SERIES 4 • ISSUE 39 • OCTOBER 6, 2014

CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS

CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S
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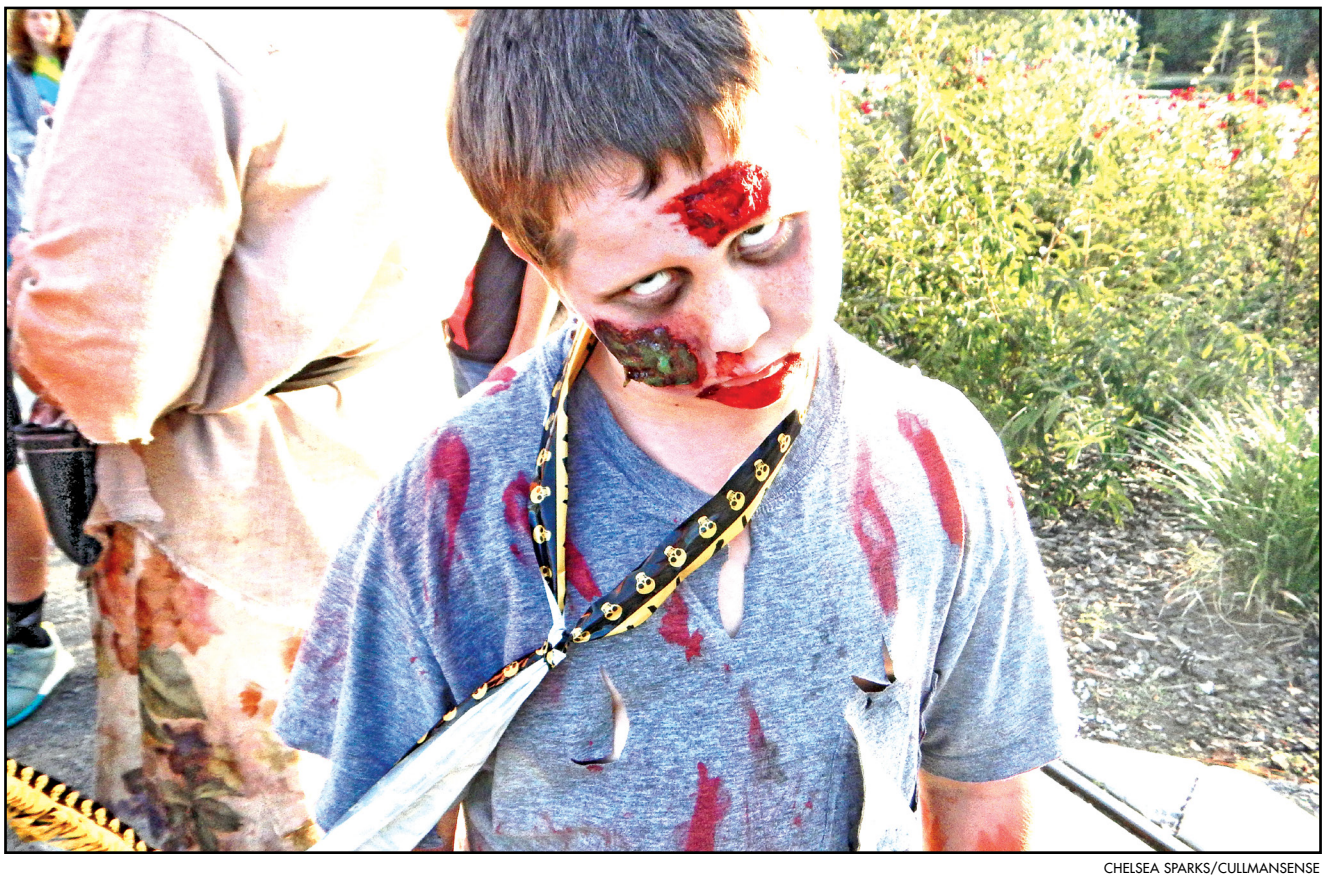
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CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Zombies chased humans at Sportsman Lake to raise funds for Facebook group Karma in Cullman.

ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY PROGRAM VISITS NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Katie Dansby
Contributor

CULLMAN - On Sunday, September 28th, eight dogs spent their afternoon at Cullman Health & Rehab Center for an animal assisted therapy program with the residents.

Joyce with Comfort Care Hospice joined our group of volunteers while Melinda with Cullman Health & Rehab Center toured us around the facility for about an hour to visit the residents.

One of the volunteers, Teresa, became familiar with the pet therapy program when she attended a dog obedience class with her Chihuahua, Raquel. She spoke with another class attendee who wanted to get their pet trained and certified as a therapy dog. Teresa knew that Raquel had the perfect disposition to be a therapy dog. She said, "I immediately knew Raquel loved everybody. She wanted to be loved on by everybody and is sweet to all ages."

Raquel went to dog obedience school at 6 months old, finished at 8 months old, and has visited nursing homes for about a year now ever since her

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KATIE DANSBY/CULLMANSENSE

The group of volunteers makes rounds to five nursing homes in Cullman.

4D FARMS OFFERS FUN AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

WELTI - It was a typical lazy Saturday in the Sparks' household. Lounging around with morning cartoons and trying to recover from the week's events. On this particular Saturday, however, I got the urge to get outside, and spend some quality time as a family. It was the perfect weather to have a day out, and luckily I found the perfect place to spend our day.

A friend of mine had posted pictures of her son having the best time at a place called 4D Farms in Welti. I looked at their website and found that in addition to being close to our home, it was priced reasonably at $10 per person. There seemed

p4



FACEBOOK/4D FARMS

This year 4D Farms has added several activities.

ALABAMA COVERED BY 'YELLOW DOT' GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES HWY SAFETY PROGRAM AVAILABLE IN 67 COUNTIES

Josh Carples
Contributed

MONTGOMERY - A free program that could save your life after a traffic crash is now available to residents in all 67 Alabama counties, Gov. Robert Bentley announced today.

Bullock County officials joined Bentley at the state Capitol to officially join the

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SCARECROWS AND PUMPKINS

FARM KIDS CLUB CREATES CRAFTS FOR FALL

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Parents and children gathered at the Agriplex in Cullman recently for another class for the Farm Kids Club. This program encourages kids to get outside and learn about nature with interesting and fun classes on a broad range of topics. At Saturday's class, the kids spent the morning making adorable crafts for the home.

Around 25 kids gathered around tables making tiny hay bales and scarecrows to adorn their homes. While simple by looks, the craft actually takes a lot of steps to make, as well as some finesse, making this a great class to teach children attention to detail and focus.

The kids were all smiles as Rachel Dawsey,

p4

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

OKTOBERFEST SENIOR DAY OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, HONORS FORMER ORGANIZER

Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Seniors of Cullman: get ready for a day of fun. Senior Day at the Oktoberfest is happening this Thursday at the Festhalle, and you don't want to miss out!

This day of Oktoberfest fun is devoted entirely to the senior citizens of our town. It will feature entertainment by Terry Cavanagh & Alpine Express, bingo and a free hot dog lunch to the first 500 seniors.

The day will begin at 10:30 a.m. with music and fun, followed by lunch from 11-11:30 a.m. and bingo all day beginning at noon.

President of the Oktoberfest Executive Board Mary Hovater is excited about next Thursday's events.

"It's the favorite day for seniors because it's all about them," she said. "The Elks Lodge does the lunch for the seniors each year, and Cullman Savings Bank has prizes for the bingo winners."

In fact, it's so much fun, seniors from all over Cullman County and beyond come out to celebrate Oktoberfest.

"Some seniors don't get out much," says Hovater.

"But on this day, they do. We bus folks in from all around. People from other counties came to participate last year."

The Oktoberfest Executive Board makes getting there easy, too, with CARTS busses and other senior center busses carting people to and from the event.

"For seniors who drive, parking is always an issue," Hovater explains. "We will have golf carts to carry seniors from their parking spot to the Oktoberfest so they don't have to walk as far."

Hovater states that last year, over 600 seniors attended this exciting event.

"Everyone had such a good time," she says. "My parents go every year. Seniors come here and they just light up. It's amazing."

But, if you're not quite a senior (or not a senior at all), don't worry, you can still come and spend time with our town's finest citizens.

That's right, everyone is welcome at Senior Day, and there will be food vendors for you to enjoy.

"We always have a few folks present who aren't seniors," says Hovater.

This year, senior day at the Oktoberfest is a very special one.

"Mary Adams is usually the one who is in charge of this event," Hovater explained. "She passed away last year, so this year's Senior Day will be in honor of her."

If you're a senior, or not, come out and enjoy this special day at Oktoberfest this Thursday beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Festhalle.

Eat some delicious German food, play a few rounds of bingo, and celebrate the life of Mary Adams.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



FACEBOOK.COM/CULLMANSENSE



COUNTY WIDE YARD SALE

@ SPORTSMAN LAKE PARK

OCTOBER 25, 2014

7:00AM – 3:00PM

You may contact us at 256-734-3052



Therapy (from Front)

graduation from her Canine Good Citizen certification class. Teresa is looking forward to taking Raquel to children's hospitals soon.

Teresa's favorite part about visiting the nursing homes is seeing the joy it brings to people. "When the residents hold Raquel and I just see a peace come across their faces and they start talking about the dogs they used to have." The residents love holding Raquel. She only weighs 7 lbs, so she is just the right size to sit in the laps of the nursing home residents.

Another volunteer, Paula, brought three dogs with her on this particular visit. One of her dogs, Luke, is a standard poodle and is learning how to read.

As of now, he reads and obeys four words: sit, down, shake, and high five. He will eventually know how to read and obey 10 words.

Paula also has two Bichons, Jack and Stella. Stella rolls around the halls of the nursing home in a stroller. "I just expected her to do it, and so she did," Paula said

On the other hand, her brother Jack likes to walk on a leash as he visits the residents.

This is just one example of the amount o obedience each dog has which makes them ideal for therapy dogs.

"How often do y'all come?" one resident asked after holding Raquel. The group of volunteers visits a different nursing home each month, rotating among five nursing homes in Cullman. As a group, the volunteers have visited Cullman Health & Rehab Center, Woodland Village Health Care Center, Woodland Haus Assisted Living, Cullman Long Term Care & Rehab, and Hanceville Nursing & Rehab Center.

The group visits a nursing home on the last Sunday of each month. However, each individual and their therapy dog can and will visit nursing homes throughout the year at their leisure.

During the October and December visits this year, the volunteers and their dogs will dress up for Halloween and Christmas. Their Christmas visit will be the first week in December.



Oktoberfest Calendar

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

GLORIA WILLIAMS
FREEDOM INSURANCE AGENCY

"EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE"

168 COUNTY ROAD 1435 • CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35058
PHONE: 256-737-0011 • FAX: 256-737-0616
GLORIA.WILLIAMS@FREEDOMAGENCY.NET



Every Day Schedule

Saturday, October 4 through Saturday, October 11

8am-2pm **Farmers' Market at Festhalle Market Platz 256-590-2003**
209 1st Avenue NE, Cullman
(No Farmers' Market on Sunday)

9am-5pm **Cullman County Museum**
1-800-533-1258
Special hours Sunday

1:30-4:30pm **Weiss Cottage**
1-800-533-1258
Closed Sunday

Every day **Photography Contest**
On Instagram
More info: 256-739-1258

Nightly **Paper Airplane Contest**
Festhalle 256-297-0622

9am-5pm **Heartland Guild Quilt Show**
2nd Avenue NE, Cullman
Free Admission 1-800-533-1258

Varity **Mt Doom Shooting Range**
Both Sat starts at 8:00 am
Wed, Thurs, Fri: starts at 6:00pm

Participating Restaurants

Oct 4th -11th Reg. hours **Rumors Deli & Coffee House**
256-737-0911 Food Cart after Regular hours

5pm-11pm **Grumpy's Italian Grill**
Samuel Adams on tap, music and German food 256-709-2608

Oct 4th, 9th &11th **Rumors Deli & Coffee House**
5pm-8pm German menu only

Oct 4th-11th **Busy Bee Oktoberfest Meals**
Starting at 5pm 256-734-9958
Closed Sunday

Oct 8th -11th **Brothers Pour House** "Bier Fest"
Starting at 6pm-till
256-338-1672

Oct 8th **TP Country Club**
700 Pine Hill Drive, Cullman
256-739-0738

Oct 9th **All Steaks German Buffet**
323 3rd Ave SE
256-734-4322 Live Music

Festhalle Market Platz Entertainment

Stage Sponsor: Mitch Smith Chevrolet

Saturday 4th

9:00 East West Elementary Chorus
9:45 Cullman High School Chorus
10:45-noon Cullman High School German Band
Noon-3pm Wolfgang Moritz
3:15-5:30pm Horizon
5:45-8pm Round 2
9:15-till Rexton Lee

Sunday 5th

1:30 St Paul's Praise Team
2:30pm - 7pm Wolfgang Moritz

Monday 6th

11:30 -1:30pm Wolfgang Moritz
5:30-6:30 **pm** Community Band
6:30-9pm Terry Cavanagh & Alpine Express

Tuesday 7th

11:30 -1:30pm Wolfgang Moritz
6:30-9pm Terry Cavanagh & Alpine Express

Wednesday 8th

11:30 -1:30pm Wolfgang Moritz
6:30-9pm Terry Cavanagh & Alpine Express

Thursday 9th

10:00 -11:30pm Terry Cavanagh & Alpine Express
5:00-7pm Terry Cavanagh & Alpine Express
7:15-9:15pm Will & Kylie

Friday 10th

11:30 -1:30pm Wolfgang Moritz
5:00-8pm Terry Cavanagh & Alpine Express
9:00-till Big Daddy Kingfish

Saturday 11th

8:30am Roy Crawford & Cullman County Bluegrass
10:00 Wallace State Singers
11:00 Wallace State Jazz Band
1:00-3pm Terry Cavanagh & Alpine Express
3:15-4:45pm Ave G
5:00 -7:00pm Burke Buster
7:15-9:15pm Candy Box
9:30--midnight Fly By Radio

Alabama Craft Biergarten

Location: 209 1st Ave NE,
Sat 4th & 11th Noon to 12am
Mon-Fri: open at 5:00pm
Live music/ Alabama Craft beer/ Sports TV
Sponsored by, Cullman Brewers Guild, Cullman Oktoberfest & Alabama Brewers Guild
Game Day TV Sponsored by Cullman Oktoberfest

College Football Viewing

Oct 4th & 11th Saturday Games at the biergarten
Oct 9th & 10th Thurs. and Fri. Games
NFL viewing
Oct 6th Monday Night Football
8:00 pm STEIN HOISTING CONTEST
Nightly Sponsor: SAMUEL ADAMS®
No Beer on Sunday

Schedule of Events Around Town

Saturday, October 4

8am-3pm **Oktoberfest Car Show**
At Depot Park- Cruise in Format
Register on site 256-739-1258

8:00- till **Mt Doom Shooting Range**
Depot Park

8am-till **Get on Board with United Way**
Visit the historic Train Depot
Info: 256-739-2948

8:30-10:30 am **Volksmarch** Self-guided tour
1615 Town Sq SW, Cullman, AL 35055
Sponsored by City Park & Rec
256-739-9931/1-256-352-8936

9:00 **East West Elementary Chorus**
9:45 **Cullman High School Chorus**
10:45 **Cullman High School German Band**
11:00 **Opening Ceremonies**
Welcome & Burgermeister Installation
12:00pm **Tapping of the Kegs**
Root beer & Craft Beer

10:00am-1pm **CDMA Downtown Auction**
1st Ave SE by Stiefelmeyer
256-338-8818

12:30-1:30pm **Taste of Germany Food Sampling**
Located Festhalle Market Platz.

5:30pm-7:30 pm **Stories from the Past Living History-Cemetery Tour**,
1St Ave, NE. Tour every 30 min.
Adult: $8.00, 18-6yrs: $5.00
256-734-3327 / 256-734-0383

7:00-9:00 pm **St Paul's Oktoberfest Dinner**
510 3rd Ave SE (school gym)
Contact: 205-490-5797
Entertainment: Wolfgang Moritz

Sunday, October 5

1:30 pm **St Andrews Praise Team**
Music at the Festhalle

2:30 pm **Fashion Show & Miss Oktoberfest Contest** featuring entertainment from: **Cullman Dance Academy, Fairview High School Drama Club, and Wolfgang Moritz**
Models wearing authentic German clothing & modern dress
Festhalle Market Platz

3:00-5:00pm **Oktoberfest Choir Concert.**
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Free Admission & Refreshments
256-338-0432

5:30-7:30pm **Stories from the Past Living History-Cemetery Tour**,
1St Ave, NE. Bus leaves every 30 minutes Adult: $8.00, 18-6yrs: $5.00
256-734-3327 / 256-734-0383

5:30- 7:30pm **Polka Party at the Festhalle**
Live music and dance instructors available for dance lessons

Monday, October 6

5:00-7:00pm **St. John's Oktoberfest Dinner**
512 2nd Ave SE. Cost $10.00,
Music: 1st Baptist Church Quartet
Info: 256-734-0344 / 256-734-0582

5:30-6:30pm 7pm **Cullman Community Band**
Traditional German Music
209 1st Ave NE Cullman

7pm-8:15pm **Candlelight Walking Tour Downtown Cullman**
Free Admission
Register at Festhalle

Tuesday, October 7

5:00pm-7:00pm **German Dinner Cullman Regional Medical Center**
1912 Al Hwy 157 Cullman.
Col. Cullman Room POB II
Adults RSVP 256-737-2600

7pm-8:15pm **Candlelight Walking Tour Downtown Cullman**
Free Admission
Register at Festhalle

Wednesday, October 8

11:00-2pm **TP Country Club Lunch**
700 Pine Hill Drive, Cullman
RSVP 256-739-0738

5pm-7:00pm **Sacred Heart German Dinner**
217 2nd Ave. SE at Family Life Center 256-734-0980

Thursday, October 9

Senior Day at Festhalle Market Platz
209 1st Ave NE Cullman, Alabama

10am-11:30pm **Terry Cavanagh & Alpine Express-** music & fun!

11:30-12:00pm **Senior's Lunch**
Festhalle Market Platz, Free Hotdog Lunch to the first 700 seniors to arrive

12:00pm-until **Senior's Bingo** at Festhalle
Free Bingo for seniors

6:30-9:30pm **All Steaks German Buffet**
323 3rd Ave SE
256-734-4322 Live Music

Friday, October 10

5pm-7pm **Christ Lutheran Oktoberfest Dinner**
424 2nd Ave. SE -256-734-7056
$10.00 Tickets available in advance.

Saturday, October 11

6am-5pm **Sacred Heart Street Sale & German Festival**
112 Second Avenue SE,
256-734-4563/ www.shscullman.net

7am -10am **Oktoberfest 5K & 10K Run**
7:00am Registration
$25.00-5K $30.00-10K
256-708-3971 chrisv@camha.com

8:00- till **Mt Doom Shooting Range**
Depot Park

8am -5pm **Community Arts & Crafts Fair**
Located in Depot Park Arts, Crafts, Food Vendors, and Information
1-800-533-1258

8am-5pm **Kinder Art Park**
Free Children's Art and Craft Activities

8am –till **Oktoberfest Bed Race**
401 2nd Ave NE/ Depot Park
Info: Lion Ron Seybold-Cullman
Community Bed Race 256-531-6075

10:00am -till **Oktoberfest BBQ Challenge**
Depot Park North Lot
256-348-9590 Bama Chapter

8am-till **Get on Board with United Way**
Visit the historic Train Depot
Info: 256-739-2948

9am-4:00pm **Hundfest** - Doggy Events at Depot Park, 211 2nd Ave NE, Cullman
9am- Registration begins
Sponsored By: Dirty Dawg Rescue & Pet Spa and Cullman Kiwanis Club
Registration Fee $10.00 per class

9am-5:00pm **Junior Sidewalk Art Show**
204 2nd Ave NE, 256-739-4321
Sponsored by the Cullman Arts Council www.cullmanartscenter.com

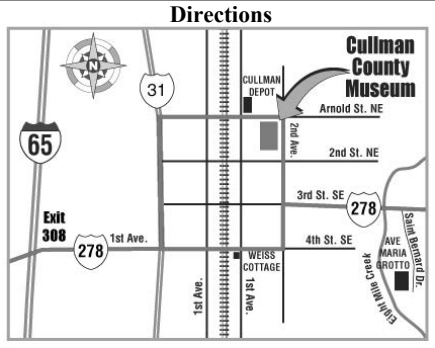
10am-11:30am **Wallace State Show Choir**
Directed by Tiffany Richter
Wallace State Jazz Band
Directed by Ricky Burks

12:30 pm **Bratwurst Eating Contest**
209 1st Ave NE 256-739-1258
Sponsored by Piggly Wiggly

1:00pm & 3:00 pm **Historical District Bus Tour**
209 1st Ave NE Admission $3.00.
Tickets are available at the Festhalle Market Platz. 256-734-3327

7pm-11pm **Burgermeister Ball**
The Loft 212 256-739-1258
Tickets available at door.
General Admission: $10.00
Dinner and Dancing: $22.00

Directions



The Cullman County Museum and Festhalle Market Platz are located Cullman Alabama. If traveling on I-65, take Exit 308(Hwy 278 exit) and turn east. Continue east to 2nd Ave NW (Hway 31N) turn left continue to Arnold Street, turn right (East) go over the railroad tracks, Museum and Festhalle is on the right. If traveling on U.S Highway 31, turn east at Arnold St. NE, go over the railroad tracks, Museum and Festhalle is on the right.

Special Thanks To:

2014 Cullman Oktoberfest



33rd Anniversary

Saturday, October 4
Through
Saturday, October 11

Check us out on Facebook or Twitter
For complete details about events, Visit
www.cullmanoktoberfest.com
256-739-1258/1-800-533-1258

Schedule of Events

OKTOBERFEST 2014 CELEBRATION GETS A FESTIVE START

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Oktoberfest 2014 officially began this Saturday with a series of exciting events that led up to the opening ceremonies.

It all began with a beautiful carriage, which carried both 2013 and 2014 Burgermeisters, Mayor Max Townson and Cullman Brewers Guild President Mike Mullaney.

Ahead of the carriage, a trio of young men led the way, playing music and marching proudly.

They were Hayden Hovater (tuba), Luke Oakley (bass drum), and Kurt Lindsey (snare).

Colonel Cullmann and 2013 Miss Oktoberfest, Payton Palmer, walked behind the carriage, waving to the crowds and smiling big.

When the entourage made it from the front of the Cullman County Museum around to the front of the Festhalle, they climbed out of the carriage and walked to the front of the entertainment tent where the Cullman High School German Band awaited.

Colonel Cullmann was the Master of Ceremonies and he delighted the crowd with gusto, wit and charm.

The new Burgermeister, Dr. Vicki Hawsey Karolewics, was installed and folks giggled as they watched Colonel Cullmann playfully tease her about all the dancing in store for her throughout the week.

A little nervous, Karolewics took the Colonel's hand and together they danced; the first of many dances for the week.

Karolewics posed for pictures as she held a pair of giant scissors in hand, preparing for the ribbon cutting.

Mayor Townson, Payton Palmer, Colonel Cullmann, John Richter and Mary Hovater held the ribbon tightly as it was cut.

The crowd cheered as the ribbons dropped gracefully to the ground.

The German Band played a series of polkas and marches as people danced happily around the dance floor.

Mary Hovater, president of the Oktoberfest Executive Board, and her son were just two of the people having a great time enjoying the fun.

"That's my Hayden I was dancing with," Hovater beamed proudly.

"He acted like he didn't like to dance, but he really does. Both my boys are very good dancers and love all music. They make me so proud! James, my oldest, is lead trumpet at Cullman High School. Hayden plays tuba and is first chair in concert band."

After several songs, it was time to tap the two kegs. Colonel Cullmann and Burgermeister Karolewics tapped the root beer keg first and drank happily from their steins.

Next they marched over to the biergarten and once again filled their steins – this time with the real stuff!

The day was full of fun and excitement for the whole family.

Arts and crafts booths were scattered throughout Depot Park and food vendors were everywhere.

Three big screen televisions were set up for those who didn't want to miss their favorite football team play. There was a steady crowd throughout the day and the event is considered a huge success.

"It was a wonderful turnout to the opening," said Hovater.

"I was pleased to see so many people there! We are thankful for the many sponsors that made this event so successful this far: Cullman Community Lions Club, Alabama Brewers Guild, Cullman Brewers Guild, City of Cullman, and the numerous volunteers that spent countless amounts of time preparing and working on the events for this Oktoberfest."

BLING IT ON: YOUNIQUE SOPHISTICATION HAS STYLES FOR ALL

Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Bursting with color and packed with accessories, Younique Sophistication Boutique is Cullman's newest place to shop. This darling boutique is nestled on 2nd Avenue across the street from Sacred Heart School.

Owners Gidget Overton and Tammie Hudson have been dreaming of opening a store for years. These sisters-in-law started trunk shows, but their vision of opening a store quickly became a reality.

"We officially opened in July of this year," stated Overton. "We went from doing trunk shows to opening our store here. This opportunity just came up, so we jumped in with both feet."

Overton stated that learning about different clothing sizes and lines has been difficult but quite rewarding.

"Going in some stores and finding that all the clothes are small is really frustrating," she said.

"But there are more options. We love finding lines of clothing that carry sizes for all body types."

Younique Sophistication carries sizes small to 3x. With this vast variety, you're bound to find what you need.

Additionally, this charming store has an entire section dedicated to tween styles and sizes.

As soon as you walk into this unique boutique, you'll see everything a woman could want: right colors, long and short skirts, purses, scarves, belts and, of course, jewelry. Lots of jewelry.

"I love bling," said Overton with a smile. "I've always loved bling, and I've always loved jewelry."

With a name like 'Younique Boutique', this store has got to be different. They try to live up to their name in everything they do.

"I love finding unique styles and lines of clothing," said Overton, "and we really strive to offer something that is different than any other boutique here. We really want to offer variety in style and sizes so consumers can stay in Cullman to shop."

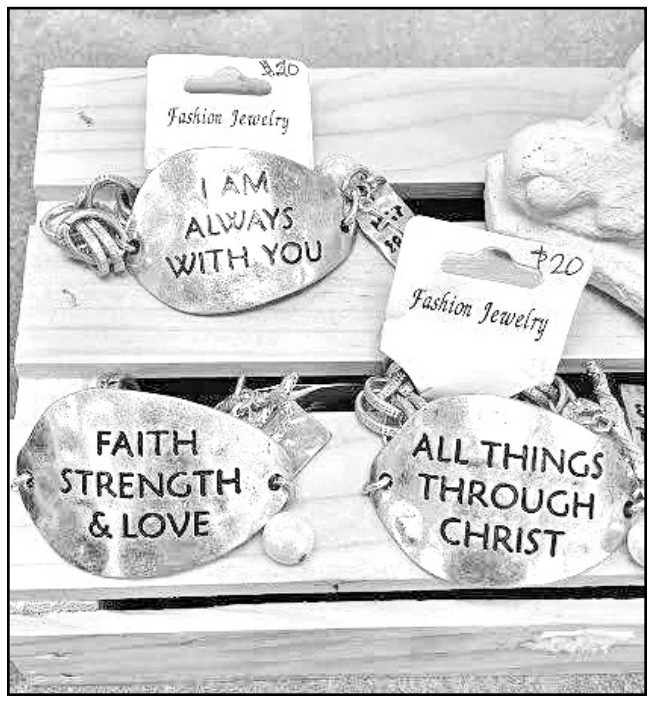
Overton and Hudson are also unique in that they have taken a hands-on approach to retail. When they shop, they're not simply shopping for themselves, and when you're in their boutique they'll help you in every way to find the best style for you.

"I love shopping with other people in mind," said Overton, "and if there is something you see in here you like, we encourage you to try it on so we can help you find your style."

This diverse store has a bright future ahead of itself. If you haven't already, be sure to check out Younique Sophistication Boutique and give their style a try.

Overton and Hudson encourage the ladies of Cullman to visit their boutique and strive to offer the very best.

"I truly hope that we just continue to grow, offering more options for the tweens and women of Cullman," she said.



KATE MULLANEY/CULLMANSENSE

Younique Sophistication caters to tweens and women and features a vast selection of jewelry.

Club (from Front)

coordinator for the North Alabama Agriplex, showed the class how to make their projects. With the help of their parents, grandparents, or guardians, adorable scarecrows were made.

"We actually made a similar project last year," Dawsey said. "A friend of mine had mentioned adding a mini hay bale underneath, so it makes it like a mini centerpiece." After the scarecrows were completed the kids were each given a small pumpkin to decorate and make their own. It's projects like these, where parents and kids work together, that Dawsey says are so important.

"I think this scarecrow, like the corn shuck dolls we did before, are really old timey and I think it's important that we don't lose those," said Dawsey. "It's always a great thing for kids and parents to get out and do something together."

Elizabeth McDowell, a local and mother of four, loves bringing her kids to the classes offered by the Agriplex.

"It's an extremely educational program," said McDowell. "And I don't have to drive an hour to Birmingham to get them into something like this. It's just a great program for the community."

One of the children participating in the class had nothing but great things to say as well. "I love getting to make stuff," said Cadence Sansing, a regular participant in Farm Kids. "I love learning about new things like different birds and animals."

The next activity for Farm Kids Club will be a bonfire and story time.

The cost is $5 per child or $10 for a family, and will begin at 9 a.m. on Nov. 1. Preregister so that the staff can be sure to have enough supplies for everyone by calling 256-297-1044 or e-mailing Rachel Dawsey at cullmanag@gmail.com.

4D (from Front)

to be a lot of fun activities for the kids, and I was ready to let them burn off some energy.

As the mother of a child with autism, I am always concerned about taking our son to places where there might be crowds or loud noises. With my son's sensory issues, going to the fair or an amusement park can quickly turn into a disaster if he becomes overwhelmed. I decided to give this place a shot, and I could not have been happier that I did.

When we first pulled into the farm, I was pleased to find that the property was very spacious and open. All the activities were spaced out across the acreage, making it easy to go from one activity to another without the issue of crowds. When I talked with Beth Daniel, who owns the farm with her husband, Rusty, she said that the laid back feeling of the farm is one of the great things about it, and how they are growing every year.

"It is a very laid back feel," said Daniel. "We are adding new things every year. We added a lot of new things at the back of the property this year like the extra corn bin, the tube swings and a tire swing. We just want to add things that families will want to do every year, and make coming out a tradition."

There was no shortage of things to do at the farm. We climbed hay bales, slid down a gigantic slide, jumped on an inflatable trampoline, picked pumpkins, rode on a cow train and were able to meet the farm animals. For my son, the highlight of the trip was his first pony ride. Our son has always had an affinity for animals, and horses are especially exciting to him. The girl running the pony rides was simply amazing with him.

It was her patience and genuine excitement to help and be a part of the experience with him that made the moment perfect.

The enthusiasm emanating from him the entire trip was pure magic. Every new discovery on the farm brought new thrills and laughter.

One of the most notable things about the farm is the staff. Everyone who worked at the farms had a smile on their face and was ready and willing to help.

A family feel that Daniel said is the exact feeling she wants every group that comes to the farm to have.

"We consider every person that comes here a blessing," said Daniel. "Whether it is crowded or not, we want to offer a great experience for everyone. We are just so thankful that it has become what it has. Word of mouth has been a huge benefit for us, and little by little it has grown. It is a lot of work, but it so rewarding at the same time."

At the end of our trip, after buying a pony ride for $3, our two little pumpkins from the patch, and our general admission, all came out to approximately $40.

That is a great price for a day of fun for a family of four, and for the memories made, it was worth much more than that.

For more information on this attraction, visit www.4dfamilyfarm.com.

PLAYOFF PICTURE COMES INTO FOCUS IN COUNTY YOUTH FOOTBALL GAMES

Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

GOOD HOPE - In the final home game of the 2014 regular season for the Good Hope youth football association, playoff implication was involved in each division with the postseason two weeks away.

West Point shut out Good Hope 14-0 in the fireplugs contest Saturday afternoon, eliminating the Raiders from postseason contention.

Good Hope squeezed out a 16-14 victory in the wee wee contest that clinched a playoff berth.

Then in the pee wee game, the Raiders rolled past the Warriors 38-0 and claimed the regular season title in the Western Division of the Cullman County Youth Football Association.

Good Hope's fireplugs had begun the season with four consecutive wins before the Raiders were defeated in the last two games, getting shutout by Vinemont 8-0 before the game Saturday with West Point.

West Point, Good Hope, Vinemont and the Cullman Cyclones entered October all with one loss in the division against each other.

A scoreless game between the two changed when quarterback Auburn Waldrep raced 26 yards to the end zone with 6:05 to play in the second quarter and West Point led 8-0 with the conversion coming on a run by Dawson Smith.

Good Hope could never get near the West Point end zone with the Warriors getting an insurance score on a 33-yard run by Waldrep around left end with seven seconds showing on the third quarter clock.

That sent the Warriors to the fourth period with a 14-0 advantage in which they held on and knocked the Raiders out of postseason play.

In a hotly contested wee wee contest, Good Hope took an 8-0 lead on a 41-yard run by Elijah Coleman, who was celebrating a birthday as well. Quarterback Colten Whatley added the two-point conversion at the 2:57 mark of the first period.

West Point drove downfield and scored on a 10-yard run around right end by running back and receiver Christian Couch with 7:09 remaining in the second quarter.

The Warriors appeared to tie the game on the conversion, but the officials ruled a snap infraction in which the ball was snapped by the center to a lineman and not a running back.

The Warriors had to retry the conversion and the Raiders stopped them, leading 8-6.

After the West Point touchdown, Coleman was in the end zone from eight yards out and the conversion pushed the Raider lead to 16-6. That was the score at the half.

The Warriors drew within two points at 16-14 on a 39-yard run by quarterback Cody Jones and a two-point run from Patrick Adcock with less than 4:00 to go in the third.

It stayed that way as West Point had a chance to drive downfield and win it in the final 4:00 of the game.

The Raiders came through with the play of the game on an interception by Jed Clements at the Good Hope 10 as he took it to the 32-yard line.

The Raiders ran out the clock and will go into the playoffs second in the Western Division.

A fast start by the Raider pee wees sent them to a 22-0 lead in the first quarter enroute to a shutout and the Western Division crown.

Colton Bagwell got the scoring under way on a 30-yard run and Austin Cordes tossed a pass to Ethan Anderson for the conversion and an 8-0 Raider lead a minute and 12 seconds into the game.

Anderson scampered 42 yards to the end zone and tacked on the conversion to make it 16-0 with 4:23 to play in the quarter.

It became 22-0 when Lane Speegle finished the third Good Hope drive in the first on a run from five yards out.

A 50-yard run around left end by reserve back Michael Wilson and the conversion from Nicholas Lovelace sent the Raiders to halftime with a comfortable 30-0 lead.

Anderson finished off the scoring as he hit the end zone for his second touchdown of the night, this one on a 28-yard run.

Cordes ran in the two-point conversion with 4:00 left in the third period.

The Raiders cleared the sidelines and improved to 6-0 on the season with one game left in the regular schedule before the playoffs take place.

The postseason will be held at Holly Pond's Thomas-Michelfelder Field. Semifinal games in each division will be October 18 with the championship in the fireplugs, wee wees and pee wees to take place October 25.

Pairings and game times will be announced later.

2014 CULLMAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TOURNEY SCHEDULE

SITE

FAIRVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

- New Gym – Joe Shults Gymnasium
- Old Gym – Middle School Gymnasium

JUNIOR VARSITY

- Fairview vs. Holly Pond 4 p.m. Monday
- West Point vs. Hanceville 5 p.m. Monday
- Cold Springs vs. Vinemont 5 p.m. Monday (New Gym)
- Good Hope vs. Fairview/Holly Pond winner 6 p.m. Monday (New Gym)
- WP/HV winner vs. CS/VM winner 6 p.m. Monday
- Championship 8 p.m. Monday (New Gym)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Good Hope vs. Cold Springs/Holly Pond winner 5 p.m. Monday
- Fairview/Hanceville winner vs. West Point/Parkside winner 6 p.m. Monday
- Championship 7 p.m. Monday (New Gym)

VARSITY

Double Elimination Format

- # 3 Fairview vs. # 6 Vinemont 5 p.m. Tuesday (Old Gym, Court # 1)
- # 2 Cold Springs vs. # 7 Hanceville 5 p.m. Tuesday (Old Gym, Court # 2)
- # 4 West Point vs, # 5 Holly Pond 6 p.m. Tuesday (Old Gym, Court # 2)
- FV/VM loser vs. CS/HV loser 6 p.m. Tuesday (Old Gym, Court # 1)
- # 1 Good Hope vs. West Point/Holly Pond winner 7 p.m. Tuesday (Old Gym, Court # 2)
- FV/VM winner vs. CS/HV winner 7 p.m. Tuesday (Old Gym, Court #1)

- WP/HP loser vs. FV/VM or CS/HV 4 p.m. Thursday (Old Gym, Court #1)
- Loser's bracket match 5 p.m. Thursday (New Gym)
- Winner's bracket final 6 p.m. Thursday (New Gym)
- Semifinal match 7 p.m. Thursday (New Gym)
- Championship match 8 p.m. Thursday (New Gym)
- If necessary match 9 p.m. Thursday (New Gym)

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

The City of Cullman's Alcohol Review Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 7th, 2014 at 5:00 p.m., in the Administrative Conference Room of City Hall, located at 204 Second Avenue NE.

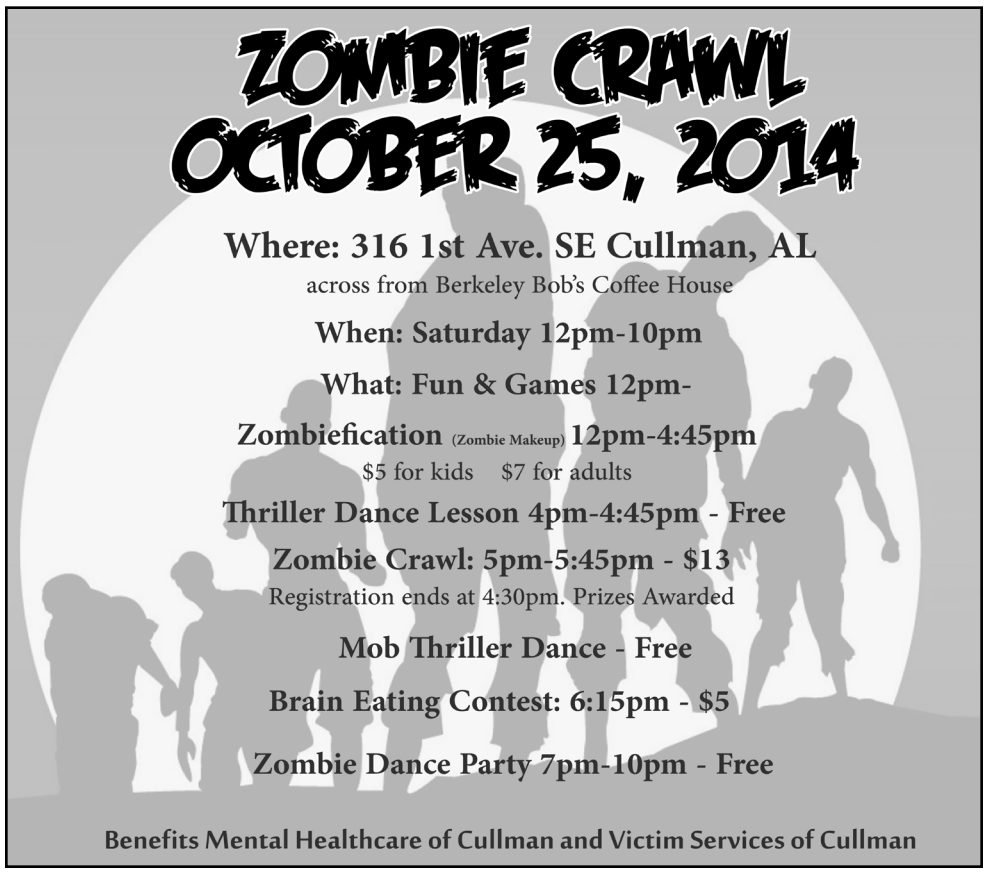
Comments will be received on the proposed approval for the sale of alcohol in the City of Cullman by the following applicants:

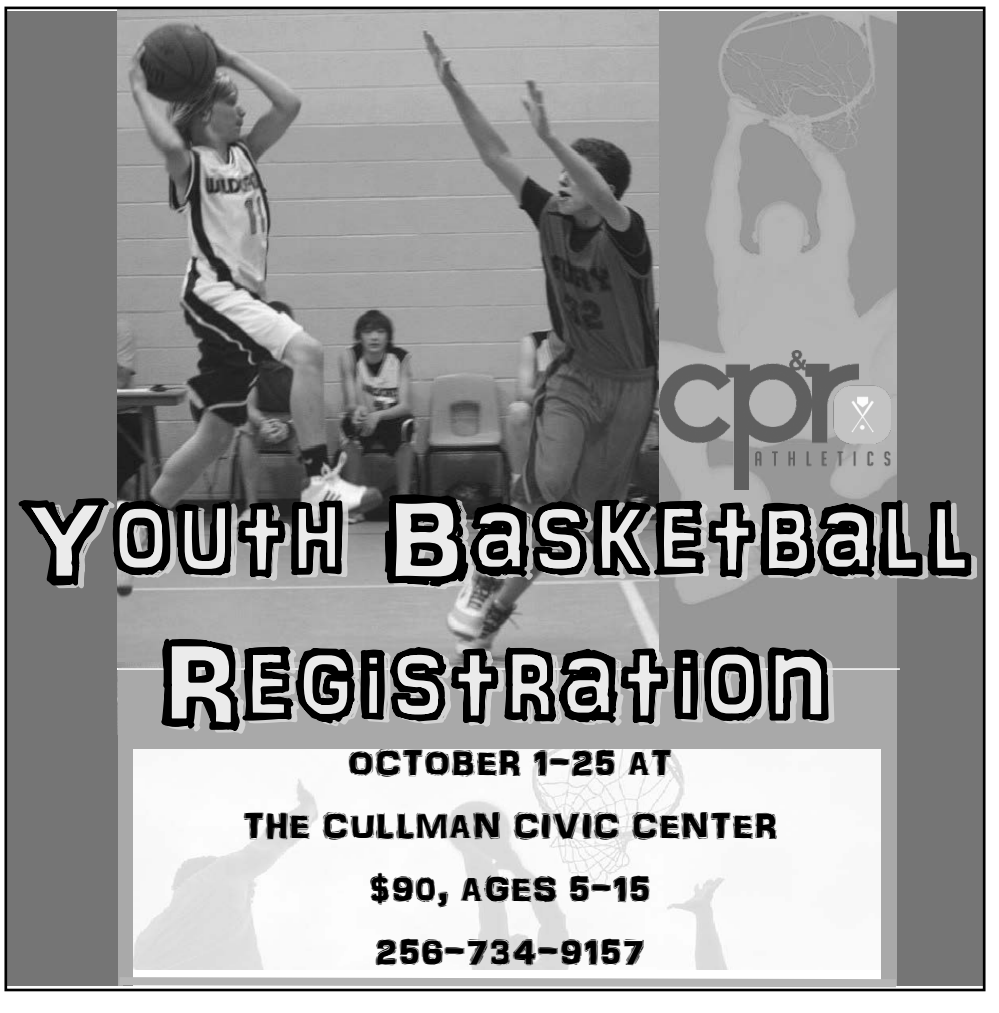
Buena Vista
2044 St. Joseph Drive NW
Restaurant On-Premises Alcohol License

Casa Cafe
500 Main Avenue SW
Restaurant On-Premises Alcohol License

Augusta's Sports Grill, Inc.
609 Graham Street SW
Restaurant On-Premises Alcohol License

ALDI, Inc.
1831 Cherokee Avenue SW
Beer and Wine Off-Premises Alcohol License





Dot (from Front)

Alabama Yellow Dot program, making the service available statewide. Begun in Etowah County in 2009, the voluntary program provides each participant with a Yellow Dot decal to place on the back window of his or her vehicle. In the event of a crash, the decal alerts first responders to a yellow information packet kept in the glove compartment that lists health conditions, medications, recent surgeries and emergency contacts, permitting more effective medical care at the scene. While the statewide rollout is now complete, many Alabamians have already benefitted from Yellow Dot.

"Yellow Dot is a very simple, but very effective life-saving program for the people of Alabama," Bentley said. "With the full state now covered, an idea hatched five years ago is now a reality for every Alabamian. I commend the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and Lora Weaver, the Yellow Dot coordinator who has worked so hard to bring this service to every resident."

Weaver initiated the program working as a program coordinator at the Northeast Alabama Traffic Safety Office in Gadsden. She spearheaded the statewide expansion, receiving grants and other support from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

She worked with officials county by county to introduce the program and set up enrollment stations and events where residents could participate in the program.

Weaver and ADECA Director Jim Byard Jr. joined Bentley for the announcement.

"The steady county-by-county expansion and the highly positive reception from Alabamians are testimony to the unquestionable value of this program," Byard said.

"It also demonstrates that the most effective programs are the ones that are easy to understand and implement. I want to express my gratitude to Lora, our state and regional traffic safety staff members, and the law enforcement officers and local government officials in every county who recognized the importance of this program and found a way to make Yellow Dot available to their residents."

Speaking on behalf of Bullock County, Union Springs Mayor Saint T. Thomas said, "We are honored and proud to make the Yellow Dot program complete for the entire state of Alabama."

Many Alabamians have experienced the value of the program in the aftermath of a crash.

Clanton resident Bethanie Chancellor learned about the value of Yellow Dot after a tragic car crash that took her husband's life and left her unconscious.

Chancellor shared her story at today's event and explained that if she had participated in Yellow Dot, emergency responders would have had the family's emergency contact information at the scene. Now enrolled in Yellow Dot, she shares her family's story to help others understand the program's value.

Yellow Dot helped save Homewood resident Vivian Howard's life in 2013. Howard, who is diabetic, began to lose consciousness while driving back to her home after attending a funeral.

"When I opened my eyes, there were paramedics all around me," she said. "I had been steadily bumping the curb as I drove and then eventually blacked out and crashed."

Because Howard had taken advantage of Yellow Dot, first-responders had immediate access to her medical information helping them quickly assess her condition and initiate proper procedures. Howard has become an ambassador for the program, telling friends and family how important it is to sign up.

Alabama's early adoption of the program and its county-level implementation made the state a national and international role model. Coverage of Alabama's Yellow Dot program from USA Today and other national publications attracted substantial interest from other states.

"Individuals from across the nation contacted us to learn how to begin a Yellow Dot program in their state," Weaver said.

"Since that time we have seen Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania and Tennessee adopt statewide programs, while in a number of other states individual counties and cities adopted the program locally."

For more information on the program or to find an enrollment station in your county, visit www.adeca.alabama.gov/yellowdot.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.

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



PEINHARDT
Living History Farm
FARM DAY
Saturday, October 25, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(Event closes at 4 p.m.)

Antique Tractor Show • Blacksmith • Tools • Splitting
Museum Open • Surrey Rides • Cross-cut Sawing
Hewing • Wagon Rides to Pumpkin Patch • Farm Animals

Children 4 and under FREE
Ages 5-12 $5 • 13 and up $7

This is a walking tour with limited accessibility.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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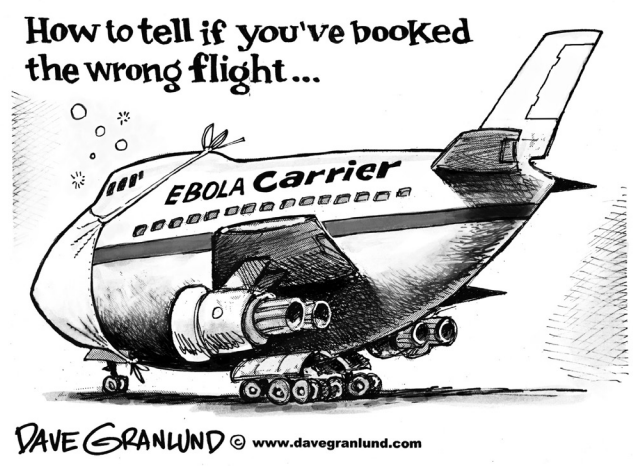
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Cartoonist Anthony Saint

OPINION

PULL THE E-BRAKE ON MIDDLE EAST WAR

Mel Gurtov
PeaceVoice

The New York Times editorial board has finally awakened to Obama's "strategy" in the "war" (as it is officially called now) against ISIS. It is essentially the same strategy that has guided literally hundreds of US military operations abroad since World War II: achieve the maximum objective with the minimum commitment of US power and prestige. Trouble is, the strategy just doesn't work, mainly because the enemy won't cooperate and friendly forces are either inept or unpopular (or both). Thus begins the slippery slope to wider and deeper involvement.

The Sept. 16, 2014 testimony of General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is what got the Times' attention: "If we got to the point where I believe our advisers should accompany Iraqi troops on attacks against specific ISIL targets, I'll recommend that to the president."

A day later on Sept. 17, the Army chief of staff, General Ray Odierno, chimed in: "You've got to have ground forces that are capable of going in and rooting [IS forces] out."

In short, Obama's supposed commitment not to deploy US ground troops to combat in Iraq or Syria—"a profound mistake," he said Sept. 7 on the NBC News program Meet the Press—is as firm as mud. As happened in Vietnam, there will be "advisers," more and more of them, as it becomes plain that the mini-max strategy of relying on air power to "degrade and destroy" ISIS proves insufficient.

Even without Dempsey's and Odierno's remarks, the Times and others should have seen the handwriting on the wall: The widening of air targets from those originally announced (they were supposed to be limited to protecting threatened populations and US personnel); the increasing number of US advisers; the avoidance of a Congressional vote; the quick resort to air strikes in Syria without United Nations or Syrian authorization; the shift in categorizing the conflict from a "counter-terrorism" operation to "war"; the shrill voices of pro-war Republicans and former military officers tied to defense contractors—all these suggested mission creep.

President Obama has followed in George W. Bush's footsteps by indicating that the war against terrorism will extend well beyond his presidency. Recall Bush's speech to West Point cadets in 2006: "The war began on my watch. But it's going to end on your watch." Now here is Obama on Sept. 12: "This [conflict] will be a problem for the next president, and probably the one after that."

At the UN on Sept. 23, Obama formally upgraded the "problem" of ISIS to an historic venture, saying it would determine, "whether the nations here today will be able to renew the purpose of the UN's founding; and whether we will come together to reject the cancer of violent extremism." He spoke as though announcing the start of World War III.

ISIS poses a serious threat to various governments in the Middle East, but it is not a national security threat to the United States.

Though several governments are now said to be contributing to the US air strikes in Iraq and Syria, make no mistake: This is an American operation, just like the two Gulf Wars and Afghanistan. Take away US control and Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan and the others would actually have to defend themselves.

Interviewed on "60 Minutes" last Sunday, Obama acknowledged US leadership of the war, but said that has always been the case and that—in an eerie echo of a famous Madeleine Albright remark—"we are the indispensable nation."

In his Sept. 16 article in the Financial Times, the perceptive observer Ahmed Rashid has written that governments and publics throughout the Middle East, most certainly including those now being counted on to support the latest "coalition of the willing," are deeply suspicious of and hateful toward the US. As much as they fear ISIS, Rashid writes, they don't trust the US after watching it fumble and stumble in Iraq and Syria; and they worry about associating with the US and becoming a target of pro-ISIS groups in their own country.

Professor Mark Katz, reporting about a conference he attended in Riyadh, adds to this picture in his Sept. 19 blog post: Influential people in the Arabian Gulf states tend to blame the US for the rise of ISIS, believe dealing with ISIS is therefore mainly a US responsibility, and point to other security issues that are equally important to them (such as the unstable situation in Yemen, Shi'a extremism, and of course the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.)

So, here are the bottom-line questions: Is it sensible, and in the US national interest, to support ever-deepening intervention in the Middle East?

Does anyone believe a military solution to the ISIS advance is possible or desirable, particularly inasmuch as ISIS arose out of three civil wars (in Gaza, Syria and Iraq) that can only be resolved by political agreements? No and no. Our media may not get it fast enough. Regardless, Congress and the American public must swiftly pull the e-brake on the ISIS mission and perpetual US warmaking in the Middle East. Our national security and that of the next generation depend on it.

OPINION

HEALTH CARES ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Laura Finley
PeacVoice

As a long-time anti-domestic violence advocate and activist, I firmly believe that coordinating both effective responses and prevention initiatives requires a community-based approach. From educators to social workers, businesses to criminal justice, males to females, youth to older generations, all must be involved in the efforts to address abuse. One group that can play a very important role in identifying victims, many of whom have never told anyone about their abuse and thus have never received assistance, is medical professionals. October 8, 2014 is National Health Cares about Domestic Violence Day, a wonderful opportunity to provide more information about domestic violence to healthcare professionals and to encourage those who are already assisting in the campaign to end abuse.

Sponsored by Futures without Violence, Health Cares about Domestic Violence Day helps raise awareness about the importance of screening for domestic violence. Numerous medical organizations, including the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Psychological Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, and the Institute of Medicine, have recommended that medical professional at least screen female patients over the age of 14 to assess whether they have experienced abuse in the home. Screening can be as simple as 4-6 questions on a Likert scale of agreement/disagreement. Research has found that simply asking the questions, whether on a survey or through an interview, plays an important role in allowing victims to open up to their medical provider about the sensitive issue of abuse.

It is clear that domestic violence results in a variety of negative health outcomes, both in the short term and long term. In addition to injuries sustained during the abuse, physical and psychological abuse has been linked to increased risk of chronic neck and back pain, arthritis, migraines, chronic pelvic pain, sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, irritable bowel syndrome, depression, suicide attempts, and substance abuse, among others. Victims often delay seeking treatment for other medical issues because they are not ready for others to notice the signs of abuse. These delays often exacerbate problems like asthma, diabetes and hypertension.

Abuse is not exclusive to adults. Teens experiencing dating violence also suffer from a variety of health effects, including increased risk of smoking, dangerous substance abuse, drug use, eating disorders, sexually transmitted infections, unplanned pregnancies, and suicide attempts.

Medical professionals also must be trained on what to do when the screening results in the identification of abuse. It is imperative that medical professionals stay up-to-date on the laws in their state so as to both be in compliance and to honor the wishes of victims, some of whom do not want abuse reported to authorities if that is a legal option.

I have conducted many trainings for physicians and other healthcare providers in Florida, which requires it for continuing medical education. I have found the training to be generally well-received, and have learned that a lot of healthcare providers in South Florida are already screening for abuse and are tremendous advocates in the movement to end domestic violence. I applaud these individuals and am hopeful that this National Health Cares about Domestic Violence Day will prompt even more people to become aware of the importance of screening as part of a community response to abuse.

Monday

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday

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

Adult Luncheon at Northbrook Baptist Church
All are welcome to attend the monthly Adult Luncheon which is held in the atrium of Northbrook Baptist Church each first Tuesday of the month. Please contact Wade Maynard for further information at 256-734-6401.

'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.

Senior Day at the Cullman County Fair
It is time 'Senior Day' at the Cullman County Fair. Gates open at 10 a.m. for seniors until 1 p.m. All seniors welcome to attend this special event.

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.

Promoting Hispanic History Speaker Javier Morales at WSCC
Wallace State Community College alumni Javier Morales will speak on the subject of Promoting Hispanic History at 9:30 a.m. on the campus of Wallace State Community College. For more information, visit www.wallacestate.edu.

'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.

'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.

Christ Lutheran Church Oktoberfest Dinner
Christ Lutheran Church Oktoberfest Dinner will be held on Friday, October 10, 2014. Start serving from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Eat in or carry out. Tickets are $10.00 and will be available at the door. Christ Lutheran Church is located at 424 2nd Ave SW.

Spend an Evening with James Spann, ABC 33/40's Weatherman
Come spend an evening with James Spann from ABC Channel 33/40 as he comes to Cullman to visit. This banquet is geared to helping raise funds for a mission program which will be undertaken in the Philippines in January of 2015. The dinner will be catered by Luna's Barbecue with tickets at the door $20.00 each and if purchased beforehand they will be $15.00. They can be purchased prior to the banquet at Basch Brothers, Luna's BBQ, The Barn and Sardis Baptist Church. Call 256-595-7331 for additional information. All welcome! Come enjoy a great meal as well as learn more about our local weather from Mr. Spann. A good night for all!

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

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 more 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. Call 256-775-7946 for more information!

OKTOBERFEST CALENDAR - P3

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

Monday
- 79 cent wings at Rodney G's Hickory Grill from 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday
- 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
- 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
- Cullman County Fair all day at Sportsman Lake Park
- Hispanic History Speaker Javier Morales at WSCC at 9:30 a.m.
- Kayaking lessons at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center at 6 p.m. and 7:15 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
- Cullman County Fair all day at Sportsman Lake Park
- German meals at Busy Bee Café at 5 p.m.
- Live Music at Brothers and 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
- German meals at Busy Bee Café at 5 p.m.
- Farm Kids Club Program: Pumpkin Patch at the Agriplex from 9-10:30 a.m.
- Cullman County Fair all day at Sportsman Lake Park
- Live Music at Brothers and Moe's
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-6 p.m.
- Zombies in Cullman Fun Run at Sportsman Lake Park from 5-8 p.m.
- Live Music at Cadillac Ron's from 8 p.m. to close

Sunday
- Oktoberfest Cullman Community Choir Concert at Sacred Heart Church at 3 p.m.

BUSY BEE CAFÉ HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS
Wine Wednesdays • Thirsty Thursdays
Fill'er Up Fridays • Sudsy Saturdays

GROW YOUR BUSINESS



BRITTANY HOWELL
CULLMANSENSE MARKETING SPECIALIST
BRITTANY@CULLMANSENSE.COM

"I am excited to be able to help local business in our community. Keeping people shopping and buying locally is important to our community and the businesses here. By working with businesses and keeping their names and products in the eyes of their customers is how we make that happen. I look forward to working with local businesses on print ads, websites, social media, and magazines."

CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

Official Newsletter

Eyes of PROGRESS

Volume 45 | OCTOBER 2014 | Issue 10

www.cullmanchamber.org

Serving the Community Since 1943

Serving:
BAILEYTON
COLONY
CULLMAN
DODGE CITY
FAIRVIEW
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HANCEVILLE
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WEST POINT

Chamber Has Record Breaking Total Resource Campaign



Jason Grimmett, Chamber Chair presents Susan Copeland, CRMC with memento.

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce recently held their eight-week Total Resource Campaign, rocketing to an all new record of $230,362 being raised! The TRC campaign was well received by the Cullman community and far exceeded the Chamber's expectations. The Total Resource Campaign allowed the Chamber to market sponsorships of their programs, events, publications and electronic media as well as recruit new members. Purchasing sponsorships gives Cullman Chamber members the opportunity to market their businesses through the Chamber's many programs and products. While this campaign was a huge success in terms of raising additional funds to help assist the Chamber in their programming efforts, it went well beyond rudimentary fundraising. Members were able to share with the Cullman community how the Chamber strives to make Cullman a better place to live, work and play. Many were surprised by the depth of programming the Chamber provides to the community. It was also exciting to see members talking with fellow members and assisting them in selecting sponsorship opportunities to market their businesses. It was a chance for our members to network with each other in an exciting, new way that mutually benefitted all parties involved. Jana Shelton from the Cullman County Revenue Commissioner's Office was a volunteer for the TRC and truly enjoyed her time with the program.

"When I was first asked by my management to participate in the TRC program, it was a God-send to me. It helped keep

Continued on pg 11...

2014-15 Cullman Area CoC TRC

iChamber

Connecting Your Business To Your Future

From the Chamber President: GO TEAM GO!!!



Leah Bolin

President & CEO,
Cullman Area Chamber
of Commerce

I look forward to Monday mornings. It is the only day of the week my staff and I are all together. Often we open up our meetings very informally discussing weekend events or sharing personal stories. During last week's discussion, however, we discovered that the newest member of our team had a major problem. He has lived in Alabama for two years and has yet to "pick a team". Obviously we were horrified. We explained to him that there are two things you must do upon moving to Alabama: 1) Pick a church 2) Pick a team (in that order). Picking your team in Alabama is serious business. It is not to be entered into lightly. And for goodness sakes, never say, "I pull for both teams!" Wearing the same shirt doesn't make a team and working in the same office building doesn't make one either. We are part of a culture where team work is not generally valued. The emphasis is usually on winning, being the best, and coming out on top. Studies have shown, however, that teamwork can be beneficial to your workers and to your business.

Work Efficiency

Teamwork enables you to accomplish tasks faster and more efficiently than tackling projects individually. Cooperating together on various tasks reduces workloads for all employees by enabling them to share responsibilities or ideas.

Improved Employee Relations

Teamwork is important in an organization because it provides employees with an opportunity to bond with one another. Workers who constitute a team working on a project often feel valued upon the successful completion of such tasks. A situation in which all of them find a chance to contribute towards the tasks improves relations within the team and enhances their respect for each other.

Increased Accountability

Teamwork increases the accountability of every member of the team. Team members do not want to let each other down and

continued on pg 10...

Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 1104, Cullman, AL 35056-1104 | 256-734-0454 | F: 256-737-7443 | info@cullmanchamber.org
www.cullmanchamber.org | www.visitcullman.org

SMALL BUSINESS & WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

Grant-Writing 101 – Tips & Tools to Get Funded

Are you a non-profit that is looking for grants as a part of your fund-raising plan to sustain your community or faith-based organization?

When: November 11, 2014, 1-4 p.m.
Where: Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce,
301 2nd Ave. SW, Cullman, AL 35055

If the above describes your situation, this workshop is for you! It will cover the basic elements of understanding and preparing a grant proposal in an atmosphere that's interactive, informative and engaging. This workshop is especially designed for agencies or organizations with limited staffing or little experience writing proposals. Overcome the fear and intimidation often associated with grant-writing and walk away with tips and tools to get started. The presenter, Mr. Derek Lane, is the Director of Small Business and Workforce Solutions with the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce. As owner of a consulting business, he has helped launch over a dozen non-profit organizations and secured $60 million in successfully funded grants through foundations and federal agencies. He has assisted community and faith-based agencies around the country with organizational and resource development needs and looks forward to providing similar support to help build the capacity of organizations in central Alabama.

Workshop Outcomes:

1. To determine or increase "readiness" for grants
2. To understand the "pre-grant" essentials
3. To review the basic elements of a grant proposal

You will receive:

* Hard-copy and electronic samples of successfully-funded grants
* An interactive online "walk-through" of local available funding opportunities
* A step-by-step guide to launching a non-profit in your state

A free workshop hosted by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce. Registration is required, you may register by calling 256-734-0454 or by signing up online though your member profile.

Presented by:

Salter Morgage Group

GO TEAM GO... continued from pg 9

hence do their best to conribute to the successes of their teams.

<u>Learning Opportunities</u>

Cooperating on a project is an opportunity for new workers to learn from more experienced employees. Teams often consist of members who differ from one another in terms of skills or talents. Working together is a great opportunity to acquire skills that an employee never had beforehand. Andrew Carnegie said, "*Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.*" Whether you are an Alabama fan or an Auburn fan, you know that average players can be transformed into amazing teams. How is your team shaping up this year? I look for mine to be in the championship!

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

SOUTHERN ACCENTS
ARCHITECTURAL ANTIQUES
EST. 1969
CULLMAN, ALABAMA

Southern Accents
1308 2nd Avenue SE
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 737-0554

Sponsored by: EvaBank

SEPTEMBER'S SMALL BUSINESS OF MONTH



Pictured from L to R: Front Row: Shane McMinn – CFO; Wyles Griffith – President; Maria Richter Schultz – Chamber Retail Committee Chair; and Derek Lane, Chamber Dir. of Small Business & Workforce Solutions. Back Row: Wayne Burden, III – VP of Operations & Sales; Keith Wise – Southeast Regional Sales Manager; and Kevin Rice – Implementation Manager.

We recently presented our Small Business of the Month award to R.E. Garrison Trucking, Inc. This award is given monthly to a local small business that meets nomination requirements. Eligible candidates have under 100 employees, are members of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and make contributions to our community, offer outstanding customer service and serve as inspiring success stories. Nomination forms can be downloaded at www.cullmanchamber.org. R.E. Garrison Trucking, Inc. is honored to receive this award and is happy to offer their services to the Cullman area.





TRC Vice Chair Kim Arndt & Chair Susan Copeland



TRC Vice Chair Robin Cummings & Chair Susan Copeland



TRC Vice Chair Suzanne Harbin & Chair Susan Copeland



L to R: Dr. Vicki Karolewics, Gail Crutchfield & Natalie Godwin, Wallace State Community College



Tabitha Miller, CRMC & Jennifer Hasting, Cullman Electric Cooperative

"Thank you so much for your continued support and investment in the Cullman community and the Chamber."

Chamber Has Record Breaking continued from pg 9...

my mind occupied as a loved one of mine had been diagnosed with an illness," she said. "People are food to my soul, and I can communicate with and read people so well, and I really enjoyed meeting and talking with people from several different businesses. The TRC campaign helped me in two different ways: it gave me an opportunity to receive feedback on the Revenue office and it benefitted the Chamber. I wouldn't take anything for what I've accomplished, and I wish I could've done more. I worked diligently and did the best of my ability with my circumstances, and I do believe the entire thing was something that was sent my way. I've enjoyed my time partnering with the Chamber." With just over 40 volunteers, the 2014-2015 Total Resource Campaign has left a significant and impressive mark on fundraising efforts led by Chair Susan Copeland of Cullman Regional Medical Center, and Vice Chairs Robin Cummings from Peoples Bank, Kim Arndt from Cullman Electric Cooperative and Suzanne Harbin from Wallace State Community College. The campaign was made up of 9 team captains including Mike Donaldson from Quality Staffing Solution, Laura Edwards from Cullman Regional Medical Center, Tana Britt from Peoples Bank, Jimmy Cockrell from Peoples Bank, Amanda Whitehead from Peoples Bank, Natalie Godwin from Wallace State Community College, Ashley Lackey from Alabama Technology Network, Joyce Fuller from Fuller Rentals and Cherrie Haney from Cullman County Economic Development, along with our incredible volunteers, all of whom far exceeded the Chamber's expectations. We are so grateful to all of our volunteers and the leadership we had in place this year. Thank you so much for your continued support and investment in the Cullman community and the Chamber.



CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Our last Business After Hours event for 2014 will be on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 as we present our 3rd annual Art After Hours Silent Auction/Chamber for Charities event to celebrate the end of a fantastic year! We are seeking local art and special pieces. As an artist, this is an opportunity to gain some exposure within our Chamber, as well as with community members. It affords artists a chance to give back to our local community and also to make a profit should they choose to do so, 50% of proceeds go to the local Food Bank and 50% to the artists; however, the artist may also opt to donate 100% of the proceeds to our local area food bank. The deadline to submit your artwork will be Monday, December 1, 2014. Any medium is accepted and subject to approval by the Chamber. You must be 18 years or older. Please provide any display or support needed for your pieces and let us know if you will need any special accommodations (ex: outlet). Limited space is available. We would like to thank all of our current members and invite future members to join us as we honor our local artists and celebrate the beautiful works of art that originate from our talented community. Please email info@cullmanchamber.org to register and request your submission form or just stop by the Chamber office.



TOURISM

AMLA NAMES CULLMAN TOURISM DIRECTOR CECELIA SMITH YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR FOR NORTH ALABAMA



Pictured from L to R: Tami Reist, President/CEO of the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association; awardee Cecelia Smith, Tourism Director of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center; and John Dersham, Executive Director of Dekalb Tourism & Chairman of the Board of Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association.

The Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association has named Cullman Tourism Director Cecelia Smith the Young Professional of Year during ceremonies at the 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting of The Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association (AMLA). The tourism PEAK Awards were presented on Wednesday, September 17, during the AMLA Annual Meeting at the Garden Plaza Hotel in Decatur.

Representing the highest achievement in North Alabama tourism, the annual PEAK Awards honor individuals and organizations that have had a major impact on tourism in North Alabama. A panel of independent judges from three states selected the PEAK Award winners.

Known as the Green Apple Award, the Young Professional of the Year award is presented by AMLA to an individual who has been in the tourism industry for less than seven years and has exhibited extraordinary leadership skills and initiative associated with their position.

During her brief one-year tenure as director of tourism, Ms. Smith has fulfilled the needs Cullman long sought after and much desired for a successful organization that is growing, well managed, and very enthusiastic. Under her leadership, she has played a significant role in increasing local lodging income, has created the first ever Cullman Area Tourism Awards, and is active and passionate about the Cullman area tourism opportunities.

"The PEAK Awards recognize the best of North Alabama's tourism and travel industry, and this year's nominees and winners have all done an exemplary job in delivering an exceptional visitor experience," said Tami Reist, President/CEO of the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association. "It is important we take the time to celebrate the achievements of our local tourism leaders, attractions, festivals, and front-line workers who all work tirelessly to make North Alabama a must visit destination."

The travel and tourism industry generates more than $2.1 billion dollars annually for the economy of North Alabama, and provides more than 28,000 jobs for residents. Visitors to the region spend money at lodging facilities, restaurants, for entertainment, at retail stores, and for automobile related services. Travelers provide almost $11 million annually in hotel lodging taxes for the region.

2014 North Alabama Tourism Hall of Fame inductees were:
• Jerry Evans, Athens, Ala., owner of Greenbrier Restaurant
• Sue Pilkilton, Tuscumbia, Ala., director of Ivy Green Home, Museum and Gardens.
• Tommie Hollingsworth, Moulton, Ala., community leader
• Noccalula Falls Park, Gadsden, Ala.
• Alabama State Parks system, celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year.

The full list of PEAK Awards and winners is as follows:
- Event of the Year – Main Street Music Festival, Albertville, Ala.
- Organization of the Year – U. S. Space & Rocket Center, Huntsville, Ala.
- Attraction of the Year – Little River Canyon National Preserve, Fort Payne, Ala.
- Good Neighbor "Friend of Tourism" Award – Judy Hood, Swampette Music Tours, Tuscumbia, Ala.
- Chairman's Cup – Joe Palvado, Compass Marketing media representative, Mobile, Ala.
- Northern Star "Front-Line Worker" Award – Brittany Hughes, Fort Payne, Ala.
- Young Professional of the Year – Cecelia Smith, Cullman County Tourism Director, Cullman, Ala.
- Lasting Impression Award "Muscle Shoals the Documentary"
- Tourism Professional of the Year – John Dersham, director of DeKalb Tourism, Fort Payne, Ala.
- President's Award – Thereasa Hulgan, director, Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce, Centre, Ala., and Mayor Phil Segraves, Guin, Ala.

Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association (AMLA) AMLA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion and development of the travel industry within the 16 northernmost counties of the state. It is supported by 450-plus members consisting of chambers of commerce, Convention & Visitors Bureaus, attractions, campgrounds, festivals, communities, counties, golf courses, restaurants, tour operators, accommodations, vendors, financial institutions and individuals. Counties inclued within the AMLA region are Blount, Cherokee, Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan and Winston. Additional information on North Alabama destinations, accommodations and special events is available from AMLA by calling 800.648.5381 or by visiting their web site at www.NorthAlabama.org.



2nd Annual Farm Y'all Festival



The Chamber's Agribusiness Committee held the 2nd Annual Farm Y'all Festival presented by TriGreen Equipment on Saturday, August 23 at the Festhalle Market Platz. Local farmers were on hand with supply of local fruits and vegetables while regional and nationally celebrated chefs prepared dishes featuring local foods for people to sample. Farmers competed and broke state records in the Giant Pumpkin weigh off and the Giant Squash weigh off. As for the Giant Pumpkin weigh off, Danny Vester from Spring Hope, NC broke the North Carolina state record with a 1,296 lb pumpkin. Jason Terry from Oneida, TN broke the Tennessee state record with a 1,287 lb pumpkin. Trent Boyd from Cullman, AL broke the Alabama state record with a 1,092 lb pumpkin. For the Giant Squash weigh off, Lewis Morris from Ohio broke the Ohio state record with a 1,218.5 lb squash. Entertainment, contests, games and good food made this free event a great day of family fun!

Event Sponsors:

City of Cullman, Traditions Bank, Emily Niezer Johnston, LLC, TriGreen Equipment, LLC, Farmer's Poultry Supply, Inc., AK Equipment Rentals and Sales, Inc., American Proteins, Inc., First South Farm Credit, Harris and Graham, Inc., Cullman County Commission, Kress Farms, Cullman County IDA, Alabama Farm Credit, Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Cullman Sense and Cullman County Extension.



TOUR TP COUNTRY CLUB

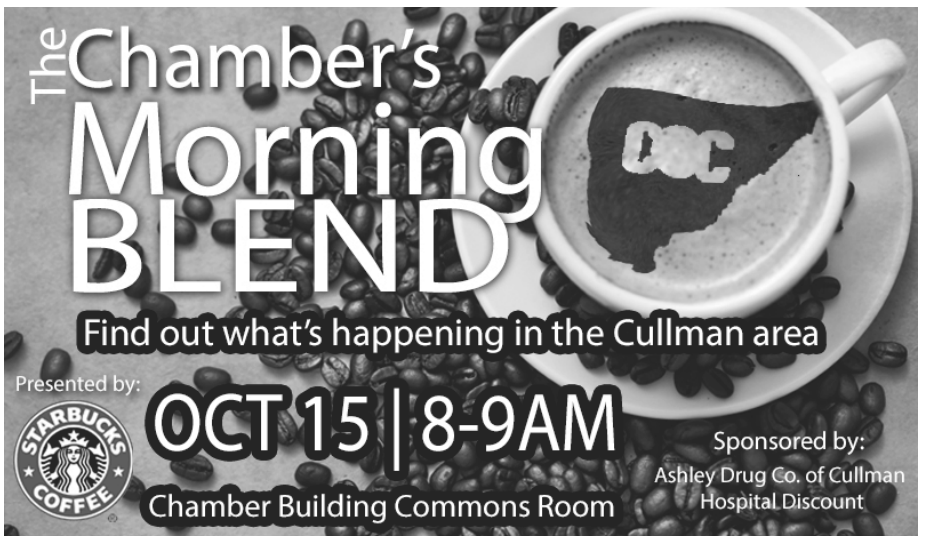
This quarter's Biscuits & Business will be held at TP Country Club, sponsored by McGriff Industries. John Hunt will be speaking about how being apart of a country club can improve business, and develop relationships that will last a lifetime. If you have ever wanted to tour TP now is your chance! After John speaks there will be a tour of the greens. Please call the chamber to register 256-734-0454



Hops & Shops & Brats Cullman



It's almost time for Hops & Shops in October! This month we are partnering with Cullman's annual Oktoberfest for a festive, fall showcase of all that our German heritage has to offer. Plan on coming to downtown Cullman on October 9 from 4-9 p.m. for a tasty hopping experience, excellent shopping deals and door prizes you don't want to miss. The Shopper's prize drawing will be held at 8 p.m. at our featured store of the month, Littleville Blue, where the winner will receive a beautiful Oktoberfest themed basket honoring our German heritage, full of incredible deals and tasty treats! The Hopper's prize drawing will be held at 9 p.m. at our featured restaurant of the month, Grumpy's Italian Grill, where the winner will receive a $50 gift certificate to Grumpy's. Over 40 local restaurants and retailers will highlight the downtown area of Cullman offering extended hours, discounts and drawings. There will be a horse drawn carriage, live music, street performances and a classic cruise-in car show.This month, we are doing things a little differently for Hops & Shops! We will not be selling tickets since it will be FREE for all to participate. What does that mean for you? As a participant, you'll simply visit the 9 different restaurants for Hops & Shops and sample their Oktoberfest craft brews. If you would like to be entered into the Shopper's drawing and/or the Hopper's drawing, make sure you pick up your beer notes/shopping map at the retail store of the month, Littleville Blue, and at any of the participating restaurants. For the Shopper's drawing, you will need to get your receipt stamped in exchange for a ticket into the drawing. For the Hopper's drawing, make sure you pick up the beer notes as this will be your ticket into the drawing. For more information, call 256-734-0454 or email info@cullmanchamber.org. You can also receive updates from our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/HopsAndShopsCullman.



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



MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Wilson Dynamic Machining	(256) 531-5638
Wilborn Outdoors	(256) 737-9595
Prestige Pressure Cleaners	(256) 595-2876
Hometown Automotive	(256) 841-5970
County Apps	(256) 339-1868
City on a Hill Church	(256) 338-5600
Hankey's Service Center, LLC	(256) 775-8800
Tower Loan of Cullman	(256) 255-5570
Country Financial - Holly Shadrick	(256) 739-9281
State Farm Insurance - Tonya Wilson	(256) 739-1360
Salinity Inc.	(256) 735-4296
Infinity Fire and Water Restoration	(256) 841-5886
Mid State Masonry Steel, LLC	(256) 270-2838
Alabama Media Group	(205) 207-7273
Hope Janitorial & Foodservice Supplies	(256) 736-9944
Bosom Buddies Foundation	(256) 339-0911
Onin Staffing	(256) 287-5500
Griffith Lowry, LLC	(256) 734-0458
Dr. Cary Bennett	(256) 737-9500
Dream Home Outlet	(256) 775-8794
AAA Bookkeeping & Tax Services	(256) 734-0460
Otter Pools Inc.	(256) 747-2898
Chapel Valley Farms	(256) 709-2052
Catoma Dermatology LLC	(256) 737-7546
Maddog Mike's BBQ	(256) 775-4333
Supreme Beverage Company	(205) 251-8010
WSCC Future Foundation	(256) 352-8046
Cullman Quick Copy	(256) 739-0699
Christian And Son LLC	(256) 590-1227
J&S Karaoke	(256) 734-0939
Powell Building Supply	(256) 747-2728
Cullman Co. Student Investment Foundation	(256) 737-7038
AL Italian Ice & Beverage LLC (D.B.A Repicci's Trio)	(205) 229-5938

MEMBERSHIP 101

Presented By: Charter Business

Lunch Provided By: sweet peppers DELI

New to the Chamber? Need a refresher on what the Chamber does and how you can get involved? Plan to join us from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Chamber Staff will be going over different programs and ways you can get involved! This is a free event and will be on October 23, 2014. Please register by calling 256-734-0454 or registering through your member profile!!

To schedule a Ribbon Cutting, please call the Chamber at 256-734-0454.

CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER Ribbon Cuttings



Billy Ray Taylor Auto Sales
5355 AL HWY 157
Cullman, AL 35055 | 256-734-5415



Lesley Hyde - State Farm Insurance
307 2nd Ave NW Space 11
Cullman, AL 35055 | 256-734-8906



Tower Loan of Cullman
2132 2nd Avenue NW
Cullman, AL 35058 | 256-255-5570



Dream Home Outlet
660 County Road
Cullman, AL 35055 | 256-775-8794



Wilco Hess
600 County Road 437
Cullman, AL 35055

Community Luncheon

The next Community Luncheon will be on the fourth Friday of the month, October 24, 2014, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the All Steak restaurant in the banquet room. Our guest speaker for October is a variety of new faces, and the presentation topic will be getting to know these new leaders within our community. Our featured guests are Nathan Anderson, Director of City Parks & Recreation; Daniel Baillargeon, Headmaster of St. Bernard Preparatory School; James Clements, interim CEO of Cullman Regional Medical Center; Matt Gentry, Cullman County Sheriff - elect; Corey Harbison, Good Hope Mayor and State Representative-elect; Derek Lane, Director of Small Business & Workforce Solutions at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce; Garry Marchman, Cullman County Commissioner Place #2 - elect; Dr. Craig Ross, Superintendent of Cullman County Schools; Kerry Watson, Cullman County Commissioner Place #1 - elect. This monthly event educates and inspires the community as a whole with special guest speakers and delicious luncheons. The Community Luncheon is presented by Mickey Parrish State Farm Insurance & Financial Services and sponsored by Mitch Smith Chevrolet. You may register at www.cullmanchamber.org or by calling 256-734-0454 or by emailing info@cullmanchamber.org. There is a 48-hour cancellation policy and prices are as follows: chamber members - $15; future members - $20.

October's Community Luncheon Sponsor:

MITCH SMITH CHEVROLET

The 2014 Community Luncheon is presented by:

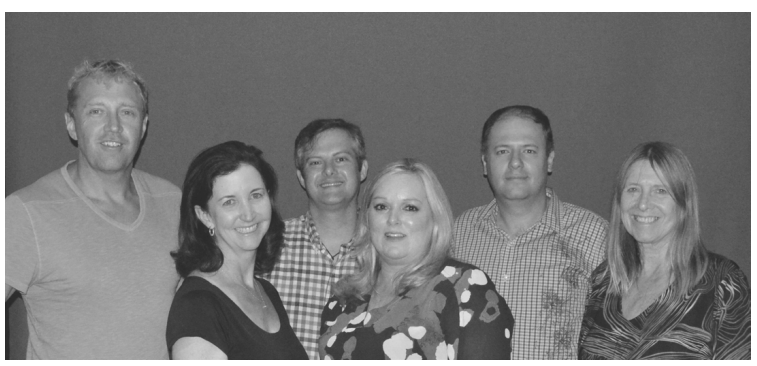
STATE FARM INSURANCE

Mickey Parrish
State Farm Insurance
& Financial Services



256-734-4640 MickeyParrish.com

NATJA TRAVEL WRITERS VISIT CULLMAN



L to R : Jeffrey Lehmann, Cecelia Smith, Nathan DePetris, Tami Reist, Marc Kassouf, Carla Marie Rupp

Cullman's one hot spot – of course, we know that, but it seems our German gem is getting a little more attention lately with the addition of some of its attractions being added to a travel writing tour. Recently, a collection of talented travel writers from the North American travel Journalists Association completed a tour entitled, History & Halos, that took them on a journey from Decatur through Cullman landmarks. Marc Kassouf and Nathan DePetris for the GH Herald, Jeffrey Lehmann for the Weekend Explorer, and freelance travel writer Carla Marie Rupp attended the tour, staying overnight in Cullman and visiting our renowned local attractions and businesses. Their tour included the following Cullman locations: All Steak Restaurant, Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Johnny's Bar-B-Q, Evelyn Burrow Museum, Ave Maria Grotto and the Crooked Creek Civil War Museum. Thanks to Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association for making this tour possible.

Get to know our new leaders!



Nathan Anderson



Daniel Baillargeon



James Clements



Matt Gentry



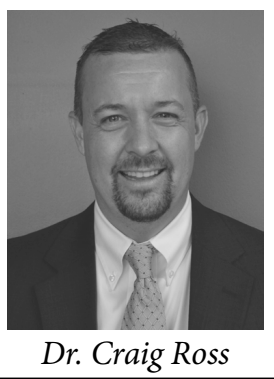
Corey Harbison



Derek Lane



Garry Marchman



Dr. Craig Ross



Kerry Watson

CULLMAN OKTOBERFEST

"After traveling around the country and arriving in North Alabama, the impression was made upon my mind that if this country was filled up with good farmers it would be the garden spot of America. I found here all that I had been looking for, all that I regarded as necessary to make good homes: there was here combined these things to an extent not equaled by any other place I had seen." - Col. John G. Cullmann, 1877

We are in the full swing of our town's local celebration of Oktoberfest, happening this year from Oct. 4-11 (the first Saturday to the second Saturday of the month) and from every activity around, it seems people are enjoying this annual tradition. Throughout the years, Cullman has been host to many festive events, from Pioneer Parades, to Strawberry Days, to Oktoberfest. No matter what event is celebrated, this community shows its pride and support. The first official Oktoberfest in Cullman was held October 9-17, 1982 and had a theme: Die Duetsche colonie von Nord Alabama – heir the living is good! Events include: German food, genealogical exhibits, prizes, doll collections, polkas, folk dancers, square dancers, games, open house church sanctuaries, a children's fun run, Weiss cottage tours and more. Sponsors for these events were: Downtown Merchant Association, the All Steak, Central Bank of Cullman, First Alabama Bank, Leeth National Bank, Parker Bank and Trust, Sacred Heart School PTA, Cullman Savings and Loan, First Federal Savings and Loan, St Paul's Lutheran Church and Stiefelmeyer's Deli. Every year after, the city of Cullman has one goal – to celebrate Cullman's German heritage. Some events change, some sponsors change, but we stay true to our mission. For a full schedule of events, please go to www.CullmanOktoberfest.com.

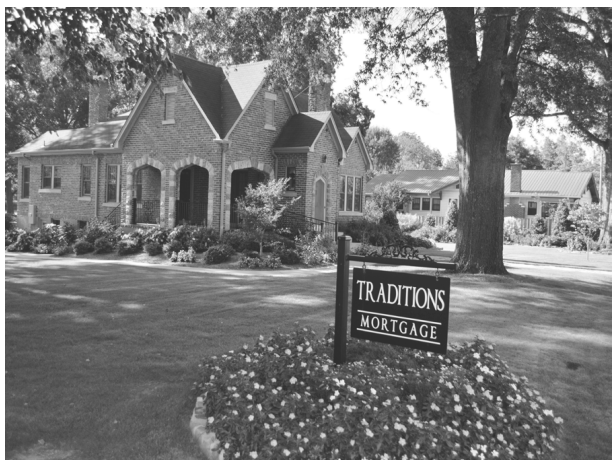
TOURISM

CULLMAN AREA COC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER
community improvement awards

2nd Quarter Winners



Primary School of Cullman - **Business/Organization with Best Landscaping** - Large (more than 25 employees) – Awarded for best design, maintenance, litter control and plant materials.



Traditions Mortgage - Business/Organization with Best Landscaping – Small (25 employees or less) – Awarded for best design, maintenance, litter control and plant materials.



St. John & Associates - **Business/Organization with New Construction** – Considered for this award will be those businesses that have undergone careful construction of a new structure completed within the past three years. A brief description of the project along with the completion date and 2-5 photographs of both before and after pictures should be submitted.



Loft 212 - **Business/Organization with Best Restoration** – Awarded for superlative work in the restoration, rehabilitation, reuse of property or sensitive design. A brief description of the project along with the completion date and 2-5 photographs of both before and after pictures should be submitted.



Sportsman Lake Park - Splash Pad - Business/Organization "Building a Sense of Community" – Awarded to a business that strives to improve the community through additions of a park, play area, park benches or playground, etc.



Cullman County Museum - **Business/Organization with Best Curb Appeal** – Awarded for substantial improvements to the outside of the property with the most attractive presentation from the street.

The time has come again for our latest round of Community Improvement Winners. Nominations were sought for the best examples of community improvement efforts made by organization/business/company owners of properties in the Cullman area. The Community Improvement Committee hopes to inspire others to take action to preserve, protect and promote community improvement in Cullman. Anyone may nominate a commercial property/organization in the Cullman area. These awards will be given on a quarterly basis. Businesses/Organizations are eligible for one award per category each year and must be a Chamber member in order to be nominated. There is no fee to nominate. You must submit a nomination form per each award once a year. We will keep nominations on file and consider all nominations on a quarterly basis. A sign will be placed in the winner's location each quarter (July, October, January and April). Nomination deadlines are June 15, September 15, December 15 and March 15. Contact the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce for a nomination form. Congratulations to all of our 2nd Quarter winners, and thank you for improving our community!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY AUCTIONS OFF VANNA WHITE AFGHAN

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

To her surprise, American Legioin Auxiliary secretary and treasurer Mary Reid received a crocheted afghan made by Vanna White after writing her a letter.

CULLMAN - The American Legion Auxiliary is looking to raise money for their organization, and reclaim their tax status in an exciting way. The 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status had recently lapsed for the American Legion due to their status being stated as inactive. To turn that around and bring the legion back to its former tax status, the organization has come up with an exciting and original way to raise the money – selling a blanket crocheted by the Wheel of Fortune's infamous letter turner and head turner herself, the beautiful Vanna White.

"I had the idea because I knew she crocheted afghans," said Mary Reid, secretary and treasurer to the American Legion Auxiliary.

"I have some of her crochet books and had read that she crocheted in between shows. I had already written a letter before I mentioned it to anyone! I just looked on the internet for an address. I never thought I'd hear back from her and was so thrilled when the box arrived! She also enclosed a signed photograph."

The afghan is up for bid on Ebay. Simply search for American Legion Auxiliary Vanna White and place your bid. Your time and efforts will go to a very worthy cause in helping an organization that does tremendous work within our community.

"The American Legion Auxiliary works continually within the community," said Reid.

"We provide significant cash assistance and direct service such as sending girls to Girls State, as well as providing leadership camps for girls. We also support legislation that affects children at the local, state, and national levels. And while all children are important, the Auxiliary particularly focuses on helping the children of our veterans and military. We also provide a number of scholarships, locally as well as nationally. The Oratorical Scholarship is approximately $18,000."

While most people are familiar with the American Legion, some may be less familiar with the American Legion Auxiliary.

"We are the support behind our Legionnaires who do a tremendous amount of good work in the community. The Legion does Boys State, whereas we do Girls State. Women warriors can also belong to the Legion," Reid stated.

According to Reid, helping the American Legion or the Auxiliary is helping our community veterans and their families.

"You have to remember that some of our vets come home to low paying jobs and most have families," said Reid noting that they help one to two families per week.

"Some are disabled, unable to work, and exist on a fixed income. Our economy has not been good to them. When you see us giving out 'poppies', it is for that purpose, to keep our veterans and their families on their feet so donations are very much appreciated. The 'poppy' money can only be used for this purpose."

This is why it is vital for this organization to raise the $400 needed to reclaim their tax status so that those who want to give can also have the benefit of having their contribution be tax-deductible.

"Our children are our future," said Reid. "The community needs to support the American Legion and the Auxiliary because of everything we do to help our community; i.e., Girls and Boys State, leadership camps, helping our veterans when they get on hard times needing groceries, rent, gasoline or utility bills."

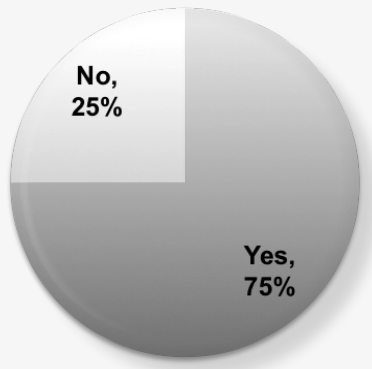
If you do not want to bid on the afghan, but would still like to help, you can send a donation to the American Legion Auxiliary, Cullman Unit 4, P. O. Box 391, Cullman, AL 35056.

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This Week's Poll

Are you getting a flu shot this year?

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cpr& cullman city parks & recreation

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

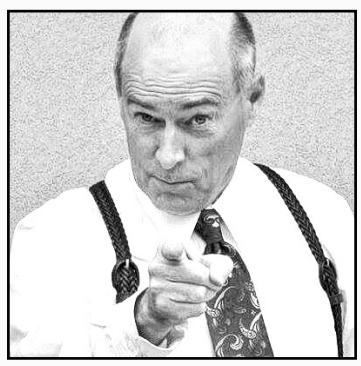
www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Community-Wide Yard Sale & Craft Fair** at Heritage Park, Saturday, September 27 at 7am. 10x10 and 15xz15 spaces will be available for $15, with lots of traffic through the park with tournaments in soccer and baseball during the event. To book your space, call 256-739-9931. Space is limited, call soon to reserve your spot.
- **Youth Outdoor Adventure Program:** Program will be held Saturdays from October 11-November 15 starting at 9:30am each Saturday. Program will explore outdoors with hiking, paddling, rock climbing, rappelling, and more. Cost is $75 for the 6 weeks, which includes all trips in and out of town. Space is limited to the first 30 boys and girls ages 7-14 who sign up. Registration is open now at the Cullman Civic Center. Call 256-734-9157 for more details.
- **Youth Basketball Registration:** October 1-20 at the Cullman Civic Center. Boys and girls ages 4-14. Cost is $90 which includes season, jersey, and end of year trophy. Call 256-734-9157 for more information.
- **Youth Basketball Cheerleading Registration:** Registration will be open Oct. 1-20 at the Cullman Civic Center. Cost is $90 which includes season, uniform, and end of the year trophy. Call 256-739-9931 for more information.
- **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.
- **Rock Climb at Hurricane Creek Park!** Come join the 1st Time Rock Climbing program, Saturday mornings at Hurricane Creek Park. Group rates are available, and no experience is required! Call ahead to reserve your spot at 256-734-2125.

What's Online

Come Spend An Evening with James Spann

If you are looking to spend a magical evening with a state celebrity and hero, then you should be at the Cullman Civic Center on October 10. Sardis Baptist Church has put together an evening to remember with good food, fellowship and James Spann of ABC 33/40.



qrne.ws/261

Good Hope Pharmacy Opens

Good Hope Pharmacy is officially open! Located on Highway 69 in north Good Hope, this pharmacy offers a little bit of everything to the citizens of Good Hope and beyond. This pharmacy is owned by brothers Kiah and Patrick Brown and their father, Keith. These family guys have owned Specialty Pharmacy, located...

qrne.ws/262

How to Prepare Your Home for the Coming Cold Season

Fall is a wonderful time of year in Alabama. Temperatures are at their mildest, and it is the perfect time to get some much needed work done to your home. It is also the perfect time to get things squared away for the upcoming winter months. Below are a few tips for winterizing your home...

qrne.ws/263

NEW KAYAKING CLASS OFFERED AT AQUATICS CENTER

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Cullman Parks & Recreation are always looking for new and exciting activities to offer to the public. New classes and events are what keep Cullman an interesting community. That is why Cullman Parks & Recreation are happy to offer a new class on kayaking at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center.

"This is a new class for the center," said Marketing Director for Cullman Parks & Recreation, Waid Harbison.

"We have just invested in several kayaks, as well as all the gear along with them, to allow people to try the sport out before they invest lots in expensive equipment. The class started on September 16."

Harbison and Matt Huddleston, certified instructor, kayak together often, and it was through their mutual interest, and the interest of the community, that they decided to put the class together.

"It was actually a personal interest that I have, and there was also a demand in the community," Harbison said.

"Myself and our instructor, Matt, both kayak together a lot, and over the years we have had lots of interest in people learning to kayak and other related skills. It was also one of the most requested choices in our 2013-14 programs survey for requested programs, so we went ahead with making the class happen."

Kayaking is an activity that can be as peaceful or as action packed as you want it to be, according to Harbison, which makes it the perfect activity for all ages.

"This is a great class for people to participate in because kayaking is a lifetime sport," said Harbison.

"There are people all the way in their seventies and eighties that still kayak on a regular basis, and it is a great way to make friends and have a lot of fun. Kayaking also has lots of different skill levels, so whether you are looking for a peaceful easy river or doing seeking more of a thrill on holes and waves, there is something for everyone."

No matter what type of adventure you want to take, proper instruction in technique and safety is important. That is why the class is being led by Matt Huddleston, an ACA IV level kayaking instructor.

In addition to his vast knowledge of all things kayaking, he is also certified as a wilderness first responder.

"The class is also great to educate people on how to kayak safely, and to learn the proper way to stay safe on the river," Harbison said. "A lot of people interested in kayaking go out on the river and don't know what they are doing, and that is where almost all the injuries come from. Knowing how to wet exit, brace, and rolling will allow for almost no injuries while on the river."

The class has limited space due to equipment and is open on a first come, first serve basis. The classes will take place on Thursday nights, with the first class beginning at 6 p.m. and the second class at 7:15 p.m.

The cost is $90, and at the end of the course, the class will go on a trip to test out their new skills. Harbison said that the class is just one of many exciting new outdoor classes to come, and that they are always in the market for new ideas.

"We definitely are looking for new programs to offer that will fit the community all the time. We would love to be able to offer something for everyone, so we are always keeping our ear to the ground to hear what it is the community would like to see offered and we make every effort to make that happen. We are always evaluating where we might be lacking in programming as well, such as adding more outdoor programs recently, including the kayaking course," Harbison said.

Comics

WHITE & BLACK • **"Thriller Night"** • st.edo@cullmansense.com



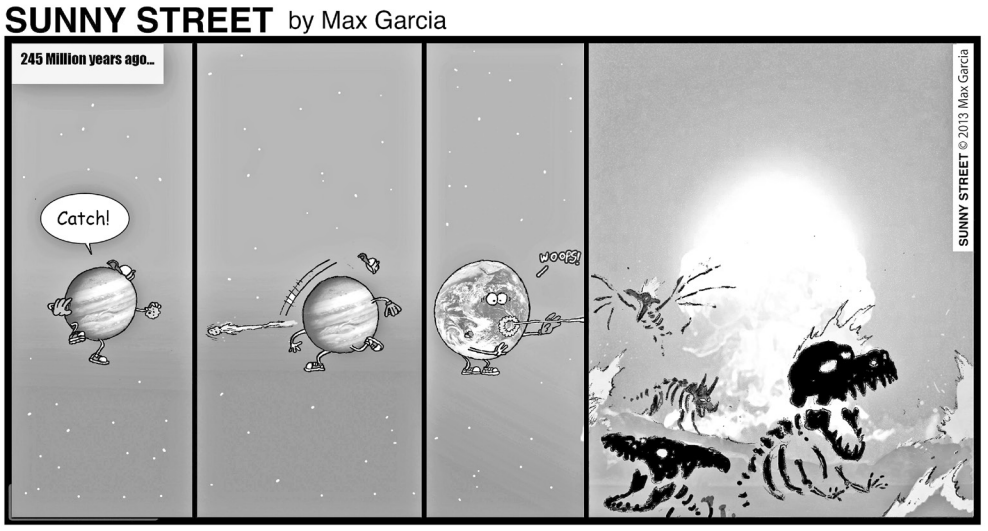
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Pets of the Week

Zona

Hello! My name is Zona, and I am about 7+ yrs old. I am a Spaniel mix, and I currently weigh 31 lbs. I am a stray but no one claimed me so now I am up for adoption. I am full of life and I love to play. I can't wait to meet my new best friend and forever companion who will take me home and play with me.



Velma

Hello! My name is Velma, and I am about two years old. I am believed to be a Flat Coat Retriever mix, and I currently weigh 64 lbs. I am spirited and enjoy company. I'm ready to find my new forever family and a place to call home.



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.

ZOMBIE RUN BENEFITS KARMA IN CULLMAN

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - It was a brisk Saturday afternoon in Cullman. The sun was shining and everyone was enjoying the day. It was the absolute perfect evening... to be chased by zombies. At Sportsman Lake, a group of runners were set loose in the park and were set with the task of escaping the infected.

Karma in Cullman was out in force to raise money and have a fun time at Sportsman Lake. While the turnout was smaller than they hoped for, it did nothing to dampen their spirits or keep them from having a great time. The idea of the race was simple. Participants were in two categories, zombies and humans. The human group was given flags to wear on their bodies, and it was the zombie group's job to capture those flags. If a flag was captured, one could get it back by finding a first aid station and waiting one minute. The first person to make it across the finish line with all of their flags was the winner.

"My family has always been big fans of The Walking Dead," said Rachel Bryant, founder of the group Karma in Cullman. "We had seen this type of run done in larger cities and thought it would be a fun event to bring to Cullman and raise money."

Karma in Cullman was founded by Bryant at first as a small idea to help those less fortunate, and has rapidly grown on Facebook to a community of approximately 2,800 members.

"It started last year when I was going through a hard time," Bryant said. "I was cleaning my house and going through things to sale on a yard sale site. Well I ended up thinking that there were people out there that needed this stuff more than I did. So I started my own little site with the intention of finding people to donate items and give it to those in need."

Bryant and her family did not anticipate the wealth of support and participation from the community. They are now in the process of becoming an official non-profit. Their large Facebook group is more than that to those in it, for them the group is a family.

"I really felt pulled toward this group," said Rona Goodwin, admin for the Karma in Cullman's Facebook page. "I have always been someone who loves to help people whether it is out in the open or in the background. Then I found this Karma thing, and jumped in with both feet. We're just a big family."

The group has helped hundreds of people in the short time since their founding and countless more are sure to follow. Last year at Christmas, 235 children were given presents from Santa, and it is Rachel's hope to help more this year.

"We are currently taking gently used toy donations and clothing donations," Bryant said. "If people are cleaning out their closets or toy boxes, and have some items they want to donate that would be great. Last year we were able to help 235 kids, and they could not tell a difference and were absolutely thrilled."

In addition to toys and general clothing, the group is also in search of coats and blankets for children in the area. It takes a lot of time, effort, and money to do the things that this group does for the community.

Fundraisers and donations are essential to keep the operation running smoothly. That is why Bryant said that they have also started a Go Fund Me page, which you can find at www.gofundme.com/karmaincullman.

While their group is still in its infancy, the 2,800 people in the group have already accomplished some great things within our community. It will hopefully only be a matter of time before they reach non-profit status, and their work can continue while offering tax breaks to donators. Their motto, sums up their view on helping others: It is your world...change it!

St. Paul's Church Hosts First Dinner of Oktoberfest

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - On Saturday, St. Paul's Lutheran Church kicked off Oktoberfest by hosting a delicious authentic German dinner. The meal consisted of Sauerbraten (roast beef), Rot Kraut (pickled red cabbage), Butter Karteffein and Dill (buttered dill potatoes), Grun Bohnen (green beans), Brot (bread) and Tee (tea).

St. Paul's Lutheran Church was founded in 1886 by German-Americans. At the time, it was a German-speaking congregation.

St. Paul's continues to grow and thrive to this day, although members of the church speak primarily English. The church's motto is: Proclaiming Christ today, to all.

The dinner was held in the school's gym and the place was packed with hungry folks.

On the stage, Wolfgang Moritz played lively music and sang German songs for the guests.

When Wolfgang wasn't performing, the children's choir at St. Paul's Elementary School entertained the crowd.

The sweet children, some in traditional German dress, some dressed in regular clothing, sang their little hearts out while their parents proudly snapped pictures and held video cameras during their performance.

If you didn't make it to St. Paul's this time be sure to mark your calendar for next year. You'll be glad you did!







Bill Smith

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