SERIES 4 • ISSUE 35 • SEPTEMBER 8, 2014
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS



CLARKSON BRIDGE REPAIRS ON TRACK P5



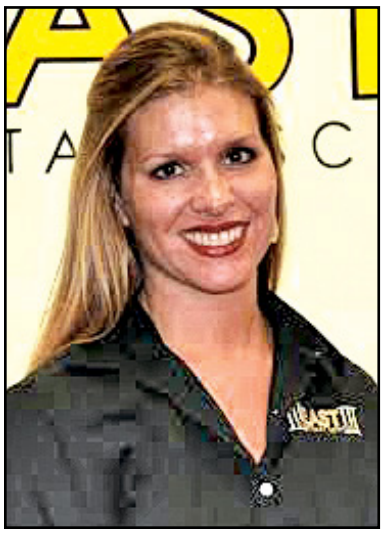
CONTRIBUTED

LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER KNOWS HOW TO FLATTER P6

CULLMAN COUNTY SEEKS TO REGAIN RIGHT OF WAY AT RYAN CREEK MARINA P2

TOWN RALLIES TO SUPPORT LOCAL TEACHER

THIRD GRADE TEACHER BATTLES A RARE FORM OF CANCER P6





SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Over $500 from the sale of homemade Krispy Stick candies alone has gone directly to East Elementary teacher Tamika Powell to assist with her medical expenses.

SAINT BERNARD PREP IS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT: NEW HEADMASTER READY FOR FIRST SCHOOL YEAR

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The 2014-15 school year has officially begun and by all accounts, the teachers, as well as the students, are settling into their daily routines. While most children get to know their new teachers, the students at Saint Bernard Preparatory School get to learn the ways of their new teachers and new Headmaster Daniel Baillargeon.

p7



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

DIVINO NIÑO CELEBRATION IS A BIG HIT: SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT CELEBRATES THE CHILD JESUS P7

GIVE BACK AT LOCAL UNITED WAY'S DAY OF CARING P3

VINEMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL GETS NEWS TEAM



WILL HOGUE/CULLMANSENSE

The expanded computer lab will be used by the newscast team to produce a quarterly school newspaper and a weekly school news show for VMS.

WILL HOGUE • WILL@CULLMANSENSE.COM

VINEMONT - Mandy Redding, technology teacher at Vinemont Middle School, has much more equipment at her disposal this school year thanks to purchases made by the VMS administration.

The technology department at VMS is becoming highly equipped to handle the pressure of teaching technology to tech-savvy students. The computer lab at VMS has been bolstered by purchases of a few brand

p2

Pancake Breakfast Held at Dodge City Town Hall: Benefit for Cold Springs JV Cheerleading Squad

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

DODGE CITY - This past Saturday a pancake breakfast was held at the Dodge City Town Hall as a fundraiser for the junior varsity cheer squad at Cold Springs High School. All money raised will go toward the cheerleaders' Capital One Bowl Trip.

"When the girls went to cheer camp, they were awarded camp champions," said

p3



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

A pancake breakfast helped raise funds for the Cold Springs JV Cheerleading Squad's performance at the Capital One Bowl.

ALABAMA CHILD DEATH REVIEW SYSTEM MAKES POSITIVE IMPACT IN REDUCING PREVENTABLE CHILD DEATHS

Aretha Bracy
Contributor

MONTGOMERY - Each year roughly one-third of all child deaths in Alabama are considered "preventable," and for the past 17 years child safety advocates throughout the state have worked to decrease needless child deaths. In announcing the release of the 25th annual "KIDS COUNT Data Book" in July, VOICES for Alabama's Children pointed out improvements in Alabama in several measurement

p3

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

CULLMAN COUNTY SEEKS TO REGAIN RIGHT OF WAY AT RYAN CREEK MARINA

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Tensions became high as residents voiced their concerns about a publicly closed boat ramp at Ryan Creek Marina.

BREMEN - Local residents of Cullman County recently met at the Brushy Pond Community Center to discuss an ongoing legal battle that is affecting many in the area. Cullman County Associate Commissioner Stanley Yarbrough met with local concerned citizens along with Cullman County attorney Heath Meherg to discuss where the case was heading.

The dispute has been developing over a long period of time between the owner of Ryan Creek Marina and the Cullman County Commission after the public access point was gated and subsequently closed to the public.

"The issue comes in where they [Ryan Creek] think that boat ramp belongs to them," Meherg said. "And we think that boat ramp, or at least a portion of it, is on the County's right of way."

A deed from 1960 has also come into play, according to Meherg, which shows that the boat ramp is in fact on the County's property.

"Now they are saying that the deed from 1960 is invalid," Meherg stated.

"Because according to them, the individual that conveyed that to the state of Alabama was from an estate, and they are saying that there was never an estate opened. This issue should have been raised 54 years ago, because the deed was recorded, and everyone had notice that the deed was recorded and on file."

This issue now comes down to a ruling on who has the right of way and to finally lay the issue to rest.

Tensions were high for some local residents who are outraged that the access to the lake has been restricted, and some say that for many, the issue poses much bigger problems.

Eddie Hand, owner and publisher of Smith Lake Living Magazine, says that there are economic and safety concerns for this area as well.

"It decreases the economic value for the entire community," Hand said. "Because there aren't any boat ramps in this area, and the other issue is one of safety. If there is an accident on the lake within this 20-mile stretch, there is no place to go to retrieve or investigate an accident."

While the issues for the community are great, Meherg said that his focus has to remain on the issue of right of way.

"From my perspective I have to focus on one thing and that is restoring the right of way back to the County," said Meherg. "From the citizen's perspective it is absolutely an economic booster for the area."

While tensions are high, Commissioner Yarbrough made it very clear that the County and citizens want to support the local marina as a business while maintaining their right to use the County's property. The main goal for the County and Meherg is to put this issue to rest, and let the courts decide.

"This needs to be resolved by the courts," said Meherg. "You know, I do not want anyone to act outside of the courts and to do something. I want this resolved legally, and for this to be resolved forever."

A court date had not yet been set at the time of this article's release, but a date will hopefully be set within the next few months.

News (from Front)

new computers to allow for more students to utilize the lab at once.

Redding plans to teach the students skills centered around the Google interface.

"Our main goal this year," Redding explained, "is to give the students Gmail skills; Google Drive skills, Google Doc skills."

There are three different teams in the Computer Enrichment class, according to Redding.

The yearbook team, the digital photography team, and the newscast team. The yearbook team obviously takes care of the yearbook, while the digital photography team prepares and handles all of the photographs.

The newscast team, however, is completely separate. And while the newscast team, at the moment, is working on creating a quarterly school newspaper, thanks to two new video cameras, the newscast team will be starting a weekly school news show for VMS.

"We'll be teaching them the video editing skills necessary," says Redding. "That's kind of our goal. But also, as a class, always at the top is Internet safety. And then the main goal, overall, is to learn how to use Google Drive and Google Docs."

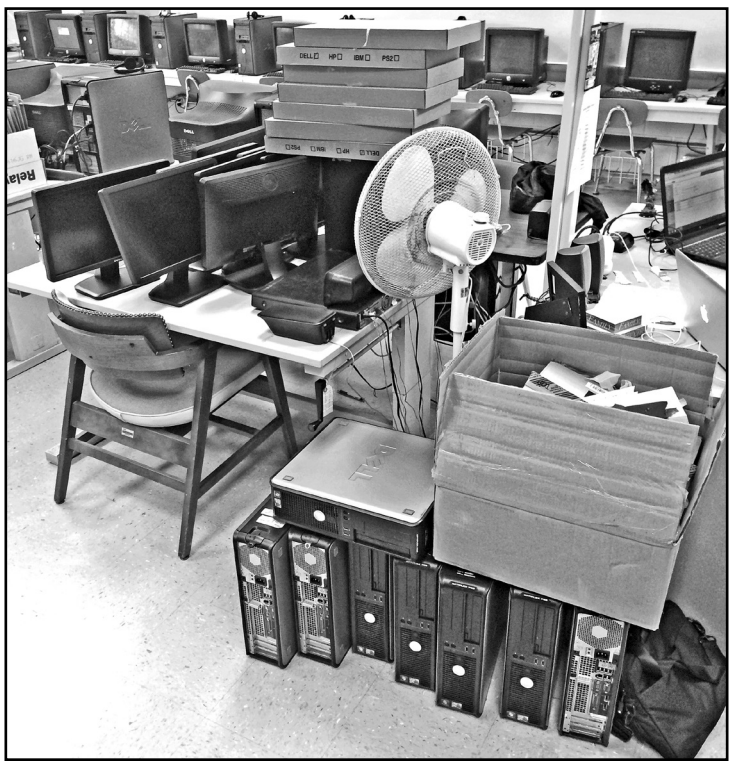
Next year the students will learn the Microsoft Office suite, but this year has plenty of challenges left in it for the kids.

Maddie Woods, an 8th grader, is excited about being able to speak to the whole school and to talk about what goes on with the students day-to-day.

"On Friday's we'll, like, do a recap of what happened the whole week," Woods mentioned.

While Redding predicts the newscast team will only be 8-10 people, she says that many more will be assisting in multiple ways, such as moving equipment around, taking photographs, and helping with editing the videos.

Thanks to purchases made by the VMS administration, the curriculum of VMS continually develops, which enables teachers like Redding to instruct and prepare kids for the future using the most advanced means possible.



WILL HOGUE/CULLMANSENSE

This year Vinemont Middle School students will focus on learning the Google suite of applications.

Cullman County Schools to Dismiss Early for Teacher Professional Development

All Cullman County schools will dismiss at 12 noon one day each month to allow for an employee/teacher professional development initiative. This dismissal will continue one Wednesday per month for the remainder of the school year. All students will receive lunch before dismissal.

Dismissal days are:

- September 10
- October 8
- November 19
- December 10
- January 14, 2015
- February 11, 2015
- March 11, 2015
- April 8, 2015
- May 13, 2015

BURCHELL INSURANCE AGENCY
Martha Burchell, Agent
Nationwide
On Your Side
Auto • Home • Life • Commercial
No one will ever perform a better human service to secure the needs of others
200 2nd Ave. SE • Cullman, AL 35055 • Phone: 256-737-7450 • burchem@nationwide.com



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Duties include;Scheduling travel and expense reporting. Coordination of offsite meetings, i.e. booking rooms, developing agendas, send your resume and salary expectations to: sonllyn1@gmail.com

GIVE BACK AT UNITED WAY OF CULLMAN COUNTY'S DAY OF CARING

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - United Way of Cullman County has been hard at work raising funds and helping in and around our community. It is now our turn to help them in a big way, by volunteering something just as valuable as our money, our time. The United Way of Cullman County is looking for volunteers to participate in the National Day of Caring this Tuesday.

Day of Caring is a national United Way event where communities across the country are coming together to put in some time and work to make their community stronger. Under the leadership of Director Sammie Danford of the local UW establishment, the organization will once again be participating in this special day.

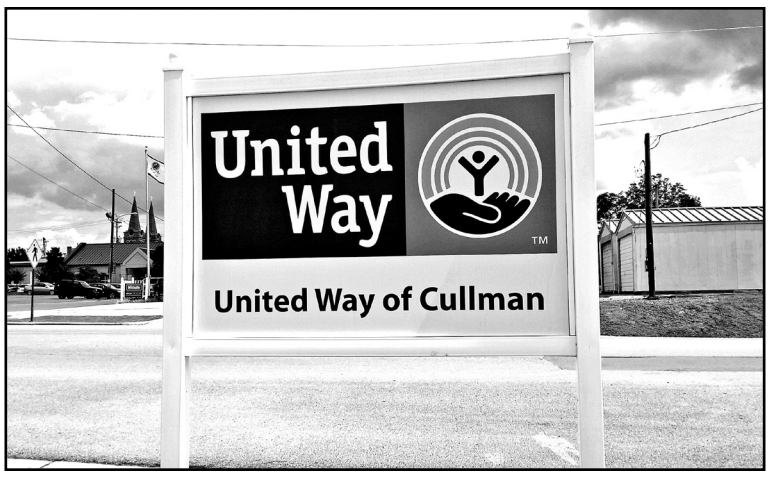
"It's exciting to be bringing this event back to the community," Danford said.

"As most United Ways are doing, we are making this our 'Official Kick-Off' for fundraising this year. Although it got off to a slow start, we have about 100 volunteers and numerous great projects to partner with. And without our sponsors – Cash Acme; Eva Bank; McGriff Industries, and Senator Paul Bussman – this wouldn't be possible. This is a new beginning for United Way of Cullman County in educating the public of what we are about, helping and being there when needed."

The Kick-off breakfast will be held at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, September 9.

Before the Day of Caring begins at the Cullman County Center for the Developmentally Disabled located on Beech Avenue SE, those who are volunteering will eat for free and receive a T-shirt, and anyone else who wants to attend may eat for only $10.

These events can make a tremendous impact on our community, and a lot of support is needed. So please call United Way of Cullman County today at 256-739-2948 and learn how you can help make a difference in our community.



CONTRIBUTED

The United Way of Cullman County is looking for volunteers to participate in the National Day of Caring at the Cullman County Center for the Developmentally Disabled.

System (from Front)

categories and credited the Alabama Child Death Review System with its "positive impact on further reducing preventable deaths."

The Alabama Child Death Review System (ACDRS) was created by state law in 1997 to review all unexplained or unexpected child deaths in Alabama. Its mission is to understand how and why children die in Alabama, in order to prevent other child deaths. ACDRS focuses on prevention through statistical analysis, education, advocacy efforts and local community involvement.

Local teams review qualifying cases within their jurisdiction and submit findings to the state child death review office, which collects and analyzes the data and findings for presentation to the state team. The state team then reviews aggregate data and findings and develops prevention strategies and recommendations.

Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer, chairs the State Child Death Review team. He commented, "ACDRS has been involved in many successful outreach, awareness, education and policy efforts, all aimed at keeping children safe and preventing child deaths. There has been a significant decline in preventable child deaths since its beginning."

"The steps Alabama has made in reducing child deaths over the last two decades is a testament to the work of state and local Child Death Review teams," said Melanie Bridgeforth, executive director, VOICES for Alabama's Children.

"VOICES for Alabama's Children is proud to provide the research that serves as a roadmap for decision makers to utilize when creating public policy that impacts the well-being of our children. We applaud Don Williamson and his team for their continued leadership in protecting the health and safety of our children."

Key findings are that the two leading categories of preventable child deaths in Alabama are vehicular and infant sleep-related deaths, and these two categories account for half or more of all preventable child deaths.

The most common vehicular deaths involve issues relating to teen driving or unrestrained or improperly restrained child passengers.

Since 2000, local teams have reviewed more than 4,000 child deaths in depth, and recommendations have led to prevention efforts that include the following:

• Recent public education and awareness including Safe Infant Sleep campaigns and a teen driver safety campaign commended by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation

• Public policy recommendations from the state team including improvements in teen driver and child passenger safety, expansion of safe infant sleep efforts, and improved access to injury data in Alabama

• Direct efforts including the distribution of child car seats and booster seats across the state and hands-on instruction in their proper use

• Data and informational support for several successful legislative efforts

For more information, visit www.adph.org/cdr.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.

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

Cheerleading (from Front)

JV Cheer Coach Kim Burleson. "They were given an invitation to perform at the pregame show for the Capital One Bowl in Orlando, Fla. and, of course, we accepted the invitation!"

The girls worked hard to accomplish such great recognition. The only problem is – they are in dire need of money.

The girls have been working really hard in order to raise enough money to make their dream trip a reality.

"We've already had several fundraisers to help get these girls there," Burleson continued.

"We've done a spaghetti dinner, a car wash, and a Mary Kay mascara-thon where the girls went out and sold only Mary Kay mascara."

Even though the cheerleaders have had a few money-making events, they are still far from having all the money they will need for Orlando. Mark your calendars and help this adventure become a reality.

"We are doing a chicken dressing lunch on Friday, October 3. We'll be taking orders and then deliver the plates to businesses or homes. We will also be doing a Spirit Night or Eagle Night at Stony Lonesome Café on September 25.

If you would like more information about the upcoming chicken dressing lunch or the Eagle Night at Stony Lonesome Café, you can contact Kim Burleson by e-mail at kburleson@ccboe.org, or call Cold Springs High School at 256-287-1787, extension 19.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The Cold Springs JV Cheerleading Squad will be delivering chicken dressing lunches to businesses and homes to raise money for their performance at the pregame show for the Capital One Bowl in Orlando, Fla.

Call Today For Your Free Quote



Tommy Warhurst FARMERS INSURANCE
2110 AL Hwy 157 • Cullman, AL 35058
Call 256-338-3701
www.thewarhurstagency.com
Auto • Home • Life • Business

VAULT GAMES VAULT GAMES
WE BUY, SELL, AND TRADE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:
NES • Gamecube • Wii U • DS • Dreamcast • PSVita • SNES • Xbox 360 • PS1 • Genesis • PS2 • Wii • Xbox • PSP • Saturn • N64 • 3DS • PS3 • MTG
256-735-4054
1634 2nd Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055
shopvaultgames.com
facebook.com/vaultgames

LEARN HOW TO PREVENT SUICIDES DURING NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

Brandi Pouncey
Contributed

MONTGOMERY - Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 15-24 nationally, and it is the 10th leading cause of death among all persons. In 2011, there were 640 deaths by suicide in Alabama (a rate of 13.3 per 100,000 people), and the state ranked 28th in the nation in suicide deaths. Alabama's ranking in comparison with other states in 2012 is not yet known; however, suicide claimed the lives of 721 Alabamians, a rate of 15.0 per 100,000 people.

Almost five times as many males as females died by suicide in Alabama, and there were approximately six times as many whites as those of other races who died by suicide. Suicide occurs across all economic, social and age boundaries.

The theme of National Suicide Prevention Week, Sept. 8-14, is "Suicide Prevention: One World Connected" because risk factors for suicide remain essentially the same from country to country. Mental illness, substance abuse, previous suicide attempts, hopelessness, access to lethal means, recent loss of loved ones, unemployment, and vulnerability to self-harm are a few examples of risk factors.

Factors that provide a buffer against suicide and suicidal behaviors are also the same in all corners of the world. High self-esteem, social connectedness, problem-solving skills, and supportive family and friends are all examples.

"By working together to increase awareness about suicide, educate communities and community members about how to prevent suicide, and promote and implement suicide prevention practices in youth-serving and behavioral health systems, we can prevent individuals from becoming suicidal and ultimately prevent people from dying by suicide," said Brandi Pouncey, manager of the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program, Alabama Department of Public Health. "Most suicidal people desperately want to live; they are just unable to come up with ways to cope with their struggles.

Be aware of the warning signs of suicide and seek help for yourself or someone you care about as soon as possible by contacting a community mental health professional or agency, a school counselor or psychologist, a suicide prevention/crisis intervention center, a private therapist, a family physician, a religious/spiritual leader, or by calling 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) for a referral should you witness, hear or see anyone exhibiting any one or more of the following:

- Hopelessness
- Rage, uncontrolled anger, seeking revenge
- Acting reckless or engaging in risky activities, seemingly without thinking
- Feeling trapped – like there's no way out
- Increase in alcohol or drug use
- Withdrawing from friends, family and society
- Anxiety, agitation unable to sleep, or sleeping all the time
- Dramatic mood changes
- No reason for living; no sense of purpose in life

Seek help immediately should you witness, hear, or see anyone exhibiting any one or more of the following:

- Someone threatening to hurt or kill him/herself, or talking about wanting to hurt or kill him/herself
- Someone looking for ways to kill him/herself by seeking access to firearms, available pills, or other means
- Someone talking or writing about death, dying or suicide, when these actions are out of the ordinary for the person

There is no single solution to suicide prevention, but the following are ways to be helpful to someone who is threatening suicide.

1. Be aware. Learn the warning signs.
2. Ask if he/she is thinking about suicide.
3. Be direct. Talk openly and freely about suicide.
4. Be willing to listen. Allow for expression of feelings. Accept the feelings.
5. Be non-judgmental. Don't debate whether suicide is right or wrong, or feelings are good or bad. Don't lecture on the value of life.
6. Don't dare him/her to do it.
7. Don't ask "why." This encourages defensiveness.
8. Offer empathy, not sympathy.
9. Don't act shocked. This creates distance.
10. Don't be sworn to secrecy. Seek support.
11. Offer hope that alternatives are available.

Suicide is a major preventable cause of death on a global level and there is help for people contemplating suicide. There are ways for one to learn about the warning signs, how to ask the question, and how to refer someone for help through QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) Training. QPR training is free to groups and concerned citizens across Alabama.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: PREPARING FOR FLU SEASON

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - We all know that it's coming. That dreaded time of year that leaves us all reaching for the Lysol and Germ-X. Flu season is almost upon us, and it is imperative to prepare and know how to handle the flu if it hits your home. You can never protect yourself 100 percent, but knowing more about this illness can help to decrease the risk significantly.

First, we need to understand what the flu is exactly. There are several different types of the flu virus, including influenza A, influenza B, H1N1 and others. Viruses are very hard to treat, and there are a limited number of options for patients once they contract the virus.

Luckily, with most cases, lots of rest and fluids and the virus will eventually run its course. That is not to say that the flu viruses are not dangerous to everyone, there are many cases of death annually.

In fact, according to the website flu.gov, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention marked an increase in flu deaths within a particular age group.

"CDC reports high rates of hospitalization and deaths among people 18-64 years old. More deaths than usual (nearly 60 percent of flu deaths) have occurred in the 25-64 age group; a pattern similar to the 2009 pandemic." So, what can you do to protect yourself and your family? Basic hygiene is first and foremost on this list. This may sound obvious, but the average person touches their face 18 times every hour without realizing it.

Forgetting to wash your hands frequently during flu season can be the difference between health and illness. Another tip to stop the spread of illness to others if you are infected is to stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever has gone without the use of fever reducing aides.

The number one way to reduce your risk of contracting the virus, or making your experience with the flu loads more manageable, is the flu vaccine. There has always been a lot of hype around the flu vaccine and too much misinformation. For one, the vaccine is not capable of being 100 percent effective, but it significantly lowers your risk and makes recovery time much shorter if you fall ill.

"The flu vaccine is the best protection against the flu this season. If you get the flu vaccine, you are 60 percent less likely to need treatment for the flu by a healthcare provider. Getting the vaccine has been shown to offer substantial other benefits including reducing illness, antibiotic use, time lost from work, hospitalizations and deaths," according to the CDC.

The biggest lie told about the flu vaccine is that it will give you the flu and cause you to become sick. This is false, while some mild side effects are possible, they last only one to two days and are far too mild to be influenza.

In addition, the flu shot does not contain a live virus; it instead contains deactivated (killed) flu virus that absolutely cannot make you sick.

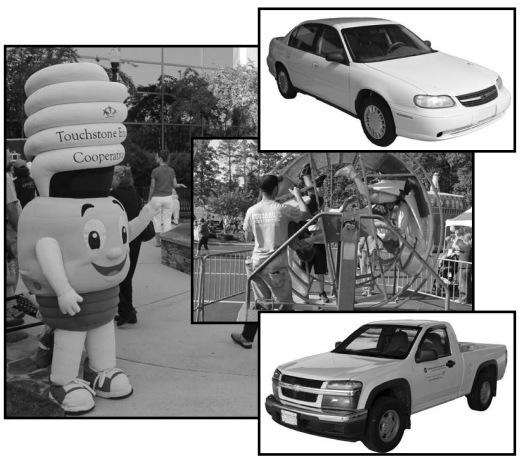
The newer nasal spray contains a dramatically weakened version of the virus that is incapable of getting to your lungs or other internal areas that are warm enough to allow replication.

It is for this reason that neither of these vaccine options are capable of giving you the virus. It is also important to remember that it takes two weeks for the vaccine to begin offering protection, and it also takes four days for the virus to incubate.

So for those claiming that the vaccine made them ill, the simple truth is that they had already contracted the virus before getting the vaccine, or picked up the virus during the two weeks before the vaccine had time to take effect.

Flu season can begin as early as October and end as late as May.

The peak months for the virus are from December to February, so it is vital to take the necessary precautions early. Ask your doctor or pharmacist about the flu vaccine and protect yourself and your loved ones this season.

2014 ANNUAL MEETING
Cullman Electric Cooperative
providing energy with care
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
Saturday, Sept. 20 • Northbrook Church
8 a.m. - noon (Registration ends at 11 a.m.)
• FREE hot dogs, popcorn and drinks for members and their guests
• FREE kids' games, inflatables, spin art and bucket truck rides
• FREE health fair hosted by CRMC
• All registered members in attendance receive a $15 power bill credit and enter the grand-prize drawings for a 2003 Chevy Malibu and a 2007 Chevy Colorado truck


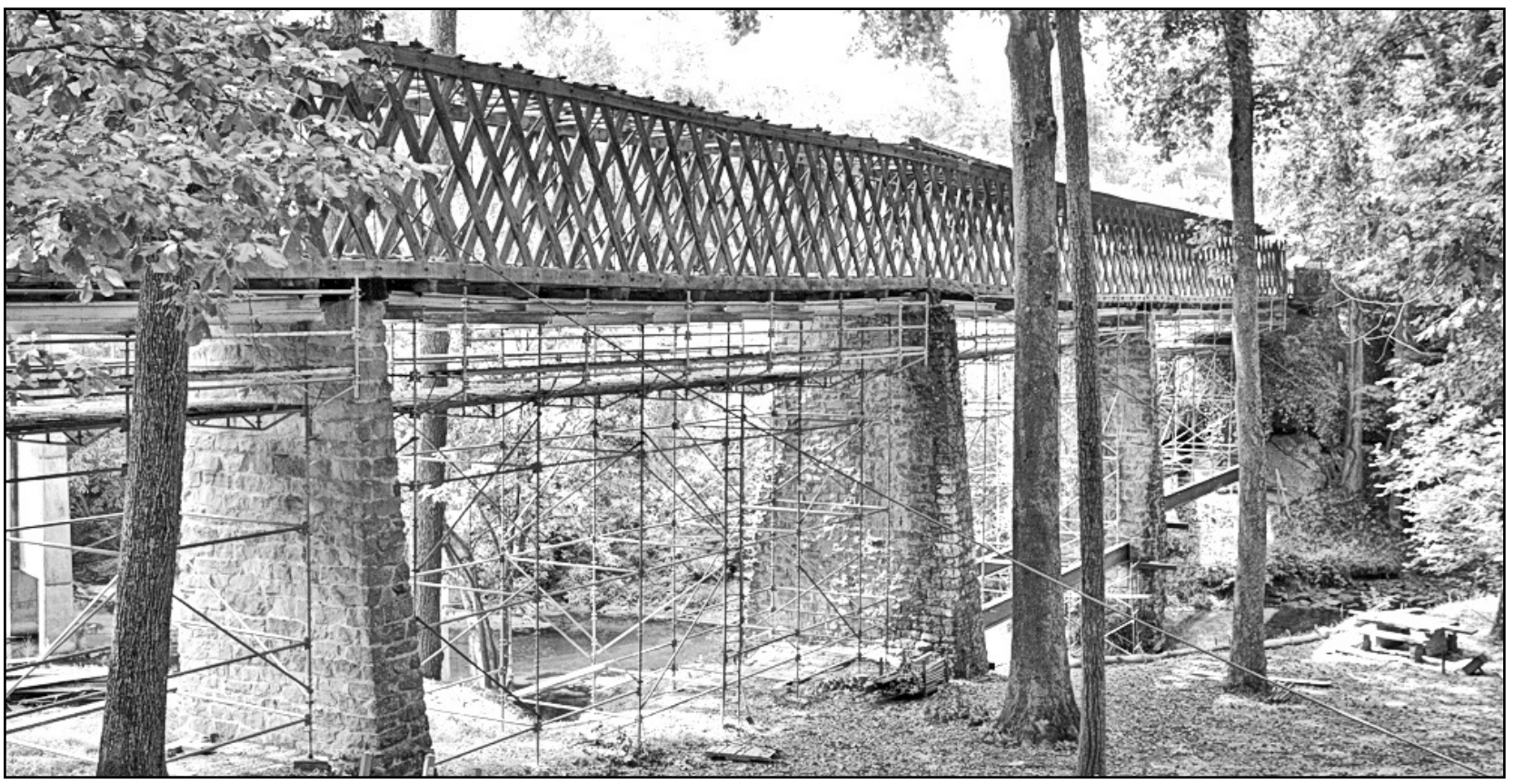
FREE CONCERT!
Award winning Southern Gospel group
TRIUMPHANT QUARTET
9 a.m. inside the Northbrook Church sanctuary

"Your Agents. Your Neighbors. Your Friends."
KNIGHT-FREE INSURANCE
256.734.4060

Auto-Owners Insurance
Auto-Owners Insurance
Life Home Car Business

A PIECE OF HISTORY IN PROGRESS: REPAIRS MOVING ALONG ON CLARKSON COVERED BRIDGE

Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

Originally built in 1904 and then rebuilt in 1922, Clarkson Covered Bridge is now undergoing rennovation to counteract the bridge's sagging and damages caused by carpenter bees.

BETHEL/CULLMAN - Repairs to Cullman's historic Clarkson Covered Bridge are underway. This beautiful piece of the past will soon look as good as new. The Bridge was built in 1904 and was used often by farmers and travelers to cross Crooked Creek. In 1921 the bridge was torn in two by a fierce storm. It was rebuilt one year later.

On June 25, 1974, Clarkson Covered Bridge was named to the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1975, the Cullman County Commission restored the bridge with the help of many citizens who loved this historical figure.

This was part of the American Bicentennial Project and consisted of decorating the grounds, creating a beautiful park with hiking trails, a pond, a picnic area, as well as a log cabin and a gristmill meant to accent the history of Clarkson Covered Bridge.

Eventually, Clarkson Covered Bridge began to age and quickly needed repairs.

The county received grants from the Alabama State Department of Transportation, and work began just weeks ago.

County engineer John Brunner stated, "The structure has been supported and workers are beginning to remove the instable portions of the floor and sides."

Workers are about half way into this major project and the park is closed during construction. Director of Cullman County Parks & Recreation, Doug Davenport, said workers are about half way into the construction side of the project.

In a past repair, a great amount of wood was added to the bridge to keep it from sagging, but the extra weight caused it to sag even more. The crew is in the dismantling stage right now, and will then take inventory to see what needs work next.

"First they had to come underneath the bridge to make a level foundation," stated Davenport.

"That's been the most difficult because they had to level everything out under the bridge so they could build the scaffolds to reach the bridge. They're now stripping the bridge of the extra wood to get it back to its original state. Then they will begin replacing the old lumber."

Most of the damage to the bridge was caused by carpenter bees drilling holes into the wood.

"When the bridge was originally built they didn't treat wood with pesticides," Davenport explained.

"When the bridge is complete they're going to treat the whole bridge with repellent so bugs won't get into it again. It's maintenance for old wood and a preventative measure for new wood."

The project is on task to be completed in the anticipated 100 working days, and the crew is right on schedule.

The bridge will soon be more beautiful than ever and open to the public.

But, repairs to the park won't stop there. The beautiful water wheel at the park no longer works, but Davenport hopes to make it the next repair.

"We're in the process of finding a contractor to get that redone as well," he stated.

It's up to us to keep Cullman interesting by preserving the beautiful history we have in this town.

Stay up to date with the bridge's repairs by checking Clarkson Covered Bridge's Facebook page, and when repairs are done, be sure to visit this historically beautiful site.

Subscribe to CullmanSense today and have it delivered to your door for only $40 a year.



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS ANNUAL TITLE I MEETINGS

Cullman County Schools
INTEGRITY | EXCELLENCE | DEDICATION

The following is a schedule of the required Annual Title I Parent Meetings for Cullman County Schools. All parents and interested community members are invited to attend. For more information, please contact the local school.

AUG. 25TH – MONDAY
- West Point Middle School – 3:15 p.m. in the lunchroom

AUG. 26TH – TUESDAY
- Good Hope Elementary and Middle School – 5:00 p.m. in the lunchroom

AUG. 27TH - WEDNESDAY
- Hanceville Elementary School – 4:30 p.m. in the elementary library

SEPT. 3RD – WEDNESDAY
- Holly Pond Elementary School – 3:00 p.m. in the school library
- Holly Pond Middle School - 3:30 p.m. in the Science lab

SEPT. 4TH – THURSDAY
- Harmony School – 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the school library

SEPT. 8TH – MONDAY
- Welti School – 6:00 p.m. in lunchroom

SEPT. 9TH – TUESDAY
- Fairview Elementary and Middle School – 3:15 p.m. in the high school auditorium
- Good Hope Primary School - 6:00 p.m. in the school library
- West Point Elementary School – 4:00 p.m. in the lunchroom

SEPT. 11TH – THURSDAY
- Parkside School – 3:15 p.m. in the lunchroom
- Vinemont Elementary School – 6:30 p.m. in the elementary library
- West Point Intermediate School – 3:30 p.m. in the middle school lunchroom

SEPT. 17TH – WEDNESDAY
- Cold Springs Elementary – 8:10 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the library
- Hanceville Middle School – 3:15 p.m. in the library

SEPT. 25TH – THURSDAY
- Vinemont Middle School - 3:30 p.m. in the upstairs resource room

LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER KNOWS HOW TO FLATTER

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - There are many precious moments that can be captured through the lens of a camera. A first birthday, a wedding, laughter, and pain can all be immortalized in the instant of a flash. While anyone today can pick up a camera and press a button, only an individual with the right knowledge and talent can be a great photographer. Lisa Jones of Cullman is one such talent, and her work certainly speaks for itself.

Jones has been a crucial member of the renowned business Southern Accents here in Cullman for many years now. Her photography has helped the business to grow online and showcase their beautiful merchandise.

"I've worked for Southern Accents for 15 years now," Jones said. "Then about two years ago, he needed to expand in what he was doing online. So I went to work for them full-time. I moved into an office in the store and I now do all of the website, marketing, and photography for the company."

Southern Accents in Cullman is a beautiful store that specializes in architectural antiques. The store is filled with countless pieces that are one of a kind, and Jones says it is part of what makes the job fun.

"It's interesting and different," Jones said. "Every day there is something new coming in. You are never bored."

When Jones is not helping Southern Accents flourish, she is working on her own business endeavor, her photography. Jones is a masterful artist, and her unique style shines through in her portraits.

"What I do is what I describe as lifestyle portraits," said Jones. "I love working one on one with people, and trying to capture them."



CONTRIBUTED

Lisa Jones specializes in creating "lifestyle portraits".

Jones has been working with Smith Squared Photography in Cullman recently, photographing weddings, but is hard at work on Lisa Jones Photography also. When looking through her pictures, it is apparent in Jones' portfolio the raw talent that sets her apart.

Her uncanny eye for finding the perfect angle to flatter each client is a skill that has served her and her art well.

"There is an art to taking a good picture," Jones said. "And there is an art to posing, because there are ways to flatter anybody. No matter their body type, there is a way to flatter everyone. So I really want to get those pictures where I flatter them, because everyone wants a gorgeous picture."

A recent trend in the photography world has been to put the entire session on a disc and give it to your client. For many, this is a very convenient way to get clients their pictures faster, but Jones says that she tries to not take that route with her work.

"I want people to have something that they can look at, enjoy and pass down," said Jones. "You can't do that with a CD. After I pick out the best shots, they are sent to a professional photo lab. I don't want to put them on a CD, because chances are they are never going to do anything with them. If I am doing a senior session, I want that mom to have that picture on her wall, and be able to see it every day."

She went on to say that for her the mark of a great photographer is to capture the essence of the person she is shooting. A small glimpse at the amazing work Jones creates shows her love and passion for her craft, and her continued effort to capture and make memories for every person she meets.



CONTRIBUTED

For Lisa, the mark of a great photographer is their ability to capture the essence of a person.

"A successful photographer can tell a story," Jones said. "The highest compliment for me is for someone to look at a picture, and say 'Wow, you captured them', and for it to tell something about them and show an emotion. That's my goal."

For more information on Lisa Jones Photography, you can find her on Facebook at Facebook.com/LisaJonesPhotographer or her website at www.ljonesphotography.com.

Teacher (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - On June 11, 2014, Tamika Powell, an otherwise healthy 35-year-old woman, went to the ER complaining of chest pains. Once she arrived at the ER, a series of x-rays and scans were performed. The results were horrifying – Tamika was told she had a mediastinal mass pressing on her heart and lung. A couple of weeks later, on June 24, she was diagnosed with a rare and very aggressive cancer called Primary Mediastinal Large B-Cell Lymphoma.

Tamika is married to Cliff Powell and together they have four children, ages ranging from 6-14 years old. She is a third grade teacher at East Elementary and will be taking off at least half of the school year for treatments. Tamika is in for a long battle, but she has a great and positive attitude and is ready to fight.

As Tamika's treatments continue, times have become very trying for this family, but there is a bright ray of sunshine brightening their difficult path. Amazing sources of help and comfort have come to this sweet family in the most amazing ways.

Generous and loving folks out in the community have come together and have shown their support.

Friends, family, and even complete strangers have come together to help raise money for the Powell family in order to help pay their bills while Tamika is receiving chemotherapy.

On a beautiful Friday afternoon, August 29, a Squeezers Fresh Squeezed Lemonade Shake-Ups Fundraiser was held at the Cullman Gymnastics and Cheer Academy. People were able to stop by and enjoy fresh lemonade, while helping to support the Powell family.

"The Powell kids are on our Cullman Xtreme Allstars Cheerleading Program and that's where we are connected to them," said Christy Patterson, director of Cullman Gymnastics & Cheer Academy.

"This is just a small way to reach out to their family and try to help and provide for them."

The staff at Cullman Gymnastics & Cheer Academy learned how to make the lemonade and then ran the Shake-Up stand during the whole event.

Steve Cooke, owner of the Squeezers Lemonade Shake-Ups, graciously donated all the sugar, lemons, and equipment for the cause.

"Steve was nice enough to come and set his lemonade stand up for us and donating 100 percent of the proceeds to the Powell family," Patterson explained. "He has such a sweet, servant heart and he was very eager to help us do this."

"I just want to thank Xtreme Allstars for hosting the event, as well as Steve Cooke and Squeezers for supporting me during this time in my life," Tamika Powell said with a smile.

"I am humbled by the amount of love our community has shown. Thank you to all for everything you have done."

God works in mysterious ways, and I believe Tamika and her situation to prove this. As people hear about her, they just can't help but pitch in and do what they can to help.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

East Elementary teacher and mother of four, Tamika Powell was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer after initially going to the ER with chest pains.

If you or someone you know would like to help support the Powell family, they can do so by going to Bubble Gum & Blue Jeans and purchasing a Krispy Stick. Krispy Sticks are homemade treats made exclusively as a fundraiser item for the Powells. The Krispy Sticks alone have already made over $500, which has gone directly to Tamika.

You can also go online to www.gofundme.com/awj460 and make a donation that goes directly to their bank account. This is a safe, secure way to help the family financially. It can be done anonymously or you can leave your name and a brief message of encouragement.

Last but not least, prayers are always needed and anyone can say a few prayers for Tamika and everyone involved in her treatment.

Tamika and Cliff are determined that no matter the outcome, their experience will make a difference in the lives of others and will glorify God in the process. They are praying as well, and their prayer is for you to be blessed so that you can be a blessing to others.

DIVINO NIÑO CELEBRATION IS A BIG HIT: SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT CELEBRATES THE CHILD JESUS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE - The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament celebrated the Divine Child Jesus by hosting a Divino Niño celebration this past Saturday. People came by bus loads to visit the beautiful home of Mother Angelica and take tours of the Shrine.

The Castle San Miguel Gift Shop was open with fully stocked shelves of religious items available for purchase while the friendly staff milled around, answering questions and assisting with purchases. While the gift shop was hopping with excitement, Shrine tours were given every 30 minutes, and an interesting presentation of the History of the Shrine was given to the eager crowd.

Many prayers were prayed together as a community once Confessions were held around 10:30 a.m. that morning. Holy Mass was held in the Main Church, followed by a delicious lunch held underneath a huge white tent on the green grass on the Shrine grounds.

A lively mariachi band entertained the crowd as they nibbled on cake and sipped on fruity punch. After the gift show closed at 6 p.m., there was a Rosary and candlelight procession through the Lourdes Grotto. The evening ended peacefully and the Spirit-filled crowd got into either a tour bus or a personal vehicle and went home.

Bill Kee and his family were volunteers for the event. The Kee family travel throughout the United States spreading the prolife message. They typically speak to both Catholic churches as well as Protestant churches.

"We promote personhood for the unborn, so basically we say a baby's life begins at fertilization," Kee smiled. "Every baby should be protected."

It was fitting that this family in particular was able to help with the Divino Niño festivities. Like many people, the Kee family moved to Hanceville to be near the world famous Catholic Shrine.

"We travel around the country, so we needed a place to settle with our family," Kee explained.

"We picked this area because of its beautiful country, the Shrine offers Mass every morning and there is very good teachings coming out of the pulpit."

"We were in Arkansas and a friend of ours told us about the Shrine," Kee continued. "We wanted to come see it but had no real intention of moving to Alabama. But when we came here, we just fell in love with it. There are so many wonderful places here as well. With the two monasteries and Father Patrick at Sacred Heart, Cullman is like a Mecca for us as Catholics and so we wanted to stay and raise our children here."

If you or someone you know would like to know more about the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, feel free to stop by and pay them a visit at 3222 County Road 548 Hanceville, AL 35077, call 205-795-5717, or visit olamshrine.org.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

An assortment of activities and prayers were held at the Shrine's Divino Niño celebration.

Management (from Front)

"We are new to Cullman and have been very happy with how friendly the community is toward families," said Baillargeon. "Our parish, Sacred Heart, has been wonderful as well in welcoming and embracing our family. Also, the monks at St. Bernard Abbey have been a tremendous support to us as we have made the transition to Cullman, even helping us unpack the truck when it rolled into town."

St. Bernard Prep is a private co-ed boarding and day school for grades 7-12. They offer quality education in the Benedictine tradition. Baillargeon is sure to fit right in with both the staff and students alike.

"St. Bernard Preparatory School has a tremendous reputation for its formation of students in mind, body and spirit," Baillargeon said with a smile. "Academically, the classes are challenging, and the environment is very conducive for the students' moral and spiritual growth. I hope only to bring some energy and help the practices of the school to continue to connect to the vision of the school."

Baillargeon's long-term goals for St. Bernard Preparatory School are twofold. First, to keep strengthening the offerings of the school so that each student flourishes, is prepared for college, and most importantly, is well-formed and prepared to live a good life. Second, tell everyone about St. Bernard; in Cullman, Alabama, the country, and internationally so that those looking for a high quality education will realize that, in the Benedictine tradition, St. Bernard Prep does it as well, if not better than everyone else.

"So far, we have made a few minor changes in practice only. With respect to enrollment, I am hoping to broaden our net and tell the story of who we are at St. Bernard Preparatory School to a wider market so that more students realize what a wonderful school community it is and make the choice to attend," Baillargeon explained. "Also, I will encourage the student council to become more active in providing service opportunities for the students in helping the local community. I am also encouraging the students of the school to take a more active role in creating clubs and organizations which will provide leadership opportunities and community building events to strengthen our already strong sense of community."

Baillargeon is married to his lovely wife, Megan, and together they have six children: Jonathan, Thomas, Therese, Zelie, Nicholas, and Dominic. He grew up in Connecticut, attended the University of Connecticut, and graduated with a Fine Arts degree.

He then began working at St. Stanislaus Catholic School in Meriden, Conn. as a religion, math, music, and Latin teacher.

Later, he and his wife moved to Eagle Pass, Texas, where he was a teacher and assistant principal at Our Lady of Refuge Catholic School. While there, he received his master's degree in School Administration from Sul Ross State University.

They then moved to Alexandria, Va., where he was the principal of St. Louis Catholic School for 8 years. He also started his doctoral studies at the Catholic University of America in Catholic Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. He is currently working on writing his dissertation.

If you or someone you know would like more information about St. Bernard Prep School, please visit their website at www.StBernardPrep.com or visit them on Facebook. You may also visit their campus located at 1600 St. Bernard Drive SE Cullman, AL 35055 or call them at 256-739-6682.



CONTRIBUTED

New Saint Bernard Headmaster, Daniel Baillargeon, hopes to tell the story of the school to a wider market to help broaden enrollment.





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.

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.

Cullman County Commission Meeting
Members of the Cullman County Commission will meet at 8:30 am. for a work session prior to their regularly scheduled business session at 10 a.m. today at Cullman County Courthouse.

'Women's Community Prayer' Group Meeting
All interested women of all faiths and churches are invited to attend the newly formed 'Womens' Community Prayer' Group meeting which meets at 10 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in their Chapel. This prayer ministry is open to women of all churches and faiths who wish to pray for our families, our city and our country. For additional information please contact Nancy Spurgeon, 256-737-0580. This prayer group also is open to those who would like to participate but cannot attend. They are welcome to join as 'Partners in Prayer'. Please call and get connected.

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.

Church Group Wednesday Nights at CWAC
Youth groups, Sunday School Classes and other Church groups are invited to take part in 'Church Group Nights at Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center every Wednesday night from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. Please call 256-775-SWIM (7946).

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!

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.

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.

SECCA presents the Stony Lonesome GP
This off-road race is for dirt bikes for riders of all ages. More info can be found at www.seccaracing.com and http//www.seccaracing.com/events/17/stony-lonesome/. Trails will be set up for dirt bikes on the far side of the property. Come check out some of the best woods racing in the south.

Girl Scout Outdoors Adventures Day
All girls are invited to Girl Scout Outdoors Adventures Day at Sportsman's Lake Park from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. The activities feature those oh-so-good s'mores, games, songs & more! The Splash Pad is free for this gathering and there will be a $5 all-day arm band fee for all other park activities during the morning. There is a $15 registration fee to join Girl Scouts. For additional information please contact Jennifer at 618-780-1580 or Kristie at 256-338-7204.

Beth Moore Simulcast at First Baptist Church of Cullman
First Baptist Church of Cullman is offering a one day 'Beth Moore Simulcast' from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Church. Tickets are $15.00 per person, available at the Church office during working hours. There will be childcare available but RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST. Please alert the Church personnel when you purchase your tickets of the need for babysitting services. All welcome.

County Wide Yard Sale at Smith Lake Park
County Wide Yard Sale at Smith Lake Park. Free Admission to General Public. Vendor Sites are $10.00. Set-Up at 6 a.m. Sale Begins at 7 a.m. To Reserve a Site Please Call Smith Lake Park at 256-739-2916.

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

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

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

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

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

This Week in Local Entertainment

Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

Monday, Sept. 8
- 79 cent wings at Rodney G's Hickory Grill from 6-9 p.m.
- Monday Fundays at the Aquatics Center from 6-11 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 9
- Pickin' Under the Pavilion at the Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- Square Dancing Lessons at East Point Community Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-7 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 10
- 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, Sept. 11
- September Hops & Shops from 4-9 p.m.
- Open Mic Night at Brothers from 8 p.m. to close
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-7 p.m.
- Karaoke Night at Cadillac Ron's at 7 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 12
- Live Music at Brothers
- Live Music at Moe's
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-6 p.m.
- Live Music at Cadillac Ron's from 8 p.m. to close

Saturday, Sept. 13
- Stony Lonesome Harescramble from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Live Music at Brothers
- Live Music at Moe's
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-6 p.m.
- Live Music at Cadillac Ron's from 8 p.m. to close

Busy Bee Café
Try our German Food!

GROW YOUR BUSINESS

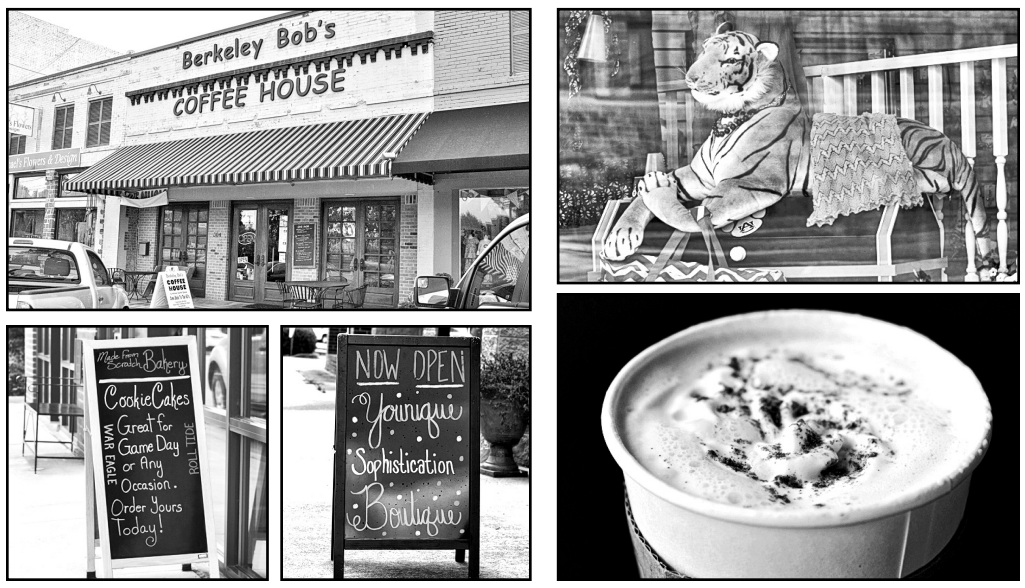
"By combining my years of successful advertising campaigns and award winning use of digital and social media, I am able to provide my clients with superior service. With the endless supply of support from CullmanSense, I am able to put my expertise to work by partnering with your business to maximize your advertising budget and increase your bottom line."



» Shawn Murphree - Automotive/ Digital/ Social Media Specialist

For more information on our great advertising rates, please give me a call at 256-297-1408 or you can reach me through e-mail at shawn@cullmansense.com.

CELEBRATE FALL WITH THE BEST OF WHAT AUTUMN HAS TO OFFER IN CULLMAN



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

Cullman plays host to numerous businesses that help usher in the new season.

Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - As September is well underway, prepare yourself to say goodbye to swimsuits and hello to sweaters. School is in full swing, the air is beginning to cool, and soon we'll see the leaves changing colors. But, don't be out of the loop. Cullman has everything you need to celebrate the new season. Here's how you can celebrate fall in Cullman:

1. Go shopping for new fall clothes. Ahh, it's almost time for boots and sweaters again, but with a new year comes new trends. This year, expect to see big comfy coats, 60s inspired outfits, bulky sweaters, glorified sneakers, embellished socks and tights, and more. Shop all over Cullman at any of our adorable boutiques such as What a Girl Wants and Younique Sophistication, or try some bigger stores such as Belk and TJ Maxx. Ring in fall with style this year and go shopping!

2. Throw a tailgate party with your friends. There's nothing better, right? One of the best parts of fall is college football. This football season, throw a tailgate party at your house with your friends and family. Whip up some appetizers, grab some craft beer from one of Cullman's many beverage stores, invite your friends, and then, let the screaming at the television commence! Better yet, grab your college buddies and visit your Alma Mater in person. And be sure to go to a game! There's no better way to celebrate fall than with football.

3. Celebrate Halloween. This can be fun for all ages. If you have kids, you already know you're going to be making costumes and eating candy for days. But, if kids aren't in the picture, you don't have to miss out on Halloween! Make a costume! It can be as simple or as complex as you want. If you're pressed for time, throw a white sheet over your head, cut out some eyeholes, and voila! You're a ghost. If you love costuming, pick your favorite character, build a complex costume, and get your make-up done professionally. All dressed up and nowhere to go? Throw a party! All it takes is some spooky decorations, plenty of candy, and your best friends. Party responsibly, Halloween partiers.

4. Participate in no-shave November. This is so easy. In fact, it's easier to participate in this quirky event than to not participate. Enough said!

5. Celebrate Oktoberfest in Cullman. In recent years, Cullman has developed a huge Oktoberfest celebration, thanks to the Cullman Brewers Guild. This year's fest will be October 4-11 at the Festhalle. This year you can expect a traditional biergarten with plenty of craft beer, an arts and craft show, a photography contest, a wiener dog race, and tons of music. And don't forget about the Burgermeister!

Cullman Oktoberfest is now accepting nominations for this year's Burgermeister. If you know someone who loves Cullman and loves Oktoberfest, send your nomination to oktoberfest@cullmancity.org.

6. Drink a fall inspired coffee drink. You know you want to. Head to Starbucks and pick up a pumpkin spice latte for the mother of all autumn smells.

Cullman also has several local coffee shops such as Flavors Bakery and Berkeley Bob's. Check out what they have in store for the fall!

7. Finally, get outside. Head to the outdoors to celebrate the beautiful crisp weather this fall. There's so much to do!

For example: make a fire pit and roast marshmallows with your friends. This is great for all ages. You could also do a photo shoot in the beautiful leaves.

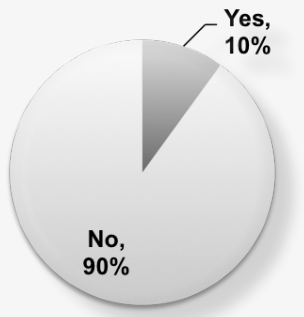
Take pictures of your kids, you and your loved one, or just do it for fun! Autumn mornings are beautiful. Take a book and a cup of coffee (a pumpkin spice latte, maybe?) outside this fall and enjoy nature. Whatever you do, do it outside!

Leaves fall and seasons change, but Cullman never stops offering the best of the seasons. Celebrate this autumn with your loved ones and have a blast this fall.

Medical Arts Apothecary
Living Well Natural Store
124 7th Street, S.W.
256-734-4933
"Serving Cullman Families for over 50 Years!"
SUSAN SKINNER ADKISON, R.P.H.
Living Well natural store
Health Mart PHARMACY

Poll

Have you taken the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge?



This Week's Poll

Do you feel ISIS poses a threat domestically?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

cpr& cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Clucknbrew 2014** will be held at Depot Park on Saturday, September 20 from 3-10pm. The event will feature a wing cook-off between local businesses that will be available for sampling, as well as a huge Kidzone, a game-day-tent playing Alabama and Auburn games, live music, games and activities, food and beverages, and more. All proceeds will benefit the Community Playground Project and the Parks and Recreation Foundation.
- **CP&R Triathlon Class**: Encore Sports will be putting on a triathlon sprint race on Sept. 20 at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center, and CP&R will host a 4 week class on competing in your first triathlon. Classes will be Tuesday nights at 6:30pm with topics on running, swimming, biking, and more. Cost is $20 per class or $50 for all 4 classes. Course will start August 26. For more information call 256-775-SWIM.
- **CP&R Kayaking Class:** Will be held at CWAC on Tuesdays/Thursdays from Sept.16-Oct. 9. Kayaks and all gear will be provided, and class will teach basic paddling, whitewater kayaking, and rolling technique. Class will end with a trip to a whitewater river. Cost is $90, spaces limited. Call 256-775-SWIM for details.
- **CP&R Jr. Tennis League** starting September 8 at the Cullman High School tennis courts. Registration is now open at the Civic Center and CWAC for 8 week sessions including 3 weeks of practice and 5 weeks of matches amongst other CP&R teams. Call 256-734-9157 for details.
- **Carolina Beach Shag Dance Class** Thursdays in September from 6:30-8pm at the Donald E. Green Sr. Center. $7 per class or $20for 4 weeks.
- **A Nashville Christmas Sr. Spirit Travel** will take place Nov. 19-20, payment due October 1. $350/dbl. or $400/single. Home of stars tour, theater, shows, 3 meals included, motor coach transportation, and more. Call 256-734-4803 for more information.
- **Latin, Swing, and Ballroom Dancing Classes** at the Cullman Civic Center, Thursdays at 6:30pm for beginners and 7:30pm for advanced classes. Register at the Civic Center or call 256-734-9157 for more information.

What's Online

Hot Dog! Dodge City Has a Sneaky Pete's!

Dodge City is home to the newest hot dog restaurant in the area. Sneaky Pete's, famous for their outstanding hot dogs, along with the High Quality Fuel Station, offer a wide variety of merchandise to their customers in the convenience of one stop shopping.



qrne.ws/249

Cullman Movie Well Received at the Birmingham Sidewalk Film Festival

On Sunday, August 24, 2014, "Becoming Colonel Cullmann", a documentary by Cullman filmmakers, Laura Axelrod and Greg Richter, was shown at the Birmingham Sidewalk Film Festival. The movie introduces its viewers to Mr. Larry Rowlette...

qrne.ws/250

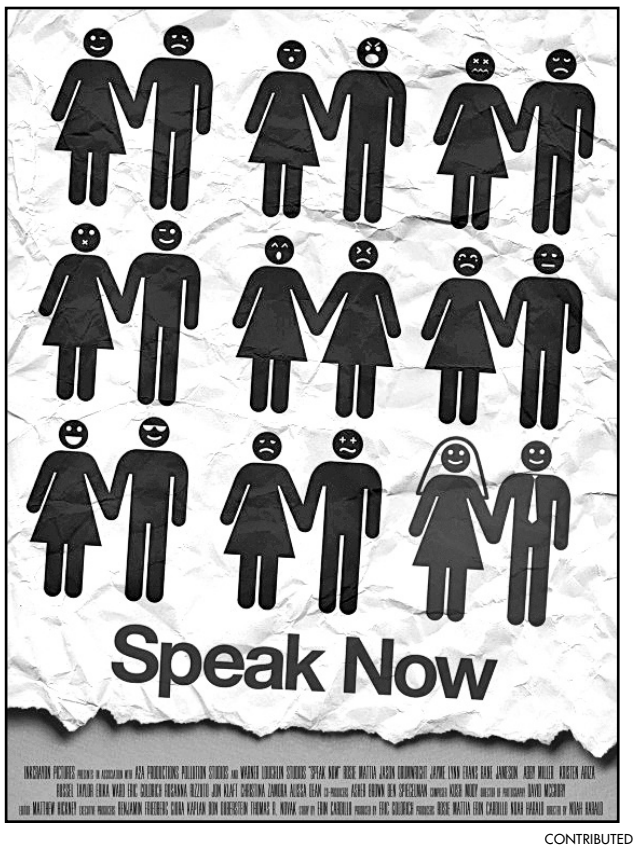
Southernness Daily

Local artist and author Ben South is serious about preserving the culture of the American South and has a lot of good ole Southern fun while he's at it. With a brilliant bow tie at the base of his neck, this Southern Gent will have you laughing at your own Southerness, while scratching your head and thinking, 'Hmmmmm…'.

qrne.ws/251

THE SOUTHERN CIRCUIT OF INDEPENDENT FILMS COMES TO WSCC WITH "SPEAK NOW"

Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com



CONTRIBUTED

» The romantic dramedy "Speak Now" will be the first film in a film series hosted by Wallace State.

CULLMAN - The independent film "Speak Now" will be showing at the Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State Community College this Thursday at 6 p.m. A Q&A with director Noah Harold will be held immediately following the screening. Admission is free. This romantic dramedy will be the first film in a film series hosted by Wallace State.

Communication and Marketing Coordinator of WSCC Gail Crutchfield is excited for this film series to hit the campus at Wallace State.

"This film is part of the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Films," said Crutchfield. "The series of films we have were decided by a committee of people at an event outside of campus. We received six films to be part of this independent film series."

"Speak Now" is about a group of high school friends who reunite for a wedding. During the gathering, secrets about the group are revealed, creating commotion and uncertainty for the bride and groom while changing the lives of their wedding guests.

The summary of this quirky film reads: "Setting aside their personal issues to support the union of Tommy and Anna was the intention of the wedding guests, but as the night unfolds, old offenses and a newly mounting scandal plunge the group back into a pool of high school drama."

The making of "Speak Now" was an experiment in filmmaking, being shot over a three-day period with the dialogue being improvisation based on an outline of the story. The cast can be described as a capable group of up and coming actors.

Director Noah Harold has won multiple awards, and his work has won film festival awards, online acclaim, as well as an MTV Movie Award Nomination. His work has also led him to work with companies such as Sony, Best Buy, Food Network, Adidas and Doritos. Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to attend the Q&A with this award-winning film director.

The Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Films is presented by South Arts and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.

This film series is returning to Wallace's campus on September 11, kicking off with "Speak Now", followed by five other independent films. It will continue through November and return again in February through April.

This series will feature six films including narratives and documentaries covering a wide array of topics. All directors will be available after the screenings to answer questions. Films being shown during this series are "Speak Now", "Mona Lisa is Missing" at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. on October 9, "Brothers Hypnotic" at 6 p.m. on February 12, "The Starfish Throwers" at 6 p.m. on March 19, and "If You Build It" at 6 p.m. on April 19.

Don't miss "Speak Now" this Thursday, as well as the five other exciting films in this series. Celebrate the arts in Cullman and attend this free film series at WSCC.

Comics

WHITE & BLACK • **"I Wanna Stay Young Forever"** • st.edo@cullmansense.com



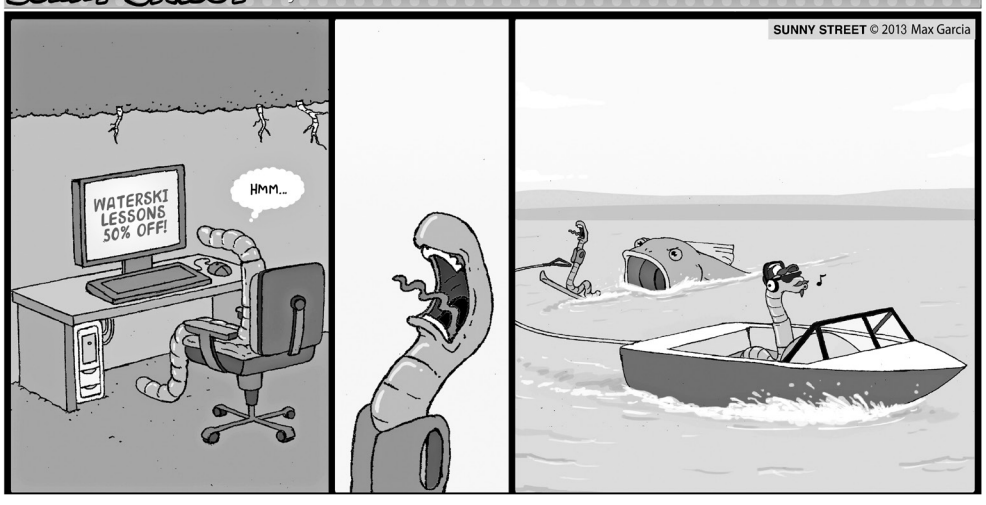
MAMA'S BOYZ www.jerrycraft.net **JERRY CRAFT**



Green Pieces by Drew Aquilina



SUNNY STREET by Max Garcia



Follow us on Twitter
@CullmanSense

Pets of the Week

Keegan

Hello! My name is Keegan, and I am about 2 years old. I am believed to be a Terrier mix, and I currently weigh 13.2 lbs. I am a stray but will be available for adoption on 09/10/14 at 10 a.m. I am full of life and I love to play. I can't wait to meet my new forever family and to have a forever home!



Spud

Hello! My name is Spud, and I am about 1 years old. I am believed to be a BullTerrier mix, and I currently weigh 51 lbs.

I am spirited and enjoy company. I am ready for my new forever home and to meet my new best friend!



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





HAVE AN OPINION ON ONE OF OUR STORIES?

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

E-mail your submission to opinion@cullmansense.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

Cartoonist
Anthony Saint

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

Visit
cullmanstore.com for our full digital archives.

OPINION

ALABAMIANS GET THE MOST OUT OF THEIR ALCOHOL CONTROL SYSTEM

Mac Gipson
Contributor

Earlier this year, a Washington Post article hailed Alabama along with Alaska as "national leaders" when it comes to taxing alcoholic beverages. "They are the only states that claim a spot among the top five with the highest excise taxes each for beer, wine and spirits, according to the free market-oriented Tax Foundation," the newspaper reported.

That national ranking is something Alabamians should view with great pride. Not because we should feel glee in having high taxes. But because Alabama's "sin taxes" are doing exactly what the vast majority of our citizens should want them to do: Raise badly needed revenue to help pay for essential state services, while helping control the consumption of alcohol and its negative consequences.

Recently, using information from the Beer Institute, The Post took a look at the other side of the alcohol issue – consumption. As illustrated by a series of maps The Post used to show alcohol consumption by type and state, Alabamians, per person, drink far less than residents of most other states.

Of course, this is no surprise to those of us charged by state law with "controlling" alcohol in the state. We have long taken pride in the fact that Alabama is among the states with the lowest per capita consumption of alcohol. In fact, when it comes to the hard stuff – liquor, or distilled spirits, as the industry terms it – Alabamians consume less per person than the residents of any other state, according to the federal government's National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Alabama is one of only nine states whose residents consume less than two gallons of alcohol per capita per year, say the surveillance reports of the NIAAA, a division of the National Institutes of Health.

For liquor, whose sale is more strictly controlled by the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, Alabamians consume 0.58 gallon per capita per year, according to NIAAA data. That is the lowest of any state, including the District of Columbia.

We are No. 1. Not only is this something we should take pride in, it is a direct indication Alabama's system of "control" is working efficiently.

Alabama is getting the absolute most out of its alcohol taxes without having to drive up alcohol consumption, along with its associated social ills, such as alcoholism and drunk driving.

High revenue and low consumption: Isn't that what Alabamians want from their alcohol control system?

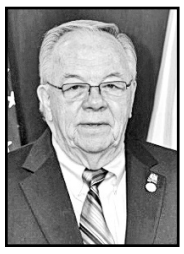
In 2012, the ABC Board, through its operations, provided more than $210 million to state and local governments in Alabama. This included nearly $75 million to the state's General Fund, $50 million to the state Department of Human Resources, $33 million to the Department of Mental Health, $22 million to education, $14 million to the Department of Revenue and more than $16 million to Alabama cities and counties.

The ABC Board produced those much-needed revenues while fulfilling its obligation to regulate the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages, enforce the state's alcohol laws, educate sellers and the public about alcohol issues, such as underage drinking, and to promote temperance.

The board operates more than 175 retail liquor stores that sell directly to the public. It also licenses and is the wholesale provider to more than 550 private package stores in the state.

In addition, all restaurants that sell alcoholic beverages and all stores that sell wine or beer are licensed and inspected by the ABC Board.

Besides its role with alcohol, the ABC Board is responsible for enforcing state laws against youth access to tobacco products, conducting nearly 5,000 compliance checks a year. Plus, ABC undercover agents take part in street-level drug operations statewide.


CONTRIBUTED
Mac Gipson

All of this is done efficiently. The operations of ABC stores and warehouses, the board's licensing and enforcement activities, plus its educational functions cost just 19 cents on each dollar made from the sale of liquor. That is a bargain for state taxpayers.

The control system is working for Alabama. In fact, it has worked for more than 75 years. Since the passage of the Alabama Beverage Act in 1937, ending prohibition in Alabama, the ABC Board has sent more than $6 billion to the state and local governments.

The ABC Board helps keep the state's overall tax burden low by providing Alabamians a valuable return on "sin taxes" without encouraging more consumption.

That is a story well worth telling and celebrating.

H. Mac Gipson is administrator of the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, which controls alcoholic beverages in the state through distribution, licensing, enforcement and education. E-mail: mac.gipson@abc.alabama.gov.

OPINION

WE NEED TECHNOLOGY FOR WORLD PEACE – NOT WORLD DESTRUCTION

Jacob Devaney
PeaceVoice

Fire is technology. We can use it to warm our food and our home or to burn down our neighborhood. It's all a matter of how we choose to use – or abuse - resources. The Pentagon recently agreed to honor contracts with a lifetime cost of roughly $1.5 trillion for the F-35 Lighting Joint Strike Fighter program, despite numerous technical concerns, for the purpose of destroying or dominating our enemies du jour --and the planet, and our economy, alongside them. At the same time, and for a fraction of that amount, a civilian digital technology recently launched with the purpose of connecting people around the world for the sake of creating and nurturing peace: The Global Peace Map.

The Global Peace Map, powered by Unify in collaboration with many other organizations and individuals, is an embeddable platform that connects peacemakers and positive peace (unarmed, nonviolent) events around the world. The map automatically adjusts to your time zone and allows you to zoom and scroll across the planet to see all the different places in which people are calling or demonstrating for peace in our war-weary world.

This emergent technological dream has been created through contributions of intelligence and funds from many peace organizations and individuals. Anyone with Internet access is empowered to populate the map by creating a local event for the International Day of Peace, this Sept. 21, 2014. This globally crowd-sourced, unified and interactive tool for peace is unprecedented technology designed and used for good, constructive change--and expressing the growing will of civil society everywhere for peace.

The United Nations has declared the theme of this year's International Day of Peace, also the 30th anniversary of the General Assembly's declaration of the day's intention, as the "Right of Peoples to Peace." The UN has recognized that peace is a prerequisite of realizing human rights around the world, and it is within our potential as human beings to build positive peace.

The Global Map is one way technology is helping us harness this potential. Social media is, as well. Participants of local events on Sept. 21, 2014 are encouraged to take pictures and share them to social media networks with the hashtag #PeaceDay. There is also a Facebook Event Page for a globally synchronized meditation with already more than 20,000 participants.

If you are reading this online, then you are engaging with some of the most complex technology in the history of the planet: the Internet. You are literally reading light as it is interpreted through complex networks and computer chips to relay ideas and feelings around the world.

All of the technology in the world of humans was born from within us and is a reflection of our potential. Will we use it as the fire to keep us warm or will we let it burn down all that we cherish in this life?

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



facebook.com/CullmanSense

Bill Smith

BUICK GMC

WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE





COME CELEBRATE THE GREAT DEALS DURING BILL SMITH'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

2015 GMC ACADIA FWD 4DR SLE1



STK# 121760

JUST $29,867

2014 BUICK ENCORE FWD



STK# 706815

PRICED TO MOVE $21,993

2014 BUICK LACROSSE FWD



STK# 187097

ONLY $29,973

2014 GMC SIERRA 2500HD CREW CAB STD. BOX 4-WHEEL DRIVE SLE



STK# 174507

PRICED TO MOVE $45,991

2014 GMC SIERRA 2500HD REGULAR CAB LONG BOX 2-WHEEL DRIVE WORK TRUCK



STK# 162039

PRICED TO MOVE $23,978

2014 GMC TERRAIN FWD SLE-1



STK# 145757

JUST $23,997

2015 GMC YUKON 2WD 4DR SLE



STK# 137370

NOW $42,988

Bill Smith BUICK GMC

DON'T MAKE A $3,000 MISTAKE

*All rebates applied, must have '99 or newer qualifying trade in. Prices are plus tax, title, & fee. Colors may vary.

BILLSMITHBUICKGMC.COM • 1940 SECOND AVE NW • CULLMAN, AL 35055 • 256-734-4472