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A HEART OF GLASS

LOCAL GLASS BLOWER'S PASSION MELTS INTO MULTICOLORED MASTERPIECES

"I IMMEDIATELY KNEW THAT THIS IS WHAT I WANTED TO DO FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE."

- LUCAS BAILEY GLASS BLOWER

P6





KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

After being introduced to the art of glass blowing by a friend, Lucas Bailey purchased his own equipment and now creates pendants, shot glasses, jars, and other small items.

CULLMAN NATIVE MARY HOVATER SPEARHEADS "NASA WEEK IN CULLMAN"

Molly Porter
MSFC Contributor

HUNTSVILLE - NASA's Mary Hovater is bringing her work home to Cullman. Her outreach efforts on behalf of NASA and her commitment to her hometown prompted Cullman Mayor Max Townson to declare Sept.15-20 as "NASA Week in Cullman."

Activities Hovater organized throughout the week will give the Cullman community a first-hand look at what NASA and industry leaders are doing in space. She is a systems engineer for the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications at NASA's Marshall

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FUNDING FOOD FOR FAMILIES: SECRET MEALS HELP CHILDREN IN NEED

Chelsea Sparks
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CULLMAN - Every year in Alabama, as many as 450,000 children will require free lunches in our school systems due to low income. Many children depend on the two meals they receive from schools, and struggle on weekends when food is not always guaranteed. That is what motivated the Alabama Credit Union to act.

The Alabama Credit Union started a non-profit program around five years ago called Secret Meals.

Laurie Legg, supervisor for the Cullman branch, says the program is designed to help ensure that children are getting the nutrition they need outside of schools.

"The secret meals program is Alabama Credit Union's give back to the community charity," Legg said. "It is our non-profit organization that we chose to start about five years ago. We feed children that

p5



NOAH CHANDLER/CULLMANSENSE

Scott Spitzer of Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, left, and Brenda Allison of Pentastar, right, present an $800 donation to Laurie Legg, center, for the Secret Meals program.

Lights, Candy & Amusement Rides: The 60th Annual Cullman County Fair is Almost Here

Will Hogue
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CULLMAN - The Cullman County Fair begins for the 60th time on September 25, and per tradition will run for a little bit over a week, leaving on October 4.

Office Manager for the fair, Jerry Bonner, said he and all the coordinators of the annual event are anticipating the fair this year.

"We're all really excited

p3



FILE PHOTO

All of the standard rides and attractions are expected to be at this year's fair.

EVA FRONTIER DAYS RETURNS FOR 25TH YEAR

Will Hogue
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EVA - Over 25 years ago, a group of women from Eva, Alabama took a trip out West and were inspired by the rugged nature of life in the West. They came back to the Southeast and initiated a community tradition for Eva that has lasted a quarter of a century.

The Eva Frontier Days are, as co-coordinator Barbara Frost stated, "A celebration of the frontier lifestyle."

"We have old wagons, tractors, and hay to decorate the area," Frost continued.

The Frontier Days begin on September 20 and continue for a week, ending on September 27.

Set up and coordinated by the women from the Art Guild, the Frontier Days will have a beauty pageant as well as a bluegrass festival.

Along with the pageant and

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ADVISOR FOR GOV. BENTLEY VISITS WALLACE STATE CAMPUS

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC Contributor



WSCC

Machine Tool Technology instructor Randy Moon, right, and Dean of Applied Technologies Jimmy Hodges, center, show Gov. Robert Bentley education policy advisor Jared White around during a recent tour of Wallace State Community College in Hanceville.

HANCEVILLE - Wallace State Community College President Dr. Vicki Karolewics proudly shared some of the institution's most successful programs recently with a representative of the governor's office. Jared White, an education policy advisor for Gov. Robert Bentley, visited the campus as a show of the governor's continued support of the state's two-year college system.

Community colleges play an important role in preparing the workforce for Alabama's middle skill jobs being developed through Governor Bentley's Accelerate Alabama plan.

During his visit to the campus, White toured the Machine Tool, Diesel, and Welding technology departments, the Criminal Justice department, and the Simulation Center in the School of Nursing and Center for Science.

From the Machine Tool Technology tour, White observed students at work on both manual and computer-aided machining tools.

He was also able to see molds from which products were made, including the mold of a piece used in a machine made by a local company that detected the Chernobyl nuclear disaster before it was reported.

In Diesel Technology, he learned about the cooperative partnership between WSCC and area trucking companies that provide students with the trucks they use in training to service the engines, computers, and other components.

In Welding, White was shown the latest in robotic welding machines that Wallace State students use to learn their trade. He also learned how successful some of the Wallace State graduates have been in their career and how important it is to the industry to have qualified and well-trained employees.

The Criminal Justice department shared some of their success stories, as well. One graduate is now in charge of the Knoxville, Tenn., police department's crime scene investigation unit, having learned how to use equipment needed to process evidence at Wallace State. White also learned how the Criminal Justice department faculty has been instrumental in solving crimes from around the area; using the skills they teach their students every day.

Finally, White toured the Simulation Center in the School of Nursing and Center for Science, learning how the students in multiple health programs at the college utilize the center for training before they enter a clinical situation.

"I love these opportunities to show off Wallace State," Dr. Karolewics said. "I'm reminded once again what an amazing job our employees and students do and of how important Wallace State is not only the people of Cullman County, but to the economy of our state as a whole.

"I appreciated Mr. White's interest in our college and, through him, Governor Bentley's dedication to the students who use these resources to make better lives for themselves and their families."

CRMC'S ONE REHAB NOW A SILVERSNEAKERS SITE

Heather Roberts
CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN - Cullman Regional Medical Center's (CRMC) ONE Rehab, Fitness & Sports Medicine is now a participating SilverSneakers site. The SilverSneakers Fitness program is a fun, energizing program that helps older adults take greater control of their health by encouraging physical activity and offering social events.

"We are excited about this opportunity to serve our community," said Brandy Chamblee, Wellness Coordinator. "We will have fitness specialists on hand to help out."

Many insurance carriers offer SilverSneakers to eligible members. Contact your carrier to see if this benefit is available to you. If you are already a member and have a SilverSneakers swipe card, the ONE Rehab Fitness center, located in Professional Office Building 1, is open during the following times:

Mon., Tues., and Thurs.
- 4:45 .a.m. – 8 a.m.
- 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.
- 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Wednesday
- 4:45 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Friday
- 4:45 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday
- 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Sunday
- 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.



CRMC

The SilverSneakers Fitness program encourages older adults to engage in more physical activity and hosts social events.

For more information, contact ONE Rehab, Fitness & Sports Medicine at 256-737-2298 or visit www.crmchospital.com/onerehab.

For a complete list of upcoming events, visit the Calendar of Events at www.crmchospital.com.

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CONNECTING TO CULLMAN INDUSTRY: RELIANCE WORLDWIDE CORPORATION BRINGS SHARKBITE PLUMBING SOLUTIONS TO COMMUNITY

Kate Mullaney
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CULLMAN - Reliance Worldwide Corporation (RWC) announced last Monday that they have reached an agreement with the State of Alabama as well as the Cullman community, which allows RWC to expand the manufacturing of its SharkBite plumbing connecting products in Cullman.

Reliance Worldwide Corporation is an Australian business founded in 1947. It entered the USA in 2002 when it acquired Cash Acme water valve manufacturing facility in Cullman.

SharkBite entered the USA market in 2004. It is a push to connect plumbing system, which replaces the traditional copper connection method of plumbing and is a more efficient and less costly alternative.

The SharkBite system combines brass fittings with "PEX" plastic pipe for quick installations and repairs.

In 2013, over 1 million SharkBite connecting products were sold in the U.S. each week.

It is expected that the demand for this innovative product will continue to grow. RWC is excited to announce the expansion of their "Made in Alabama" production.

President and CEO of RWC Michael Williams stated:

"As most companies are looking to cut costs by outsourcing labor and relocating operations to low labor cost countries, RWC is leading the way to prove that American companies can competitively manufacture onshore. This is achieved by significant capital investment in high technology robotic equipment, retraining of employees, and access to a highly skilled workforce. We are proud to partner with the State of Alabama, Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT), and CEDA to invest a significant amount of capital to introduce new robotic and high technology plastic and brass manufacturing to our US operations," he said.

"Producing these products in Alabama provides economic advantages for job creation, training, and advanced education for employees and industry professionals. RWC would like to thank Governor Robert Bentley, Congressman Robert Aderholt, Mayor Max Townson, Secretary of Commerce Greg Canfield, AIDT Director Ed Castile, CEDA Director Peggy Smith, and their outstanding teams for making this partnership possible."

CLUCK-N-BREW TO BENEFIT PLAYGROUND FOR SPECIALS NEEDS CHILDREN

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN - Cullman's second annual Cluck-N-Brew is scheduled for this Saturday, September 20, following the Cullman County Fair Parade. The event will start at 3 p.m. at Depot Park and last until 10 p.m. The event will feature amateur cooks and local restaurants in a 'wings cook-off' in tribute to the county's top standing in the state of Alabama's poultry industry.

"We will also have a host of brews available for our adult crowd as well as a huge kids' zone featuring inflatables, a game truck, balloons, and more," said Waid Harbison, marketing and programs director at Cullman City Parks & Recreation.

For a $5 admission, attendees will get to sample the goodies plus have access to the game day tent for football games, live music, and a kids' zone' for the youngsters. A cash bar will be set up for the 'brew' part of the event.

"Share Cluck-N-Brew 2014 with your friends today," Harbison smiled. "All proceeds from Cluck-N-Brew will go to the multi-use Community Playground for children of all special needs. So mark your calendar, September 20 from 3-10 p.m. at Depot Park!"

Everyone interested should plan to come out and enjoy a great fall afternoon in downtown Cullman. It's the best place to be on a beautiful September day!

For more information, please call Waid Harbison at Cullman Parks & Recreation Department at 256-734-9157 or e-mail him at wharbison@cullmanrecreation.org.

CULLMAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S DINNER & AUCTION TO HELP GROW ENROLLMENT

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN - Cullman Christian School will host their Annual Holiday Dinner and Auction on Friday, November 7, 2014 beginning at 6 p.m. at the beautiful Loft 212 in downtown Cullman. There will be lots of fun and fellowship at the event with several items available during both the silent and live auctions. The food is anticipated to be out of this world and this year they have enlisted an internationally known auctioneer, Bryan Knox, who brings the fun and charisma.

"We are dependent, in part, upon the generosity of the businesses our CCS families patron to make our auction a success," said Auction Coordinator Beth Caviness. "The building our school called home was destroyed by the infamous F4 tornados that struck Cullman in April 2011, and while our auction is not an integral part of our rebuilding efforts, the funds generated from this event will help us continue to grow our student enrollment."

If you would like to help, the school can accept any monetary donations, as well as new goods and services. If you are willing to help or offer assistance, contact Jamie McHan at 256-734-0734 to obtain either a Corporate Sponsor Form or a Donation Agreement Form.

Once you receive your form, fill it out, make a copy for your tax records, then return the form along with your donation.

Remember, all donations are tax deductible and go toward a worthwhile cause.

The school asks that donations be received in their office by October 17, 2014 to adequately prepare and advertise. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cullman Christian School at 256-734-0734.



Frontier (from Front)

music, there will be food vendors supplying hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, barbeque, and more. There will also be a petting zoo and pony rides for the littles ones as well.

The beauty of the Frontier Days is that the town of Eva uses all the revenue generated by the event and funnels it right back into the community.

The Art Guild annually provides a $1,000 scholarship to Brewer High School. The funds also assist with beautification efforts throughout the Eva community.

The event is an opportunity for Eva to come together and experience a certain part of culture that is often glossed over – the frontier and the people who blazed trails out West.

The Eva Frontier Days help illuminate this important sector of American history while also benefitting the town of Eva. And for 25 years, they've done an impeccable job.

Fair (from Front)

for the fair," said Bonner. "We are excited every year. It's one of the biggest things that happens in Cullman all year."

The 60th Anniversary of the first ever Cullman County Fair will not be celebrated with an extravagant commemoration, but by honoring tried and true traditions.

"Things will be pretty routine this year," Bonner assured.

The attractions, such as the rides and basketball game vary somewhat each year, and the actual attractions that will be at this year's fair will be no different.

Each respective ride that is brought to the fair depends on what the company that supplies the midway for the fair decides to bring.

However, there is little to no evidence that the usual favorites won't be set up at the fairgrounds this fall for you and your friends to ride.

The fair each year raises significant revenue for the city. Although Bonner declined to comment on specific numbers, he did confirm that the funds received by way of the fair are pumped back into the city for beautification and for "doing good," as Bonner phrased it.

As for the biggest attraction, Bonner was sure that it is the Peinhardt Farms exhibit because the kids are able to experience what it is like to be up close with animals, and for some, this is the first time doing so.

The Cullman area is looking forward to the neon lights that will soon illuminate the fairgrounds and the scent of fried food that will linger in the air starting September 25.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.

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LOCAL VOLUNTEERS UNITE DURING NATIONWIDE VOLUNTEER DAY AND DAY OF CARING



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Over 100 volunteers were divided into groups that spread across the community to perform 14 different acts of kindness.

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN - Last Tuesday, United Way of Cullman County hosted a Day of Caring and Kick-Off Breakfast at the new Beech Center, located at 1803 Beech Ave. SE Cullman, AL 35055. The day began with a breakfast consisting of bacon, sausage, eggs, and an assortment of other goodies. Once everyone had assembled their plates, Senator Paul Bussman gave a speech, commending the crowd for their commitment to volunteer service.

"The kick off breakfast is our way of kicking off our campaign season for this fall," explained Katelyn Sides, marketing and communications coordinator for United Way of Cullman County.

"We hope to get everyone pumped up and excited about volunteering. We started the day off with a free breakfast, everyone is given a free T-shirt, and we take a group picture of everyone."

The Day of Caring is a nationwide volunteer day for all of the United Way centers across America.

After eating a hearty breakfast, volunteers go out in groups and begin working on the projects assigned to them, mainly working at some of the agencies that Cullman's United Way supports.

"There are 14 different projects today and we have over 100 volunteers, so there are probably six to ten people per project," said Sides.

"The projects can be anything from raking and mowing to painting and sanding to mopping and organizing materials to helping prepare school lunches. It's a huge, wide range of things for everybody."

"I'm really excited that this many people would take a day off work and use their time to come out and volunteer - just to make a difference," said Candy Thomas, volunteer.

"I think this is big – it is huge! It makes me happy to know that this many people care, especially in today's world."

United Way of Cullman County would like to give a big shout out to the great folks who proudly sponsored Tuesday's event.

They are Cash Acme/Reliance Worldwide, Senator Paul Bussman, McGriff Tire Company, and Eva Bank.

If you would like more information about United Way of Cullman County, or if you would like information about volunteering in your area, feel free to stop by and visit the nice folks here in Cullman.

They are located at 304 1st Avenue N.E., Cullman, AL 35056. You can call them at 256-739-2948. You may also browse their webpage at www.uwaycc.org.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: UNUSUAL STRAIN OF RESPIRATORY VIRUS RAISES CONCERN

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CULLMAN - You have probably seen the story on several news stations already. Several clusters of the rare respiratory virus Enterovirus D68 have been headlining the news for over a week now, and chances are you will continue hearing about it for some time. In cases like this, there is always a lot of hype and over-exaggeration, which leads to panic. So what is this new virus, and what do you need to know?

Well for starters, this particular virus has been around for some time, but the United States has not had cases reported in the past four decades. It is because of its rarity that we do not know much about it.

While it is known to cause severe respiratory distress in some cases, it is has not been fatal to any patients at this point.

The CDC was made aware of the clusters in August in cities like Chicago and Kansas City. Missouri had 19 confirmed cases and Illinois reported 11 confirmed cases. Anne Schuchat, director of Immunization and Respiratory Disease for the CDC said in a press conference that more research is currently underway.

"The situation is evolving quickly," Schuchat said. "CDC and our colleagues are gathering information to better understand EV-D68 and the illness caused by this virus, how widespread infections may be, and which populations are most affected, and whether other states are experiencing severe respiratory illness perhaps due to this virus."

The virus has had two states with confirmed cases in Missouri and Illinois. More states are currently waiting to see the results of their tests on potential cases.

While there have been reports of children being sent to the pediatric ICU, it is important to note that the kids most affected were those who already had respiratory conditions such as asthma.

Schuchat said that it is possible for the virus to spread further; it is too soon to tell how far these clusters will spread.

"If you're concerned that your child is having difficulty breathing, you want to make sure that you contact their healthcare provider," said Schuchat.

"Most of the runny noses out there are not going to be turning into this."

The important thing to remember is that this is not at epidemic levels, and while you should be aware of the warning signs, there is no reason to panic.

If your child has cold-like symptoms and begins to wheeze, contact your doctor immediately.

Practice standard precautions by washing your hands for at least 20 seconds several times a day.

Knowledge is power in any situation where there is a lot of concern for your kids' health. For more information, visit www.CDC.gov.

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SMALL CHAPEL FULFILLS BIG DREAMS: HUBERT RICHTER MEMORIAL CHAPEL IS AVAILABLE TO ALL

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN - While tootling around Cullman the other day, I stopped for a moment to take a few pictures of the little white chapel that stands across from the Busy Bee Café. I snapped photos of the little place in just about every angle I could imagine. I walked all around the small church, admiring its dainty walls and clear windows. I peeked inside one of those windows and imagined myself sitting in one of the short, squat pews with a handheld fan, just a fanning away as I listened to the preacher read emphatically from his Bible.

As I was about to leave, I snapped one last picture. It was a picture of the brass plate attached to the red door that simply reads, Jacob Hubert Richter, Sr. Memorial Chapel. I ran my fingers over the letters on the nameplate and wondering who Mr. Richter was and why he had a chapel named in his honor. Finally, just before turning to leave, I reached down and grabbed the door handle. With sheer surprise, the door opened right up and there I stood looking right into this beautiful, tiny place! I looked back over my shoulder to see if anyone was watching me. I felt certain I had done something I wasn't supposed to do. Why wasn't this sweet little chapel locked up?

With wide eyes and open mouth, I slowly stepped into the chapel. There were a total of six little wooden pews, three on the left and three on the right.

The pews face a wooden podium and behind the podium is a beautiful stained glass window depicting the sun shining on a lovely white dove. On the back wall there are two framed items, each have a bunch of names listed. Unfortunately, the sun has drained the color of the writing, so I was unable to read who the people were.

Once I had checked out every nook and cranny, and sat in each pew, I walked out and carefully closed the door behind me. I sat down in one of the wrought iron benches and admired the beautiful flowers that surrounded it. I was tickled to death the place had been unlocked, yet I couldn't stop wondering what Hubert Richter's story was and why the chapel was named for him.

Hubert Richter was one of the sons of Cullman's O.F. Richter and Sons. He was a generous man and beloved by the community.

He truly loved Cullman and played a key part in starting the German Club and the Oktoberfest festivals. Hubert and his wife Hazel had four children: Jacob, David, Mike, and Daniel.

Hubert and Hazel's son Mike had passed away in 1971, and like any parents they grieved over the loss of their son, mainly at night in the comfort of each other's arms. It was during these nights the two would talk about how nice it would have been to be able to go to a church that was never locked. Hubert really liked the idea and he told Hazel he would go there, if there were such a place.

In 1988 tragedy struck the Richter household once again when Hubert died from injuries he had sustained in a car wreck. Because he was so loved by the community, the friends of Frankweiler wanted to erect a statue of Hubert, but Hazel knew it wasn't what her loving husband would have wanted.

After Hubert's death, Hazel did a lot of thinking. She remembered all the late night conversations she and Hubert had about a chapel that would remain unlocked for those who needed a place to stop and pray. She thought about how much they loved the small chapels in Gatlinburg.

It wasn't long before she knew what Hubert would have wanted done in his honor – a small chapel like those they visited in Tennessee, only this one would not be locked, so that anyone who needed to come would be able to enter at anytime.

The Richter Chapel was erected in October 1989 on the property that was owned by the City of Cullman and made possible by the generous donations of friends, family, and business associates. I would like to let Mr. Richter know, in some sort of way, that I was one of those such people who needed a place to go and was honestly surprised when I was able to open that unlocked door and go right in. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Richter for the wonderful idea of an open sanctuary right here in the middle of our beloved community.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The Richter Chapel's doors always remain unlocked.

Meals (from Front)

have been found to come in on Monday hungry or leave on Friday needing food."

Legg went on to say that it is the teachers or counselors that are the ones to help select students that are in need.

"The teachers and counselors know that those children are going without food over the weekend," said Legg. "So we get little backpacks of food, and the counselors sneak them into their backpacks, and that is why it is called secret meals."

The Alabama Credit Union holds several fundraisers throughout the year from bake sales to car shows. The organization is always trying to raise more money so that they can help more children throughout the area.

This year, a car show was held at the Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram dealership, located on Ala. Hwy 278, in conjunction with Pentastar Car Club to raise funds for the secret meals program.

"Each year the Pentastar Car Club will do a car show and choose a charity, and this year we just by chance chose secret meals," said Brenda Allison, organizer for Pentastar.

"I had gone into the bank, and Laurie and I just started talking. Then secret meals came up, and I said okay, this is what we need to do this year."

After speaking with her fellow club members about the charity, everyone was in agreement that this charity would be the one.

"Being a teacher myself, this is something I see every day," Allison said. "So it is something I feel very strongly about. Dodge has been really helpful, and has really helped to get things going, and we have had people as far as Louisiana come to the show."

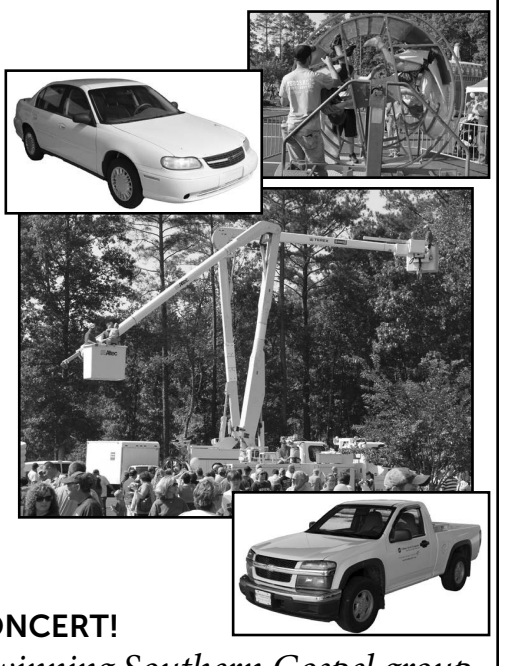
Sixty cars entered the show, and participants were thrilled to hear about the wonderful cause the proceeds were going to.

Donations from the public can be made to the organization through a PayPal account on their website at www.secretmeals.org.

"This has been awesome because it raises awareness of these children that are going hungry all over the state of Alabama," Legg said, speaking about Dodge and Pentastar's involvement.

"Having people that care enough, and go through all the trouble, and the blood, sweat, and tears that it takes to put on an event like this and then to give all your proceeds. It really touches my heart and everyone at Alabama Credit Union's heart."

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Saturday, Sept. 20 • Northbrook Church
8 a.m. - noon (Registration ends at 11 a.m.)
• FREE hot dogs, popcorn and drinks for all 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 2002 Chevy Malibu & 2007 Chevy Colorado


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

YOUTHQUAKE MOVES ON: POPULAR CHRISTIAN CONCERT CALLS IT QUITS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN - On Friday, September 5, 2014, Premier Productions, the largest producer of Christian concert events in the nation, made a shocking revelation: YouthQuake will no longer take place.

The announcement was posted on Facebook, as well as YouthQuake's website at www.youthquake.org, causing a wave of sadness throughout our community. The following is the official announcement regarding the cancellation.

"Dear YOUTHQUAKE Family, We have some bittersweet news regarding YOUTHQUAKE. After 12 incredible years of ministry, thousands of decisions for Christ, and countless God-stories in the lives of the youth of this region, YOUTHQUAKE is coming to an end. The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 3 that 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens', and the time for YOUTHQUAKE has passed. We are taking the year of 2014 for rest and renewed vision. That is the bitter news. The sweet news is that we believe what God says in Isaiah 43:19 'See, I am doing a new thing! Now, it springs up; do you not perceive it?' Over the past few years, the YOUTHQUAKE team has been working all over the world with worship teams and seeing a new movement of worship gatherings. We feel God is calling us to do a new thing in 2015. We can't wait to share with you the vision that God has given us! Stay tuned in the coming months for details on what is to come. We want to say a special Thank You to the hundreds of churches, pastors, youth pastors, leaders, volunteers, parents, sponsors, and fans for their loyal support. There is simply no way we could have pulled off what we did without you."

The YouthQuake Festival was founded in 2001 in Cullman and was dedicated to seeing people's lives changed for the glory of God.

Each year it featured the top bands and speakers at an affordable ticket price.

"YouthQuake is where it all started for us," said Shane Quick with Premier Productions.

"It's really like a family member. We've seen a real shift in Christian music over the past few years and feel the time for YouthQuake has come and gone. We're excited about the future and starting a new gathering that will hopefully have as big of an impact as YouthQuake did."

Many folks here in Cullman hate to see the YouthQuake Festival go, but let's look on the bright side; something bigger and better will replace it in time.

Please keep your eyes on Premier Productions as they will produce over 320 Christian concerts, festivals, conferences, camps, and cruises in 2014.

To keep up with their latest happenings check out their webpage at www.premierproductions.com.

Advanced Tickets Go On Sale for Bike, Bands, & BBQ

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

SMITH LAKE - If you are looking for more rock in your life, then you will be in luck this October. Deep South Tattoos will be hosting a sizeable music festival on October 25 that will be showcasing many local bands such as Shallow Side, Down South, and Dark Before Dawn.

These small town bands are quickly making big names for themselves throughout the South and beyond. The festival will feature approximately 10 different bands all ready to rock out, several of which are from right here in Cullman. Also, for those that want to pig out, there will be plenty of food vendors ready to satisfy your cravings.

In addition to music and food, a bike show will also take place with the show beginning at 3 p.m. and judging taking place at 4 p.m.

The categories that are set to be judged are old school, mild custom, full custom, and radical.

Best in class, first, and second place trophies will be awarded in each category at 5 p.m.

The event will begin at noon and will keep rocking until 11 p.m. Advance tickets are being sold for $10, and tickets at the door will be $15.

Also, for those that want an enhanced experience, VIP passes are being sold for $50. You can purchase your tickets at Deep South Tattoos or go to their website at www.DeepSouthTattoo.com. If you get your tickets early you will be entered into a drawing for a $200 tattoo from the talented artists at Deep South Tattoos.

Glass (from Front)

Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Nestled into Cullman's vast farmland sits Lucas Bailey's humble glass blowing studio. Bursting with passion for his creative work, this young artist creates masterpieces out of glass.

Bailey's studio is small but mighty, and it's decorated with glass of all kinds: perfectly sculpted glass, experiments, hot glass, cold glass, and even broken glass. He puts in hours and hours of work at this studio creating beautifully colored marbles and pendants.

Bailey started blowing glass about a year and a half ago, and hasn't looked back since.

"A friend of mine from Florida who collected blown glass pieces took me to some glass galleries," stated Bailey. "Here I saw some really high end glass marbles and sculptures. I had never seen anything like it before. I was blown away by what people could do with glass. That's how I became interested in blown glass."

Bailey lived in Colorado at the time. Here, he emerged himself into the glass blowing community.

"I became friends with a glass blower who let me watch him work," he said. "I watched and asked questions and finally he let me get on the torch. I immediately knew that this is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. When I moved back to Cullman, I bought my own equipment and I've been doing it ever since."

Bailey has taken a few glass blowing workshops in Roswell, Ga. at FlameTree Glass, but he's learned the most through doing.

"I mostly just read books and read about it online," Bailey said.

Bailey mostly makes marbles and pendants as well as shot glasses, jars, and other small trinkets.

"My goal soon is to learn how to make big sculptures like vases and beer mugs," stated Bailey.

The process of blowing glass is relatively simple.

"Basically I start with raw glass rod tubing from different American made companies," explained Bailey.

"I have a torch that runs on propane and oxygen, and that combination of propane and oxygen makes a really hot precise flame. I use that to melt the glass, cut it, form it, and shape it. Because it's getting hot, it will want to fall down because of gravity, so you have to constantly spin the glass to keep it on center."

That seems simple enough, but as you look at Bailey's work, it isn't just a solid piece of glass. They're spherical beauties containing worlds of color and wonder, or complex pendants with swirls of brightness and mystery. So, how do you get these different colors into one piece of glass?

"I just draw lines in the clear glass with pieces of other colored glass," said Bailey. "You can pull the glass out really thin when it's hot, and then put it into the clear glass. To create planets in the glass, I'll get the clear glass really hot and the colored glass a bit cooler. Then I just push the cooler colored glass into the clear glass."

Bailey makes glittering stars on his pieces of work by fuming 99 percent silver.

With the holidays coming up, there's no need to fret about shopping for presents, because Bailey will have a host of hand blown Christmas ornaments that will make the perfect present.

"Christmas ornaments are blown out of tubing," explained Bailey. "When you pull out a piece of tubing, you have a handle on one end, and you blow it out into whatever shape you want. Then you remove that side's handle and shape the other side. I will definitely have some Christmas ornaments coming up soon."

Bailey stated that glass blowing is therapeutic for him.

"It's like meditating. It's calming. When I'm focused on that, I'm not thinking about anything else. There's limitless possibilities, and I can't wait to make sculptures this big," said Bailey with his arms stretched wide.

But, to be able to build sculptures that big, Bailey has to first sell smaller pieces to fund his endeavors, and he is well on his way.

"I shipped a marble to this guy in Maryland, and I've never even been to Maryland," said Bailey. "I have one lady who collects my stuff. She lives in a place called Kill Devils Hill, North Carolina. So about once a week I send a package out there."

Bailey also has customers in Kentucky, Texas, Colorado, Florida, and different parts of Alabama. He hopes to soon have international customers.

To view and buy Bailey's work, you can visit his Etsy page at etsy.com/shop/sumoglassart, add him on Facebook at Lucas Bailey, or follow him on Instagram at sumo_glass.

Cullman is a place for art and with so many young, emerging artists in our town, it's important to support them so they can find success. Check out Lucas Bailey's blown glass artwork and keep Cullman creative.

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BI-ANNUAL CULLMAN KIDS MART EVENT BRINGS ON THE SAVINGS

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - It was a beautiful Friday morning for a sale, and people were lined up for a solid hour preparing to get to this one. Parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles were all excited to get inside The Atrium on Hwy 157 in Cullman to see what great deals they could find on a wide assortment of items.

The Atrium is a sizeable venue for the sale, and even it was just enough to hold the massive amount of merchandise available for purchase. The elegant setting, friendly volunteers, and incredible deals all added up to one successful sale. Susan and Keith Glass recently took ownership over the biannual sale and were thrilled to keep this great event going for the public.

"I worked with Leah Bolin for about 10 years as a volunteer for the sale," Susan Glass said. "Then when she moved to the Chamber of Commerce, she needed to sell, and since I had experience with it, we bought it. It's a wonderful asset to the community of Cullman County and surrounding counties."

Kids Mart has been a staple go-to sale in the area for thrifty moms for an impressive 20 years. An ongoing commitment to community and a sterling reputation have equaled success for the past two decades.

"Seeing the people every year is my favorite part," Glass said. "Because they come every year and the workers that volunteer stay for hours so you develop relationships with people. It's always great to see people come back."

The sale requires lots of volunteers, and this year the sale had somewhere between 75 to 100 volunteers. A great incentive for many to volunteer is the pre-sales that the volunteers get to participate in and being able to get first dibs on all merchandise.

Every hand to help is precious according to the Glass' because of the short amount of time they have to put the sale together and then break it down.

"It usually takes two solid days of set up," said Glass. "We usually set everything up on Saturday and Sunday before the Monday drop off. Then our volunteers come and help through the week. The behind the scenes work is year round though. It's stressful because you only have the location for a certain period of time, but we love it because it helps our community and us. We have three kids ourselves."



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Kids Mart has been a go-to sale for 20 years and requires many volunteers.

Regardless of the stresses, business is alive and thriving for this event, and with the help of the Glass' and volunteers it will continue to do so. The sale takes place twice a year, and flyers will go out to homeowners across the county before each one. The next sale will be next spring, and there are sure to be more great deals for every family. Clothes, toys, DVDs, baby equipment, bedding, and more are on sale at this family friendly treasure trove.

For more information, visit their website at www.CullmanKidsMart.com.

NASA (from Front)

Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

"I believe it will be a really cool and different way to reach out to the Cullman community, many who work at Marshall, and many students who aspire to do great things like build rockets," she said.

She seized this opportunity to engage and inspire future scientists, engineers, and explorers when the Cullman High School band dedicated their 2014 marching season program to space and NASA. Plans for a county band exhibition quickly turned into a weeklong event recognizing Cullman's deep connections to NASA and the aerospace industry.

Her interest in NASA began when she was a student. A NASA speaker visited her school in Cullman to talk about his work on tiles that would cover the space shuttle.

"I was already dreaming in the stars, but I knew then what I wanted to do, and I made it my goal to work for NASA," she recalled.

"If there is a way for me to pass that spark on, I want to. It's that spark that keeps lighting rockets and sending us to new worlds."

During the week of Sept 15-20, Hovater and volunteers from Marshall's Speaker's Bureau will visit ten local schools and Wallace State Community College to share their enthusiasm about space and the benefits of careers in math, science, and engineering.

Students will also have a chance to see a model of NASA's newest rocket -- the Space Launch System -- along with a lunar sample or "moon rock" and other NASA artifacts during the Cullman County Band Exhibition at Cullman High School on Saturday, Sept. 20 at 5:00 p.m. Booths from government, industry, and small business partners will also be on display.

The Cullman High School band will perform their space-themed program at the Saturday event. It begins with a trumpet solo played by Hovater's son over an audio recording of President John F. Kennedy's famous "We choose to go to the moon..." speech.

With NASA Week in Cullman, Hovater shows what can happen one person chooses to share with others the wonder and excitement of space.

For information about how to request a NASA Marshall speaker or exhibit, visit: www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall/about/request.html.

For more information about Marshall Space Flight Center, visit: www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall/home/index.html.



NASA/MSFC/EMMETT GIVEN

Officials from Cullman, Alabama, visited NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center on Sept. 3 to present a proclamation designating the week of Sept. 15-20 as "NASA Week in Cullman." From left are Christopher Smith, Cullman High School band director; Mary Hovater, of Marshall's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications; Cullman Police Chief Kenny Culpepper; Marshall Center Director Patrick Scheuermann; and Cullman Mayor Max Townson.





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.

'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.

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.

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This Week in Local Entertainment

Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

Monday, Sept. 15

- 79 cent wings at Rodney G's Hickory Grill from 6-9 p.m.
- Monday Fundays at the Aquatic Center from 6-11 p.m.
- Open Mic Night at Berkeley Bob's at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 16

- 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.
- Kayaking lessons at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center at 6 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-7 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 17

- 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. 18

- Kayaking lessons at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center at 6 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.
- Open Mic Night at Brother's 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. 19

- Live Music at Brothers & Moe's
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-6 p.m.
- Live Music: April Mae & The June Bugs and Russell Gulley at Berkeley Bob's at 7 p.m.
- Live Music at Cadillac Ron's from 8 p.m. to close

Saturday, Sept. 20

- Sprint Triathlon at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center at 7:30 a.m.
- Cullman County Fair Parade from 2-3 p.m.
- Cluck-N-Brew at Depot Park from 3-11 p.m.
- Live Music at Brothers & 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
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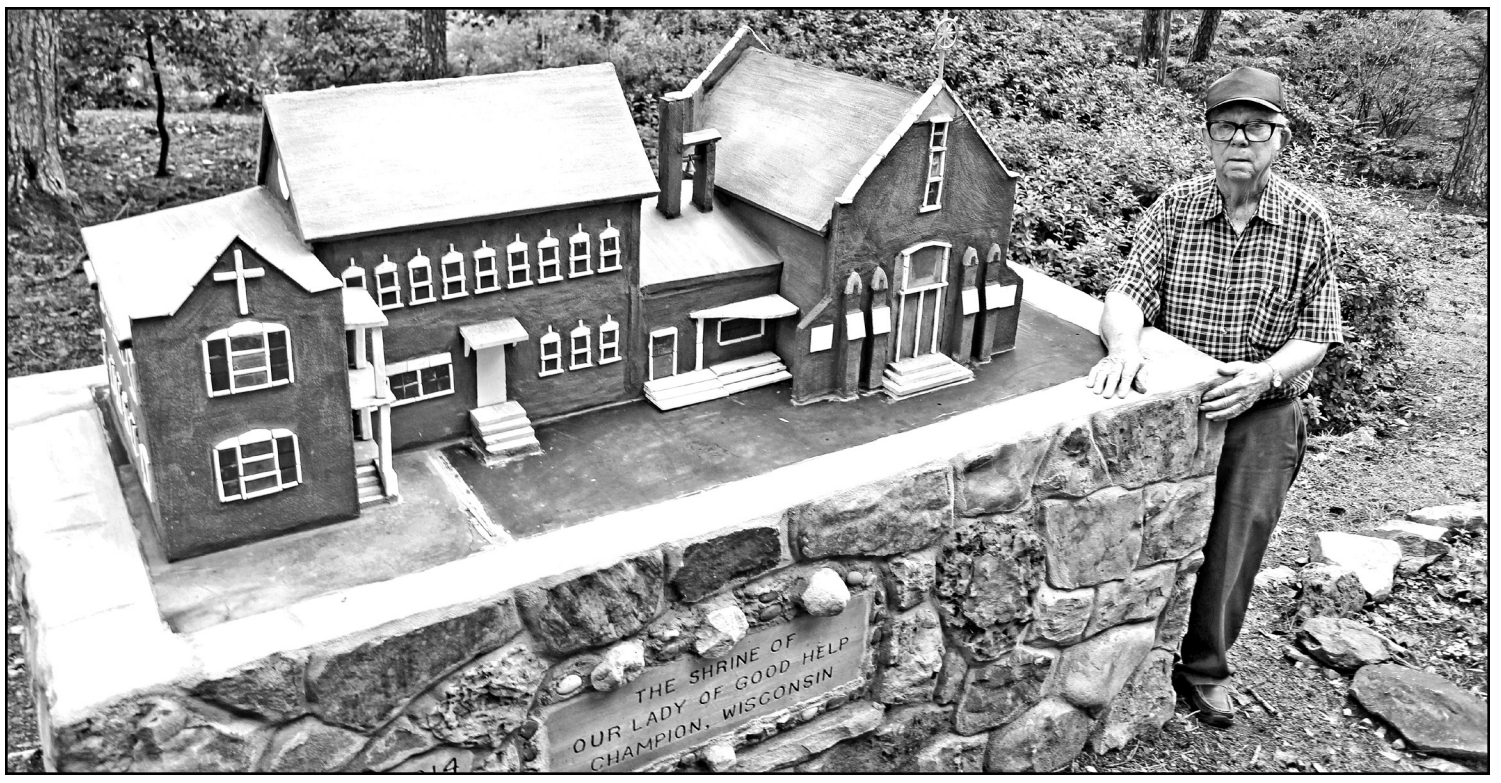
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ST. BERNARD

Leo Schwaiger stands beside the newly added shrine, Our Lady of Good Help at Ave Maria Grotto.

GROTTO DEDICATES NEW SHRINE

Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Contributor

CULLMAN - Ave Maria Grotto recently added and dedicated The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help – Champion, Wisconsin, during a dedication ceremony at the 4 acre garden park nestled among the grounds of Alabama's only Benedictine Abbey, St. Bernard Abbey, in Cullman.

Ave Maria Grotto was originally created by Br. Joseph Zoettl, featuring 125 replicas of famous religious shrines from around the world from an array of items such as: cement, shells, ceramic tiles, cold cream jars, colored glass, costume jewelry, and even marbles. It has been a destination stop in Cullman for the past 80 years to thousands of tourist from around the world.

Since the opening of the grotto on May 14, 1934, a local resident and stonemason has added additional shrines to compliment the work of Br. Joseph. Leo Schwaiger, a longtime employee of St. Bernard Abbey, has spent countless hours maintaining the intricate shrines and tinkering in his workshop to create additional pieces which have been added to the gardens.

While sitting at a church mission at Sacred Heart Church in Cullman, Schwaiger learned from Father Wade Meneses about the Champion, Wisconsin Church which has been the only place in the United States where the Virgin Mary has appeared to someone with Church approval.

"I had no idea we had a place such as this in the United States, but I thought it would only be appropriate to take a look at the brochures being presented and to collect photographs and more information on this Church," Schwaiger said.

He became more familiar with Our Lady of Good Help by watching Bishop David Ricken, on EWTN and decided it would be a perfect addition to the Grotto.

Historically, in October of 1859 the Blessed Virgin Mary, visited a young woman, Adele Brise through a series of apparitions. It was an unlikely visitation to a simple, humble country girl on a dirt road in the wooded countryside. Her instruction was seemingly simple but required the commitment of Adele's life's work: teach the children in the faith. The Holy Mother did not appear in a crowded city or to people of wealth and power. Instead, she appeared to an unlikely person in an unlikely place. In doing so, she made it clear to all the world that there is no one anywhere who is beyond the reach of God's generous love.

Schwaiger went to work in the latter part of the spring of 2014 on a mission of his own. He set out to build a shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. With the help of Fr. Peter Stryker of Champion, WI, and local friends Jim and Jamey Springer, the shrine was placed in the gardens on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and blessed on Thursday, September 5, 2014 in the grotto gardens.

In 2009, the Most Reverend David Ricken, Bishop of Greenbay, opened a formal Church investigation into the Marian apparitions that occurred in 1859 on the site of the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. While considered private revelation, the task of the commission was to review all the historical information on the apparitions, as well as the life of Sister Adele, and test their consistency with Public Revelation as guarded by the Catholic Church. Based on the findings of this commission, on the feast day of the Immaculate Conception, 2010, Bishop Ricken gave official Church approval of the apparitions that occurred at Champion, Wisconsin (previously known as Robinsonville).

The shrine measures approximately 6 feet in length and is built of colored concrete to include a chapel, museum, school, and dormitory.

To the right of the shrine is the gravesite of the Adel Brise, to whom the Blessed Virgin appeared. Schwaiger said his son, Barry constructed the cross of stainless steel.

Four large stones cemented in the sign came from the site of the current church in Wisconsin.

"I requested these stones from Fr. Ben Cameron who was visiting with a local family, and he immediately request Fr. Stryker to assist with the project," Schwaiger said.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin is a place for all who seek help and healing through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Following the example of Sister Adele Brise, who first encountered the Queen of Heaven at this site, its journey together, seeking a deeper relationship with Christ through Mary.

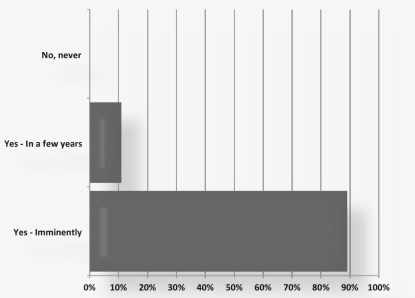
Like the Shrine of our Lady of Good Help, it matters little whether one is Catholic or not, whether one believes or is still searching for faith, all are welcome at Ave Maria Grotto. The grotto gardens have been known to have a calming effect on the soul. It is notably a place where one can feel the presence of God.

Ave Maria Grotto is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily. It is operated by the Benedictine Monks at St. Bernard Abbey. The four acre garden park features more than 125 miniature shrines from around the world. Group tours are available by calling 256-255-5860.

For more information visit www.avemariagrotto.com or follow on Facebook.

Poll

Do you feel ISIS poses a threat domestically?



This Week's Poll

Do you think a photo I.D. should be required to vote?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

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

Local Photographer Captures Moments in Time

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...



qrne.ws/252

Celebrate Fall: The Best of What Autumn Has to Offer

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.

qrne.ws/253

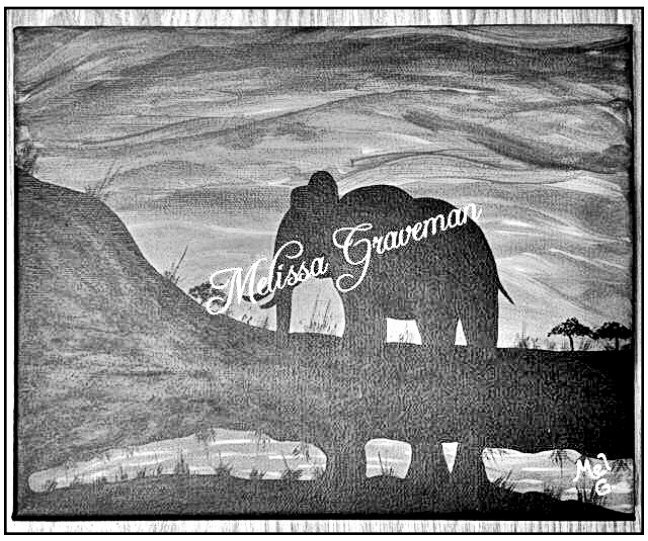
Town Rallies to Support Local Teacher Battling a Rare Form of Cancer

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...

qrne.ws/254

PURPLE BRISTLES ADDS COLOR TO CULLMAN: ARTIST CREATES ARTWORK WITH UNIQUE STYLE

Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com



CONTRIBUTED

» Among Graveman's favorite paintings is a silhouette of an elephant against a red sky.

CULLMAN - Cullman's community of local artists proves time and time again their incredible talent, and artist Melissa Graveman of Purple Bristles is no exception. This creative Cullmanite offers custom works, canvases, and personalized items.

Graveman's artistic business is called 'Purple Bristles' thanks to purple being her favorite color. She uses this name on her Facebook page and during craft shows.

Graveman uses mainly acrylics on stretched canvas as well as some water colors. She conveys everything from nature and animals to busy sidewalks and gossiping friends. And her style? It's just as diverse as her work.

Her style can include bright colors or blacks and greys, harsh lines or extreme blending, realistic masterpieces or cute cartoons, and anything in between.

"I don't have a particular style," said Graveman. "I simply paint anything that appeals to my heart."

A Melissa Graveman favorite is using three canvases to paint one paining.

This three-piece picture will add a dynamic aspect to your wall. Some of her other favorite paintings include pieces of animals such as a silhouette of an elephant against a red sky, a colorful peacock decorated by its own swirls of feathers, a beautiful goldfish in a marbleized world of blue, green, and yellow, and many more.

You can catch Graveman at several craft fairs. Most recently, she had a booth at the Sweet Tater Festival. Once you see her work, you won't leave without a painting in your hand.

"I also sell my paintings through my Facebook page, Purple Bristles," stated Graveman.

"I've had my paintings sent to Richmond, Virginia, as well as England."

A huge part of an artist is his/her inspiration. Being such a diverse artist, it's no surprise that Graveman's inspiration comes from well, everywhere.

"I find my inspiration from many sources," she said. "I'm constantly taking pictures of things I see in nature and everyday life."

Graveman has been painting and creating crafts since she was a teenager, but when her life tragically changed in 2012, she became even more dedicated to her artwork.

"I hadn't painted for a while after the death of my fiancé in 2012," she stated.

"Starting to paint again has been the best therapy. It takes me out of my head and out of my thoughts of grief."

Graveman often becomes totally wrapped up in her work, losing all sense of time.

"There have been many times when I'm painting and I look at the time," said Graveman, "and it's almost 2 a.m.! I have to force myself to go to bed. That's how much I love painting!"

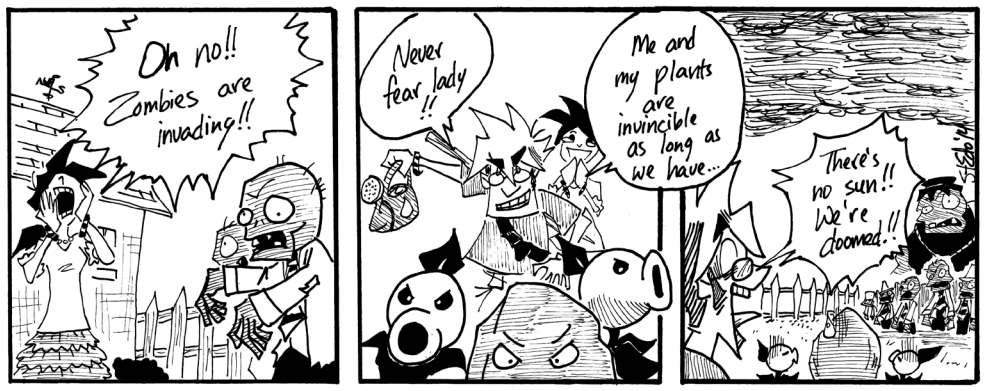
As for the future of Purple Bristles, Graveman plans to continue seeking inspiration from the world and translating it onto canvas.

"I hope to just continue painting images that inspire others to follow their dreams," said Graveman.

Fall in love with one of Graveman's pieces of work and order one online today. Be sure to check out her work on her Purple Bristles Facebook page so you can view her artwork and find out where she'll be selling it next!

Comics

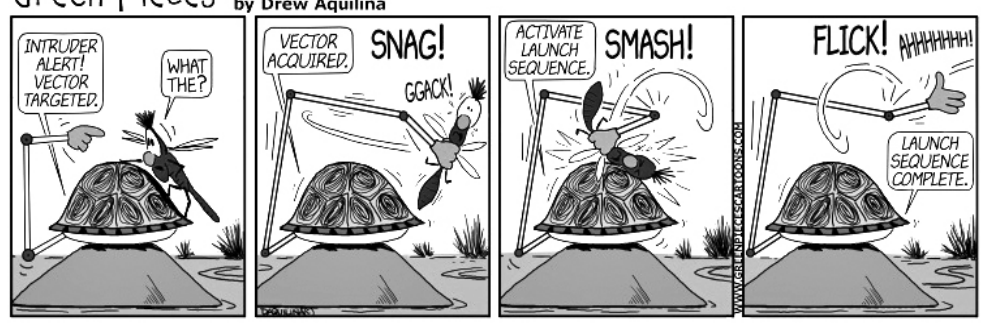
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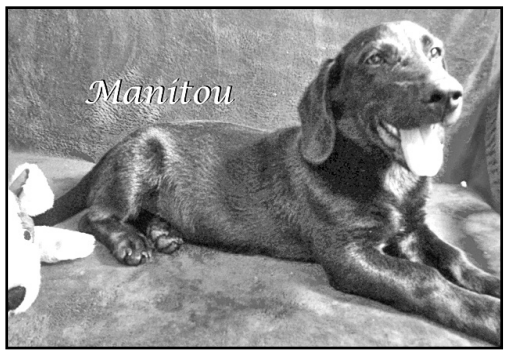
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Pets of the Week

Manitou

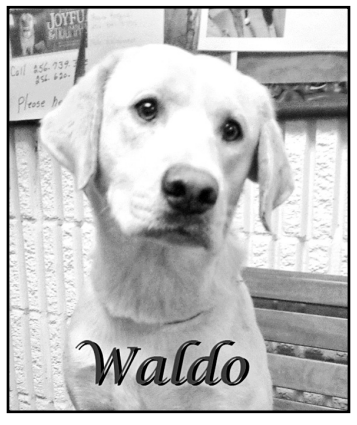
Hello! My name is Manitou, and I am about 6 months old. I am believed to be a Bassett/Labrador mix, and I currently weigh 23 lbs.

I am spirited and I enjoy company. I can't wait for my new forever home and family.



Waldo

Hello! My name is Waldo, and I am about 1 years old. I am believed to be a Labrador Retriever mix, and I currently weigh 60 lbs. I am a stray but will be available for adoption on 09/15/14 at 3 p.m. I am full of life, and I love to play. I can't wait to meet my new best friend and forever companion!



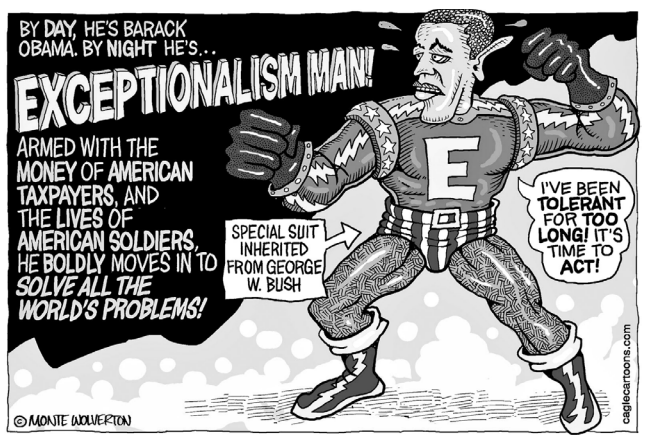
ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

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

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Cullman County Victim Services
CCBB Helping Hand for Cancer
CCCDC

I have tried to bite my tongue at which I am not very good... but enough is enough! When are the people going to stand up and say "NO MORE"! I understand when one serves in public office a lot is sacrificed; however, we are at a point now that calling it over-compensating wouldn't even be the tip of the iceberg!

First, Mike Rainey felt he was entitled to start his term at the same pay that Tyler Roden ended his last term after serving over a decade as Sheriff. Initially, the Commission rejected his request due to logic or normal thinking... but then our wonderful Attorney General takes sides with Rainey and he requests once again he be paid as much as Roden.

With the AG at his side, the Commission agreed to raise his salary and back pay him for his time served... Amazing how hard he fights for "fairness" regarding his salary and how the concerns of fairness within his Sheriff's Department repeatedly falls on deaf ears... Now this man of integrity, who ran such a slanderous campaign, and who claims to care so much for the community of Cullman is lavishly spending the general fund of the Sheriff's Dept. by repainting floors, remodeling offices, buying useless equipment, and who knows what else on which he is wasting money just to make certain Mr. Matt Gentry takes office with as little as possible.

Roden left Rainey 1.3 million dollars to start his term with, because Roden truly cared about the community and the S.O.; let's see what caliber man Rainey is and how much he truly cares about the community or his S.O. by how much money he lavishly wastes on useless spending instead of addressing unfair deputy salaries or leaving reserve for the new sheriff to start his term.

Now I am informed by The Cullman Times that several other local elected officials have called upon the same principle to be approved for a salary increase as well as be compensated for back pay.

I am assuming either the Attorney General didn't foresee this snowball through our elected offices or there is a unforeseen increase in the general fund to compensate the outrageous salaries the elected officials in this area will be receiving.

So if at the end of each term the individual starting the next term is paid the salary paid at the end of proceeding term then we will soon be paying all of our elected officials over $100,000!

In the real world, if someone works for 15 years building seniority and experience and then retires, the individual who is hired to fill that position doesn't start out being paid the same salary as the individual with seniority and experience. That is absolutely absurd and our elected officials must be held to the same standards as the rest of us.

Now, I call to action the legislation to address this complete perplexity made of how much our elected officials are entitled to receive in regards to salary.

Forgive me if I am wrong, or if I am missing some key determinant, but shouldn't there be a standard base salary for the start of each office's first term and any consecutive terms served will be compensated collectively by cost of living allocations as well as any salary increase approved by appropriate authority such as job performance reports, traveling expenses, acquired seniority, and/or experience awarded compensation. Basically, public officials should be held to the same standards as the private sector and should not benefit from seniority, cost of living, or any other salary increase that was earned by the individual formally holding that particular office. Please, if I am completely wrong about this, or if there is something I am not seeing, I am open to receive clarity, understanding, and justification because I am far from content with the recent actions and reasoning of our local elected officials and their justifications provided in attempts to pacify the public...

OPINION

SUCKERED AGAIN?

Winslow Myers
PeaceVoice

Why must vengefulness be the default strategy for humans—the very thing we dislike and fear most about our adversaries? Mob rule is a temptation we assume we have grown beyond, but have we? The media hounds and the war lovers like Senators Graham and McCain bay for blood, putting enormous pressure on the President to get suckered into a third Middle East war. To avoid the label of wimp, Mr. Obama had to say what he said in his speech to the nation on his strategy against ISIS, but what he said was only a palatable version of the vengefulness paradigm.

The agony of loss the parents of Jim Foley and Steven Sotloff must feel is beyond comprehension. But is their pain any different from the universal pain of violence and war that has been felt by the parents of murdered children time out of mind?—the pain of Aleppo, the pain of mothers in Gaza, the pain of innocents in Baghdad who found themselves on the wrong end of Shock and Awe, the pain of wedding participants in Afghanistan blown up under the pitiless eye of US drones, the horror of people having to jump from the twin towers to avoid being burned alive.

When we refuse to get sucked into the vengeful mob mentality, we see the cycle of violence objectively, including our own role in it—as colonial powers that created arbitrary borders in the Middle East at the end of World War I, and more recently as equally ineffective neo-colonial occupiers with ambiguous motives. We see the Hobbesian atomization of conflict that has overtaken the region: the U.S. and Iran support Iraq. Iran, Iraq, Russia, and Shia militias support Assad. The U.S. and the Gulf States want to contain Iran and prevent it from going nuclear. The Gulf States, the U.S. and Sunni militants want to defeat Assad. The Kurds, Iran, the U.S., and Iraq want to defeat ISIS, even as the Kurds have benefited from the chaos created by ISIS. For the United States, never seen as a disinterested party, to intervene militarily in this stew is madness.

We do not know enough about the motives of ISIS to be sure what they wanted to accomplish with the beheadings. On the face of it, such abhorrent acts appear to be an ongoing response in an endless cycle of eye for eye and tooth for tooth—like 9-11 itself. The leader of ISIS was mistreated at Abu Ghraib. The U.S. dropped bombs on ISIS soldiers. And it is also possible that they assume strategic advantage might be found by luring in the U.S. and its allies—perhaps to unite fragmented factions against a common enemy—us, if we choose to get suckered once again.

What is more certain is that thought-systems of violent revenge can take on a bizarre life in an endless cycle of hate and fear, preventing us from thinking outside the constricting box of compulsive military reaction. However tired of war we may be, we feel insulted and helpless—and that leads us to assume we have no alternative but to try war again.

We know from hard experience we will end up spending much more to defeat ISIS by military means, assuming any so-called defeat does not create more enemies than it destroys. We have alternatives. Extrapolating from our feckless campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan, imagine some arbitrary sum roughly equal to a quarter of what we spent on those wars becomes an available resource to do something outside the box of war. In this alternative paradigm, weapons sales, to any party, would be an automatic no. That only pours gasoline onto fire.

One alternative model is Rabbi Michael Lerner's Global Marshall Plan, the preamble of which goes: "In the 21st century, our security and well being depends on the well being of everyone else on this planet as well as on the health of the planet itself. An important way to manifest this caring is through a Global Marshall Plan that would dedicate 1-2% of the U.S. annual Gross Domestic Product each year for the next twenty years to eliminate domestic and global poverty, homelessness, hunger, inadequate education, and inadequate health care and repair damage done to the environment . . . "

Such common-sense generosity helps undercut the motives of ISIS to attack Western targets and isolates extremists by building relationships with a majority of people who would be grateful for genuine humanitarian help. It is past time for the U.S. to abandon its knee-jerk assumption that pouring in yet more raw military force can end, rather than intensify, the tribal enmities tearing apart the region. George W. Bush in 2002: "Fool me once, shame on—shame on you. Fool me—you can't get fooled again." We'd better hope not.

Winslow Myers writes on global issues for PeaceVoice and serves on the Advisory Board of the War Prevention Initiative.

Bill Smith

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