SERIES 4 • ISSUE 46 • DECEMBER 1, 2014

CULLMANSENSE COMMUNITY MATTERS

CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S

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KATIE DANSBY/CULLMANSENSE

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SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Most local adoptions are by the child's foster parents.

17 CHILDREN GIVEN HOMES

CULLMAN DHR CELEBRATES YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENT DURING NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN - Last Monday the Cullman County Department of Human Resources hosted a celebration in honor of the adoptions successfully completed for the year. Judges, attorneys, DHR social workers, and adoptive families were there to enjoy the time together. Hot dogs, chips, and cookies were served and the crowd had a wonderful time.

"November is National Adoption Month and what we try to do every November is celebrate the adoptions we've had the previous year," said Amanda Buchanan, adoption program supervisor at Cullman County DHR. "Today we are celebrating 17 adoptions. This past year we've had kids ranging in age from less than 1 up to 13-14 years old."

Adoption is an excellent alternative for couples who suffer from infertility to have the family they so desire. There are many different requirements that go into an adoption, but once one it is completed, the results are quite remarkable for both the new parents as well as the child.

"We really love adoption," said Wayne Cook. Wayne and his wife, Robin, recently adopted their son, adorable eight month old Carter.

"As a part of our Christian faith, I believe it is a mandate. God has blessed us with Carter, and being older parents, we are excited to see how God is working through him. I'd like to challenge other people to step up and consider it [adoption]. If you have a home and you have the resources, please consider bringing a child into your home. It is a wonderful

p6

CHRISTMAS TREES: REAL VERSUS FAKE AND WHERE YOU CAN PICK YOURS UP

Chelsea Sparks
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CULLMAN - It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, and that means it is time to deck your halls. The first order of business for any home during the holidays is to find and decorate the perfect tree. Finding a tree that is perfect for your family can seem frustrating, but it doesn't have to be. Let's explore some pros and cons for both.

Artificial Trees – Artificial, or

p17



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Along with major retailers, live Christmas trees are available at a variety of small businesses.

VOLUNTEER IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Katie Dansby
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CULLMAN – In the spirit and season of giving, some folks like to know where and when they can volunteer their time. Through clubs, organizations and non-profit agencies, there are several opportunities in the Cullman community where one can give of themselves to meet the needs of those in our neighborhood.

The Cullman Regional Medical Center Foundation is preparing for their annual Lights of Love Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 4 at 5:30 p.m. in the Col. Cullmann Room at CRMC. Gifts of $20, $40, $60 or more will place a light on the tree as a tribute to someone special to you. Your tax-deductible gift will help support CRMC Foundation's Patient Oncology Assistance Fund in its continuing effort to aid in medical needs for cancer patients in our community. Donations may be contributed throughout the entire holiday season. Contributions can be made in memory or in honor of someone special in your life. Donate online at www.crmchospital.com/LightsofLove or call the CRMC

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LOCAL CHURCHES PLAN CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

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CULLMAN - The holiday season means that churches all around are preparing their Christmas plays and programs for their congregations and community members. Some will be celebrating all month with a series of messages regarding Christmas time, while others are honing in on their acting skills to do their best in their special Christmas production.

First United Methodist will be having a festive gathering on Saturday, December 6 from 8-10:45 a.m. called 'Breakfast with Santa'. For this particular event, you will want to RSVP to ensure that enough breakfast is prepared for everyone. To do so, just join their Facebook event or call the church. The cost to participate is $5 per person or $25 per family max (parents and children). All proceeds from the day will go toward their Christmas Love Children. Admission includes photos with Santa and an all you can eat breakfast! First United Methodist Church is located at 320 3rd

p6

2014 CULLMAN CHRISTMAS PARADE SET FOR FRIDAY

Will Hogue
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CULLMAN - The annual Cullman Christmas Parade will be this Friday, starting at 6 p.m. and will begin at the Busy Bee Café. Following down 1st Avenue, the Parade will commence at the Festhalle.

The Grand Marshall of the parade will be ABC 33/40 Meteorologist James Spann. Once the parade commences, there will be photos with Santa, as well as live entertainment in Depot Park.

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CPD DEBUTS NEW PATROL DOG

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CULLMAN - The Cullman Police Department recently introduced a new patrol dog, Recon, a Belgian Malinois, who will be 2 years old in January. Recon is certified in narcotics detection, tracking, and criminal apprehension. His handler is Officer Jeff Lawson.

The K9 program has been utilized at the CPD since 1984. Sergeant Jason Mickle, training officer at the CPD said, "Tony Simmons had our first dog, and we've had K9s the majority of the time since then. We've had a few breaks where we have not had dogs, but we've had them off and on ever since I've been in the department."

There are currently two dogs at the department - Recon which is Lawson's, and Mickle's dog who is about to be retired.

They are looking to replace Mickle's dog this year and soon have two dogs back on the road.

The training process that Lawson and Recon completed included a basic class of eight weeks.

Mickle said that the dogs have some initial training from Europe.

"We bought our dogs through a vendor from Huntsville, her name is Pam Rogers, and she goes over to Europe and tests the dogs. There is a very in-depth selection process that they've got to go through to be a patrol candidate for the program," Mickle said. Even after the training process, the dogs must gain experience with their handler.

"Once they're out on the street, it still takes another year for them to gain the experience that they need to be a veteran road dog. It's kind of like equating a police officer that goes through the police academy. When we send an officer to the police academy, technically he knows everything that he needs to do his job, he just doesn't have the experience. That's kind of where Recon is now. He knows everything that he needs to know to do his job, but the next year is going to be very important in maintaining his training, keeping everything up to date, and reinforcing it through the next year."

The department has had as many as four dogs at one time, but usually averages around two. Mickle said, "Typically we stay around two dogs because of the way our patrol shifts are set up." The department retired one of their dogs about a month ago after she suffered an injury.

Patrol dogs usually stay with the department for 5-7 years. "Recon is 2 and he could work until he is 7 to 9 years old, then we would retire him and start a new dog," Mickle said.

The dogs are considered vital to the department and are trained to do various tasks in order to serve adequately. "The biggest thing that the dogs do for us is that they're a locator tool. They help us find things that would be difficult for us to find and they do it a lot quicker and a lot more efficiently than we could do on our own," Mickle said.

"We've got dual purpose dogs which means they're used for drug detection and for patrol work."

He said that locating illegal narcotics is one of the things that Jeff trained Recon to do. Recon is certified to locate marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin.

The dogs are also trained to locate human scent.

"If we have someone that we're looking for such as a felon, and say it's at the end of a long car chase or something like that, we can use the dogs to track the felon down."



KATIE DANSBY/CULLMANSENSE

The Cullman Police Department's newest patrol dog, Recon, is certified in narcotics detection, tracking, and criminal apprehension.

The dogs are also used in burglary type situations. If a homeowner arrives and the door to their home has been kicked in, the dog is sent in the home first because it can locate human scent if the burglar is hiding. "The dog is going to be able to detect that," Mickle said.

"The primary thing is to locate narcotics and people and then they [the dogs] can also be used to apprehend people."

Mickle gave an example of a traffic stop situation where the subject may try to fight the officer.

At this point the handler can send his dog, and the dog will bite and hold on to the subject until an officer can get there and take the subject into custody.

For any questions, the Cullman Police Department can be reached at 256-734-1434 and is located at 601 2nd Ave NE, Cullman, AL 35056.

SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS SALES TAX HOLIDAY SET FOR FEBRUARY

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CULLMAN - The Cullman City Council passed an ordinance recently for the taxpayers of Cullman to participate in the Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday in February of next year. The council is required to notify the Alabama Department of Revenue of their decision before January 20, 2015 in order for Cullman to participate.

This will be Alabama's fourth annual sales tax holiday giving shoppers the opportunity to purchase certain severe-weather preparedness supplies free of state sales or use tax.

Retailers are required to participate and may not charge tax on items that are legally tax-exempt during the Sales Tax Holiday.

The holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, February 20, 2015 and ends at 12 midnight on Sunday, February 22, 2015.

Wesley Moore, city clerk recognizes the importance of citizens having the opportunity to purchase items without being taxed in order to be prepared for severe weather.

"We've done it every year and participated every year since it was passed."

Moore and the council did not hesitate to pass the ordinance and there was no question that the sales tax holiday is important to them and the well-being of the community.

Moore went on to describe the sales tax holiday. "It's where someone can go out and they can buy some of these covered items to be prepared, and they don't have to pay sales tax on it, so it's going to be cheaper."

Cheaper means affordability and convenience for those who care to participate.

The Alabama Department of Revenue updates the list of all counties and municipalities participating in the Sales Tax Holiday as they are notified.

Some of the covered items include batteries, cell phone chargers, battery-powered radios, battery-powered flashlights, emergency glow sticks, non-electric can openers, duct tape, plastic drop cloths, ground anchor systems such as bungee cords or rope, non-electric food storage coolers or water storage containers, ice packs, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and gas or diesel fuel tanks or containers.

Each of these items may not exceed $60 per item, while a single purchase with a sales price of $1,000 or less can be made to purchase any portable generator and power cords.

Visit www.revenue.alabama.gov/salestax to view a complete list of tax exempt items.

For more information, contact the Alabama Department of Revenue from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at 334-242-1490 or 866-576-6531.

SANITATION DEPARTMENT APPROVED FOR 2015 ROLL-OFF TRUCK

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CULLMAN - A request from the City of Cullman Sanitation Superintendent, Larry Jones, was made and approved to purchase a roll-off truck in the budgeted amount of $163,763.28. The truck will come from the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) bid list from Kenworth of Birmingham, Inc.

Jones said that a roll-off truck is known as a construction container or a construction dumpster and is typically used by plants for clean up. "We drop it off, they use it, and then they call us to come get it."

The sanitation department then drives the truck to the landfill to dispose of its contents.

Jones said the demand for roll-off trucks is growing in Cullman and more are necessary to fulfill the needs of the industries in the area.

"We've outgrown the demand. A lot of the plants have them like Rehau and Topre," Jones said. The trucks are also used at construction sites such as building homes and even remodeling.

The truck will not be used as a replacement, but instead will be an addition to the current fleet for a total of seven roll-off trucks.

The roll-off truck takes around 90-120 days to be built, but is sometimes completed quicker.

The sanitation department was also approved for one rear-loader garbage truck for residential areas.

This addition will be used on a regular basis as well as a replacement truck to the older ones during the busy holidays.

Both trucks will be 2015 models, paid for by tax dollars, and assigned to one person each as opposed to rotating among employees.

"The truck is taken care of better if there is one driver in it," Jones said.

Any questions may be directed to the Sanitation Department by calling 256-737-7560.



CHRISTMAS PARADE TO SHOWCASE SMALL BUSINESSES

Chelsea Sparks
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CULLMAN - Thanksgiving has come and gone and once again it is time for many to put up the tree, string the lights, and have a holly jolly Christmas. If you are looking for some holiday fun to get you in the spirit with your family, then be sure to be check out the attractions December 5.

The whole community will be united in the spirit of the holidays with a craft fair *(See Page 17)*, the debut of the Christmas lights at Sportsman Lake Park, a lit Christmas parade, and the lighting of the Christmas tree in Depot Park following the parade.

Waid Harbison, marketing director for Cullman City Parks & Rec and member of the marketing team for the Christmas in Cullman Board, says that events like this are great for local businesses.

"Christmas in Cullman is based around supporting our local businesses," said Harbison. "We are trying to do everything possible to make our businesses the focus of our Christmas in Cullman Board, as well as all activities we are promoting. Many local businesses downtown greatly benefit from the exposure of something like the Christmas in Cullman Parade."

He went on to talk about the opportunity the event provides for both advertising, and gathering more people to the downtown area.

"The parade will follow 1st Avenue from the Busy Bee to the Festhalle, which will showcase some 30 or more businesses along the way," he said.

"This is a great way for these businesses to all gain exposure, and new customers from both in and outside of the Cullman area. A lot of people in Cullman who have lived here all of their lives have never even been shopping in our downtown, and events like Christmas in Cullman encourage people to gather in downtown and see what all it has to offer."

Waid also said that all of the local organizations like the new Christmas in Cullman Board, representatives from the Cullman Downtown Merchants Association, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, City and County Parks & Recreation, local business representatives, and more are working together to help our local businesses.

Businesses are also working toward a common goal to promote shopping locally.

"This partnership to make the most of our Christmas in Cullman efforts has spread to all of the businesses and organizations in downtown," said Harbison.

"Almost every business in downtown has a Christmas in Cullman sign in their window; over 25 businesses will be staying open in downtown during the parade, which shows all of the businesses are trying to come together with the same goal of promoting the importance of shopping locally."

Those who come out to support this event can expect a lot of fun Harbison said.

"Locals can expect an exciting line-up of events this year for Christmas in Cullman," he said.

"In addition to the Christmas Open House the board held in November, we will be hosting the Christmas in Cullman Parade on December 5 at 6 p.m., which will be a very unique parade with floats featuring Christmas lights. James Spann will serve as the Grand Marshal of the parade. Following the parade, CP&R will host Christmas in the Park with the City of Cullman's Official Tree Lighting Ceremony, live entertainment, and Christmas-themed drama presentations."

Free pictures with Santa, an abundance of snow to play in, and all events for the night being free on December 5 are why there is no better time to get the family out and about.

It is a time to support our local businesses, have some fun and unite as one community. Shop local this holiday season and check them out!

SMALL BUSINESSES THAT WILL BE OPEN UNTIL 8 P.M. ON DECEMBER 5

- Bella Faire Day Spa & Salon
- Jennifer's Treasures (formerly Etc By Nikki)
- Classy to Sassy
- Three Pears Shoe Outlet
- Flavors Bakery
- What a Girl Wants
- The Added Touch Too
- From the Heart
- If The Shoe Fits
- A Touch of German
- Berkeley Bob's Coffee House
- Serendipity
- Handbags & Gladrags
- Finders Keepers
- Bessie Mae
- Whoopsy Daisy
- MoMo She 103
- Vintage West
- Busy Bee

ANNUAL CRMC CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING HONORS LOVED ONES

Will Hogue
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CULLMAN - On Thursday, December 4 at the Cullman Regional Medical Center, the CRMC Foundation will hold its 24th Annual Dr. Herman Ensor Lights of Love program. The event, which will begin at 5:30 p.m., is a community event, with performers from around Cullman joining to provide music.

The event will be held in the Col. Cullmann room at CRMC and all are invited to attend. The event is centered around the lighting of the Christmas tree that will sit atop CRMC.

Money can be donated to CRMC in contributions of $20, $40, or $60. For each $20 one light will be contributed to the tree and an acknowledgement card will be sent by CRMC to whomever they are donating money in honor of.

"Although we have many trees around the hospital," said Maria Sanford, executive director at the CRMC, "this one tree is the one that people's contributions go toward."

Sanford went on to say, that even though there is a deadline for when you can have an acknowledgement card sent and have your donation represented in a light on the tree on top of the CRMC, the hospital accepts donations throughout the year.

The Lights of Love program is ultimately a celebration meant to remember loved ones who have passed away and commemorate them with a donation to help those in the community.

"The funds received this year will go to benefitting the CRMC Foundation's Oncology Fund, which aids cancer patients throughout the community.

The Lights of Love ceremony will culminate with all in attendance walking outside, singing "Silent Night" together, and then watching the tree atop the hospital light up for the holiday season.

If you wish to contribute to the Lights of Love program, you can visit the CRMC's website, CRMCHospital.com, and select the donation form.

FOR KIDS' SAKE VARIETY SHOW AUDITIONS BEGIN MONDAY

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CULLMAN - Auditions for the 2015 Bownes Memorial For Kids' Sake Variety Show will take place on Dec. 1 and Dec. 2. Auditions will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Colonel Cullmann Room located at the Cullman Regional Medical Center's Professional Building 2.

"This is the bi-annual auditions that we host for anyone in the community ages 4-19," said Maria Stanford, executive director of the Foundation.

"The Foundation hosts this event every other year to provide funding and resources for the nursery and pediatric care services here at CRMC. We have a committee made up of community residents that help us open the forum for area children so they can showcase their talent and at the same time give back to the nursery and pediatric care services here at Cullman Regional Medical Center."

For Kids' Sake Variety Show is an "audition only" children's talent showcase in which the most gifted and talented children from Cullman County provide an evening of fun and entertainment for a crowd of around 500 people.

The show is held bi-annually and both corporate and individual sponsorship opportunities are available.

Encourage your talented youngster, friend, or family to participate in this fun and entertaining event.

"This is truly an open casting call and audition for anyone with any type of talent," said Stanford.

"We appreciate anybody's consideration in participating in our program. The auditions are in December and the event will be in February 2015."

This event will provides an opportunity for the community to come together and support local talent while raising funds to help support the nursing and pediatric services at the hospital.

Additionally, scholarships to Wallace State will be awarded to four high school students performing in the February show.

For more information about the auditions, please call the Foundation office at 256-737-2565 or e-mail at crmcfoundation@crmchospital.com.

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LOUISANA SERVED WITH A TOUCH OF LOVE: STAFF AT DODGE CITY'S NEW POPEYES RESTAURANT DEDICATED TO CUSTOMER SERVICE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

DODGE CITY - Dodge City is growing by leaps and bounds. Just this year, they have gained two fast foods restaurants, Sneaky Pete's and more recently, Popeyes Chicken. Popeyes moved into the Petro Stopping Center and opened its doors for business on October 8, 2014.

"This is great for Dodge City," said Dodge City Mayor Tawana Canada. "Any time anything comes in with new jobs, it's a benefit to us. Dodge City is filled with good people who are willing to work. We're a friendly bunch with the small, hometown mentality."

Popeyes is under the management of four women: General Manager Rachel Clements, and Shift Leaders Stephanie McClure, Sasha Chavez, and Flavia Williams. The ladies enjoy their work and pass on their positive attitudes to their employees.

"We still have a few hiccups we have to get straightened out, but everybody is doing really well for the first time working for Popeyes," said McClure.

"I'm really proud of the whole crew! We still may have a missing biscuit here or there but it's getting better. Our goal is to be 100 pecent efficient. We understand that most people may only have 30 minutes for lunch and the truckers are anxious to get back on the road, so we want to be able to get everyone out as fast as possible," she grinned. "We want our customers to come back and see us again. It makes me happy when I look up and see a familiar face – one that I saw yesterday or the day before. It's a wonderful feeling."

As Mayor Canada mentioned, the jobs that Popeyes has brought to the community have been beneficial, but something else stands out about the company.

"The four of us floor managers came from within the Petro store," explained McClure.

"I am very humbled that I was picked for this job. I really love it, we have an awesome crew," she said.

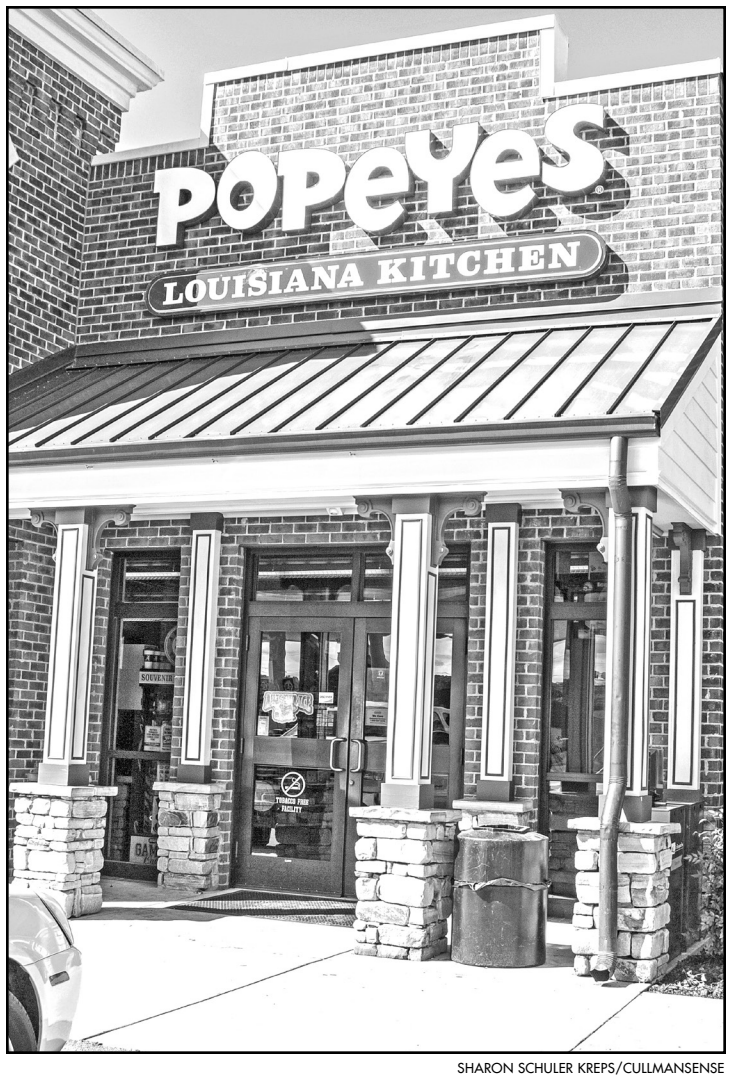
"Some people dread their jobs from the moment they wake up in the morning, but not me. I get up and I'm ready to start my day. I want my employees to feel the same way. I want them to enjoy coming to work, not dread it; because when you have a happy employee, you have happy customers," she beamed.

With the combination of quick and convenient food and dedicated employees, Popeyes is a welcome addition to the town of Dodge City and the whole county.

Popeyes is open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. every day and is located off I-65 at Exit 299 (Hwy 69) or 426 Alabama Highway 69 South, Hanceville, AL 35077. Their phone number is 256-287-0364.

"We want our customers to come back and see us again. It makes me happy when I look up and see a familiar face – one that I saw yesterday or the day before. It's a wonderful feeling."

- Stephanie McClure
- Popeyes Shift Leader



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The new restaurant is located in the Petro Stopping Center.

CHURCHES UNITE AT FIRST BAPTIST TO SERVE ANNUAL THANKSGIVING MEAL

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CULLMAN - On Thanksgiving Day, various churches in the Cullman community gathered together at First Baptist Church to volunteer their time to serve others a warm and delicious meal. This year marks the 21st anniversary of the event.

The first year, the event produced around 200 plates of food and as awareness has grown the meals have multiplied. Two years ago the volunteers produced 1,350 meals, the most to date.

The majority of the meals go to the Cullman County Jail while many others are dispersed to the Cullman Police Department, the Fire and Rescue Department, Emergency Medical Services, Victim Services, homebound individuals, and to community members who visited the church to enjoy a free meal with their family.

Larry Duke, pastor at Calvary Baptist, gave the devotional for the morning. He recognized the willingness of those volunteering and provided scripture to inspire the people who gave their time to help. The passages included Matthew 25:31-40, Luke 6:38, Hebrews 6:10, and Mark 9:41.

The meal was held at 11 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day, but volunteers prepared all week long. One volunteer, Mandy Redding, was able to help for her first time this year. "Yesterday I pulled turkey off the bone for about 3 hours and today I'm here helping to serve the dressing."

Mandy enjoyed helping serve and being with others who enjoyed serving. Mandy said the best part of the day was, "Just knowing that we are being a blessing to people and to families, and also just getting to work with other people." She also appreciated the team atmosphere of all the volunteers and enjoyed making a difference with other people. "It's been a blast being a part of a team and seeing a job come to pass."

Mandy said that she is thankful that there are other people that have that same type of heart to serve and bless the community. "It's awesome when all our churches are coming together as one team and making a difference in our community."

Mandy is looking forward to serving again next year. She had a blast and said she will definitely do it again. "It's been awesome," she said.

You can get involved next year for Thanksgiving at First Baptist as well. For more information contact First Baptist Church at 256-734-5632.



KATIE DANSBY/CULLMANSENSE

The majority of the prepared meals are taken to the Cullman County Jail.

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FROM TREES TO ART: MEET MASTER CRAFTSMAN JARROD SMITHERMAN

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Cullman County is home to a variety of talented artists. For example, Mr. Jarrod Smitherman is a Vinemont High School teacher by day and master craftsman by night. Jarrod has the ability to take plain wood and turn it into usable art. Each item is unique because no two pieces of wood are exactly the same.

"Woodworking is a long tradition in my family," Smitherman said with a nostalgic smile.

"My father has done it as a serious hobby for most of my lifetime. My grandfather built cabinets and did some home construction. My great-grandfather was a carpenter. But I have learned the most from my father, who often accompanies me at craft shows."

As attendees pass by vendor after vendor at the craft shows around town, it's hard for them to overlook Smitherman's display. His wooden merchandise catches their attention within seconds.

"I make an assortment of items out of wood. Most of what I do is functional, like pens, rolling pins, light chain pulls, etc. I do a lot of woodturning, which is a form of woodworking in which the items are round or cylindrical."

Jarrod feels that working with wood is more than just a hobby; he's in it for more than money. He gets great satisfaction by creating objects with his two hands.

"There is just something really satisfying about taking a piece of wood and a few basic tools and revealing the beauty of God's creation," he explained.

"I really enjoy meeting new people and seeing the joy on their faces when they purchase a gift for a friend or family member knowing that the gift was made by hand right here in Cullman County."

Smitherman is known by many around town for his talent. When a customer buys one of his pieces, they tend to come back for more.

Word of his ability has spread quickly and many have sought him out to customize a piece of wood with a symbolic meaning.

"I have had a number of customers who wanted an item made to certain specifications out of wood with some sentimental value," he said.

"I turned a pair of rolling pins for one customer from a tree that had fallen down at her mother's childhood home. I have turned a number of pens for people who came from hardwood floor scraps from a childhood home, or wood from a tree that fell during the April 2011 tornadoes."

Christmas will be here before you know it and now is the time to think about gifts for that special someone in your life.

If you would like to know more about Jarrod Smitherman and his artwork available for sale, check out his Facebook page Woodchuck Turning Studio at facebook.com/woodchuckturningstudio. He can also be found at major craft shows in the Cullman County area.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Woodworking has been a long tradition in Smitherman's family and his works are typically functional objects such as pens, rolling pins, and light chain pulls.

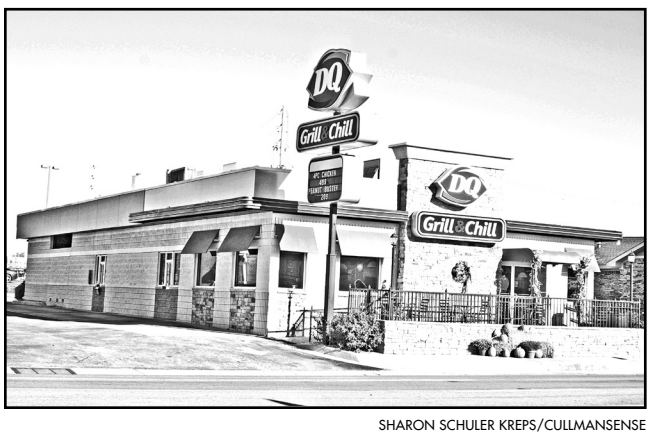
MIRRORING HISTORY: CULLMAN DAIRY QUEEN

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Dairy Queen has been serving the folks of the Cullman area ice cream treats for many years. The first picture was taken in 1966 and was in the advertisement section of Cullman High School's yearbook for that same year.

The second picture was taken recently and as you can see it has had many changes since the 60s!

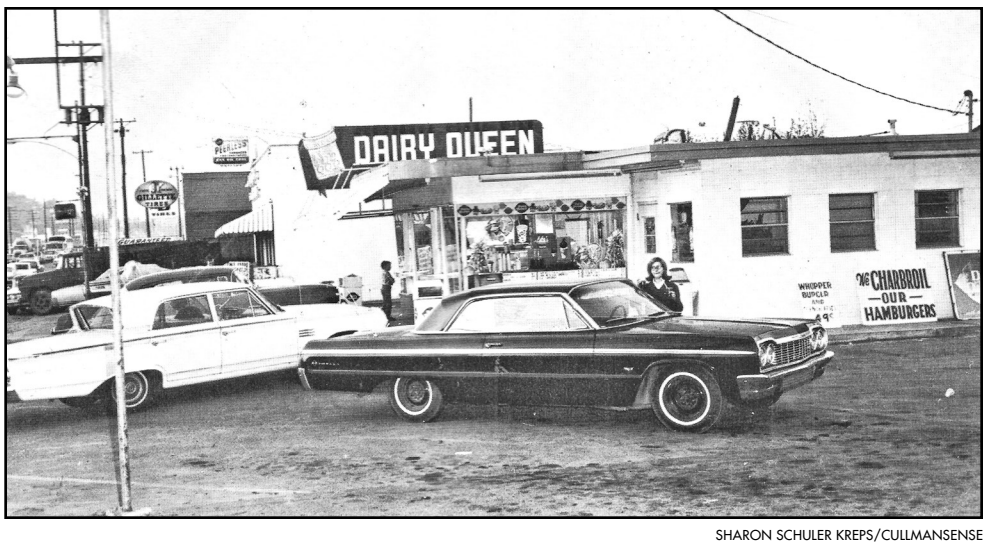
If you haven't tried a Blizzard or a foot long hotdog, you don't know what you are missing!



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Dairy Queen has undergone many transformations.

Dairy Queen is located at 410 2nd Ave NW, Cullman, AL 35055. They are open Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday through Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Their phone number is 256-734-8358.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The 1966 Dairy Queen building shares few similarities with today's restaurant.

WINTER RECIPE
CHICKEN POT PIE CUPCAKES

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

What could be better on a cold winter day than chicken pot pie? Delicious chicken in a creamy sauce with vegetables, and a flaky crust is just what we all need to warm us up.

Now you can have all the comforts of chicken pot pie in a small and manageable size.

This is a great recipe for appetizers, and for holiday parties.

Ingredients:

- 1 chicken breast, poached and diced
- 1 (14.5 oz) can - cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup - frozen mixed veggies
- 1 cup - shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 tbsp - Herbs De Provence
- 1 tsp - onion powder
- 1 tsp - garlic salt
- 2 (10 oz) cans - biscuits

Instructions:

- Preheat your oven to 400 degrees.
- In a large bowl, combine the cooked chicken, cream of chicken soup, frozen veggies, cheese, herbs and spices.
- Lightly grease a 12-cup muffin tin and place the biscuits into each cup, pressing into the bottom and up the sides.
- Evenly spoon the pot pie mixture into each biscuit cup.
- Slide into the oven and bake for about 15 minutes. Check at the 12-minute mark.
- Let rest for about 3 minutes and serve. Enjoy!

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BESSIE MAE HAS VINTAGE STYLE AND A TRICK UP ITS SLEEVE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Bessie Mae is a vintage boutique in the Warehouse District with a twist. Located across from Monograms Plus, the shop specializes in vintage jewelry, clothing, and everything in between. What makes this business uncommon is the private salon located in the back. Pretty and frilly, everything Bessie Mae has to offer is pleasing to the eye and easy on the pocketbook.

"The look I'm really going for is the vintage yet Victorian look," said Tammy Love, owner. "I like the very feminine touch. A lot of the boutiques cater to the younger crowd. I want to cater to bringing back the feminine."

Named after Tammy's grandmother, Bessie Mae is a combination of a classy boutique and a private beauty salon. It is the ultimate mother/daughter dream come true for Tammy and her daughter Ali Love-Bonner.

Tammy, a native of Eva, runs the front of the shop. It is fully loaded with clothing and accessories.

Ali, Tammy's daughter, operates the salon in the back.

The beauty bhop is the place to be for pampering and beauty without the big crowd and noise.

"One of the big names I have, as far as what I sell the most of, is the Oh My Gauze brand of gauzy linen," Love added.

"We have a lot of vintage jewelry. I'm always looking for vintage jewelry, I'm always looking for jewelry that nobody else around here has."

"One of the unique things about shopping in the Warehouse District is all of us try not to copy what the other ones have," she continued.

"I try to get to know the other business owners and learn what they have. That's important to me. If a customer is looking for something I don't have, I send them to one of the other shops that I know carry that certain item."

Bessie Mae has only been in its current location for a month, but something tells me she's here to stay.

The shop features quality merchandise, a personal salon, and a pair of women who enjoy doing what they love. They welcome their customers as friends and want to help them however they can.

Bessie Mae is located at 113 1st Avenue NE, Cullman, AL 35055. Their phone numbers are 256-841-5855 and 205-718-3402. Their e-mail is bessiemaevintage@gmail.com.



CONTRIBUTED

Bessie Mae strives to provide classy vintage items that can't be found anywhere else.

Churches (from Front)

St SE Cullman, AL 35055. For more information, call 256-734-6690.

Destiny Church is excited to have a powerful three part series that will run through the month of December on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. called 'Why We Believe'. The first portion will be on December 7 called 'Why We Believe in the Bible'.

The second portion will be on December 14 called 'Why We Believe in Jesus'. The third and final portion will be on December 21 called 'Why We Believe in Christmas'. Destiny Church is located at 566 Co Rd 1339 Cullman, AL 35056. For more information, call 256-737-9254 or email them at destinychurch@edestiny.org.

Temple Baptist Church is looking forward to their services on Sunday, December 21 at 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. At these times they are inviting everyone to join them for 'A Temple Christmas' where you can bring the whole family to enjoy a Christmas experience.

Professional, age-based children's programs will be available during every service. Temple Baptist Church is located at 30 County Road 1184 Cullman, AL 35057. For more information, call 256-737-0112 or email Christmas@templebaptistcullman.com.

Crosshaven Church has a lot going on around Christmas time as well. Their new Sunday morning series 'We Three Kings' runs the first three weeks in December on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. On Sunday morning, December 14, the Crosshaven Kids Ministry will be featured as they lead worship with Christmas music that morning.

On Sunday morning, December 21, a special Christmas choir will be featured as they lead worship with the Crosshaven Worship Band. Crosshaven's big worship service will be 'Christmas at the Cross' on Sunday, December 21 at 6 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with apple cider, hot chocolate and coffee to enjoy afterward.

St John's Evangelical Protestant Church will have an exciting Christmas celebration on Sunday, December 7 at 10:30 a.m. The Music Ministry presents 'Born is the King, It's Christmas!' with an adult choir, student choir and children's choir. The music will take you through the story of Christ's birth. For centuries, both the young and the old awaited Jesus' arrival. And for centuries, His story has been worth retelling.

From Mary and Joseph taking a cattle stall as a birthing place after a long journey, or the shepherds receiving the announcement of the birth of the Messiah by a multitude of angels, to the long and extravagant journey and visit by the Magi from afar. Though the story occurred over 2,000 years ago, it remains as riveting, compelling and relevant to us today.

St. John's will also be having their 2nd Annual Christmas Festival and Market on Saturday, December 13. If you have a special hobby or craft and would like to participate, the vendor form is available at the church office or can be downloaded from the church website at www.sjepc.com.

There will be face painting and games such as putt putt golf and bowling, inflatable bounce houses and obstacle courses, and even carnival rides to enjoy! Put these events on your calendar to make your Christmas even more festive!

Send your church's events to calendar@cullmansense.com.

Volunteering (from Front)

Foundation Office at 256-737-2558 for more information.

A second event on behalf of the Cullman Regional Medical Center Foundation is the For Kids' Sake variety show. This event benefits nursery and pediatric care at CRMC. Auditions are on Monday, December 1 and Tuesday, December 2 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Col. Cullmann Room at CRMC. The donation amount is $30 for an individual or $60 for groups of two or more. Audition sessions are limited to 3 minutes for individuals and 5 minutes for groups. If you have a talent, you can participate! Performances vary from vocalists, dancers, instrumentalists, groups and ensembles. Participants must be ages 4-19. The judging criteria will be based on audience appeal and family entertainment value. For Kids' Sake will be on February 21, 2015. For more information, contact the CRMC Foundation Office at 256-737-2565.

Janice Lee, president of Friends of Cullman Animal Shelter (FoCAS), always needs volunteers to help with fundraising. She also emphasized that foster homes for animals are also needed to provide sanctuaries for animals until they find a permanent home. Lee added that monetary donations are used to get as many animals spayed and neutered as possible.

"We always need monetary donations to help pay for that as well as vet care," she said. She added that the funds also help to purchase food and pay for medical care for the animals.

Donations can be made to FoCAS by mail at PO Box 463 Cullman, AL 35056 or by calling 256-338-2936 for more information.

H.O.P.E. (Horses Offering People Encouragement), Inc. is an incredible opportunity to volunteer for. Founder David Poynor said, "We need volunteers in a variety of ways." He mentioned that help is needed around the barn as well as with the clients that come. Those that help with the clients are required to go through video training in order to be prepared to help with the clients and horses. For more information about H.O.P.E, visit their website at www.hopehorses.org. Monetary donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 625 Cullman, AL 35056 or by calling 256-739-3234 for more information.

The Link of Cullman County has an innovative way for our city to give back called 'Giving Tuesday' on December 2. Founder and Executive Director, Dawn Owens, said that on December 2, 'Giving Tuesday' will be a one day only opportunity to help them reach their goal of raising $3,300.

"We are in an end-of-the-year campaign to raise $100,000."

Owens described this as an opportunity to give back to charities after spending money on ourselves and others during our holiday shopping.

All giving happens by online donations, but they will gladly accept donations for their goal this year in any other way it will come.

For more information on Giving Tuesday, visit their website at www.givingtuesday.org. To donate, visit www.razoo.com/story/Flourish-Giving-Tuesday.

Owens also said that The Link is always in need of volunteers for reading coaches, administrative work, school mentoring, class teaching, financial counseling and landscaping.

The Link of Cullman County is located at 1101 3rd Ave SE Cullman, AL 35055 and can be reached at 256-775-0028.

Adoption (from Front)

blessing."

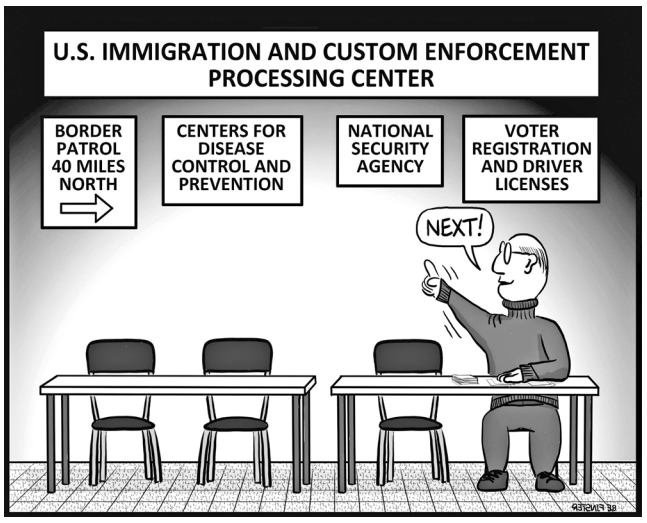
"The adoption process can be lengthy," Buchanan explained.

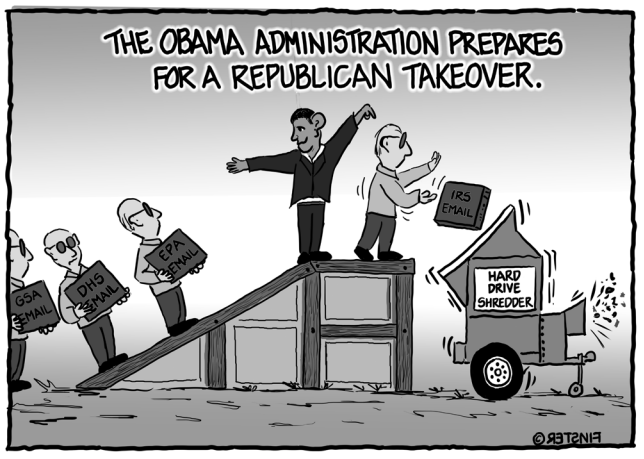
"Most of our adoptions are adoptions by the foster parents, so they [the children] have already been in that environment for a while. Since we've got foster parents growing their families, we definitely need new resources for our kids," Buchanan added. "We always need foster parents and we have GPS classes, which is Group Preparation and Selection classes, which will begin in February of 2015."

If you or someone you know would like more information about becoming foster parents or adopting a child, call Amanda Buchanan at 256-737-5343 or e-mail her at amanda.buchanan@dhr.alabama.gov.

Cullman County DHR is located at 1220 St. Joseph Street NW, Cullman, AL 35055. Feel free to stop by and speak to them with all your adoption questions.

EDITORIAL CARTOONS





HOW ARE WE DOING?

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

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or Call 256-297-1847

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E-mail your submission to opinion@cullmansense.com

CULLMANSENSE
Community Matters

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Back Issues

OPINION

GOODBYE, THANKSGIVING

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - A dreaded phrase for retail workers everywhere, but almost completely inevitable is, "I'm sorry you have to work today." You hear it at least once an hour on days like Thanksgiving as you work the cash register as fast as you can. It's meant well enough by the people who say it, but do they really know what they're saying?

For those working long hours during the holiday season, the above phrase is almost maddening. The party speaking it may actually be sorry, but they are still there shopping on Thanksgiving, which is why retail corporations stay open and call in their employees to work.

I remember working myself on holidays and wishing so badly to yell at every person who made the comment.

There are few holidays in the year that bring families together as much as Thanksgiving and Christmas does.

It is a special time where people travel hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles to see their loved ones, but so many are being torn from their families to satiate the ever growing greedy lust of their employers. Sure, you might get sales on that day, but at what cost?

Any great business person knows that to have a thriving and healthy company, you need passionate and happy employees.

If your employees are happy, then in turn, they give great customer service to your patrons and your customers return again ensuring future profits.

When you work your employees to the bone, with little pay, time and incentive, you are ensuring that a majority of your staff are very unhappy.

"They should just be thankful that they have a job," some might say, and while people should be thankful for a job, that statement is ignorant at best. A job is just that, a job. You offer your services to it, and in return, it gives you money to live or at least most places pay enough to live. The truth is that no one should have to work on a national holiday like Thanksgiving.

The person working a cash register deserves as much time with their family as the millionaire business owner. Both work hard, and both deserve at least one day with their families without the stress or thought of work.

A quarter of Americans will be working on Thanksgiving this year according to Allstate/National Journal's annual Heartland monitor poll. Forty-five percent of Americans surveyed say that there is a chance they will have to work as well.

While hospital workers, law enforcement, etc. have been working the holidays for years, the retail work side of the story has sparked particular outrage.

This is probably due to the fact that people can go one day without shopping, where as a hospital being open is a necessity. It is also outrageous, because not only are these retail giants cutting into the holidays for employees; they are also cutting into those people's time who are not working. It seems to be a vicious circle.

Those who need the sales in order to give presents this year, must hit the sales as they come. Since stores like Walmart, K-Mart, Target, Best Buy, Kohl's and more start their sales earlier and earlier, those looking for a bargain must go out on that day.

It seems that material things like presents and profit account for more to this country now than being with family.

Shoppers could take a stand and not give in to the sales, and send a message to corporate America, but they don't. Corporate America could stop their lust for profits for one day, and give the day back to the people, but they won't. It is an endless cycle for the material, and one that is costing us much more than we realize. To those working this holiday season, stay strong. Maybe one day this country will wake up.

OPINION

WHAT LIES AHEAD

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

Given all the words and images devoted to the midterm elections over the past few weeks, you'd think the results had told us something vital about the future of the country. In reality, they were just a curtain-raiser. It's the next few weeks and months that really matter.

The big question, as the old Congress reconvenes and prepares to make way for next year's version, is whether the two parties will work more closely together to move the country forward or instead lapse back into confrontation and deadlock. I suspect the answer will be a mix: modest progress on a few issues, but no major reforms.

Overall, the deep frustration Americans feel toward Washington will likely continue. Especially since, despite the urgent problems confronting us, the House leadership has announced an astoundingly relaxed 2015 agenda that includes not a single five-day work week, 18 weeks with no votes scheduled, and just one full month in session: January.

Still, there is hope for at least a modicum of progress. The President wants to enhance his legacy.

More politicians these days seem to prefer governing to posturing.

The Republican Party may have won big in the elections, but it still cannot govern alone: it will need Democratic votes in the Senate and the cooperation of the President.

And both parties want to demonstrate that they recognize they're responsible for governing.

Congress faces plenty of issues that need addressing, which means that skillful legislators who want to show progress have an extensive menu from which to choose.

Trade, health care, terrorism, responsible budgeting, rules on greenhouse gas emissions... All of these are amenable to incremental progress.

Which is not to say that progress is inevitable. President Obama acted to halt deportations of millions of illegal immigrants, though he did so without Congress.

His action could unleash unpredictable consequences. Meanwhile, the new Republican Senate is almost certain to give the President's nominees a hard time; while GOP senators are unlikely to want to appear too tough on Loretta Lynch, the nominee for attorney general, the gloves will almost certainly come off for nominees who must negotiate hearings after her.

Yet indications of what next year may be like have already begun to emerge. Bills with a relatively narrow focus that enjoy bipartisan support — boosting agricultural development aid overseas, funding research into traumatic brain injuries, giving parents with disabled children a tax break on savings for long-term expenses — either have passed the "lame-duck" Congress or stand a good chance of doing so.

In the end, 2015 will see a mix of small steps forward and backward. There's little chance of a minimum wage increase and it's unlikely the budget will be passed in an orderly and traditional manner.

Similarly, significant and difficult issues like major entitlement and tax reform will prove hard to budge, and comprehensive immigration reform is a near impossibility.

There will be no knockdown punch on Obamacare, but we'll see plenty of efforts to chip away at it.

On the other hand, Congress can probably manage to avoid a government shutdown, and it faces decent prospects of expanding and protecting our energy boom, promoting fast-track trade authority, and funding key infrastructure needs. Defense spending will not be further reduced.

The parties on Capitol Hill are highly suspicious of one another. Incoming Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said the right things about wanting more openness, a more traditional process, and more ability on the minority's part to offer amendments, but he'll be under great pressure from members of his caucus to make life hard for Democrats.

Similarly, Democrats in the Senate, still fuming over what they view as obstructionism from the Republicans over the last several years, will face pressure to make life as hard as possible for the new majority.

Yet here's the basic truth: divided government does not have to be dysfunctional. It can be made to work, and if incremental progress on small issues is the way to get started, then let's hope Congress and the President pursue that course.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

POSITION AVAILABLE

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

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.

Ceremony of Carols with Cantani della donna
Cantanti della donna, Cullman's premier women's ensemble, will present Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* at 7 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St NE. For more information call 256-736-2622. Concert is free!

'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!

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

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.

Annual Christmas Arts and Crafts Show
The annual Christmas Arts and Crafts Show sponsored by Cullman Park and Recreation Department takes place at the McGukin Civic Center in Cullman from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.

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.

Annual Christmas Arts and Crafts Show
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Next Monday

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Looking Ahead

Ceremony of Carols with Cantani della donna
Cantanti della donna, Cullman's premier women's ensemble, will present Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols on Tuesday, December 9th, 7:00 pm at the Hartselle First Baptist Church. Accompanied by Harp, Britten's Ceremony of Carols is a real holiday treat. Cantanti della donna and the Cullman Community Band will hold a joint concert at WSCC, the Evelyn Burroughs Center for the Arts on Monday, December 15th at 7 p.m. All are free. For more information call 256-736-2622

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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.
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CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

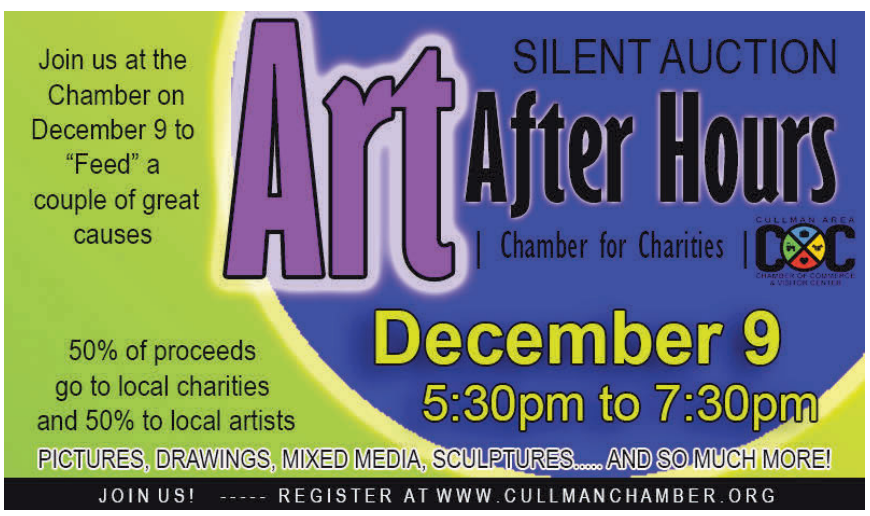
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Our final Business After Hours event to conclude this quarterly series will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 as we present our 3rd annual Art After Hours Silent Auction/Chamber for Charities event to celebrate the end of a fantastic year! We are seeking local art and special pieces. As an artist, this is an opportunity to gain 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. Fifty percent of proceeds are donated 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 today, 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, stop by the Chamber office or call 256-734-0454. If you would like to attend please call the chamber to register or resgister online. Members $15.00 and Future Members $20.00.

From the Chamber President: You're Gonna Shoot Your Eye Out, Kid



Leah Bolin

President & CEO,
Cullman Area Chamber
of Commerce

I have a dirty little secret. I start listening to Christmas music in October. There - I said it! Mock me if you will-but I love Christmas music. The same is true for Christmas movies. Can you watch "Christmas Vacation" too many times? They are like Thin Mint Cookies or Cadbury Eggs-get as many as you can while you can! I discovered recently, though, that Christmas movies actually have some great business lessons.

The Movie:
Miracle on 34th Street

The Business Lesson: Responsiveness, flexibility and honesty build customer loyalty.

Edmund Gwenn plays Kris Kringle in the original Miracle on 34th Street, released in 1947. Hired as a department store Santa at Macy's, he promptly breaks the rules by telling some customers they'd have better luck finding what they're looking for over at Gimble's. Macy's management is outraged. But by looking beyond short-term considerations in favor of genuine customer service, Gwenn's Santa creates great buzz, builds loyalty, and expands Macy's customer base. In an era when voicemail menus have largely replaced human contact and frustrated consumers feel increasingly alienated, a strategy of honest, customer-centered service can pay big dividends.

The Movie: Elf

The Business Lesson: Protect your brand against knock-offs.

In this 2003 charmer, Will Ferrell is Buddy the Elf, a human raised at the North Pole among Santa and his elves. When he returns to New York he is shocked by the proliferation of bewhiskered fat men in red pajamas. "You sit on a throne of lies!" he informs one department store phony. Buddy's reaction summarizes the harmful effects counterfeits and knock-offs can have on brand integrity. For the Santa brand any semblance of quality control has long since slipped away and the result is exactly the kind of disillusionment expressed here. This film should be standard-viewing at every company boardroom.

The Movie:
Christmas Vacation

The Business Lesson: Do not empty your RV's septic tank into the sewer because the buildup of methane gas could cause a city-wide blackout.

Ho, ho. Never mind all that. The real business lessons from the 1989 film Christmas Vacation are numerous and obvious: don't substitute employee cash bonuses with jelly-of-the-month club subscriptions; don't hire contractors for pool work unless you have the capital on hand; don't kidnap your boss; never wear a forest green dickie under a white sweater. But on this holiday season we're not here to merely recap the obvious. Rather, let's dig deeper. The story-line for the film is familiar - a bumbling idealist seeks to capture the perfect family Christmas... and everything goes wrong! The humor lies in the visual and narrative juxtapositions - the ideal of the pefect

Chamber President continued on pg 13...

SMALL BUSINESS & WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

QuickBooks Seminar

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce hosted an Advanced QuickBooks class on November 18, 2014. The participants gave high marks for the instruction and lessons learned. Robert Page, an economist and CPA with the Alabama Cooperative Extension, facilitated the class and was able to provide personalized instruction to the attendees during the 2 ½ hour session.

Check our website and calendar for upcoming seminars during 2015.



Angie Jarrett; Robert Page, Alabama Cooperative Extension; and Robbie Henshaw are pictured above.

PAINT THE TOWN



Pictured above is Ms. Richter's class from Cullman Middle School.

The winners from the Paint the Town contest are: Ms. Rutherford's class from Cullman Primary School, Ms. Lochridge's class from St. Paul's Lutheran School, Ms. Boyd's class from Cullman High School, and the overall winner was Ms. Richter's Class from Cullman Middle School. We'd like to extend a special thanks to Ginger Campbell who represented her company, Webb Wheel, and sponsored the event. We'd also like to thank Chick-fil-A for providing lunch to our overall winners. Presenting the check was Maria Richter Schultz, Retail Committee Chair - O.F. Richter & Sons, along with Ginger Campbell that represented Webb Wheel, Presenting Sponsor.

Paint the Town was sponsored by:

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DECEMBER SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

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Sponsored by: Cullman Florist
256-734-0263

NOVEMBER'S SMALL BUSINESS OF MONTH



From L to R: Rita Dean, owner of What a Girl Wants; Jason Gerstman, CEO/owner of Valley Heating & Cooling; and Derek Lane, Cullman Chamber.

Congratulations to our November Small Business of the Month winner, Valley Heating & Cooling. This month's Small Business of the Month was sponsored by What A Girl Wants. The Small Business of the Month 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. Valley Heating & Cooling is honored to receive this award and happy to offer their services to the Cullman area.



MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Sips n Strokes	256-338-6333
Finishing Touch Body Shop	256-287-2497

Halloween & Hospitality – We Love Our Members!



We at the Chamber loved Halloween. Who doesn't love dressing up in a costume and eating loads of candy? This year, we dressed up and visited Cullman City Primary – Head Start and the Margaret Jean Jones Center where Cruella de Vil sang and passed out candy. We also visited as many members as we could throughout the day. Thank you for allowing us to spend our favorite spooky holiday with y'all!



Above: Some of the clients at Margaret Jean Jones Center posed with Cruella & her dalmatians



Above: Chamber President, Leah Bolin, dressed as Cruella de Vil, and Margo Messersmith, Owner of Margo's Antiques & Gifts

Ribbon Cuttings



Donut Joe's
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The Candle Garden
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Cullman, AL 35055 | 256-338-7204

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Joe Turner

Presenting Sponsor:

PEOPLES BANK of ALABAMA

The Chamber's 72nd Annual Meeting & Gala will be on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at Stone Bridge Farms located at 281 County Road 717 in Cullman. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the program starts at 6 p.m. There will be a post party from 8-10:30 p.m. The event is presented by Peoples Bank of Alabama and features the theme, "The Magic of Suc cess". Our featured guest speaker is renowned comedian and keynote speaker, Joe Turner and is presented by Freedom Insurance – The Gloria Williams Agency. This year's program will also feature the presentations of the annual Emma Marie Eddleman Citizen of the Year Award and the Small Business of the Year Award. We will have general admission tickets available for sale in December. For more information, or to make a reservation, please contact the Chamber at info@cullmanchamber.org or by telephone at 256-734-0454. Our speaker and entertainment, Joe M. Turner, is a professional speaker, mentalist and magician based in Atlanta, Georgia. A brand engagement and audience impact specialist, he creates customized corporate magic presentations and keynotes for promotional, motivational and entertainment events in the United States and around the world. Joe's title, "Chief Impossibility Officer," alludes to his corporate background prior to his magical entertainment and speaking career, as well as his expertise in adapting his performances to entertain and amaze his audiences while emphasizing specific marketing or inspirational messages. He has been featured in numerous television, radio and print appearances, including Good Morning America, Nightline, and a highly rated feature on CNN Headline News. Joe is currently serving as the International President-Elect of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. He is also a member of the Academy of Magical Arts at The Magic Castle in Hollywood, the Society of American Magicians, The Magic Circle in London (A.I.M.C. with Silver Star) and the Fellowship of Christian Magicians. He is also a popular speaker, onscreen and onstage talent, a professional pianist, an accomplished vocalist, composer and playwright.

Emma Marie Eddleman Award

This award, presented in February of each year by the Cullman Area Chamber, recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the community. Nominations should include a written statement about the individual's accomplishments and why that individual should be considered for the award. The nominee should be dedicated to community service, have accomplished outstanding goals or tasks in a community service role, have achieved an outstanding status in the community and be a resident of Cullman County. All nominations must be submitted to the Chamber no later than the last day of January to be eligible. You may fill out a nomination form online at cullmanchamber.org - forms or email dmatthews@cullmanchamber.org.

Speaker Sponsor:

FREEDOM INSURANCE AGENCY







The 2014 - 15 Leadership Class along with local Judges; the Honorable Judge Chaney, the Honorable Judge Nicholas and the Honorable Judge Turner.

Presented By: TRADITIONS BANK REACH HIGH

Leadership Cullman County is a nine-month series of seminars and programs designed to bring together a class of 20 community leaders to examine community issues such as education, healthcare, crime, government, economic development and quality of life. This ambitious group of leaders have successfully completed sessions on education and criminal justice. Their November session focused on the criminal justice system and law enforcement within the Cullman community. The day was full of educational experiences and simulated situations that fully engaged the members. Thanks to Listerhill Credit Union for providing breakfast and to KFC for providing lunch. Their December outing will be on "Local Government". Leadership Co-Chairs include Brian Lacy, Cullman Electric Cooperative; and TJ Franey, Cullman County Schools. Cullman Chamber President Leah Bolin leads the group and serves as program advisor.

Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC)

The Governmental Affairs Committee of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to reviewing, developing, and supporting issues that promote a positive, pro-active economic environment with social progress and enhanced quality of life.

Role of GAC

- Establishing productive relationships between business interests and public officials.
- Providing forums to inform Chamber members, public officials and candidates for public office on issues impacting the business community.
- Developing and supporting legislation and other governmental action which promotes a strong business climate and job growth opportunities.
- Endeavoring to hold public officials accountable for their actions and the resulting impacts on the business community.

If you would like to apply for the GAC please contact Debbie Matthews at dmatthews@cullmanchamerber.org or fill out the application at www.cullmanchamber.org under forms.





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. Thanks to Les Cheveux for being our monthly sponsor!

From the President continued from pg 9...

family holiday gathering against the reality of a group of flawed human beings thrown together not by choice, but by virtue of a blood connection sealed by pure chance; the urbane Clark Griswold against the profane Cousin Eddie. And therein lies our lesson. Building a successful business demands the constant search for perfection balanced against the reality of constant flaws and failure. The beauty of it lies not in the achievement of perfection, but the process of searching for it. There are countless other lessons in Christmas movies such as, "It's a Wonderful Life" and "A Christmas Story". As we begin a new year, I am reminded of Charles Dickens' quote in "A Christmas Carol". "I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the past, the present, and the future. The spirits of all three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach."

Source: Minyanvil



TOURISM

Smithsonian Exhibition: Exploring the American Workforce Coming to Cullman

THE WAY WE WORKED

What would life be like without teachers, doctors or firefighters? Every day, Americans are hard at work on farms, factories, in homes or at desks keeping our communities thriving.

The Cullman community, in cooperation with Alabama Humanities Foundation, will explore the professions and the people that sustain American society when it hosts "The Way We Worked," a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition. "The Way We Worked" will be on view February 9th until March 20th of 2015 at the Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State Community College in partnership with the Cullman County Museum. The Cullman Area has been expressly chosen by the Alabama Humanities Foundation to host "The Way We Worked" as part of the Museum on Main Street project—a national/state/local partnership to bring exhibitions and programs to rural cultural organizations.

"The Way We Worked," adapted from an original exhibition developed by the National Archives and Records Administration, explores how work has become a central element in American culture. It traces the many changes that have affected the workforce and work environments over the past 150 years, including the growth of manufacturing and increasing use of technology. The exhibition draws from the Archives' rich collections, including historical photographs, archival accounts of workers, film, audio and interactives, to tell the compelling story of how work impacts our individual lives and the historical and cultural fabric of our communities.

Since 1997, the foundation has partnered with the Smithsonian to bring the Museum on Main Street program to small cities and rural communities across Alabama. "Allowing all of our state's residents to have access to the cultural resources of our nation's premiere museum is a priority of the Alabama Humanities Foundation," said Executive Director Armand DeKeyser. "The Way We Worked" is part of Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation and local host institutions. To learn more about "The Way We Worked" and other Museum on Main Street exhibitions, visit www.museumonmainstreet.org.

Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress, Alabama Power Foundation and Norfolk Southern Foundation.

SITES connects millions of Americans with their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of art, science and history exhibitions. State humanities councils, located in each state and U.S. territory, support community-based humanities programs that highlight such topics as local history, literature and cultural traditions. To learn more, visit www.sites.si.edu or www.alabamahumanities.org.



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CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

community improvement awards

Deadline December 15th

The Community Improvement Committee is seeking nominations for their Community Improvement Awards. These awards are presented on a quarterly basis. The Committee hopes to inspire others to take action to preserve, protect and promote community improvement in Cullman. Categories include: Best Landscaping - Small, Best Landscaping - Large, Best Curb Appeal, Best New Construction, Best Restoration, and Building a Sense of Community. If you would like more information, or would like to nominate please email info@cullmanchamber.org or call 256-734-0454.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT 2nd QUARTER WINNERS

Business/Organization with Best Landscaping – Small
Traditions Mortgage

Business/Organization with Best Landscaping - Large
Primary School of Cullman

Business/Organization with Best Curb Appeal –
Cullman County Museum

Business/Organization with Best Restoration – Loft 212

Business/Organization with New Construction –
St. John & Associates

Business/Organization "Building a Sense of Community" –
Sportsman Lake Park - Splash Pad

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Pictured Above: The 2014 - 2015 Youth Leadership class at the Civil War Museum.

Youth Leadership Cullman County is a nine-month series of seminars and programs designed to educate selected youth participants from Cullman area high schools on community issues such as education, healthcare, crime, government, economic development and quality of life. The class is well under way and enjoying their time learning about the Cullman area. Their upcoming session this month is "Law and Criminal Justice" where they will learn all about law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Thank you to presenting sponsor Wallace State Community College, breakfast sponsor McGriff Tire, and lunch sponsor Cullman County Sheriff Department. Jackie Moore, Director of Finance & Administration, is the program advisor.



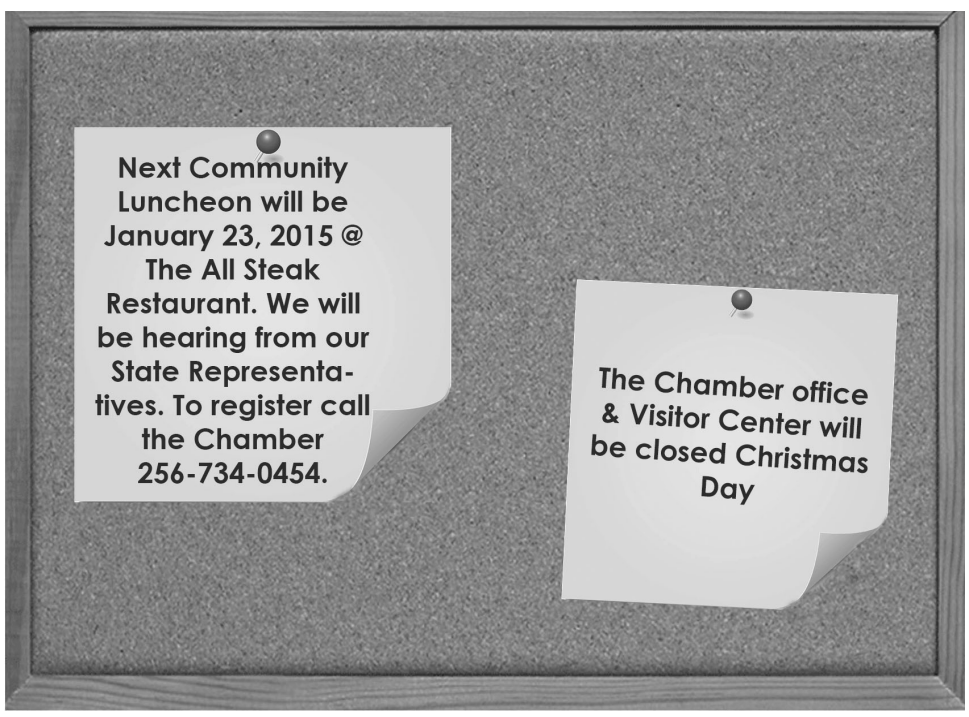
Above L to R: Heather Middleton (Good Hope High School), Savanna Terry and Sarah Dyer (Vinemont High School), model hats at the Crooked Creek Civil War Museum.

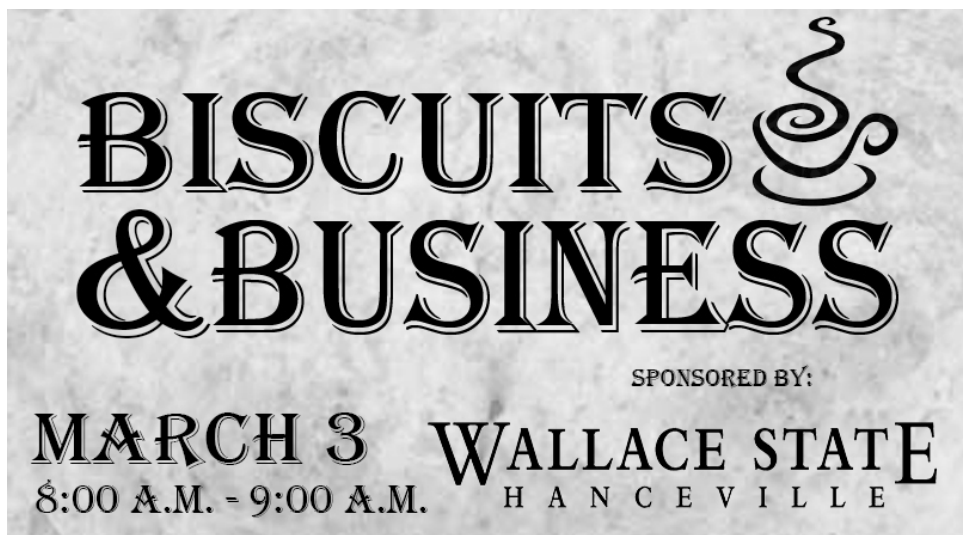
Presenting Sponsor:

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Lacey Barrett (Home School), and Javier Figueroa (Holly Pond) enjoy break at Sportsman Lake Park during Community Day.





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ACCEPTING DONATIONS

Our Chamber for Charities program will be accepting Christmas donations of unwrapped gifts until December 5, 2014. If you or someone you know wishes to donate a toy this Christmas season, please drop your donations off to the Chamber anytime between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Donations will go to Cullman Caring for Kids. If your business or organization is offering Christmas assistance or collecting donations, please let the Chamber know so that we may help properly assist and direct those in need; please call 256-734-0454.

Upcoming Events

December 17th - Morning Blend - 8 AM
December 25th - CLOSED
January 1 - CLOSED
January 21 - Morning Blend - 8 AM
January 22 - Membership 101 - 11:30 AM
January 23 - Community Luncheon
February 19 - 72nd Annual Meeting & Gala - 5:30 PM
February - March - The Way We Worked (pg 14)

Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings

December 4th, CRMC - CEMS
December 4th, - Cutie Patooties
December 5th, - James R. Smith Trucking
December 11th - Creative Design & Screen Printing

Christmas Window Display Contest Winners

Each year, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce promotes its Christmas in Cullman Window Display Contest and awards creative entries. This contest is a wonderful way for our communities to celebrate the holiday season, promote seasonal cheer, and support local retailers. Participants were asked to use lights and create a Christmas-themed display. Winners were selected from three categories including restaurant, retail and service-related businesses. Congratulations to our winners and runner-ups!

2014 Chamber Christmas Window Display Contest Winners:
Margo's Antiques and Gifts (Retail)
Shimmer & Glo (Service)
Carlton's Italian Restaurant (Restaurant)
Finders Keepers and Bella Faire Day Spa & Salon placed in our runner-up category



Fall is well under way to becoming winter in just a few, short, blistery weeks! Time to break out the mittens, coats, scarves, heaters and hot hands. Get ready to bundle up and brace the brisk winter weather at the annual Christmas in Cullman celebration! The 2014 Cullman Christmas Parade will start at 6 p.m., and the Lighting of the Tree will be at 6:45 p.m. At 7 p.m., you can catch Santa at the Festhalle, CHS Drama Team and WSCC Singers performing. At 7:45 p.m. there will be the Cornerstone Revival Christmas music, and from 5:15 - 9 p.m., there will be Choir Carolers in downtown.

Don't forget to also check out the Winter Wonderland of Christmas Lights at Sportsman Lake, open December 5 at dark. For more information, please call 256-734-3052. The highly anticipated Christmas Arts & Crafts Show held at the Cullman Civic Center will be held on Friday, December 5 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, December 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please call 256-734-9157.

The 2nd Annual Cullman Christmas Festival and Outdoor Market will be on December 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. An outdoor community festival celebrating the wonders of the Christmas season. Come ready to eat, play, shop and celebrate! Shop in the outdoor old world market setting, based on the tradition of the beautiful outdoor European Christmas markets, with more than 50 market vendors offering beautiful and unique gift items.

Bring the kids to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and have fun in the "Candy Cane Lane Kids' Carnival Area" with games, rides, carriage rides, inflatables and "Buckin' Blitzen", the mechanical bull. Visit the food court area for delicious foods from a variety of food vendors. Enjoy live entertainment throughout the day from school choirs and jazz bands to up and coming talent from around the area. Don't miss out on all the fun this Christmas in Cullman has to offer! Make plans to attend these fun events and get into the spirit of the season!

SHOP LOCALLY & SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY







DIVINE RED DOOR DISCUSSION GROUP TALKS ABOUT GOD OVER LUNCH

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - There is a new discussion group in town called the Divine Red Door Group. It is a free community activity that seeks to help us learn more about God. The group meets in the back room of The Red Door Emporium, where artwork adorns the walls.

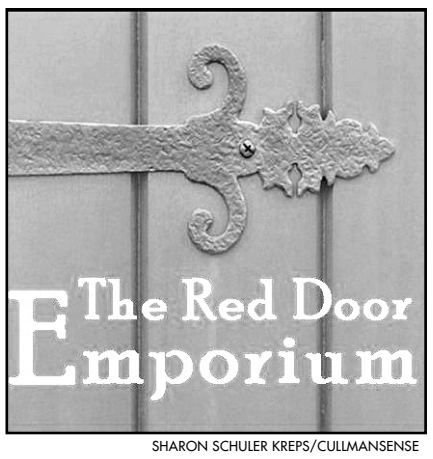
The members of the group can enjoy a delicious meal or a cup of coffee as they work together to learn more about God and how He works in our everyday lives.

"In terms of something like this (the group), there are questions that we can ask that don't necessarily have a simple answer," said Reverend Bill Blackerby of Grace Episcopal Church.

"But finding the question, asking it, and exploring it, can be something that's very rich and can help people grow spiritually. I think a lot of times a good question can lead to other questions."

The Divine Red Door Group meets each Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12 noon at the Red Door Emporium, located at 324 4th Avenue SE, Cullman, AL 35055. For more information call 256-338-3074.

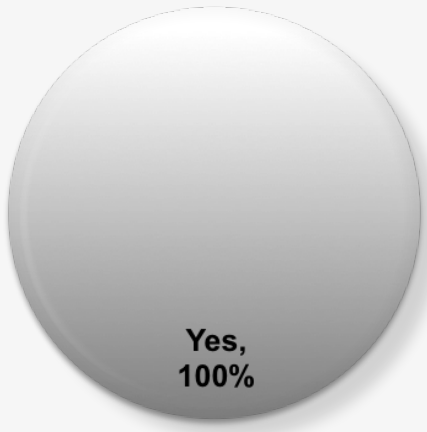
Everyone is invited to take part in the group's Thursday meetings.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Poll

Do you enjoy holiday get-togethers with your family?



This Week's Poll
Did you participate in Black Friday?
Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT WSCC COMING SOON

Katie Dansby
katie@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - On Monday, December 15 at 7 p.m., the Cullman Community Concert Association will hold a Christmas concert by the Cullman Community Band in the Betty Leeth Haynes Auditorium at Wallace State Community College. CCCA is excited to offer this free concert in their series this season.

CCCA is proud to provide quality performances for the Cullman area. Cullman Community Concerts present artists of high caliber who are skilled in entertaining audiences of all ages and tastes.

On December 15, there will be a harpist that plays accompaniment in 'Silent Night' and some jazz to enjoy in 'Baby It's Cold Outside'. The Cantanti Della Donna, an all-women choral ensemble, will also be performing that evening and are sure to please the ears.

Patrons can support local musicians and sign up for a membership to CCCA while there. Since it is free, be sure to invite a friend!

For more information call 256-352-4203 or visit the CCCA website cullmancommunityconcertassociation.com.

Wallace State is located at 801 Main Street NW Hanceville, AL 35077.

ANNUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL BEGINS FRIDAY

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - This weekend, the annual Cullman Arts and Crafts Festival will be held at the Cullman Civic Center.

The event will be held on Friday from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. and from Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The annual festival will feature all handmade items and a vareity of vendors from all over selling everything from homemade items to festive decor.

Don't miss out on this once a year celebration. For more information, call 256-734-9157.

Trees (from Front)

fake trees, offer a lot of great benefits. There is no clean up for one, they do not shed needles, so your floor stays cleaner.

They are also economical for families considering you can buy a standard 5-6 foot tree for $30 and use it year after year.

When you're done with it, all you need to do is repack it and throw it in the attack until next year.

Live Trees – While real trees do shed their needles, they are the real deal and have been adorning families' homes for hundreds of years.

The best thing about putting a live tree in your home is definitely the scent. There is nothing quite like the smell of a Christmas tree in your home.

Another benefit of the tradition of live trees is the experience of picking out your tree as a family, and at some locations, cutting your own.

There are several great establishments that can handle your tree needs. Places like Lowe's, Marvin's, and Walmart carry a variety of trees, but you can get an equally beautiful tree from a locally owned business as well.

Gibbs Garden Center on Highway 31, for instance, is a great place to look for the holiday festivities.

"Most of our trees come from North Carolina and Oregon," said Dusty Gibbs, owner.

"We have 4-5 foot trees for $29.95, 5-6 foot are $37.95 and 7-8 foot trees are $49. These trees are fresh cut and will last all Christmas season. We trim the lower branches and cut the end off of the trees to help them absorb more water and last longer."

Gibbs Garden Center is located on Highway 31 just before you get to Enterprise Car Rental. You can reach them at 256-796-8192.

Another great establishment to visit for your Christmas tree needs is Stone Bridge Farms.

"Ron Foust, the owner, actually went and got our trees himself," said Janet Fortner, event coordinator. "He drove to North Carolina around September or October to look and see if it was the quality we wanted. He just got back Monday night with them. The 7-8 foot trees are $36.95 and 8-9 foot trees are $42.95."

Stone Bridge Farms is located at 281 County Road 717 in Cullman, or call 256-734-9765.

No matter what you decide to purchase, real or fake, a home with a tree is always better than one without. Take your family, grab a tree and get into the spirit of the holidays.

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

Car chase ends at Cullman Walmart; no injuries reported

Deputies with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, along with officers with the Cullman Police Department, worked jointly in an effort to track down a suspect who led officers on a car chase from near West Point to the front doors of the market area at the Cullman Walmart.

qrne.ws/285



Sponsor a Child this Christmas

Every child should have the Christmas of their dreams, 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...

qrne.ws/286

A Hot Meal in a Caring Community

Good Hope is once again offering a delicious hot meal to all on Thanksgiving. This is an annual event held by the city that offers a high quality meal for free. It has been such a success that they have had to up the number of plates they give out. So if you, or someone you know could use a lunch...

qrne.ws/287

LOCAL ARTIST KRYSTAL CORLEY HIGHLIGHTED AT MICHAEL'S FLOWERS AND DESIGN

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Corley showcased several of her paintings including "Essence of Me".

CULLMAN - On a brisk fall evening, dozens of people gathered in the shop of Michael's Flowers and Design for a night of unique art and great wine. A beautiful display of art by one of Cullman's many talented painters, Krystal Corley, adorned the lavish back room for all to enjoy.

"I moved to Cullman back in 2009," said Corley. "I started painting after that and it was just something that clicked immediately. Anything artistic or crafty I am up for."

Corley has always been an artistic person, and started drawing as a young child.

She now has moved exclusively to painting, which she can attribute in part to her father.

"My father was an artist," she said. "He paints with acrylic and oil, but has moved to a lot of wood carving and sculpture. He studied at the University of Alabama and has multiple degrees; he could actually teach if he wanted to. My parents were divorced, but he taught me a lot, and I was always impressed with some new work every time I saw him."

Corley's work is impressive to say the least. Her use of colors and shadow bring a distinct dimension to her work.

The largest piece on display was a grouping of several paintings in one and was a representation of the seven deadly sins.

"I have had the most fun with this piece," said Corley. "There are a lot of different interpretations you can draw from it. I just loved working on it. It started with a picture my sister took five years ago when we were playing with our children in a pool. We were taking pictures and she got this one picture of me that I just thought was really cool. I had the idea for seven deadly sins, and I just thought that picture was perfect for sloth, and it took off from there."

Another brilliant painting was entitled "Essence of Me" which shows a woman facing away, her back bare, hugging herself. The color palette used for the piece really gave an ethereal feel and delivered a breathtaking painting.

Michael Sapp, marketing director for Michael's Flowers and Design, said that they were happy to use their store to help a local artist shine.

"We were really impressed with Krystal's artwork," said Sapp.

"We saw her on Facebook and thought it would be a good match. We were excited to help give her some exposure. She is very talented. We want to do more shows and support as much local art as possible."

Finger foods were served, and patrons could sample several wines from the distributor for only $7.

"The distributor usually brings 4 to 6 wines for our tastings," Sapp said.

"And they vary depending on the season. So this time we might have some that are good for cooking, or go with turkey for your Thanksgiving meals."

Everyone at the event had a marvelous time drinking wine and talking art. The evening envrionment was laid back, but sophisticated with lots of happy patrons.

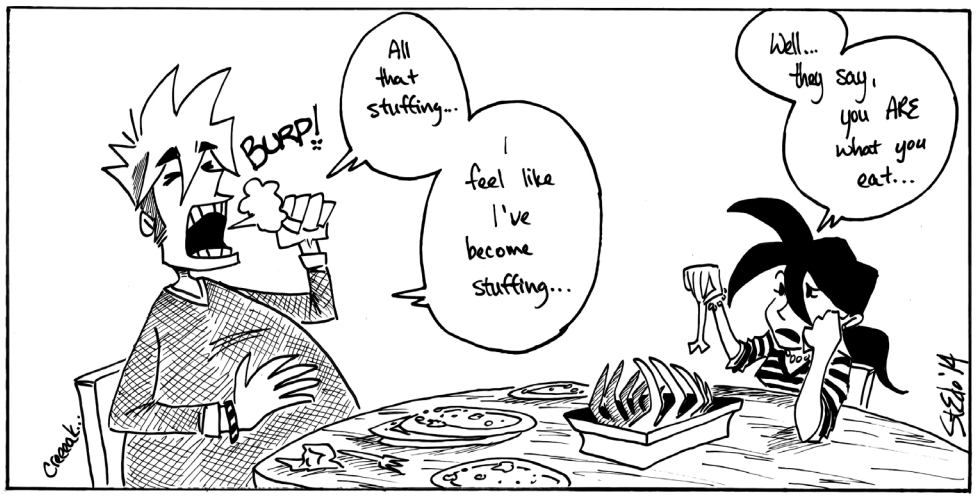
When businesses like Michael's Flowers and Design and local artists team up both parties benefit.

For more information on Michael's Flowers and Design, visit them at 302 1st Ave SE in Downtown Cullman or call 256-841-5553.

If you want to learn more about Krystal Corley's Art, visit her on Facebook at facebook.com/KrystalCorleyArt.

COMICS

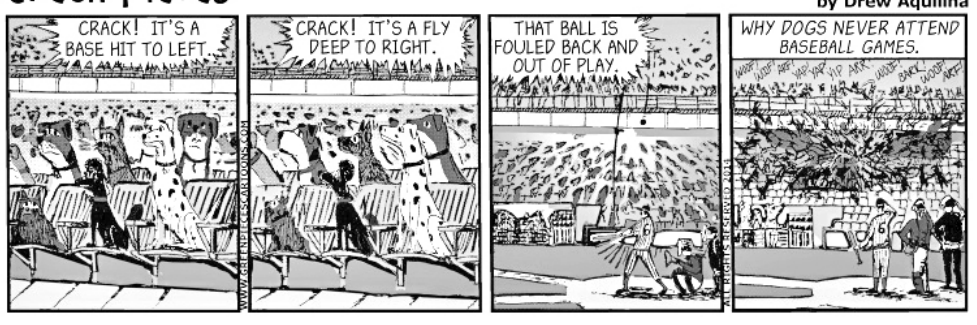
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SUNNY STREET



SUNNY STREET

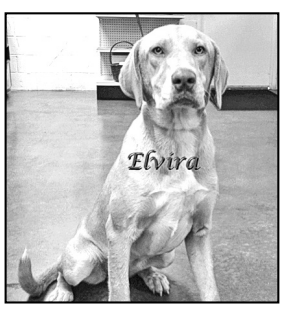


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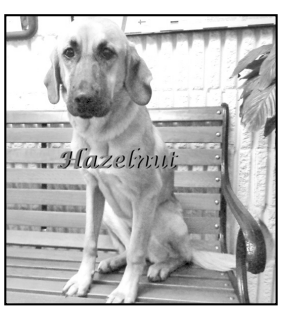
PETS OF THE WEEK

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!

Hazelnut



Hello! My name is Hazelnut, and I am about 1 1/2 yrs old. I am a Hound, and I currently weigh 41 lbs. I am a stray but if no one claims me, I will go up for adoption on 11/27/14 at 2 p.m. I am full of life and I love to play. I can't wait to find my new best friend and forever companion. Please stop by and say hi to me!

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.

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

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT GOES RUGGED FOR A CAUSE: NO SHAVE NOVEMBER BENEFITS LOCAL SHOP WITH A COP PROGRAM

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - In an effort to raise more money for underprivileged children in the area, Cullman Police Department is participating in No Shave November with their officers. The Shop with a Cop program is in its second year, and the department is working tirelessly to make it even better than the last.

"Last year was our first year to do Shop with a Cop," said Assistant Chief Craig Green. "And last year Mitch Smith was a huge part in helping with the fundraising. So after his passing, we had to come up with new ways and ideas to raise money to fund Shop with a Cop. Last year we raised just over $14,000."

This year, the police department is hoping to exceed that amount so that they are able to help even more children have a good Christmas.

According to Green, 100 percent of the donated proceeds go directly to the program.

"Every cent that the city, the police department, and individuals donate goes directly to the Shop with a Cop program," he said.

"No one keeps any of that money. If we collect $14,000 then we will spend $14,000."

After sitting and brainstorming ideas, the department decided to use No Shave November as a means to raise funds within the department. This was particularly exciting for many of our men in blue due to the fact that those in uniform are not normally allowed to grow beards.

"Chief Culpepper decided to allow men in the department to grow out their beards," said Green.

"I am participating this year, so what I and others had to do to participate was pay what we call a beard tax. Which is just a funny name, but you have to donate a minimum of $35 to participate. Several of our cops donated more than that. We also had the stipulation that if you shaved before the end of November you had to pay an additional $10."

The no shave rule will extend into December right up until the time of the Shop with a Cop event.

The Shop with a Cop event will begin with local officers taking a group of children out to local shops and spend the raised money.

Once the gifts have been picked out, the group will return to the police department to wrap their gifts, and serve lunch to the families. Santa will be present also to talk to all of the children.



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Officer Eric Cole and Lieutenant Billy Handley are both participating in No Shave November.

"So we brought the two things together as a way that we could raise money within the department for the program," said Green.

"We had good participation with it this year. We had probably around 15 people participating, and have raised a good bit of money with that and the generosity of our officers donating more than the minimum."

Green went on to talk about how programs like these mean a lot to everyone, and they hope to start even more outreach programs in the future.

"We want to help the community in every way we can," said Green.

"This is a great program and we are hoping to have a great year and help a lot of families have a wonderful Christmas. We are still taking donations at the department from anyone who wants to help."

For more information on the Shop with a Cop program, visit the Cullman Police Department at 601 2nd Ave NE in Cullman or call 256-734-1434. Donations will be taken right up to the day of the program in December.

ONE OF CULLMAN'S BEST KEPT SECRETS: TP COUNTRY CLUB

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Imagine long rolling hills and soft green grass, now add shady trees dotting throughout that same land and ponds of all shapes and sizes lay sprawled amongst the area. Built high upon one of the hills is a place where people can enjoy exquisite dining, gaze out over a beautiful, meticulously-maintained golf course, and enjoy special events with their family and friends. I am describing a place right here in Cullman, Alabama; that place is TP Country Club, formerly known as Terri Pines.

"TP is a family oriented club," said John Hunt, director of golf. "There's something for everyone. We're a place that businessmen can go and have a conversation with nobody bothering them. We're a place where wives can come and have a social outing with their friends. We are a place where industrial companies can have their Christmas or retirement parties. We host proms and have held lots and lots of weddings here. It is one of the most beautiful and scenic places around."

Many people believe that TP is far away, but it's actually only a mile and a half from the interstate. Once people arrive, they get one of the most scenic views that there is in Cullman County.

Besides the gorgeous scenery, they have an 18-hole championship golf course with all the conveniences such as putting greens, practice range, fully loaded and stocked pro shop.

They have the 19th Hole, which serves some of the best food in town. It is perfect for lunch seven days a week and available for golfers as well as anyone in the community who's looking for a great place to eat.

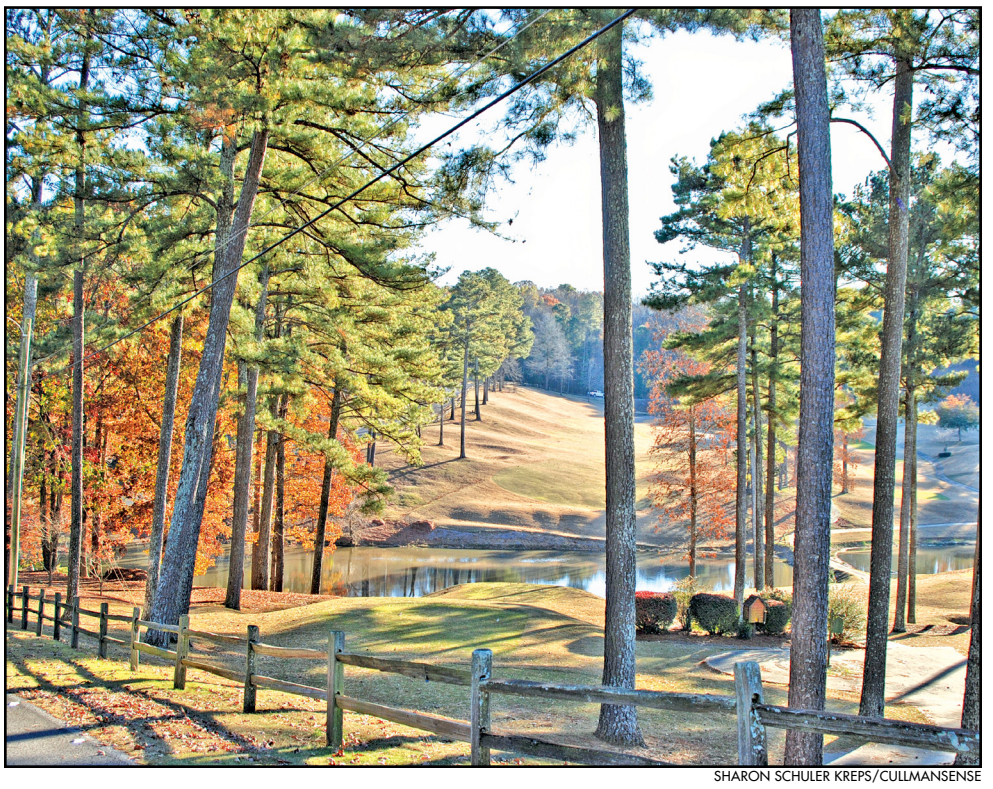
The spacious clubhouse screams sophistication in every sense of the word. It is available to rent seven days a week.

They offer a delicious brunch on Wednesdays and Sundays. Best of all, you do not have to be a member to join them for brunch!

"Membership has its privileges," Hunt smiled charmingly. "Not only do we have the fine dining, but we also have the bar area and all the amenities that go along with that. We have special events that go on all the time. For instance, we have wine tastings; we will have a Christmas brunch with Santa; we are doing things with the kids for date night. Moms and Dads can come out and sit down to a nice dinner while we watch their children. That is something special that comes with membership."

The TP Country Club experience is one you're not likely to ever forget. In addition to the wonderful things mentioned above, they also have a swimming pool, tennis courts and self-defense classes for women. Whiskey tastings have been very popular as well!

Cullman County needs TP Country Club. It's an industrial recruitment; it's a businessman's hideaway and a lady's place to socialize. Best of all, it's a family.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The scenic views of TP Country Club provide the backdrop to a variety of activities.

If you haven't had a chance to stop by and visit this wonderful, hidden piece of paradise, I suggest you grab a friend or gather up the family and go out and see what's happening!

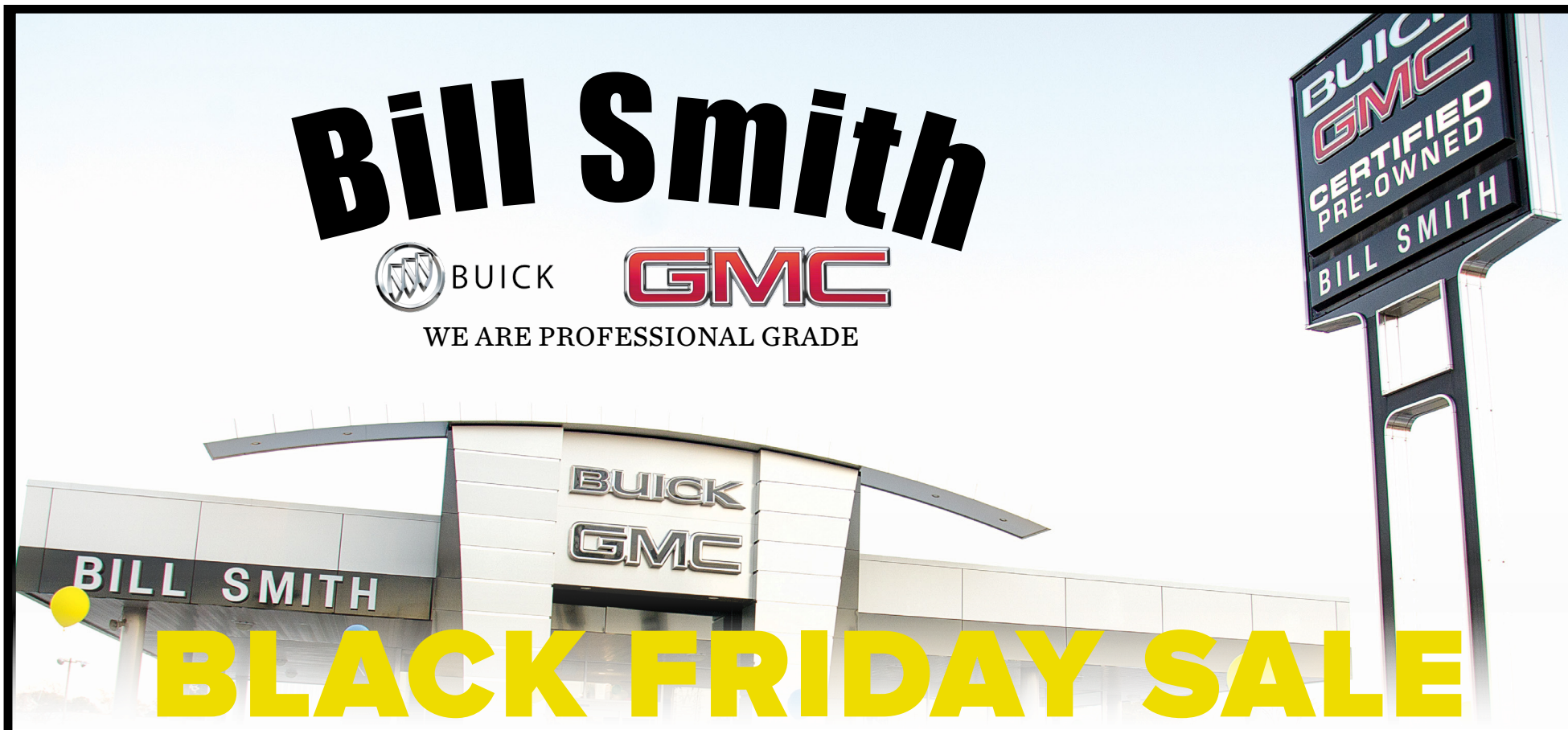
TP Country Club is located at 700 Pine Hill Drive, Cullman, AL 35057.

For more information call 256-739-0720 or visit www.tpcountryclub.com.

Bill Smith

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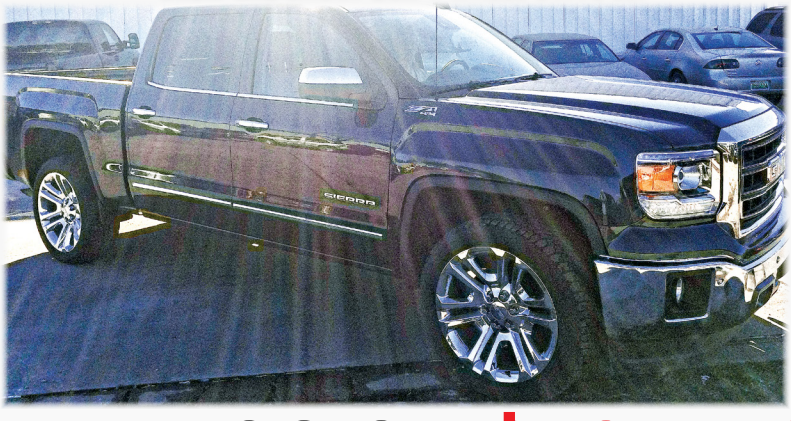
STICKER PRICE ~~$52,895~~

BLACK FRIDAY DEAL $42,316

STK#348100

2014 GMC SIERRA 1500

CREW CAB SHORT BOX 4-WHEEL DRIVE SLT



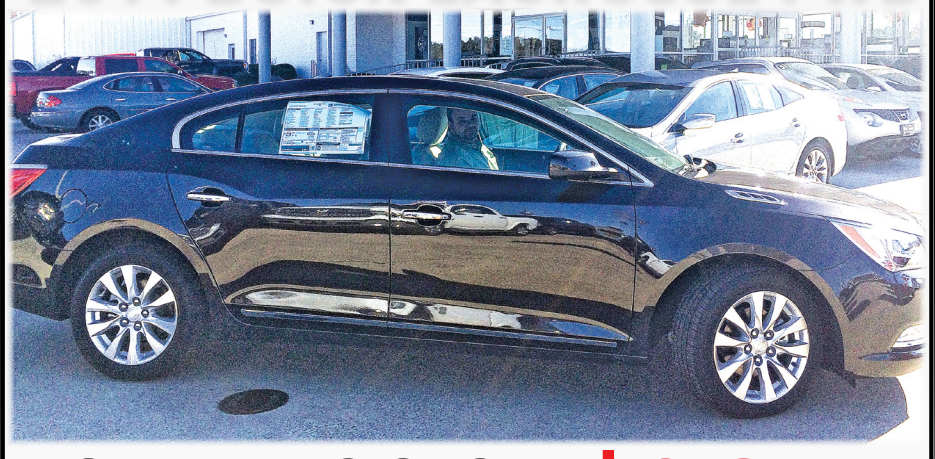
SAVINGS OF $10,549

STICKER PRICE ~~$52,745~~

BLACK FRIDAY DEAL $42,196

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2014 BUICK LACROSSE FWD



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