SERIES 5 • ISSUE 4 • JANUARY 26, 2015
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS

CONTRIBUTED



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JOSH SMITH

LOCAL POWERLIFTER INVITED TO NATIONAL COMPETITION TO BENEFIT TERMINALLY ILL CHILDREN P7

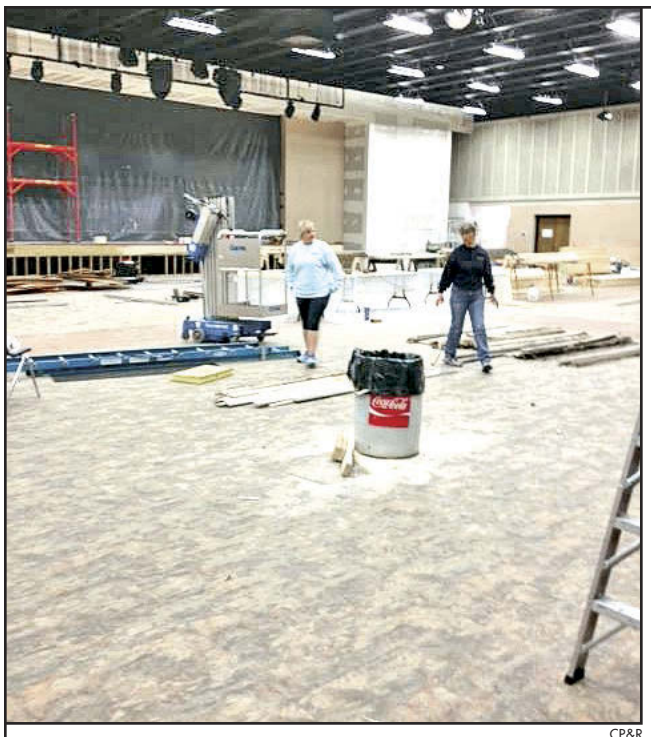
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CP&R

Originally constructed in 1979, the McGukin Civic Center was in need of modernization.

CULLMAN CIVIC CENTER GETS A FACELIFT

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – The Robert E. McGukin Civic Center, better known as the Cullman Civic Center, is getting a facelift. After more than 30 years, the building is becoming more modern, hip and aesthetically beautiful. Even though the reconstruction still has a way to go, the staff is excited and can't wait for the rest of the community to see what's new.

"The Civic Center was constructed, I think, in 1979 and was long overdue for renovations," said Civic Center Manager Karen Seybold. "We are excited for people to come by and check out the facility and all the added amenities."

The Civic Center has maintained the same look ever since it was first built, sporting only very few minor changes over the years. People will be thrilled with the p2

CHS LINEBACKER NAMED TO ALL-STATE ROSTER

Alex Thornton
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CULLMAN – Cullman High School has been known for birthing exceptional student athletes over the years. This year is no exception. Bearcat Linebacker Justin Patterson was added to the Alabama Sports Writers Association 6A First Team All-State roster. This season, Patterson led the Bearcat defense with 14 sacks, and contributed to 95 total tackles, 70 solo tackles, three forced fumbles and one fumble recovery. Patterson also had two rushing touchdowns this season.

Justin received his award Tuesday evening at the city school board meeting hosted at the newest addition to Cullman High School. A humble Patterson gives most of the p3

PREPARING TO LIGHT THE TORCH

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PREPARE FOR TORCH RUN TO BENEFIT SPECIAL OLYMPICS P4



CULLMAN SHERRIFF'S DEPARTMENT/FACEBOOK

Local officials and Deputy Rex Sorrow stand with local athletes at a previous Torch Run.

THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR EVERYONE AT JACK'S UNIQUE FINDS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – When a person walks into Jack's Unique Finds, he or she is greeted with a friendly salesperson who truly wants to help them find the treasures they are seeking. The store carries a little bit of everything such as tables, dressers, knick-knacks and so much more. Part of what makes Jack's so unique is the fact that they also sell their very own line of paint, giving their customers the option to take older furniture and transform it into something that looks very different or even brand new.

"We have been at this location for about 2.5 years now," said Lisa Murphree, employee. "We sell gently used antique and vintage furniture," she smiled warmly. "We have 10,000 square feet of shopping area filled with it. When people walk through our store, they will say things like, 'Oh look, my grandmother had one like that!' or 'My aunt used to have one of those.' It just brings back memories." p7



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Jack's Unique Finds has something for everyone from one of a kind items to furniture.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 4 HOSTS ANNUAL SPEECH COMPETITION

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Public speaking can offer a lot of benefits to students who will soon pursue a higher education. The upcoming competition hosted by the American Legion Post 4 offers students a chance to flex their oral muscles and earn the chance to win scholarship money.

The American Legion Post 4 has been hosting the Oratorical Contest for many years. It is a competition that tests students' ability to not only write a speech, but deliver that speech with composure. Awards of $100 for first place, $50 for second place, and $25 p7

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SHERIFF GENTRY SETTLES INTO NEW OFFICE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – There's a new sheriff in town and his name is Matt Gentry. Gentry officially became our 30th elected Cullman County Sheriff after being sworn in on Saturday, Jan. 17.

Gentry saw plenty of activity during his first few days on the job. The most noted event being a 6.5-hour standoff situation in Garden City. Once the trouble began, Sheriff Gentry, Deputy Burgett, and others jumped into action. Several hours later, much to everyone's relief, the standoff ended peacefully.

"I could not be more blessed than to have the fine deputies that we have and the awesome job they did on Tuesday night," Gentry smiled.

"Because they did such a good job, it made my job so much easier. I'm just very proud to have those guys here."

With boxes and paperwork scattered throughout the area, Gentry and his staff have been busy moving into their new offices.

Moving is usually a very chaotic time, but Gentry and his staff seem to be taking everything in stride.

"The morale has been great since we've been here; everybody's upbeat and excited to be moving in the direction we are going in," he admitted.

Gentry is getting started with his plans quickly.

"One of the first things I want to focus on is revamping the way we check the sex offenders," he explained.

"We are going to start initiating monthly checks. Instead of letting them come to us and check in four times a year, we'll be going to check on them each month making it 12 times a year," he grinned.

"It just brings a little more accountability to that area."

There are going to be other changes, but nothing as specific as the sex offender one.

There is always room for improvement and Sheriff Gentry plans to concentrate on ways of making the current policies and procedures run more smoothly and efficiently.

"Right now, we are just kind of taking everything in," he said seriously.

"We are sitting back and evaluating what is going on, and then we will work ways we can make things better. That's the main thing, having a good evaluation process so we will know what works and what doesn't."

In closing, the humble Gentry had the following to say, "I just want to thank the service of the men and women at the sheriff's office here in Cullman. I want to thank the citizens for bestowing this honor on me. It's an honor to be here and I look forward to working for them."



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Sheriff Matt Gentry began his first official work week with a 6.5-hour standoff.

Center (from Front)

new look and added updates the place will have soon.

"We have been renovating the Civic Center since the latter part of October," Seybold began.

"We have repainted the classrooms, taken down the blackboards and replaced them with pull down screens and complete audio visual equipment. The ceilings have been replaced with new lighting; the floors to be done a little later on. The auditorium has been repainted; projectors and two large screens have been added along with a new sound system and new stage lighting."

As exciting as all this sounds, there are still more improvements to come.

"We will be adding a hospitality room where people can come in and snack, eat lunch and use the free Wi-Fi," Seybold continued.

"We will be adding a conference/board room complete with kitchen. The old quarry tile flooring in the lobby has been replaced with polished concrete. The lobby also has new ceiling tiles and accent lighting. We will be revamping the balcony with new seating, redoing the front offices later on as well. As a result, people will be able to rent comfortable space with all the modern conveniences they would need," she smiled warmly.

Due to all the improvements, naturally, the rates may be changing once finished.

There will be an extra charge for the use of the audiovisual equipment, and if necessary, one of the Civic Center's staff members to control it.

There is no set amount for the additional fees just yet, but keep in mind they will come once the updates are complete.

Those interested in renting should call the Civic Center and give them a list of their needs and they will be happy to work up a price, even bundling prices if possible.

The Civic Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, unless they have rentals. Saturday and Sunday hours vary depending on rentals.

The Civic Center is located at 510 5th Street Southwest, Cullman, AL 35055. They can be reached by calling 256-734-9157 or by visiting their website at cullmanrecreation.org/facilities-parks/mcgukin-civic-center. Follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/CullmanCivicCenter.

Cullman County Schools
402 Arnold Street, N.E.
P.O. Box 1590
Cullman, Alabama 35056-1590

DR. CRAIG ROSS
SUPERINTENDENT

Telephone
256-734-2933
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256-736-2402

As Superintendent of Cullman County Schools I want to assure you that the Cullman County Board of Education and I are deeply committed to supporting and improving our schools. We are committed to providing support for each and every child's success, in school and in life. We are dedicated to giving our students the tools and skills to thrive in the global economy, and to be life-long learners who can successfully adapt and contribute to society's changes.

We have undertaken a long and thorough strategic planning process to assess:
- What we are doing right?
- What we can do better to ensure that every student has equal opportunity to learn and graduate college and career ready.
- How we can achieve our goals, despite fiscal challenges, and include all stakeholders, especially parents, in the process.

We are asking you to please take 5-10 minutes of your time to provide your feedback on this very important survey. The results that come from this survey will help us shape and create a five-year strategic plan that will help drive excellence in all of our schools for all of our children. You can take the survey by using the link listed below or by scanning the QR Code with your cell phone:

SURVEY LINK

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCSINPUT

QR CODE

Cullman County Schools Strategic Plan
Community Meetings

February 9th	6:00 pm	West Point High School Auditorium
February 16th	6:00 pm	Vinemont Schools Cafeteria
February 17th	6:00 pm	Good Hope High School Cafeteria
February 18th	6:00 pm	Fairview High School Auditorium
February 23rd	6:00 pm	Hanceville School Gym
February 24th	6:00 pm	Cold Springs School Cafeteria
February 25th	6:00 pm	Holly Pond School Cafeteria

In addition to this survey, I will be conducting community meetings in each of the seven feeder patterns in Cullman County. Please make sure that you take part in the future of Cullman County Schools by participating in this important survey and attending your community meeting.

I look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Craig Ross

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JCPENNY CLOSING ITS DOORS IN APRIL

Noah Chandler
noah@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – With new growth and development often comes the closure of businesses. JCPenney, a staple in Cullman's North Shopping Center for over two decades, will not survive the rebuilding of the shopping center as it's coroporate office has elected to close its doors effective in April.

"Yes, our store in Cullman, AL, will close on or about April 4, 2015, with approximately 25 associates impacted by the closure," said J. C. Penney Company, Inc. Media Relations and Corporate Affairs, Joey Thomas.

"We will be closing approximately 40 stores Companywide over the next year, which represents less than four percent of our total store base. Approximately 2,250 associates nationwide are impacted by the closures, and most locations will close on or about April 4, 2015," he said.

The decision to close the doors on the long running store came down to basic facts and figures.

"We continually evaluate our store portfolio to determine whether there's a need to close or relocate underperforming stores. Reviews such as these are essential in meeting our long-term goals for future company growth," he said. "While it's never an easy decision to close stores, especially due to the impact on our valued associates and customers, we feel this is a necessary business decision."

Some associates working at the Cullman location will be offered the opportunity to work at other nearby locations, while others may be offered severance packages.

"Eligible associates who do not remain with the company will receive separation benefits, and, if possible, we will assist associates in identifying other job opportunities at nearby JCPenney stores," he said.

"Additionally, we're offering all associates an on-site career training class. The class will assist associates in writing resumes, filling out applications, answering interview questions and more."

> **"While it's never an easy decision to close stores, especially due to the impact on our valued associates and customers, we feel this is a necessary business decision."**
>
> - Joey Thomas, J. C. Penney Company, Inc.

STATE OFFICIALS HIGHLIGHT UPCOMING LEGISLATION AT CULLMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's first Community Luncheon of 2015 presented Cullman's legislative delegation to speak about the state of current events. Every table was filled in the banquet room at the All Steak restaurant, and all eyes and ears were focused on the message of four state legislators that were in attendance. The event was presented by Shirley Quattlebaum State Farm Insurance and was sponsored by Carter & Company Real Estate.

With the Alabama Legislature convening again on March 3, Representaives Ed Henry, Corey Harbison, Randall Shedd and Senator Paul Bussman took the opportunity to meet with officials from Cullman County to discuss the upcoming session.

Rep. Ed Henry, District 9, spoke first on the issue of Alabama's budget, and how he believes getting rid of earmarks in the budget would encourage more accountability.

"The state of Alabama brings in about $25 billion a year," Henry said. "The legislature gets to budget less than $8 billion of that a year. The rest of it just goes out to different agencies and there is no oversight and no accountability. When we have a shortfall in both budgets of around $600 million, the easiest way I believe to manage that is to A. combine budgets, and B. would be to un-earmark the 80 something percent of money that is going to agencies with no oversight."

Next to speak was District 11 Representative Randall Shedd who serves on the Rural Caucasus and was excited to tell about a new workforce training initiative for "soft skills".

"Recently Gov. Bentley announced in the old house chamber of a new initiative that I personally believe is one of the most important things that will happen in the coming years," Shedd said. "And that is an initiative for training workforce for soft skills. K-12, post secondary and universities are all coming together to train our future workforce to be prepared when they go into the job on soft skills. Like being at work on time, dressing properly and communication with co-workers. So I think this is important because it sends a message that we are serious about maintaining a good workforce and job retention."

Representative Corey Harbison is the youngest in the delegation, but his ambition for this session is big. He touched on several concerns such as raising taxes, but the biggest bill on Harbison's agenda come March is one that will affect ABC stores across the state.

"The first bill that I prefiled is something that I wanted to work on that has to do with ABC stores," Harbison said. "Currently 86 stores are exempt from all local regulations. Whether it's zoning issues or hard liquor tax in each municipality, and this is not me being for or against alcohol, this is about small business. If it passes, it will require ABC stores to follow local regulations to allow for a level playing field. So they won't have an unfair advantage."

The luncheon's speeches concluded with a brief speech from Senator Paul Bussman. He spoke frankly about the issues that Alabama faces.

"Everything is going great in Alabama," said Bussman with a wry smile. "We got plenty of money, plenty of room in the prisons, plenty of money for Medicaid." He paused for effect, "The next four years will probably be the most critical four years in Alabama as far as how we fix things and do things."

Bussman also touched on his desire to see a simplified tax code, our state's problems with education in light of the recent disappointing benchmark scores that were released, and his belief that charter schools might be in the future.

"I think you're going to see a big push for charter schools," said Bussman. "And that push will be simply because the political environment in Alabama was horrible before the elections. There was a tremendous fight between the Alabama Education Association and some of the higher leaders in the Senate and House. Those folks are strong supporters of charter schools. So we are going to have to be very careful not to hurt the good school systems that we have in those conditions."

Bussman closed his speech by stating that representatives and senators alike have hard decisions to make. "We have problems that have to be fixed," said Bussman. "And it is going to take some non-political decisions to get those decisions made. A lot of the decisions that have to be made may cause some people to not be elected again, but that's okay because they have to be made."

All-State (from Front)

credit to Coach Hobbs and his teammates for his superior play, saying, "Everyone did their job and created a lot of defensive opportunities, and Coach Hobbs made sure we were well prepared every week."

With Patterson only being a junior this year, he gets to shine for the Bearcats again next season. When asked what his goals were for next season this is what he had to say, "I want to beat Donnie Parker's record of 17 sacks and hopefully go All-American."

The Bearcats finished 5-5 on the season, 2-4 in regional play.

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NEW SUBDIVISION COMING TO CONVENT ROAD:

DAVIDSON HOMES BRINGS "ARCHITECTURAL SERIES" TO CULLMAN

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

The rolling hill landscape will allow for the homes to be constructed on varying elevations.

CULLMAN – Finding your dream home can be a long and arduous process, but it is also a very exciting time for many families. Davidson Homes is set to make that process easier by offering lavish homes in a new community that is unlike any subdivision in the area.

"We're really excited about this particular community [Convent Road]," said Sales Manager Dustin McNutt. "For one, because it the first community that we have developed in Cullman. In addition to that, not only is it a wonderful community, but it is a part of what we call our Architectural Series."

According to McNutt, the unique quality for the series coming to the community, which is set to be named Stone Creek, is that the floor plans are new and completely revamped. Also, this particular group of homes will be maxed out with features.

"That is one thing that sets us apart," he said. "Another big element that is different is that when you buy a house from us in one of our communities, we provide the construction financing for you. Traditionally the builder would have to."

Davidson Homes is a well established company that is bringing a new way to look at homes in their communities.

"We will have a model home built that anyone can tour," said McNutt.

"It will be a fully furnished house with a base price. Then you tell us what upgrades you want and we will factor those in to the total sell price. So your home is completely customizable for your budget and needs."

Some of the features will be standard in every home, while others are considered upgrades.

Some examples of these features include GE slate finished appliances, leather finished granite countertops, and USB plug-ins in kitchen, bedrooms and living room. This is the tip of the iceberg according to McNutt.

"The elevation of the properties will also be unique," said McNutt. "We kept the hills in the landscape so that the houses would be staggered on different elevations. When you look out your window, you will not be staring directly at the back of your neighbor's home."

The beautiful landscape, spacious lots, custom features and Tudor style architecture promises to make Stone Creek a one of a kind community in the area. The grand opening for the community will take place on January 31 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Convent Road. Presales will begin on this date.

For more information, contact realtors Stacy Lindsey at 256-962-6354 or Natacha Phillips at 256-590-1700.

Torch (from Front)

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - A celebration will be coming on April 14 that law enforcement officials look forward to all year. It is a day of hope, encouragement and highlighting the achievements of Special Olympic athletes. It is nationally known as the Torch Run, and local deputies, officers and even state troopers will be participating again this year.

"I began my law enforcement career in 1991 with the Oneonta Police Department and my first contact with the Torch Run and Special Olympics was in 1992," said Deputy Rex Sorrow.

"My chief at Oneonta Police Department asked if I would attend a Torch Run Conference in Montgomery and be the coordinator of the Torch Run for Oneonta and Blount County. I jumped at the opportunity with excitement and enthusiasm even though I wasn't real familiar with the Torch Run or Special Olympics. When I came to work for the Cullman County Sheriff's Office in 2008 I wanted to revive the Torch Run in this area and get actively involved with Special Olympics again."

Sorrow was able to revive the run in 2010 with full support of former Sheriff Tyler Roden. Two separate runs are now organized at the local and state level.

The local run begins at the courthouse and ends at Oliver Woodard Stadium on the campus of Cullman High School, which is where the annual Cullman Special Olympics is held. Law enforcement run the torch into the stadium and the torch is handed off to an athlete, who then runs the track once to open the games.

The state level begins with a 2 mile run in Huntsville where officers will then caravan to Athens.

This process of running and caravanning is repeated through Decatur, Cullman, Birmingham, Pelham, Montgomery and finally Troy where the state games are held.

"All law enforcement are encouraged to participate from city, county and state," Sorrow said.

"We have a great group of guys and gals working in law enforcement in Cullman County. We have participation from Hanceville PD, Wallace State PD, Cullman PD, state troopers and Cullman County SO."

It is an important work that local law enforcement do and they spend many hours preparing and raising money.

"The law enforcement Torch Run was designed as a fundraising and awareness vehicle," Sorrow said.

"An event that we will be promoting for April 24 and 25 is our annual 'Cops On Top' event at Walmart. This is where our local law enforcement gets together with athletes and collects donations. It is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. We try to bring patrol units, helicopters, and other unusual equipment to the event to attract the community to our event. We will be having a Polar Plunge the 31st of this month at Oak Mountain State Park to raise funds and we also do our t-shirt sales each year."

The event can be life changing for many of these officers, and certainly the athletes who participate.

"I get so excited and it also humbles me to the point of realizing how blessed I am that God has given me good health," Sorrow said.

"When I get the opportunity to run, I can't help but look up and thank God for my good health and the ability to move and breathe. There are so many athletes that can't walk or run, but they have the courage and commitment to participate in these games. I think it's the least we can do as able bodied individuals to show support and bring attention to their special day."

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THE LOG CABIN STORE: A SMALL BUILDING WITH BIG STORIES TO TELL

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

PHELAN – The Log Cabin Store, once located in Phelan, was built on land that was originally purchased from Wilhelmina "Minnie" Schaefers in 1927. Claud Mullins, a neighbor to the Schaefers family, bought the store for his daughter who had planned to open up a café and BBQ pit there. Mr. Mullins built the store, which looked just like a log cabin. It faced Highway 31, which was also known as the Bee Line Highway.

Unfortunately, the café and BBQ pit dreams were short lived for some reason, and the Mullins family rented the building out.

To the family's shock and horror, it became a dance hall and speak-easy. Even worse, it was during prohibition in the early 1930s. It is said the Mullins family, along with their neighbors, were very disgusted with all the terrible troubles the speak-easy caused and forbade their children from going anywhere near it.

The Log Cabin Store has been used for many different things over the years. At one time it was used as a grocery store, as well as the residence for its owner, Mrs. Vester Mullins Young, daughter of Claud Mullins. Eventually she turned the building into a beauty shop and continued to live in the resident part of the area.

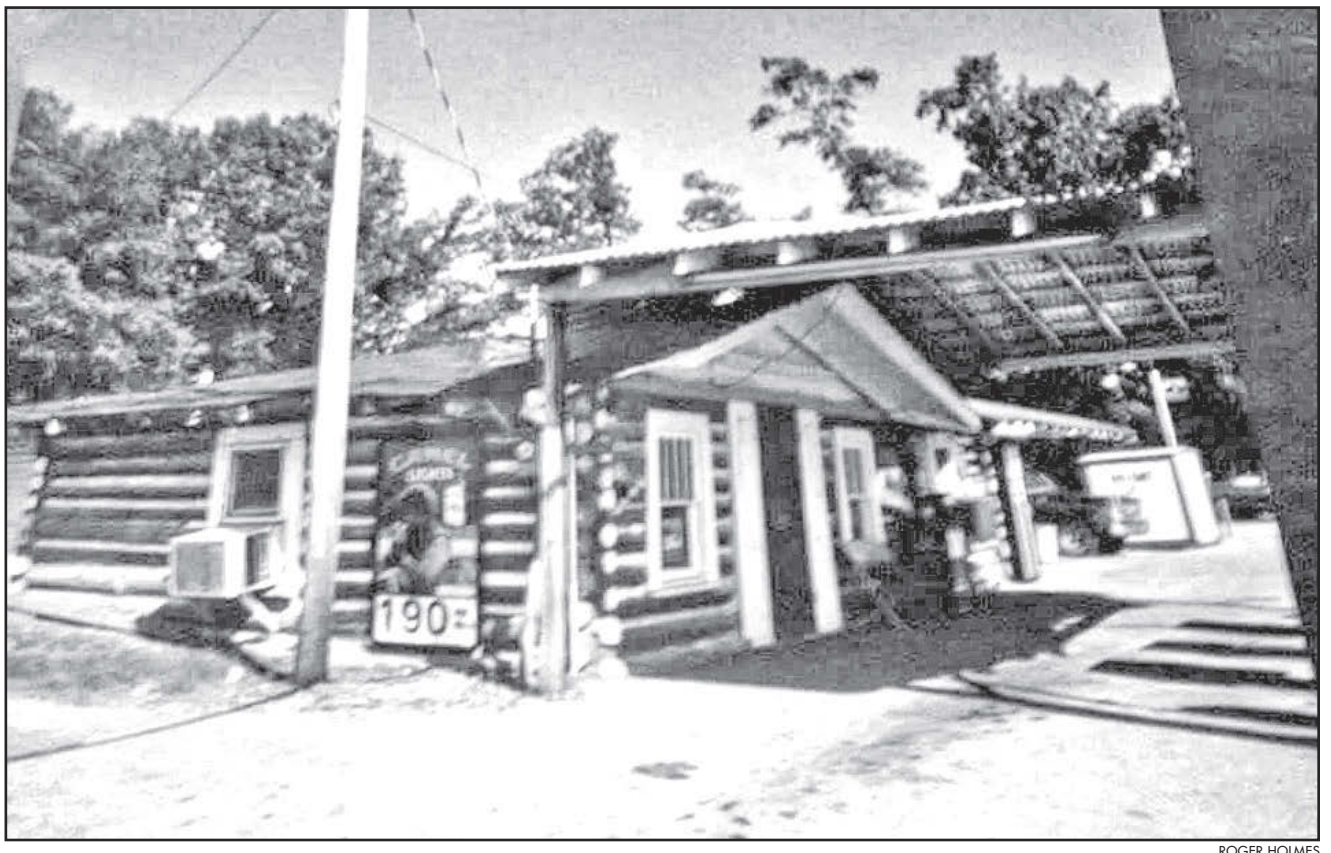
In 1952, Mr. Elmer Moore purchased the Log Cabin Store and used it as another grocery store for a short time. Eventually Mr. Glen Moore and his wife purchased the store and reopened it.

This time it was used as a gas station and convenience store. Later, when Glen passed away, his wife continued living in a small white house right behind the cabin.

The Moores finally sold the Log Cabin Store around 1993 but they kept the two houses that were located behind the cabin.

The Log Cabin Store had its very own unique look, and the older it got, the more interesting people found it. It became a well-known landmark in the Phelan area. It was, and still is, used as a reference point when giving directions to people in the area.

Sadly, the old original building no longer exists. It was torn down and another building was built in its place. The new building served as a couple different businesses before settling into what it is today – Cabin Fever Beverages. From speak-easy to liquor store, Log Cabin to Cabin Fever, the beloved place is here to stay.



ROGER HOLMES

The Log Cabin Store has been home to a variety of businesses including a grocery store, a speak-easy, a gas station, a beauty shop, and now Cabin Fever Beverages.

MIRRORING HISTORY: WELLS MOTEL AND CAFÉ

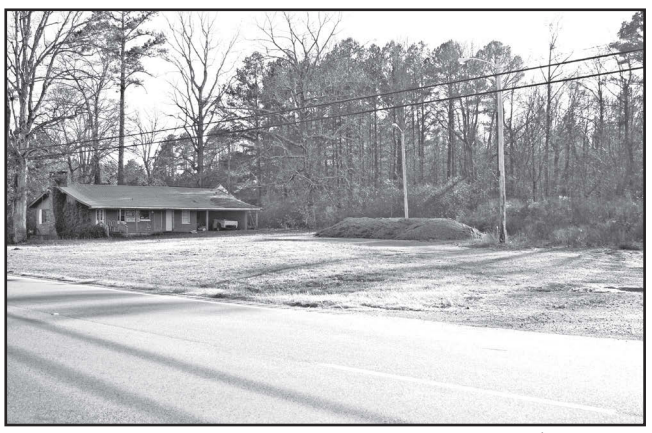
Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Horace Wells, a long time pharmacist in Cullman, and wife Arlene Fuller Wells built the Wells Motel and Café in 1954. It was called the Wells Motel due to the wells that were located out front, along with the fact that Wells was their surname. Arlene loved meeting and talking to new people and thought a motel would be just perfect.

Mr. and Mrs. Wells ran the motel part of the business and lived in the front of the motel by the office.

The restaurant was run by Charles Miller and wife Jacqueline Wells Miller, who lived in an apartment attached to the restaurant.

Not long after it was opened, the Wells heard rumors that Highway 31 was to be soon bypassed as the main highway so they decided to sell. The motel and restaurant were all one business and sold as such. The Wells owned the business for two to three years.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Today a vacant lot occupies the space where the motel and café once stood.



GREG BURDEN

The Wells Motel and Café was built in 1954.

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IT'S COLD OUTSIDE BUT THE NIGHTLIFE IS HOT: LOCAL BUSINESSES ENJOY THE BENEFITS FROM GROWING NIGHTLIFE IN CULLMAN

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – For years, residents of Cullman who wanted to go out at night for a few drinks and live entertainment had to travel to Huntsville or Birmingham. Since the city passed the legal sale of alcohol with official sales taking place in 2011, an emerging and fast growing nightlife scene has arrived, keeping a lot of business here in Cullman.

Live bands are not the only form of entertainment people can enjoy at night, live trivia nights have also become increasing popular. The Busy Bee Café holds a live trivia night every Thursday from 6-8 p.m. through the company Challenge Entertainment. Players can eat great food, have a drink and test their trivia skills all while playing for some great prizes. Kyle Spears, manager and chef at Busy Bee, says that adding this attraction has been very beneficial for business.

"Since I started doing trivia nights we have seen at least a 100 percent increase on Thursday nights," Spears said. "I first heard about them [Challenge Entertainment] when I played at a place in Huntsville. I found it really entertaining, and the regional manager for the company was looking to do business in this area. When I found it was the same company, I signed them up."

One patron on Thursday, Michael Sullins, was very happy to have a game night like this in the area.

"I have been coming here for many years," Sullins said. "I think this is a fantastic Thursday night event. It is a great end of the work week thing where you can come in and throw back a couple beverages, eat a nice meal and have a lot of fun."

On Friday and Saturday nights, many establishments host live bands, and owners like Tyler Jacobs of Grumpy's Italian Grill say that it has been a tremendous help.

"I use New Year's as my measuring stick for the success of having live entertainment," Jacobs said. "Our first New Year was just nothing. No one was in here. Then the second year things got better and we saw some significant growth. Then this past New Year's was a big jump and even better. In general I would say the nightlife is growing a lot, because people know they no longer have to go to Birmingham or Huntsville."

On Friday night, Moe's Original BBQ, was jam packed with hungry and thirsty patrons who came to hear a good band. The Zillionaires were rocking the house, and manager Jeremiah Connell said it is due in large part to the bands they book.

"On weekends when we don't have live entertainment because we can't find someone or we have a cancellation, it does have an impact on the business," He said. "We can go from it being crowded like this to it looking like a Wednesday night. Luckily, there are lots of good bands, and we have people coming in every day wanting to book a date."



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Crowds pack Moe's BBQ restaurant looking to relax and have fun.

Brothers Kitchen & Pourhouse is a smaller restaurant that likes to keep its relaxed vibe on the weekends. They pride themselves on bringing in serious artists to play for their customers, and according to co-owner Will Dowdy, the efforts of bringing those artists in have paid off.

"We have seen a 10 to 20 percent increase since we started having live music," he said. "We try to keep a mellower vibe. We want people to be able to have a drink and hear good music, but we want to keep a family atmosphere as well. If someone came in here with their kids right now, they could without having to worry. We try to not repeat artists too often and mix it up to give everyone a chance. But the nightlife has been good so far."

BRANTLEY GILBERT TO TAKE STAGE AT ROCK THE SOUTH IN JUNE

Noah Chandler
noah@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – With the announcement of the fourth installment of Rock the South to take place on June 19-20, concert promoter Shane Quick announced Thursday that country music star Brantley Gilbert will be taking to the stage at this year's quickly growing country music festival.

"Brantley Gilbert is one of the hottest and fastest growing country music artists, period," said Quick. "His country/southern rock sound will be a perfect anthem for a Rock the South night."

The concert series will take place at Cullman's Heritage Park.

Quick said he and the rest of the RTS crew have been working tirelessly since last year's event to make sure concert goers have a great time at the two-day festival.

"Since June 23, 2014, the question in the Rock the South office has been 'How can we make Rock the South 2015 bigger and better?' And we believe we have done just that. Simply put, you have sent us your requests and we have heard you loud and clear," he said.

When Quick said they heard the fans loud and clear he meant it.

"He's (Brantley) also one of the most requested artist from the Rock the South fans," he said.

"We wanted to come out of the gate strong with a name we knew everyone would love. Stay connected to Rock the South as more announcement are coming every week!"

As with last year, RTS promoters will be releasing details such as ticket information, artist lineups and much more on a weekly basis, building up the excitement for the South's fastest growing country music festival.

"In the coming days, we will be releasing details that will be the talk of the South. We wanted to get the dates and location out first, so people can mark their calendars and make arrangements," he said.

"Later this week, we'll be sharing information about a special ticket pre-sale, where all Rock the South patrons can get the lowest priced tickets available. We're looking forward to another successful year of introducing people to the great city of Cullman, AL," said Quick.

For more information on Rock the South, visit rockthesouth.com, or their Facebook page at facebook.com/RockTheSouth.



CONTRIBUTED

Country music star Brantley Gilbert is one of the most requested artists from Rock the South fans.

THAT'S ONE SICK PUPPY: PET EMERGENCIES AFTER HOURS – WHAT DO YOU DO?

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Your dog just fell over and is having difficulty breathing or maybe your cat is lethargic and cannot get up on its own. It's late at night and your veterinarian is closed until 8 a.m. the next day. You feel your pet won't make it until that time. What do you do? Believe it or not, call Cullman Regional Hospital!

The hospital and several veterinarians right here in Cullman participate in an "on call" program, which helps pet owners find vets in the area after normal hours or weekends in times of an emergency.

"Pet owners aren't directed to the ER but rather to the CRMC main hospital telephone number 256-737-2000," explained Lindsey Dossey of CRMC, "and our switchboard operator connects them with the veterinarian on call. We don't keep specific statistics on the number of vet calls, but it probably runs about 150 per month."

Animals are part of our families and we love them dearly. If there is an emergency, remain calm and make the phone call to the hospital, unless your veterinarian has other after hour instructions.

"What we tell people is to call us first, and if we're not here, then call the main phone number to the hospital," said the receptionist at Cullman Veterinary Hospital, P.C. "Let them know what's going on and which vet you are with. Then the hospital will call the vet that is on call that night. The vet that's on call will call them back and then meet them at the clinic."

Currently there are five veterinarians in Cullman who are part of this on call group. They are Steven T. Murphree, D.V.M., Dana Kessler, D.V.M., Tara Bonds, D.V.M., John Crider, D.V.M. and Susie Dickerson D.V.M. Doctors Murphree, Kessler and Bonds are affiliated with Cullman Veterinary Hospital. Doctor Crider is affiliated with Tommy Little Animal Clinic and Doctor Dickerson is affiliated with Northside Veterinary Hospital. All of these veterinarians are well respected members of the community and are sure to take great care of your pet(s).

If your beloved pet is extremely sick or hurt, don't wait until the next day to call the vet. Animals, just like people, need to be taken care of as much as possible. If you are unable to contact your veterinarian, call CRMC at 256-737-2000. But most importantly, contact your vet before any emergencies arise and to understand the "after hours" process.

A bit of knowledge and planning can prevent a host of problems in the long run.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

There are five local veterinarians that are "on call" for pet emergencies.

LOCAL POWERLIFTER INVITED TO EXCLUSIVE NATIONAL COMPETITION TO BENEFIT TERMINALLY ILL CHILDREN

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

"When I heard about this event, I felt led physically and spiritually to help in any way possible. As a father of five, I couldn't imagine what it would be like to have a child go through this."
Josh Smith, Powerlifter

CULLMAN – Local resident Josh Smith, 35, has been selected as the first and only person from Alabama to be invited to an elite powerlifting event known as Relentless. This event began in 2011 in Minnesota by Scott Nutter who hosted the powerlifting meet to raise money for a friend fighting stage IV liver cancer. In 2012, they teamed up with the Hope Kids organization. The event in Detroit alone has given over $165,000 to families with a child who has a life threatening terminal illness.

Smith first started powerlifting two years ago, but has been weightlifting on and off his whole life.

"I started powerlifting by seeing videos on social media from lifters like Marshall Johnson and Brandon Lilly," he said. "My father also lifted weights and watching him in the gym always inspired me."

There are two Relentless events that take place in Minnesota and Detroit annually. The meet is invitation only and powerlifters from all over the U.S. hope to get an invite every year to help this important cause. Josh Smith spoke about how he came to get his coveted invitation.

"In 2014, I was picked to lift as a reserve for Detroit Relentless but wasn't selected to lift. I was able to message Scott Nutter and tell him to keep me in mind for the event in Minnesota. There are so many people that want to be in this meet from all over the United States. I knew it was a long shot, but I was determined," Smith said.

Determination has paid off for Smith, and in November of 2014 he received his invite.

"Being the only person in from Alabama to be invited is an honor," he said.

"It means so much more to have the opportunity to help these kids and their families. Each lifter is required to raise money for this meet for Hope Kids. I am humbled and blessed to be able to be a part of this."

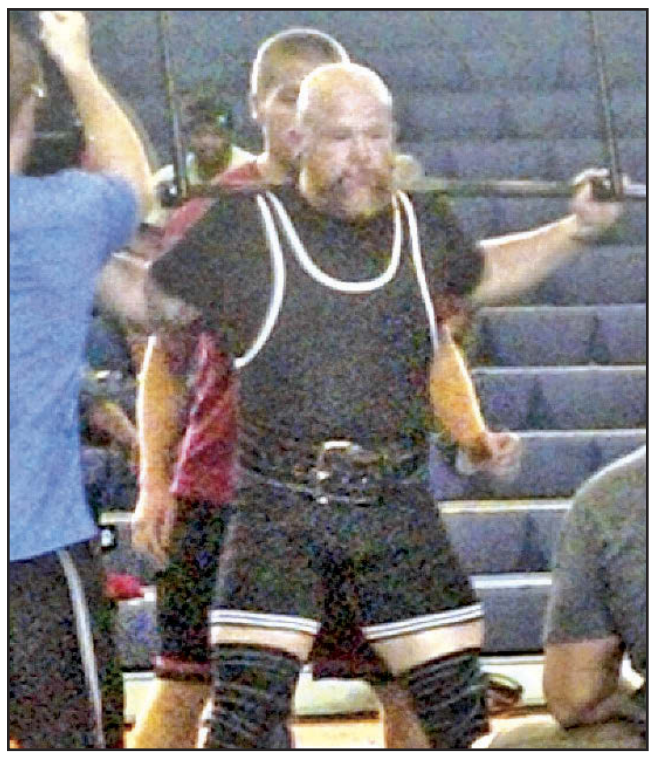
Part of the requirements for the meet is to raise the much needed money for the children and their families.

"My overall goal for this meet is to raise as much money as possible for the Hope Kids and put on a good show for these kids and their families which will be there," Smith said.

"I also want to have a positive effect on their lives and be a part of something they will never forget."

Smith will be holding a fundraiser event February 28 at the Elks Lodge from 7-10 p.m. with the local band Round 2 performing. A $10 donation is required at the door. Smith stated that the night will be a fun night for all.

More information, including donation forms, are available at firstgiving.com/fundraiser/josh-smith-9/relentless2015.



JOSH SMITH
The money that Smith raises from his February event will be given to Hope Kids and will benefit terminally ill children and their families.

Finds (from Front)

The people at Jack's Unique Finds love to paint. There's always something being painted and the employees normally have paint stains on their clothes – and they simply love it! They enjoy painting so much, they even have their own brand of paint!

"We also have Old Farm Chalk Paints," Murphree explained. "We have the premix and also sell the powder that you can mix with your own paint. We carry four different colors of our antiquing powder which change the colors tremendously or you can go very subtle and have fine line detail. It is easier and simpler to control than the waxes a lot of people use."

Old Farms Chalk Paint Powder changes any flat latex paint into beautiful creamy chalk paint.

The paint has become one of the top paints for many home projects around town. Why? Because it's easy to use and the results are absolutely gorgeous.

"The paints themselves let you change a piece of furniture that has an original finish without stripping or sanding," she continued.

"You don't have to prime the piece, all you have to do is clean it well with an all purpose cleaner to remove the dirt and oils off and paint it."

For those that don't know how to paint or are a little nervous about updating a piece of furniture on their own, Jack's can help.

"We have free classes on Thursdays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.," Murphree said. "A lot of people who sell paint charge for their classes, but we're not in it to make money on our classes, we want to teach them how to use our paint. That way they can come in and bring something they want to change, update and repurpose and we'll teach them how to do it," she mused. "We usually sit down with them – one on one or we teach in groups, either way. "

If you enjoy fine antique furniture and friendly people, Jack's Unique Finds is the place to be! If you are looking to update some old furniture by painting a new color, Jack's can help you out. They are located at 1603 3rd Street NE Cullman, Alabama on 278 East in the mall, just past Saint Bernard. They can be contacted by calling 256-531-2181. Follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/pages/Jacks-Unique-Finds/226047610865845.

Competition (from Front)

for third place will be given at the post level. Don Reid, Post Adjutant, said that the theme for this year's speeches will be on the Constitution and amendments.

"This is extremely important for our youth to learn more about our Constitution and the amendments and how to interpret it," Reid said.

"Each student is required to prepare two speeches concerning the Constitution and Amendments, one at least eight minutes in length and the other at least three minutes."

Winners at the local level will move on to the next level of competition and each state winner who competes in the first round of the national contest will receive a $1,500 scholarship.

Participants in the second round who do not advance to the national final round will receive an additional $1,500 scholarship. The lucky few that make it to the national stage have the opportunity to earn big scholarships of $18,000, $16,000, and $14,000 that will be awarded to the first through third places in the national finals.

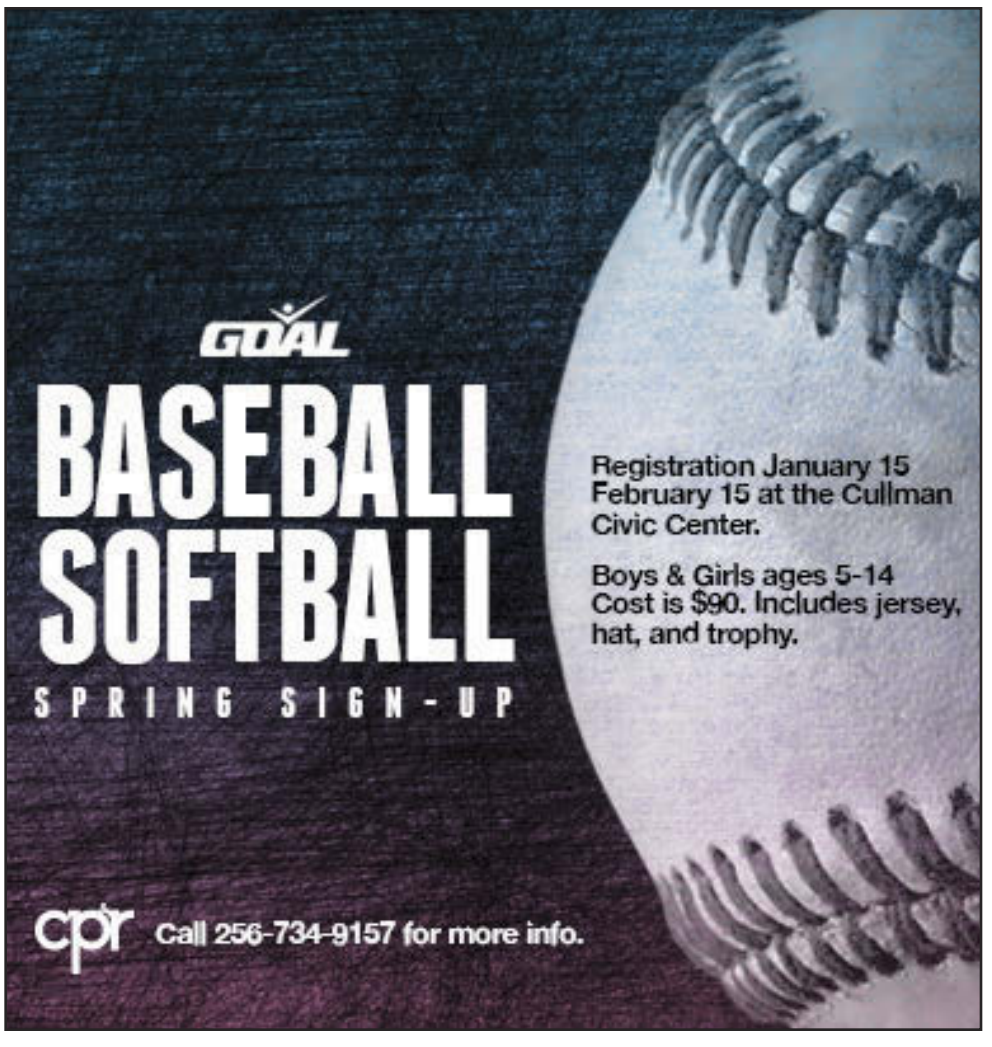
"My favorite part of this competition is seeing the students blossom," said Reid.

"It takes a really poised, confident young person to be able to draft a speech and be able to deliver it with conviction. The more experiences in which students are encouraged to participate, the more self-reliant they become."

Contestants can find complete rules and contest information at legion.org/oratorical and/or may contact Don Reid at 256-636-1913 or e-mail cdonreid@yahoo.com.



DON REID/AMERICAN LEGION
First Place Oratorical Winner of 2013, Katie Noriega of Fairview accepts her prize.



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.

Tuesday

Cullman Caring for Kids in Need of Donations
If you are able to contribute to Cullman County's Community Food Band, the 'Caring for Kids' organization, they would be grateful. Non-perishable food items are needed, and of course cash enables them to purchase needed products to fill their empty shelves. Please call 256-739-1111 to see how to help or mail checks or money orders to Cullman Caring for Kids, P. O. Box 698, Cullman, Alabama 35056-0698. Thanks in advance for anything you can do.

'Women's Community Prayer' Group Meeting
All interested women of all faiths and churches are invited to attend the newly formed 'Womens' Community Prayer' Group meeting which meets at 10 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in their Chapel. This prayer ministry is open to women of all churches and faiths who wish to pray for our families, our city and our country. For additional information please contact Nancy Spurgeon, 256-737-0580. This prayer group also is open to those who would like to participate but cannot attend. They are welcome to join as 'Partners in Prayer'. Please call and get connected.

Knifty Knitters Weekly Meeting
Members of the Cullman Knifty Knitters group meet each Tuesday afternoon at 3 p.m. in the Cullman County Library. Everyone is invited to come learn how to knit yarn and needles are free. This group is open to all ages, both accomplished knitters and those wishing to learn the art form. Crocheters also are invited to take part in these weekly meetings. Please call Lesia for more info 256-734-2720, ext. 23.

Emotions Anonymous Support Group Meeting
An Emotions Anonymous Support Group meets each Tuesday at noon at Grace Episcopal Church Carriage House. Those interested are invited to attend these group sessions. Further information is available through the Group Director's office at 256-734-3605 or 256-796-8440.

Wednesday

St. Monica's Group
St. Monica's Group for those addicted to alcohol or drugs meets every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. in the Rectory Basement of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church. All are welcome to attend who feel the need. For further information please contact Brian, 256-595-0515 or Rita, 256-507-0358.

Church Group Wednesday Nights at CWAC
Youth groups, Sunday School Classes and other Church groups are invited to take part in 'Church Group Nights at Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center every Wednesday night from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. Please call 256-775-SWIM (7946).

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

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

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

Thursday

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

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

Ageless Grace Fitness Class
Come join in the Ageless Grace Fitness Class held each Thursday evening starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Cullman Civic Center. Leader Ann Caretti will show attendees the latest fitness tips available. The event is sponsored by Cullman Park and Recreation Department. Call 256-734-9157 for more information.

'Root Ministry' at Abundant Grace Church
There is a weekly meeting each Thursday night starting at 6 p.m. at Abundant Grace Church. 'Root Ministry' has the aim of radically overcoming obstacles together for anyone with any types of hurts, hang-ups, or habits in their lives. Please call 256-739-7091 for additional information. All welcome!

Thursday Afternoon Overeaters Anonymous Meeting
Those interested are invited to attend the weekly Thursday afternoon meetings of Overeaters Anonymous which begin at 4:45 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church's Carriage House. For additional information please call 734-376-2124 or 256-352-1143.

Friday

'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center
The entertainment for senior citizens is 'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center starting at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited. Come enjoy some exercise (but not too physical!) and fellowship with friends. They bowl every Wednesday and Friday afternoons at 1 p.m.

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.

CRMC Auxiliary Fall Book Sale
The annual CRMC Auxiliary will sponsor their Fall Book Fair, which will run from 7 am until 4 pm. This event takes place in POB ll and will have great items for sale books, cookbooks, seasonal toys and gift items, and other great deals for the shoppers! Further info 256-737-2600.

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.

5K Pumpkin Run at Parkside School
Parkside School is sponsoring a 5K Pumpkin Run today with registration starting at 8 a.m. This run starts at the school at 9 a.m. and ends at Baileyton Town Park. Awards given for overall winners and winners in different age groups. There is a $20.00 fee if paid in advance and a $25.00 fee the day of the race. All ages welcome to join in the fun. Funds raised will be given to help education related needs for both students and teachers of the school.

Peinhardt Living History Farm 'Farm Day'
Everyone is invited to attend the annual Peinhardt Living History Farm 'Farm Day' from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Children 4 and under are FREE, with ages 5-12 $5.00 and 13 and up at $7.00. Walking tour, antique tractor show, blacksmith, surrey rides, wagon rides to Pumpkin Patch and Farm Animals too!! For additional information please call 256-734-0850 or email bjohn781@aol.com. All welcome!

Zombie Crawl
Join the Zombie Crawl fun in downtown Cullman (across from Berkeley Bob's Coffee House) from 12 noon to 10 p.m. Fun and games, Zombiefication (zombie makeup) from 12 noon to 4:45 p.m. ($5.00 for kids, $7.00 for adults); Thriller Dance Lesson from 4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. (free); Zombie Crawl from 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. ($13.00 each - registration ends at 430 pm) with prizes awarded; Mob Thriller Dance which is free; Brain Eating Contest ($5.00) starting at 6:15 p.m.; Zombie Dance Party from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. (FREE). A proceeds benefit Mental Healthcare of Cullman and Victim Services of Cullman. Come join the 'ZOMBIES" as they prowl through Downtown Cullman this afternoon and nite!

Next Monday

County Spelling Bee
Come out and watch the best spellers in the county compete to win the Bee! Happening at Fairview High School at 7 p.m.

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

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LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

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

Tuesday
- Pickin' Under the Pavilion at the Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- Square Dancing Lessons at East Point Community Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 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
- Open Mic Night at Brothers from 8 p.m. to close
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-7 p.m.
- Karaoke Night at Cadillac Ron's at 7 p.m.

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

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

Next Monday
- County Spelling Bee at 7 p.m. at Fairview High School
- 79 cent wings at Rodney G's Hickory Grill from 6-9 p.m.

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FROM MORBIDLY OBESE TO SUCCESSFUL HEALTH COACH: SANDY SEIBERT IS JUST ONE OF CULLMAN COUNTY'S OUTSTANDING CITIZENS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com



CONTRIBUTED

Sandy Seibert's before and after results were her motivation to become a health coach.

GARDEN CITY – Sandy Seibert has suffered from obesity for years. Actually, she has struggled with her weight issues for most of her adult life. Thankfully, four years ago she decided to take her health into her own hands, and as a result, she has lost 140 pounds, of which she has maintained successfully. But what's even better than the actual weight loss and healthy body is Sandy's heartfelt determination to help others reach their weight loss goals and start living a more healthy life.

In 2012 Sandy became a health coach and has been helping people all over the United States lose weight and get healthy ever since.

"The smallest challenges we face seem colossal when we have to face them alone," Seibert began. "To break old, unhealthy habits and start new, healthy ones, you need a champion, a mentor, a friend. That's me," she smiled. "I once stood where you stand, faced the same challenges, frustrated with dieting and disappointed with the other available options," she continued. "I had a mentor, too. Now, as someone who has found success, I am excited about paying it forward to others."

Seibert not only helps people lose the extra weight, but she also supports and cheers them on in other areas of their life as well. She uses her humor and down to earth communication skills to maintain a connection with people and serves as a wonderful source of encouragement.

"Building my life around what matters most means getting geared up to help many more people move towards a healthy body, healthy mind and healthy finances by getting what they want," she said. "The idea of healthy living excites me, but sharing it with people and actually living healthy and working towards being the best that we can be, for me, nothing beats it!"

In the past, Seibert had some extremely dark years as she struggled with her own weight issues. She has tried literally everything to lose and maintain her weight, yet she never managed to keep it off. Once she changed her perspective and began viewing food as fuel for her body, the weight came off and stayed off. She feels like a whole new person – a healthy, vibrant person! That is what she wants for everyone: to be happy and healthy. She will admit though, it's not an easy path to follow.

"The longer I'm a health coach, the more I start to understand that people are frightened," she said on a more serious note.

"Frightened to temporarily give up what they believe they love when it really is keeping them feeling terrible and in an unhealthy state. Those things they 'love' certainly aren't loving them back! Unfortunately those things are robbing them from a life of vibrancy."

Cullman County is full of outstanding citizens. Sandy Seibert is just one of them. She has taken back her body and made it healthy and strong.

She strives every day to help others do the same thing. Sandy Seibert is a Certified Take Shape For Life Health Coach. To request a complimentary coaching session or to take the health assessment, visit path-changers.com or call them at 256-338-4645.

If you know somebody who you think is one of Cullman County's outstanding citizens, we'd like to hear about them and possibly feature them in an upcoming edition of the paper. Provide your suggestions by e-mail at sharon@cullmansense.com.

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Poll

Have you been in a car accident this winter?



This Week's Poll
Do you think gas prices will continue to drop?
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cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Missoula Children's Theater Presents Aladdin** at the Cullman Civic Center on Saturday, January 24 at 2pm and 6pm. Come and support local theater and the arts in the community with the 50 plus children performing in the show. Tickets are $5 each; children 12 & under are free.
- **Baseball & Softball Registration** for boys and girls ages 4-14 will take place Jan. 15-Feb. 15 at the Cullman Civic Center. Cost is $90 which includes jersey, hat, and trophy. Games will be played through the week at Heritage Park and the Field of Miracles; practices start first of March. For more information, call 256-734-9157.
- **Miracle League Basketball Registration** is open through January 31 at the Cullman Civic Center. Cost is $30 which includes a jersey. Games will be played in February at Ingle Park.
- **Adult Flag Football Registration** is open Jan. 15-February 15 at Heritage Park. Cost per team is $500 which includes the season and single elimination tournament. For more information, call 256-739-9931
- **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.
- **CP&R Archery Classes** are ongoing and take place each Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday afternoon for beginner, intermediate, and advanced archers. Cost is $40 for the month. Call 734-9157 for more information.

What's Online

THE HISTORY OF RED HILL SCHOOL

Next door to the North Alabama Agriplex is an old wooden schoolhouse. Hanging on the wall for all to see is a small white sign that reads: Red School House Property of Peinhardt Living History Farm Fo. 2008. The aged walls that line the building have seen more than their fair share of memories over the years.

qrne.ws/309



ONE-SIDED WINS HIGHLIGHT FIRST DAY OF CULLMAN COUNTY TOURNAMENT

Winning and winning by a huge margin began the 2015 Cullman County Basketball Tournament at Wallace State's Tom Drake Coliseum Saturday. With the junior varsity in the spotlight along with one freshman contest, five of the six games were...

qrne.ws/310

SECOND ANNUAL TEAM CREW CHARITY EVENT PROMISES TO BE BIGGER AND BETTER

Cystic Fibrosis affects approximately 30,000 people in the United States alone. It is a life threatening condition that is the result of a defective gene that causes large amounts of mucus to accumulate in the lungs, pancreas and other organs.

qrne.ws/311

A NIGHT WITH "THE DIAMONDS"

LEGENDARY POP VOCAL GROUP ROCKS WALLACE STATE THEATRE



CONTRIBUTED

Along with performing a variety of harmonic songs, The Diamonds interweaved comedy throughout their show.

Shannon Embree
shannon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Live on Stage, Inc. and the Cullman Community Concert Association booked a world famous quartet, The Diamonds, who performed at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre on campus at Wallace State Community College last Thursday evening.

At approximately 7 p.m. that night, Doo-Wop and these Vocal Group Hall of Famers brought almost a full house of attendees back in time to "The Twist" and fan hysteria, performing hit classics such as "Cherry Baby" and "Little Bitty Pretty One" as well as some of the The Diamonds' original songs such as, "The Stroll" and, of course, Rock and Roll's National Anthem, "Little Darlin".

The Diamonds' set list and superb harmonic sound alone easily delivers an amazing performance, however, it is their commanding presence, stage craft, non-stop energy and loveable comedic bits that made it for many people – the best concert ever.

Cullman Community Concert Association Board President Kathy Scruggs said, "Every year we go to a conference in Nashville the first weekend of every August and we see about 30 different acts perform about 15 minute little sections of their show, and from those acts, the other board members and I that go, we come back, meet with the rest of the board, and that's how we choose our acts."

Scruggs beamed throughout the lobby, eager to address every guest and discuss the night's event. Being a fan herself, Scruggs expressed her excitement to have The Diamonds come here to Cullman all the way from Nashville saying, "It's wonderful. It's fantastic."

Audience member Elaine Stacil said, "We subscribe to the Cullman Community Concert series every year. I expect to have a lot of fun."

After the show started, that's exactly what every audience member in attendance seemed to be having, fun.

Singing and clapping along, the audience gave The Diamonds a warm welcome. Pure entertainment was evident with the spirit of the crowd.

Sitting dead center in the front row, bumping and bouncing in her chair and singing along with every song was huge Diamonds fan Sharon McClanahan.

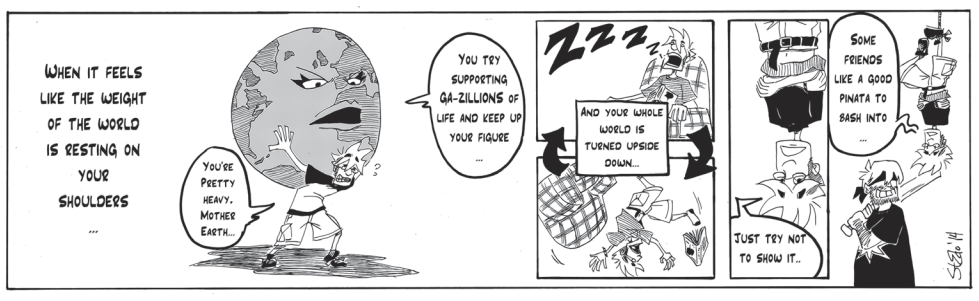
"It was in the paper and they announced it when they sold the season tickets last year, they announced who was gonna be here. I've been a fan since I was 11 years old. This is great. I'm really enjoying myself. I just want to get up and dance," said McClanahan with a smile.

The Cullman Community Concert Association's next event is on Feb. 3, featuring the fiery violin and guitar duo Alex DePue and Miguel De Hoyos at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre at Wallace State Campus.

For more information on future events, pictures, and videos visit their website at cullmancommunityconcertassociation.com.

COMICS

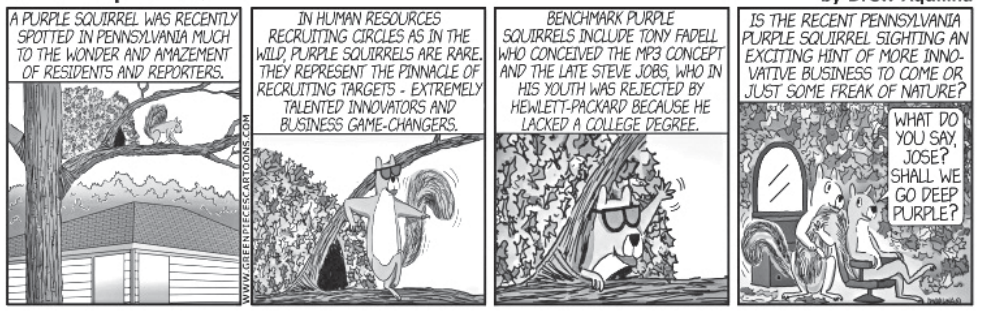
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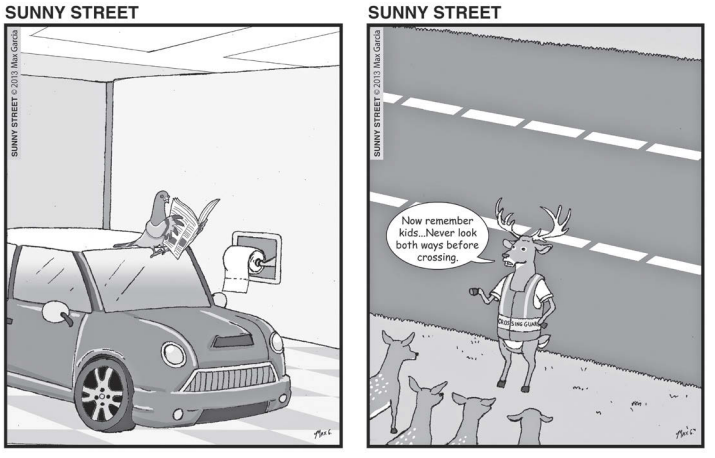
MAMA'S BOYZ www.jerrycraft.net JERRY CRAFT



Green Pieces by Drew Aquilina



SUNNY STREET SUNNY STREET



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PETS OF THE WEEK

Alex



Hello my name is Alex and I am about 7 + years old. I am believed to be a Terrier mix and I currently weigh 15 lbs. I am full of life and I love to play. Please come by and visit with me. You may find out I'm an extremely lovable companion!

Elf Rusty Belz



Hello my name is Elf Rusty Belz and I am about 2 years old. I am a Dachshund mix and I currently weigh 24 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, so please consider coming to meet me today!

ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

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

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

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1637 Townsquare SW
Cullman, AL 35055
payroll.services@hotmail.com
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OPINION

THREE MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT

Robert F. Dodge, M.D.
PeaceVoice

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists has just announced its latest nuclear Doomsday Clock moving ahead the minute hand to three minutes till midnight. The clock represents the count down to zero in minutes to nuclear apocalypse - midnight. This significant move of two minutes is the 22nd time since its inception in 1947 that the time has been changed.

In moving the hand to three minutes to midnight, Kennette Benedict, the Executive Director of the Bulletin, identified in his comments: "the probability of global catastrophe is very high"... "the choice is ours and the clock is ticking"..."we feel the need to warn the world" ..."the decision was based on a very strong feeling of urgency." She spoke to the dangers of both nuclear weapons and climate change saying, "they are both very difficult and we are ignoring them" and emphasized "this is about doomsday, this is about the end of civilization as we know it." The Clock has ranged from two minutes to midnight at the height of the Cold War to 17 minutes till midnight with the hopes that followed the end of the Cold War. The decision to move the minute hand is made by the Bulletin's Board of Directors in consultation with its Board of Sponsors, which includes 18 Nobel Laureates.

What is clear is that the time to ban nuclear weapons is now. Today's announcement by the Bulletin further corroborates the dangers confirmed by recent climate science. These studies identify the much greater dangers posed by even a small regional nuclear war using "just" 100 Hiroshima size bombs out of the 16,300 weapons in today's global stockpiles. The ensuing dramatic climate changes and famine that would follow threaten the lives of up to two billion on the planet with effects that would last beyond 10 years. There is no escaping the global impact of such a small regional nuclear war.

Medical science has weighed in on the impacts and devastation of even the smallest nuclear explosion in one of our cities and the reality is there is no adequate medical or public health response to such an attack. We kid ourselves into a false sense that we can prepare and plan for the outcome of a bomb detonation. Every aspect and facet of our society would be overwhelmed by a nuclear attack. Ultimately the resultant dead at ground zero would be the lucky ones.

Probability theorists have long calculated the dismal odds that the chance for nuclear event either by plan or accident are not in our favor. Recent documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act detail more than 1,000 mishaps that have happened in our nuclear arsenals. Time is not on our side and the fact that we have not had a nuclear catastrophe is more a result of luck than mastery and control over these immoral weapons of terror.

The time to act is now. There is so much that can and must be done. Congress will soon begin budget debates that include proposals to increase nuclear weapons spending for stockpile modernization by $355 billion over the next decade and up to a trillion in the next 30 years--expenditures for weapons that can never be used and at a time when the economic needs for our country and world are so great.

Around the world, there is a growing awareness of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, and a corresponding desire to rid the world of these weapons. The Vienna Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons conference last month saw 80 percent of the nations of the world participating. In October 2014, at the UN, 155 nations called for the elimination of nuclear weapons. At Vienna, 44 nations plus the pope advocated for a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

The people are making their voices heard and demanding a change of course from the status quo. In this week's State of the Union address, President Obama emphasized that we are one people with a common destiny. He said this both in reference to our nation and our world. The threat of nuclear weapons unites us even as it threatens our very existence. This reality can also be remembered in the words of Martin Luther King when he said,

"We must all learn to live together as brothers or we will all perish together as fools. We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

The time for action is now, before it is too late. It's three minutes till midnight.

OUTDOORS

PLANNING FOR NEXT WHITETAIL SEASON: PART 1

Alex Thornton
alex@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - As whitetail season draws to a close, the task of preparing for next season should be fresh on the mind of hunters. Many tend to forget that the best way to ensure a successful season is to start preparing immediately as the current season closes. This occurs in three parts. This week is about the time directly following the season, and how it will give you an idea of what area of your property or hunting club will offer you the best chance to harvest a quality deer next season.

The first thing to do once the season closes is a little post-season scouting of your hunting area. This is a great time to go into those bedding areas and sanctuaries you dare not go into during the hunting season.

Keep your trail cameras up and keep a journal of the bucks that survived the season, and log where you got photos of the best bucks including the times of day throughout the warming months to come. This will give insight to how the deer herd move across your land.

The next step is to walk around the areas where you saw the bucks and look for their antler sheds. This can help you choose which deer are on the hit list next fall.

While you are out walking, take a good look at the available food sources and if it is enough to sustain the deer herd on your land.

If not, browse spring/summer green fields you can plant to keep the deer eating and promote strong antler growth on the bucks. Remember deer will go where the food is. This also keeps deer accustomed to coming to your property year round.

Being a successful hunter doesn't stop when you put your camouflage back in storage for the year. It is a year round job to ensure your success during the season.

Next week brings the discussion of green field mixes and which works best for spring and summer, what kind of natural foods deer have in the Cullman County woods, and the best ways to make sure those food sources are abundant on your property.

POSITION AVAILABLE

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

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Amhony Hood

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Jonathan Yeager



2002 Aston-Martin Convertible
was $39,900 **NOW $33,786**



2009 BMW I-Series
was $24,900 **NOW $19,454**



2013 Buick Encore 2013
was $24,900 **NOW $21,906**



2012 Buick Verano
was $19,900 **NOW $16,896**



2006 Cadillac CTS
was $??? **NOW $???**



2006 Chevrolet 1500
was $16,900 **NOW $13,908**



2007 Chevrolet 1500
was $21,900 **NOW $16,997**



2011 Chevrolet 1500
was $20,900 **NOW $16,902**



2013 Chevrolet 1500
was $32,900 **NOW $29,386**



2013 Chevrolet 1500
was $34,900 **NOW $31,386**



2013 Chevrolet 1500
was $38,900 **NOW $35,777**



2014 Chevrolet 1500
was $46,900 **NOW $39,990**



2013 Chevrolet Camaro
was $28,900 **NOW $24,784**



2013 Chevrolet Captiva 2013
was $24,900 **NOW $20,888**



2014 Chevrolet Cruze
was $19,900 **NOW $16,842**



2013 Chevrolet Equinox
was $25,900 **NOW $23,872**



2013 Chevrolet Equinox
was $29,900 **NOW $27,362**



2014 Chevrolet Impala
was $21,900 **NOW $18,888**



2014 Chevrolet Impala
was $27,900 **NOW $22,870**



2014 Chevrolet Impala
was $27,900 **NOW $22,872**



2014 Chevrolet Impala
was $27,900 **NOW $24,772**



2011 Chevrolet Malibu
was $18,900 **NOW $15,984**



2013 Chevrolet Malibu
was $19,900 **NOW $16,777**



2014 Chevrolet Malibu
was $20,900 **NOW $16,642**



2010 Chevrolet Malibu LTZ
was $14,900 **NOW $11,980**



2010 Chevrolet Tahoe
was $27,900 **NOW $23,286**



2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer
was $9,995 **NOW $7,805**



2009 Chevrolet Traverse
was $17,900 **NOW $14,705**



2009 Dodge Grand Caravan
was $13,900 **NOW $9,486**



2013 Dodge Grand Caravan
was $29,900 **NOW $25,438**



2008 Ford Edge
was $18,900 **NOW $15,386**



2011 Ford Expedition
was $24,900 **NOW $21,806**



2003 Ford Explorer
was $8,900 **NOW $5,298**



2010 Ford F-150 4x4 Raptor
was $38,900 **NOW $33,986**



2008 Ford F-150
was $16,900 **NOW $14,756**



2010 GMC 1500 4x4
was $24,900 **NOW $19,986**



2011 GMC 1500
was $26,900 **NOW $22,890**



2014 GMC 4x4 2014
was $48,900 **NOW $42,404**

2014 GMC 1500 4x4
was $47,900 **NOW $44,202**

2012 GMC 1500
was $39,900 **NOW $35,886**

2013 GMC 1500
was $24,900 **NOW $20,806**

2014 GMC 1500
was $40,900 **NOW $36,400**

2012 GMC 1500 Denali
was $38,900 **NOW $35,408**

2009 GMC Acadia
was $22,900 **NOW $18,602**

2012 Acadia Denali
was $48,900 **NOW $43,404**

2011 Yukon Denali
was $44,900 **NOW $39,400**

2012 Yukon Denali
was $47,900 **NOW $42,900**

2012 Honda Accord LX
was $19,900 **NOW $16,094**

2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee
was $10,995 **NOW $8,202**

2003 Jeep Liberty 4x4
was $8,995 **NOW $5,986**

2011 Kia Soul
was $14,900 **NOW $10,306**

2006 Lexus 400H RX
was $16,900 **NOW $14,286**

2011 Mercedes E-Class
was $34,900 **NOW $29,286**

2007 Nissan Maxima
was $16,900 **NOW $12,486**

20006 Pontiac G-6
was $10,900 **NOW $7,862**

2009 Pontiac Vibe
was $14,900 **NOW $11,887**

2012 Toyota Camry
was $22,900 **NOW $18,460**

2012 VW Beetle
was $21,900 **NOW $18,386**

2013 VW Bettle
was $18,900 **NOW $14,606**

2008 VW Jetta
was $13,900 **NOW $8,888**

Bill Smith

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