SERIES 4 • ISSUE 45 • NOVEMBER 24, 2014

CULLMANSENSE COMMUNITY MATTERS



EES STUDENTS PERFORM BROADWAY MUSICAL P10



KATIE DANSBY/CULLMANSENSE

ANGEL TREE GIVES OPPORTUNITY TO HELP DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN THIS CHRISTMAS P9

STORM SHELTER BEING INSTALLED AT SPORTSMAN LAKE P2

SHOP LOCAL THIS SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY P2

CULLMAN POST OFFICE THANKS COMMUNITY FOR HELPING RAISE $27K FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH P6

SEVERAL LOCAL RETAIL BUSINESSES OFFER LAYAWAY FOR THE HOLIDAYS P7

VINEMONT BAND HOLDS CRAFT SHOW P3

SHOEBOXES FULL OF LOVE

COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO HELP CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



CONTRIBUTED

Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect 7,000 shoeboxes locally that will be combined with other regional donations and then distributed to needy children around the world.

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - We as a nation are fortunate to have the resources and help that many others do not. Toothpaste, soap, and even a pair of shoes are available to even the poorest of our nation. In other parts of the world it is a different story.

Things like shoes and toiletries are far more valuable and hard to come by. The Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church in Cullman is working with the community and the non-profit organization, Samaritan's Purse, to help alleviate this issue.

The Samaritan's Purse has been around since the 1970s and has many ministry programs to help those in need globally. One of their programs is called Operation Christmas Child, and is one of the most successful and largest global charities around. David Ozment from Vinemont, regional coordinator for Operation Christmas Child, said the idea originally came from Ireland.

"This is the 15th year for our church doing this event," he said. "The Operation Christmas Child has been around

p2

CITY AND COUNTY SERVICES CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

Katie Dansby
katie@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Everyone is getting ready for the Thanksgiving Holiday! Make sure you are aware of the following department and office closings within the city and county of Cullman during this holiday.

• Cullman City Hall will be closed Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28 for Thanksgiving and will reopen the following Monday with normal business hours. Call City Hall at 256-739-1212 for further questions. You can also email them at cityhall@cullmancity.org or visit their website at www.cullmancity.org.

• On Thanksgiving Day, commercial pick up will run as usual, and on Friday the 28th, residential pick up will run to pick up Thursday's trash. For City Sanitation and Recycling, call 256-737-7560.

• The Cullman County Commission Office will be closed Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28 for Thanksgiving and will reopen the following Monday with normal business hours. For more information, contact the Cullman County Courthouse at 256-739-3530 or visit their website at www.co.cullman.al.us.

• Cullman County garbage pickup will run as normal on Thanksgiving Day and every day that week. Just be sure to have your trash out by 6 a.m. For more information, contact the Cullman County Sanitation Department at 256-287-1142.

• CARTS will be closed Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28 for Thanksgiving and will reopen the following Monday with normal business hours. To schedule a ride with CARTS call 256-734-1246.

p7

FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS P3



KATIE DANSBY/CULLMANSENSE

According to Jason Heaton, fire inspector at Cullman Fire Rescue, combustible materials too close to heaters and fireplaces are the biggest fire safety problem.

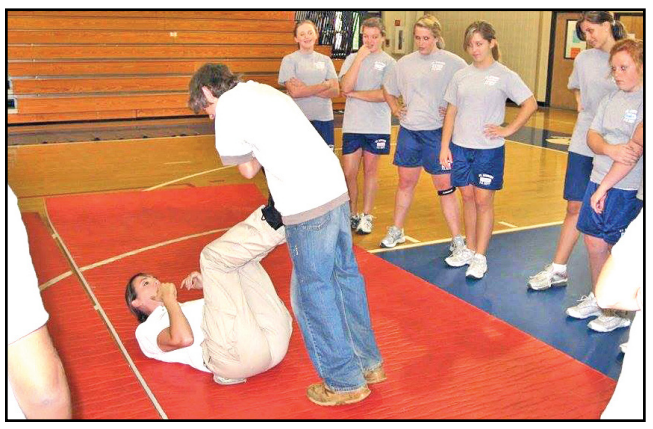
LOCAL POLICE OFFICER CINDY ROHRSCHEIB TO TEACH WOMEN SELF-DEFENSE

Chelsea Sparks
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CULLMAN - Self-defense is important for anyone to know, but it is an essential for women. Attacks and violence against women happens all too often in this country. It is an especially dangerous time around the holidays when theft and crime goes up. To help women be more prepared for any situation, local police officer Cindy Rohrscheib is teaching a basic women's self-defense class.

"I thought this class would be great especially

p9



CINDY ROHRSCHEIB

The self-defense class will be held at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center on December 2 and 9 from 6-8 p.m.

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STORM SHELTER BEING INSTALLED AT SPORTSMAN LAKE

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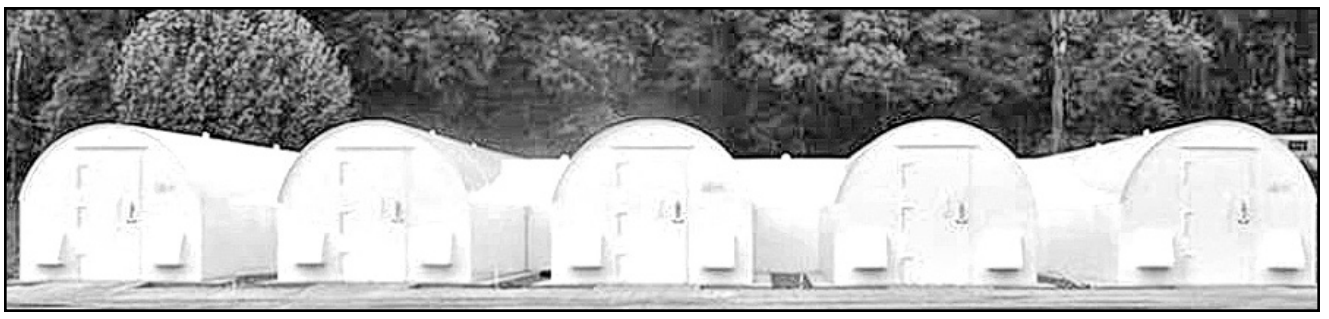
CULLMAN - The Cullman Community Safe Room Shelter will soon be available at Sportsman Lake Park for the public to use in times of inclement weather. The shelter will mimic the current safe rooms in Garden City, which have a half moon shape and consist of five interlocking community shelters with seating and facilities for 500 people.

Cherrie Haney, director at Cullman County Economic Development, said that when the tornado warning siren sounds, the shelter will be open to the community to take safety precautions.

The shelter is being built by Aqua Marine Enterprises, Inc. and is funded by a grant written by Cullman County Economic Development. CCED is also managing the grant in the budgeted amount of $234,475.00.

Wesley Moore with the City of Cullman said that the foundation of the shelter is complete and the shelter itself is being bolted down and secured. Electrical and plumbing will be the next steps in the completion process, followed by an inspection.

Marketing Director of Safe-T-Shelter, Chandler Bell, said that Cullman is a leader in incorporating these shelters within the community. "What's really impressive about Cullman is that they are a leader in the state for obtaining shelters and grant funding for them." She said that CCED and Phyllis Little, director at Cullman EMA, have done an outstanding job with grants and attaining



CONTRIBUTED

The Cullman Community Safe Room Shelter will mimic the one in Garden City and will house 500 people.

funding for the shelter. Bell added that Safe-T-Shelter has been a local Alabama owned company since 1995 and has produced numerous amounts of residential shelters in Cullman.

Bell said that those that are in the shelter seeking safety can stay as long as they want. It is designed to seek refuge for a storm, wait for the storm to pass, and then exit in the same fashion. Once inside, the 6 point locking door is secured. There are 3 - 1 inch in diameter sliding steel rods to make 6 points of connection on the locking door.

The penta model that is being installed at Sportsman Lake means there are 10 areas of entering and exiting. As an interconnecting model, those inside can walk between all five areas. Bell called this a very unique feature.

There are also restrooms in the shelter as well as sufficient ventilation that passes and exceeds strict oxygen level requirements by FEMA.

Bell said that the shelters are mandated to go through testing to meet FEMA 361 guidelines. This means they have to withstand up to an EF5 tornado which can produce over 200 mile per hour winds. If the shelters result with more than a quarter inch deflection during the testing process, they do not pass inspection.

The shelter monitoring procedure during a storm is based on FEMA guidelines and monitoring is typically assigned to police officers.

Bell said that she is looking forward to a completion date within two to three weeks. Upon completion, a ribbon cutting and an inside tour of the shelter will be in the works for the public to participate in.

For more information, call Safe-T-Shelter at 800-462-3648 or visit their website at www.safe-t-shelter.com.

SHOP LOCAL THIS SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Chelsea Sparks
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CULLMAN - Black Friday is quite lucrative for most businesses, especially big box stores like Target and Walmart. This year, remember the smaller retailers and shop local this Saturday to show your support for the residents who make their living from their small businesses.

There are more reasons to shop small and local than you might think. For example, when you shop and support local small business, you invite more jobs and opportunity.

A town with thriving small businesses is an all around healthier town. Director of Small Business and Workforce Solutions at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, Derek Lane, noted these benefits as well.

"Key studies suggest that shopping with locally-owned retailers is important to our communities. It's good for the local economy, it supports jobs, and increases support for local charities. And it just feels good to know that you're contributing to the community's sense of well-being and quality of life."

While it is true that large companies pay local taxes that help the community, when you shop small, even more money stays right here in Cullman.

Small businesses contribute more to local charities and community needs than the larger chain stores.

An independent research team in London compared what happened when people bought their vegetables at a local farmers market rather than a chain grocery store. Author and researcher with the team New Economics Foundation, David Boyle, described the results that showed that double the money spent locally stayed in the community.

"That means those purchases are twice as efficient in terms of keeping the local economy alive," Boyle said. "Money is like blood. It needs to keep moving around to keep the economy going. When money is spent elsewhere, at big supermarkets, non-locally owned utilities and other services such as on-line retailers, it flows out like a wound."

Cullman has a beautiful downtown and small business atmosphere. People want to open their doors here, and we need to ensure it stays that way.

We do that by making purchases on Main Street whenever we can. The big chains have their perks too, but this Saturday is all about the ma and pop stores.

So when you go to check off items on your Christmas list this season, remember to shop small, and shop local this Saturday, and this holiday season.



FILE



Shopping at small businesses helps maintain the local economy.

FILE

Shoeboxes (from Front)

for about 22 years. It started originally with a family in Ireland. They would put gifts and things in shoeboxes to give to people and it grew. Then Samaritan's Purse took over the project 22 years ago."

Since the organization took over the project, they have collected and distributed over 120 million shoeboxes for children in third world countries. The shoeboxes carry toys, toiletries, shoes, and anything useful to the children around the world in need.

"We have collected around 4,500 shoeboxes as of today," said Ozment. "And we will be receiving many more over the weekend. People will bring a lot after church on Sunday. We are hoping to have approximately 7,000 when we are done."

According to Ozment, the Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church does not do this project alone, churches from all over Cullman County have come together and participated.

"All over Cullman people are helping," said Ozment. "Probably 80 churches just like this group, and individuals bring shoeboxes in. Chick-fil-A even had a sign up and have brought in boxes to help."

The project is a process starting at local drives like the one here in Cullman. There are 10 relay centers, like the Presbyterian Church, that people will bring their gifts to.

On the 24th, the church will take all of the donations and put them on a truck provided by McGriff Industries.

This will also happen at the other nine relay centers in North Alabama, and all of these items will be brought to a location in Huntsville.

Once there, they are put on new trucks that will bring all of North Alabama's donations to a distribution center in Atlanta to be inspected and then distributed globally.

"Volunteers from all over the South come to Atlanta," said Ozment.

"And every box will be inspected. They have a waiting list of people wanting to volunteer and work. Thousands of people want to help, and a lot of people from Cullman County go."

Along with the necessities and toys is a gospel message in native language of where the box was sent.

"Inside each box is a program called the greatest journey," he said.

"It is a 12-step program that will teach them about Jesus and the Bible. With the ultimate goal being that they accept Jesus as their lord and savior."

The Operation Christmas Child program is helping so many out in the world know that they are not alone, and that people care about them.

It has also become a wonderful way that individuals of all different faiths and beliefs in the county can come together to make the world a brighter place.

"It is something everyone can get behind," Ozment said. "This whole ministry program is a reflection of the giving spirit of the people of Cullman."

VINEMONT BAND BOOSTERS HOLDS ANNUAL CRAFT SHOW

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN - The Vinemont Band Boosters held their annual arts and crafts show on Saturday at the Cullman Civic Center. The Boosters have hosted this event for over 20 years as their major fundraiser for the year.

This year, there was something new - a "Children's Hour" that began at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. on Saturday. During this time, children in preschool through 2nd grade were able to enjoy stories and activities on stage while their parents shopped for an hour.

"This craft show is the largest fundraising event for the Vinemont band program," said Kim Smith, Band Boosters treasurer.

"We are currently working toward replacing or repairing many of our school owned instruments. Instruments are very expensive and expensive to maintain. Our band director, Skylar King, is working on a long-term purchasing schedule to where we have the instruments needed as our band program grows."

"Because of our limited funds," she continued, "we are only able to purchase one or two instruments a year. We have concentrated on our percussion section for the last few years. We hope to now work on the low brass section. We also need to replace our chairs and stands in the band room. We have applied for a grant to purchase these but haven't heard from it yet."

This year, there were a total of 68 vendors that participated, which meant all available space was utilized. Each booth was filled with unique crafts and products.

This year the band partnered with the American Red Cross and held a blood drive with them. The Band Boosters provided each donor with a free hot dog and drink. Santa arrived at the craft show at 6 p.m. on Friday evening.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Held at the Cullman Civic Center, the annual arts and crafts show is the largest fundraiser for the Vinemont Band.

Children got to have their pictures made with Santa during this time.

This year, the arts and crafts show was another huge success. The vendors worked hard and sold lots of great items. People in the community were happy with all the wonderful Christmas gifts they were able to purchase.

The best part of the whole two days was the fact that the Vinemont band raised the much-needed money to purchase everything they need in order to enjoy another year of music and fun.

LITTLE MISS CANDY CANE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT THIS SUNDAY

Will Hogue
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CULLMAN - This Sunday, November 30, the Divine Royalty Pageant System will hold its second pageant in Cullman at the Cullman Civic Center. Director and founder of Divine Royalty Pageant System, Kimberly Benitez, says that she started this system to benefit people and certain causes.

"We moved here in July and noticed that there were really only toys for tots," remarked Benitez.

"This pageant goes to help families in a little bit more of a personal way. Parents love to be able to wrap the gifts themselves," she continued.

The Little Miss Candy Cane Christmas Pageant is the Divine Royalty Pageant System's second pageant after holding a breast cancer benefit pageant in October.

The Christmas pageant looks to be more of a family and community affair, since Divine Royalty is basically completely family operated.

"My brothers and sisters and mother help me out, taking tickets at the door," Benitez explained. "It's really a family thing."

Along with being a family event, it will be an opportunity for businesses in the community to display their goods and services. "There will be booths for vendors," says Benitez.

In the end, Benitez wants to introduce a new idea to the pageant community in Cullman, one in which all the girls feel special. "Everyone deserves to be a queen, and everyone will get a tiara at the Christmas pageant," explains Benitez.

Taking her own desires for what a pageant should be, girls from ages 0-4 are not allowed to wear makeup.

"We really want to bring a more natural part of pageants in to the system, as well as having every pageant we put on benefit something," Benitez affirms.

The pageant will be this Sunday starting at 2 p.m. at the Cullman Civic Center.

Safety (from Front)

Katie Dansby
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CULLMAN - There is something about the winter months and curling up to watch a festive movie or read a good book by the fireplace. However, we cannot get too distracted and cozy while enjoying our hot cocoa. We have to stay alert in order to be safe regarding the heating equipment that keeps us so snuggly.

To put the importance of safety into perspective, the National Fire Protection Association, (NFPA) tells us that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths. In addition, half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January and February.

That means extra precautions need to be taken in order to stay safe and prevent fires during these cold winter months.

The Cullman Fire Department has provided some tips to keep in mind for homeowners and renters to avoid possible heating accidents and to stay safe and warm this winter.

Jason Heaton, fire inspector at Cullman Fire Rescue, addressed a common mistake that he has seen within the Cullman community.

"Combustible materials too close to heaters are the biggest problem. We have had structure fires caused by this."

A good tip to remember is to keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment like the fireplace, furnace, wood stove, or portable space heater.

Heaton also said, "One issue with wood burning fireplaces is having the chimney cleaned."

According to the NFPA, we should have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.

Heaton went on to say that all homes that use a fuel fired heater or fireplace should have a carbon monoxide alarm installed near all sleeping areas.

According to the NFPA, you should never use your oven to heat your home. Also, we must remember to turn any portable heaters off when leaving the home or when going to bed.

Another tip is to always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.

Lastly, make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room.

Ashes from the fireplace should be cool before putting them in a metal container and the container should be placed a safe distance away from your home.

A few other things that you might find useful with the holiday season approaching include taking extra precautions in the kitchen.

According to the NFPA, Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment.

Make sure your smoke alarms are working and be sure to test them regularly. This should be done monthly in order to always be prepared. It is also a wise idea to keep a fire extinguisher somewhere in the kitchen. These come in convenient sizes and can be bought at Walmart.

The NFPA also says that December is the peak time of the year for home candle fires. This could be because we are trying to keep our home smelling festive and welcoming with scents such as gingerbread and apple cinnamon. Just be sure to keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.

For more helpful tips regarding fire safety in your home, visit www.nfpa.org/education.

For other questions, contact Cullman Fire Rescue at 256-775-7194. It is located at 204 2nd Avenue NE, Cullman, AL 35055.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.
Full time, BS degree required. Send resume to: vsoced@vsoccullman.org

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BLACK FRIDAY SURVIVAL GUIDE: TIPS TO MAKING THIS BLACK FRIDAY A BREEZE

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Black Friday has become a tradition as American as Thanksgiving itself. Droves of shoppers will be hitting the sales early, waiting in line for hours, and at times will be positively frothing at the mouth to get to their desired item first. With pandemonium happening all around, it can be a harrowing thought to brave the shops for a good deal. Let's explore some tactics and safety measures that may help the experience go smoothly.

1. Scour the sales papers. This is one of the most crucial parts of making your shopping experience less stressful and cheaper. Going into a store on Black Friday without a list of wanted items from each store will ensure chaos, more impulse buying and possible faint when you look at your bank account at the end of the day. Get out those annoying sales papers from the mail, or look online and start a list. Coordinate times, store location, and deals to construct a comprehensive list.

For example, if Walmart seems to have the most items on your list, put that store at the top of your list and all the items from there that you plan to purchase.

For extra survivalist points, scope out your path through the store and plan your route from the first to last item.

2. Have a backup plan. So the mob is closing in on the PS4 sale in the electronics department. There are 200 people waiting and only 120 PS4s to go around. The mob is ready to pounce, and the poor cashier is looking like a scared gazelle ready to bolt.

You're worried you won't be able to snag the coveted item. Well if you follow this guide, you will be prepared with a back-up plan.

For the bigger items on your list, have an alternative on your list. Can't get the PS4? Try getting another cool gaming console that is lower profile, or scratch it completely and wait for Cyber Monday. Shopping in your underwear with coffee at 2 a.m. is way less stressful.

3. Safety above all. It is imperative to keep yourself safe this day. Shoplifters and burglary is at an all time high, and no sale is worth you getting hurt for.

If little old granny is throwing elbows, then just slowly back away from the discounted sheets, and go elsewhere, it's not worth it. Second, bring some of your own canvas shopping bags.

This will keep everything you're buying more discrete and not on display for potential thieves. Shopping with a friend or two is always a good idea, especially at late night or early morning sales. Safety in numbers. Lastly, try to condense your purse down to the bare essentials in a smaller bag, the less you have to grab or lose, the better.

4. Keep yourself in check. This is not the Hunger Games, folks! This is a day of shopping for good deals, and possibly spending time with friends while doing it. Tackling someone to the floor for the last Let's Imagine Elmo does NOT make you mom of the year, it makes you a little psychotic.

So remind yourself that all of these things you are hunting for are just that, things. They are material items that you will care little about in most cases in a year's time. They are not worth hurting someone else and looking like a fool over.

Now that you have some tricks and friendly reminders, go forth and shop till you drop! Stay hydrated, safe, and may the odds be ever in your favor.

NEW HOLLY POND CAFÉ OWNER WANTS TO KEEP DINER MOSTLY THE SAME

Katie Dansby
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HOLLY POND - On Sunday, November 2, Nancy Runnels became the new owner of the Holly Pond Café. She plans to keep things mostly the same as they have been.

"I'm going to lower a few of the prices, and later when I get established, I'm going to put in a hot bar and a salad bar," she said.

The buffet will have lunch times and dinner times so that folks can just walk in a get a meal.

She also has plans to get the parking lot fixed. "It's got to be fixed," she said. She knows she cannot do it all over night, but is looking forward to the repairs being completed.

Nancy is excited to be her own boss. She has worked in fast food for years and for about four years has been looking forward to owning her own restaurant.

"I just had to move on it and find a place," she said. The café will be her first restaurant ownership, but she has been cooking for years.

"My mother started me in the kitchen when I was five years old," she said.

Nancy knows no limits when it comes to cooking. "I'm so used to cooking a little bit of everything," she stated.

Nancy does not plan on changing the menu because the regulars are used to it. "Everything needs to stay about the same," she said.

Be sure to look out for Nancy's chicken and dressing for the upcoming holidays. She also has some dessert specialties. "I love to make peanut butter pies," she said. She added that she also makes cakes, cobblers, and homemade fried pies.

She said her son and husband are her pie and cake eaters, but that they also like cheeseburgers and catfish. "They eat everything," she laughed.

Nancy cans a lot during the summer so she has an appreciation for vegetables straight from the garden. She plans on getting local vegetables when she can, and during the winter months she will go to the farmer's market.

The café will have around five waitresses and about five cooks. Nancy plans on staying until she gets too old to do it.

When asked what the cut-off age is for her, she laughed and said, "As long as I can still pick up a pot."



KATIE DANSBY/CULLMANSENSE

Though under new ownership, most everything at the Holly Pond Café will remain as it has been including Thursday night music sessions.

There will still be music on Thursday evenings to enjoy so keep those plans in your calendar.

Nancy wanted everyone to know one last thing, "If you want good home cooking, you need to come."

WINTER WEATHER FLAVORS: SALISBURY STEAK AND MUSHROOMS

Chelsea Sparks
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Salisbury steak is a delicious comfort food that is perfect for anytime this winter. Many associate this meal with the microwavable version you see in the freezer at the grocery store. A homemade Salisbury steak, however, is no comparison. Thick, juicy meat topped with succulent mushroom gravy is sure to change your mind about this classic dish.

Ingredients:

- 1 lb - hamburger meat
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1/4 onion, chopped finely
- 1/4 cup - crushed saltine crackers
- 1 teaspoon - sage
- 1 teaspoon - salt and pepper
- 3 tablespoons - unsalted butter
- 8 ounces - sliced mushrooms
- 2 teaspoons - Worcestershire
- 3 tablespoons - all-purpose flour
- buttered egg noodles

Instructions:

- Gently mix the beef, egg, onion, cracker crumbs, sage, 1/2 teaspoon salt and a few grinds of pepper in a large bowl using your hands. Divide into 4 equal portions and shape into oval patties, about 1/2-inch thick.
- Heat 1-tablespoon butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Brown the patties, about 4 minutes per side. Transfer to a plate.
- Add 1-tablespoon butter to the skillet and cook the mushrooms until slightly browned, about 2 minutes.
- Stir in the Worcestershire sauce, and salt and pepper to taste, scraping up any browned bits.
- Sprinkle in the flour and stir, then stir in 2 1/2 cups hot water and simmer until the sauce begins to thicken, about 2 minutes.
- Add the remaining 1-tablespoon butter, swirling to combine.
- Return the patties and any juices from the plate to the skillet. Simmer until the sauce thickens and the patties are cooked through, about 2 minutes.
- Sprinkle with parsley and season with salt and pepper.

Serve with noodles, if desired.

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LOCAL HOME BOUGHT FROM SEARS CATALOG STILL STANDS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

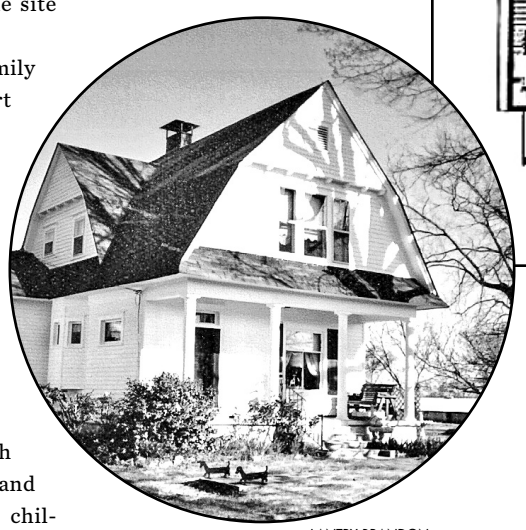
CULLMAN - A beautiful white home was built in the early 1900s by Mr. Valentine Preston Brandon. But Mr. Brandon didn't cut the timber and build it like most folks did back in those days; he did things just a little different. He ordered his house from Sears & Roebuck!

"To my knowledge, the home was built by my great, great grandfather, Valentine Preston Brandon," said Lantry Brandon. "They [his family] came from Texas and had ordered the house from Sears & Roebuck. It came into the Cullman depot and was unloaded - prefab - and hauled, wall by wall to the home site by wagon."

The Brandon family lived in the house a short while before they sold it to James Robert Reid and his wife Esther Entrekin Reid. The Reids had six children who lived in the house with them. Their names were Charles Arthur, Benjamin Homer, Myrtle, James Glenn, Joseph Verna, and Alma. James and Esther also had three children that died in early childhood. Their names were Dora, Maud, and Lora.

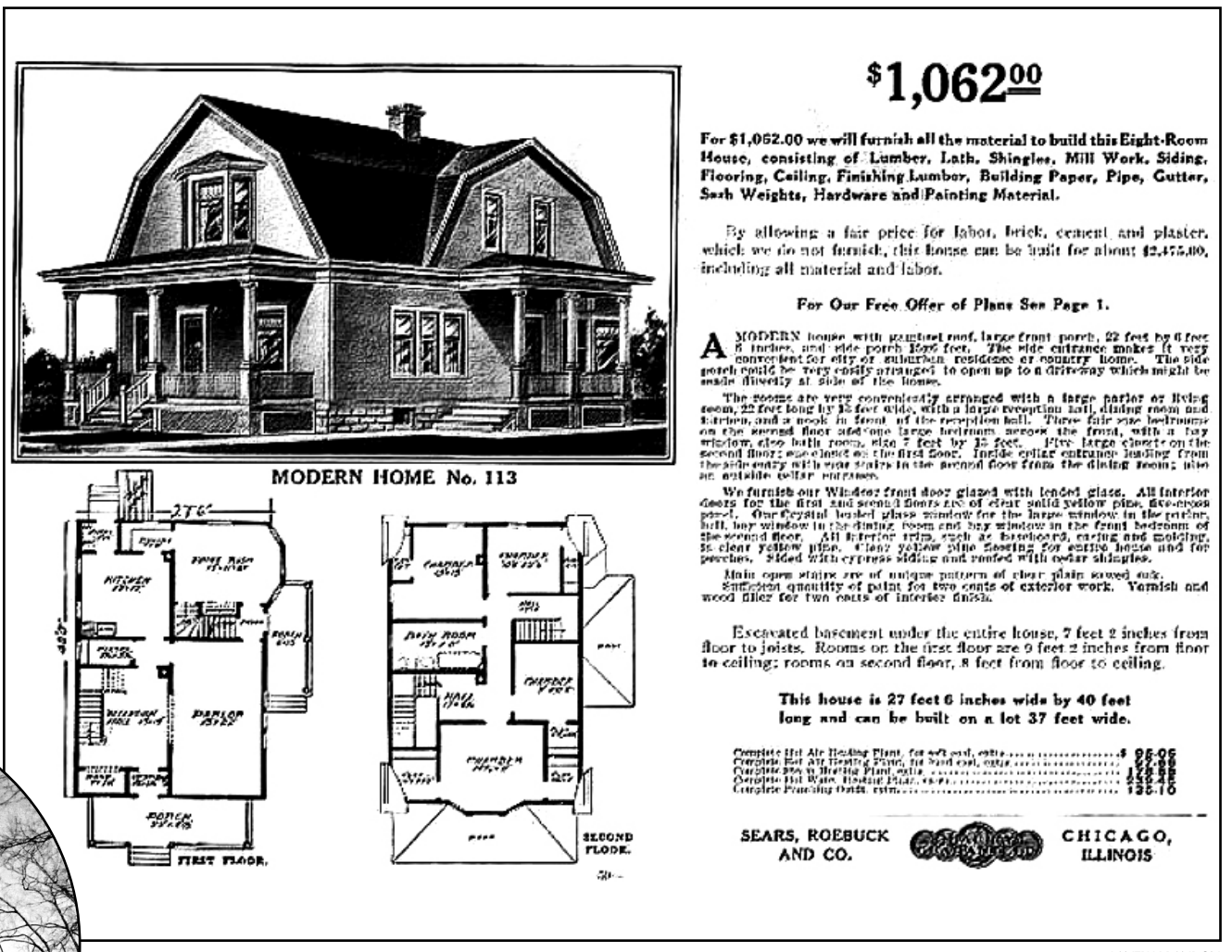
The old home has remained in the Reid family ever since James and Esther purchased it in the early 1920s. The current owners are the late Marvin "Robert" Mize Jr. and wife Helen Mize. Robert is the son of James and Esther Reid's youngest daughter Alma.

Do you know of any other houses that were ordered from Sears & Roebuck? Are there buildings that have an interesting background worth hearing about? If so, we'd like to hear about them! Please contact me at sharon@cullmansense.com and tell me all about it. You never know, your story just might be picked to run in a future issue of CullmanSense



LANTRY BRANDON

The unusually purchased home remains today.



MODERN HOME No. 113

$1,062.00

For $1,062.00 we will furnish all the material to build this Eight-Room House, consisting of Lumber, Lath, Shingles, Mill Work, Siding, Flooring, Ceiling, Finishing Lumber, Building Paper, Pipe, Gutter, Sash Weights, Hardware and Painting Material.

By allowing a fair price for labor, brick, cement and plaster, which we do not furnish, this house can be built for about $2,475.00, including all material and labor.

For Our Free Offer of Plans See Page 1.

A MODERN house with gambrel roof, large front porch, 22 feet by 6 feet 6 inches, and side porch 15x6 feet. The side entrance makes it very convenient for city or suburban residence or country home. The side porch could be very easily arranged to open up to a driveway which might be made directly at side of the house.

The rooms are very conveniently arranged with a large parlor or living room, 22 feet long by 15 feet wide, with a large reception hall, dining room and kitchen, and a nook in front of the reception hall. There are one bedrooms on the second floor and one large bedroom across the front, with a bay window, also bath room, also 7 feet by 15 feet. Five large closets on the second floor; one closet on the first floor. Inside cellar entrance leading from the side entry with nine steps to the second floor from the dining room; also an outside cellar entrance.

We furnish our Windows front door glazed with leaded glass. All interior doors for the first and second floors are of clear solid yellow pine, five-cross panel. Our feature leaded glass window for the large window in the entire hall, bay window in the dining room and bay window in the front bedroom of the second floor. All interior trim, such as baseboard, casing and molding, is clear yellow pine. Clear yellow pine flooring for entire house and for porches. Sided with cypress siding and roofed with cedar shingles.

Main open stairs are of unique pattern of clear plain sawed oak. Sufficient quantity of paint for two coats of exterior work. Varnish and wood filler for two coats of interior finish.

Excavated basement under the entire house, 7 feet 2 inches from floor to joists. Rooms on the first floor are 9 feet 2 inches from floor to ceiling; rooms on second floor, 8 feet from floor to ceiling.

This house is 27 feet 6 inches wide by 40 feet long and can be built on a lot 37 feet wide.

Complete Hot Air Heating Plant, for soft coal, extra ..... $ 95.00
Complete Hot Air Heating Plant, for hard coal, extra 97.00
Complete Hot Water Heating Plant, extra 178.00
Complete Hot Water Heating Plant, extra 132.40
Complete Plumbing Outfit, extra 130.10

SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO. CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

LANTRY BRANDON

After ordered, the prefabricated home was delivered by train and wagon and then assembled in sections.

MIRRORING HISTORY: LUNA'S BBQ - 105 MAIN ST NW, HANCEVILLE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE - 105 Main St NW in Hanceville has seen some big changes over the years. The corner lot began as a place to stay overnight. It was called the Gillespie Inn. When the Inn closed down, another hotel took its place. The hotel was known as the Blue and Gray Hotel and stood in downtown Hanceville for many years.

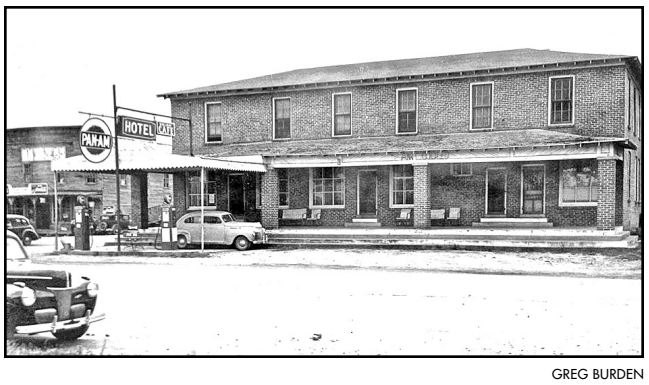
Sadly, the Blue and Gray burned down in a huge fire on Christmas Day back in the 1970s. Even worse, a person was killed in the tragic fire that sad day.

Luna's BBQ stands in that same spot now and is known for their delicious food. Luna's enjoys taking care of their customers and everyone is welcome and treated like family. The people of Hanceville and surrounding areas cannot go very long without their fix of Luna's delicious BBQ.

The location's original resident was the Gillespie Inn.



GREG BURDEN



GREG BURDEN

The area's next occupant, the Blue and Gray Hotel, burned down on Christmas Day in the 1970s.

Now the space is occupied by Luna's BBQ.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

HANCEVILLE QUARTERBACK CLUB

TURKEY SHOOT

Every Saturday, Oct 25 - Nov 22, & Thanksgiving Day 2014

Gun Specs
NO machined barrels.
NO barrels longer than 32".
NO barrel chokes longer than 2 ½ inches.
NO scopes.



8 am - until slows down
$4 meat shots and $5 money shots
Highway 31 South, South of Domino's

Register to win $500.00 Cash. Buy chance to win for $1.00 donation. Drawing will held on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, Turkey Shoot. You do not have to be present to win.

All money raised goes to support the Hanceville High School football team.

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CULLMAN POST OFFICE THANKS COMMUNITY FOR HELPING RAISE $27K FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

Katie Dansby
katie@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The Cullman Post Office had their best year yet in breast cancer stamp sales and has the community of Cullman to thank for their achievements in raising awareness and funds. The Cullman Post Office's sales won them 2nd in the state and 5th in nation among other competitors. They had a total of $27,544.80 in breast cancer stamp sales and increased their sales by $10,401.30 compared to last year.

Caressa Doss, postmaster of the Cullman Post Office said, "We just want to thank Cullman and the community for the support." Post office clerk Regina Hood said that the more awareness there is, the more the sales go up, and the more they are able to donate to breast cancer research. She said that within the past three years, their sales have come from nearly nothing, to reaching around $17,000, to now reaching almost $28,000 this year. "In the last couple of years the state of Alabama has come a long way," she said.

Hood added that it is easy for the community to be so willing to participate because the money goes to such a good cause and is used directly for breast cancer research. She said that the awareness of breast cancer in Alabama is so widespread because everyone has a family member, someone they know at work, or a friend that has breast cancer.

"It was all due to the businesses in Cullman and individuals buying the stamps through the month of October." She said that the businesses really boosted their sales and also wanted to recognize the efforts of all the carriers that work for the Cullman Post Office. "It makes us feel good to see people involved in it and helping with it," Hood said. The efforts of support and gratitude will not go unnoticed. Be sure to go by the post office, congratulate them, and get ready for next year's breast cancer sales to reach even higher!



FILE

The Post Office's sales rose over $10,000 from year's past.

THE HOPE HOUSE: RESTORING WOMEN OUTREACH AND D.A.R.E. PARTNER TO RAISE FUNDS FOR NEW TRANSITIONAL HOME FOR WOMEN

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The Cullman Police Department's D.A.R.E. program has joined forces with Restoring Women Outreach, Inc. to raise money for a new home called The Hope House. They are now selling T-shirts with the Restoring Women Outreach, Inc. logos printed on them.

Restoring Women Outreach, Inc. is a Christian non-profit 12-step recovery program dedicated to restoring hope and rebuilding lives of addicted women in a 12-18 month residential recovery process.

They provide their residents individual and group counseling, life skill classes, work therapy, GED preparation, intensive addiction classes, Bible classes, community outreach, and other classes to enrich the lives of the women involved in the program.

"We only house around eight ladies so we can focus more on each of their individual needs," said Brook Cofield of Restoring Woman Outreach.

"We currently are in the works of getting another home ready (The Hope House) in the hopes to not offer halfway house living but three quarter living as just another step of getting the ladies transitioned over to independent living."

"The cost of this process is not cheap and in order to aid with that, the Cullman Police Department's D.A.R.E. program has partnered up with us and printed shirts up," she continued.

"We are selling them for $15 each. They are a very good quality made of dry fit material. We have sizes small, medium, large, and extra large at the moment."

If you are interested in purchasing a T-shirt and helping support a great cause at the same time, find Restoring Women Outreach, Inc. on Facebook and leave them a comment or message.

If you would like more information call 256-727-6531 or e-mail carolberry@restoringwomenoutreach.org.



FACEBOOK

The money raised from T-shirt sales benefit The Hope House, a new transitional home that helps women rebuild their lives and become independent.

FUN CRAFT IDEAS TO SHOW OFF THAT THANKFUL SPIRIT

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Thanksgiving is a wonderful time of year to make memories and share love, food and gratitude with your family. This year, make the holiday even more special by making crafts with your kids for the dinner table. You can make one, or go nuts and make the entire place setting for everyone at the table. Below are a few ideas on some of the things you can do to have a fun day with your kids and have an adorable dinner table setting.

If you are looking for a yearly tradition you can start with your family that will decorate your table then look no further than this craft.

What better way to mark your time together every year than to start a handprint turkey table runner?

All you need is some of your favorite fabric, some paint, and little hands eager to decorate.

Just cut your fabric to the size you want for your runner; I love to use burlap as it gives that adorable country feel to the piece.

Next simply pour a little paint onto a paper plate and place your child's hand into the paint, and then onto the table runner.

You can leave the handprint as is, or add an eye to the thumb and a beak to make the hand into a turkey.

Make sure to paint the year beside the hands each year you add to the runner.

Now that you have a beautiful and personalized table runner, it is time to look at place mats for everyone to eat on.

They are super simple to make, and you can have the kids make new ones every year.

Simply get a piece of poster board and sit the kids down with crayons, construction paper, scissors, and some glue.

It may help to give them a theme to stick to like leaves, turkeys, or pilgrims.

If you have time to run to Office Max, you can have them laminated and keep these precious treasures forever.

Lastly you want to make sure the finishing touches are on your setting, and a great way to give a little extra something is to make a silverware or napkin holder.

These are ridiculously simple to make. All you need is a toilet paper roll, pipe cleaners, hot glue, construction paper, and googly eyes.

Take your paper roll and cut across the roll to make rings. Then, take your multi color pipe cleaners and cut two in half.

You will then need to fold the cut pipe cleaners in half to fashion a feather.

Glue these to the inside front of your ring. Once the turkey feathers are in place, add the googly eyes and beak, and then add a red waddle under the beak and you have it!

While this may seem like a lot of work when you are already cooking for the big day, this can really be a timesaver, since once you get the kids focused and occupied, you will be free to cook.

Not to mention the kids will love eating off of their finished work, and you will have keepsakes forever.

FARM-CITY BANQUET CELEBRATES COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIP

Katie Dansby
katie@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Thursday evening, the Cullman Civic Center was filled with over 300 folks celebrating the 2014 farm-city events. A local bluegrass band, Flatt Lonesome, entertained the crowd before and after the banquet, while Designs by Grace catered a delicious and festive Thanksgiving dinner. The event began in 1955 when the Cullman Civitan Club formed the Farm-City committee to help forge relationships between these two main components of Cullman County.

2014 Farm-City Committee Chair, Lesia Van Gundy, shed a little light on the importance of farm and city collaboration when it comes to the significance of Thanksgiving dinner. She emphasized the vital partnership between famers and city folk. "The farmer provides the substance. The workers provide the vehicle for distribution. They both work together to apply the latest advances in crop and animal production, and to ensure that there are enough fairly priced goods for everyone." Van Gundy touched on the expenses of food in other countries compared to the United States. Americans only spend approximately 10 percent of their income on food, while in China, people spend about 32 percent of their income in food, and in Pakistan, people spend approximately half of their income on food.

"It takes the incentive and drive of people from all different backgrounds to keep agriculture working 365 sunrises every year and feeding 7 billion mouths." Van Gundy said that all of this comes together at a time no more beautiful than a Thanksgiving meal. "This is the perfect time to graciously remember the work of all those from the farm to the city who made the meal possible."

The Annual Cullman County Farm-City Banquet was a great time to learn about all the successes of this year's events. It was also a time to recognize the winners of various competitions among the generous sponsors and eager to participate elementary students.

Everyone got involved with farm-city events this year, especially two particular sponsors who won the sign contest. First place went to Merchants Bank and second place went to Regions Bank. Both winners provided life-like displays in front of their businesses that portrayed the theme of Farm-City this year, "365 Sunrises and 7 Billion Mouths to Feed."

In addition, the Century and Heritage Farm Award was presented to Randy Humphries who represents the Corbin Homestead. The same family has operated this homestead for over 100 years.



KATIE DANSBY/CULLMANSENSE

Student drawings were judged at the annual Farm-City Banquet.

The Poster Contest awards were presented in two separate categories: Kindergarten-3rd Grade and 4th-6th Grade.

First Place in the K-3rd Grade Division went to Ashley Tello from Hanceville Elementary, Second Place went to Dawson Kicker from Good Hope Elementary, and Third Place went to Johanna Wisener from Harmony.

First Place in the 4-6th Grade Division went to Abigail Kusz from Holly Pond Elementary, Second Place went to Carson Smith from Good Hope Elementary, and Third Place 4-6 went to Jordan Pretorius from Good Hope Elementary.

Tom "Big Doc" Williamson presented various Youth Awards to the following students: Tallie Schaffer from West Point for Outstanding FCCLA Member, Katie Martin from Way Home Christian School for Outstanding 4-H Member, and Ty Jenkins from West Point for Outstanding FFA Member.

The 2015 City Family of the Year was awarded to Dr. Bill and Carolyn Peinhardt.

To keep up with next year's Farm-City events, check out the Farm-City website at www.cullmanfarmcity.org.

SEVERAL LOCAL RETAIL BUSINESSES OFFER LAYAWAY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The holiday season is once again upon us, and it is time yet again to get our Christmas lists in order. For many of us, the items on our list are too much to buy all at once and paying a small portion at a time makes the purchase a little easier to manage. A few local shops offer just what you are looking for.

Many locally owned stores and boutiques are offering layaway for their customers, and many offer this service year round. One such business is a boutique that is currently named Etc. by Nikki, but will be officially renamed by year's end to Jennifer's Treasures.

Etc. sells jewelry, clothes, accessories, and more at affordable prices. They also offer a layaway program so that you can pay off your holiday items at your pace.

"You pay 25 percent down," said Bennett, owner. "You then have 3 months to get it out, and it doesn't matter how you pay. As long as you pay it off by the 3 month date, or two weeks before Christmas. This helps my customers so much. Things sell quickly here, so if someone knows what they want, but can't afford it at that moment, then they still have a way to get it and pay a little at a time."

Along with Etc., other great shops in town also offer this convenient service. The consignment shop Bubble Gum & Blue Jeans offers a wide variety of quality toys, kids' clothes, shoes, and accessories for half of what you would pay at any department store. As if the savings weren't enough, they also offer layaway.

"It's a 30 day layaway with 25 percent down," said employee Kathy McDowell.

"That is on anything in the store except for sale items. We have a lot of people that use it a good bit year round, but especially around the holiday season."

There are more local shops that offer layaway to their customer's, like Werner's Trading Company whose holiday layaway requires 20 percent down and all items must be paid off a week before Christmas.

These shops and more are making it easier for you to shop for the things you want. And when you get to help your local economy by shopping locally it's a win, win all year round.



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Local stores such as Etc. by Nikki, Bubble Gum & Blue Jeans, and Werner's Trading Company provide convenient layaway options.

Closed (from Front)

• The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce will be closed on Thursday, November 27 and Friday November 28 and will resume normal business hours on that following Monday. For more information, call 256-734-0454.

• The Cullman Public Library will be closed Thursday, November 27, Friday, November 28 and Saturday, November 29 for Thanksgiving and will reopen the following Monday with normal business hours. For further questions, call the library at 256-734-1068.

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.

Annual Thanksgiving Meal in Good Hope
The City of Good Hope is once again sponsoring free Thanksgiving meals today beginning at 11 a.m. This event will take place in Good Hope School's lunchroom with donated foods and service by volunteers in the community. If someone you know needs a good hot meal and cannot get out, come pick up a plate for them. Maximum of 10 takeout plates per car. Folks also can eat in our dining room, or you can pick up some Thanksgiving plates for your employees and others who deserve a good meal! Further information available by calling the city Hall at 256-739-3757.

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
HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Friday

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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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
- Thanksgiving Day

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
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Fill'er Up Fridays • Sudsy Saturdays

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

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ANGEL TREE GIVES OPPORTUNITY TO HELP DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN THIS CHRISTMAS

Katie Dansby
katie@cullmansense.com



KATIE DANSBY/CULLMANSENSE

Each ornament on the Angel Tree at Standard Furniture displays a child's age, gender, and what they would like for Christmas.

CULLMAN - Every child should have a good Christmas and Standard Furniture is helping to make those dreams come true this holiday season. At the store, there is an Angel Tree decorated with ornaments that represent less fortunate children in the Cullman community. On the ornaments are the children's age, gender, and wish list for this Christmas.

"It's okay to purchase items that are not on the child's list," said Frieda Trosclair, credit manager at Standard Furniture. She mentioned that the list is only a guideline to use while shopping for the child. All you have to do is select the child for whom you would like to sponsor and buy, and then bring the gifts back wrapped and ready to be placed under the tree. All gifts need to be returned to Standard Furniture by 6 p.m. on December 11. The gifts are then organized, picked up by the child's school, and then picked up by the parents. All of this has to be done before the children go home for Christmas break.

The children in need are recognized by their guidance counselors from local schools in Cullman County. This year the store has taken around eight children from 10 different schools. "When we tell them we want kids, we include the siblings in the family," Frieda said. She added that there are about 60 children left to sponsor this year and looks forward to all of them being provided for.

Frieda also mentioned that if you want to sponsor a child, but do not have time to go shopping, it is okay to donate money. She said that the store will be happy to do your shopping or even purchase gift cards for the children. Some gifts have already been bought, wrapped and turned in for this year. If you do not have time to wrap the gifts, just be sure to get them back to Standard Furniture with some wrapping paper and the employees will wrap them for you.

Frieda said that Standard Furniture has had an Angel Tree for about five years now. There is even a boy who comes in with his parents who chooses to sponsor a child. Instead of asking for presents for himself, he shops for one of the needy children. Frieda said that there are a few children like that, and that there are even families that do the shopping as a tradition together. She said that Webb Wheel has sponsored five or six children and some church groups do the same.

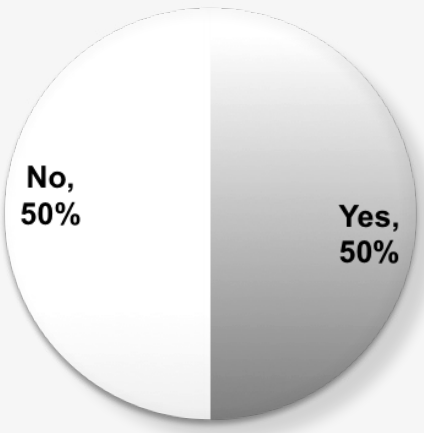
There is not an average amount that you are asked to spend on the child. Instead, whatever you are able to give is more than what the child would receive had you not sponsored them. "Anything is more than they have," Frieda said.

On December 6, Santa will be visiting Standard Furniture for visits and pictures. Stop by to see him and pick out a child to sponsor while you are there.

Standard Furniture is located at 906 Perry Street SW Cullman, AL 35055. For further questions, give them a call at 256-734-6564 or e-mail them at cullman@standardfurniture.net. Their hours of operation are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Poll

Do you keep an emergency kit in your car?



This Week's Poll
Do you enjoy holiday get-togethers with your family?
Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

Self-defense (from Front)

during the holidays," said Rohrscheib.

"Theft and shoplifting always go up during that time. So a class around this time will be good, because ladies will be out and about more shopping for Christmas. The goal is to get women to be more aware of their surroundings, and know what to do if something does happen."

The class will be held at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center on December 2 and 9 from 6-8 p.m. The cost is only $25, which pays for the manual you will receive. Rohrscheib talked about what a participant can expect when they come to the class.

"We will be using the Equalizer Program in these classes," she said. "And what I like about these classes is that it is a basic self-defense class that is easy to learn. The moves are easy to comprehend, and they are based on technique, not strength, so they are very effective for women."

Rohrscheib went on to say that she has women of all ages sign up for the classes and benefit from them. Everyone is welcome and no membership to the Aquatics Center is needed. For those that are not able to make it to the class, Rohrsheib closed with some tips on how to stay safe this holiday season.

"Always park where the area is lit in a parking lot," said Rohrscheib. "Pay attention to your surroundings when you exit a building, and be sure to take a quick scan of your car before getting in. Make sure no one has managed to sneak inside. One of the most important tips is to stay alert when you leave somewhere, do not be distracted on your cell phone and have your keys ready. We want everyone to stay safe this holiday season."

For more information on the class, please call 256-736-4703 or e-mail at cindyr@cullmanpd.com.

cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

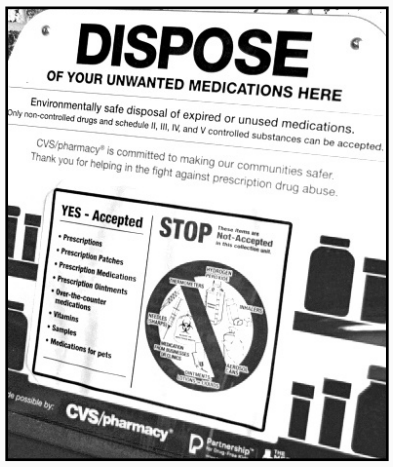
- **Annual Christmas Arts & Crafts Show** will be at the Cullman Civic Center on Friday and Saturday December 5-6. The show will feature handmade items only such as jewelry, clothing, wood working, outdoor items, home items, gifts, and much more. The event will be free to attend and hours will be 9am-9pm on Friday and 9am-5pm on Saturday. Call 256-734-9157 for info.
- **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony** will be held as part of Christmas in Cullman on December 5, following the Christmas Parade through downtown at 6pm. The Tree Lighting will take place at Depot Park and also include free photos with Santa, entertainment, and more. The event as well as the parade is free to the public.
- **Phone Calls from Santa:** Sign up to have your child receive a FREE call from Santa. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis, and spaces are limited. Sign-ups will open Dec. 1 at the Civic Center. Call 256-734-9157 for more info.
- **Ten Years Younger classes** held at the Cullman Civic Center every Tuesday at 10am with Ann Caretti. Classes are $45 for 6 weeks. Call 256-734-9157 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 at 256-734-2125.
- **Yoga Classes** are offered at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center as well as a host of other fitness classes including Pilates, Zumba, spin, class, aerobics, water aerobics and more. Classes are offered 7 days a week. Check the front desk or call 256-775-SWIM for class schedule and times.
- **Youth Archery Classes** are held every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at the Cullman Civic Center. Classes are $40 per month and are available for beginners, intermediate, and advanced archers. Bows are provided, or you can bring your own. Register at the Cullman Civic Center or call 256-734-9157 for information.

What's Online

Drop Box for Old Medication at Cullman Police Department

If you have some old prescription drugs stored away at home, be sure to take advantage of the drug drop off box at the Cullman Police Department to dispose of unneeded, unused or outdated medications. Sergeant David Nassetta said that the way the box originated was through a...

qrne.ws/282



Trauma Prevention Program Changes Lives

The Trauma Prevention Program has come to a close for 2014 and will resume on February 7, 2015. The program was formed by the partnership of Cullman Regional Medical Center and the Cullman County District Court Offices in an effort to educate teen drivers about the risks of driving recklessly.

qrne.ws/283

Littleville Blue Finds New Home

If you are looking for one of a kind items and antiques, then look no further than Littleville Blue. Their work and eye for seeing the hidden potential in old items is truly something you need to see for yourself. They recently made their new home in the beautiful Warehouse District here in Cullman.

qrne.ws/284



KATIE DANSBY/CULLMANSENSE

Directed by Mrs. Cindy Pass, the 40 student cast rehearsed for eight weeks.

EES SINGS "BYE BYE BIRDIE"

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS PERFORM BROADWAY MUSICAL

Katie Dansby
katie@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The students of East Elementary presented their 8th annual musical theatre production under the direction of Mrs. Cindy Pass. This past weekend the performance was open to the public to view the students as they presented the Broadway Musical "Bye Bye Birdie". They entertained an audience on two separate occasions including a Friday evening show and a Saturday afternoon show in the East Elementary Gym.

The cast of 40 students in grades 2-6 has been rehearsing for eight weeks. Their efforts were seen as they sang and recited lines of great length throughout the entire show. The proceeds gathered from the two performances will help fund next year's musical production at East Elementary.

"Bye Bye Birdie" is known to be one of the most captivating musical shows of our time. It tells the story of a rock and roll singer who is about to be inducted into the army. The singer, Conrad Birdie, is an Elvis Presley type with a gold and gaudy wardrobe. Student Chas Neal Smith played the role very well as he entertained the audience with his singing and charm while teenage girls fainted at his presence.

Conrad's agent, Albert Peterson, was played by Banks Baker. Albert attempted to keep Conrad in line and on track while Conrad had a different agenda.

However, it is Albert's faithful secretary, Rose Alvarez, played by Rosie Cowart, who keeps Albert and Birdie moving forward in the world. Rose planned one final national publicity stunt before Conrad's induction to bid a typical American teenage girl goodbye with an all-American kiss. It is Kim McAfee, played by Kennedy Kruger, in Sweet Apple, Ohio, who wins the honor.

All of the phones in her hometown are busy, as she has just been pinned to Hugo, a local boy, played by Chandler Reese. Hugo defends their 'going steady' throughout the entire uproar of the town.

The arrival of Conrad in Sweet Apple caused swooning by both the young and old. Conrad says his success is due to the fact that he is honestly sincere when he sings. This put the quiet little town into a spin as teenage girls and fan clubs swooned at Conrad's presence. It is then decided that Conrad will give his one last kiss on the Ed Sullivan show. Kim's father, played by Jackson Miner, dislikes the chaos, but behaves like a ham on the TV show. Hugo steps in to stop the kiss and knocks Conrad to the floor.

When Conrad realizes he will soon be leaving town and is tired of being watched over by Albert, he leaves with some teenagers. This is when Conrad is arrested and Kim and Hugo reunite and become engaged. After bailing Conrad out of jail, Albert and Rose smuggle Conrad out of town. A grateful Conrad gives Albert and Rose a lifetime contract guaranteeing their success.

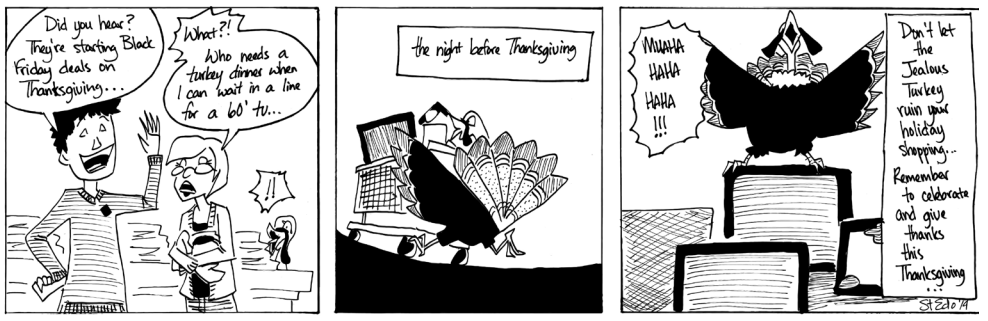
The students of East Elementary thanked Mrs. Pass for her direction this year. For some, it was their last play at East before they move on to middle school. They were grateful to her for helping them improve their acting skills and instilling confidence in them to perform in future plays.

For more on the happenings at East Elementary visit www.ees.cullmancats.net.

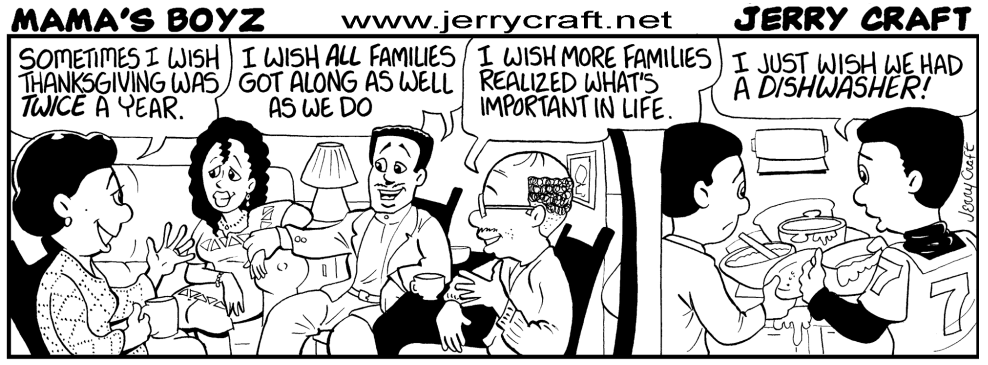
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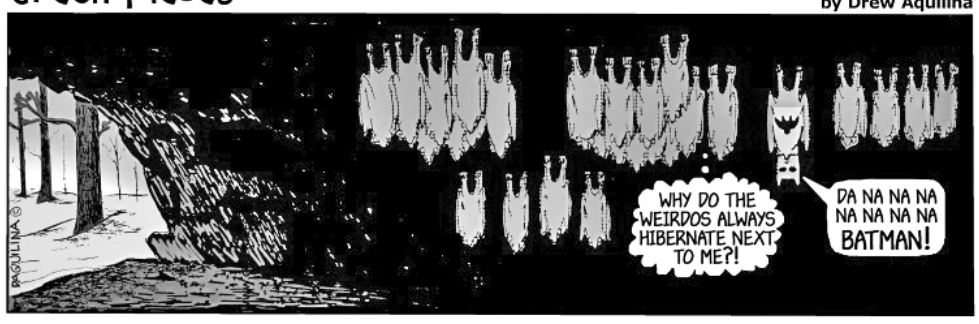
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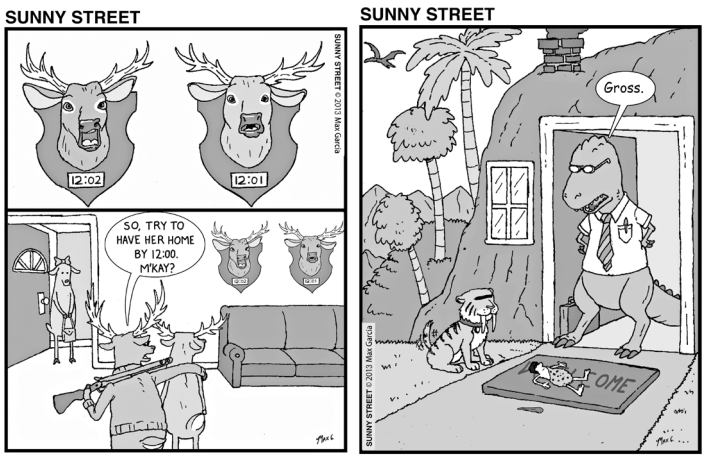
MAMA'S BOYZ www.jerrycraft.net **JERRY CRAFT**



Green Pieces© **by Drew Aquilina**



SUNNY STREET **SUNNY STREET**

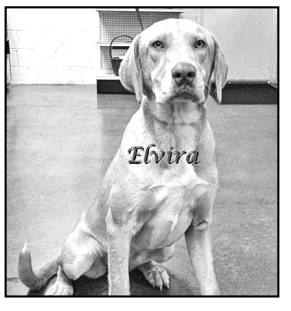


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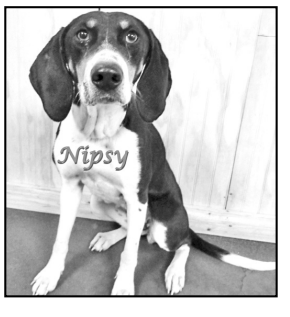
PETS OF THE WEEK

Elvira



Hello! My name is Elvira, and I am about 2 years old. I am a Labrador mix, and I currently weigh 55 lbs. I was a stray but no one claimed me so now I am up for adoption. I am full of life, and I love to play. I can't wait to meet my new best friend and forever companion. Come visit me today and you'll fall in love with me!

Nipsy



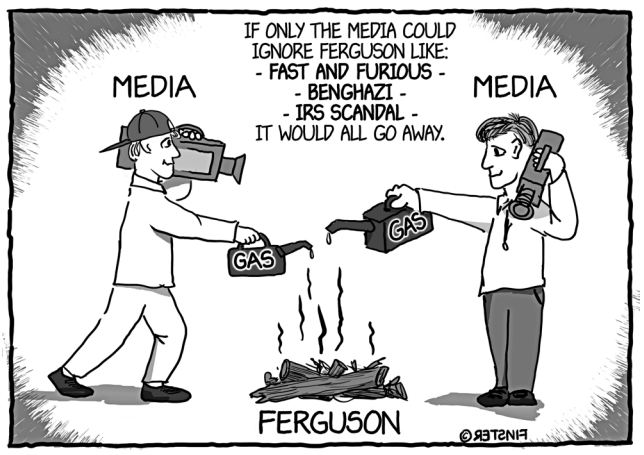
Hello! My name is Nipsy, and I am about 2 years old. I am a Terrier mix and I currently weigh 37 lbs. I am a stray but if no one claims me, I will go up for adoption on 11/24/14 at 12:30 pm. I am full of life and I love to play. I can't wait to meet my new best friend and forever companion. Please come visit me today!

ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

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

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

EDITORIAL CARTOONS







theinsolentlemon.blogspot.com

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OPINION

DOES THE TATTOO DEFINE THE PERSON?

Chelsea Sparks
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Tattooing has gone mainstream in recent years and has sparked a lot of controversy for some. Shows like "Miami Ink" and "Ink Master" have brought the art of tattooing to the forefront of modern culture. For some, it is an art form and the body is one big canvas, while for others it is a way to wear their lives and remember where they have come from. On the other side of the aisle are those who say that it is tacky and a way to bring negative attention to one's self.

While tattoos are legal, the stigma surrounding those who wear them can make life uneasy. Many are forced to censor themselves to get the kind of job he or she wants in the future. Those who choose not to censor themselves accept the limited number of jobs available to them. The question then remains, why does it matter, and does the tattoo define the person?

The answer is tricky because of it is a subjectivity and dependent upon one's views and opinions. Certainly a person with something offensive like a swastika cannot teach children in school, but what about a woman with a butterfly on her wrist or a skull?

Is a doctor less qualified because they have a tattoo? A qualified and caring doctor is just as caring whether or not his/her body has tattoos adorning it.

Employees and businesses may be forced to accept this fact soon as a Pew Research report stated that a whopping 40 percent of millennials have tattoos somewhere on their body.

This means that a good number of the newest generation workforce will enter it with tattoos. Doctors, nurses, fireman, teachers, government officials, and more can, and do, work with tattoos.

For years, businesses have proudly enforced their right to dictate what an employee looks like within their store, but as time goes on and social norms change, tattoos are becoming less about scary brutes and bikers.

Now, more and more people are seeing it for what it is, an art form, and a means of self expression. A person, who paid the money and went through the pain of a tattoo, did not do so with the intent of being a thorn in someone's side, they did it to remember something.

It may be to remember a lost loved one, a good time in their life, or a reminder of the people who have helped them along in their path. Some choose to show their dedication to their religion.

No matter the reason, a tattoo showing in a workplace is not a threat to anyone, and it does not define the character of a person.

All anyone wants in life is to do those things that give them joy, and for some, that is tattooing. It is a personal choice and a preference on how to appear, and usually a way to tell their story.

I got my tattoo as a way to remember my sister, who passed at the young age of 17. It is large and across my back and is a constant reminder of her, a conversation starter that allows me to tell others about her. It is also a symbol for my husband, who is forever a constant line of support and love. I am not less of a reporter for having it; it has nothing to do with me professionally, or my ability to do my job. It is simply a piece of my inner self, which I have brought to the surface.

VOICE

A FALL AFTERNOON IN WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

NEW YORK, NY - The afternoon sun snuck through the spaces in between the buildings that make up NYU's campus, and the rays shining over the trees coated Washington Square Park in a gentle amber glimmer. A group of jazz musicians in the park floated smooth tunes into the air, the stand-up bass melding with the trumpet to form songs so good even the dead leaves floated up, swirling and dancing along with the music.

I walked to the part of the park that has the chess tables, not too far away from the jazz, to be sure. There, tucked in the corner of the historic park, is a fountain. And, circled around that fountain are wooden benches held up by cast iron trimming. And in between each set of benches there are stone tables with 8-by-8 checkerboards painted on the flat tops. Here grown men sit and play chess all day, laughing like children at jokes told by their friends on the other side of the fountain.

I sat down at an unoccupied table. I heard a voice, "You wanna play some chess?" I turned and clarified that the man was talking to me. He was. I walked over to his table. Without standing up, he shook my hand and introduced himself as Cornbread. I introduced myself as Will. I sat my bag down, and then myself after that, as he explained the rules, "We play five-five for fives." He glanced around the park, adjusting his knights to face his king. I looked at him. "So," I said, "five minutes each for $5?" I had understood him correctly, and I was playing with the white pieces, so I started off the game. I held my own, although he took way more of my pieces than I did of his. He eventually cornered my king using two of his rooks and his queen. Checkmate.

"Let's play one without the clock," he said. I had nowhere to be, so I agreed. "If you win, we're even. If I win, you owe me $10," Cornbread explained.

We switched colors, and this game was ended much more quickly. This time, Cornbread utilized one of his knights and a bishop to entrap me in checkmate.

Cornbread leaned back, "Your problem, Mr. Will, is that you do not realize the weapons being formed against you." I could see his tongue moving through the gap a missing tooth just left of center made in his mouth. I nodded in agreement.

He asked me what I was studying in school, since I told him I was at The King's College during the first game. I told him business, but I would need to get better at strategy before I tried actually doing anything in the world.

Cornbread laughed. "It's all about owning your own business," he said. "It's much easier that way. You don't have no problems." I asked him why he thought that. "Because if you got a bill that's gotta be paid, it'll get paid. No worries, you know," he explained, or at least thought he did.

I am almost done with a semester of Introduction to Economics and I'm sure there were some massive flaws in his assessment, but I wasn't about to confront Cornbread on it. This was the man, remember, who had just eviscerated me in back-to-back games of chess.

I said it was great to meet him as I stood up. He got very serious, saying, "Don't forget, you gotta pay. You gotta pay," still glancing around as I had come to find normal from our short acquaintance.

"Of course," I said, handing him a $10 bill. "Look up Cornbread chess on the Internet," he said as we parted. "I'm a legend, and that's who you were just playing." I smiled and walked out of the chess area and into the center of Washington Square Park.

The sun had set by now, and even the jazz band had stopped playing. But, I sat down on a bench in front of a large fountain, which had been emptied for the winter and was now being used as a BMX bike park by some kids. The Empire State Building and its red, white and blue lights were visible through the Washington Square Arch.

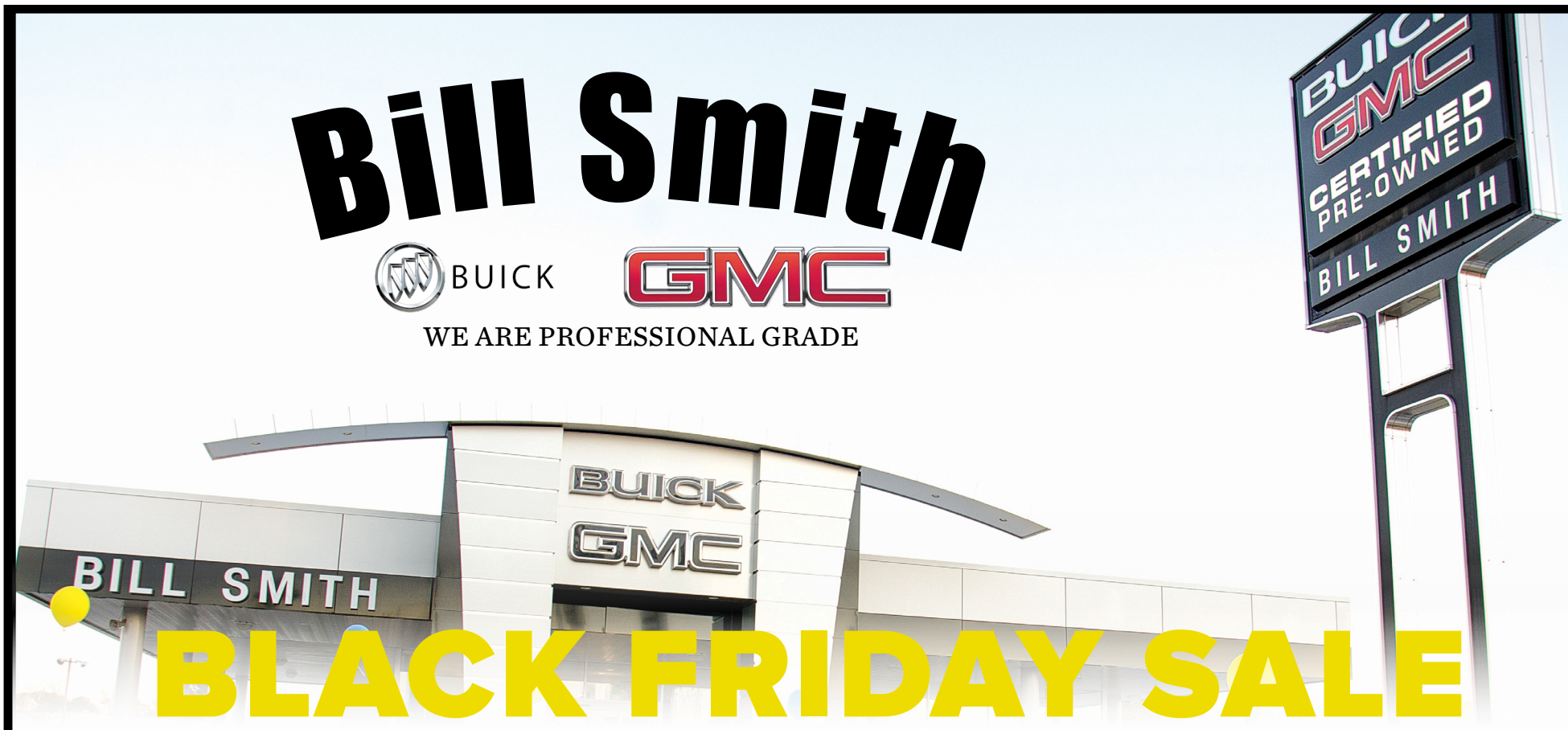
The marble arch was built in 1889 to celebrate the centennial of George Washington's inauguration in the city and is built in the same style as Roman triumphal arches. Even though I had lost both games of chess, as I mulled over the wisdom provided by Cornbread, I couldn't help but think I was winning at something.



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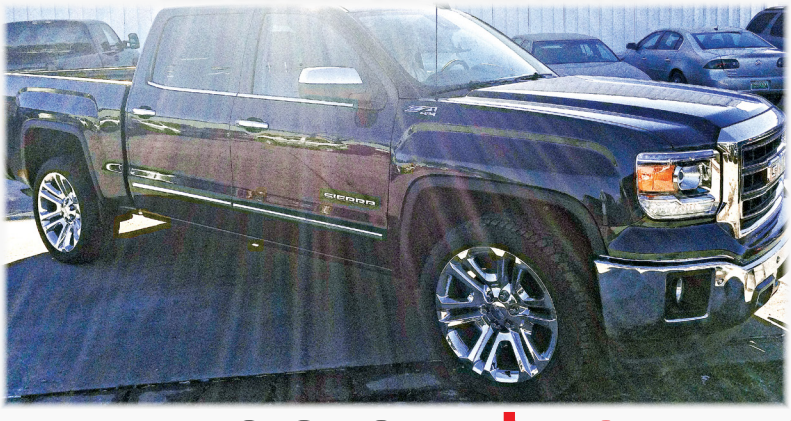
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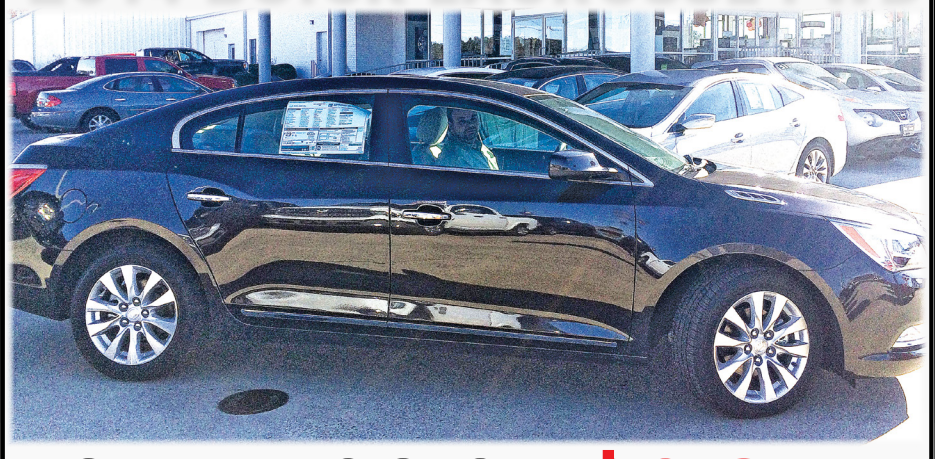
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