SERIES 4 • ISSUE 42 • NOVEMBER 3, 2014
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS

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REACH, TEACH, MINISTER, REPEAT: MEET PASTOR KEVIN WILBURN P6

ASPT & STEVE WOODARD CHRISTMAS BASEBALL CAMP DATES SET P5



CONTRIBUTED

The horses used for the H.O.P.E. program are hand picked and provide several types of therapy to riders.

HORSE THERAPY: H.O.P.E. RIDE AND RUN BENEFITS SPECIAL NEEDS RIDERS

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The cold weather may have dampened the crowd, but not the spirit of the participants of the Ride and Run to Benefit the organization H.O.P.E. (Horses Offering People Encouragement). Equine enthusiasts from across the area came together to help spread awareness about the organization's various programs. A lot of education and awareness was spread at the event, as well as a lot of fun.

The ride took place at the property that once belonged to Evelyn Burrow, a renowned equine enthusiast, philanthropist, and community activist. Rhonda Riley, coordinator and interim executive director for the H.O.P.E organization felt that this venue, coupled with the theme for the ride, was a great combination.

"Evelyn Burrow was a p19

BIKE RENTALS AT WERNER'S TRADING COMPANY OFFER LOCALS AND TOURISTS A NEW WAY TO EXPLORE

NEW PROFESSIONAL GRADE TRACK TO CIRCLE DUCK RIVER LAKE IN WORKS P3



JUSTIN LOYD/WERNER'S TRADING COMPANY

All of Werner's rentals are high-quality Trek X-Caliber 6 bikes and available for $30 for one day or $50 for two days.

RED DOOR EMPORIUM – ART, CAFÉ, AND COMMUNITY: EVERY PURCHASE HELPS THOSE HELP OTHERS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Cullman is now home to a very unique place; a place where you can find delicious food, amazing coffees, fantastic artwork, and all sorts of gifts which were all made right here in Alabama. What makes this place even extra special is the fact that all the profits from this fine place go directly to charity! That's right – charity. Every purchase made at Red Door Emporium helps others.

"Almost five years ago, I was volunteering at the Good p2



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The Red Door Emporium sells items such as jams, candles, soap, and artwork for charity.

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION IN CULLMAN

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Thanks to the efforts of a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel, the city of Cullman will be hosting its largest ever Veterans Day Celebration this Saturday, November 8.

"This is about the 10-12 year we've had the celebration," says former Col. Ken Brown. "But this is by far the biggest one."

Brown has wrangled in demonstrators and speakers from across the U.S., mostly in the southeast, yet still from impressive distances. From Arizona to Georgia, he has brought together a myriad of differently themed presenters, patch-working them together to display a full picture of p4

COLD SPRINGS, VINEMONT, WEST POINT BEGIN PREPARATION FOR FIRST ROUND OF PLAYOFFS

Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

CULLMAN - Three teams from Cullman County who didn't qualify for the Alabama High School Athletic Association football playoffs in 2013 have done so this season based on success in their respective regions.

The Cold Springs Eagles, Vinemont Eagles and West Point Warriors are part of the field that gathered Saturday in Montgomery to meet with officials of the AHSAA in setting sites and kickoff times.

Cold Springs was second in Class 2A, Region 6 with Addison and Tarrant. p3

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FAIRVIEW'S HAYNES FARMS: A FAMILY TRADITION THAT CONTINUES TO GROW

Katie Dansby
katie@cullmansense.com

FAIRVIEW - A cool, fall day led the Farm-City Tourists to Haynes Farms for some snacks, warm drinks, and a lot of learning. Darrell and Lydia Haynes guided a group of two dozen intrigued visitors to see what farming is all about in Fairview. Darrell's parents, Bud and Juanita Haynes, were present to enjoy the crowd and conversation.

"I'd like to welcome you all out to Fairview. It's a special spot in Cullman County," Darrell said. "We refer to this as the farm. It's where I grew up. It's where my dad grew up. Our roots go pretty deep right here, so that's why I think this is the Garden of Eden," he added.

Darrell and Lydia are in partnership with their two sons, Ben and Bart. Both sons graduated from Fairview High School and Auburn University and then returned home to the family farm. "We've been able to maintain the farm going into the 6th generation," Darrell said. "My younger son Bart, well he loves the farm a little too much. He loves to work," he added. Ben is married to Whitney and together they have three children.

Darrell said, "The farm kind of grew under daddy's stewardship and it put me, my two brothers, and my sister through college, and that's where I met Lydia. She grew up on a farm in Berlin, and Auburn brought us together. Lydia learned when she started stalking me that work was part of it," he laughed.

"She helps us on the farm just as Whitney does." Darrell said Lydia is his prettiest hay raker. "She works as a physical therapist in town and calls me every day around noon to make sure everything is going smoothly," he said.

Darrell farmed with his dad through the 70s and 80s and into the 90s. "When dad got hurt, it took him out of a more active role. Ben and Bart were little boys at this time and they turned into men pretty quick. They did a better job on the farm than I did. It's grown through their early years quite a bit," he said.

"We raise corn, wheat, soy beans and take care of quite a few cows," Darrell said. He said that they are in the hay fields a lot taking care of cows, and that right now they are busy trying to finish up the grain harvest which is the corn and soy beans. "Ben is working hard to get those harvested. He said we're ahead of schedule and I hope he continues to stay there," Darrell said. He went on to say, "The cattle are a big part of what we do and always have been and always will be I'm sure." They sell their cattle on Superior Livestock Auction, which is a live television auction out of Brush, Colorado.

"You would never dream that a steer calf would be worth so much money as they are today. The demand is awfully good and the numbers are awfully low and when you put the two together it spells high prices," Darrell said. Their feeder cattle are certified as "All Natural." Darrell added, "Primarily what we use is soy whole pellets and grass. God created a cow to eat grass and get fat and that's kind of what we believe in. We don't feed them a whole bunch, but we try to increase their size." They generally sell their cattle when they are around 850 to 950 pounds.



KATIE DANSBY/CULLMANSENSE

Farm-City Tourists learn about the six generation old Haynes Farm.

Darrell informed everyone about "All Natural" cattle. "Basically they have no antibiotics. We try to keep the cattle healthy through the use of vaccines. When they have antibiotics or growth promoting steroids, that disqualifies them for the natural market," Darrell said. He added that American farmers pride themselves in providing consumers quality food. "We want things to be safe and healthy," Darrell said.

"We're always trying to figure out how to do something better. That's the fun in it. Whether you're grain farming or cow farming, you're always thinking what you can do to make next year's crop better. That's what I appreciate about daddy. He was always trying to do something better. I think I've tried to continue that and I know Ben and Bart have. It's not easy at times, but it's always fun. A challenge is always a good thing."

Emporium (from Front)

Sheppard free health clinic when my friend Jerry Jacob, who was Executive Director, and I got to talking about how difficult it is for non-profits to raise money, especially in today's economy," explained Bill McCartney, owner. "Then out of the blue, Jerry said, 'Bill – ever thought about running a thrift store and giving the profits to non-profits?' I said, 'No' and then the wheels started turning and we figured we could do a lot of good for a lot of folks."

The Coffee Café is brilliantly colored with tables and chairs that have been painted to fit the art theme of the rest of the building. Enjoy rich and aromatic coffees along with breakfast and lunch selections that will fill the hungriest of appetites. Treat yourself to dessert and enjoy one of the many mouth watering baked goods that line the counter. You'll be satisfied and want to come back and eat at the cafe again and again.

Red Door Emporium offers a variety of beautiful artwork from artists all over Alabama. After you've eaten your meal, you'll enjoy browsing through the fine art, folk art, pottery, paintings and handmade jewelry. Looking for that special gift? Red Door has a wonderful selection of Made-In-Alabama products that is sure to be exactly what you're looking for. Choose from a variety of sauces, goat milk soap, jams, candles, aprons, Red Door Coffee and so much more. Remember, each purchase you make goes to help people in the community that are in need.

"The idea is we work like crazy and make as much money as we can during the year and then we give the profit back to the community at the end of each year – half to the Christian outreach mission and the other half to non-profits through a grant program. Then we work like crazy to make more money to give away the next year."

McCartney's plan is to build the community by hosting several clubs and discussion groups. The Divine Red Door Discussion Group is a weekly discussion group, lead by clergy from various churches in town. It is designed to learn more about God from each other. The group will begin meeting on Thursday, November 6, and then every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The Red Door Walking & Running Club will foster fun, friendship, and fitness as participants earn store discounts and other great stuff.

The Red Door Book & Author Club explores the south's rich literary traditions as Alabama authors come to discuss their books the first Friday of each month. They will begin Friday, November 7 at 11 a.m. with Matt Doss and his book, "Stone of David". If you are interested in attending this event, please notify the store so they will be sure to have enough seats available.

Finally, you may be wondering what the meaning of the red door is and why they chose this as part of their name. It is simply explained on small white cards placed throughout the store. It simply says...

"The Red Door Emporium – It is clear that our community has many needs that are not yet being met. Lack of funding has hurt all of our non-profits and many Christian outreach efforts. While most of our local businesses are good citizens, doing what they can to help... the whole purpose of The Red Door Emporium is to give all its profits to help fund the efforts."

"Why the red door? The first red doors were colored with sheep's blood to guard the children of Israel from the Angel of Death. Then, in medieval times, if someone was being pursued and could make it through the red doors of a church, sanctuary from all authorities could be claimed. We don't expect you are being pursued! But either way, we hope you come to know The Red Door Emporium as a sanctuary where you can relax your body and mind and enjoy the work of our Alabama artisans and delicious Red Door Coffee. So buy more for yourself and others!"

If you or someone you know would like to know more about the Red Door Emporium, feel free to stop by and visit them. They are located at 324 4th Avenue SE, Cullman, AL 35055. You can also visit them online at www.TheRedDoorCullman.com or call 256-734-0599.



GRANTS TO ASSIST WITH IMPROVEMENTS IN THREE NORTH ALABAMA COUNTIES

Russell Sellers
Contributor

MONTGOMERY - Community Development Block Grants totaling $1.47 million awarded by Gov. Robert Bentley will help make improvements and upgrades in St. Clair, Blount and Cullman counties.

The governor awarded grants to three communities in Cullman County: The city of Cullman is receiving a $450,000 grant for water and sewer improvements; the town of Fairview will use a $250,000 grant to construct a new senior center; and a $174,781 grant to Holly Pond will help the town establish a food bank.

Bentley awarded a $350,000 grant to help Blount County extend and improve water service and awarded $350,000 to help the town of Steele in St. Clair County to construct a fire station.

"Community Development Block Grants provide a helping hand to local government leaders with a vision for building a stronger community," Bentley said.

"These upgrades, repairs and additions will improve the lives of many Alabamians by making their neighborhoods more desirable places to call home."

The city of Cullman will replace more than 3,000 feet of sewer lines and 2,800 feet of water lines in the Brunner Street neighborhood.

The project also will replace storm drains and sidewalks and add new fire hydrants. Construction will take place along Brunner and Grafenstatte streets and Cleveland and Louis avenues. The city has committed $299,597 toward the project.

Fairview will construct a new senior center on Welcome Road along the town's walking trail.

The center will include a 4,500 square-foot multipurpose room, a kitchen and restrooms.

The town received a separate grant of $153,213 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program to construct a tornado safe room that will be part of the senior center. Fairview is contributing $120,000 to the project.

Holly Pond is assisting Carpenter's Cabinet, a local nonprofit organization, in acquiring a foreclosed property to be renovated and opened as a food bank for low- and moderate-income residents.

Carpenter's Cabinet officials said they expect to serve 200-300 individuals and families in the food bank's first year. Local matching funds of $7,761 will supplement the grant.

Blount County will provide reliable public water service to nine households on Frost Drive and Frost Road, 10 miles south of Oneonta by installing 4,637 feet of water lines.

Another phase of the project will upgrade water service for 62 households currently experiencing low water pressure on Huffstutler and King roads, just off Alabama Highway 75 six miles north of Oneonta, by installing 7,150 feet of PVC water lines and five fire hydrants. The county is contributing $43,000 to the project.

Steele is building a 1,600-square-foot metal firehouse on Herb Collette Drive on the east side of town.

Town officials say the new station is needed because maintenance issues with the train tracks that divide the town have caused trains to stall, blocking roads and cutting off the east side from fire emergency services.

The facility will have two bays for fire vehicles along with restrooms and a storage area. The town is committing $25,000 to the project.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is administering the grants from funds made available by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ADECA administers an array of programs that support law enforcement and traffic safety, economic development, energy conservation, workforce development, water resource management and recreation development.

Bentley notified Mayors Max Townson of Cullman, Dale Seals of Fairview, Herman Nail of Holly Pond, John Wilcox of Steele and Blount County Commission Chairman Chris Green that the grants had been approved.

Rentals (from Front)

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Cullman is a beautiful area that is worth exploring; our beautiful town, parks and wooded areas make this a great place to explore. A great way to explore is to get outside and get some exercise through bicycling. This has become a sight we see in the area more and more as a favorite of locals and tourists, and now there is a new option in Cullman for everyone who wants to take advantage, but may not have the cash for an expensive bike.

Werner's Trading Company is now offering an exciting new recreational option for everyone here in Cullman, both to locals and tourists, in the form of bike rentals.

"I've had several people ask about it at the store," said Justin Loyd, bike manager at Werner's. "It's usually people who are visiting their family, and people who are traveling that didn't have the opportunity to bring their bikes with them. I know I have visited places on vacation before and there are usually bike rentals. We just wanted to be able to offer it here as well."

The bikes available for rent are all Trek X-Caliber 6 mountain bikes in six different sizes to accommodate different heights. The rental rates are $30 for one day – you pick it up that morning and return it that same afternoon within business hours. You can also rent the bike for two days at a price of $50 and pick it up the first day, then return it the next business day within business hours. This price will include one certified helmet per bike rental.

While the bikes can be used for leisure around the city, there are also two designated mountain bike trails in the area from which to choose. The first is at Sportsman Lake Park, and the second is a new trail that is still being worked on at Duck River Lake.

"We now have a new trail in Cullman," said Loyd. "It is a professional grade mountain bike trail. Since the new Duck River project is a water supply source, the city owns a right of way around the entire lake. So they have built this trail within the right of way that goes around the entire circumference of the lake. The trail is going to end up being approximately 20 miles long."

According to Loyd, the city has commissioned the International Mountain Bike Association to build the track.

"So IMBA has come in to build this trail for us after the city commissioned them," Loyd said. "After they received the grants and funds to do it, and they have these professionals building this great course for us, I just saw that as an opportunity."

Loyd went on to say that for such a great course, you need to experience it on a great bike.

"I just wanted to give people the chance to ride on a good quality bike," he said. "I want people to try the trail on a great bike, whether it be someone who just doesn't have their bike with them, or somebody local that wants to get into it, but they may not have the money to go buy a $700 bike."

Loyd is working hard to encourage the mountain bike lifestyle here in our town, by not only starting a rental service, but also by becoming a certified mountain biking instructor himself. With that certification, Loyd could train local firefighters or other emergency personnel how to utilize bicycles in various situations. It is an exciting time for bicyclists across the area in Cullman. New trails, new bikes, and lots of fun are right around the corner. So stop by Werner's and talk with Justin Loyd about starting your next bike adventure today.

For more information, call Werner's Trading Company at 256-734-5673.

Playoffs (from Front)

Addison got the No. 2 seed for the postseason based on wins over Hanceville, Vinemont and Winston County outside the regional that accounted for 11 victories.

The Eagles took No. 3 in the region on head to head with Tarrant, beating the Wildcats 36-33 on October 24.

Cold Springs is 8-2 and headed to Gaston for the first round. The Bulldogs are 7-3, finishing second in Region 7. This is the Eagles' first berth to the state playoffs since 2004.

Rod Elliott's squad has a 3-game winning streak heading to the playoffs with two coming on the road.

Vinemont punched its ticket to the playoffs by claiming a 4-2 record in 3A, Region 5, good enough for third behind Oakman and Winfield.

The Eagles take a 5-5 record to Rogersville for an opening round game with Lauderdale County. Lauderdale comes to the playoffs 8-2 and was second to Madison Academy in Region 8.

Vinemont is in the playoffs for the second time in four seasons under Alan Scott. They made the postseason in 2012 and were knocked out last year when they went 3-7.

The Eagles were hoping to carry momentum into the postseason, but suffered a 34-27 loss on Thursday night to Fairview that ended a three-game winning streak.

Vinemont has played with confidence on the road as illustrated two weeks ago when the Eagles won at Winston Count 27-21 that gave them third place in the region.

For West Point, the Warriors have made history. This is the first time the Warriors are in the playoffs in Class 5A. They have qualified for the first time since 2008.

West Point wound up with a 4-3 record in Region 8 thanks to a 21-14 victory in overtime on October 24 over Lawrence County.

Don Farley's Warriors complete the regular season with a 7-3 record after a 52-21 rout of Priceville on Halloween Eve.

West Point goes to Birmingham to meet the Parker Thundering Herd in the opening round. Parker is 9-1 and went 6-1 in Region 5.

The Cold Springs-Gaston winner gets the winner of Phil Campbell-Ranburne in the second round.

If Vinemont upsets Lauderdale County, the Eagles play the winner of Sylvania-Glencoe.

If West Point claims victory in Birmingham, the Warriors would meet the winner of the Alexandria-Madison County game.

All games in the first round are Friday at 7 p.m.

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CULLMAN COUNTY CHRISTMAS PARADE SET FOR DEC. 6

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE - On the first Saturday of December the 23rd annual Cullman County Christmas Parade will be held in Hanceville. The parade will begin at 2 p.m. on December 6 and will conclude at 4 p.m.

The parade that was started 23 years ago by then president of the Hanceville Civitans Club, Ginger Grantham, was originally called simply the Hanceville Christmas Parade and began at Hancevillle High School.

"But," says longtime member Joann Walls, "it has grown so much we have had to move it to Wallace State Community College and lengthen the route of the parade." The parade will begin this year at WSCC and end at Hanceville City Hall.

The parade, although known for most of the previous 23 years as the Hanceville Christmas Parade, was recently renamed the Cullman County Christmas Parade.

"The city used to have a parade, but they quit doing it," said Walls.

"So we decided we would include all of Cullman in the Christmas Parade since the city no longer held one."

However, last year, Cullman City rekindled the Christmas Parade and this year is holding it on the exact same day as Walls' beloved community event.

"I think they shouldn't be having it on the same day as ours," she said in reference to Cullman City's Christmas Parade.

"I have strong feelings about this," Walls continued. "We've worked very hard over a number of years on this, you know."

The Cullman County Parade will not have some of the amenities that the Cullman City Parade will, however.

The city parade goes through downtown Cullman, alongside the shops and restaurants where people can make purchases and support the community economy.

However, in the county parade, there will be no vendors, and the organizers of the parade have not done anything to change that.

"We usually have vendors," Walls explained, "But this year we just didn't see the need."

"We worked very hard on the Mud Creek Arts and Crafts Festival, and after that, we were just burned out, I think," Walls said.

But, despite having a more convenient location and more options for food, drinks and shopping, Walls does not think that the parade in the city will detract from attendance in Hanceville. "I think I will be able to prove my beliefs on the day of the parade," she said.

The Cullman County Parade already has, according to Walls, 3-4 churches signed up to participate in the parade, along with the marching bands of Vinemont and Hanceville High Schools, respectively.



FILE

Children enjoy themselves at last year's Cullman County Christmas Parade, previously known as the Hanceville Christmas Parade.

The Hanceville Civitans Club has an interesting incentive for these marching bands to participate in the parade. The Club, for as long as the parade has existed, has promised any marching bands that participate, $500 for their band program. Now, the $500 is guaranteed. But, since that money is raised through donations, sometimes there is a surplus. That extra money, Walls says, is divided between the participating bands and given as extra cash.

If you would like to participate in the parade, contact Debra Earl at 256-352-9830.

TURKEY SHOOTS AT MOOSE LODGE

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Beginning this Saturday, November 8 and continuing until December 6, there will be Turkey Shoots at the Cullman Moose Lodge.

The Lodge, located at 1729 Eva Road, will be hosting these events, as well as a special Thanksgiving Day turkey shoot.

For these turkey shoots, the events will start at 8 a.m. and will end at 12 noon.

All are welcome to these events, and there will be prizes given for the shoots.

Some of the prizes that will be awarded include cash, hams, turkeys, bacon, and cheese.

The cost to participate in the event is $4, and all of the money raised will be used to benefit different children's projects in Cullman. The Moose Lodge can be contacted at 256-734-9818.

Veterans (from Front)

U.S. war veterans.

For the past three years, Brown has been tasked with developing and growing the event. "Mayor Townson and John Riley came to me and asked me to help coordinate this event," Brown said.

The event has grown each of the past three years. This year's celebration will be the biggest one yet, thanks to Brown's desire to see the event grow, and the fact that this year is the 50th Anniversary of the start of the Vietnam War.

Brown works on securing funding for the event through state and federal organizations, while John Riley pursues businesses' funding. The event this Saturday is free to attend, and will be packed with activities and information from the Civil War to the Vietnam War. Organizations are bringing planes from WWI, WWII, and the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association is providing a helicopter that will be on display.

Most of the event will be held at Sportsman Lake Park, but there will be flight displays at the Cullman County Airport, and the crown jewel of planes that will be zipping through the air is a P-51 Mustang from WWII.

There will also be a speaker who spent five-and-a-half years as a prisoner of war at the "Hanoi Hilton," as it is so lovingly referred to by those who know of it. If you don't know it, Google it; let's just say there was no continental breakfast.

This day is one that America sets aside to proudly celebrate and think of the valiant men and women who selflessly serve others in the most sacrificial manner possible: with their own lives. What former Col. Brown is doing is making it a more hospitable event so that more people will attend and hopefully leave being more thoughtful of those who have served the U.S.

On Saturday, the members of the Elk's Lodge will be preparing a lunch for veterans and their spouses. Johnny's Bar-B-Q will be available for purchase for anyone not a veteran or the husband or wife of one.

The Wallace State Jazz Band will be playing music, as they have for past Veterans Day events, and a new musical guest, Cullman's Round Two. Brown also wanted to make sure that everyone knows, even if it rains, there will still be the celebration.

"We'll have it at the VFW post by the Christian Bookstore," Brown said.

There will be fun and food and plenty of information regarding any of the wars represented by organizations in attendance.

The organization Sons of Confederate Veterans will have members at the event and give a demonstration of the weapons and equipment used in the Civil War, and a former U.S. military member who actually flew into Normandy on D-Day in 1944 will be at the event, so those who want to may speak with him to find out what it was really like to be a part of what Winston Churchill said was "much the greatest thing we ever have attempted."

The day will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m.

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CELEBRATE MY DRIVE ENCOURAGES SAFER DRIVING

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - State Farm Insurance has always been a business that focuses on safety within communities. A current epidemic throughout the country has been distracted driving, especially within the teen population. This problem affects so many either directly or indirectly. Too many lives have been senselessly lost, and that is why State Farm's Celebrate My Drive campaign is fighting back with education.

"Celebrate My Drive is State Farm's teen driver safety awareness campaign," said State Farm Agent Shirley Quattlebaum. "We have been asking students and community members to commit to safe driving this week from October 15 through the 24th."

Quattlebaum and her team set up a tent at Hanceville High School's football game Friday night against Holly Pond. The goal was to spread awareness with a fun exercise.

"We set up our tent Friday night and an obstacle course," said Quattlebaum. "And WDG donated a shopping cart for us to use, and we decorated it like a little Volkswagen bug. Then we asked students to text our motto, 'Two hands on the wheel and two eyes on the road' while they drove the shopping cart through the cones."

The challenge would hopefully show teens just how easy it is to lose control when you are distracted from the wheel.

"It was difficult for a lot of them," said Quattlebaum. "Texting and driving is the number one cause for accidents today, particularly with teenagers."

In addition to the great cause behind the campaign, State Farm is offering great incentives for schools to be involved, such as a $100,000 grant awarded to the school with the most students and community members to take the pledge online.

Another big prize is having The Band Perry sent to your school for a private concert. Smaller award money is also offered to the runners up. Schools are divided into two categories depending on student body size so that the smaller schools aren't competing against larger.

"We really want to take this to the next level next year," said Quattlebaum. "This is about awareness, but Cullman County has a chance to win these grants, there is no doubt about it. So we want to build awareness, and then possibly also get the school some extra funds."

This is a cause that everyone of any age can get behind. With thousands dying or injured every year, there is no reason to not participate and take a stand. Hanceville Principal Jimmy Collins understands the importance, and that is why he is proud for his school to have participated this year.

"High school students are the largest group of people texting," said Collins. "It has become a big problem, and we are taking every opportunity to inform kids. The more people we can have discuss the importance of safe driving with them, the longer life they'll have, as well as someone else."

For more information on this, call State Farm at 256-255-1515.

ASPT & STEVE WOODARD CHRISTMAS BASEBALL CAMP DATES SET

Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - With Halloween behind us and Thanksgiving less than a month away, many folks have already been formulating ideas and shopping for Christmas. What better surprise for the baseball player in your family than instruction from current and former MLB and collegiate players and coaches? That is exactly what players will receive when he/she attends the ASPY & Steve Woodard Baseball Camp.

The camp boasts training from the likes of John Rocker, former Atlanta Braves closer (1998-2001). Rocker was a crucial part of the Braves' early success and an integral part of their dominanation of the National League for several years.

Another former Braves man, Wes Helms, will also be on hand. Helms spent four seasons (1998-2002) with the Atlanta Braves and also played for the Philadelphia Phillies, Milwaukee Brewers, and two stints with the Florida Marlins.

Former Cullman Bearcat, UAB Blazer, and current Toronto Blue Jays farm hand, Chase Mallard will also be in attendance. Mallard, a standout at Cullman, took the UAB Blazers by storm when he threw gem after gem and proved he was worth the chance that the Blue Jays took in drafting him.

Chad Shannon, former Vinemont High School head baseball coach and current Wallace State coach will be at the camp, as well as Cullman County Hall of Fame member Mark Freeman.

And of course, Hartselle native, Steve Woodard who played seven seasons in the majors with the Milwaukee Brewers, Cleveland Indians, Texas Rangers, and Boston Red Sox.

Campers will be instructed in all facets of the game: hitting, pitching, catching, infield, outfield, base running, and baseball specific speed. Strength and conditioning will also be taught at the camp over the two day period.

The camp will take place at ASPT on Childhaven Road on December 22 and 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The age range for the camp is 5-14. The cost of the camp is $125 for early registration (before December 15) and $145 after the early deadline. Registration includes a T-shirt and autographs. Campers need to bring their glove, bat, tennis shoes, cleats, warm clothing, and an item of their choice to be autographed.

This is a unique experience for the young player in your family to receive hands on training from players who have attained the highest level in the sport.

MIRRORING HISTORY: LOOKING DOWN 4TH AVENUE AND 4TH STREET

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Things sure have a way of changing over the years. Compare the two pictures of 4th Street Southwest looking east.

One picture is from the 1950s, and the other picture was taken in October 2014. Even though most of the buildings are still there, they house different businesses.

Two of the main establishments that are no longer in the recent picture are Cullman's second courthouse and the Eureka Hotel, located on 4th Street and 2nd Avenue.

In their place, Cullman Savings Bank stands high above its surroundings.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Many of the same buildings still exist today.



CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM

No longer standing, Cullman's second courthouse and the Eureka Hotel are shown in this photograph taken in the 1950s.

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11-11:30	Lunch
11:30 -12:30	Robson Araujo, DPM
12:30-1:30	Tammy Cornelius, CRNP on the Complications of Diabetes

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REACH, TEACH, MINISTER, REPEAT: MEET PASTOR KEVIN WILBURN

Katie Dansby
katie@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Welcome to First Baptist Church of Cullman, where there is something for every age. Pastor Kevin Wilburn, his wife Amanda, and their seven-year-old son, Levi, became a part of this church family in March of this year. Since they arrived, the average church attendance has grown from around 420 to 950 attendees.

Currently on Sunday mornings, there are two services at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The 8 a.m. service is a traditional, gospel oriented service with a choir, piano, and organ. There are Bible study groups that meet in between at 9:15 a.m.

The 10:30 a.m. service can be described as a contemporary or modern service with a full band.

A prospective third service will also be more of a modern service. "In Cullman, our demographics show that there's a need for that," Pastor Kevin said.

Opportunities outside of the main service include discipleship groups that meet at various times throughout the week. "Some are in the morning. Some are at night. Some are in homes. Some are at restaurants. There are men's groups and ladie's groups," Pastor Kevin said. These groups typically form in the fall and in the spring. Sunday school classes appeal to all ages ranging from birth to 100 years old.

"We're a multi generational church. We're not a church just full of 20 year olds or 80 year olds, but this is the kind of church that a grandparent, a son, a daughter and their kids can all worship together," he said. On Wednesday evenings, they have a midweek service at 6 p.m., a family dinner meal at 5 p.m., and a children's ministry that picks up kids at schools and brings them to the church.

"We've just started a college group since I've been here and we're working with Wallace State right now to try to figure out how to make that better," he said. Right now this group meets every Sunday morning and is planning a lot for 2015. Starting in January, they will have an evening worship service for students and those in their twenties. This will begin on January 11, 2015 with a preview service this fall.

"We're pretty excited about that. That's a need in our community and we're trying to meet that. Everybody is looking for a place to get plugged in," Pastor Kevin said.

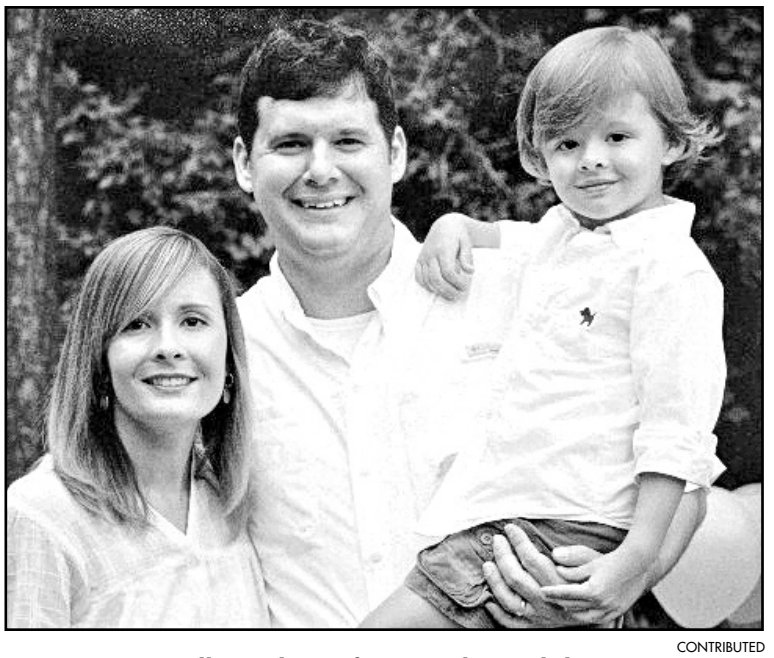
Reaching out to others is also important at First Baptist. Pastor Kevin said, "Cullman is a heavily churched community. There's a general gospel influence, but a general gospel influence doesn't save anyone. It doesn't help anyone understand anything other than you can be good, but being good is not the key. The key is to surrender to Christ. So what we've been focusing on is trying to build those relationships and to share the hope that we have in Christ with those folks that we know don't know Christ."

Pastor Kevin admires the church family at First Baptist. One of his favorite things is seeing people start to believe and understand the vision.

"We're not trying to build a big church; we're trying to populate heaven," he said. "I like to see our folks celebrate what God is doing. I think at First Baptist they do a great job ministering to each other and ministering to the needs of the folks wherever they live. They take care of their neighborhood. Our ultimate goal here is to impact the world, but we're not going to do that if we're not impacting our neighborhood. I admire that aspect." Speaking of impacting the world, First Baptist currently has a group of men serving in Peru and helping support churches there. They also do a lot of work out West in areas where there are not any churches. Since March, First Baptist has done at least three different mission trips.

Pastor Kevin gave some insight into what they believe. He said, "Some of the things we're weaving into our DNA is that we want to reach, teach, and minister to people. I think another thing that we have in our DNA is that First Baptist Church is a church where anybody can be a somebody. This is not your typical first Baptist church. We want to be able to let the community experience the power of hope and the power of grace and the power of forgiveness. What we're looking to see is God do something here that I, or the staff, or the church cannot receive the credit for, but all be for Christ."

Here is some explanation of why First Baptist meets regularly as a church. Pastor Kevin said, "The reason that we gather is because we're a body. As we do life together, we receive encouragement from one another and support from one another and challenge from one another. When we gather at different times, we're celebrating what God is doing in our lives through the week, and we come to be encouraged through the word, and we come to sing and celebrate what God is doing. The church is not a building, it's a movement. It's not a brick and mortar, it's a people."



CONTRIBUTED

Pastor Kevin Wilburn, his wife Amanda, and their seven-year-old son, Levi joined First Baptist Church in March.

He concluded with a few thoughts. "I would just want folks to know that God is at work here and that the people here really care about the people in this community." For those that watch their program on television, let First Baptist hear from you. They would like to know what it means to you. Pastor Kevin emphasized that there is a need for people to connect in a church that believes God's word, that believes His word is inerrant; that we don't point out error in it, but that it points out error in us. Try going to a church that celebrates the gospel. No one needs to go through life by themselves. "Our goal is to see God's kingdom expand," he said.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.

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

FALL FLAVORS: SPICED APPLE CHEESE BALL

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

The classic party or event favorite at almost any party is the cheese ball with crackers. This appetizer staple is always a simple and elegant way to please any crowd. However, if you want to give the cheese ball a makeover for your next fall event, why not try spiced apple cheese ball?

Ingredients:

- 2 cups - grated white Cheddar or Gouda
- 1 8 oz (250 g) - package cream cheese, softened
- 1 teaspoon - garlic powder
- pinch of red pepper flakes
- paprika
- half a cinnamon stick
- 1 bay leaf

Instructions:

- In the bowl of a food processor, pulse the cheeses, garlic powder, and red pepper flakes until well blended.
- Shape the mixture into a ball, tapering it a bit at the bottom, and make an indentation in the top to resemble an apple. Chill for 30 minutes.
- Coat the ball heavily with paprika; cover and chill 1 hour.
- Insert cinnamon stick and bay leaf into indentation to resemble apple stem and leaf.

Serve with crackers.

HANCEVILLE QUARTERBACK CLUB

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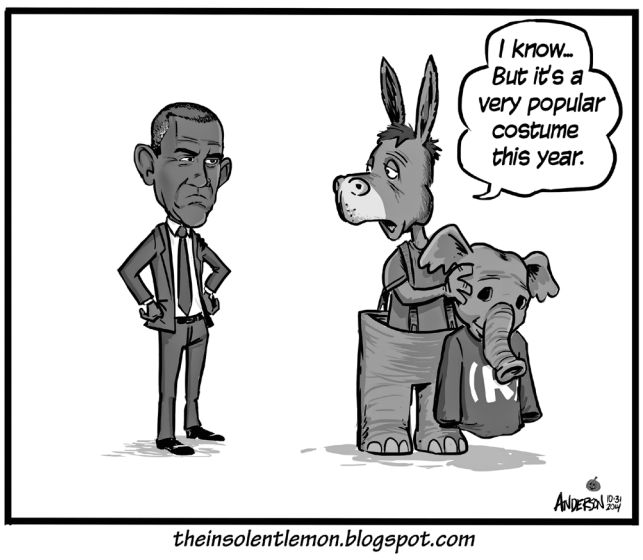
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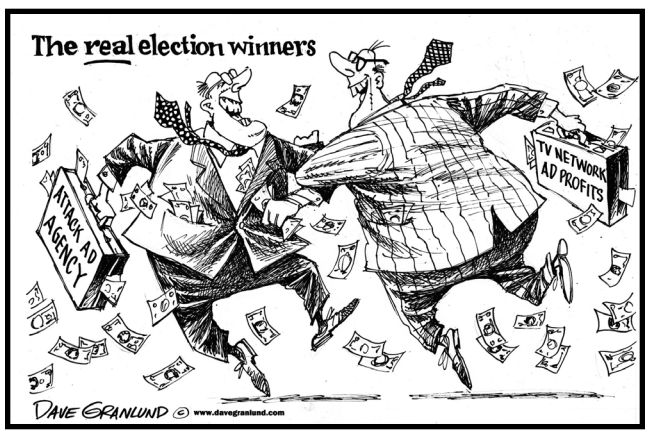


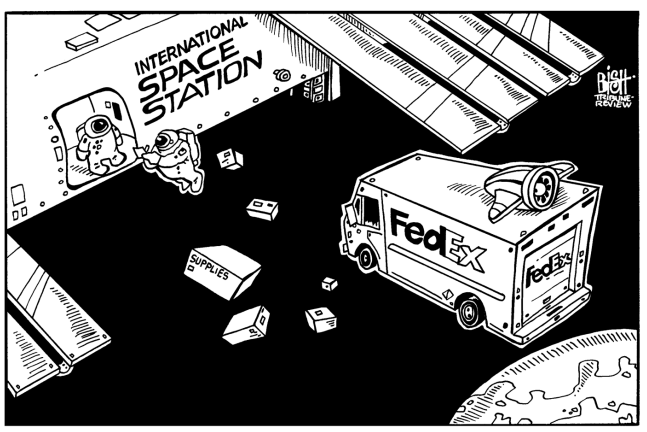
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EDITORIAL CARTOONS



theinsolentlemon.blogspot.com





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HOW ARE WE DOING?

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

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

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Community Matters

Publisher
Noah Chandler

Editor
Dustin Isom

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

Back Issues
issues@cullmansense.com

Sports
Josh McBrayer
Johnny Thornton

Newsroom Editor
Natalie Bonner

Local Contributors
Chelsea Sparks
Phillip Pryor
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Cartoonist
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OPINION

LIFE GOES ON FOR NYC COLLEGE STUDENTS: FORMER CULLMANITE SHARES THOUGHTS ON EBOLA

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

MANHATTAN, NY - One of the great things about living in lower Manhattan is that I can get anything at pretty much any time of day. Say it is 2 a.m. and I'm starving, I can order a pizza from Steve's Pizza, which delivers.

Or maybe it is 4 a.m. on Saturday morning and I'm on my fifth straight episode of Breaking Bad and I want Ben & Jerry's cherry Garcia ice cream? Well, I just have to go right downstairs to Duane Reade – basically a Walgreens, owned by Walgreens, in fact – and pick up a pint of the incredibly delicious frozen treat.

However, one of the worst things about living in lower Manhattan is I can get anything at pretty much any time of the day.

Being mugged in the Financial District is unlikely, and murder is practically extinct in the FiDi – compared to previous NYC decades, not Cullman, AL – but the dangers of getting any kind of sickness are rampant and quite real.

Twenty-five minutes is how long it would take me on the subway to go 4.5 miles. From where I live on Wall Street, it is 4.5 miles, or 25 minutes from Bellevue Hospital.

Bellevue Hospital is where the first NYC Ebola patient was taken, and it's closer to me than Walmart is to my house in Cullman.

Ebola is the kind of word that when you say it a lot, it can start to sound silly, and hearing and reading it constantly only exacerbates that fact.

Ebola. It's an odd word to be the representation of such a sinister virus.

Another one of my roommates caught a cold and joked, for the entirety of having the cold, that it was actually Ebola.

This is what college students now think of the disease blasted across the "breaking news" banners on Fox News and CNN.

I live with five other freshmen at The King's College here in New York City, and none of us, who are in New York City, are really worried about getting Ebola.

My mother – who is in Cullman, Alabama – is definitely more worried about me getting Ebola than I am.

One of my roommates, Campbell, was quite excited about the news that Ebola was in NYC.

"Having Ebola would be so chill," he said.

When all five of the other guys in the room turned their heads to him incredulously, he explained, "I wouldn't have to do any more school for the rest of the semester. I'd be done." Well, he's not wrong.

That was the extent of the Ebola conversation in our two-bedroom apartment on the 14th story of our building: how much one of us would love to have Ebola.

Sure, Campbell probably wouldn't love having Ebola – in fact, I think I can say with certainty, he'd hate it – but none of us really have time to care about Ebola.

I have two jobs and 15 hours of classes packed into each week, so I honestly don't have time for worrying about Ebola.

Besides, whatever will be, will be, right?

Follow Will Hogue's adventures in NYC each week as he takes on the Big Apple while thinking fondly of his hometown here in Cullman.

Ever wondered what life was like in the City that Never Sleeps? Will can explain it. Stay tuned for more of his adventures.

WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS EXPLAINED IN A POEM AND OTHER QUICK TIPS

Katie Dansby
katie@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The weather is turning cold and we all could use some tips to stay warm and cozy.

We should keep safe by paying attention to icy sidewalks and stairs.

The World Health Organization recommends keeping indoor temperatures between 64 and 75 degrees for healthy people while the minimum temperature should be kept above 68 degrees to protect the very young, the elderly, or people with health problems.

Enjoy this poem with some advice for you and your family on how to keep toasty during the brisk, wintry temperatures.

It's So Cold! What To Do?

Put On A Coat, And
Warm Shoes, Too.

Wear Your Gloves. Try A Hat.

You'll Be Warm. I'm
Sure Of That!

Drink Hot Cocoa And
Wear A Scarf.

Put On A Sweater And
Warm Up Your Car.

Extra Socks Knock
Off The Nip.

Add Some Mittens To
Your Cold Weather Kit.

Buy Some Ear Muffs
Just For You.

Wear A Coat, Or Maybe Two!

Use A Blanket To Cuddle Up.

Fireplaces Will Surely
Warm You Up.

Don't Forget Your Pet.

Make Sure They're Warm.

Keep Them Safe, During
A Cold, Winter Storm.

The Roads Can Be Icy
While Driving Around.

So Be Alert When Rolling
Through Town.

Have A Plan If The
Snow Starts Falling.

So Your Family Won't Be
Worried And Calling.

In addition to these tips, the public safety agencies in Boston recommend restricting infants' outdoor exposure when it is colder than 40 degrees Fahrenheit, and to set reasonable time limits on outdoor play.

They also say that if you have to stay out in the cold for work, you should take frequent breaks where it is warm.

In addition, make sure to cover all exposed skin, especially when out in the wind.

Use these tips during the cold weather transition and pass them along to your loved ones.

Enjoy the warm weather while it lasts, but be ready to bundle up for the cold, winter blast.

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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.

Cullman Breast Feeding Support Group
Cullman Breast Feeding Support Group will hold its fourth Tuesday of the month meeting from 10:30 a.m. until 12 noon. This event will take place at 202 First Avenue SE, Suite M. This is a free support group and is open to all who wish to come. Visit website www.Birthbabyandbeyondcullman.com or call 205-275-9758 for additional information.

'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.

Latter Day Saints Genealogy Library
The Genealogy Library at the Latter Day Saints (L.D.S.) Church is open to the public each Wednesday night from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Don Jones is available to open the Library at other times, if needed, so please contact him at 256-784-5098.

Girls & Boys Club at Spirit Life
Spirit Life Church will host a Girls & Boys Club meeting for those 12 and under every Wednesday beginning at 7 p.m. at the church. All are welcome. Please call the church for further info 256-739-3326.

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

Thursday

New Vision Support Group
There is a New Vision Support Group which will meet at 10 a.m. and everyone interested in this subject is welcome to attend. The program is at Hilltop Community Center. Additional information is available by calling Linda Estes, 256-739-4653.

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

Holiday Bazaar at First United Methodist Church
The Women's Group of First United Methodist Church invite everyone to come to their annual 'Holiday Bazaar' from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Church Hall. Breakfast and lunch will be served during the day, and there also will be a quilt giveaway and a silent auction. Crafts, homemade foods, produce and handmade items will be available for purchase. Come to one of the first of the holiday markets and enjoy getting in the spirit of the next two big occasions, Thanksgiving and Christmas!

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.

Hanceville Elementary's Veterans Day Program
There will be a program honoring military veterans at 8:30 a.m. in Lane Horton Gym at Hanceville School. This event is sponsored by Hanceville Elementary students and is open to all. Come salute our veterans and thank them for their service.

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.

Hanceville High School Quarterback Club annual 'Turkey Shoots'
Grab your guns and get ready to win your turkey dinner as the Hanceville High School Quarterback Club sponsors their annual 'Turkey Shoots' each Saturday up to Thanksgiving. Hours of the weekly shoots are from 8 a.m. until 12 noon with meat and money prizes offered to winners. The event will take place on the vacant lot at Johnsons Crossing on Highway 31 S in Hanceville. Club members also are having a $500.00 cash drawing which will be given away on Thanksgiving Day (do not have to be present to win) and the tickets are $1.00 each. Additional information Leann Waldrep, 256-338-0927 or Lanita Long, 256-347-2425.

Next Monday

Cullman Kiwanis Club
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Looking Ahead

Fiesta Dinner and Silent Auction
St. Bernard Preparatory School's Parents League and Senior Class is hosting a Fiesta Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, November 15 at 6 p.m. Tickets to the event are $25. For information visit the website at www.stbernardprep.com or call 256-739-6682.

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

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

BUSY BEE CAFÉ 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 | November 2014 | Issue 11

www.cullmanchamber.org

Serving the Community Since 1943

Serving:
BAILEYTON
COLONY
CULLMAN
DODGE CITY
FAIRVIEW
GARDEN CITY
GOOD HOPE
HANCEVILLE
HOLLY POND
SOUTH VINEMONT
WEST POINT

From the Chamber President: Let's Talk Turkey



Leah Bolin

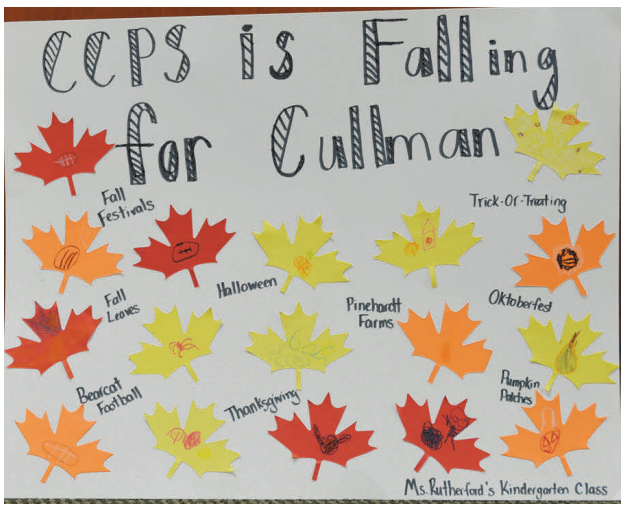
President & CEO,
Cullman Area Chamber
of Commerce

It's a warm Wednesday afternoon in early October. The office is buzzing with activity and I am up to my eyeballs in paperwork when I hear a knock on my door. A staff member informs me that it is time to pull out the Christmas decorations. "But, it can't be! The fourth quarter has just begun? Are you sure? I just put out my mums and pumpkins! I want to talk turkey, not Santa!" The Christmas season seems to arrive earlier and earlier each year. I am not ready to think about long lines, cooking, decorating and shopping. For many small businesses, however, the Christmas holiday season can never come early enough. The whole phenomenon of Christmas inching earlier into fall has been dubbed "Christmas Creep'. Every year we complain about Christmas being earlier than ever, but the early-autumn holiday sale isn't exactly a new thing — retailers have been pushing early sales since the early 20th century. However, the National Retail Federation suggests recession, coupled with the growth of online shopping, has made for a more aggressive early-holiday-shopping season. Simply stated, in order to compete, offline retailers will stay open longer and make the season longer because they have to compete with this omnipresent online shopping. Because one-fifth of retail revenues come during the holiday season, stores already have a strong reason to seek out holiday dollars weeks or even months before Thanksgiving. Just think, if the majority of your paycheck depended on two to three months of salary, you might want to start as early as possible too! "'Tis the season" simply has a much longer ramp-up time to cater to interested customers. The rest of us just have to get used to seeing wreathes and pine cones mixed among the pumpkins and black cats on the store shelves. In support of our retail members, I have decided to turn on the Christmas music, grab my jack-o-lantern and go caroling.

Merry Hallo-Thanksgiving, everyone!

PAINT THE TOWN

Fall is a beautiful time. The leaves are changing colors, transforming the basic landscape into a scene ripped straight out of a Disney movie, flush with colors ranging from rustic red to burnt orange as autumn's beauty pops up all around us. At the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce though, these colors have been thriving all around. No worries, we haven't planted a fall forest in our office, but there were several colorful, festive posters decorated with inspiring quotes and artistic embellishments showcasing a myriad of schools' efforts in "painting the town". What exactly is Paint the Town? The collection of artwork acquired was certainly one of the highest caliber as little ones in elementary and even high school students flexed their artistic muscles and participated in the program. Participants included Cullman High School, Cullman Middle School, Cullman Primary School and St. Paul's Lutheran School. Derek Lane, Director of Small Business & Workforce Solutions, explained that the idea behind Paint the Town originated through the Retail Committee of the Chamber, and that the basic concept was to allow classes to create posters around a Fall Festival theme to display in the windows. "Paint the Town is a way to celebrate the arts and support education within our community by exhibiting their artistic creations. The drawings will be judged and the winners will receive monetary donations to purchase classroom supplies," Lane said. "We are incredibly excited to promote the season, the arts, and the efforts from all of our area schools, and we are exceptionally grateful for the opportunity to support both our community and the educational efforts within those schools," Lane further commented. The Cullman Chamber is especially appreciative to Webb Wheel and Chick-fil-A for sponsoring this event and providing the resources to support education in Cullman. Congratulations to the winners of the first ever Paint the Town!



Erica Rutherford's Class - Cullman City Primary School

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 10, 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

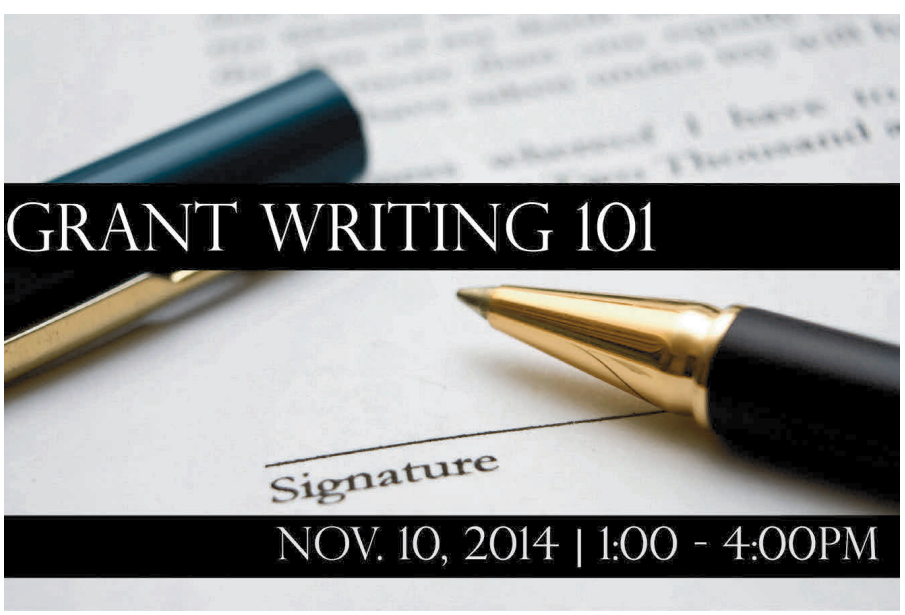
You will receive:

* 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



SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Valley Heating and Cooling

3422 Hooper Lane SE
Decatur, AL 35603
256-734-2966

Sponsored by:



SEPTEMBER'S SMALL BUSINESS OF MONTH



Pictured from L to R: Front Row: Derek Lane, Chamber Dir. of Small Business & Workforce Solutions; Maria Richter Schultz – Chamber Retail Committee Chair; Garlan Gudger - Owner of Southern Accents, Ben Sellers - Sales / Showroom Manager, Makenzie Maze, Sales Assistant & Magan Bartlett, Chamber Dir. of Membership & Marketing.

We recently presented our October Small Business of the Month award to Southern Accents Architectural Antiques. 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. Southern Accents is honored to receive this award and is happy to offer their services to the Cullman area. You can learn more about Southern Accents by visiting their website www.sa1969.com.

Read More about our Communiy Luncheons from 2014 on page 13

Next Community Luncheon will be January 23, 2015 @ The All Steak Restaurant. We will be hearing from our State Representatives. To register call the Chamber 256-734-0454.

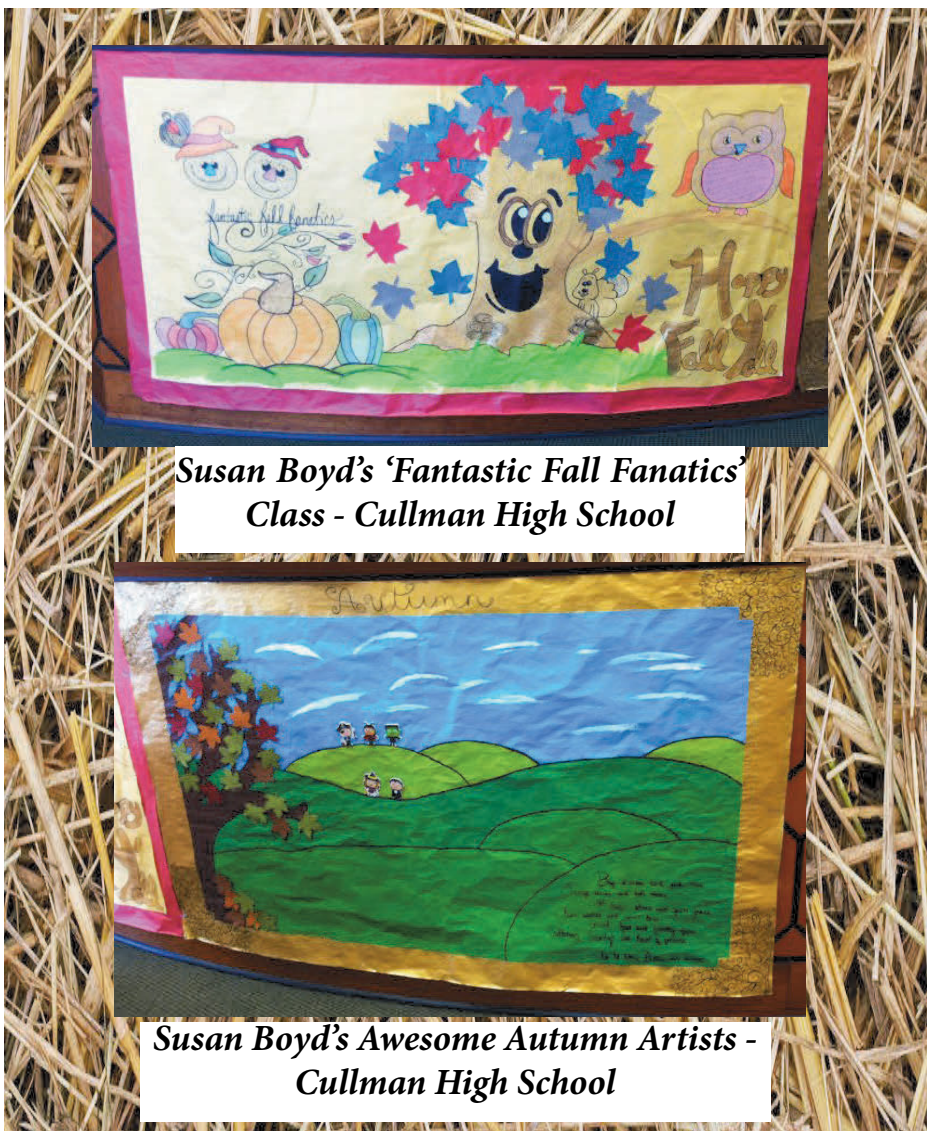
Paint continued from pg 9...

Category 1 (K – 3rd Grade) Winner - #5 with 232 points (Erica Rutherford's Cullman City Primary School) $200

Category 2 (4th – 6th Grade) Winner - #1 with 311 points (Ashley Lochridge's 5th Grade class at St. Paul's Lutheran) $200

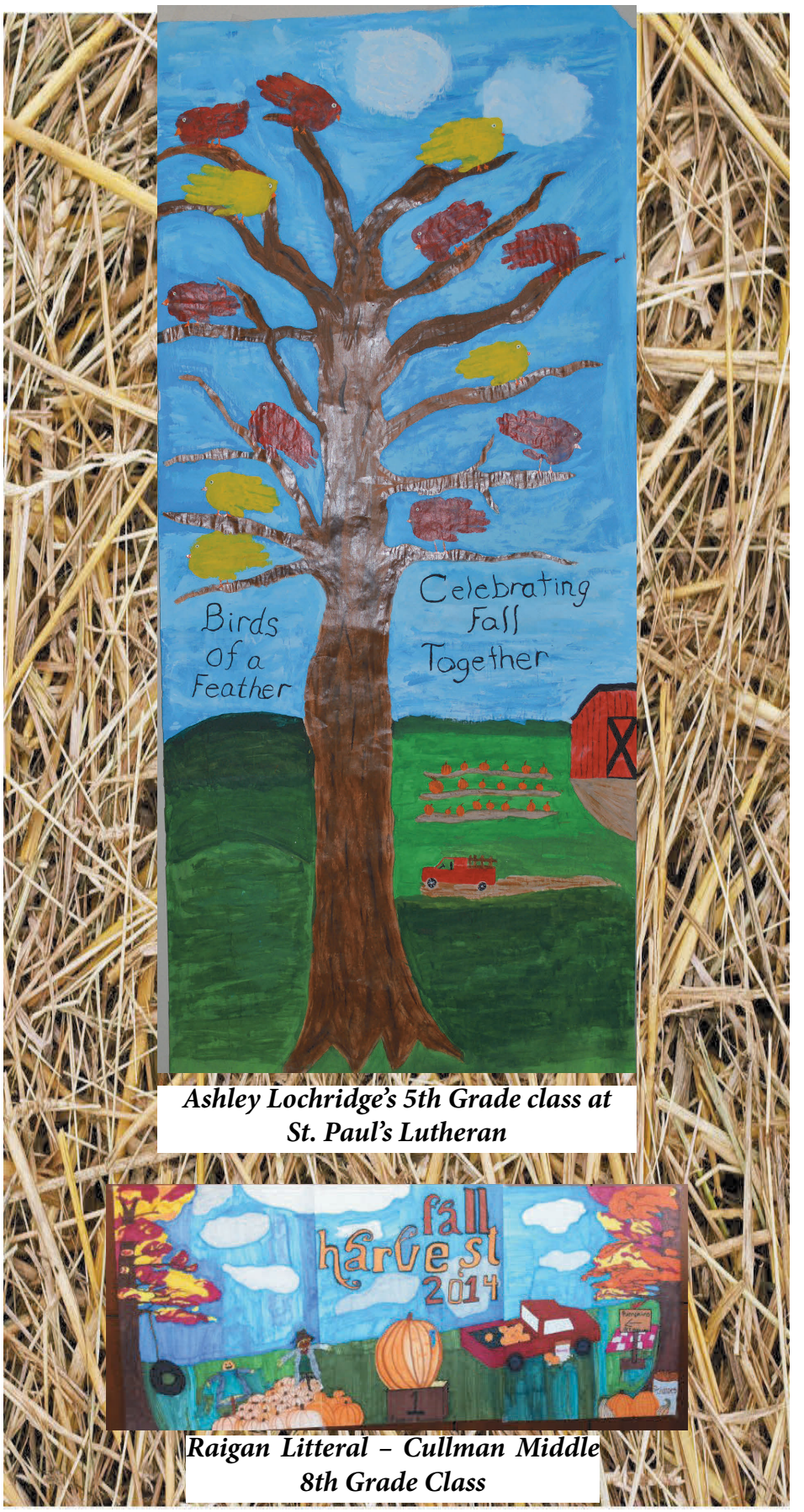
Category 3 (7th – 12th Grade) Winner - #2 with 363 points (Raigan Litteral – Cullman Middle 8th Grade Class) $200 Runner-up - #3 with 336 points (Susan Boyd's 'Fantastic Fall Fanatics' Class - Cullman High School) $100
Honorable Mention - #4 with 289 points (Susan Boyd's Awesome Autumn Artists - Cullman High School) $50

Overall Winning Entry Winner - #2 Raigan Litteral's Cullman Middle 8th Grade Class. They will receive an extra $100 & a class lunch from Chick-fil-A!



Susan Boyd's 'Fantastic Fall Fanatics' Class - Cullman High School

Susan Boyd's Awesome Autumn Artists - Cullman High School



Ashley Lochridge's 5th Grade class at St. Paul's Lutheran

Raigan Litteral – Cullman Middle 8th Grade Class

Three Mistakes to Avoid When Launching a Nonprofit

Derek Lane, Director of Small Business & Workforce Solutions

I thought we would begin this series of tips and tools with non-profit organizations. Oftentimes these agencies are left out of the "business development" discussion. The unfortunate assumption is that since they are "non-profit," they don't have the customary challenges of managing and growing a business. But most non-profit executives will tell you that the same sound principles and practices needed to create and sustain a thriving business are similar to those in the nonprofit sector. Similar challenges exist among all businesses, whether they are for- or non-profit. Drawing upon the experience of 30 years' experience in the nonprofit sector in about every conceivable position imaginable, and assisting in the launch of over a dozen agencies, I would like to share some common mistakes I've seen along the way. Reflecting upon this experience with community and faith-based clients, I've noticed 3 common mistakes that start-ups may want to avoid. And if you're considering launching a for-profit business, you'll need to listen up as well.

1) Don't expect a nonprofit to be up and running in a few weeks. Recruiting your initial board of directors, filing the necessary paperwork, including the 1023 application for nonprofit determination status can take as little as 4 months or as long as a year. My experience in fulfilling these regulatory requirements leans closer to a year than 4 months. Registration requirements differ from state to state. Pay close attention and follow all applicable laws. Fulfilling your legal and fiduciary responsibilities is just the first step. Starting a nonprofit is not much different than starting a for-profit business. It takes time to grow. Launching a start-up non-profit, much like its for-profit counterpart, works more like a crock pot than a microwave.

2) Don't expect something for nothing. No man or woman is an island when it comes to a non-profit launch. Eventually, you will need help. And expect to pay for that help. There are wonderful people out there who are more than willing to assist you. If you are fortunate enough to be surrounded by such a cloud of witnesses, accept them... welcome them...learn from them. But more often than not, more help is needed to launch a non-profit organization than you may find within your circle of friends and associates – and as we mentioned earlier, the same is true when attempting to launch a for-profit business. Do not expect to launch a non-profit without start-up

Non - Profit continued on pg 12...

SMALL BUSINESS & WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

Non - Profit continued from pg... 11

costs. And don't expect everyone to give you everything just because you are "nonprofit" or have a great cause in mind. Join professional associations that provide resources, tools, and support for nonprofits such as your state chapter of the National Association of Nonprofits and online support like Grant Station or BoardSource. A formal connection with such organizations is usually membership-based, which means it will cost you a modest fee to join. Some of the services needed, such as accounting, legal, and fund-raising assistance, may be available and at your disposal. But don't lean too heavily on a friend-of-a-friend who may not have the expertise to provide the necessary help. Going "cheap" often costs much more in the end than if you had simply joined professional organizations that specialize in providing technical support or entered into some contractual arrangement for these services through an experienced consultant up front. I may sound a little bias for suggesting this but I'll take the chance – if you're a for-profit business, by all means, join and take advantage of the services and resources of your local chamber of commerce.

3) Don't expect to rely on grants for everything. Grants do not pay for start-up expenses. Like in the for-profit world, the founder or initial incorporators will need to give, raise, beg, or borrow the financial support to get started. How much does a new organization need? That depends upon such things as the location, mission, and goals of your non-profit. While there are exceptions, grants rarely pay for "brick and mortar" projects such as construction or acquisition of buildings or property. Grant competition is tough and they rarely pay for start-up projects or programs. There are always, of course, exceptions, even to this rule. But conventional wisdom says that funders look for existing projects or programs to support, not ones that are "waiting for the money to come in." Ethical and experienced grant-writers DO NOT contract based upon the percentage of a grant that is awarded. They don't get paid "after the money comes in." So don't even ask. What if an agency doesn't get the grant? How is a grant-writer compensated for the work they put in to research, develop, and write a proposal? And how does an agency include the cost (which is an operational expense) into a programmatic budget? How will a grantee respond when they know that a portion of their gift will be used to pay for a grant-writer, especially if it's based upon a percentage of the grant award? It is a standard industry practice to avoid arrangements based upon a percentage of the grant award. It is considered unethical and unfair both to the grant-writer, the funder, and the potential beneficiaries of individuals and families who receive your services. If you're in the process of launching a nonprofit, don't expect to find grants that will immediately fund or underwrite full-time salaries. Grants for small and new agencies rarely include enough funding to support full-time staffing. It takes time to grow to that. Don't look at a nonprofit launch as a way to supplement your income. So don't quit your day job just yet! Nonprofit work is about seeking to serve, not to be served. There's nothing wrong with anticipating or even working towards an opportunity to be compensated for your work, you'll just want to be realistic about how soon those expectations may be realized. An agency may grow to the point where it requires full-time staff support, but don't expect that anytime soon. Unless one were able (on those rare occasions) to secure start-up capital up-front, you will simply have to press ahead with "what's in your hand." Needed resources will come with time, the trust of the community, a record of accomplishment, and a clear mission that your community, constituents, and board all support. Non-profits, like their for-profit counterpart, utilize similar strategies to achieve success. For those just starting out – remember, be ready to stay with it for the long-haul, prepare to make personal sacrifices to achieve success, and be sure to develop a plan to acquire the necessary resources to get started.

ORGANIZE FOR RESULTS Seminar

Start off the new year organized!

Do Your Employees Have the Tools They Need to Work Smarter? Organize 4 Results provides a simple, effective & PROVEN step-by-step workplace productivity training course that teaches techniques to change behavior and form the right habits to increase workplace productivity and motivate employees!

Organize 4 Results will teach your employees how to:

- Sharpen their focus and concentration
- Manage their workload
- Recognize unproductive behavior
- Prioritize for productivity
- Get more done in less time
- Increase their contribution to your organization's bottom line
- Get in control!

Register TODAY!

Where: Cullman Chamber of Commerce

When: December 4th 8-12n

Costs: Chamber Members $129 each

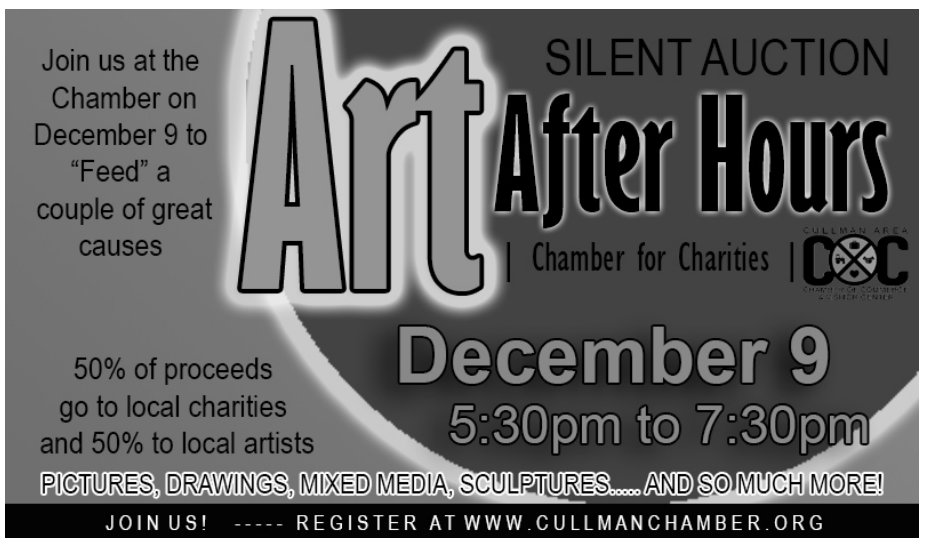
Future Members $159 each



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.





CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Our final Business After Hours event to conclude this quarterly held series 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 percent of proceeds go to the local Food Bank and 50 percent to the artists; however, the artist may also opt to donate 100 percent 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.





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.

CARBITE Supports WSCC Foundation & United Way



Kevin Jackson, Cullman Economic Development Agency & Existing Business & Industry Commitee presents check to Sammie Danford, United Way of Cullman County



Kevin Jackson, Cullman Economic Development Agency & Existing Business & Industry Commitee presents check to Suzanne Harbin, WSCC Foundation

On Thursday, September 4, 2014, the Chamber of Commerce and Existing Business & Industry Committee successfully hosted its first Cullman Area Reverse Business Industry and Technology Expo, a reverse trade-show that placed over a dozen industries in booths and gave vendors an opportunity to get face time and interact with plant managers, purchasing managers, and human resource representatives. Slightly over $6,000 was raised to support education and work in our community. The committee selected the Future Foundation of Wallace State Community College and United Way of Cullman County to receive the proceeds generated from the event. Each agency will receive $2,285.20.

MEMBERSHIP Ribbon Cuttings

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



Duck River Trailhead
www.duckriver.org



Cullman Shopping Center - Announcement - Publix
1216 Cullman Shopping Ctr NW
Cullman, AL 35055

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Bethlehem West Baptist Church	(256) 739-5858
Cotton State Barns	(256) 775-0302
Marvin's Building Materials	(256) 734-2484
Newbanks,Inc.	(205) 980-7495
Pizza Hut - Richmark	(256) 734-1010
Sears Hometown Store	(256) 739-3001
Down Syndrome Alabama - North Alabama Chapter	(256) 339-2614



The Creator's Place
423 Second Ave. SW
Cullman | 256-281-3318



BJM Starter & Alternator Repair
2239 Second Ave NW
Cullman, AL 35058 | 256-339-3507

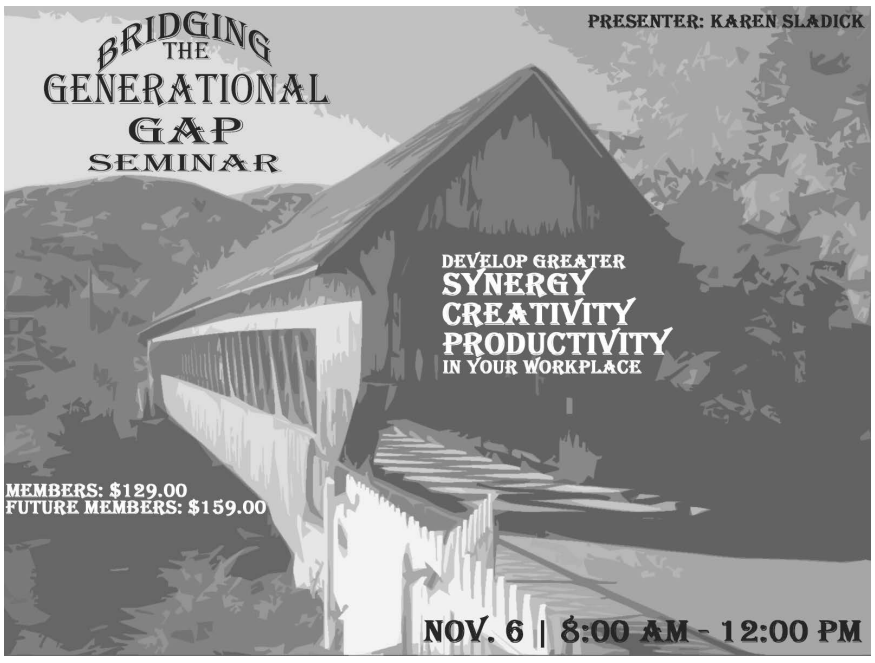


Good Hope Pharmacy
1167 County Road 437
Cullman, 35055 | (256) 841-5958



Scales Seafood Market
221A 2nd Avenue SE
Cullman, AL 35058 | 256-734-4291

Bridging the Generation Gap Seminar



Clashes among generations are common and generally arise from conflicts in attitudes and preferences for work, management and leadership, communication and motivation. Now with four generations in the workplace, Bridging the Generation Gap's three hour workshop will help you understand where each generation "comes from" and how you can use generational differences to develop greater synergy, creativity and productivity in the workplace.

Register TODAY!
Where: Cullman Chamber of Commerce
When: November 6, 2014 8-12n
Costs: Chamber Members $129 each
Future Members $159 each

Don't Forget to Vote!

With General Election Day fast approaching, the presence of lawn signs and radio statements can be seen and heard across all of Alabama, proclaiming our duty to take democracy by the hand. Before heading to the polling booths on the 4th of November, make sure to familiarize yourself with our candidates, as well as when and where you can go to place your vote. Alabama Senator Paul Bussman, R-Cullman, will defend his District 4 seat (Cullman, Lawrence, Winston) against challenger Angelo "Doc" Mancuso. Local county contested races consist of the District 6 (Vinemont) County School Board Seat and County Coroner. Incumbent Democratic Randy Hasenbein faces Republican candidate Mike Graves for the School Board Representation Seat, while Democratic candidate Gary Murphree will race against Republican candidate Jeremy Kilpatrick for Coroner. The following are statewide elections that will be present on the November 4th ballot: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives (4th District), Attorney General, State Senate (District 4), Associate Justice for State Supreme Court, Court of Civil Appeals Judge (2 seats), Court of Criminal Appeals Judge (2 seats), Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries, Public Service Commissioner (2 seats) and State Board of Education (District 6).Voters who have applied for an absentee ballot can submit their votes by postmarking and mailing their ballot by November 3rd, or by submitting their ballot at their local polling location by 5pm on November the 4th. Polls throughout Cullman County will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM. To find information regarding your specific polling place on Election Day, you can visit: https://myinfo.alabamavotes.gov/VoterView/PollingPlaceSearch.do. A sample ballot for Cullman County may be accessed by visiting: http://alabamavotes.gov/downloads/election/2014/general/sampleballots/Cullman-2014-Sample.pdf.



2014 Community Luncheon Round-Up!

This is what our year of Community Luncheons looked like! Check out all of our guest speakers and topics of interest. Are there certain themes you would like to discuss, a person of interest you would like to hear speak? Tell us your thoughts! Email us at info@cullmanchamber.org to share what you would like to see and who you would like to hear at next year's Community Luncheons!

January: Cullman's Legislative delegation gave an overview of what's happening in Montgomery and the current state of affairs.Sponsored by Mitch Smith Chevrolet.

February: Speaker Lew Drummond, Executive Director of Alabama Automotive Manufacturers' Association & Shelton State's Director of West Alabama Center for Workforce Development, talked about the state of the automotive industry. Sponsored by Quality Staffing Solution.

March: Our featured speaker, Nancy Hudson, spoke about traffic safety and stressed the importance of staying away from railroad zones. With more than 20 years in the traffic engineering profession, Nancy Hudson is the Executive Director of Alabama Operation LifeSaver and also sits on the National Operation LifeSaver Board of Directors. Sponsored by HH Technologies.

April: As an entrepreneur living in rural Alabama, speaker Pam Dorr runs 2 non-profits and 6 small businesses. She spoke about creating affordable housing and economic development that provides jobs and job training. Pam is the Executive Director of the Hale Empowerment & Revitalization Organization, Inc. (HERO) and Habitat for Humanity, Hale County, Inc. Sponsored by Alabama Technology Network.

May: Native Alabamian Jay Barker boasted an impressive football career with the University of Alabama and NFL. Barker is currently the host of the daily Opening Drive Radio show on Jox 94.5 FM from 6-10 a.m., and he is also an analyst for ESPN Radio. He is married to country musician Sara Evans. He is part owner of Rock the South and spoke about his multitude of experience and insight in the several industries of which he's been a part.Sponsored by Quick Tire Sales, Inc.

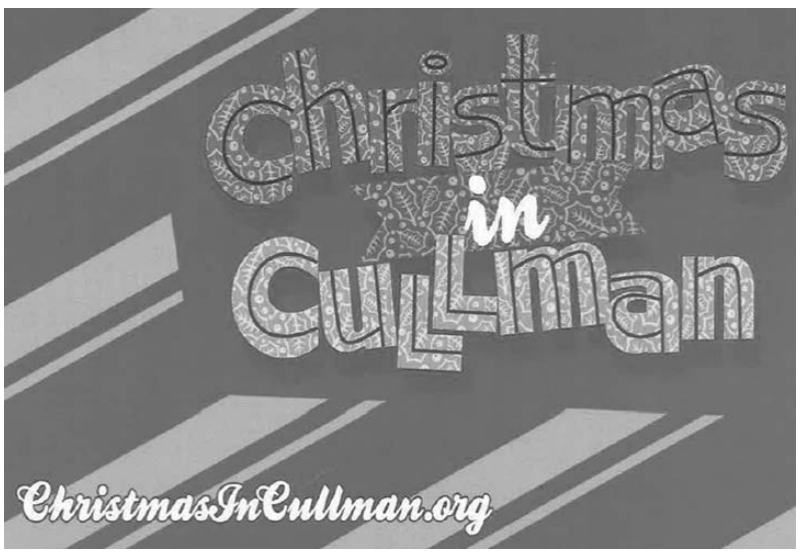
June: Whether you make a living in a factory, field, office, hospital, restaurant, or anywhere in between, you are a part of American history. Rediscover the strength and spirit of American workers through rare archival images, compelling videos, and fascinating interviews through an upcoming exhibit. Armand DeKeyser, Executive Director of the Alabama Humanities Foundation, was the guest speaker representing a Traveling Smithsonian Exhibition, The Way We Worked, coming to Cullman in February 2015. Sponsored by Charter Business.

July: Dr. Craig Ross, newly appointed Superintendent of the Cullman County Schools, spoke to us about himself, his family, his background and his goals at July's Community Luncheon where we helped welcome Dr. Ross to the Cullman community! Sponsored by The Cullman Times.

August: Guest speaker Marsha Folsom is a respected business leader in the community and spoke to us about her companies. She owns her own business development consulting firm and serves as the Chief Development Officer of Resource Fiber, a company that is dedicated to the growing and manufacturing of bamboo in the Black Belt Region of Alabama. She is also founder and CEO of Alabamboo Partners, LLC, which is designed to promote the bamboo industry. Sponsored by Cullman Electric Cooperative.

Luncheon continued on pg... 16

TOURISM



SHOP LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!



It's time to pack the skeletons, witches and jack-o-lanterns away, refresh your Pinterest page to reflect some Thanksgiving and Christmas DIY ideas and recipes, and dig into those few weeks before the holiday season to map out a true game plan for gift giving that will reward you with lots of savings and shopping deals. Christmas Open House is THIS weekend! A tradition as tried and true as they come, Cullman is known for its variety of fine retailers and quality merchants – as well as the smart deals and savvy discounts offered on this weekend. Christmas Open House will be November 8 & 9. Don't feel like wrapping presents? The Cullman Chamber can help you! We will offer *free gift wrapping on Saturday, November 8 from 10 am to 5 pm to Chamber Member Customers Only.

- Free pictures with Buddy the Elf
- Letters to Santa Mailbox
- Showing The Polar Express movie
- Free balloons & Candy Canes
- Showing ELF the movie

We will also have goodies for the children, refreshments, free balloons and candy canes. You may also drop off your gift donations to needy children in the area. It's a holiday hayday! Don't miss out on this day of family fun! Call 256-734-0454 for more information. *Limit 5 packages per customer. Chamber Member Customers Only.

Schedule of Events November - December



Luncheon continued from pg 15...

September: Guest Speaker Andy Pilgrim discussed the topic of America's Distracted Driving Epidemic: How Bad Is It and How Can We Cure It? Andy has been a professional race driver for 29 years and is currently a Pro driver for GM Racing's Team Cadillac. Andy has won 5 Professional Championships and has 20 yrs experience talking to students, parents and educators about traffic safety and distracted driving. In 2008, he started the Andy Pilgrim Foundation, a 501c(3). In November 2013, Andy released a new educational DVD called The Parent Driving Zone. He is a leading force in bringing attention to the critical role parents play in their children's driving education. Sponsored by Cullman Regional Medical Center.

October: Our guest speaker for October was a variety of new faces, and the presentation topic was getting to know these new leaders within our community. Our featured guests were Matt Gentry, Sheriff-elect; Nathan Anderson, Director of Cullman City Parks & Recreation; Daniel Baillargeon, Headmaster of St. Bernard Preparatory School; James Clements, Interim CEO of Cullman Regional Medical Center; 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; Dr. Craig Ross, Superintendent of Cullman County Schools; Kerry Watson, Cullman County Commissioner Place #1. Sponsored by Mitch Smith Chevrolet.

Our 2014 Community Luncheon Presenting Sponsor was Mickey Parrish State Farm Insurance & Financial Services. Thank you to all of our guest speakers, sponsors and attendees throughout the year! We look forward to picking up with our monthly meeting in January 2015. Stay tuned to our Cullman Chamber Facebook page and our website at www.cullmanchamber.org for more information.

The 2014 Community Luncheon is presented by:

STATE FARM INSURANCE

Mickey Parrish
State Farm Insurance
& Financial Services



256-734-4640 MickeyParrish.com

CHRISTMAS IN LIGHTS WINDOW DECORATING CONTEST

Judging will take place Friday, November 7th 2014 at 5pm

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Email: _____

Category: (√ one)

- Retail _____
- Restaurant _____
- Office Building _____

RULES:

***Must be Christmas themed ***
Lights incorporated in display

You may fax form to the attention of Derek Lane - (256.737.7443) or email dlane@cullmanchamber.org

OPEN HOUSE OFFERS SAVINGS THIS WEEKEND

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Christmas is a magical time of year. Christmas gifts, hot cocoa, lights and, of course, Santa! All of these things and more will be found at this year's upcoming Christmas in Cullman event, and shopping sales all around town will happen at the Christmas in Cullman Open House.

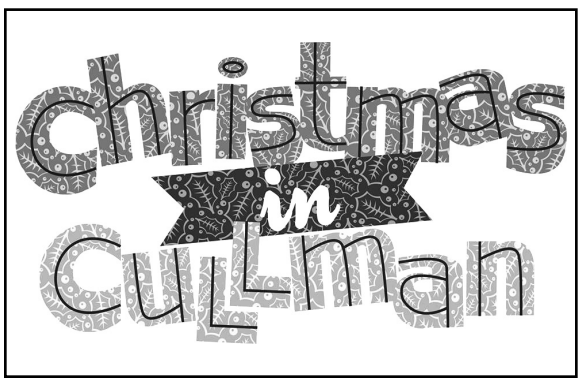
The open house will include a shopping extravaganza where local merchants will be offering great deals to participants on November 7 and 8. Stores all over town will be boasting shopping deals and incredible discounts, offering up savings galore. So if you're ready to hit the ground running this Christmas season, make sure you are out and about this weekend!

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce will be offering its own array of activities as well. On Saturday, November 8, they will have Buddy the Elf at the Chamber taking pictures with children free of charge. They will also be playing the movies "Elf" and "Polar Express" and will have refreshments and goodies for the children, as well as a mailbox for the little ones to drop their letters to Santa off in, personally delivered by Buddy himself. They are also offering present wrapping to Chamber member customers only. If you have any questions about their activities, call the Chamber at 256-734-0454.

The main event of Christmas in Cullman will take place on December 5, and according to Lee Powell, president of the Cullman Downtown Merchants Association, this year's Christmas in Cullman events will culminate into a great celebration.

"On December 5, we will be doing a lit parade at night," said Powell. "The Cullman High School singers will be singing dressed in Victorian era costumes and will be stationed throughout downtown. Wallace State singers and Santa will be at the festhalle, and we'll be doing the lighting of the Christmas tree at Depot Park."

The parade route this year will run through the downtown area, with James Spann serving as the grand marshal for the festivities. Cullman City Parks & Recreation will be over the lights for the beautiful tree as well as handing out hot chocolate to everyone.



CONTRIBUTED

Along with the discounts for adults, there will be several activities for children including a mailbox to drop off letters to Santa.

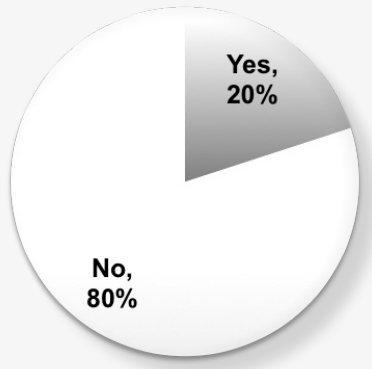
Another festive feature that is sure to make the night magical are the snow machines that will bring a white Christmas feel to the area.

"Anyone wanting to do a float needs to do an application for it and they can pick one up here at the office [Country Financial]," said Powell. "They must be themed and can be religious or secular, but they also must be lit with Christmas lights."

So if you want to participate in the largest Christmas event in the city, then do not hesitate to contact the Cullman Downtown Merchants Association or Lee Powell for more details. Powell can be reached at Country Financial 256-734-7079.

Poll

Would you get an Ebola vaccine if it becomes available?



This Week's Poll

Should Alabama discontinue Daylight Savings?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

HOME PREPARATIONS FOR WINTER WEATHER: HOW TO KEEP YOUR HOME COZY FOR COOL WEATHER

Katie Dansby
katie@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Keep your cottage cozy with some cold weather tips for the brisk, wintry temperatures just around the corner. General Manager Mike Manning at Cullman Power Board and Communication Coordinator & Media Spokesperson Brian Lacy at Cullman Electric Cooperative have provided some energy efficient ways to keep your home warm and comfortable for less.

Manning says that with some simple planning and a little bit of effort, you can maintain a comfortable temperature in your home throughout the winter months while keeping your power bill under control.

"There are a number of easy things you can do to help your heating system operate better," said Manning

Lacy says that the key to keeping a home comfortable any time of the year is making sure the air inside does not escape.

"You pay money to heat and cool your home, and you want to make sure that air stays inside. The easiest and most cost-effective way to do that is to make sure you have enough insulation in the attic, and use caulk to seal window and door frames," he said.

You can buy these supplies at any home store and using them will result in saving money on your electric bill for years to come.

Here are some tips from Cullman Power Board, Cullman Electric Cooperative, Tennessee Valley Authority, and Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to help you winterize and heat your home more efficiently this season.

1. Set Your Thermostat Wisely – By setting your thermostat at the lowest comfortable setting during the winter months, your power bills will be lower. 68 degrees F in winter is a suggested temperature setting.

2. Change Heating System Filters Regularly – Dirty filters can decrease the efficiency of your heating system. Change the air filters of your heating system each month and be sure to have your system professionally serviced once a year. Make sure your filters are facing in the correct direction (look for an arrow on the side of filter).

3. Clear the Area Around Your Outdoor Heating Unit – Remove weeds, overgrowth or debris from the area around the outdoor unit of your heating system.

4. Control Your Vents – To prevent blockage, keep curtains, shades, rugs and furniture away from air vents.

5. Close Doors And Windows – Keep your doors and windows shut when your heating system is on. Otherwise, you may be paying to heat the outdoors. Ensure your windows and doors seal tightly and are properly weather-stripped. Use heavy-duty, clear sheets of plastic on the inside of windows to reduce the amount of cold air entering your home. Also be sure to insulate your attic access door and verify that it closes tightly.



CONTRIBUTED

Caulking points of air escape such as windows will help save on electricity bills.

6. Adjust Blinds and Curtains: Keep them open to let in sunlight during the day, and close them at night to keep heat inside and to protect from drafts.

7. Seal and Insulate: This is the best way to keep heat in and air out. Areas that may need sealing include corners, cracks, door frames, and windows. Outside your home, caulk around all penetrations including telephone, electrical, cable, gas, water spigots, dryer vents, etc.

cp&r
cullman city parks & recreation

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

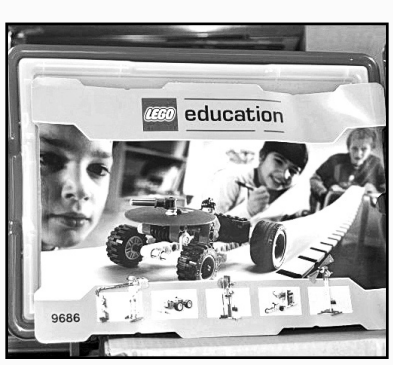
www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Youth Basketball Registration:** October 1-25 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. 1-25 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.
- **Pumpkin Carving Contest:** CP&R will sponsor a pumpkin carving contest via our Facebook page. Participants can submit photos of their pumpkins to our Facebook wall at facebook.com/CullmanParksRec. Pictures can be submitted between October 27-October 31. Winner will receive a FREE 6 month membership to CWAC.
- **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.
- **Yoga Classes** are offered at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center 7 days a week with classes including Buti-Yoga, Stand-up Paddle Board Yoga, and more. Check the front desk or call 256-775-SWIM for class schedule and times.
- **Take Our Survey!** Go online to our website at www.cullmanrecreation.org and click on the survey tab on the home page to let us know what you would like to see at CP&R! We appreciate your feedback.

What's Online

Children to Learn Robotics in Preparation for Future Careers

Recently a special announcement was made regarding 5th grade students in the Cullman County school system. Lego toys will become part of the classroom curriculum and soon children will be able to learn as they play. Lego Education enables children to work as young scientists...



qrne.ws/273

Stamp Out Breast Cancer

On Friday, October 4, the Cullman Post Office kicked off their Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Event with the office and its employees all decked out in pink. During the month of October, every Friday is "Pink Out Friday" where all of the employees have the opportunity to wear their pink attire. There are refreshments in the...

qrne.ws/274

Cullman City Fire Department Approved for New Fire Rescue Equipment

Chief Edward Reinhardt at the Cullman City Fire Department has requested to purchase new fire rescue equipment from the HGAC bid list. The Cullman City Council voted on this request last night at the City Hall meeting and granted approval. One request...

qrne.ws/275



CONTRIBUTED

After being interested in art her whole life, Makenna Smith started The Starving Artist so she could showcase her artwork and create custom items based on individual customer wants.

MAKENNA SMITH
THE STARVING ARTIST

Chelsea Sparks
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - We are lucky in Cullman to have a myriad of young and enthusiastic artists. From sculptors to painters to photographers, we have talented artists looking for work and inspiration. One such artist is Makenna Smith who is trying to get her name in the community and create beautiful custom art.

Smith has always been a lover of all things art, and even at a young age, she knew she had found her passion.

"My entire life I have been interested in art," Smith said. "For as long as I can remember I have had the desire to create something new and express myself through art every day. Even in kindergarten I seem to remember myself drawing in my spare time."

While Smith's parents are not artists themselves, they have always been there to support her work.

"My parents always joke about how they do not understand how I am their daughter because of my artistic abilities," said Smith.

"Even though they are not artistic, they have always supported and pushed me and my artistic career for as long as I can remember. I am extremely blessed to have a family that has always encouraged me to follow my dreams."

Smith's talent spans many different mediums of art, but she stated that her favorite she has found to be acrylic. A medium that tends to be more forgiving of small mistakes and allows her to work on a larger scale as well.

"I actually use a wide variety of mediums for my artwork," she said. "I love using charcoal, graphite, water colors, pastels, and many other different media. However, acrylic paint on canvas has proven to be my favorite medium to work and experiment with."

Smith was recently a vendor at this year's Oktoberfest, and has been trying to spread the word of her new business, The Starving Artist. She said that while she loves to set up at art shows, she really loves doing custom artwork for her customers.

"I started The Starving Artist quite recently," said Smith. "Mainly to get my name out there in the community. Although I do enjoy setting up at art shows filled with my own personal work, my main purpose is to create the opportunity to take personal orders. I love painting personal paintings for people with specific ideas as to what they want."

In addition to her personal work and trying to grow her business, Smith is also studying art education at Wallace State Community College.

"I have been enjoying the art program at Wallace," said Smith. "I have found it to be extremely beneficial to my personal growth as an artist. Mr. Daniel and Mr. Scott have proven to be amazing instructors who have not only given me the opportunity to develop my skills, but have also given all of the students possibilities to use our talents to benefit the community."

She went on to say that her dream job and end goal is to become an art educator.

"My main career goal at this point is to teach art at a university or high school level," said Smith. In high school, my art teachers were extremely helpful and encouraging to me to pursue a career in art."

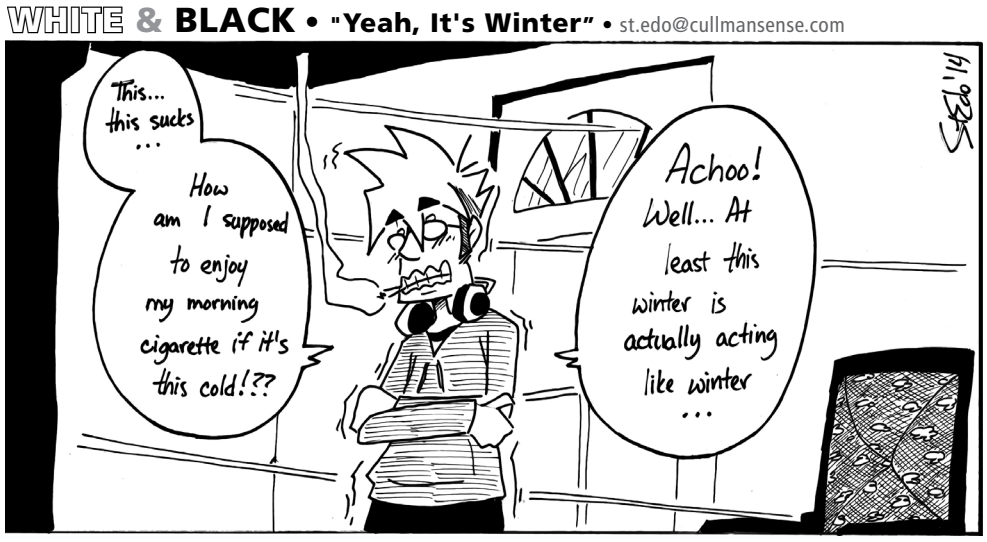
Smith has a deep connection to her art and is passionate about putting quality art into the lives of those around her. Her dedication to cultivating her talent and her passion for educating others are something evident to everyone around her.

"I believe it is extremely important for us to learn to express ourselves on a daily basis," said Smith.

"If each of us do not learn to express ourselves in some way, whether it be through art, music, clothes, or whatever we find enjoyable and inspiring, we will only become copies of one another. We will lose the unique individuality and waste the ability of creative thinking that God has blessed each and every one of us with."

COMICS

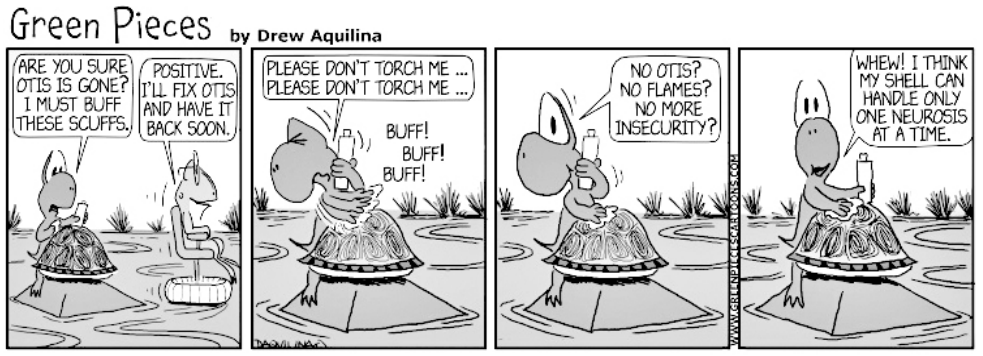
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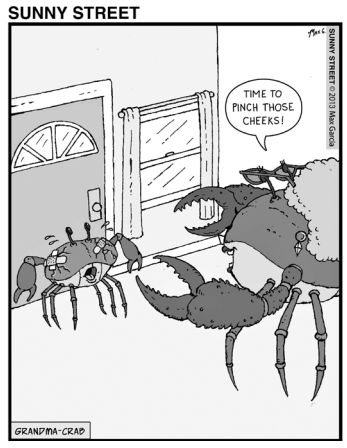


Green Pieces by Drew Aquilina





Between the Lines © 2011 Max Garcia



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PETS OF THE WEEK

Nutmeg



Hello! My name is Nutmeg, and I am about 2 years old. I am a Bluetick Hound, and I currently weigh 40 lbs. I am a stray but if no one claims me, I will go up for adoption on 11/07/14. I am full of life and I love to play. I am ready to find my new forever home and family. Please come visit me today!

Elmer



Hello! My name is Elmer, and I am about 18 months old. I am believed to be an American Bulldog mix, and I currently weigh 66 lbs. I am spirited and enjoy company. I can't wait to meet my new best friend and forever companion.

ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

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

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

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2014 COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR: FIRST TIME EVENT FOR CHRIST COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH INFORMS RESIDENTS

Filled with medical professionals, nurses, and teachers, Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church found a way they could meet a need in the community.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - On Saturday, Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church held its first annual Community Health Fair. The event offered many free services such as blood glucose, blood pressure and body composition screenings. It also offered free flu shots and cholesterol vouchers to redeem at Cullman Regional Medical Center.

"We are a church filled with medical professionals, nurses, and teachers," said Laura Reeder, church member. "Lori Henry, one of our church members, is a nurse practitioner. She had the idea for us to do a health fair so I jumped right in and started helping."

"We have seven presentations going on today, each with different health professionals that will be going on throughout the day," Reeder continued. "We also have close to 20 vendors that represent different holistic medical practices."

The presentations covered the following topics: diabetes education, women's health, preventive medicine, stress management, heart health, virus awareness, and healthier lifestyles.

The church wants to emphasize the practice of good health habits and would like to connect members of the community with the various health organizations and agencies in the area.

"The whole point is to share resources," smiled Reeder. "Different churches do different events for the community throughout the year. A lot of them are geared toward the holidays. We just saw a need in the community and we tried our best to meet that need. We really feel like it's living out the gospel that we're able to meet the tangible needs of the community and not just some big event."

Businesses such as Community Urgent Care, CRMC, Cullman Wellness & Aquatics Center, Cullman Internal Medicine, Good Samaritan Health Clinic, Hospice of North Alabama, Southern Medical Equipment, Boy Scouts, Take Shape for Life, Encore Sports Medicine, and many others were on hand to greet folks and tell them about the services they offer. Each representative was excited to be a part of the day's event.

"Here we are at our first healthcare convention here in Cullman," said Elise Zapka, certified health coach with Take Shape for Life. "Imagine what it's going to be like 10 years from now!"

"The whole community has gathered around and donated their time and resources," Henry said proudly. "It's been really encouraging being our first year and all."

The event was a huge success and there are already plans being made for another health fair next year.

"We would also like to extend an invitation to anybody that doesn't have a church home that our doors are open and we would love to see everybody on Sundays," smiled Henry.

If you or someone you know would like more information about Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church, stop by and attend church with them one morning.

They are located at 1310 Saint Joseph Drive, Cullman, AL 35055. You can also give them a call at 256-739-0505.

H.O.P.E. (from Front)

huge supporter of all things equine," said Riley. "She did horse shows, and she supported all equine activities. She boarded horses, which was part of this farm here and is why we chose this place to have the event. She was always giving back to her community as well, so that is why it was fitting to have this ride on her property."

The beautiful scenic ride across the property was sure to have been a fun time for everyone on foot or horseback. One of the main goals of the event, other than raising money, was to spread awareness of this incredible therapy option available.

"We want to educate others on what horse therapy is and how it can benefit those with special needs," Riley said.

"We are dedicated to offering those with any special need a safe and therapeutic horsemanship program, which is taught and supervised by a PATH certified instructor."

Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, or PATH, is an organization that trains instructors like H.O.P.E's own Keli Anders. Anders, who is the program director and instructor, has been trained by PATH to train volunteers and hand select the horses that will become program horses.



CONTRIBUTED

Horses Offering People Encouragement is a horse therapy program for those with special needs.

"All of our horses have been selected and trained by Keli," said Riley. "She also trains the volunteers who help the program. This ensures that all participants are always with trained people, and encourages a safe riding environment."

While the weather kept the crowd small, those who participated were all smiles as they watched children take pony rides, ate good food, and bid on many amazing items that were up for auction.

Money raised from the program goes to scholarship programs to help those with limited income have the help they need to participate. Programs like this are so important for these individuals and their families. Riley summed up it up well when she talked about the metamorphosis and connection these horses and their riders have.

"Horses have a very keen sense of people, and connecting with them," Riley said. "I feel that is a creation to creation connection. And all of the therapy that these kids get out of it is amazing. They get physical, occupational, and speech therapy all in one. Watching their progress is amazing. Every kid that comes through shows incredible progress in so many ways, and that is what it is all about."

Brooks' Place
The Child Advocacy Center of Cullman, Inc.
11th Annual
Parade of Trees
Warehouse District
Next to Cullman Florist
Friday November 7th from 1:00pm–6:00pm
Saturday November 8th from 9:00am–3:00pm

Within our walls at Brooks' Place, there is a trained forensic interviewer listening attentively as a child discloses years of endured abuse; a parent receiving support from a dedicated family advocate to meet their most basic needs; law enforcement officials and workers from the Department of Human Resources are piecing together critical information to ensure the abuse stops; and a nurse practitioner reassures a young girl or boy that their body is okay.

Thanks to your generous gifts, Brooks' Place continues to be a source of hope and healing for abused children in the Cullman County community.

For Questions or to Donate Please Contact:
Gail Swafford: 256-739-2243 ext. 307
Blakely Hopper: 256-739-2243 ext. 308

Bill Smith

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