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CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

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SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

» Cullman hosts a variety of flea markets that offer jams, jellies, antiques, used and new items, and objects that can't be found anywhere else.

A NEW ERA

FRESH FACES COMING TO WEST POINT: TOWN CLERK VIVIAN WOODS TO RETIRE AT THE END OF AUGUST

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

WEST POINT - There are some big changes coming to West Point as far as the position of town clerk goes. Effective August 31, 2014, Ms. Vivian Woods will be retiring, leaving a position she's held for nearly 20 years. Serving West Point diligently, faithfully, and honorably, Ms. Woods has been a council member, assistant town clerk, and town clerk, and the folks of West Point will all agree, their town is a much better place because of her service.

"I have enjoyed my time working with the people of West Point," said a bittersweet Woods. "I served on the town council for about 10 years before the job for town clerk even became available," she smiled.

"I will certainly miss all the people I have had the opportunity to work with. I would like to thank all of the people who made my job easier by just being a part of my life, especially Mayor Kenneth Kilgo, Wesley Laney, and Joann Jones to name a few."

It is good news to report that Ms. Woods leaves her respected position in good hands. The town council voted unanimously to hire Mrs. Joann McElroy Jones to be the new town clerk. Mrs. Jones will step up to her new

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SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

» Ms. Vivian Woods served as town clerk for 20 years.

Annual Event Honors Fallen Warriors of Cullman and Morgan Counties; sponsored by the Finis J. Self Chapter 2212 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart

Clifford Gissell
Contributor

HARTSELLE - Each August Chapter 2212, the Finis J. Self Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, sponsors a memorial service to honor the fallen warriors of Cullman and Morgan Counties. Those being honored either were killed in action or received a Purple Heart after being wounded and then passed on later in life. This years' service will be conducted at the Purple Heart Monument in Sparkman Park in Hartselle on Saturday, August 9th, at 10:00 A.M.

During the ceremony each name of the fallen warrior that is inscribed on the monument is read aloud accompanied by the sounding of a bell. A small Purple Heart flag is presented to the next of kin or a friend if they are present to represent

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CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT APPROVED FOR NEW CANINE OFFICER

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The Cullman City Police Department has recently been given the green light to seek out and purchase a new canine unit to join their force. After the retirement of one dog, the police department decided to request approval

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VSOC TO HOLD ANNUAL TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY AT CULLMAN CIVIC CENTER

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Appreciation and great deals for teachers will be coming to the Cullman Civic Center, and they are still accepting vendors. On Friday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Victim Services of Cullman will be holding their 4th Annual Teacher Appreciation Day for all teachers in the area to enjoy.

"We do it the same day as the city and county in service and it's a vendor event. It's a great time because we do door prizes and we feed them lunch. I am the prevention educator here, so my job is to go into the schools and teach about bullying and dating safe-

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Shops (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - It seems like every time we turn the television on, there are shows about "picking" or finding old forgotten treasures left behind in neglected storage buildings. Antiques are all the rage these days, but you don't have to snoop through your neighbor's shed or pester the owner of the storage company down the road. Believe it or not, wonderful things are just around the corner at your local flea market.

A flea market is a place that rents space to people who want to sell their merchandise. Some items you may find in a flea market may be brand new or gently used; other items may be handmade crafts or homemade foods, such as jams or jellies. But in my opinion, the best things you can find while doodling around at the flea market are antiques!

You just never know what you'll find when you step into a flea market - and the good news is – we've got lots of them here in Cullman! Three that come to mind are Hamby Mills, Highway Pickers Antique Mall & Market, and Jennia's Hen House. I know for a fact they promise great finds at reasonable prices.

Located in Bremen, Hamby Mills is made up of two converted chicken houses. This allows nearly 80 vendors lots of room to display their goodies, so make sure you allow plenty of time to look around. By goodies, I mean they have anything from records, toys, furniture (newer and antique), antiques and collectibles, and newer items. In other words, they've got just about anything you can imagine!

Highway Pickers Antique Mall & Market, located on Highway 278 West, is a large building chocked full of interesting objects.

They have 120 booths, and each is filled with the most amazing merchandise around. Their mission is "To provide customers with items they wouldn't find in other places... To Create A Picker's Paradise!" Well, I'm here to tell you, these guys really live up to that motto!

Last but certainly not least, Cullman's newest jewel in the flea market/antique world is a lot smaller than the first two places mentioned, but it deserves a nice big pat on the back for its originality and customer service.

Jennia's Hen House is located directly across from the Jet-Pep in Johnson's Crossing. The building is ancient old and had been used as a garage for ages, which is what gives the old Hen House the perfect atmosphere for all its one of a kind finds!

"I bought the place about two months ago," said Jennia McAnnally, owner. "We completely redid the whole inside so that we can have 30 vendors," she said proudly. "Our vendors offer a little bit of everything. For example, this vendor here," she pointed to a booth with nothing but wrought iron cookware. "They literally season every one of these pieces the old fashioned way by building a fire to season with. They do such a good job, too!"

When asked what made McAnnally decide to buy the old building and take on so many new vendors, she paused for just a moment, then looked up and explained. Her story blew me away.

"This is a work in progress," she continued. "I used to own Elaine's Flower Shop and 10 years ago, I lost my whole family within seven months. I just didn't want to fool with the flowers anymore, so I got a regular job. It's taken this long to decide to open my own business again. I still work full time on second shift, but I thought I would give this a try," she said as she stiffened her back and looked me in the eye proudly.

If you are looking for something different, I highly suggest you stop by and visit Jennia at her Hen House.

She is open from Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and they are open the first Sunday of every month. Follow Jennia's Hen House on Facebook and if you are looking for something specific, give her a call at 256-595-0049.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

» Some of the most interesting antiques can be found inside local flea markets.

CRMC Not Cut from the BlueCross and BlueShield of Alabama Hospital Network

Lindsey Dossey
CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN - Cullman Regional Medical Center (CRMC) Interim CEO Cheryl Bailey, RN, BSN, MBA wants local citizens to rest easy knowing that their care is still covered by BlueCross and BlueShield of Alabama at Cullman Regional Medical Center.

Many local businesses were concerned about coverage for their employees after receiving a letter regarding BlueCross and BlueShield of Alabama's discontinuation of coverage for Regional Medical Center in Anniston, Ala., also known as RMC.

"It appears that the name of the hospital caused some confusion for local businesses," Bailey stated. "However, we want to ease those concerns as CRMC is still very much a part of the BlueCross and BlueShield of Alabama Hospital Network."

CRMC is recognized as a Tier 1 provider in the network, and has been awarded the BlueCross and BlueShield Blue Distinction Award in Knee and Hip Replacement annually since 2010.

"CRMC is, and will continue to be, a part of the BlueCross and BlueShield of Alabama Hospital Network." Bailey said. "In fact, BCBS of Alabama consists of 25 percent of the hospital inpatient and outpatient business."

According to BCBS of Alabama CRMC profile report, in 2013 CRMC completed 1,016 inpatient cases and 20,922 outpatient cases for individuals with BlueCross coverage.

Cullman Regional Medical Center is a fully accredited 145-bed medical center that covers a five-county service area of 175,000 residents and has been a part of the community since 1939. CRMC is dedicated to promoting wellness by providing excellent healthcare services in the most efficient manner and exceeding the expectations of those we serve. For more information on the services provided by CRMC, visit www.crmchospital.com.

Cullman Emergency Services Raises Funds by $4 Selling Canvas Shopping Bags

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – A lot of things were taken from us when the tornadoes of April 27, 2011 wreaked havoc on our town. Homes and businesses were reduced to rubble and lives across the state were lost. A big loss to Cullman was the Cullman Emergency Medical Service building and all of the contents therein.

It has been a long and arduous road for the ambulance service. Between temporary homes for the service and equipment lost, it has been a long journey to get to this point. A new building that has been renovated in Cullman will be the new permanent home for our ambulance service, but there are things needed for that new home.

"The CRMC Foundation Board established the CEMS Ambulance Services fund in order to accept donations used to providing furnishings for the renovated CEMS Ambulance Services site, as well as to purchase equipment for ambulances to enhance patient care," CRMC Foundation Executive Director Maria Stanford said.

A new fundraiser is being held indefinitely and is offering a simple, yet effective way to support these life saving men and women and their facilities.

The CRMC Foundation will be selling canvas shopping bags for $4 a piece.

According to Susan Copeland, CRMC vice president of Ambulatory Services, the money will be used to purchase items for the Ambulance Service that may not be included in the hospital's capital budget.

The fund anticipates purchasing some office furniture items, stretchers, stair chairs, and smaller equipment.

"The bags are sturdy, light weight and great for shopping bags.

They were chosen simply because they are an inexpensive way for people to support CEMS Ambulance Services in this endeavor.

CRMC employees also have the option to donate accrued vacation or sick time every quarter if they wish to support CEMS Ambulance Services in a larger way," Copeland said.

The fundraiser will run indefinitely for now, according to Stanford.

"The CRMC Foundation CEMS Ambulances Services Fund is an ongoing fund that will continually support the needs of CEMS Ambulance Services. We plan to sell all of the bags ordered for this fundraiser and are happy to accept any and all donations to support this fund," she said.

It is the hope of Jerry Sellers, director of the Cullman Emergency Services Department, to raise as much as needed to cover all excess costs.

"We hope to raise enough to purchase the many items we need that go beyond the hospital's capital budget," Sellers said.

"Of course, that amount varies based on the cost of various items at the time of purchase."

All proceeds from the fundraiser will help to not only create a better work environment for our paramedics, it will also improve the care given to the citizens of Cullman.

"This is a great way for the community to show support for the CEMS team," Stanford said.

"To acknowledge the hard work they do for our community each and every day, but especially during medical emergencies."

For more information, please contact the CRMC Foundation at 256-737-2565, or visit them on the main floor of POB I, next to Subway.

Memorial (from Front)

these military heroes.

The names are read by prominent elected officials representing Cullman and Morgan Counties.

In addition to the Purple Heart monument and its list of fallen warriors and Purple Heart recipients, there is a Veteran's Walk which is open to all veterans.

Engraved bricks honor or memorialize the veterans of our country's armed forces.

The guest speaker for this year's ceremony will be Retired Army Colonel Mike Bowers. Decatur Mayor Don Kyle, Hartselle Mayor Don Hall, and State Representatives Ed Henry and Terri Collins, will read the names.

JROTC cadets from the Brewer/Priceville program will post the colors. Past American Legion Chaplain and Purple Heart chapter member Vaughn Harwell will give the opening prayer.

Former POW George Mills will conduct the POW/MIA ceremony. SFC Donna Johnson and ENell Baker of Cullman will sing patriotic songs.

The Patriot Guard Riders, along with the Buffalo Soldiers and American Legion Motorcycle Clubs, flags flying, will make their grand arrival and be present during the ceremony.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is unique among military fraternal groups.

All of its members have spilt blood or were otherwise injured in combat with an enemy of the United States.

This memorial service honors those warriors, past and present.

The service is open to the public and everyone is urged, especially if family veterans are among the listed, to be present on Saturday morning for this inspiring gathering.

For more information about the service, having a Purple Heart recipient's name inscribed on the monument, or purchasing a brick for a veteran, contact the commander, Clifford Gissell, at 256-734-9637 or cib.cmb@att.net.

NAMES FOR 2014 PURPLE HEART MEMORIAL SERVICE

Absher, Lyle – WW2
Absher, Paul – WW2
Aldridge, David S. – Vietnam
Alford, George – WW2
Alford, Ottis F. – Korea
Ashton, Alfred J. Jr – Vietnam
Barnett, Kermit C. – WW2
Bates, Lloyd C. – WW2
Bean, David A. – WW2
Beard, Billy Joe – Vietnam
Bell, Dexter – Vietnam
Bennett, Baskem – WW2
Bennett, Royce – WW2
Blair, Robert J. – WW2
Blankenship, Chester W. – WW2
Blankenship, Theron A. – WW2
Bowman, Ray – WW2, Korea
Bowman, Ulyes – WW2, Korea, Vietnam
Bradford, Cornis – WW2
Brindley, Warren – WW2
Brown, Charles W. – WW2
Burks, Howard M. – WW2
Burnett, John S. – WW2
Burrow, Ernest D. – WW2
Bynum, Howard E. – WW2
Calvert Athel – WW2
Calvert, Marion D. – Vietnam
Cammon, William E. – WW2
Caretti, James – WW2
Chambers, Joseph L. – WW2
Chenault, R. M. – WW2
Cheuvront, William A. – WW2
Christopher, Ashford H. – WW2
Clement, Ausie – Vietnam
Cobb, Grover A – WW2 – POW
Cox, M.L. – Korea
Curnel, Zelma – WW2
Davis, Earl – WW2
Dingler, Warner F. – WW2
Drain, Bluit A. – WW2
Elrod, Jimmy C. – Vietnam
Eubanks, Thurman G. – Korea
Everly, Raymond – WW2, Korea, Vietnam
Foshee, Willie W. – WW2
Frazier, Jantzen M. – Afghanistan
Freeman, Chester W. – WW2
Galin, Marvin H. – WW2
Glasscock, Charles G. – WW2
Glasscock, William E. – WW2
Glenn, Troy R. – Iraq
Glover, Charles G. – WW2
Greene, John D. – Vietnam
Greenhill, O'neal – WW2
Greeson, Zeb Vance – Vietnam
Grigsby, Erskine L. – Vietnam
Hall, Jeffrey A. – Afghanistan
Harbison, Shelba – WW2
Hardwick, Macon – WW2
Harris, Gary – Vietnam
Hawkins, James F. – WW2
Haynes, Uyless V. – WW2
Hendon, William. A – Korea/Vietnam
Herring, Ted R. – WW2
Higdon, James E. – WW2
Hoffman, James – WW2
Holcomb, Russell A. – WW2
Holmes, Luther F. – WW2
Hooper, Joe R. – Medal Of Honor – Vietnam
Hopkins, Robert P. – WW2
Horton, Lonie – WW2 – POW
Howington, Hartwell R. – WW2
Hughes, James – WW2
Hurt, Bruce M. – Korea
Hyche, Richard J. Sr. – WW2
Johnson, James D. – WW2
Johnson, James P. – WW2
Jones, John P. – WW2
Jones, Marion A. – WW2
Kilgo, Ottis – WW2
Kirby, Edward M. – WW2
Lackey, Wayne S – Korea, Vietnam
Laney, Billy R. – Vietnam
Lessman, William F. – WW2
Loney, Jon-Erik – Iraq
Lovelady, Ronald D. – Vietnam
Maddox, Erskine L. – WW2
Mann, George E. – WW2
Mayhall, Albert O. – Vietnam
Mc Annally, Joseph A. – WW2
Mc Annally, Sammie G. – WW2
Mc Call, George D. – WW2
Mc Minn, Lonnie H. – WW2
Mc Neal, Darril R., – WW2
Melton, Carl E. – WW2
Miller, Melvin W. – WW2
Miner, Norval – Korea
Molitor, John A. – Korea – POW
Nelson, Travis - Iraq
Nesmith, Arthur L. – WW2
Nicholson, Clarence D. - WW2
Norwood, Freeman L. – WW2 – POW
Nothdurft, Fred – WW2
Nunn, Henry G. – WW1
Overturf, Vernon R. - Vietnam
Perry, Jim D. – Vietnam
Pinyan, Verbon - WW2
Player, James D. – WW2
Prater, James – Vietnam
Puckett, Frank Jr. – WW2
Puckett, Rube E. - WW2
Queen, J. C. - Ww2 – POW
Quick, Vonnie O. – WW2
Racster, John R. - WW2
Ragsdale, Carlton – WW2
Rath, Joshua – Afghanistan
Reeves, Millard C. – WW2
Riddle, Jimmy L. – Vietnam
Roberts, Arville L. - WW2
Rollins, Robert Q. – WW2
Rose, Alvin – Vietnam
Sachs, Alfred L. – WW2
Samples, Cecil – WW2
Sandlin, Reubin - WW2
Self, Finis J. - WW2
Sewell, Johnny B. – Vietnam
Shoemaker, H. W. - WW2
Simpson, Charles A. – WW2
Singleton, Harold – WW2
Sivley, Gene – WW2
Skalberg, James L. Jr - Afghanistan
Slateen, Donald – Korea
Smith, Jonathan L. – Iraq
Speake, Fred M. Jr. – WW2
Stephenson, Kerry L. – Vietnam
Stinnett, Coy - WW2
Talley, Deesie H. – WW2
Turner, Horace Ray - WW2 – Pow
Turner, Marion F. – WW2
Vandercar, Harry R. – WW2
Vernon, Leonard L. – WW2
Ward, Truman C. – Vietnam
Ward, Vernon– WW2
Waterman, Mel F. - WW2
Weeks, Herschel – WW2
West, Charles H. – WW2
White, Elton D. – Korea
Williams, Millard A. - WW2
Woodard, Percy R. - WW2

Clerk (from Front)

position effective September 1, 2014.

Ms. Jones has been the assistant clerk, working side-by-side Woods, for about two years.

She brings a wealth of experience to the job and she will be a valued asset for the town.

"This is a win/win for West Point," explained West Point Mayor Kenneth Kilgo. "We are happy for Vivian and excited for Joann."

The town clerk position is just one of the changes happening in West Point. Before long, everyone will know what's going on around there.

"We intend to use our Facebook page, Town of West Point Alabama, and other social media to help keep citizens of West Point better informed," Kilgo continued. "By October 2014, I intend to post the minutes from our council meetings once they are approved. We will also post the town council agenda prior to our monthly meetings. All our meetings are open meetings. Council meetings are open to the public. We meet every third Monday night of the month at 6 p.m. at the town hall. Everyone is invited to attend."

If you or someone you know would like to attend a West Point council meeting, or would like to congratulate Ms. Woods and Mrs. Jones, please feel free to stop by West Point Town Hall.

They are located at 3990 County Road 1141 in Vinemont. You can also reach them by phone, call 256- 734-0006.

Canine (from Front)

to purchase and train a new canine.

Last Monday, the mayor and city council reviewed and approved the request.

"We have selected the vendor that we are going to use," Assistant Chief Craig Green said.

"Her name is Pam Rogers and she is out of Huntsville. We are purchasing the dog from her, and she will also be the trainer who will certify the dog and handler."

Pam Rogers is an expert in training law enforcement canines and their handlers.

It is with her expertise and knowledge that a dog will be selected based on the department's needs and the temperament of the dog.

"The type of dog will most likely be a Belgian Malinois," Green said.

"The training will be based on the dog's personality and what the dog is capable of. We would really like for the dog to be able to do patrol work, which is building searches and tracking for lost people. Our number one priority, however, is for it to be a narcotics dog."

According to Assistant Chief Green, both handler and dog will go through a rigorous eight week training course with Pam Rogers.

This drives the cost of the canine up, but it is to ensure the safety of the canine, handler and public.

"We usually try to keep two dogs going at all times," said Green.

"But one was injured and the other is retiring due to shoulder problems, so we will just have one for now once we make that purchase. A lot of that is due to money, and the mayor and city council were very kind to us, but just the start up cost is around $20,000."

Twenty-thousand dollars may seem steep, but it pays for the dog, equipment, and the extensive training that is required.

"Once the dog is certified, the handler is going to have to do daily work with it, to keep the dog as sharp as possible," Green stated.

"Our budget hearings will start soon, and the next year's budget will start in October. So to have two dogs, we will purchase one out of this year's budget, and then we will purchase one on the next year's. This will help spread the expense out."

It takes approximately eight weeks of training before the dog and handler are both certified and ready to work together actively.

Surprisingly, the length of training time depends more on the handler than the dog.

"Jeff Lawson will be the handler," he said.

"He has worked with us for two years now and has some experience with this out of the military, but this will be his first time working in civilian police work. And part of the $20,000 is we're paying Pam Rogers to not only select the dog, but she is also responsible for his training."

Assistant Chief Green stressed that the money spent on training is invaluable, and while it is not practiced everywhere, it's something that keeps everyone safe.

"Actually you can find companies out there that just say 'I want a dog that finds narcotics'," Green stated.

"And they will ship it to you and then give you a video to watch. That is why the route we chose is a little more expensive. Pam works the dog and the handler together so that he understands the dog and the dog understands him. We told Pam that we don't care about the timeline; we just want the dog and handler to be good. We just want to do what is the safest."

While the timeline for the new canine's arrival has yet to be determined, the citizens of Cullman can rest assured of the quality.

A new canine on the force will be an indispensible asset to our officers and community as a whole.

From search and rescue missions to narcotic searches, our tax dollars are going where they are needed – in making the Cullman area a safer place to live.

Appreciation (from Front)

ly," Tiffany Cantrell said.

As it turns out, this day started out as a way to get everyone together and grew into more.

"So this started out as an event where I could have all the teachers in one place to schedule my schools, and it has just grown. They love it and enjoy it, so we keep doing it every year," Cantrell said.

If you are interested in being a vendor at this event, please contact Tiffany Cantrell at 256-775-2600.

TAKE A SEAT OUTSIDE: CULLMAN'S BEST PATIOS

Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Enjoying a meal outside on a patio is the South's favorite pastime and Cullman is full of them. If you can't decide where to eat this week, head to a restaurant with a nice patio so you can take advantage of this warm weather. Here is a list of the top five patios in Cullman.

5. Berkeley Bob's Coffee House: This humble patio can only seat you and your very closest friends, but at least you'll be enjoying each other outside. Enjoying your coffee on Berkeley Bob's patio is the perfect way to say hello to passersby. With just enough space and a delicious cup of coffee, Berkeley Bob's comes in at number five.

4. Rumors Deli: Nestled at the end of the Warehouse District, Rumors' patio is Cullman's most overlooked patio. Happy hour drinks aren't served here, but enjoying a famous Rumors Deli sandwich outside is hard to beat. It's right next to the train tracks, so be prepared for some noise. Although, if you have small children, they might enjoy it. Rumors earns points because its patio is pooch friendly! Bring your pet and help your furry friend to some water with Rumors' water hose and dog bowl. The patio is also next to Cullman's farmer's market, so you can shop after you eat. This pooch friendly, farmer's market deli patio finds itself in fourth place.

3. Moe's Original BBQ: Moe's patio is unique because not only can you drink outside, you can place orders outside. Moe's patio is spacious and enclosed, heated in the winter and cooled in the summer.



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» Brothers Kitchen & Pourhouse wins best patio in Cullman because of its spacious size and inviting atmosphere, prime for socializing.

This year round patio doesn't have much of a view, but you can fit 10 friends at one table, and once you get there, you never have to leave the patio. Its convenience and uniqueness (and not to mention its giant Jenga game) earns Moe's third place.

2. Carlton's Italian: Find real beauty outside of Carlton's Italian Restaurant. This patio isn't the most spacious, but its unbeatable beauty lands it in second place. Eating and drinking on this patio means enormous murals, quiet streets, delicate flowers, and, of course, delicious pizza. Cin cin!

1. Brothers Kitchen & Pourhouse: And the winner is... this Cajun eatery! Cullman's hottest new bar just added a hot new patio! If you haven't seen this party deck, go now. Located behind the restaurant, this new addition is a backyard style patio that's perfect for eating, drinking and hanging out. Not to mention, they do still have some patio space in the front. This new and exciting deck lands Brothers in first place. Way to go, Brothers – you're doing it right!

But don't trust me... go try each one of these restaurants and enjoy your meal on their gorgeous patios! This warm weather is amazing, but fall is coming soon, so enjoy these unique outdoor spaces while you can.

CELEBRATE CULLMAN DOWNTOWN FESTIVAL BRINGS IN THE LOCALS

Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The 4th Annual Celebrate Cullman Downtown Festival was a huge success. Swarms of people headed downtown last Friday night to celebrate the recovery of Cullman after the tornadoes of 2011.

Cullman Downtown Merchants Association President Lee Powell stated that after the tornadoes, downtown businesses had trouble getting people to come downtown. Now, the downtown festival promotes local businesses while providing entertainment for the Cullman area.

And it provided entertainment for the entire town.

Tons of Cullmanites were at this event lining the streets of the downtown area. Music, smiles, laughs, and fellowship laced the streets.

The event catered to every age group. For children, there was a cow train, a rock climbing wall, face paintings, games, a mechanical bull, carnival rides, and enormous inflatables.

There were also vendors, sales at local businesses, drinks, and of course, live music featuring Blue Grass Band, Smoke and Mirrors, the Klams, Matt Taylor Band, Thad Company, Coal Rain, Vince Lambert and Friends, Bad Brad Band, Jolly Rodgers, Gary Sanders, and Roy Crawford.

As the sun set, the late night scene at the Downtown Fest came into full swing.

Attendees were scattered about the streets dancing and laughing and, of course, celebrating Cullman.

Moe's BBQ bartender Dallon Sellers was impressed with the turnout of the event.

"It was a whole lot of fun," he said.

"I was really surprised at how many people came out. We thought we had too much beer before the event but we actually could have had even more. Cullman needs to have more festivals like this rather than just this one once per year."

Cullman's personality is developed through participation in events like this. Celebrate Cullman was a huge success and a testament to our town's future.

With a few more events like this, we can officially start calling Cullman the Festival City!

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C. A. STIEFELMEYER COMPANY: "MR. CHARLIE'S" LEGACY

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - For most of us Cullman folk, the old Stiefelmeyer building is used as a point of reference when giving directions or maybe something interesting to look at while strolling through the middle of town. But what people don't know, is that the old place has a mighty fine history behind it.

The man behind the old building was Mr. Charles Stiefelmeyer or "Mr. Charlie" as he was lovingly called throughout the community. In 1882, Mr. Charlie was only 17 years old when he and his four sisters came to Cullman with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. John U. Stiefelmeyer.

Like a lot of young adults, Charlie wasn't particularly interested in following his father's footsteps in the medical field; he wanted to do his own thing in life.

So he set out to do just that, and before long he found employment working as a clerk for G. A. Prinz Department Store.

He later changed jobs and began working in Hanceville as a bookkeeper for the Kleibacher and Krumpe firm.

He proved to be a pretty smart fella and people genuinely liked him. Because of this, Charlie was eventually able to go into business for himself.

Charlie was very thrifty and had saved his money wisely, and by the summer of 1888, he purchased his own small store from Mr. R. E. Lee.

In December of that same year, he married Miss Maggie Dreher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Dreher Sr., and together the young couple struggled to make their new business a success.

They sold everything from groceries and clothing to mule collars and wood burning stoves from their small store.

Back in the late 1800s and early 1900s, people would travel for miles and miles just to buy their needed supplies.

Those long rides on wagons or surreys were tiresome, and many people spent the night in town during these trips. (Just think of how bad we hate running to the grocery store these days!) Well, Mr. Charlie understood the inconvenience and did something to help his customers out.

He built a camp house in the field adjoining his home! The camp house had an open fireplace at one end and rows of bunks along the walls.

The campers/customers loved it and spent many nights there playing their guitars and banjos while singing and dancing the night away.

Unfortunately, the fun, as well as the business, came to a screeching halt when a fire broke out in 1892, completely destroying Stiefelmeyer's store.

The blaze had originated in the Dreher Furniture Factory and spread like wildfire. All stores on the block had burned to the ground except for one.

Mr. Charlie temporarily moved his business into the nearby Prinz Store, which had been vacant at the time.

He immediately began rebuilding his store. The new store was to become a bigger and better version of the first.

Located at 202 1st Avenue SE, the new and improved Stiefelmeyer's became one of Cullman's leading businesses. Generations of families have shopped and enjoyed the conveniences of Mr. Charlie's wares.

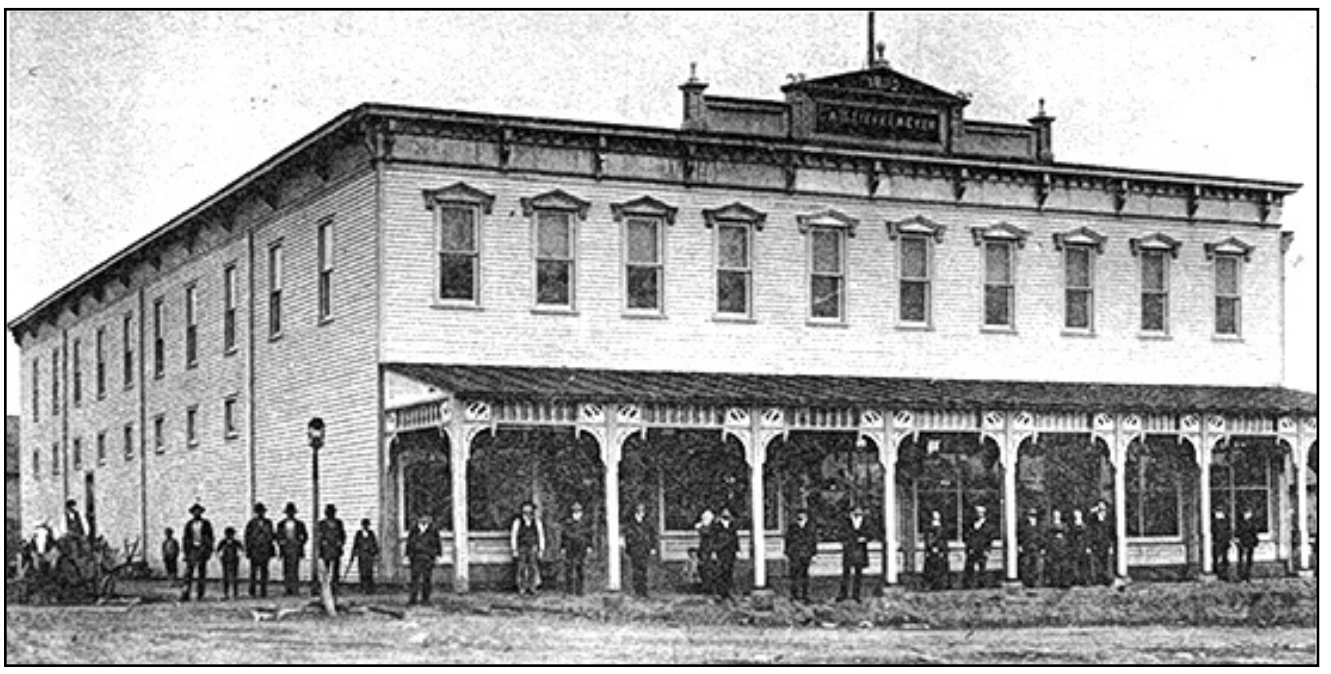
The Stiefelmeyer building is no longer a general store, yet it continues to stand tall, overlooking our fair city to this day.

The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 22, 1983.

If walls could talk, I'm sure those old walls would have lots to tell.

And if they ever began to talk, I wonder how many of us would sit down and listen to what they had to say? I'd like to know.

Please email me at sharon@cullmansense.com and let me know your thoughts and memories of your experiences at Stiefelmeyer's.



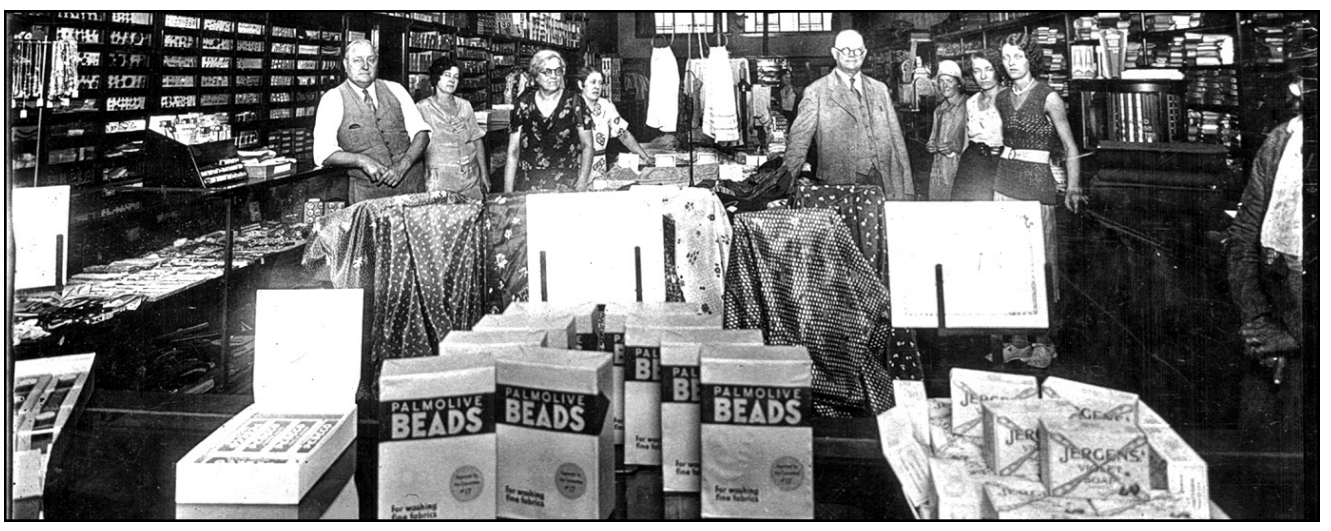
CONTRIBUTED

» The Original Stiefelmeyer Store building was established in 1888 and burned down in 1892.



CONTRIBUTED

» The Stiefelmeyer Building was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 22, 1983.



CONTRIBUTED

» Inside Stiefelmeyer's one could find the all general supplies that they needed.

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

A DAY IN CULLMAN, A TRAVELER'S GUIDE:
BROWSING THE GERMAN GEM'S BEST ATTRACTIONS

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Alright, so you've decided to spend your day in Cullman, Alabama. What is there to do? So very many things, of course! If staying near any of the exits, Cullman may seem like a pretty generic place. However, there are some distinct places in Cullman that are unique and delightful when given the opportunity to be. It's right about now that most people chime in with, "Go visit the Grotto! The Ave Maria Grotto is the best!" And while this renowned establishment is definitely a go-see, there are several other impressive options.

Starting off your day with breakfast at a Cullman original is only right. The Busy Bee Café, located at 101 5th Street SE, is Cullman's oldest and longest running restaurant. The biscuits, ham, bacon, gravy, and everything are as good as Momma's at Busy Bee. It's southern, it's indigenous to Cullman, and it's atrocious for your arteries (as all great Southern comfort food goes), but it's glorious for your taste buds!

Next up is the Cullman County Museum, located at 211 2nd Avenue NE, just around the corner from the Warehouse District. While the venue may not be action packed, it is a fascinating place to visit. A real history of Cullman is revealed.

There are multiple exhibits and the exterior of the museum itself is built as a facsimile of the home of Cullman's founder, Colonel Johann G. Cullmann.

Some rooms are filled with antique items and antebellum relics; some items that even date back to 600 A.D. It is fascinating to think of the people and creatures that lived in this area of Alabama 1,500 years ago.

Leaving the museum, it's not quite lunchtime yet, and you're not quite over your substantial Busy Bee breakfast, so hop in your car and drive out to see the Clarkson Covered Bridge located 15 miles west of Cullman in the community of Bethel.

Currently, the bridge is undergoing renovation so you cannot climb all over it or walk across it, but you can see the century old piece of Cullman history while your food digests.

Now that you've gotten your fill of history for the early day, head back into town and back into the Warehouse District for lunch.

One of the most unique and delicious venues in Cullman is Rumors Deli, located at 105 1st Avenue NE #100. From the varying assortment of tables and chairs, and the decks of Trivial Pursuit cards on the tables, to the defaced dollar bills hanging from the ceiling, your entire lunch experience at Rumors is certainly a pleasant, colorful one, and you haven't even gotten to the food yet.

The bread is full and toasty (depending on which sandwich you get), the meat is succulent, and the atmosphere is quirky and vivacious. Not to mention the he-said, she-said theme of the restaurant with sandwiches aptly named the "mouth of the south", "tattletale", and "hearsay". The restaurant is guaranteed to have enough conversation starters for an infinite number of discussions.

The rest of the Warehouse District is just as original to Cullman as Rumors Deli is, and strolling up and down the sidewalks on a pleasant day with good friends would be a fantastic way to finish off the lunch hour.

Just within walking distance is Berkeley Bob's Coffee House at 304 1st Avenue SE. So, after window shopping, and maybe even making a few purchases in the lovely Monogram's Plus or other gift store varieties, saunter down to Berkeley Bob's for an afternoon cup of coffee or tea.

Berkeley Bob's has all the things that a good coffee house should; delicious drinks and a warm atmosphere that says, "Yes, it's totally fine if you sit down in one of the large brown leather chairs and fall asleep."

Now, if go-karts can be added to the itinerary, add go-karts to the itinerary.

Drive across town to Funzone, located at 1635 Main Avenue SW, race around their go-kart track, go to the batting cages and hit some baseballs, and even connect with your inner Bubba Watson at the mini-golf course affectionately dubbed The Links.

Air It Out is just down the sidewalk and is overwhelmingly fun. It is a giant building replete with air-filled blowup slides, the latest and greatest inflatables, and seemingly millions of kids.

If you're lucky, you'll get it on a slow day, in which case there will only be a few hundred children. Just kidding, but it is an incredibly popular place to take the little ones.

Depending on how much time spent at Funzone and the percentage of humidity on the specific day, you may want to go back to your room and freshen up for dinner.

There are a handful of splendid dinner options in Cullman, but All Steak is really the only choice for one's first visit to the city.

From the rustic, yet refined southern ambience, to the classic orange rolls, you'll want to make All Steak your dinner decision. It's located at 323 3rd Ave SE.

That's it, your first day in Cullman is all done, and while you've covered some major local favorites, there are still a few handfuls of things you haven't done or seen, so make sure you visit again soon.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.

Full time, BS degree required. Send resume to: vsoced@vsoccullman.org

Roasting for a Good Cause

Noah Chandler
noah@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Dr. Garlan Gudger was honored Thursday, July 31 at TP Country Club during the 3rd Annual Fundraising Roast sponsored by Victim Services of Cullman. The roast kept everyone laughing, as friends and family members told personal stories of Dr. Gudger.

Pictured are Dot and Dr. Garlan Gudger posing for a quick shot with Cullman City Mayor Max A. Townson.



NOAH CHANDLER/CULLMANSENSE

» Dr. Garlan Gudger played a good sport while he was roasted at Terry Pines Country Club.

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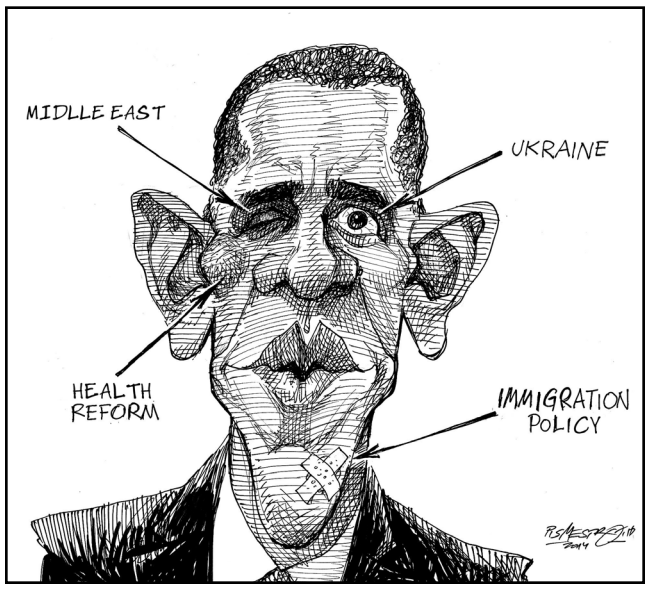




Editorial Cartoons



theinsolentlemon.blogspot.com





HOW ARE WE DOING?

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

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

CULLMANSENSE
Community Matters

Publisher Noah Chandler

Editor Dustin Isom

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

Back Issues issues@cullmansense.com

Sports Josh McBrayer, Johnny Thornton

Newsroom Editor Natalie Bonner

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

Entertainment Dillon Lee, Kate Mullaney

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

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Cartoonist Anthony Saint

OPINION

TODAY'S SURVIVORS MAY BE TOMORROW'S "ENEMIES"

Ibrahim Bahati
PeaceVoice

More than 10,000 people have died and 1.5 million are displaced in South Sudan's current violent conflict amidst the destructive rhetoric of rivals President Salva Kiir and former President Riek Machar. UNICEF reported that 9,000 children have been recruited or abducted as child soldiers by both sides. Alongside the report, 23-year-old Ring Placido describes his experience as a former member of the South Sudanese children's battalion, "Nyony," at the age of six: "'I was very frightened and upset to be taken from my mother ... But I could not show fear or sadness, because they would have beaten me. I had no choice but to become one of them.'"

At the same time, members of South Sudan's Red Army Foundation celebrated their second anniversary, on July 29th, 2014, of transitioning from an organization of violence and warfare to one of peace and welfare. Members of the Red Army Foundation include hundreds of former child soldiers in South Sudan who have dedicated themselves to reviving their homeland through social services, education and similar peacebuilding initiatives.

People are not born as psychopaths engineered to kill. In an environment of fear and survival, people – especially children – learn to believe that violence brings glory, killing brings peace and suffering brings justice. In the same way, people have the capacity to transform their beliefs and value positive, constructive and peaceful methods of conflict management.

If we want peace in South Sudan, Gaza, Syria, Iraq or any other nation, if we want to be effective peace activists, change-makers or conflict managers, it's imperative that we ground our understanding of violent conflict in structures of violence that produce favorable conditions for war. We have to understand that violence is produced, not some inevitable innate response, and if we don't restrain violence now by supporting peacebuilding initiatives and nonviolent conflict management methods, we'll only nurture more violence for the future.

The US, Israel and Western-European states like France, Britain and Germany are caught in a self-perpetuating web of violence and terrorism. The leaders of these nations often blame "jihadists," "extremists" or certain races, religions, and nationalities for global terrorism. Yet, few today question the roots of this violence. Who engineered the gas chambers at Auschwitz? Who pioneered imperialistic habits that differentiated between "civilized war" and "colonial war" that lead to the rationalization of mass killings of indigenous populations? The US and its allies have indeed failed to recognize the simple truth that some of today's "enemies" are yesterday's survivors. Neglecting to examine these structural, historical (and present) and cultural root causes of violence makes it easy for leaders to justify more violence in the name of peace.

Forced democracy, invasions, military strikes and "operations" are unlikely to create or sustain peace and will likely nurture more enemies for coming generations. Fortunately, nonviolent counterterrorism methods, peacebuilding initiatives like The Red Army Foundation, and other sustainable peace options exist already. Insight on Conflict hosts a list of peacebuilding organizations in South Sudan, as well as in Iraq, Israel and Palestine. Recognizing the root causes of violence, ending the perpetuation of these causes and supporting these organizations working toward sustainable peace is the only way we can end today's violent conflict and prevent those of tomorrow. Imagine if war preparation were even somewhat defunded and peace preparation were funded a bit more--we could close the gap from war to peace much more often.

OPINION

CENSORSHIP AND MYTH-MAKING ENSHRINED IGNORANCE OF HIROSHIMA AND THE BOMB

John LaForge
PeaceVoice

The US atomic destruction of 140,000 people at Hiroshima and 70,000 at Nagasaki was never "necessary" because Japan was already smashed, no land invasion was needed and Japan was suing for peace. The official myth that "the bombs saved lives" by hurrying Japan's surrender can no longer be believed except by those who love to be fooled. The long-standing fiction has been destroyed by the historical record kept in US, Soviet, Japanese and British archives -- now mostly declassified -- and detailed by Ward Wilson in his book "Five Myths about Nuclear Weapons" (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013).

Greg Mitchel's "Atomic Cover-Up" (Sinclair Books, 2011) also helps explain the durability of the "saved lives" ruse. Wartime and occupation censors seized all films and still photos of the two atomic cities, and the US government kept them hidden for decades. Even in 1968, newsreel footage from Hiroshima held in the National Archives was stamped, "SECRET, Not To Be Released Without the Approval of the DOD." Photos of the atomized cities that did reach the public merely showed burned buildings or mushroom clouds -- rarely human victims.

In "Hiroshima in America: 50 Years of Denial," (Grosset/Putnam, 1995) Robert Lifton and Mitchell note that Gen. Leslie Groves, head of the Manhattan Project, "left nothing to chance." Even before Hiroshima, he prohibited US commanders from commenting on the atomic attacks without clearance from the War Department. "We didn't want MacArthur and others saying the war could have been won without the bomb," Groves said.

In fact, MacArthur did not believe the bomb was needed to end the war, but he too established a censorship program as commander of the US occupation of Japan. He banned reporters from visiting Hiroshima or Nagasaki, expelled reporters who defied the ban and later said that those who complained that censorship existed in Japan were engaged in "a maliciously false propaganda campaign."

That most people in the United States still believe the "saved lives" rationale to be true is because of decades of this censorship and myth-making, begun by President Harry Truman, who said Aug. 6, 1945, "Sixteen hours ago an American airplane dropped one bomb on Hiroshima, an important Japanese Army base. ... That was because we wished this first attack to avoid, insofar as possible, the killing of civilians." In fact, the city of 350,000 had practically no military value at all and the target was the city, not the base three kilometers away.

Taking President Truman at his word, the 140,000 civilians killed at Hiroshima are the minimum to be expected when exploding a small nuclear weapon on a "military base." Today's "small" Cruise missile warheads ¾ which are 12 times the power of Truman's A-bomb ¾ could kill 1.68 million each.

Official censorship of what the two bombs did to people and the reasons for it has been so successful, that 25 years of debunking hasn't managed to generally topple the official narrative. In 1989, historian Gar Alperovitz reported, "American leaders knew well in advance that the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was not required to bring about Japan's surrender;" and later, in his 847-page "The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb" (Random House, 1995), "I think it can be proven that the bomb was not only unnecessary but known in advance not to be necessary." The popular myth "didn't just happen," Alperovitz says, "it was created."

Kept hidden for decades was the 1946 US Strategic Bombing Survey's conclusion that Japan almost certainly would have surrendered in 1945 without the atomic bombs, without a Soviet invasion and without a US invasion. Not long after V-J Day in 1945, Brig. Gen. Bonnie Feller wrote, "Neither the atomic bombing nor the entry of the Soviet Union into the war forced Japan's unconditional surrender. She was defeated before either of these events took place."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a five-star general and the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, said in his memoirs he believed "that Japan was already defeated and that dropping the bomb was completely unnecessary."

Adm. William Leahy, the wartime Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wrote in 1950, "It is my opinion that the use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material success in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender...." Feller's, Ike's and Leahy's opinions were conspicuously left out of or censored by the Smithsonian Institution's 1995 display of the atomic B-29 bomber "Enola Gay."

Monday

Cullman Kiwanis Club
The Cullman Kiwanis Club invites all local men and women who are interested in taking part in community service along with great fellowship, fun, networking, and learning to attend their weekly luncheon meeting at 12 noon each Monday at the All Steak. Come see what Kiwanis is all about and enjoy a great luncheon meal as well.

Domestic Violence Survivor Support Group
Victim Services of Cullman sponsors a Domestic Violence Survivor Support Group meeting every Monday evening from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the old County Board of Education Building with childcare available. For additional information please call 256-775-2600. CRISIS HOTLINE - 256-734-6100.

Overeaters Anonymous Gather at Grace Episcopal
Members of Overeaters Anonymous meet every Monday, at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in the Carriage House located on Church premises. Further information is available at 256-747-6218 or 256-352-1143. Everyone is invited to attend these gatherings.

Cornerstone Revival Ladies Prayer Meeting
A Ladies Prayer meeting is conducted each Monday night at 7 p.m. at Cornerstone Revival Center. For additional information call 256-796-2899. All interested women are invited to attend.

Aqua Zumba Classes at CWAC
Everyone is invited to take part in the Aqua Zumba classes that are offered each Monday at Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center beginning at 7 p.m. in the center's indoor pool. Please call 256-775-7946 for additional information!

Tuesday

Cullman Caring for Kids in Need of Donations
If you are able to contribute to Cullman County's Community Food Band, the 'Caring for Kids' organization, they would be grateful. Nonperishable 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.

'Biscuits & Business'
Come join other Chamber members for the monthly 'Biscuits & Business' gathering which will be at Peoples' Bank this morning from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. Learn about 'small business loans' today - you might be surprised what is available to our local small businesses!

Cullman County Board of Education Meeting
Members of the Cullman County Board of Education will gather this evening for a work session at 5:30 p.m. followed by the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.

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 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.

'Celebrate Recovery' at Hanceville First Baptist Church
There will be a 'Celebrate Recovery' meeting tonight starting at 7 p.m. at Hanceville First Baptist Church. Childcare will be available. Additional info Church office at 256-352-9150. Open to all!

Alaska Land & Sea Tour Presentation
The Senior Spirit Program is offering an Alaska Tour presentation at the Donald E. Green Sr. Center 1 p.m. The presentation will be of the scheduled Alaska tour for June 3-14, 2015. We will fly to Fairbanks, then travel across the state on the Alaskan Railroad to Denali Park, experience a Wild Life Tour and much more. Cruise for 7 days with ports of call in Anchorage, Seward, Glacier National Park, Haines/Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan and Vancouver, B.C. To guarantee the 2014 prices and special reduced deposit rate, a small deposit of $200 must be paid at the presentation. After the presentation the rate of deposit and price of trip will be higher. Bring cash or check for your deposit to lock in the 2014 price. For more information contact Angie Jochum at 256-734-4803.

Good Hope Farmer's Market
Good Hope Farmers' Market is now open for local farmers to sell their produce from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Thursdays. This market is located in Good Hope's Hathcock Park. Everyone welcome to shop.

'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, hangups, 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.

Town of Dodge City's 'Summer Fun in the Park'
All 'kids' are invited to take part in the Town of Dodge City's 'Summer Fun in the Park' this afternoon from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. This event will feature water features, inflatables, organized games and hotdogs and drinks, all FREE. Come to Ray Park for fun. More info from Tawana Canada at 256-736-3298.

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.

Party in the Park hosted by The Link of Cullman County
The Link of Cullman County is hosting Party in the Park a charity event with music provided Act of Congress, consistently voted one of the "must see live acts of Alabama." Tickets are $8 in advance online at www.linkingcullman.org or $10 available at the event, kids under 13 and under are free. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Special thanks to the title sponsors of Cullman Regional Medical Center and Allstate- Clay Colvard Agency. For questions call The Link at 256-775-0028 or find them online at www.linkingcullman.org or on FB, Twitter, or Linked In. Proceeds go towards supporting The Link of Cullman County's efforts in breaking the cycle of poverty through educational-based support services.

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!

Good Hope Farmer's Market
Good Hope Farmers' Market is now open for local farmers to sell their produce from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Saturdays. This market is located in Good Hope's Hathcock Park. Everyone welcome to shop.

2014 Ms. Senior Alabama Pageant
Come support Jan Junkins as she takes part in the 2014 Ms. Senior Alabama Pageant this afternoon at Wallace State in the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre. The contestants she will be competing with come from various different counties throughout the state of Alabama. The Ms. Senior Alabama pageant and program is a non-profit organization which recognizes the talent, intelligence, community service and beauty of Alabama's senior women. For more info about the state pageant, please contact Sally Beth Vick at bethvick1@juno.com.

Laughter Yoga at the Cullman Civic Center
Everyone is invited to take part in 'Laughter Yoga' classes each Saturday morning starting at 10 a.m. Donations accepted but no set fee is charged. Come start your weekend out with some great 'laughs'! Please call 256-734-9157 for additional information.

Next Monday

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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!

Looking Ahead

Murphree Reunion
The descendants of Solomon and May Elam Murphree, Blount County pioneers, will hold their annual reunion on Saturday, August 16th at the Porter Center, at Palisades Park, near Oneonta, beginning at 10:00 a.m. A covered dish lunch will be shared at noon. For more information, call Rex Murphree at 205-237-0969 or Stan Murphree at 205-901-4505.

Big Band Dance
The Senior Spirit Program is offering a big band dance featuring the Shriner Band "Sentimental Journey" on Saturday, August 23, 2014 at the Donald E. Green Sr. Center from 7 – 9 p.m. Admission price is a $5 donation. We welcome donations even if you're not interested in the dance. Donations may be made or tickets purchased in advance at the Donald E. Green Senior Center. All proceeds go to the Shriner Children Hospital. For more information contact Angie Jochum or Catherine Hasenbein at 256-734-4803.

This Week in Local Entertainment

Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

Monday

- 79 cent wings at Rodney G's Hickory Grill from 6-9 p.m.
- Open Mic Night at Berkeley Bob's Coffee House at 7 p.m.
- Happy Hour at Moe's Original BBQ from 3-7 p.m.

Tuesday

- Square Dancing Lessons at East Point Community Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's Hickory Grill at 7 p.m.
- Happy Hour at Moe's Original BBQ from 3-7 p.m.

Wednesday

- Story Time at the Hanceville Library at 10 a.m.
- Karaoke Night at Grumpy's Italian Grill at 7 p.m.
- Musician Craig Edwards at Brothers Kitchen & Pourhouse at 7 p.m.
- Happy Hour at Moe's Original BBQ from 3-7 p.m.
- Karaoke Night at Cadillac Ron's at 7 p.m.
- Ladies' Night at Cadillac Ron's from 5-8 p.m.

Thursday

- Open Mic Night at Brothers Kitchen & Pourhouse from 8 p.m.-close
- Happy Hour at Moe's Original BBQ from 3-7 p.m.
- Karaoke Night at Cadillac Ron's at 7 p.m.

Friday

- Tequila Falls at Williams Barbecue from 8 p.m. to midnight
- Live Music at Brothers Kitchen & Pourhouse
- Live Music at Moe's Original BBQ
- Happy Hour at Moe's Original BBQ from 3-6 p.m.
- Live Music at Cadillac Ron's from 8 p.m. to midnight
- Party in the Park at Depot Park at 6 p.m.

Saturday

- Tequila Falls at Williams Barbecue from 8-11 p.m.
- Live Music at Brothers Kitchen & Pourhouse
- Live Music at Moe's Original BBQ
- Happy Hour at Moe's Original BBQ from 3-6 p.m.
- Live Music at Cadillac Ron's from 8 p.m. to midnight

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CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

Official Newsletter

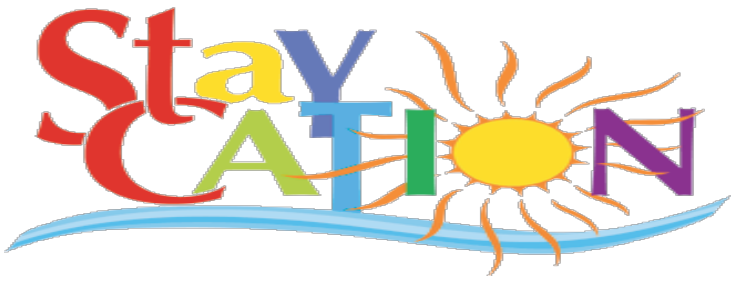
Eyes of PROGRESS

Volume 45 | AUGUST 2014 | Issue 8

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Recreation and Relaxation in Cullman

Summer is a vacation away from ordinary life with its beautiful breezes and hot rays of sunshine. Most people adore summer and explore creative options for getaways, but if you're a big saver or a little strapped for cash, there's one possibility that might appeal to you in more ways than one: a staycation. What is a staycation? It's exploring our area's unique establishments, attractions, eateries, shops and pastimes. It's basically appreciating all of the inner workings of Cullman that we rarely get to take part of due to busy schedules. The following is just a sampling of great places to visit in Cullman.

Crooked Creek Civil War Museum

This place is home to a host of



Civil War memorabilia. Located on a battle site from the war, the area's rich history and heritage has afforded it an abundance of character. The area is even rumored to be a hotspot of paranormal activity, with several guests sighting ghosts. With over 40 acres of land with historical significance, a museum of rare collectibles where you can actually handle the artifacts, and a quaint bed & breakfast located on the property, this attraction will ensure that you receive a remarkable history lesson coupled with lots of fun. 516 County Road 1127, Vinemont, AL 35179. Phone: 256-739-2741

Ave Maria Grotto

The Ave Maria Grotto, located on the grounds of Alabama's first and only Benedictine Abbey, consists of over 125 miniatures, reproductions of famous churches, shrines and buildings. Encompassing an area of over three acres, this miniature fairyland sees visitors from all over the world. 1600 St Bernard Dr, Cullman, AL 35055. Phone: 256-734-4110

Stony Lonesome OHV Park

Stony Lonesome is the first public OHV park of its kind in the state. Open year-round, the 1,456+

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From the Chamber President: Eat Your Heart Out Norm



Leah Bolin

President & CEO,
Cullman Area Chamber
of Commerce

If you spent any time in front of the television on a Thursday night from 1982-1993 you most likely watched and laughed at the hit comedy Cheers. All of the characters were memorable, but the one that sticks in my mind is Norm. Every time Norm walked in the door, the whole room would yell, "Norm!" He loved his favorite watering hole but it wasn't the drinks that kept him coming back - it was the people.

Imagine arriving at a place where everyone (or at least nearly everyone) knows your name. You are welcomed by friends and acquaintances who are happy you're there. Better still, most of them are ready to help you build your business and are even referring you to their family and friends. And you experience this environment several times a month. This is a place where you can hone your skills as well. You'll have the opportunity to attend educational programming at a fraction of the cost available to the public. Often you meet people here who have experiences you can learn from. You're introduced to the movers and shakers. You can even demonstrate your commitment to the community by serving as a leader. Your only limit is you. If you haven't figured it out by now - I am talking about your local chamber of commerce - specifically The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce. Our mission is to help you and your business or organization grow.

Below are a few of the small business services we offer:

Promotions and publicity—We run programs that offer promotional materials, events and activities to welcome new residents and

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TOURISM

continued from pg 9

acre park features trails for ATVs, rock crawlers, dirt bikes, mountain bikers, equestrians, hikers, pedestrians, and much more. 10075 Alabama Highway 69 South Bremen, AL 35033. Phone: 256-287-1133

Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Visitors to the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament are struck by its beauty and grandeur, often commenting on the atmosphere of peace that pervades the grounds and the ethos of prayer and reverence exuded by everything from the artwork to the architecture. 3222 County Road 548, Hanceville, AL 35077. Phone: 256-352-6267

Smith Lake Park

Bring your tents, RVs or even stay in a cabin! Picnic under the pavilions, enjoy the playgrounds, cool off in the pool, and putt-putt golf until you're a pro. Don't forget about fishing and most of all; don't forget the most important family member, your pet! Everyone is welcome at Smith Lake Park. 416 County Road 385 Cullman, AL 35057. Phone: 256-739-2916

Sportsman Lake Park



Enjoy camping, fishing, picnic areas, pavilions, paddle-boating, putt-putt golf, a playground, the new splash pad and a paved multi-purpose trail for bikers, in-line skaters and walkers. There are plenty of ducks, geese and fish to feed from the lake's shore or the dock, and don't forget to ride the train along the lakeshore. 1544 Sportsman Lake Rd NW Cullman, AL 35055 Phone:256-734-3052

Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center

You can swim in the indoor and outdoor pools with diving boards, water slides and children's play features. Make sure you take advantage of the basketball and volleyball gymnasiums. Or maybe you just need to relax in the lazy river or unwind in the hot tub. No matter what, CWAC has you covered with their various options for recreation and leisure. 1636 Field Of Miracles Dr. Cullman, AL 35055. Phone:256-775-7946

Hurricane Creek Park

Picnic beside the creek under the covered pavilion or at individual tables in the same vicinity. You can also go rock climbing, bouldering (on rock & deck), hiking, trail running and birding. Hurricane Creek Park has something for everyone. 22600 US Highway 31 Vinemont, AL 35179. Phone: 256-734-2125

Cullman County Museum

The museum features nine galleries that showcase different aspects of life in early Cullman, including artifacts in three of the nine galleries to honor Alabamians who fought in the Civil War. With a consistent and ap



pealing variety of historic heritage, the Cullman County Museum is a haven for yesteryear. 211 2nd Ave. NE Cullman, AL 35055. Phone: 256-739-1258

The Evelyn Burrow Museum

Picuted above The Burrow Museum's vast collection includes more than 5,000 objects primarily of porcelain, pottery, glass and bronze from the Victorian era to modern times. Highlights are on display in the Museum's main gallery. The museum is currently hosting its first Regional Sculptors Invitational Exhibit. Acclaimed regional sculptors, including the world-renowned artist Nall, have lent the museum numerous pieces of artwork that range from metalwork and glass to wood and paper and more. 801 Main Street NW, Hanceville, AL 35077. Phone: 256-352-8457



We have more information and brochures on all of these attractions and more in our new Visitor Center locatied at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce - 301 2nd Ave. S.E. Cullman , AL 35055

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community improvement awards

The Community Improvement Committee is seeking submissions for their Community Improvement awards. These awards are presented on a quarterly basis. The Committee hopes to inspire others to take action to preserve, protect and promote community improvement in Cullman. The next round of nominations are due on September 15. Nomination forms can be found on the Chamber website at www.cullmanchamber.org and should be printed off and brought by the Chamber office. For more information, please email info@cullmanchamber.org or call 256-734-0454.

1st Quarter Winners

Best Landscaping-Small DQ Grill & Chill
Best Landscaping - Large Webb Wheel Aftermarket
Best Curb Appeal - County 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

continued from pg 9

businesses to the area, ensuring that your business is front and center and ahead of the local competition. Additionally, business-to-business and business-to-consumer advertising and publicity opportunities are available to members exclusively.

Networking—While today's technology and the ability to network online is important, there's still nothing as strong as face-to-face communication where building trust, respect and name recognition is concerned.

Events and programs—The CoC facilitates a host of activities and events over the course of a given year, each designed to help you as a small business owner gain exposure and grow your business.

Business Resources—We offer small business counseling services, educational seminars, website and printed material, and a multitude of other marketing resources and tools.

Government access and impact—Because the local Chamber of Commerce speaks with a united voice, one very much in favor of business interests, members are more likely to have an impact on government decision-making as part of a larger body than they would on their own. Additionally, elected officials are much more likely to entertain an audience of concerned local Chamber of Commerce members than they are any one individual business owner.

An Office Away from the Office—Small business owners, especially those who work from a small home office, have a place they can go to congregate with other professional. Moreover, you can use the Chamber's facilities to host clients and hold meetings, ensuring you have a more professional office environment available at a moment's notice. If you're not a member of the CoC you owe it to yourself to join today. As we begin this year's Total Resource Campaign (TRC) we hope you get involved. Join us. We want to help you build your trusted resource network so you can reap the benefit of being a part of the best business-building network in town. Plus, we are always glad you came.





TOURISM

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The 2014 Farm to Fork dinner sponsored by Alabama Farm Credit will be held on August 16, 2014 from 6-9 p.m. at the Wallace State Community College School of Nursing and Center for Science Conference Center. Thisyear's chef will be Mauricio Papapietro of Brick and Tin Restaurant in Mountain Brook, AL. The first course will consist of Cullman County heirloom tomato salad with fresh peas and beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, basil and balsamic. The second course will be braised pork shoulder and slow roasted loin with zucchini, squash, sweet peppers and cherry tomato gremolata. Dessert will be Cullman County peach custard parfait with shortbread cookies. Entertainment will be provided by Morrow and Laura Doss. Also, there will be a slide show presentation of vintage farm photos from the past. After working in fine dining for years, including several restaurants in Italy, Chef Papapietro started Brick and Tin restaurant in the historic financial district of downtown Birminham in 2010. Relationships withfarmers and purveyors drive the menus at Papapietro's restaurants which bring high-end, "slow-food" cooking techniques to a fast-casual setting. Specialties include homemade breads, farm-to-table meats and produce, soups, sandwiches and salads. If you would like to be placed on the waiting list for Farm to Fork Dinner tickets please contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or info@cullmanchamber.org

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

We are updating our Chamber directory and we need your help! We recently sent out a survey for you to fill out. Please check your email and complete the survey, this will ensure the most accurate information available to prospective clients. Your business information will be printed in Classic Cullman/ Visit Cullman as well as the digital version at CullmanChamber.org. If you have any questions please contact Director of Membership & Marketing, Magan Fromhold at mfromhold@cullmanchamber.org

FARM Y'ALL

The Chamber's Agribusiness Committee invites you to attend the 2nd Annual Farm Y'all Festival presented by TriGreen Equipment. The event will be held on Saturday, August 23 at the Festhalle Market Platz from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Admittance is free for all attendees. Local farmers will be on hand with a steady supply of local fruits and vegetables. Regional and nationally celebrated chefs will once again prepare dishes featuring local foods for people to sample. Come see farmers compete in The Great Pumpkin Weigh Off. Entertainment, contests, games and good food... Come join us for a day of great family fun! The Festhalle Market Platz is located at the corner of Arnold Street and First Avenue NE in the city's historic Warehouse District. For more information, call the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce at 256-734-0454 or visit the Farm Y'all Festival website at http://farmyall.com. EventSponsors: City of Cullman, Traditions Bank, Emily Niezer Johnston, LLC, TriGreen Equipment, LLC, Farmer's Poultry Supply, Inc., AK Equipment Rentals and Sales, Inc., American Proteins, Inc., First South Farm Credit, Harris and Graham, Inc., Cullman County Commission, Kress Farms, Cullman County IDA, Alabama Farm Credit, Alabama Farmers Cooperative, CullmanSense and Cullman County Extension.



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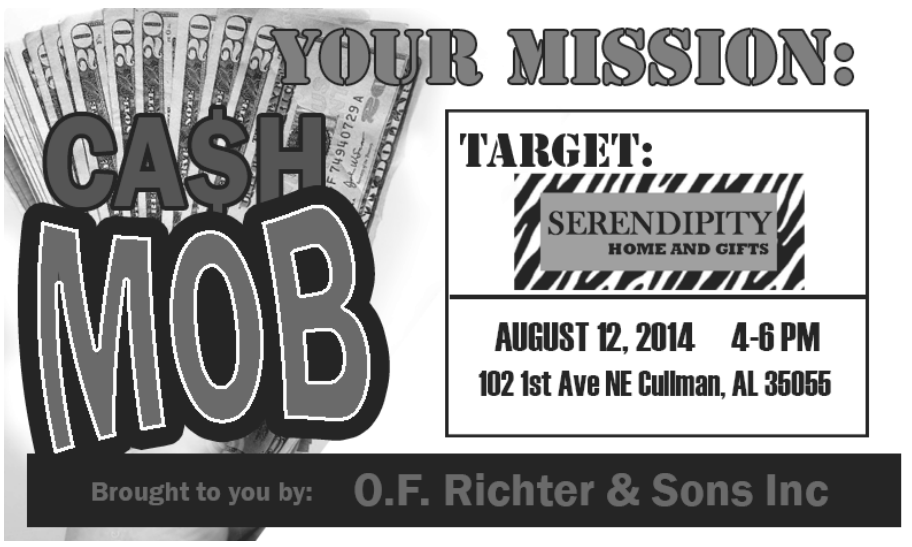
CULLMAN EYE SPECIALISTS, P.C.

JULY'S SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



Pictured left is Committee Chamber Retail Council Chair Maria Richter Schultz presenting the award to Mike and Samantha Way, along with Dairy Queen employees.

We recently presented our Small Business of the Month award to Dairy Queen of Cullman. The award is given monthly to a local small business that meets nomination requirements. Mike and Samantha Way were thrilled for their business to be selected for this honor. "We are very honored to be selected as Small Business of the Month. We know that God has blessed us and our business here in Cullman with loyal customers and employees, and as a result, we are able to give to our community and they always give back and for that we are very thankful," Samantha said. "If we could say one thing to our customers, it would be you are not just customers to us, you are more like family and thank you so very much."



Join us at Top of the Town on September 6th from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. We added new activities to the third quarter Business After Hours! We will have a dance instructor teaching the first steps of Swing Dance and a local mixologist teaching how to make those delicious cocktails! Please sign up online through your Member Profile, email info@cullmanchamber.org or call 256-734-0454. Tickets for current chamber members is $15 or future members $20. We look forward to seeing you and networking like never before!



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MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Thank you for you support & investment in the Cullman Area!

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The Arts of Dixie	1-299-308-0697
The Stewart Organization	205-969-3661
Bessie Mae Vintage Boutique	256-841-5855
K & K Towing	256-734-7388

Ribbon Cuttings



Vintage West Home
101 First Ave Suite 120
Cullman, AL 35055
FB: Vintage West Studio

iChamber

2014-15 Cullman Area CoC TRC

Connecting Your Business To Your Future

Our TRC (Total Resource Campaign) is underway and our 2014-15 leadership includes: TRC Chair Susan Copeland of CRMC, Vice Chair Kim Arndt of Cullman Electric Cooperative, Vice Chair Robin Cummings of Peoples Bank of Alabama, and Vice Chair Suzanne Harbin of Wallace State Community College. The Chamber is thankful for the businesses that allow their employees to participate in the TRC program. If you would like to sponsor a program, please contact Magan Fromhold. Sponsorships for the 2015 year will be on sale starting August 6. You only have a short time frame to purchase so make sure you contact a representative today. Your sponsorships are vital to the work of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce. We are grateful for our sponsors!

CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2015 Ambassador Program

The Cullman Area Chamber is gearing up for a GREAT year in 2015! We have a brand new Ambassador Program kicking off and if you would like to apply to participate please submit your application to the Chamber today.

If you would like to apply please contact Magan at mfromhold@cullmanchamber.org

Be One of Us

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Classes start August 14

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8:00 & 10:30

Kevin Wilburn, Pastor





Come to our Chamber Morning Events!

Morning Blend is a chamber event held each third Wednesday of the month in the Commons Room of the CoC. You set the topic, Starbucks provides the coffee. This is a great opportunity to network with others in the community.

This quarter, Biscuits & Business will be held at Peoples Bank. Kevin Kilpatrick, VP and Sr. Lending Officer of Peoples Bank Government Capital Department, will be discussing SBA, ASSBCI and other state and federal loan funding programs for businesses in the Cullman market. This is a free event for all chamber members. Call and make your reservation today!

Community Luncheon

The next Community Luncheon will be on the fourth Friday of the month, August 22, 2014 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the All Steak restaurant in the banquet room. Our guest speaker for August is former First Lady Marsha Folsom. She is a respected business leader in the community. She owns her own business development consulting firm and serves as the Chief Development Officer of Resource Fiber, a company that is dedicated to the growing and manufacturing of bamboo in the Black Belt Region of Alabama. She is also founder and CEO of Alabamboo Partners, LLC, which is designed to promote the bamboo industry. This monthly event educates and inspires the community as a whole with special guest speakers and delicious luncheons.



The Community Luncheon is presented by Mickey Parrish State Farm Insurance & Financial Services and sponsored by Cullman Electric Cooperative. You may register at www.cullmanchamber.org or by calling 256-734-0454 or by emailing info@cullmanchamber.org. There is a 48-hour cancellation policy and prices are as follows: chamber members - $15; future members - $20.

August Community Luncheon Sponsor:

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The 2014 Community Luncheon is presented by:

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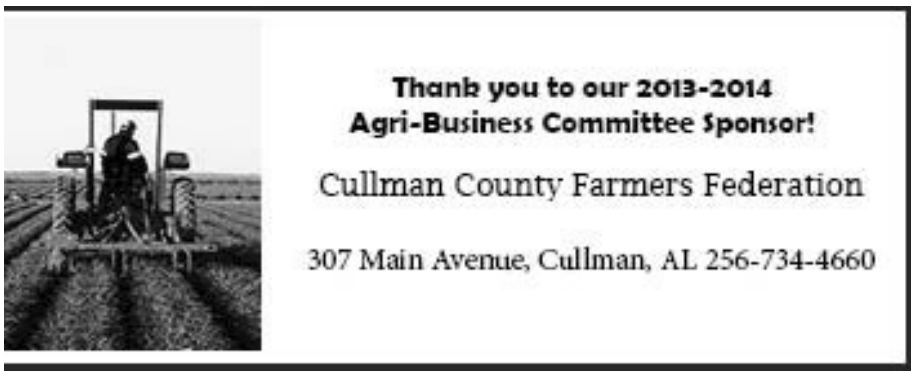


256-734-4640 MickeyParrish.com



Do you have a selfie for your LinkedIn Profile? Were you having a bad hair day? Have you lost weight? Call 256-775-2622 to schedule your appointment to update your professional headshot! Photos will be taken in the Freedom Insurance room on August 28, 2014 here at the Chamber.









We are looking for Arts and Crafts Vendors, Classic Cars & Motorcycles, Musicians & Street Performers. We want to create an inviting atmosphere downtown; this will keep visitors coming back to our community! If you're a crafter, a cruiser or a performer, please call 256-734-0454 or email info@cullmanchamber.org.





Hops & Shops in downtown Cullman is coming up on August 14. The event is every second Thursday of each month from 4-9 p.m., highlighting the downtown area with over 40 local restaurants and retailers each offering extended hours, discounts and drawings. Each month, a local Alabama craft beer is featured that guarantees a new hops tasting experience every time. This month's featured craft beer will be from Blue Pants Brewery. There will be arts and crafts vendors, a horse drawn carriage, live music, street performances and a classic cruise in car show. There will be two drawings at the end of the night, including a hopper's drawing and a shopper's drawing. The hopper's drawing this month will be a dinner for two at our featured restaurant, Carlton's, and the shopper's drawing will be a special prize package that will be awarded at our featured store of the month, Southern Accents Wristbands for hoppers can be picked up at the Chamber of Commerce or (downtown location tbd) starting at 4 p.m. on the day of Hops & Shops. For more information or to register, call 256-734-0454 or email info@cullmanchamber.org. You can also receive updates from our Facebook page here: www.facebook.com/hopsandshopscullman.







GET READY TO PARTY IN THE PARK THIS WEEKEND

Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Don't miss Party in the Park this Friday at Depot Park. This one of a kind event will begin at 6 p.m. Tickets are $8 in advance, $10 at the door and free for children ages 13 and under.

Hosted by The Link of Cullman County, Party in the Park is an awesome family event. This party is a fundraiser for The Link, helping them to break the cycle of poverty in Cullman.

Founder and Executive Director of The Link, Dawn Owens, is excited about bringing families together while raising money to fight poverty through Party in the Park.

"The goal is to bring as many people as possible to come out and enjoy the night together and learn a little bit more about what The Link is trying to accomplish in Cullman County," she stated.

"It's about enjoying each other and just having a night of community."

Last year, The Link raised $5,000 with this event, and this year they hope to do even better.

Don't miss this night of fun. Desperation Church Band will take the stage at 7 p.m., followed by Act of Congress at 8 p.m.

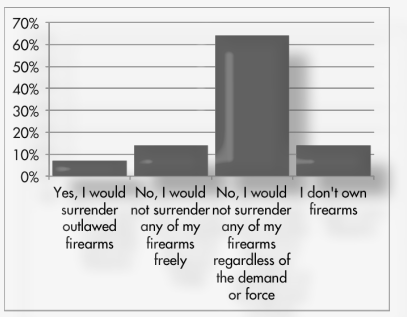
There will also be hotdogs, hamburgers, popcorn, cotton candy, ice cream, and drinks for purchase. Kids can enjoy games, a clown, and a bounce house. Several vendors will be present as well.

Act of Congress is a southern band who has performed all throughout the U.S. and in several other countries. They are consistently voted one of the "must see live acts of Alabama".

Buy your tickets today at www.linkingcullman.org. You won't want to miss this awesome party for delicious food, stellar music and awesome community fun while making a difference.

Poll

Would you cooperate with local law enforcement if a national law banning certain firearms were implemented?



This Week's Poll

Do you believe a widespread economic collapse is imminent?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

GETTING READY FOR THE ROUTINE: GOOD HOPE THROWS BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Good Hope citizens gathered in good spirits Friday night for a back to school bash. This fun event featured food for everyone and plenty of entertainment for the children.

Good Hope Municipal Park was host to this back to school party. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks were being served, and children played on humongous inflatable slides. One section of the park was simply used for a giant game of tag. Tons of families enjoyed this event.

Good Hope Mayor Corey Harbison was pleased at the turnout for Good Hope's third annual back to school bash.

"This party was funded through a program we have where we get donations from local businesses to sponsor our Back to School Bash, Christmas in the Park, Thanksgiving meal and our canned food drive," said Mayor Harbison. "We use that money to sponsor these events."

This event was a great way to get the Good Hope community involved and interested.

"It's just something to get everyone together," he said. "It allows kids to see each other again before they go back to school and get back into the routine."

This back to school bash wasn't all fun and games, though.

"We also have bags fixed up to give out school supplies to the kids," stated Mayor Harbison. "We're here to build a sense of community."

It also wasn't just for kids! Everyone was welcome to join this party and celebrate the beginning of a new school year.

"It's not just for students," Mayor Harbison commented. "There are people that don't even have kids that are here to just be a part of it and be a part of the community."

And that's just what Mayor Harbison wants for his community: friends, fun and a sense of community.

Yard Sale Tricks: Increase Traffic to Your Next Sale With These Tips

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

It is that time of year that every Saturday morning, people wake up at the crack of dawn and venture out looking for a good deal. Rummaging through another person's trash to make it your treasure is a favorite pastime for some, while for others it is a great way to clear out the clutter and make some extra cash.

Putting a successful yard sale together, however, can be a difficult task so below are just a few tips on how to make the most of your sale.

The first step in any yard sale is when to have one. We see yard sales all summer long, but are these the most optimal time to hold your yard or garage sale? Early spring and summer are always great times for a yard sale. In Alabama, our warm or mild climates hold longer in the year than most, and it is for that reason that the optimum months for a yard sale here are April, May, June, and September. Humidity keeps more people indoors during the hottest months of the year. So try scheduling your next sale in early or mid-September.

Presentation is key to bringing in quality buyers to your sale. Piling clothes on a sheet in the yard may be the easy, but you will attract much more traffic if you take the time for presentation.

Hang your clothes on a clothesline or simply fold all the clothes on your sheets. For a really exceptional presentation find some folding tables, throw on some tablecloths and create a very pristine look. The neater the set up, the more money you will make.

It is an age old marketing principle that the longer you can keep customers in the store, the more you will sell. This principle can be applied to your endeavor as well with a coffee table. A small table with a fresh pot of coffee and mini muffins can really add a little extra something to your sale to keep the customers browsing longer.

A great trick to catch people's eye from the road and draw them in is a "freebie box". You want to set this area closer to the road with a visible sign. Put all the items that you absolutely do not want coming back into your house. A few old toys, knick-knacks, scarves and accessories, anything that you can use as bait to get people to put their vehicles in park.

Yard sales and garage sales can benefit everyone involved.

People are always looking for two things: a way to make money or a way to save it. In this instance, everyone can get what they want, but it is up to the seller to make sure their merchandise is desirable and eye catching.

cpr
cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **EvaBank Midnight Run** registration is NOW OPEN at the Cullman Civic Center, all EvaBank locations, and online at active.com. Race will be held on August 15, 2014 at 11:59pm. 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.
- **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.
- **Eat on the Street** will take place each Thursday in July at the Festhalle Farmer's Market from 11-1pm. Come eat, shop, and relax with us and support your local farmers!
- **Fall Baseball & Softball Registration** will be August 1-20 at the Cullman Civic Center for ages 7-8 and 9-12. $90 per individual or $400 per team. Call 256-734-9157 or 256-739-9931 for more info.
- **Coed Kickball League** registration will be August 1-20 at Heritage Park. Teams will be $350 to register. Season will include 12 games and a single elimination tournament. Call 739-9931 for details.
- **Fall Men's League & Coed Softball** registration will be August 1-20 at Heritage Park. Cost to register is $400 per team. 12 games with a single elimination tournament. Call 256-739-9931 for more details.
- **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.

What's Online

Cold Springs JV Cheerleaders Win Camp Champs and Bid to Perform at Capital One Bowl

What exactly does an enormous banana have to do with cheering and spirit? Everything if you attended the University of Alabama at Huntsville UCA Cheer Camp. For the Cold Springs Junior Varsity...



qrne.ws/234

Jay's Last Ride: The Lasting Legacy of Texting and Driving

On May 21, 2014, a family's life was forever changed, and a community was given a hard look at the consequences of distracted driving. Now, a mere two months later, Jay Kendall's birthday was marked by a rally in his honor to bring attention to an issue that has cost so many lives.

qrne.ws/235

Becoming Colonel Cullmann to Show at Sidewalk Film Festival

The entire city of Cullman joins together in congratulating Larry Rowlette, Laura Axelrod and Greg Richter for their movie, "Becoming Colonel Cullmann", which was recently selected to show at the Sidewalk Film Festival. It will be screened on August 24, 2014...

qrne.ws/236

STARS SHINED BRIGHT AT BETTY LEETH HAYNES THEATRE

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE - It was a great night for everyone involved. Great music, talented performers and a delicious spread of food set the stage for an evening to remember. The Circle of Caring charity organization hosted its 3rd Annual "Dancing with Our Stars" event on Saturday, and it was quite the show to experience.

For the third year running, four sisters have done the remarkable work of putting together an event that benefits so many, and is also wildly entertaining. Elaine Blackwood, one of the four sisters and organizer of the event, talked about the simple idea behind Circle of Hope.

"Circle of Hope is just a family," Blackwood said. "And we have made it our mission to fight cancer. After we lost dad in '99 to cancer and our mom in '03, we just thought that we had to do something to honor their memory."

There have been two other wildly successful years of Dancing with Our Stars, grossing a whopping $25,000 raised for both years combined. Blackwood is hopeful that this year will be even bigger.

"Somebody had done this in another state to raise money for a benefit," said Blackwood. "And we just thought it was something we could do right here in Cullman too. This is our third year and I think it is going to be the best one yet."

While the official numbers are not yet in, the crowds that came to fill the auditorium certainly point to a successful night. An hour before show time, hors d'oeuvres and drinks were served as the Wallace State Jazz ensemble played a soft melody in the background. The room hummed with excitement for the show that was soon to follow.



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» The winners of the 3rd Annual "Dancing with Our Stars" "Mirror Ball" award went to state representative Ed Henry and Cheryl Harrison.

After the pre-show event, everyone found their seats in the auditorium and anxiously awaited the opening act. Madalyn Vines, the audience's emcee for the evening, charmed the crowd from the start, and the competition began.

Prominent members of the Cullman Community, like sheriff-elect Matt Gentry, gave the crowd a great show. He and his dancing partner, Jamie Medlock, performed a modernized Charleston from the motion picture "The Great Gatsby". He and Jamie wowed the audience with their moves.

"I think the hardest part was getting her to teach me how to dance," Gentry said when asked by the emcee.

Many wonderful performances took place throughout the rest of the evening. One dance in particular, that stole the judges' hearts and received the only perfect scores of the night, was performed by Clay Costello and Tahauny Cleghorn.

Their precise moves and high energy won them the judge's choice award by the end of the evening.

The coveted "Mirror Ball" award went to a more prominent celebrity on the state level, state representative Ed Henry. He and his talented dance partner Cheryl Harrison, who has been participating in the competition since the first year, took home the grand prize for most money raised.

For Elaine Blackwood, where the money is going, is the most special part of the entire project. All proceeds from this event go directly to the Bruno Cancer Center in Birmingham, where Blackwood herself received treatment.

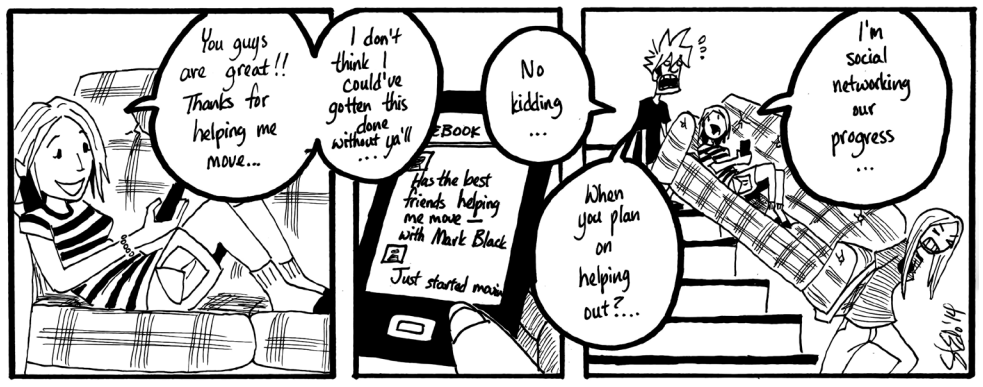
"I feel so honored to have been their patient," Blackwood said. "And no one wants to go on this journey, but if you have to go on this journey, to be at Bruno Cancer Center and be loved beyond measure, well there is nothing like it. When you go in, you're not just a number or a just a patient; you're a friend."

The night was truly one to remember, and every single contestant was outstanding and received roaring applause from the audience. Whether the contestants were experienced or inexperienced dancers, they were all there for a common goal.

The Circle of Hope and the Cullman community helped the Bruno Center to receive the money they need in order to help save more lives.

Comics

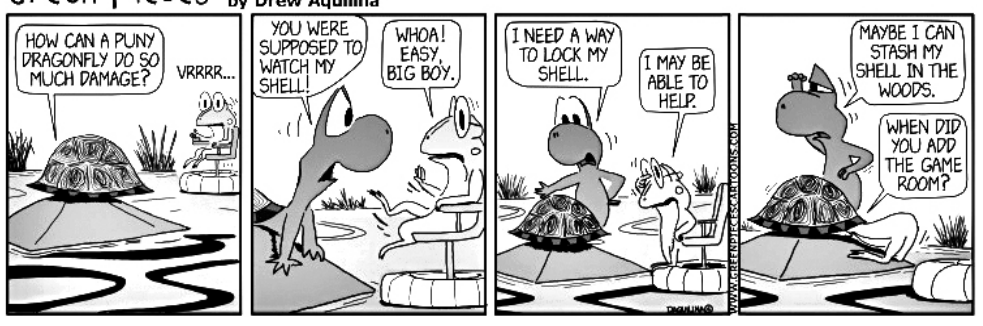
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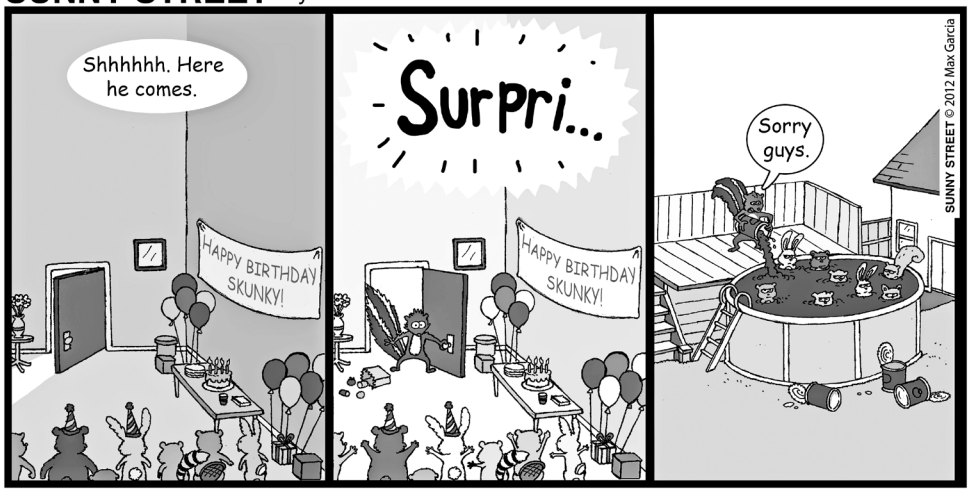
MAMA'S BOYZ www.jerrycraft.net **JERRY CRAFT**



Green Pieces by Drew Aquilina



SUNNY STREET by Max Garcia



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Pets of the Week

Edge

Hello! My name is Edge, and I am about 3 years old. I am an American Bulldog/Boxer mix and I currently weigh 70 lbs. I am available for adoption now. I am full of life and I love to play. I'm a great friend, and I'm ready for my new forever home and loving family.



Cody Jay

Hello! My name is Cody Jay, and I am about 1.5 years old. I am believed to be a German Shepherd mix and I currently weigh 63 lbs. I am spirited and enjoy company. I'm a great sidekick, and I'm ready to find my forever companion and best friend.



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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.

Local Musician Daniel Harbison Keeps Music Alive in Cullman

Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Music in Cullman is alive and well thanks to people like Daniel Harbison.

Harbison, 24, has been playing music since he was 12, but only since 16 has been playing with bands.

"I've played the JC Arena, Cadillac Ron's, and The Local Standard before it closed, Harbison said. "I was in a band that toured the southeast and some of the northeast, as well."

Harbison plays the drums, bass, and even the piano, but he says he primarily sings and plays guitar. The band he is forming with friends Richard Henderson and James Fillmore has yet to find a bassist and a lead guitarist. Henderson was even in two bands that played at Rock the South this year.

When asked what genres of music Harbison plays, he said hard rock, southern rock, country, and some pop. He was sure to mention that the reason he plays is to show like minded people that you can, in fact, do what you want to do, even in a day and age in which it is the norm to get a steady paying job and forget any dreams or aspirations.

"We really like to mix it up and just play good sing along songs," Harbison explained. "We try to play the kind of music that puts people in a good mood and in a mindset to have a good time and forget about all the stress and aggravation of life."

Harbison, who has always lived in Cullman, would love to be a full-time musician.

"It is a dream of mine and something I have wanted to do since I started playing guitar. I am not out to get rich or famous, but making a living at it would be ideal."

Harbison and his band would love to hear feedback, so if you have an interest in them playing for your event, or just have any questions, you may find them by searching Ritch Henderson on Facebook or by e-mailing Daniel Harbison at danielharbison@gmail.com.



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» Daniel Harbison has been playing music for 12 years to show like minded people that they can do what they do even if it goes against norms.

Smith Lake Community Developers Present Plans for Potential Subdivision

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

SMITH LAKE - Two architectural firms, one from Washington D.C. and the other from Miami, Fla., presented plans for a potential subdivision on Smith Lake to possible investors and members of the community last Thursday in downtown Cullman at Loft 212.

The idea for the urban development was brought to the two firms by One Seventeen Partners, which is owned by Bruce and Robbie Bailey, along with Andrew and Stephanie Wood.

The name "One Seventeen" is inspired by the Bible verse Isaiah 1:17, which they believe outlines their core purpose as a company.

The presentation was full of exciting announcements and plans for the new community, but all of those plans are still only in their nascent stages.

The event was primarily to get input from the citizens of Cullman, since this will be mainly their community, which isn't to say people from all over the state won't want a property in this development. There will be approximately 300 lots, mostly used for residential purposes, however, those lots also have potential commercial use.

The community will sit on 200 acres of property and will feature lakefront lots, as well as areas further into the middle of the community. Some of the ideas mentioned include pools, a beach area, an amphitheater, a small market, a restaurant, a bed and breakfast, even food trucks for holidays and special events.

If picturing the community is difficult, imagine Seaside, Fla., and then pick it up and flop it down on Smith Lake. One of the motivations and opportunities for this development is to provide a community at the lake, which is something that is, for most, sacrificed when purchasing a lake property.

If one stays at his home in town for the Fourth of July, he gets the community, but loses the lake. If he chooses to go to the lake, he gets all the fun that the lake entails, but loses all sense of community. This development is attempting to forge the best of the two lifestyles into one resort-like setting.

The architects are refusing to put a certain label on the architecture they plan to use to craft the homes, as doing so puts "limits on what you can do with that building," as Michael Watkins, one of the lead architects, said last Thursday.

Watkins went on to explain that the two companies, his own Michael Watkins Architect LLC, and Dover Kohl, are developing a building code that will govern consistency in the design of the community. The hope of the code is that it will preserve the desired sense of small and hospitable southern society throughout the streets and beaches.

A proposed rule is that the homes within the section of buildings closest to the lakefront be built so that the porches on the houses are within "conversation distance" with the sidewalk. The price for lakefront properties was estimated to cost around $350,000. "But," said Jason King, architect with Dover Kohl, "as excitement and size about this development grow, that price could easily double."

King also spoke to the lack of places to eat on the lake. This community, he believes, has the opportunity to be a place where, not only residents dine, but people from all around the lake meet as well. The development certainly has tremendous upside for the city and county of Cullman, as it is only a 10-minute drive from the Good Hope exit, but also for the world.

The truly remarkable and exciting prospect of the whole idea is that large percentages of the money made from the sales of the homes will be given to charity, and One Seventeen has picked out three that the buyers of the homes could possibly choose from and pick for themselves where there money is being used.

There will be something for everyone, large, stately waterfront homes for the affluent and large families, as well as small cottages and apartment-like townhouses for new couples.

As the homes move from the water back into the land, the plan is to have a gradual shift from a traditional, yet relaxed design of the homes to a more rustic design.

If you're a potential buyer and you'd rather be back in the woods than right in the thick of things, there are properties for you. However, no matter which home in which area of the development you decide on, none of the amenities are sacrificed.

With paths connecting vantage points and public gazebos, to pools strategically placed to serve each portion of the community adequately, the design teams have only scratched the surface of the potential of this property.

Oh, and as if it wasn't sounding spectacular already, the whole community is facing the west. That's right, as the hot dogs and hamburgers sizzle, you get a prime view of the sun settling down below the horizon, splashing an amber reflection on the water. I would suggest they name it Mayberry, but that wouldn't be doing the future community justice.



Bill Smith

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