. That shows how much Cullman County really means to the citizens and the volunteers here," Dailey also stated.

The new program is affordable to most. Keep in mind; many folks in the community who volunteer their time and services are not able to afford the proper training, which is normally offered at the community college level. Thankfully, our local and nationally recognized volunteer firefighters and EMTs have gone the extra mile to ensure their fellow volunteers are trained, no matter their economic status.

"One of the greatest aspects of the EMR program is that we are able to offer the training at a very low cost to our fire departments," says Jeff Byars, NREMT (National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians). "EMR training cost about $150 per person vs. $2,000 to train an EMT. We are able to keep the cost down by having volunteer instructors."

Our volunteer firefighters have gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure those of us in Cullman County are fully protected and safe. If you know one of these brave volunteers, please don't hesitate to express Cullman's pride and appreciation of all the hard work they have put into designing a program that has been nationally noticed and awarded.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

» Cullman County's Association of Volunteer Fire Departments was recently awarded the Excellence in Fire Service-Based EMS Award.



CULLMAN COUNTY'S OLDEST PHARMACY SERVES UP NOSTALGIA ONE HANDMADE MILKSHAKE AT A TIME

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

» Unlike many chain pharmacies, Hanceville Drug Company will pour you a glass of Coke from their old-fashioned soda foundatain.

HANCEVILLE - The home of the bulldogs is also home to Cullman County's oldest pharmacy. Hanceville Drug Company has been in operation since 1924, although the building was a pharmacy much longer than that. The store first belonged to Ernest C. Veal and his dentist brother Dr. David H. Veal, and the original name was Veal Brothers Drugstore. But in 1924, the brothers decided to sell the drugstore to local veterinarian, Roy F. South and his brother-in-law C. T. "Carlie" Burkart.

"My dad, Carlie, was in school at the University of Alabama and played football for the Crimson Tide," reminisces Eddie Burkart, pharmacist and owner of Hanceville Drug Company. "But he eventually transferred to Auburn [Alabama Polytechnic Institute at the time] and went into the pharmacy program. When he completed his studies, he came back to Hanceville and started running the store. He took over in 1925."

Like father, like son, Eddie took over his father's position as pharmacist at Hanceville Drug Co. on January 1, 1976 after completing the pharmacy program at Auburn University. The Burkarts have been a family-run pharmacy for over 89 years, and they plan to keep it that way.

"My son Benjamin is at Auburn right now, he went to school at Hanceville High School and he's coming back here in a couple years, once he finishes up at Auburn," explained Eddie proudly. "He's also going to be a pharmacist and will eventually take over the family business."

The greatest thing about Hanceville Drug Company is the nostalgic atmosphere that embraces you from the moment you get out of your car.

Just walking toward the store, you are surrounded with old storefronts that had once been full of hustle and bustle in downtown Hanceville.

Upon opening the front door of the drugstore, you cannot help but feel as if you have stepped back in time - back to the days when things were much more innocent and simple. From the black and white checkered floors to the bright red stools that line the retro soda fountain, all that's missing are the girls in their bobby socks and poodle skirts and guys in their white T-shirts, leather jackets, and greased back hair.

"The soda fountain really sets us apart from the other pharmacies," Burkart said.

"I have an employee, Ethelene Cone, who was working at the store when I was born. That's at least 62 years she has worked off and on. She has been with me 39 years straight. I think that is something that sets us apart from the big chain stores. It is called loyalty."

Big changes are coming in the near future for the beloved pharmacy. In hopes to make it more convenient, things are going to change.

"We're about to do a remodeling project," Burkart announced. "We're going to put in a drive thru window and kind of modernize a little, but we'll try to keep the old feel to the place. We'll be moving the pharmacy over to the side, next to the soda fountain and put the drive thru in the back in the parking lot. It makes it a lot easier for older people, as well as younger people who have kids.

You can't leave your kids out in the car and it's hard to get them out with all the child safety seats. It's not like it was years ago," he chuckled.

If you haven't visited Hanceville Drug Company before, it's time to do so. Stop by and meet Eddie Burkart and the gang. Feel free to sit and enjoy an old timey Cherry Coke, handmade malt or milkshake, or a big ole ice cream cone at the soda fountain. You'll be transformed back in time and you'll be sure to make a new friend or two while you're at it.

Hanceville Drug Company is located at 101 Commercial St. SE in Hanceville. You can also follow them on Facebook or give them a call at 256-352-4110.

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Colonel Cullmann Celebrates 191st Birthday

Cullman's Founder Shares a Few Words on His Special Day

"I want Cullman to grow, but I also want people to capture, remember, and enjoy the simple pleasures; like taking a few minutes to have cake and ice cream at a birthday party like we are doing here today."
- Sir Larry Rowlette, Colonel Cullmann Portrayer



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

» All those in attendance to the party were given birthday cake.

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The citizens of the Cullman area gathered together for a very special birthday party on Thursday. Our town's founder, Colonel Johann Gottfried Cullmann, turned 191 years old. The Colonel himself enjoyed passing out cake and ice cream to all who were in attendance for the party. When asked for a few words about his birthday, the old Colonel smiled a bit before he began to talk.

"Well, everybody says to count your blessings every morning, but when you get to be 191 years old – you count them twice (if you can remember)!" he then let out a hearty chuckle.

"I'm just glad everybody has pity on me and I don't get a birthday whipping, and I'm really glad they don't make me blow out 191 individual candles...Can you imagine!"

After another belly chuckle, the Colonel got somewhat serious and added, "Actually it feels great, as everyone knows I'm always looking down the road a bit – so I've been thinking about a big party 'when' I make it to 200 - but one birthday at a time!"

Each year for the Colonel's birthday, the town throws a big party and serves cake and ice cream.

At the end of the party, there is a drawing for a special surprise – birthday dinner with the Colonel at the All Steak restaurant. The drawn names are allowed one guest, and if a child's name is drawn, then a parent or guardian must attend.

The two names that were drawn this year were Johnnie Williams and Sylvia Stella.

Each winner was very excited for the chance to enjoy a nice meal and learn more about our town.

Mr. Williams brought his wife Carolyn, and Ms. Stella brought her friend Virginia to the All Steak. Everyone was excited, as well as hungry.

"I'd like to thank The All Steak restaurant," Cullmann commented.

"They have always been great to sponsor this special dinner over the past few years."

One hundred and ninety one years is a long time, and the Festhalle hasn't always been around. During the party, one of the guests made mention of this and asked the old man where he celebrated his birthday in the past.

"Well, we've only recently started celebrating my birthday again, about five or six years ago, so it has been at the Festhalle," the Colonel explained.

"Long ago, I had a lot of parties at my home where I would welcome guests to Cullman. Close friends, neighbors, dignitaries, and people just traveling down the road were always welcome to stop in to join the fun. Now, a replica of my home is the Cullman County Museum, so the Festhalle behind the museum makes for the perfect birthday location. Before the Festhalle was built, many parties were held on the north side of the museum around the statue of me, and in the gazebo."

Before the Colonel departed Festhalle to meet his guests at the All Steak, another person in the crowd asked him what he wanted to see in the future, as far as the city of Cullman was concerned.

The crinkled old man looked off into the distance, stroked his full beard and thought for a few moments. Then he smiled a sweet smile and began to talk.

"In the years to come, I hope to see a continued interest and commitment of people to care for one another. I would like to see our festivals continue to grow, such as the Strawberry Festival and Oktoberfest, because people come from all around to have a good time and participate. We get to show the world what makes us unique!" he said with gusto.

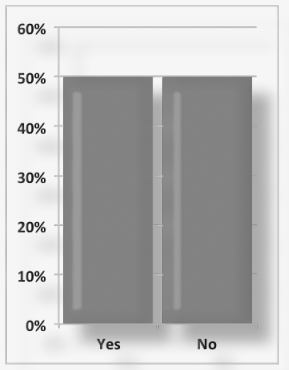
"I would like to see industry continue to view Cullman as a great place to start or expand a business. I want Cullman to grow, but I also want people to capture, remember, and enjoy the simple pleasures; like taking a few minutes to have cake and ice cream at a birthday party like we are doing here today."

Colonel Johann G. Cullmann's birthday is actually July 2, 1823. His birthday is usually celebrated on the following Thursday to work around those using the Festhalle for the Cullman Farmer's Market.

Sir Larry Rowlette, beloved Colonel Cullmann portrayer has been playing the role for several years.

Poll

Are you watching the World Cup?



This Week's Poll
Do you think local law enforcement are in need of armored vehicles provided through Department of Homeland Security grants?
Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

cpr&
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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.

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What's Online

Touring Farms for Kids Teaches the Importance of Agriculture

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...



qrne.ws/222

First Source for Women Offers Hope and Help to Unborn Babies

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'.

qrne.ws/223

RadKIDS Safety Camp is a Success

Recently, local children and their parents took part in the RadKIDS (Resisting aggression defensively) Safety Camp, which was held at the Cullman Civic Center and taught by Cindy Rohrscheib, a local city police officer and tactical flight officer.

qrne.ws/224

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.

'Christmas in July' at Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center
Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center is sponsoring its annual 'Christmas in July' event with Christmas-themed games, music and giveaways all day. Admission also will be half-priced with a donation of a canned food item which will be given to Cullman Caring for Kids. Please call 256-775-7946 for additional information. All welcome!

American Legion Auxiliary Dinner Meeting
The American Legion Auxiliary Post 0004, Veterans Hall, 112 Veterans Drive, S.E., at 6:00 p.m. If you have a connection to a veteran who served during any war, through your dad, granddad, wife, mother, grandmother, brother, sister, son, daughter, you are eligible to join the Auxiliary. Please come enjoy a night out.

'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.

Dulcimer Classes
The Cullman City Parks & Recreation Senior Spirit Program is offering Dulcimer classes beginning July 11th. Classes will be held at the Donald E. Green Sr. Center on Fridays at 1 p.m. and taught by Craig Mann. Cost for the class is $10 for an hour. For more information or to register for the class contact Angie Jochum or Catherine Hasenbein at 256-734-4803.

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!

3rd Annual Look Ahead Foundation 5k & 1 Mile Fun Run
Come run one of the most beautiful courses in Alabama this year for the 3rd Annual Look Ahead Foundation 5k & 1 Mile Fun Run at Sportsman Lake Park. Event schedule and times are as follows: From 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. Race Day Registration Packet Pick Up, at 8 a.m. – 5K Start, and at 9 a.m. – 1 Mile Fun Run Start.

'Fairytale Dish Gardens' Kids Program
The North Alabama Agriplex is once again sponsoring their summer 'Farm Kids Club' programs for children ages 5 and up, with this week's program focusing around 'Fairytale Dish Gardens'. Children must be accompanied by a parent and cost is $5.00 per child or $10.00 per family. Adults are free. These programs take place at the Agriplex unless otherwise stated.

Art Show at Victorian Manor
There will be a 'Brookdale Celebrates France' art show today from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. sponsored by the residents of Victorian Manor. Light French pastries and punch will be served. Please call the Manor for info 256-352-3141.

Next Monday

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This Week in Local Entertainment

Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

Monday, July 7

- 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 8

- "Raptors in Alabama" event with Jay Eubanks at the Agriplex at 5:30 p.m.
- Square Dancing Lessons at East Point Community Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 9

- Story Time at the Hanceville Library at 10 a.m.
- Musician Derek Sellers at the All Steak from 6-9 p.m.
- Karaoke night at Grumpy's Italian Grill at 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 10

- Ladies' Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m. Half off drinks for ladies
- Eat on the Street at the Festhalle from 11 a.m. -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
- July Hops and Shops in Downtown Cullman from 4-9 p.m.

Friday, July 11

- Ladies' Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m. Half off drinks for ladies

Saturday, July 12

- Ladies' Night at Rodney G's at 8 p.m. Half off drinks for ladies

Add your event to our calendar! E-mail calendar@cullmansense.com.

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CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

Official Newsletter

Eyes of PROGRESS

Volume 45 | JULY 2014 | Issue 7

www.cullmanchamber.org

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WEST POINT

From the Chamber President

Take Me to Your Leader

It's coming, and it's bigger than Y2K and that asteroid NASA says "could" hit the earth in 2032. This is real, and you need to prepare; it's going to change the way you and everyone else works. There will be no near-misses or "oops we were wrong", and you'll need to do more than buy a backup generator and bury your gold to get ready for the changes coming, so listen up; we're talking about your workforce. We're talking about the workforce crisis. For the past several months, I have been writing about generational workforce. By the year 2020, there will be 5 generations in the workforce, but by 2015 the majority of that workforce will be in their 20s. We're about to experience the largest shift in human capital this country has ever seen. It's happening within the next year. Do you know who your leaders are?

Your future leaders are probably growing within your organization right now. They are the employees who show the most drive and have the strong track records of performance. Maybe your future leaders aren't leaders yet, but that doesn't mean you sit back and wait or expect a clear leader to show up when you are ready. You should start developing your leaders now.

Identify who exhibits these leadership qualities:

- Honesty
- Confidence
- Ability to delegate
- Excellent communication
- Sense of humor
- Commitment
- Creativity

These traits are identifiable no matter where an employee is in the organization. Once you have identified these characteristics, add their names to your succession plan and develop them into leaders. Coaching and mentoring young talent needs to be part of your succession plan.



Leah Bolin

President & CEO,
Cullman Area Chamber
of Commerce

Losing and replacing employees is expensive. Losing your future leaders is even more costly. Find tomorrow's leaders today and develop them to lead. Programs such as the Chamber's Leadership Cullman County Class can help you in the development of these leaders. We are currently taking applications for the leadership class of 2014-2015. Leadership Cullman is a nine-month series ofseminars and programs designed to bring together a class of 20 leaders to examine community issues such as education, healthcare, crime, government, economic development and quality of life. Use this and other tools to assist in leadership development. Identifying and grooming the next generation is vital to your success. In fact-your future depends on it! The chamber is here to help. Call us today at 256-734-0454 or go online to www.cullmanchamber.org for additional information on workforce development and leadership tools for your organization.

*XYZ University/Shannon Neeser

MEMBERSHIP

On July 24, 2014 Membership 101 will be offered starting at 11:30 am. Lunch will be provided by Sweet Peppers Deli, here at the Chamber in the Freedom Insurance room. This is a great way to learn about new programs and how to maximize your membership! Sign up now! www.cullman-chamber.org.

CULLMAN AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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101

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Fellowship of Christian Athletes	256-426-4314
Ludwig Design Studio	256-727-3124
Cornerstone Creations Inc.	256-796-8128

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TOURISM





ROCK THE SOUTH

Concertgoers from all over the state of Alabama and even the nation were rocking out at Rock the South held on June 20-21. This three year old concert has grown tremendously since its beginnings in 2012. The concert served as a way for Cullman to bond together following the tumultuous time of the April 2011 tornadoes that destroyed parts of our beloved town. This year's concert definitely met its expectations. The concert surpassed its goal by hosting over 32,000 attendees, a large portion of out-of-towners, as well as locals. The tourism factor that coincides with Rock the South has proven to be economically beneficial for our community. Rock the South has allowed the city of Cullman to evolve tragedy into a positive new tradition for the community.

There were several performers in this year's line-up at Rock the South including: Weston Burt, The Springs, The Welch Brothers, Charlie Daniels, Easton Corbin, and Little Big Town on Friday; with Shelbie Z, Drake White and The Big Fire, Sara Evans, Colt Ford, Billy Currington, and Lynyrd Skynyrd on Saturday, along with the help of DJ Hish both days. Phil Robertson and son Alan also participated in a Q & A session will WZZK's Greg and Speedy on stage Saturday. This anticipated event brought in the crowd and helped show Cullman locals and visitors alike a great time in our town.







TOURISM

CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

community improvement awards

Congratulations to the following companies that have been selected as the Community Improvement award winners. Thank you to these winners for their constant efforts in helping to preserve, protect and promote the beauty of the Cullman area. The next round of Community Improvement nominations are due on September 15. Nomination forms may be found online at www.cullmanchamber.org. Please call 256-734-0454 or email info@cullmanchamber.org for more information.

Best Landscaping – Small
DQ Grill & Chill

Best Landscaping – Large
Webb Wheel Aftermarket

Best Curb Appeal
Country Financial – Lee Powell

Best New Construction
Wallace State Community College
School of Nursing and Center for Science

Best Restoration
Cullman County Economic Development

Building a Sense of Community
Cullman County Master Gardener Association
Demonstration Garden

FARM Y'ALL

Dinner is served, y'all! The Chamber of Commerce's annual Farm to Fork Dinner, sponsored by Alabama Farm Credit, will kick off this year's Farm Y'all Festival. The dinner will be held on August 16 from 6-9 p.m. at Wallace State Community College's School of Nursing and Center for Science. The night's entertainment will be provided by Morrow and Laura Doss. Come enjoy a three course meal prepared by Mauricio Papapietro, owner and chef of Brick & Tin Restaurant, Bar and Bakery in Birmingham. The first course includes a Cullman County heirloom tomato salad with fresh peas and beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, basil and balsamic. The main course consists of braised pork shoulders and slow roasted loin with zucchini, squash, sweet peppers and cherry tomato gremolata. For dessert, a Cullman County peach custard parfait with shortbread cookies will be served. For more information or to register, call 256-734-0454 or go online to farmyall.com. Thanks to Alabama Farm Credit for sponsoring Farm to Fork Dinner!

2014 FARM Y'ALL Farm to Fork DINNER

Alabama Farm Credit



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Monday - Saturday

Summer Samplers in the Breezeway

The Chamber of Commerce's breezeway was alive with music, food and beverage samples on Thursday, June 5 from 5:30-7 p.m. The third annual Summer Samplers in the Breezeway included 15 local restaurants and beverage vendors that served samples to over 100 attendees. The musical stylings of the band Old Spice kept the atmosphere light and carefree. Summer Samplers is part of the Chamber's Business After Hours program, a quarterly affair in which the Chamber hosts networking events for members and future members. The event was sponsored by HH Technologies, who provided the giveaway prize of a large industrial sized PolarCool fan, a $1,200 value, to one lucky attendee at the end of the night!



Vendors not only served food and beverages, but also decorated their tables to resemble their restaurant's own décor. Participating restaurants included: The All Steak, Alamitos Mexican Restaurant, the Cullman Brewer's Guild, Brown & Co., Busy Bee, Cabin Fever Beverages, Carlton's Italian Restaurant, Chick-fil-A, China Garden, DQ Grill & Chill, Grumpy's Italian Grill, Guthrie's, Johnny's Bar-B-Q, Lombardo's Pasta Bar and The Spot Beverages.



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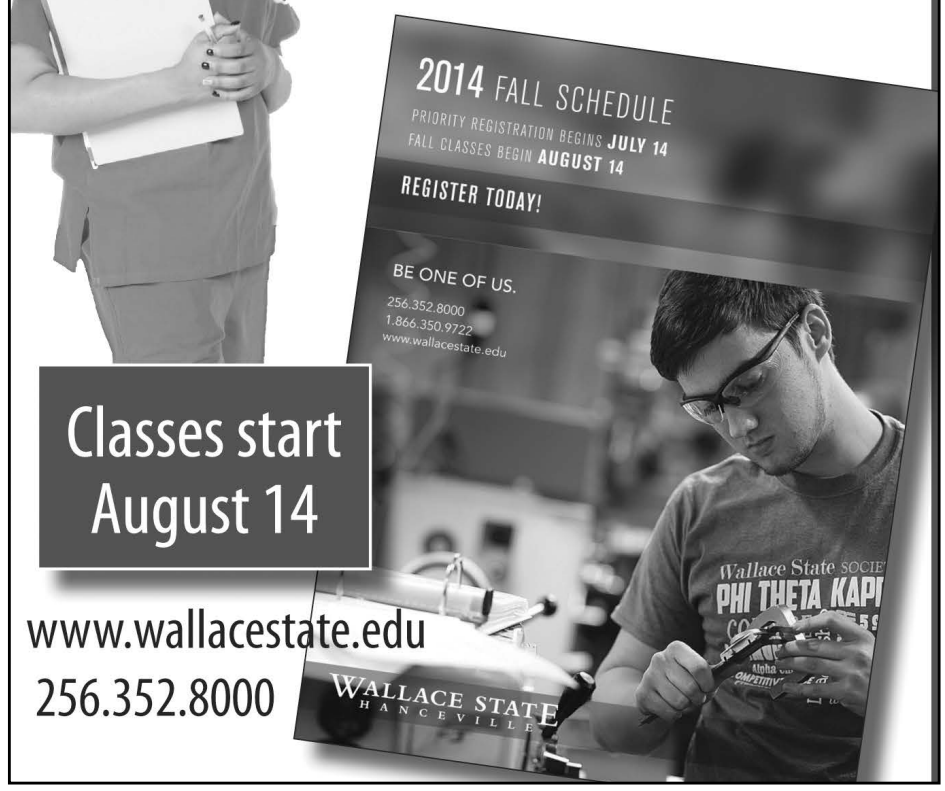
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Come to our Chamber morning events!
The Chamber's Morning Blend is a monthly event that takes place here at the Chamber. There isn't a set topic, so come enjoy a cup of coffee & great conversation!

Biscuits & Business will be held at Peoples Bank, come enjoy biscuits and learn about Small Business Loans!

Community Luncheon

On June 27, the Cullman Chamber's monthly Community Luncheon took place at the All Steak restaurant from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Special guest speaker Armand DeKeyser, executive director of the Alabama Humanities Foundation, spoke about the AHF and opportunities in this area. DeKeyser is a representative of the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition called "The Way We Worked", which conveys the history of the American workforce in a captivating way. This exhibition will contain archival images, compelling videos and fascinating interviews to supplement the presentation. It will also be touring only six cities and will be coming to Cullman in February 2015. It traces the many changes that have affected the workforce and work environments over the past 150 years, including the growth of manufacturing and increasing use of technology.



July's Community Luncheon...
Dr. Craig Ross, newly appointed Superintendent of the Cullman County Schools will be speaking at July's Community Luncheon. Help us welcome Dr. Ross to the Cullman community!
July's luncheon is sponsored by The Cullman Times and presented by Mickey Parrish State Farm Insurance & Financial Services.

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Cullman County Leadership Applications are due July 31st. This is a great way to learn about the community you live in as well as attain leadership skills. This course consist of eight monthly day long meetings. The class will examine a different issue such as education, local government, state government, health care, economic development, human sevices, criminal justice, agriculture, and quality of life.

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Hops & Shops

One of the most anticipated events of the month wrapped up its second session, and Cullmanites and visitors alike are loving every minute of it. Hops & Shops is a monthly event that brings the Central Business District of downtown Cullman to life. This event is for the food aficionados, the beer lovers, the shop until you drop crowd, and those who just want to go out and have a good time. Hops & Shops is the ideal night for experiencing downtown Cullman like never before with over 40 retailers extending their shopping hours and offering discounts and specials, and restaurants with live music, delicious deals and craft beverages.

This event is a happening again on July 10, 2014 from 4-9 p.m. July's feature brewery is Yellowhammer Brewery out of Huntsville. Pre-registration is encouraged as there are limited tickets available. Each month offers a bevy of prizes as well. This Hops & Shops will feature a shopper's drawing happening at 8:15 p.m. at Better than Before Consignments. The winner of this drawing will take home a Smith Lake Package, which consists of a two-night cabin stay at Smith Lake Park, one paddle board lesson for two, and a meal for two at The Angler Seafood House. The hopper's drawing will be held at the All Steak restaurant at 9 p.m., and the winner of this drawing will receive a $50 gift certificate to All Steak. Don't miss out on this exciting event! Call 256-734-0454 or email info@cullmanchamber.org to sign up today!

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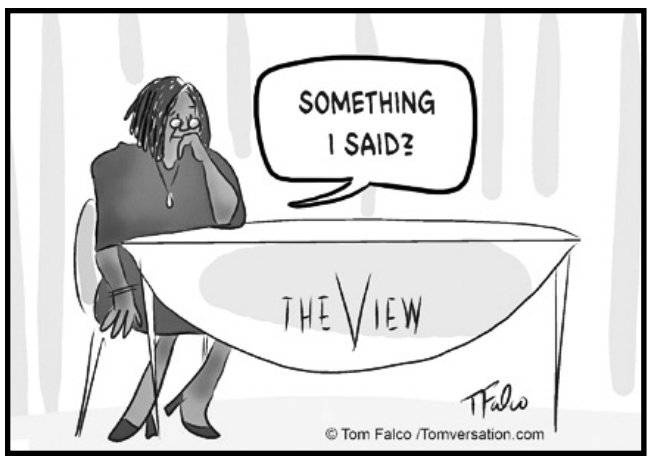
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OPINION

THE LESSON CONGRESS SHOULD LEARN FROM THE VA SCANDAL

Lee H. Hamilton
Contributor

Like other federal scandals before it, the mess involving VA hospitals has followed a well-trod path. First comes the revelation of misdoing. Then comes the reaction: a shocked public, an administration on the defensive, grandstanding members of Congress. Finally, major reform bills get introduced, debated, then put aside when the heat dies down, or the target agency gets more money thrown at the problem.

With the VA, we're at the reform part of the cycle. The House and Senate have each passed their own legislation to fix the VA's health system, including a massive infusion of money — at least $50 billion a year — to allow veterans to seek private health care. Fiscal watchdogs are crying foul, and the measures have ignited a furious debate over whether Congress should cut other programs. In its rush to address public outrage, Congress is proposing dramatic changes that could have benefited from more thorough consideration.

The irony is that this need not have happened — not with the VA, nor with the IRS or FEMA, or any of the other cases in recent years where the federal bureaucracy proved to be dysfunctional and Congress rushed in with a half-baked fix. Mostly what is needed is for Congress to do its job properly in the first place.

This means exercising its oversight responsibilities and catching problems before they mushroom.

Diligent oversight can repair unresponsive bureaucracies, expose misconduct, and help agencies and departments become more effective. A lot of federal employees are doing good work, including at the VA; Congress needs to encourage that work while ridding the government of shoddy practices.

To do this, it first needs to know what's happening. Each committee and subcommittee with oversight responsibility should be keeping track — on a close, even intimate basis — of the department and agencies in its purview.

Performance, budget, personnel, management challenges, major and minor problems: members of Congress ought to be experts on them all. They should also listen carefully to their constituents and interest groups focused on the performance of a particular agency, which are often in a position to give Congress valuable information. Understanding the facts, working cooperatively with the federal agency, and anticipating problems is a far more useful approach than Congress's usual pattern of throwing up its hands at a scandal and blaming everyone else for the problem. The crush of demand for VA services in the wake of two wars was easily foreseeable. Had Congress been on its toes, it could have reacted to it.

Congress must also get serious about reforming the federal bureaucracy. It needs to be careful not to indulge in bureaucrat-bashing, but federal managers do need more flexibility with personnel systems than they currently enjoy.

Federal employees deserve to feel they're being listened to, respected, and treated fairly, but management also must have flexibility to hire and fire, and to handle personnel problems proactively.

Congress also has to insist that these agencies are training, recruiting and retaining the necessary talent.

These are immense agencies. The VA is the nation's largest health-care system. In 2012, it dealt with 83.6 million outpatient visits. Its proposed budget for 2015 is $164 billion, and it employs more than 300,000 people. This is work on a scale most of us can barely imagine. Mistakes are bound to happen.

This may be an argument for thoroughgoing administrative reform, but it is also a fact Congress can't ignore: if it wants federal agencies to work better, it has to work tirelessly to understand problems and address them before they explode. Does the agency have adequate resources? How can it control bloat and tighten the gap between the people at the top and people on the front line? Are there problems that need addressing right now? Congress cannot eliminate politics from this oversight process, but politics should not drive the whole oversight enterprise.

The point is that many failures of the federal bureaucracy can be avoided with robust congressional oversight. It's a crucial part of improving the performance of government, and Congress has a duty to get ahead of problems, not lag constantly behind. Unless it's willing to accept its responsibility for diligent oversight, the next scandal is only a matter of time.

OPINION

Eliminating War to Eradicate Polio: Rotary International's Next Challenge?

Robert Dodge, MD
PeaceVoice

Polio, once a global scourge, was on the verge of eradication in 2012. Since that time, it has reemerged as a global public health emergency according to the World Health Organization. Why has it now spread from its final strongholds in Nigeria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan to at least 10 countries spanning Asia, Africa and the Middle East? It is not because of changes in the virus or ineffective vaccines. The answer is war, and as we all know, "truth is the first casualty of war."

The Taliban claims that immunizations can cause infertility or worse, and violently obstructs the polio vaccinators while vilifying them as part of a U.S. plot.

Indeed, in years past, the U.S. CIA did a great disservice when it disguised its officers as polio vaccine workers in efforts to capture Bin Laden, giving fuel to the Taliban's false claims and violence.

Efforts to reclaim the momentum in eradicating polio will require a renewed global effort, and ultimately the elimination of war itself. In our ever shrinking world, it is only a matter of time before we see this scenario play out with a resurgence of polio in the U.S. and West as more and more young families avoid vaccinating their children against polio thinking it is a disease of generations past and in some cases a disease they have never heard of.

Both war and polio should be eliminated and we can do both. It will take unprecedented collaboration amongst humans across national and cultural lines, and will involve many organizations and associations.

There may be no organization in the world better suited to take on some aspects of the challenge than Rotary International, with its longstanding mission of peace and peace building, and a dedicated membership of 1.2 million Rotarians joined together in service work though Rotary clubs in 220 countries of the world including China and Russia

In our nuclear-armed, polio-infected world, President Kennedy's statement that "mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind" remains true today.

We must not be naïve in this effort. Self-defense and international peacekeeping will always be needed, but violence is quickly becoming maladaptive. Peacekeeping and preventing war is much harder than fighting war but the outcomes benefit everyone.

There will always be conflict – it is the tools of resolving conflict without war that must become the cultural norms. These are tools that already exist and that have been used to resolve every conflict that has ever been fought. These include:

1. Diplomacy, 2. Cooperation and collaboration on international programs like polio eradication, 3. Appropriate foreign aid emphasizing the meeting of essential human needs of food, water, shelter, education, health care and a healthy environment and, finally 4. Adherence to international law, not unilateral action.

We must abandon unexamined assumptions, e.g., that war will always exist, that we can continue to wage war and survive, and that we are separate and not connected.

When we awaken to the reality of interconnectedness we see that polio cannot be eradicated without ending war.

As a ground-up organization, Rotary International has had a university-level peace fellows program for more than 10 years pursuing understanding and international peace building.

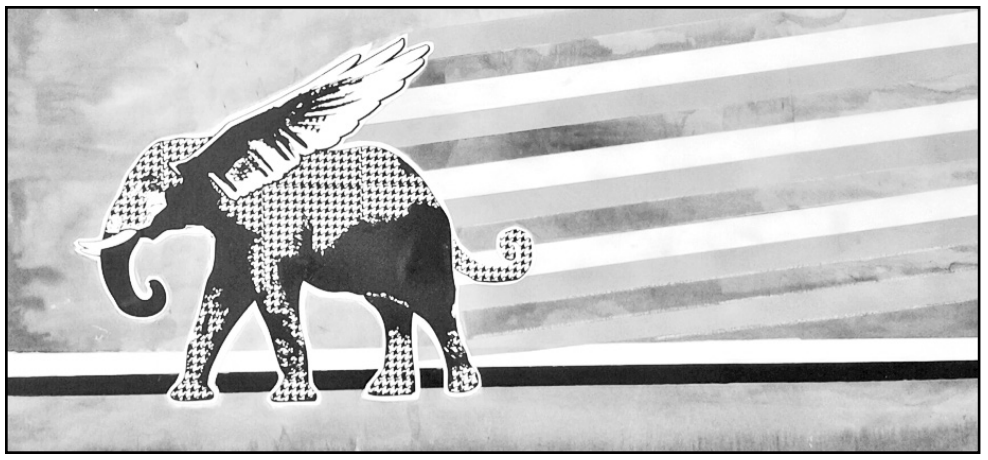
Individual Rotarians joined together to form a growing and active Rotarian Action Group for Peace in 2012.

Eliminating nuclear weapons is an important step in this process.

The Rotary Action Group for Peace has collaborated with the Nobel Peace Prize group Physicians for Social Responsibility and their international affiliate International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War to educate on the humanitarian consequences of even a very limited nuclear war.

This has resulted in developing an international physician Rotary speaker's bureau of 79 physicians in 21 countries speaking and engaging Rotary clubs the world over.

This type of remarkable collaboration may be just the prescription for our very survival.



CONTRIBUTED

» Adrian Scott, program director for WSCC's visual communications program, noticed that he had an affinity for drawing in kindergarten.

LOCAL ARTIST AND TEACHER SHARES HIS PASSION FOR CREATING WORKS OF ART

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - We have many talented local artists of most every form here in Cullman. One artist, Adrian Scott, not only shares his artwork, but he has devoted his life to teaching others as well.

Scott, 44, now a respected professional, remembers when he discovered that he had a knack for drawing as a child.

"I remember having a knack for drawing way back even in kindergarten," Scott said.

"I can recall my kindergarten teachers noticing and remarking on my scribbles. Later in elementary and middle school, my various art efforts continued to get attention so I guess I just stuck with it."

Scott has been teaching at Wallace State Community College for several years now, starting in 1994 after receiving his bachelor's degree in art education.

While working towards his master's degree, Scott worked full-time as a graphic designer in Hanceville and Cullman from 2002 to 2004. He returned to Wallace around 2005 and has been teaching others about his passion ever since.

"Well I count myself fortunate every day that I'm able to earn a living with art, but as the program director for WSCC's visual communications program, I really greatly enjoy and take pride in the facilitation and upkeep of our graphics lab," he said.

Adrian spoke about his current artwork and what has inspired some of his latest works personally.

"I think of myself as a multimedia artist as I use a variety of digital and traditional art making processes," Scott said. "I enjoy shredding and incorporating everyday food and product packaging as assemblage and sculptural materials."

He went on to say that the iconic imagery and history of Alabama and our culture has influenced much of his work as well.

"I find that my artwork today largely is a mythologization and thematic exploration of the rich and potent visual iconography and history of our home state Alabama, but I also have long been influenced by comics, anime, science, consumerism, and questions of sustainability."

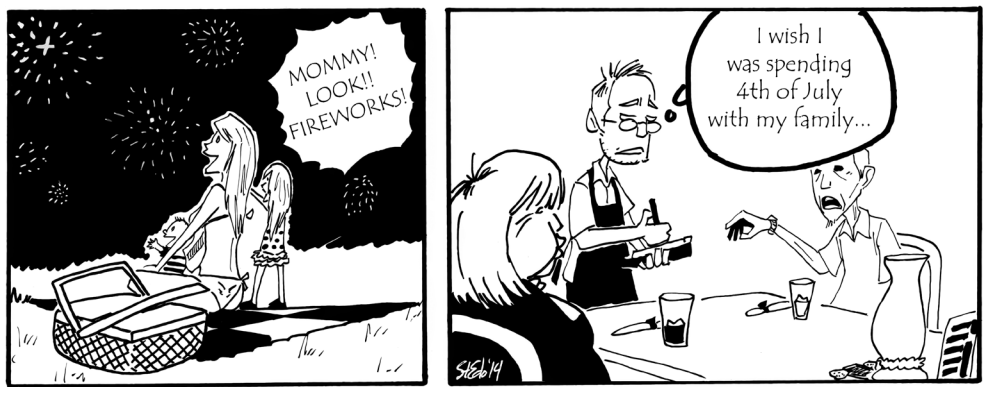
As an artist, program director and teacher, Scott is always proud to help any event that promotes art education. That is why he is very excited about the 5th annual Mud Creek Arts and Crafts Festival in Hanceville, Ala.

"I'm looking forward to this October's Mud Creek Arts and Crafts Festival," Scott said. "I've assisted with the festival's community art exhibition since its beginning and love the fact that the event proceeds benefit school art programs."

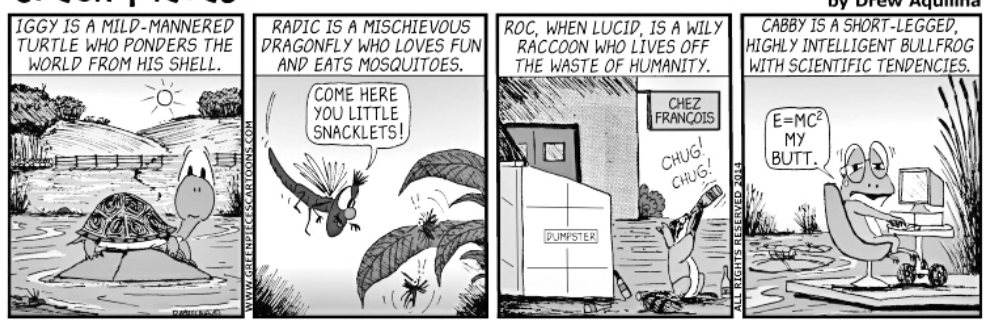
Scott is an extraordinary example of someone who gives back to the community he loves. His continued efforts with the Mud Creek Festival help to ensure that children still have art in their education.

Comics

WHITE & BLACK • **"To Workers of 4th of July"** • st.edo@cullmansense.com



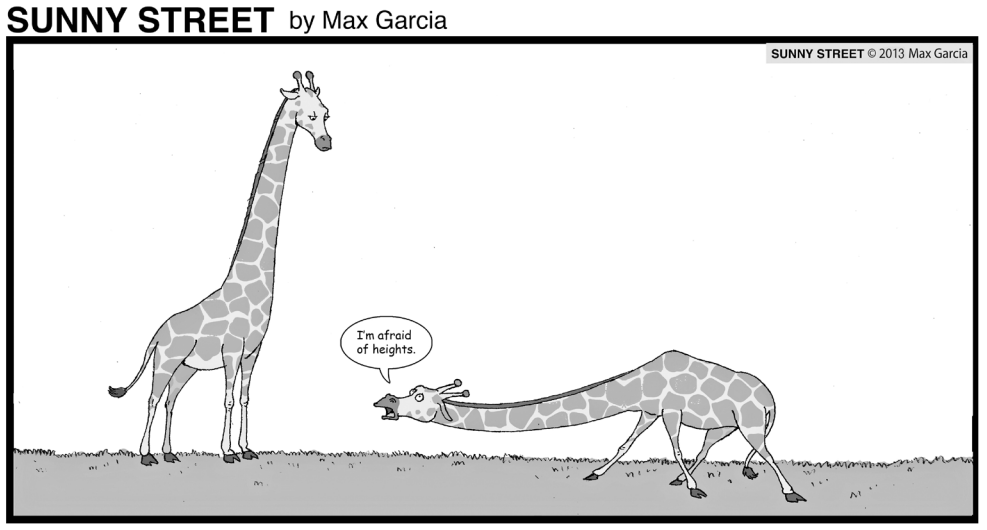
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Dirty (from Front)

Stony Lonesome OHV Park, the way to relax is to get down and dirty.

Stony Lonesome OHV hosted its 2nd Annual "Dirt Therapy Day". A day entirely devoted to getting absolutely filthy. Adults and kids alike were invited to come roll in the mud and have some fun. The park's manager, Mary Paden, was thrilled to be having this day again for everyone to enjoy.

"Dirt Therapy is just a really fun day in the park," Paden said.

"We do a lot of mudding, and if it's hot and dusty like today, then we make mud. It's just a time for everyone to play in the mud and have fun."

The event was started when Paden and her co-workers noticed a trend with their customers.

"Well we noticed that when people would come out for regular riding days and it had rained, if there was one mud puddle, everybody would go through it," Paden said with a laugh. "Because they just love the mud."

The day was not just for riders, however, there were many games for those on foot as well.

Foot races through the mud, tug-of-war, and the ever-popular mudslide were all popular events.

The monthly "Night Ride" also took place this day to give riders a chance to keep the fun going until 11 p.m.

"We also have what we call a Night Ride," said Paden. "Where riders can come ride until 11 and we just decided to combine that with our dirt therapy day, and since we don't have a pool or lake for the July 4th weekend, we decided to have mud."

Prizes were given away for the events throughout the day.

A special prize was given to one of the event's most talked about competitions, the "Womanless Beauty Pageant."

In this event, men get in touch with their feminine side and learn to walk, at least a few feet, in a woman's shoes.

Last year, the event drew in approximately 527 people.

This year seemed to follow that trend with crowds of people pouring in for admission.

The environment was one of laughter and good ole-fashioned, raucous fun. If you missed this year's event, like Stony Lonesome OHV Park on Facebook to learn of future events.



CONTRIBUTED

» The idea of Dirt Therapy Day was created when Stony Lonesome OHV Park manager, Mary Paden, and co-workers observed people's tendency to gravitate towards mud puddles after rain.

Cyclists (from Front)

their families. However, this idea didn't materialize into something achievable until last summer in 2013.

Draper had to find a group of people physically capable and experienced enough to make the journey, and people who could take off work to bicycle across America: pretty specific criteria.

She contacted Hope for the Warriors and got the ball rolling.

Unfortunately, getting sponsors and funding for their journey was difficult, "I just stopped calling eventually," Draper said, "I was just tired of being told no." But despite the financial difficulties, she and her team were able to overcome and began preparing themselves for a monumental overtaking.

Draper was inspired to do this and she says it's the possibility that they're inspiring people around America that fuels her each morning, "Hope is just a four letter word that I believe in," she said as she smiled.

The eight cyclists left the sandy beaches of Malibu and headed on towards the east. They travel at an average of 100 miles-per-day, with their longest day being 160 miles, and their lowest day being 58 miles, "but that was through the Rocky Mountains," Tracy assured.

These incredible people believe, "The challenges that our warriors face are more than we can understand," the team's website states.

"Our team's desire is to give them a hope for the future, fulfilled dreams, and restored lives."

The team biked through Cullman, Ala. on Thursday, July 3 and had lunch at Wendy's on Highway 157 before spending the night at a local Days Inn.

They then biked to Oxford, Ala. where they participated in a Fourth of July parade.

Tracy said that for the most part, the team goes through towns rather quietly and no one really notices.

But, she mentioned that in Kansas, they had police escorts and hundreds of people came out and lined the streets for them.

The cyclists have biked through some of America's most incredible areas on their trip.

They've ridden by the Grand Canyon, Mesa Verde, and even the U.S. Air Force Academy.

The team sleeps wherever they can and try not to go to hotels, but will if that is the last option.

They've stayed in churches, community centers, with the Navajo Indians, in YMCAs, individual homes of people with whom they've made connections, and even a museum.

Draper mentioned that nothing catastrophic had happened along the way and that everything was going according to plan. She even added that they'd had only a single day of rain the entire way.

While the team is long gone from Cullman, you can keep track of them by GPS through their website, www.RideAcrossUSA.com, and find out more info about each individual cyclist.

Also, if you would like to donate or just learn more about the Hope for the Warriors foundation, all that and more is available at www.HopeForTheWarriors.org.



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