SERIES 4 • ISSUE 32 • AUGUST 18, 2014
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS

MICHAEL'S FLOWERS AND DESIGN BRINGS UNEXPECTED TASTES TO DOWNTOWN P7



COLOR RUN CREATES OPPORTUNITY

» HANCEVILLE NURSING HOME RUNS FOR BETTER PATIENT CARE P7



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» With a long standing reputation of being one of the best nursing homes in the state, Hanceville Nursing Home employees gathered at Sportsman Lake on Saturday to host their first ever "Color Run" to raise money for their upcoming "Best Practice" conference.

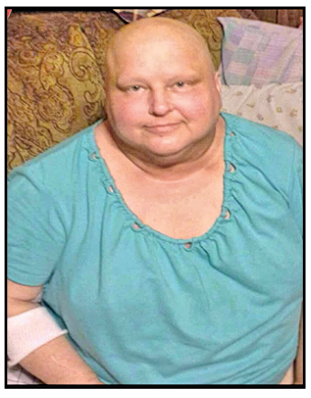


KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

ALTERED

NEW LOCAL PAINTING BUSINESS CAN GIVE YOUR OLD FURNITURE A FACELIFT P6

AUTHORITIES SEARCHING FOR TRUCK INVOLVED IN DEADLY AUG. 3 COLLISION P2



CONTRIBUTED

SHOWING THEIR LOVE

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ANDREW WINFREY NAMED ONE OF ALABAMA PUBLIC TELEVISION'S YOUNG HEROES

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CONTRIBUTED

» Andrew Winfrey

CULLMAN - Cullman's own Andrew Winfrey has come a long way in the past couple of years. From being named "First-Team All State Safety" with the Cullman Bearcats football team, to being involved in a terrible car wreck where he sustained severe head in-

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LOCAL BUSINESS

THE NEW LIVE 95.5: CULLMAN'S INDEPENDENT RADIO STATION PLAYS A DIFFERENT MIX

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN - Great news! There is a brand new radio station in town, and it's all about Cullman. The new Live 95.5 belongs to Jay Fuller and Melissa Silvey, and it is based right here in Cullman, Ala. It is the only radio station with a focus solely on the Cullman community. Other radio stations that are based in Cullman have signals that reach far beyond Cullman County and since this is a low-power station, the signal and the focus remain within the county.

"Our radio station started out because Jay and I both have very unique tastes in music," explained Melissa Silvey, co-owner. "We've never found a station that provides a blend of music we both like. Basically we just wanted another option on our own personal radio dials. I guess we

p2



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

» Still in its early stages, Live 95 hopes to cover a variety of local events.

Everything You Wanted to Know About Mausoleums, If You Ever Did

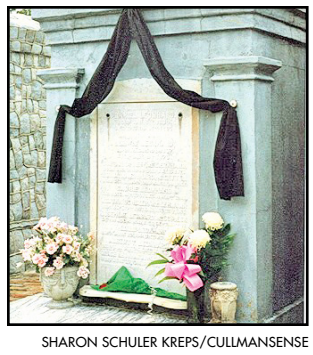
Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN - There sure has been a lot of talk about mausoleums around town lately. The more I hear, the more my imagination seems to wander. So I thought I'd check them out myself and see just exactly what they are, how they are constructed, and evaluate this alternative to underground burials.

The word "mausoleum" was named after the Persian ruler, King Mausolus, who had expressed his desire to be buried in a huge fancy structure that would assure people would remember him long after his death. Construction of the tomb began in 353 B.C. upon the King's death; unfortunately, the building was not finished until after both the king and queen had both died.

Some say the massive white marble building was 140-feet tall and sat on a 120-foot by 100-foot base. It featured several statues, a pyramid and

p2



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

» Cullman Heritage Funeral Home offers burial space in a mausoleum.

SENIOR CITIZENS DAY, AUGUST 21ST, HONORS THE ELDERLY

Arleen Alexander
ADSS Contributor

MONTGOMERY - This Thursday, August 21, 2014 is National Senior Citizens Day! On this day, we celebrate the people who are part of the fastest-growing demographic in the world. The population of adults 65 years and older has increased from 35.5 million in 2002 to 43.1 million in 2012 (a 21% increase) and is projected to more than double to 92 million in 2060. By 2040, there will be about 80 million older persons, over twice their number in 2000!

National Senior Citizens Day began in 1988, when President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the holiday to celebrate the contributions of older adults in our society and provide an opportunity

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AUTHORITIES SEARCHING FOR TRUCK INVOLVED IN DEADLY AUGUST 3 COLLISION

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WEST POINT - Alabama State Troopers are asking the public for assistance locating a vehicle that is believed to have been involved with the deadly collision occurring shortly before 5 p.m. on August 3 at the intersection of County Road 1242 and Alabama Highway 157 in West Point.

"The driver of the other vehicle, Ervin Lane, 72, (Vinemont) was killed in the collision," Sergeant Steve Jarret, Alabama State Troopers, stated in a release Tuesday morning.

Lane was transporting a shipment of grapes when, according to law enforcement, the collision occurred, causing his tractor trailer to flip over on its side, blocking both southbound lanes of Alabama Highway 157.

Eyewitnesses had told the troopers a second vehicle caused the collision. Sergeant Jarret confirmed the eyewitness accounts on Tuesday.

"Troopers have reason to believe the vehicle may be a 1999 to 2006 GMC or Chevy regular cab pickup, pewter or silver in color. The vehicle will have significant damage to the driver's side rear and may be in the Addison, Ala., area (Winston County)," Sergeant Jarret stated.

Alabama State Troopers are urging anyone with information regarding this vehicle to contact their nearest State Trooper Post by dialing *HP (*47) on their cell phone, or calling the Decatur State Trooper Post at 256-353-0631.



CONTRIBUTED

» The vehicle being looked for may be a 1999 to 2006 GMC or Chevy regular cab pickup, pewter or silver in color.

NEW 222 INTERCHANGE PROMISES EXCITING CHANGE

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CULLMAN - The new and upcoming 222 interchange promises ease and convenience, but it might have even more to offer. This new exit will provide potential growth and definite change for the cities of Good Hope and Cullman.

This interchange was promised to Topre America when they agreed to make Cullman their first United States endeavor.

Together, the Cullman County Commission, the cities of Good Hope and Cullman, and the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce produced the local cost share of construction.

"It's going to relieve a lot of traffic stress in Good Hope," stated Senator Paul Bussman. "It will also preserve the bridge in Good Hope, which is getting old."

The new interchange will also give Good Hope two and Cullman four access points to the interstate, which will increase visibility and access from I-65. This offers new retail and commercial opportunities for both cities.

"The new interchange will create many new development opportunities for our community," stated Peggy Smith, director of the Cullman Economic Development Agency.

"It will be prime property when it's done," stated Senator Bussman.

"This could be industrial, retail or anything else. That area is going to go from general farm land to extremely valuable property."

Smith stated that there will, indeed, be parcels of land around the interchange available for retail and commercial development.

"The City owns a fully-served 60-acre industrial tract of land that is a prime location for industry," Smith added. "We are currently marketing this property and have had increased interest with news of the interchange approval."

The Bass Fishing Hall of Fame plans to partner with Cullman Parks & Recreation on the land near the interchange to construct their new facility and convention center.

"This will truly be a one of a kind facility and real showplace for Cullman," stated Smith.

"I think the opportunities are boundless for development and the whole area is primed for growth."

This new interchange will open so many opportunities for growth in both Cullman and Good Hope.

With the right leadership and creative business owners, the area around the interchange can turn into something unique for both cities.

"Cullman and Good Hope have the chance to work together and benefit from this," said Senator Bussman. "The opportunities are endless."

"I'm very pleased to see us live up to this commitment to Topre," said Smith.

"This new interchange gives us a chance to continue this unique public partnership that will only enhance the great retail, dining, shopping and tourism opportunities that already exist here. Our office is excited about this opportunity for continued growth of our community."

Cullman County's recent growth is exciting and contagious.

With the cities of Cullman and Good Hope working together, we can create a beautiful area that is new, fun and unique.

Radio (from Front)

did it for selfish reasons, but we also wanted to share it at the same time."

The whole idea of "Live 95" began in November 2013 with the application for a new type of broadcast license made available by the FCC – a low-power broadcast license.

The folks behind Live 95 applied for and received a low power broadcast license and began setting up the radio station in April 2014. They signed on with test equipment on April 7, 2014 at around 5:30 p.m.

The first song they played on the air was "You and Me" by the Dave Matthews Band. They began to air announcements in between programming and telling listeners to find them on Facebook.

The first post from someone the radio crew did not know personally came on April 18. They could only assume they were found by "scanning" the radio dial! The radio station is still in its early stages, but there are big plans for the future. Eventually they hope to broadcast live from local Cullman County events such as high school football games, community concerts, and Oktoberfest. Recently, they covered the Celebrate Cullman event in town and had a blast. In a nutshell, the station will only continue to grow and will eventually be a part of Cullman's large extended family.

"We play music and we have a sports show," said Silvey. "We're looking to include some faith based programming as well. It's basically a community radio station, and we're hoping that people will send us information about what they'd like Cullman to know, such as fundraisers, car washes, that sort of thing. We'd really like to get the community involved and to be a part of community activities."

If you haven't changed your radio station to Live 95 yet, check it out soon. Until then, you are missing out on a great variety of music and important information about things that are happening here in Cullman. If you have a song request or want to announce community happenings, feel free to contact the station through Facebook or through their website at Live95Cullman.com.

Mausoleums (from Front)

a gold-trimmed burial chamber. Although the tomb itself was destroyed by earthquakes, some of the sculptures that once stood in the tomb are now housed in London's British Museum.

Today's mausoleums, and the crypts they hold, are made of concrete and are just like any other building. There is really not much difference between a mausoleum and a modern apartment complex – they are made mostly from concrete, tile, marble, and wood, and have the same maintenance requirements, which are cleaning, painting, drainage repairs, landscaping, electrical, etc.

"A mausoleum is a concrete box," explained Doug Williams, owner of Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. "It has a drain in the bottom and an air vent in the top of it. It has an interior plate that seals," he continued.

"It's a fiber-type material plate that seals that concrete box off. When you put a decedent inside, you have what is called a dry burial. If there is moisture of any kind, it exits through a drain and into a capture system. The air vent provides constant air circulation to the structure."

Once everything is completed, the "outer shutter" is placed. This is usually marble or granite - whatever facing the mausoleum has to make it attractive.

"As far as maintaining a mausoleum, it's all cosmetic on the outside if done properly on the inside," Williams explained.

"If it's done properly, nothing bad will happen."

Now, about the safety and security of the crypt occupants, there are several factors that make breaking into a crypt extremely difficult and unthinkable.

Getting the outer shutter off isn't a quick process and most modern mausoleums have some form of security after hours.

And past the shutters, equipment in the form of a lift is required to retrieve the casket. The mausoleums are constructed bearing these things in mind to avoid any potential damages.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

» Many modern mausoleums are made of common building materials including concrete, tile, marble, and wood.

Cullman Heritage Funeral Home has a mausoleum on site and is currently the only place in town that offers burial space in a mausoleum. If you would like to learn more about mausoleums, please contact Doug Williams or any of the friendly and knowledgeable staff at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. They are located at 255 County Road 1435 in Cullman. Their phone number is 256-734-0208. You may also visit them online at cullmanheritage.com.

LIVING BREAD FOOD MINISTRIES CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF GIVING

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

» Hanceville First United Methodist Church held an appreciation luncheon for the members of their Living Bread Food Ministry which has seen 537 client families, over 1,500 people, and distributed just shy of 2 million pounds of food.

HANCEVILLE - Hanceville First United Methodist Church held an appreciation luncheon for the many volunteers and donors who have participated in the church's Living Bread Food Ministry over the past 10 years. The church's Living Bread Food Ministry is a USDA approved food pantry, which has grown by leaps and bounds since its humble beginnings.

"In March of 2004, Amanda Gilliland brought an impossible idea to our little church," said Christina Crandall, church member.

"She wanted to feed the underprivileged in our community. As most of you know, we currently have about 95 people in worship service, and in 2004 we had even fewer," she continued.

"Taking on such a huge project could have been viewed as impossible by Amanda, but she heard God's voice calling and was determined to make a difference in our community."

According to statistics, Cullman County is in the top five for children qualifying for free lunch programs in our state. Alabama is also among the lowest in the country for food security, a condition related to the ongoing availability of food. In other words, more people these days are going hungry, choosing medicines and housing over food.

The Living Bread Food Ministry's mission statement reads, "We are commissioned by Jesus to feed His sheep. Our mission is to feed the needy, both the bread of the world and the bread of life. We will respect the dignity and privacy of all God's People."

Obviously, the folks at Hanceville First United Methodist Church have carried out this mission to the letter because, to date, their Living Bread Food Ministry has seen 537 client families, over 1,500 people, and distributed just shy of 2 million pounds of food!

"To help our fellow man we must make a decision to see the problem, be patient as God works through us to find a solution, and resolved enough to continue His work, though we may not see the big picture," explained Tonia Beverly, church member.

"We are His servants. We are charged with caring for our neighbors for His glory. I know that His glory is going to continue to grow and shine through those who are willing to be servants."

According to church members, there have been six "impossible things" that have happened since the beginning of the Living Bread Food Ministry.

1. They were able to expand from church only donations, out of a tiny closet, to a full-fledged USDA Food pantry in early 2005.

2. Living Bread grew to be a part of the church's community outreach and mission ministries, supporting First Choice for Women's Pro-Life clinic and missionaries in Indonesia, Chicago, Mexico and Honduras.

3. The tornadoes that wreaked havoc on the county on April 27, 2011 pushed Living Bread Food Ministry into action by helping a group of firemen from Weogufka, Ala. feed 2,500 people a day for a week with food from our pantry, coordinated donations and emergency supplies for families throughout Hanceville.

4. Last Christmas, due to a very generous benefactor, they were able to provide "Christmas" to their clients with turkeys, Bibles and gift cards.

5. They have been able to pray with people through illnesses, deaths, loss of employment, depression and stress.

6. They have seen clients who have either gone back to work or moved into better housing express gratitude for getting them through the hard times.

Clearly God is working wonders by feeding the hungry throughout the community. Those in need are being fed in more than one way through the Living Bread Food Ministry. First, hungry tummies are being filled, thus sustaining life. Second, hungry souls are being quenched through prayer and the Word of God.

If you or someone you know would like more information about the Living Bread Food Ministry at Hanceville's First United Methodist Church, please stop by and pay them a visit.

They are located at 704 Commercial Street in Hanceville. You may also give them a call at 256-352-5536. In addition, the church has a Facebook page, as well as a website at www.HancevilleFUMC.org.

Day (from Front)

to acknowledge and promote awareness for their unique contributions to society.

"For all they have achieved throughout life and for all they continue to accomplish, we owe older citizens our thanks and a heartfelt salute" said President Reagan while discussing National Seniors Citizens Day.

"We can best demonstrate our gratitude and esteem by making sure that our communities are good places...in which older people can participate to the fullest and can find the encouragement, acceptance, assistance, and services they need to continue to lead lives of independence and dignity."

In honor of National Senior Citizens Day, spend time with your favorite senior; send a personal note of thanks to the older adults who have made a positive impact on your life; volunteer at a senior center or retirement home; invite an older family member over for dinner and ask them to share their life's cherished accomplishments; show your support and concern for our seniors by helping them find the resources and tools they need to live securely and independently. The Alabama Department of Senior Services and your local Area Agency on Aging have a plethora of resources – call 1-800-AGELINE for more information.

Finally, if you are a senior citizen, then enjoy this day any way you desire. After all, this is your special day!

Winfrey (from Front)

juries in February 2012. In an instant, the young and talented athlete nearly lost his life and shortly after, the whole community was rallying behind him and offering prayers, love, and support. Since then, Andrew has made an amazing recovery. Although he's not the same rough and tumble jock he had been before the accident, he has grown in his faith and love of God and is using his experience to help others in need, both spiritually and physically.

Cullman and the surrounding counties have watched the amazing things Andrew has been able to do as he strives to recover, as well as help others by visiting various churches and talking about how God has been with him and helped him through it all. He has become dear to us all for his humble heart and brave soul. The state of Alabama acknowledges his efforts and has recently recognized Andrew as one of Alabama Public Television's Young Heroes of 2014.

APT's Young Heroes are made up of students who were nominated by their teachers, counselors, or other community leaders, in recognition of their academic achievement, public service and inspiration of others by overcoming adversity. Each Young Hero will receive a scholarship of $2,500 to the school of their choice, a tablet computer and other prizes. Andrew is one of five people chosen from this year.

"I was surprised to have been chosen for this award. I am honored to receive an award like this," said Andrew with a big grin.

"I was very surprised as well and speechless," smiled Holly Winfrey, Andrew's mother.

"I am very proud of Andrew for all he has accomplished and what he has overcome. He is a very determined young man. I am very thankful to APT and Cullman High School and the community for all the support, and for this award, but most of all to God for what He has done for Andrew."

Andrew has become well known in the religious community and he has traveled all over Alabama giving his testimony.

No matter where he goes, he is welcomed with open arms as well as open hearts. He has touched the lives of so many people, which clearly shows that God is really working wonders through this young man.

"My testimony is that I am alive because of Jesus Christ," Andrew explained.

"The wreck turned my life into a mess but God turned my mess into a message. And my message is that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me and that anyone can be an 'overcomer' no matter what adversity they are going through."

Andrew continues to heal every day. The future holds many wonderful things for him.

When asked where he sees himself in the future, there was no hesitation whatsoever in his reply.

"I see myself to be graduated from a Bible College serving in the ministry wherever God wants me to be," he stated.

As one Cullman Bearcat to another, I asked Andrew if he had any advice for the kids at our Alma Mater. With a sparkle in his eye, he told me the following:

"I enjoyed my years as a Bearcat and will always be a Bearcat," he mused.

"Remember to always show class in all you do! Thanks for all the wonderful years. Go Bearcats!"

For more information about Alabama Public Television's Young Heroes program, go to aptv.org/Heroes. Click on Andrew's picture and it will take you to a page that has information about him, as well as a short video shot at Cullman High School talking about Andrew and the experience he has lived to tell about.

ROCK & GLOW 5K AT SPORTSMAN LAKE IS SATURDAY

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CULLMAN - On Saturday, August 23, there will be a glow-run at Sportsman Lake Park, so if you drive by and see a bunch of glowing things in the distance, don't be alarmed.

The Rock & Glow event, as Cullman County Parks & Recreation have dubbed it, will be a 5K race benefitting the county parks throughout the Cullman area.

According to Sara Teichmiller, marketing coordinator, approximately just over 200 people have signed up for the event, but she'd like to see that number rise before the activity begins.

"I'd love for there to be 500, but 200+ in the first time ever for the event is just awesome," Teichmiller said.

She said the inspiration for the CP&R hosting a 5K came from the rest of the community utilizing the medium and she thought, "Why don't we have one, you know?"

Starting at 7 p.m. on Saturday evening, the race will go until 11 p.m.

But, as you finish the race, you'll find a DJ and a stage just past the finish line, and a dance party will finish off the night.

"Everyone will be decked out in glow sticks and stuff, and it will be fun for everyone: whether you're 60 or 6 years old," explained Teichmiller.

Ages 6 and under may run for free, while ages 7 to 12 are $15 per person, and ages 13 and up are $25 per person.

It's best to sign up before August 23 to avoid the $5 late fee for signing up the day of the event.

The route the runners will take attempts to circumvent having to enter into the forest and sticks to the road mostly, to make the race as smooth and simple for the runners as possible.

Even if you don't want to dance, or to dress in all glowing clothing and accessories, the race is a good way to simultaneously get active and support the community.

Senior Alaskan Tour to Provide an Incredible Opportunity for Travel

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CULLMAN - On Wednesday, August 6 at the Senior Center near Ingle Park a group of older citizens met to hear more information regarding a trip next summer.

Starting May 30, 2015, a party of senior citizens from Cullman will fly to Fairbanks, Alaska for the start of a summer vacation in the last frontier.

Whether or not the group will fly from Birmingham, Huntsville or Nashville has yet to be decided, but they will fly back to the southeast from Vancouver, the end-point for their excursion.

The group will take railroad trips and bus rides down from Fairbanks to Whittier, where they will board the cruise ship that will take them near some of the most beautiful glaciers in the world.

Before boarding the cruise ship, however, the group will pine for gold at an old outpost to get a feel for how frontiersmen made a living, and will also be given a miner's lunch and get a taste for how the food tasted 100 years ago in the wilderness.

They will take a ride on a riverboat, see dogsledders in training, test how it feels to live in a climate 40 below, visit Denali National Park and take a national history tour along with a wildlife tour.

The group will visit a location that has the largest number of totem poles in the nation.

The pricing for the trip is varied. For more information, contact Angie Jochum at 256-734-4803.

Crowdfunding: Raising Funds is Just a Click Away

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CULLMAN - Crowdfunding has gained popularity over the recent years among entrepreneurs, small businesses and creative individuals. But this new way of raising money can be confusing, overwhelming and, if not used properly, expensive. Get in the know with crowdfunding in order to raise money for your next project wisely.

Crowdfunding is a relatively new way of raising funds online. The first step is to choose a website and present your project or idea to the public. Those who see your project and wish to see it succeed are able to donate to your cause. It is basically the opposite of traditional fundraising in which few investors give large amounts of money.

There are four types of crowdfunding: equity based, where those who give receive a stake in the company; donation based, where those who give are simply giving a donation; lending based, where money given is slowly paid back over a long period of time; and reward based, where individuals who give receive an item or service in return for funds given.

Crowdfunding has been used for projects and businesses of a large variety. The largest project of any genre reported so far is "Star Citizen", a video game created by Chris Roberts. It has 470,000 backers, has risen over $47,056,851 and is ongoing.

New York recently took advantage of crowdfunding as well. The project in reference raised $273,114 to build a filtered, floating pool in the middle of the river. Now, New Yorkers can swim in clean river water for the first time in 100 years.

Crowdfunding isn't just used for entertainment, though. These fundraising sites have also been used to provide money for the development and distribution of a patch that keeps mosquitos away for those living in Uganda, and to help raise money for cancer patients.

With so many options, it can be difficult to determine which crowdfunding site will be best for your project.

Kickstarter and Indiegogo are two very popular crowdfunding sites. Kickstarter is an easy site to use for your creative project, but it's not for business, causes, charities or personal financing. Indiegogo, on the other hand, can help you raise money for almost any kind of project. There are several other crowdfunding sites that are intended to be used for a variety of projects.

If you're looking for something more specific, though, there are also sites which focus on only one area. Crowdfunder, for example, is a site for raising investment, while a site called Crowdrise is used to raise funds for causes and charities.

There are tons of other crowdfunding sites out there. Do some research to find out which type of site will best suit your project.

And then, get to work! In the past, the only thing standing between you and your project was money.

Now, thanks to crowdfunding, the money will come from those who believe in what you do.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.

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

Yellowhammer Brewery's Belgian White Brings on the Flavor

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CULLMAN - For this week's tasty beer review, I'm exploring Yellowhammer Brewery's Belgian White. I mentioned this beer a few weeks ago when I reviewed several Yellowhammer beers, but now I'm going to explore a little further into it.

Yellowhammer Brewing opened in Huntsville, Alabama in 2010.

Their brewing features traditional Belgian and German styles with just a touch of Southern charm.

In recent years, Yellowhammer Brewing has spread throughout the state of Alabama and is a proud member of the Alabama Brewers Guild.

Yellowhammer's take on a Belgian beer is a bit different than usual. Instead of the traditional hint of orange, the Yellowhammer White has notes of lime and ginger.

It's a creative spin on a traditional brew, and if you remember, this just happens to be my favorite style of beer.

This delicious beer has 4.8 percent alcohol and enough flavor to last you forever.

Appearance: This brew is bright, light yellow. It's cloudy but light, so you can see fizzy bubbles traveling to the top of the glass. It has a white foamy head, which lingers briefly before slowly diminishing.

Smell: This beer smells almost as good as it tastes. Almost. This white beer has a heavy wheat aroma with notes of sweet citrus. t also has lighter notes of pine and flowers. Spend a lot of time smelling this beer before you take your first sip. It smells so good, you can almost taste it.

Taste: Yellowhammer White is a classic and delicious Belgian with a creative twist. It is fruity, wheaty and packed with that one of a kind Belgian yeast flavor.

Palate: The little bubbles you saw traveling toward the top of your glass seem to dance in your mouth as you drink this delicious Belgian beer. It has a medium body and finishes with a slightly bitter (and tasty) flavor.

The overwhelming theme of this beer is, of course, that delicious Belgian yeast, and I'm not complaining.

This beer is the best style of beer and Yellowhammer is doing it right! Cheers!



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» Instead of the traditional hint of orange, Yellowhammer White pops with tastes of lime and ginger.



50 YEARS TOGETHER
HARSH BEGINNINGS LEAD TO AN AMAZING LIFE

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CULLMAN - August 22, 2014 is a very special day for my family. It marks the 50th Wedding Anniversary of my parents, John and Mary (Reid) Schuler. Times were really rough in the beginning, and have been hard over the years, but together they persevered, one obstacle after another, only to come through with a stronger love than ever before. This is the story of a couple of kids who fell in love.

My parents were both 16 years old when they first laid eyes on each other in Atlanta, GA. They met at the local swimming pool - Dad was one of the lifeguards. They dated all through high school and attended the University of Georgia together. The two were Army brats, and up until that time, moving was just a part of life. But when the time came for Mom's family to move back to Cullman, she was forced to make a choice.

"When Daddy got wind that I was thinking about staying in Atlanta with your Dad, he was both mad, as well as very hurt," Mom told me once. "Daddy was your typical career military man. He was used to barking orders and having his way. So he gave me an ultimatum - either I pack up and go home to Cullman with the family or stay in Atlanta, but if I chose to stay in Atlanta, he would cut me off financially," she said softly. "He would stop paying for college, home, food, etc. I would literally be on my own. The choice was mine and I chose to stay in Atlanta."

Grandpa was caught completely off guard, but at the same time, he had to follow through with his end of the deal. The family moved. Mom stayed in Atlanta and she was financially cut off.

"I didn't know if I would marry your Dad or not, but I didn't want my parents making that decision for me," Mom explained. "I wanted to stay and see where our relationship would go."

The Reids moved to Cullman. Mom found a job and a small room in a boarding house. She paid for her college education and later graduated with a degree in horticulture. She and Dad dated for a total of six years before getting married on the Army base at Fort McPherson in Atlanta.

After Dad graduated from the University of Georgia, he was accepted into Veterinary School. This was a big deal for my dad!

"At that time, only 12 students from Georgia were allowed to enter the Veterinary School at the University of Georgia," Dad said with a big ole smile. "The rest of the students came from out of state, for a total of 60 each year."

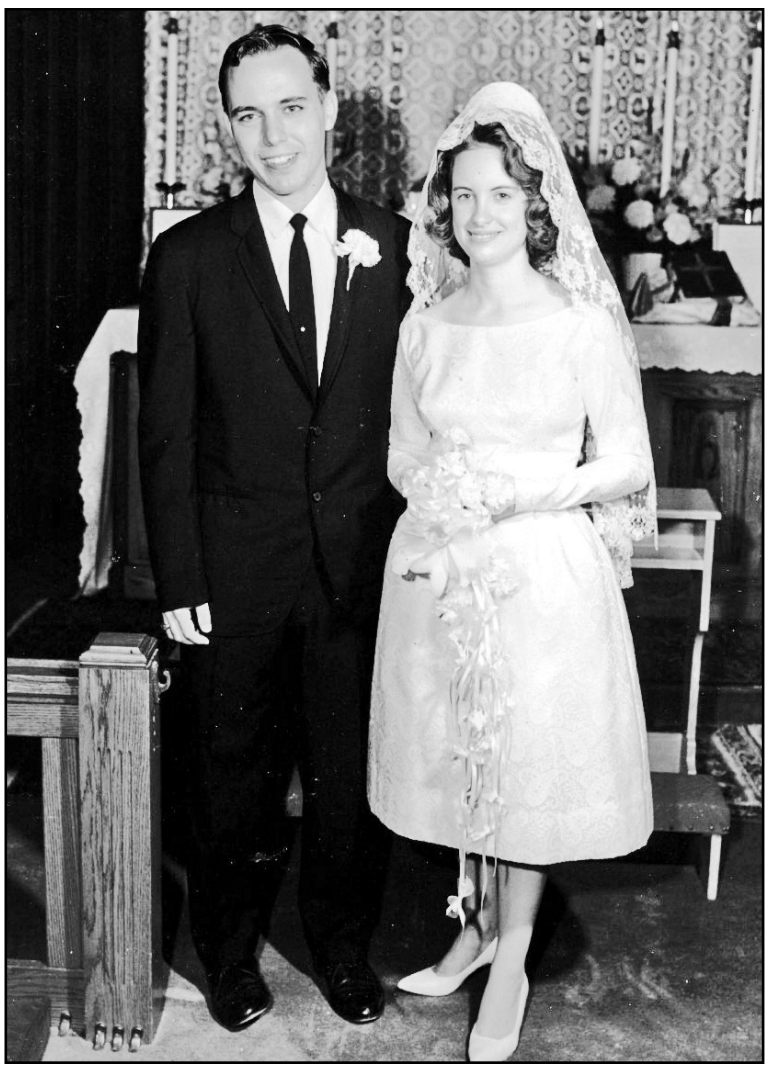
At the same time Dad entered Vet School, Mom had big news of her own! She was pregnant with my sister Angela.

"We rented a tiny apartment, and for a while, Angela's bed was a dresser drawer," Mom mused. "Money was tight. There were many days I didn't know where our next meal would come from. I constantly worried because once Angela finished her last bottle of formula, I'd have no clue where the next one would come from," she smiled. "But I knew God was in charge and somehow things would work out - and they did, but in the strangest ways!"

"One time we waited and waited for our income tax money to come – for some reason, it took forever," she shook her head.

"We finally received the money. It was at a time when we were completely out of money, food, diapers, etc.," she grinned.

"See, God knew that if we had gotten the money when we still had a little in the bank, we would have probably spent it on things that we didn't necessarily need."



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

» John and Mary (Reid) Schuler celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 22.

Over the past 50 years, my parents have constantly struggled with financial issues. Growing up, my siblings and I never went without food and shelter. We may not have had much but we had loving and supportive parents who took wonderful care of us.

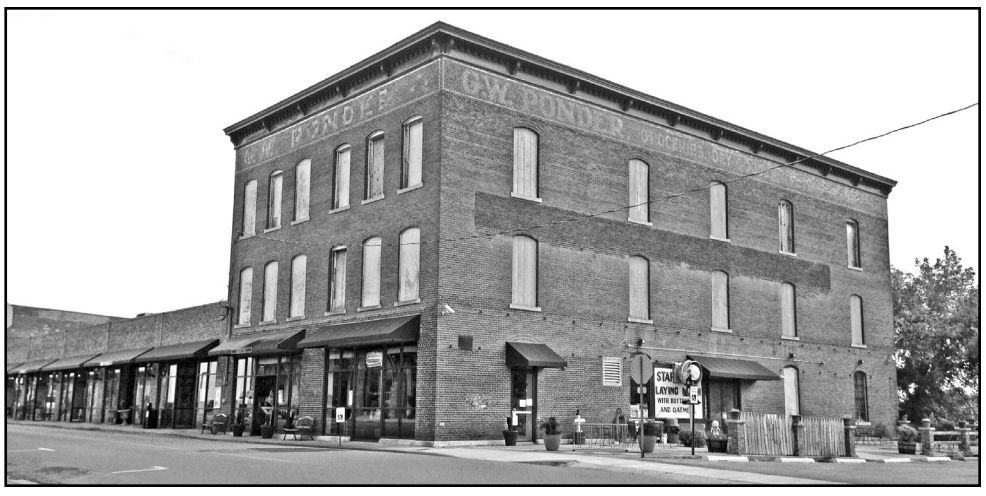
Thanks to my parent's example, I have learned without a doubt that God will always take care of our needs, not necessarily our wants. And I can live with that.

Happy Anniversary, Mom and Dad. I love you with all my heart!

MIRRORING HISTORY: GUANO WORKS

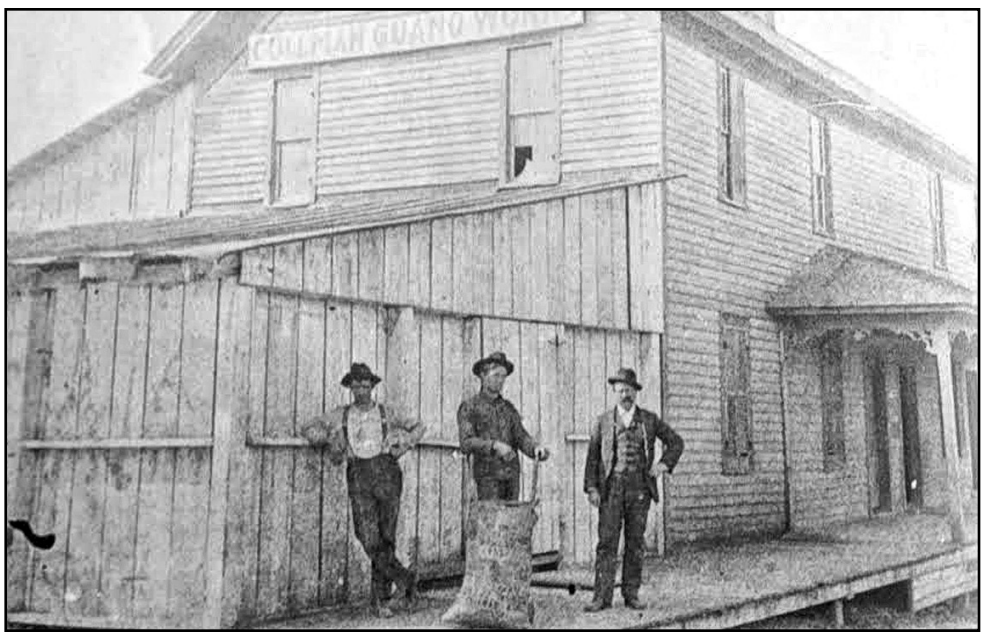
Jessica Norrell
jessica@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Cullman Guano Works opened in Cullman around 1900 and was housed in a two-story, wood-frame building. The building was located on First Avenue NE in what is today the Warehouse District, where Rumors Deli now stands. Guano Works was the first business to open on this block. The original wooden building was torn down and was replaced by the C. Arnold and Son Storage Warehouse and was later named the G.W. Ponder Building, the name of which is still present on the building that stands today.



JESSICA NORRELL/CULLMANSENSE

» Though the original building was torn down, Cullman Guano Works was located in today's Warehouse District.



CONTRIBUTED

» Cullman Guano Works opened in 1900 and the first building on its block.

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ALTERED: NEW LOCAL PAINTING BUSINESS CAN GIVE YOUR OLD FURNITURE A FACELIFT

Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - If you have old boring furniture, turn to Macy Toomey to spruce it back up. Toomey's new business, Altered, is all about taking something old and making it completely new.

"Basically, I buy furniture that's been sitting in your grandma's garage for years and bring it back to life," stated Toomey.

Toomey began restoring furniture after moving into an apartment and realizing she was not allowed to paint her walls.

"The thought of white walls bothers me and I had to do something to wake it up," she said.

"What better way to do that than paint all your furniture different colors?"

Toomey's hobby quickly turned into a passion, and so she started Altered.

"Altered is something I've wanted to start for a few years now, but it wasn't until after I had my son that I decided to give it a shot," said Toomey.

"I wanted to do something that allowed me to stay at home with him more and still make a little extra money. I'm not yet to the point of having it as my full-time job, but hopefully in the near future it will."

Toomey believes any piece of furniture, no matter its condition, has the potential to be brought back to life.

She is constantly looking in different places for something new to restore.

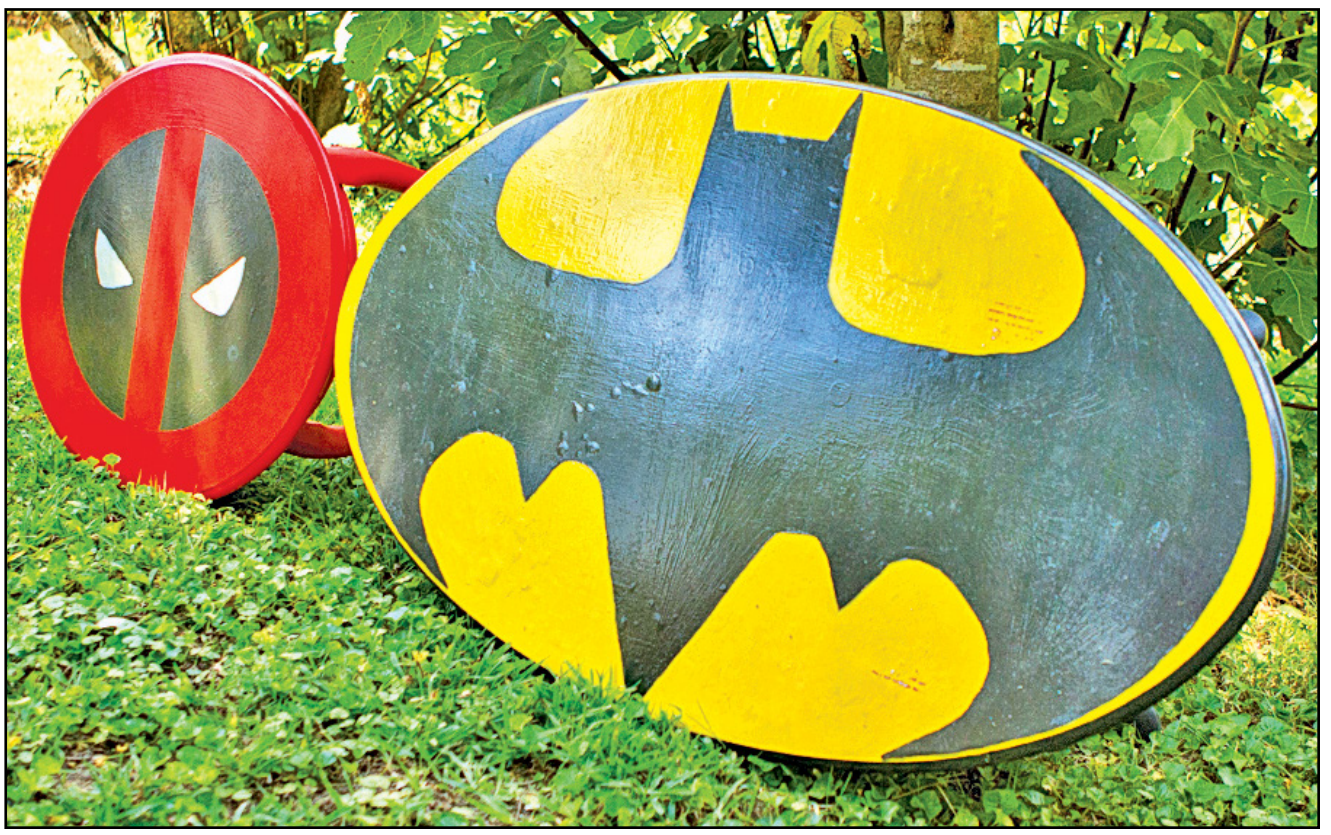
"I am always looking for furniture," she said, "whether it's on the Cullman online yard sale or Facebook or in a friend's kitchen. I've been given beautiful dressers in the past simply because the owner thought they were outdated. You can turn anything around."

Though Toomey loves restoring any piece of furniture, she especially enjoys pieces with unique histories.

"My grandmother received a bedroom suit when she was 16 years old, it had since been passed down to me," Toomey said.

"The nightstand had part of the wood chipped off and the vainer completely torn, so I decided to paint it my favorite colors (coral and blue). It's turned out to be very popular."

Once you see a Toomey piece, you won't forget it. Her style is fun, bright, and beautiful.



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

» A lover of bright colors, Macy Toomey loves restoring any piece of furniture, especially those with unique histories.

"I love using bright colors. It really makes the furniture stand out. Most of my pieces can be a little "girly", but I have also done superhero tables in the past. I like to be versatile and reach out to everyone."

It's a great thing when a career and a passion meet, and Toomey has made this happen.

"It's my passion," she said smiling. "I am constantly painting things, whether it be something to sell or just something for my apartment, I make time for my projects every night after I put my son to bed."

Toomey has big things in the future of her business. She hopes to own her own studio soon.

"And maybe even have some employees one day. I love painting everything myself, but it would be nice to have someone else to boss around," she said jokingly.

If you have furniture that needs to be brought back to life, or are simply interested in what Toomey has available now, visit her Altered Facebook page.

This new business is a fresh addition to Cullman. You will be amazed at Macy Toomey's talent.

Showing their Love: Berlin Community Event Supports Sylvia Smith

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

BERLIN - When the worst happens to our loved ones, or ourselves, it is always a comfort to see an outpouring of love from those closest to us. It gives a feeling of security knowing that everyone is supporting you and wants to help you through. On Saturday, at Country Strong Karaoke, a benefit concert was held to show a community member she has all of that and more.

Sylvia Smith was born and raised in Cullman County. She has touched many people's lives, and is described as an all around great person.

When she was diagnosed with a rare type of lymphoma, her community pulled together to host a benefit in her honor. Country Strong Karaoke in Berlin sponsored the benefit, and the band Stone Floor Theory donated their time as well.

With both the establishment and entertainment donating their time, 100 percent of the proceeds went to Sylvia.

Sylvia's nephew, Jeremy Trimble, talked about the kind of person Sylvia is, and how even in the face of great adversity she still smiles.

"She is back and forth to the doctor every week," Trimble said.

"Here before too long they are talking about a bone marrow transplant. Me and my brother are like her kids, and we just want to help her in anyway we can."

"She is so outgoing," he continued. "Especially when getting the news that she got. I really admire her and the way she stepped up. Her personality and attitude towards life hasn't changed a bit."

The lead singer and members of the band Stone Floor Theory were happy to donate their time to Smith.

"We are friends with her nephew Jeremy, and he had mentioned it to us," White said.

"She is having a hard time, and it just seemed like the right thing to do."

Dewayne Corbitt, lead singer of the group, has known Sylvia and Jeremy for years. For him, it was a no brainer.

"I moved here from Georgia around '94," Corbitt said. "And I became quick buddies with her nephew, and I have been family with her ever since. I would do it for any of my family."

Sylvia Smith herself, talked about her condition, and the unique circumstances of her diagnosis.

"I have what is called mantle B-cell lymphoma," Smith said. "And they say that it normally occurs in men age 60 and older. My doctor said that I am the second person he has ever treated with this. He also said that because I am only 50, it will help a lot with the therapies. I have to take some pretty aggressive treatments."

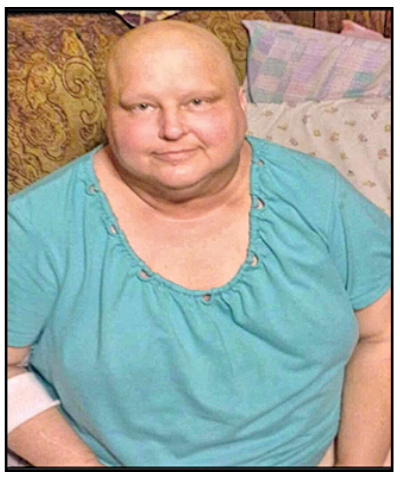
Even when discussing her illness, Smith was gracious, hopeful, and genuinely humbled by the turn out.

"I appreciate it," Smith said. "I have never had anything like this done for me. I am just so appreciative and feel so blessed."

The parking lot of Country Strong Karaoke was packed, and parking even became scarce as more and more people filled the lot.

The night was kicked off with karaoke, and family and friends sang their favorite tunes.

The atmosphere was high energy by the time the band got up to play, and the evening was one filled with music and support. Smith is a woman loved by many, and everyone continues to pray for her recovery.



CONTRIBUTED

» Sylvia Smith was diagnosed with a rare type of lymphoma.



CONTRIBUTED

» Stone Floor Theory provided the entertainment for the fundraiser.



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You may contact us at 256-734-3052



MICHAEL'S FLOWERS AND DESIGN BRINGS UNEXPECTED TASTES TO DOWNTOWN

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - If you are walking down First Avenue in Cullman, you will probably see the shop Michael's Flowers and Design. While this has been a well established hub for all things floral, it is also quickly becoming a premier spot for beer and wine in the area. A vast selection, presented in a beautiful store, offers a unique shopping experience one might not expect.

Michael's Flowers and Design is always on a mission to up their game and offer new products to their clientele. The addition of a fine wine section offered new possibilities for gift baskets, or for customers to come to the store's new wine tastings. According to Michael Sapp, manager over wine and beer sales, the store wanted to be a part of the changes happening on their street and in downtown Cullman.

"This whole street is changing all the time," Sapp said. "We have Brothers Kitchen & Pourhouse down the road with their beautiful patio, Moe's, Berkley Bob's, and now there is Hops & Shops. This whole street can really be something fun and exciting."

He added that the new merchandise at the store opens them up to a wider age demographic than before. "With the flower shop, we get a lot of business through phone orders, but it isn't a place where young people want to exactly run to," Sapp said. "So part of it is just to bring in a whole new different client. So we started with the wine, and that has went really well, so now we have added beer to give even more selection."

While the beer section isn't huge, their selection is still diverse and unique.

"We get all the unique stuff," said Sapp. "You know all the stuff that maybe you hadn't heard of, and may not be quite as popular yet, but is still excellent beer. That's what we specialize in, and why I think people will enjoy coming here. But on the flipside of that, we also offer some of the basics like Budweiser."



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» A unique beer selection, competitive pricing, and beer and wine tastings have drawn in a wider age demographic to Michael's Flowers and Design.

Sapp went on to boast the last ingredient that sets their selection apart, and that is pricing. "Another way we get people in here is that I have the absolute rock bottom prices on that kind of stuff," Sapp said. "It's on par or cheaper than Walmart. Like this six-pack of Miller Light for $6.29."

Whatever your taste or preference, Sapp is confident that he can take care of your needs. If you need more information before you are a believer, then simply call and find out when their next wine or beer tasting is being held. The cost will be around only $10 and allows everyone to try some of their selection and have a lot of fun in the process.

The number one difference with Michael's Flower and Design is the service. Both Michael Richards and Sapp are devoted to taking care of their customers and making sure you leave with exactly what you are looking for. You certainly can't get that at Walmart.

For more information, please call 256-841-5553 or "Like" them on Facebook at Michael's Flowers and Design.

Run (from Front)

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – At Sportsman Lake on Saturday, employees gathered to host the first ever "Color Run" to raise money for their upcoming "Best Practice" conference. Dozens of people showed up to get colorful and run for a great cause. There was a clear sky and a light breeze, creating a perfect evening for a run.

The real story behind this weekend's run is what the nursing home is raising money for, and what that means for residents. Hanceville Nursing Home prides itself on being the best and providing excellent patient care. This has not gone unnoticed within the Cullman community, as they were recently awarded the title of Best Nursing Home in 2014. The home was also awarded the prestigious honor of Best Practice in the state.

"Each year the Alabama Nursing Home Association asks that any nursing home that wants to submit a practice they think is innovative and creative to the Alabama Best Practice," Jamie Medlock, marketing director of Hanceville Nursing Home said. "This is our fifth year to win. We won three consecutive years in 2008, 2009, and 2010. Then we also submitted and won last year, and this year."

According to Medlock, Hanceville Nursing Home has a long standing reputation as being one of the best in the state.

"We have typically 40 submissions a year from across the state, and they [nursing home association] pick eight," Medlock said. "This year our practice is called 'Doctor Feel Good', and what we did was start a wellness program for our residents."

Medlock went on to say that the program has four pillars including healthy snacks, light-weight training, Tai Chi, and then finally laughter yoga.

"The laughter yoga is the component that makes us really innovative," said Medlock. "With the laughter yoga, it combines deep breathing and core strengthening. So that is what we submitted and won with, and now we have 30 employees that are going with us to present."

At this conference, presenting means more than a speech and a PowerPoint.

For the employees of this home, it is a time to uphold their sterling reputation as the most fun and dynamic presenters ever.

"We go above and beyond when we present," said Medlock proudly.

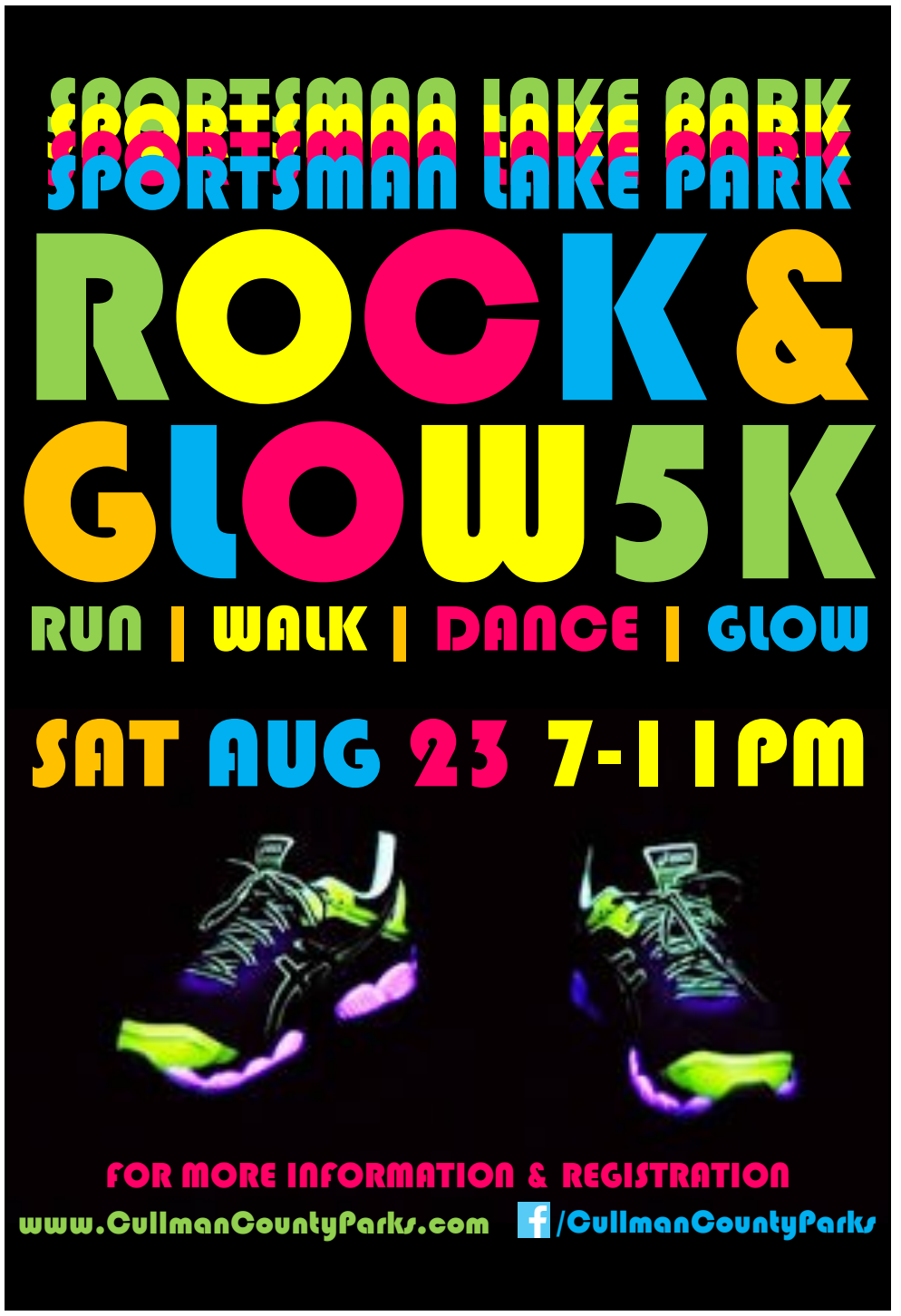
"We do elaborate things like skits, and video scenes, and all kind of different things. So these events are to raise money for all of these employees to be able to go."

The entry fees alone for the conference, which takes place at the Cahaba Grand Conference Center in Birmingham, are approximately $1,800 each.

What makes this a very pricey event is that the fees are per person and not a group rate. Despite the price, Medlock says that this conference is important for the employees to improve patient care.

"The way it works, is our program at home is helping our patients, and then we go and share it with all of these other nursing homes so they can take the idea back to their facility. It is the same way for us when we listen to these seven other presenters, and they are doing things that we don't know about. So we all learn from each other."

This small nursing home is doing big things, and their residents are reaping the benefits. At the end of the race, every employee was smiling and laughing, and covered head to toe in colorful paints. The feeling you felt emanating from all involved was one of devotion to their jobs, and a drive to be the best. A drive that has proven to serve Hanceville well for many years in the past, and will continue for many years to come.



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.

Joanne P. LaGanke MS Support Group
Members of the Joanne P. LaGanke MS Support Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. and all who are interested in this disease are invited to attend. Topic for the meeting is 'Exploring Cognitive Issues with MS' presented by Carol Groce.

Bosom Buddies Support Group
The Bosom Buddies Support Group offers support to individuals affected by Breast Cancer. The group will hold its next meeting on Monday, August 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Cullman Regional Medical Centers Depot Room in the Community Education Center located in Professional Office Building 2 (1890 AL Highway 157, Cullman, AL 35058).

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

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

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

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

Tuesday

Cullman Caring for Kids in Need of Donations
If you are able to contribute to Cullman County's Community Food Band, the 'Caring for Kids' organization, they would be grateful. Non-perishable food items are needed, and of course cash enables them to purchase needed products to fill their empty shelves. Please call 256-739-1111 to see how to help or mail checks or money orders to Cullman Caring for Kids, P. O. Box 698, Cullman, Alabama 35056-0698. Thanks in advance for anything you can do.

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.

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.

Cullman County Board of Education meeting
All members of the Cullman County Board of Education are urged to attend their work session at 5:30 pm and meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Central Office.

'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!

Ageless Grace Fitness Class
Come join in the Ageless Grace Fitness Class held each Thursday evening starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Cullman Civic Center. Leader Ann Caretti will show attendees the latest fitness tips available. The event is sponsored by Cullman Park and Recreation Department. Call 256-734-9157 for more information.

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, hang-ups, or habits in their lives. Please call 256-739-7091 for additional information. All welcome!

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

Friday

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

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

Cullman Wee Swap & Market
Cullman Wee Swap & Market is a twice a year upscale children's consignment sale. This sale is held at the Atrium on Hwy 157. Public sale dates are 8 am - 7 pm. Detailed information is provided at www.cullmanweeswap.com.

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.

Saturday

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.

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.

'Run and Glow' at Sportsman Lake Park
Cullman County Parks Department is sponsoring a 'Run and Glow' event at Sportsmans Lake Park from 7 pm until 11 pm. This will be a Run/Walk/Dance/Glow event open to everyone. The course is 3.1 miles long, with music being played along the way. The run is free to children 6 and under, with ages 12 and under paying $15.00 and adults will pay $25.00. All runners and walkers MUST REGISTER. Admission to the park is free. All runners and walker will go home with a 'goody bag' with some great gift items in it. For additional info www.CullmanCountyParks.com.

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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

Cullman Kiwanis Club
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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 from 7-9 p.m.
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-7 p.m.
- Monday Fundays at the Aquatic Center from 6-11 p.m.

Tuesday

- Square Dancing Lessons at East Point Community Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Pickin' Under the Pavilion at the Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-7 p.m.

Wednesday

- Story Time at the Hanceville Library at 10 a.m.
- Karaoke Night at Grumpy's at 7 p.m.
- Musician Craig Edwards at Brothers at 7 p.m.
- Happy Hour at Moe's 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 from 8 p.m.-close
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-7 p.m.
- Karaoke Night at Cadillac Ron's at 7 p.m.

Friday

- Live Music at Brothers
- Live Music at Moe's & Happy Hour from 3-6 p.m.
- Live Music at Cadillac Ron's from 8 p.m.-close

Saturday

- Farm Y'all Festival at the Farmer's Market from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Live Music at Brothers
- Live Music at Moe's & Happy Hour from 3-6 p.m.
- Gospel Music Singer Squire Parsons at the Cullman Civic Center at 7 p.m.
- Live Music at Cadillac Ron's from 8 p.m.-close.
- Rock & Glow Run at Sportsman Lake Park from 7-11 p.m.

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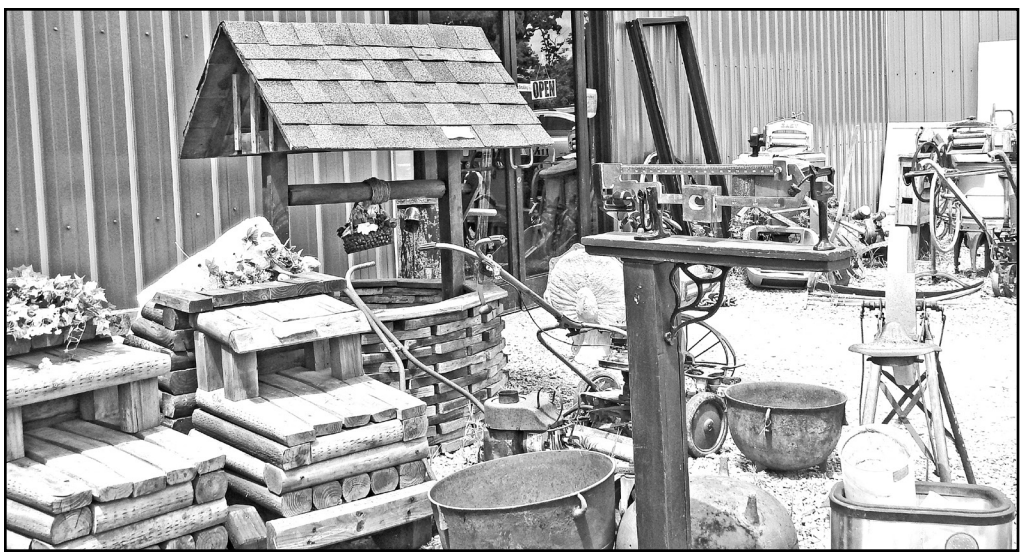
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HIGHWAY PICKERS OFFERS UNIQUE FINDS & PIECES OF HISTORY



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

» The HIghway Pickers antique mall currently houses between 160-170 dealers and will soon accomodate around 350.

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - On Highway 278, just past I-65, there is a hidden treasure. People drive from miles around to look at the countless items for sale that are more than just décor, they are pieces of history. If you want to browse these unique finds and walk away with a treasure, then you need look no further than Highway Pickers.

Highway Pickers is an antique mall and market that houses some one of a kind merchandise including items from decades ago and even as far back as the Civil War. Michael Keller, owner of Highway Pickers, said that the popularity of the store has far exceeded his expectations.

"I have owned this building for 17 years," Keller said. "And I just needed to turn it into something, and we decided on an antique mall. This isn't something I expected to do, but as you get into this [picking], it really grows on you."

The large space houses many different dealers who rent square footage in the store.

"Now we have about 160-170 dealers," Keller said. "We have a lot of dealers who have showcases. Queen's Antiques is our biggest dealer and they have 1,000 square feet. We have several booths in here that are 500 or 800 square feet."

Business has been good to Keller and his dealers so far.

From the amount of dealers interested in working with Highway Pickers to the customers who travel here just to get the best deals around.

"When we're completed, we will have about 350 dealers with about 50,000 square feet," said Keller. "It's been phenomenal; we have probably 350 or 400 people on the waiting list trying to get in. We opened this June 1 of last year, and by June 19, we didn't have any booths available. It has been way beyond my expectations."

With so many dealers, it offers customers a great deal of variety in one store, and not all dealers sell antiques.

One shop belongs to Judy Swann, who designs and sews children's clothes by hand, as well as other clothing items for children. Whether you are looking for boutique style clothing at far less than boutique prices, or you need a custom pageant dress made, Judy's Bowz & Clothez is the right place.

"I custom make all these clothes," Swann said.

"I am currently putting out a lot of custom items, and all the clothes are custom fit to the child. I make clothes that are very close to the brand Mud Pies, and they are very expensive. My clothes are cheaper in price and my clothes are guaranteed, so if you take it home and wash it and it comes apart, then I will not only give you your money back, I'll give you another suit."

At Christmas time, Judy's husband, who happens to be Santa Claus, will make an appearance with kids at the beginning of November in the store. A beautiful scene will be set up for children to have their pictures made. Come November, a Christmas wonderland will come early to Highway Pickers.

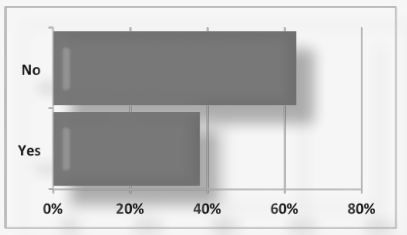
This store is a must stop for everyone and all ages. You will find amazing treasures to show in and around your home, and your kids will get a glimpse into times past. Children often do not understand what our grandparents went through to do what we consider simple tasks.

Keller says this store is a great way to educate kids. There are so many reasons to visit this beautiful and elegant antique mall, and when you go you can be sure to find a great deal, and the friendliest service around.

For more information, please call 256-841-5293 or add them as a friend on Facebook to keep up with their latest offerings: just search the name Highway Pickers and send a request.

Poll

Are you worried about an Ebola outbreak in Alabama?



This Week's Poll

With the violence and unrest in Ferguson Missouri due to a deadly confrontation with a police officer and an unarmed youth, do you feel police use excessive or unneeded force when confronting individuals locally?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

HANCEVILLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OFFERS CELEBRATE RECOVERY CLASSES FOR STRUGGLING ADDICTS

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE - Hanceville First Baptist Church is offering Celebrate Recovery classes each Thursday night from 7-9 p.m., with childcare provided.

Beth Murphree, a member of Hanceville First Baptist, says that Celebrate Recovery, which has been going on at the church each Thursday since March 6, is for sufferers of any kind of addiction. The church's Facebook page mentions drug and alcohol addiction, along with food addiction and life issues.

Along with being a great help for any addicts, according to Murphree, Celebrate Recovery can also be a place for those who have just been released from incarceration.

The pastor of Hanceville First Baptist, Phillip Wigley, and his wife Amanda, started the program at the church six months ago, and Murphree says that it is the only program of its kind in the area.

Because the program is held at the church, the participants will get counseling on an entirely different level than if they were to go to classes held at a secular location.

Also, because the program was started by the pastor of the church, those who attend the meetings have the added benefit of someone not only caring for their physical well-being, but also on a deep theological and spiritual level as well.

"I don't know of anything like it around," says Murphree of the program.

Hopefully the classes will grow and benefit, not only Cullman county, but the world. If you wish to contact the church for more information, call Hanceville First Baptist Church at 256-352-9150.

cp&r 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.
- **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 with Johnny's BBQ as the featured food truck this week!
- **CP&R Jr. Tennis League** will be starting play on September 1. Program will be 8 weeks long with three weeks of practice and 5 weeks of matches. Registration is $75 for the 8 week session. and is now open at the Cullman Civic Center and Wellness & Aquatic Center. League will be played at the Cullman High School tennis courts against other CP&R teams. Call 256-734-9157 for info.
- **FREE CP&R Tennis Festival** will take place August 17. 2014 for interested participants in the Jr. Tennis program or adult tennis programs. Matches, free play, free food, music & more will all be a part of the event from 4-6pm.
- **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 $200 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.
- **CP&R Youth Archery Classes**: Held at the Cullman Civic Center's indoor archery range; classes will start August 18. Cost is $40 per class. Beginner classes held Mondays, intermediate classes Tuesdays, and advanced classes Thursdays.

What's Online

Hipster Ale is Delicious and Pretentious

Evil Twin Brewing's Hipster Ale had delicious flavor before it was cool. As a tribute to all the hipsters and wannabe hipsters out there, I'm reviewing this totally rad Hipster Ale this week. Evil Twin Brewing was founded in 2010 by Jeppe Jarnit-Bjergso in Denmark. He has since moved to New York with his family...



qrne.ws/240

2014 Farm Y'all - Farm to Fork Dinner

The 2014 Farm to Fork dinner will happen this Saturday from 6-9 p.m. The event will take place at the Wallace State Community College School of Nursing and Center for Science Conference Center. This year's chef will be the one and only Mauricio Papapietro of the infamous Brick and Tin Restaurant...

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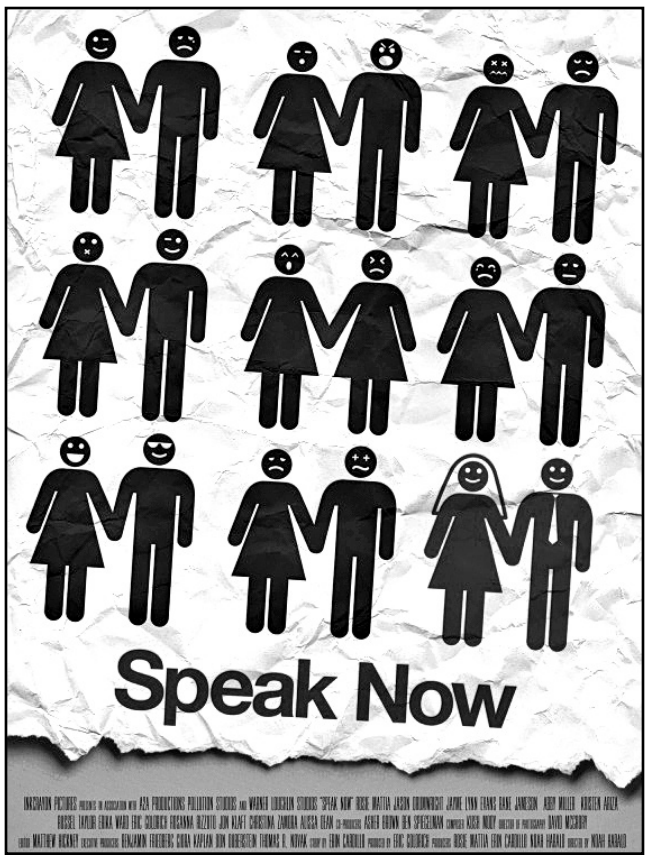
Get Personalized This School Year

The beginning of a new school year is such an exciting and sometimes stressful time. A new routine can be hard to get into, but it can become a comforting constant once it is set. Back to school shopping has been in full swing and most have taken full advantage of the sales happening.

qrne.ws/242

INDEPENDENT FILM SERIES RETURNING TO WALLACE STATE

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC Contributor



WSCC

» The film "Speak Now" is based on actors improvising their dialog given a general outline.

HANCEVILLE - Wallace State Community College will once again host the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers, presented by South Arts, supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The six-film series will kick off in September and continue through November, before resuming in February and ending in April. The six films planned for viewing at Wallace State's Burrow Center Recital Hall include both documentaries and fictional feature films encompassing a wide range of subjects. The filmmakers will be on hand for question and answer sessions after the viewings.

All of the films are free and open to the public, said Kristen Holmes, director of Communication and Marketing at Wallace State.

"I'm really impressed with the lineup of films we have coming to Wallace State this year, and hope many area residents take advantage of the opportunity to see these free films," Holmes said.

"There really is, I think, something for everyone to enjoy this season — from a sophisticated, entertaining documentary about the theft of the Mona Lisa to inspirational ones about helping others, making music, and reimagining education — to narrative, fictional selections about the chaos that comes with weddings and a lighthearted European love story," she said.

"Speak Now" — 6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 11
Directed by Noah Harald and written by Erin Cardillo, "Speak Now" is described as a "romantic dramedy." The film was shot over a three-day period, with the actors improvising their dialogue based on general outline. The plot of the film surrounds a group of high school friends reuniting for a wedding and the secrets that come out, unleashing chaos for the bride and groom and alter the lives of all in attendance.

The film received an Audience Award at the 2013 Austin Film Festival and Conference.

Visit the film's website at speaknowfilm.com or see the movie trailer at vimeo.com/76202162.

"Mona Lisa is Missing" — 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 9
A documentary about the 1911 theft of Leonardo da Vinci's most famous painting, "Mona Lisa is Missing" will be viewed twice, with the 9:30 a.m. showing acting as part of the college's Learning Communities courses.

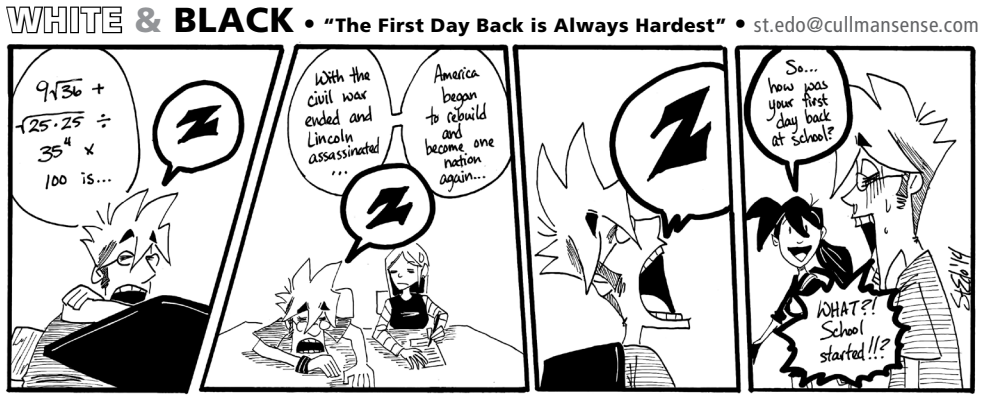
These courses offer WSCC students a learning experience outside of the classroom. Visit the film's website at monalisamissing.com or see the trailer at vimeo.com/81444814.

Additional showings:
• "Go with Le Flo" — 6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 13"
• "Brothers Hypnotic" — 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 12
• "The Starfish Throwers" — 6 p.m., Thursday, March 19
• "If You Build It" — 6 p.m., Thursday, April 9

For more information about the film series at Wallace State, visit www.wallacestate.edu or call 256.352.8457. For more information about South Arts, visit www.southarts.org.

Comics

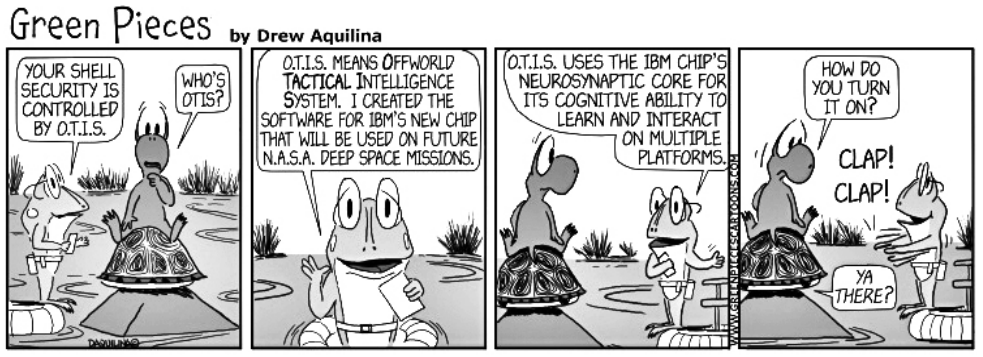
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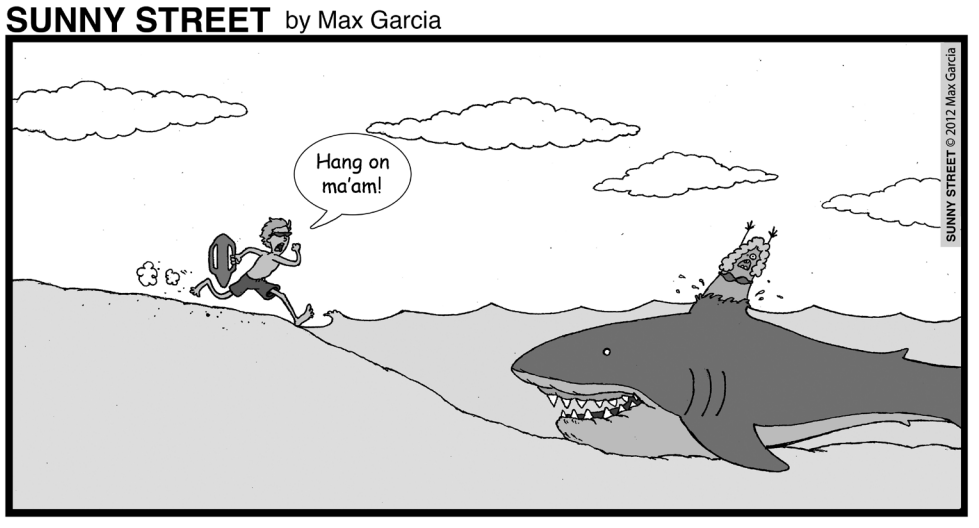
MAMA'S BOYZ www.jerrycraft.net **JERRY CRAFT**



Green Pieces by Drew Aquilina



SUNNY STREET by Max Garcia



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Pets of the Week

Crimson

Hello! My name is Crimson, and I am about 1.5 yrs old. I am believed to be an American Bulldog mix, and I currently weigh 26 lbs. I am a stray but will be available for adoption on 08/18/14 at 9:30 a.m. I am full of life and I love to play. I'm ready to find my new forever companion and happy home.



Cesily

Hello! My name is Cesily, and I am about 2 years old. I am a Chihuahua, and I am here with my 5 male, 9-week old puppies. I currently weigh 10 lbs. I am spirited and enjoy company. I love my babies and want them to find a good home, too. If you know anyone who would love a companion or some sidekicks, come see us.



ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

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

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

Editorial Cartoons



theinsolentlemon.blogspot.com



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Cartoonist Anthony Saint

OPINION

LAWMAKERS AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS:
STAY OUT OF OUR BODILY WASTES

Laura Finley
PeaceVoice

Why is it that the same conservatives who so desperately want "big government" out of our lives are at the same time so darn eager to have officials involved in our urination? Despite major studies showing that suspicion-less drug testing is not an effective means of identifying or deterring drug use, state and federal officials continue to promote it. That is true of both school-based drug testing and random workplace testing.

In 2011, Florida Governor Rick Scott (a Republican) attempted to require anyone seeking benefits from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to submit a urine sample. No suspicion was required, nor was any previous arrest or conviction for a drug-related offense required. Being poor was all that was needed.

Federal courts declared the program unconstitutional, although Scott spent nearly $400,000 fighting the court's decision. And Florida spent $118,140 reimbursing the 3,938 TANF applicants who tested negative for drugs. Only 2.6 percent of people who were tested during the four months that the Florida program was in operation had results positive for drugs—a rate far lower than drug use among the general public. In fact, more than three times lower than the 8.13 percent of Floridians over the age of 12 who are estimated by the federal government to use illegal drugs. Tennessee's program saw only one person out of the 800 who applied for assistance test positive.

In 2012, Georgia passed the Social Responsibility and Accountability Act, a virtual carbon copy of the recently-debunked Florida law, which requires all benefits recipients to pass a drug test. In all, at least 28 states introduced some type of drug testing for benefits recipients in 2012. The infatuation with drug testing poor people has not ended. In early August, Republican Governor Paul LePage of Maine announced his plan to drug test people applying for TANF, although at least this proposal is limited to those who have previous felony drug convictions.

It's not just the poor who are targeted, however. Officials seem to believe that all teenagers are up to no good, hence a continued increase in school-based drug-testing. This fall, three Catholic schools in Ohio are drug testing their entire student bodies, requiring students to submit hair samples. Closer to my home, the Miami Dade Public Schools announced it will begin randomly testing students this fall as well. It seems the only people immune from being tested are lawmakers themselves, as John Stewart so keenly pointed out when he requested that Florida Governor Rick Scott submit to a urinalysis.

Of course, while testing programs are not cheap, with the cost passed on to taxpayers, the drug-testing business has fast become a multi-billion dollar industry, with huge amounts spent on lobbyists who demonize the poor and vulnerable in order to line their own pockets. They argue, as do the lawmakers who they buy, that people shouldn't worry if they have nothing to hide. That's bunk.

Our excretory processes should be among the most private activities, hence why we have laws against public urination and, even in our own homes, most of us shut the door to the bathroom. To be clear, I have no problem with drug testing based on actual suspicion. Clearly, if someone appears to be impaired by drugs in the workplace or at school, this suspicion could justify use of a urinalysis.

But for increasing numbers of high school youth and people in need of public services, no suspicion is needed. Rather, it is simply presumed that they must prove their innocence by whizzing in a cup.

Laura Finley, Ph.D., teaches in the Barry University Dept. of Sociology & Criminology and is syndicated by PeaceVoice.

OPINION

IN FERGUSON AND BEYOND, MILITARISM IS A PUBLIC SAFETY CRISIS

David Swanson
PeaceVoice

Peace and justice organizations in St. Louis, Mo. and across the country called for collective action this Saturday. They proposed "nationwide solidarity actions in support of justice for Mike Brown and the end of police and extrajudicial killings everywhere."

But "nationwide" and "everywhere" are odd terms to equate when discussing U.S. police militarization. Are we against extrajudicial killings (otherwise known as murder) by U.S. government employees in Pakistan? Yemen? Iraq? The militarization of local police in the U.S. is linked to the militarization of U.S. foreign policy: Bomb (or do nothing.) Just like the U.S. military, and using many of the same weapons, gear and equipment, local police have a similar policy: Shoot. Never mind questions. This is a public safety crisis.

Local police are being militarized as a result of many factors, including:

- A federal government that directs roughly $1 trillion every year into the U.S. military, depriving virtually everything else of needed resources.
- A federal government that still manages to find resources to offer free military-grade weapons to local police in the U.S. and elsewhere.
- Weapons manufacturers that eat up local subsidies and federal contracts while pushing for the U.S. military to unload its weapons on local police as one means of creating the demand for more.
- The use of national security fears to justify the removal of citizens' rights, gradually informing local police to view the people in their communities as potential terrorists, threats and enemies of law and order.
- The further conflation of military and police through the militarization of borders, military "exercises" in the U.S. and the growth of the drone industry into U.S. skies.

But policing is not the only thing militarized by what President Eisenhower called the "total influence — economic, political, even spiritual" of the military industrial complex. For example, our news is militarized with constant analyses by military and pro-war talking heads. Our entertainment is militarized with shows like The Unit and Band of Brothers. Our education is increasingly militarized as even our grade-school children are sent by underfunded schools to Army bases to learn science, math engineering, and technology through the STARBASE Program.

"Unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military industrial complex" is not easily opposed while simultaneously maintaining the military industrial complex. When Congress Members lend their support to a new war in Iraq while proposing that the U.S. Post Office and a dozen other decent things not be defunded, they are speaking out of both sides of their mouths. The United States cannot live like other wealthy nations while dumping $1 trillion a year into a killing machine.

The way out of this cycle of militarized madness is to confront, unified and coherent, what Martin Luther King, Jr. called the three "evils": Racism, extreme materialism, and militarism.

The issue is not racism, extreme materialism, and what the military does to the local police. Not racism, extreme materialism, and what the military does to weapons testing sites.

Not racism, extreme materialism, and what the military does to the people of Honduras, Iraq or Syria. Not any of these partial steps alone, but the whole package of interlocking evils of attitude and mindset must be confronted. Militarism is a tremendous public safety issue.

There is a no-fly-zone over Ferguson, Mo., because people in the U.S. government, from which local police forces take their cues, view the people of the United States increasingly as they view the people of other countries: as best controlled from the air.

The War Resisters League noted this view is perpetuated by police militarization programs, such as DoD 1033 and 1122 and the Urban Areas Security Initiative, in which the St. Louis Police participate, that train, equip and arm police departments from Pentagon supplies and directives.

In an August 13, 2014 statement of condemnation of the militarized lockdown of Ferguson, Mo., the WRL stated, "...the violence of policing and militarism are inextricably bound. To realize justice and freedom as a condition for peace, we must work together to end police militarization and violence."

David Swanson (@davidcnswanson) is a member of the National Committee of the War Resisters League, core organizer of WorldBeyondWar.org and a PeaceVoice syndicated writer.

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