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THE SHINER SHACK

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PARKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Librarian April Smith helps teach children to be excited about the world of books.

CULLMAN COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

PARKSIDE ELEMENTARY'S APRIL SMITH

Chelsea Sparks
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BAILEYTON – Our teachers are an invaluable asset to our community; the responsibility of shaping young minds and educating our children is one that no educator takes lightly. April Smith of Parkside Elementary understands that responsibility and is now being recognized by the county for her achievements and dedication.

Every year one teacher is recognized throughout Cullman County as Teacher of the Year. It is a high honor, and those that receive the award have done so because of their tireless efforts to be the best for their students. The selection is first made at the individual school level, according to Parkside's Principal Richard Orr.

"Parkside's Teacher of the Year is determined first by nominations from the staff," he said. "Any teacher can nominate another

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ALABAMA PEDIATRICIANS JOIN PUBLIC HEALTH IN URGING IMMUNIZATION FOR MEASLES

Karen Landers, M.D.
F.A.A.P.

In light of the recent measles outbreak associated with Disneyland in California, the Alabama Department of Public Health reminds parents of the vital importance of vaccinating their children according to the immunization schedule of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus. No patients in Alabama have contracted measles linked to the Disneyland outbreak so far, but the

p6

SOMETHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT

LOCAL PLAYWRIGHT EXPLORES MOTHER AND SON'S LETTERS OF ENDEARMENT

"I REALLY WANT THIS PLAY TO BE ABLE TO BE DONE IN MANY, MANY PLACES."

– BEN SOUTH, PLAYWRIGHT

P4



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Ben South, center, listens to critiques of his new play from friends and acquaintances at Red Door Emporium following a private reading.

AMERICAN LEGION HOLDS SPEECH CONTEST

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CULLMAN – On Saturday, three young speakers stood up to speak on the constitution at the local American Legion Post in Cullman. Speakers were asked to present an 8-10 minute prepared oration on a phrase of the Constitution and the duty of citizens to uphold it. Speakers were also asked to speak on an assigned topic the day of the competition for three minutes.

Public speaking is no easy feat. It takes not only a massive amount of courage, but also a level head and composure. The speakers earned a framed certificate and a monetary prize for their efforts. This year's first place winner was Christopher Garcia, 17, a home-schooled student from

p4

FILLING CABINETS AND HEARTS WITH LOVE

THE CARPENTERS CABINET HELPS FEED THOSE WHO STRUGGLE

Chelsea Sparks
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HOLLY POND – The Carpenters Cabinet has been in operation in the Falkville area since 2009. The non-profit organization was brought together by Chris Warnick, who made it his mission to help struggling families get enough food to make it through difficult situations. His work in the Morgan County area has helped many, and now the organization has set its sights on expanding its reach to Cullman County.

"We started in December of 2009," said Director Chris Warnick. "We helped a little over 200 people in our first year, and that has doubled every year since then. Last year we saw a 40 percent increase, and only 22 percent were repeat clients."

With so many needing help in Cullman County, Warnick and his group are hopeful to make a difference in the outer reaches of the county by setting up a new facility in Holly Pond.

"Our target is to help people in that part of the county," said

p6



CARPENTER'S CABINET

Hundreds of cans line the shelves at the Falkville location of Carpenter's Cabinet.

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

MCDONALD'S REOPENS: 2ND AVE. STORE FEATURES MODERN LOOK AND DOUBLE DRIVE-THRU

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CULLMAN – McDonald's on 2nd Avenue Southwest in Cullman has reopened its doors after weeks of a massive rebuild. The old establishment was completely torn down and replaced with a fresh and vibrant building that the team hopes children and adults alike will enjoy.

Since the demolition, residents have had to fight down their cravings for Big Macs when traveling down Highway 31. On Jan. 29, the wait was over and citizens could once again order a quick bite. The new and improved facilities will offer not only a better ambiance to customers, but also better service.

"Every so often McDonald's likes to update our stores so that we can keep with the public image," said Regional Supervisor David St. John. "Also, our operations have to change over the years so we have to update that as well."

The new and improved McDonald's is not only good for the company itself, but also represents the progress that is being made across the city as a whole, according to Cullman Chamber President Leah Bolin.

"The new McDonald's construction is the perfect example of progress in the Cullman Area," Bolin said.

"Other cities and towns have empty or rundown buildings. Cullman, on the other hand, has community investors who are willing to bring in new business, as well as take care of aging properties. I am pleased that McDonald's has made this investment for our citizens and visitors. It looks fantastic, and I can't wait to be able to pull back in for my vanilla latte and an egg McMuffin!"

Mayor Max Townson seconded Bolin's sentiment, stating that the change in McDonald's is an example of the change that has overtaken the city.

"We are happy that this new McDonald's has been reconfigured and brought up to date," he said. "You notice that buildings are being completely rebuilt all over. For example, the Cullman Shopping Center. They tore down the old Food World and are rebuilding a better and more up to date building. I think they have done a fantastic job with this. It looks more modern, and we are just really happy to see it open to the public again."

The new McDonald's features a double drive-thru, with two pick-up windows for speedier service.

The interior of the restaurant is completely redesigned. Warm tones along with a modern dining area are intended to make for a more pleasurable dining experience. A unique table with multicolored light fixtures is a different twist that children should enjoy.



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

The opening day crowd lines up to see the new décor, and satisfy their cravings.

On opening day the crowd poured in during lunch and a fresh and friendly staff was eager to greet them. There was a feeling of excitement in the air, and Regional Supervisor David St. John hopes that that feeling stays for a long time to come. "We are constantly changing to meet what the customers need," said St. John. "We really want everyone to come in and see what we have here. It is definitely not the same store."

McDonald's is located at 1425 2nd Avenue Southwest Cullman, AL and their phone number is 256-734-4073.

LIGHTS OF LOVE EVENT RAISES MORE THAN $12,000 FOR ONCOLOGY ASSISTANCE

Mary Beth Sellers
CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN – The Cullman Regional Medical Center Foundation recently held the Annual Dr. Herman C. Ensor Lights of Love Tree Lighting program during December, raising more than $12,000 for the Oncology Patient Assistance Fund at CRMC.

Proceeds from the event will go towards assisting cancer patients with various medical expenses such as PET scans, medications, radiation treatments, x-rays, medical supplies, lab work, and medical bills.

This year's event featured special performances by Dr. Michael Lunsford, Maggie and Ellie Lunsford, The CRMC Employee Choir, Dr. Joe Johnson and the First Baptist Church Ladies Ensemble. The TJ Tucker family had the honor of lighting the Christmas tree while all attendees sang "Silent Night."

"On behalf of the CRMC Foundation Board of Trustees, I want to express appreciation to all those who contributed to and attended this special ceremony," said Stephanie Jowers, CRMC Foundation President. "We are thankful for the support from the community."

Mark your calendars for the 2015 Lights of Love ceremony on December 3, 2015. For more information on Lights of Love or about the CRMC Foundation, contact the Foundation office at 256-737-2565 or crmcfoundation@crmchospital.com or visitcrmchospital.com/foundation.



CRMC

The TJ Tucker family had the honor of lighting the Christmas tree and pictured are Andrew, Jamie and Sylvia Tucker.

WORLD FAMOUS MUSICIANS TO PERFORM AT WALLACE STATE'S THEATRE

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HANCEVILLE – On Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m., Alex DePue and Miguel DeHoyos will be performing on stage at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre on the campus of Wallace State Community College.

The act is billed as a "fiery guitar and violin duo," and this concert will be a part of DePue and Hoyos' 2014-2015 concert season.

The two musicians have gained quite a reputation as performers, considering they have played with the Philadelphia Symphony and were featured performers at the International Bluegrass Music Association's Grand Master Fiddler Championships in 2009.

According to Kathy Scruggs, President of the Cullman Community Concert Association Board, this upcoming concert is just one in a series of concerts that will be entertaining those in Cullman this year.

"There will be six concerts this year," said Scruggs. This is including a performance by the Shanghai Circus that will occur on March 17.

The Concert Association Board goes to Nashville each year and, in collaboration with the production company Live On Stage, the Board selects several acts that they'd like to see come back to Cullman and perform.

Last year the DePue Brothers performed what Scruggs described as "Grassical" music.

A mixture of bluegrass and classical music, the DePue Brothers have garnered quite a name for themselves. Although Alex DePue did not make the trip with his siblings last year, this year promises to be an entertaining performance.

"We look for people who are good at their craft," Scruggs explained, stressing that the skill and quality of whoever comes to perform is paramount, but she also said, "we try to look for great entertainers."

Scruggs praised the graciousness of Wallace State Community College, where most previous concerts have been, and where the performances this year will be held.

A product of the partnership between the Cullman Community Concert Association Board and WSCC is that students and faculty receive free admission to events with the proper identification.

Alex DePue and Miguel DeHoyos were lauded by Scruggs as "great entertainers who each perform with such enthusiasm," along with "playing many different types of music."

Scruggs said that the concert series is increasing in size because Cullman is expanding and the Board is being more ambitious with who they attempt to bring in to the community and perform.

The February performance by DePue and DeHoyos will help the concert series grow, as well as expose the Cullman community to a special kind of music and culture that wouldn't have been performing in Cullman without the administration of the Cullman Community Concert Association Board.



WALLACE STATE'S BASEBALL FAMILY MOURNS THE DEATH OF DONALD JONES, THE LONGTIME VOICE OF THE LIONS

Russell Moore
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State baseball lost one of its biggest fans and family members on Thursday as Donald Jones died at the age of 76 after a long battle with cancer.

Jones served as the Wallace State baseball public address announcer since the late 1990's, but that only scratched the surface of Jones's impact on the program, which has won seven conference championships and made six NJCAA Division I World Series.

"Donald Jones was a servant. He was almost like he was placed on this earth to help people and to serve people. It's a sad time for the Wallace State baseball family," said Wallace State baseball coach Randy Putman. "I feel like I've had two very good friends on this campus in Bobby McCracken and Donald Jones, and they both passed away with cancer. Donald was just true and loyal to our baseball program. He was loyal to these players and always had a helping hand to serve them in any way possible."

Hours after Jones's death on Thursday, former Wallace State players expressed their condolences and sorrow through multiple social media outlets.

Former Wallace State pitcher Derek Holland, who is entering his seventh season with the Texas Rangers, posted the following about Jones on his Instagram page: "Donald Jones was a great guy who was around the team and in the press box for us. He was a very vocal man and a great person to the baseball community and to the community of Cullman and Hanceville. He will truly be missed and prayers are with him and his family. God bless a truly great guy."

Jones was a family figure to Wallace State's baseball players throughout the years and volunteered in multiple ways. He traditionally organized travel arrangements on the road for the Lions and loved conducting weekly Bible studies on Wednesday nights for those players who were interested.

"Donald Jones was like a grandfather to our players. He was always there to lend a helping hand and give advice if someone needed it. The players loved Donald to the point where he was a member of our baseball family, but he was actually a member of their family in the sense they were very hurt and disturbed when he passed away," Jones said. "There's no telling how many texts, emails, phone calls I've received from former players about how much Donald touched their lives."

Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics also witnessed first-hand the positive influence and impact Jones had on the baseball program.

"There are people who leave indelible imprints on the lives of all the people around them. Donald Jones was that kind of man and mentor. He played a huge role in the lives of players like Craig Kimbrel and Derek Holland who have become famed major leaguers, but also in the lives of countless young men who have become professionals, husbands and fathers --- men of character shaped by the devotion of Donald Jones," Karolewics said.

Wallace State and the Alabama State Board of Education passed a resolution last April to name the press box at James C. Bailey Stadium in honor of Jones, officially making it the Donald W. Jones Press Box.

"Having the press box named after me is one of the greatest honors I've ever had besides the love and pride I have for my family. I've never dreamed of anything like it," Jones said before the dedication last April.

"It's simply hard to put into words what this does mean to me. It makes you feel maybe you did something right. It's a real blessing."

A slew of former Wallace State players returned to campus for the dedication of the press box on that beautiful April morning---just another indication of the impact Jones had on their lives.

"I was so glad Donald could appreciate that day and see his name on that press box. I was very excited about it when it happened and excited Dr. Karolewics pushed to make it happen," Putman said.

Before becoming the voice of Wallace State baseball, Jones served in education within the Cullman County system as a high school teacher, coach, principal and board of education employee.

"Donald Jones was always there to serve and he did a little bit of everything. When I was principal at Holly Pond and he was with the board of education, he wanted to serve the best way he could," said Bill Lay, a long-time educator in Cullman County. "Donald Jones was a great man and was always fun to be around.

He could be cutting up one day and serious tomorrow. He was always willing to help with anything he could."

After Jones retired from the educational system, he wanted to stay busy in retirement. Jones worked in public relations as vice president of the school bus division of a trucking company, but always made sure to stop by James C. Bailey Stadium on game days to monitor the progress of Putman and the Lions.

One afternoon, Jones was asked by Cullman radio personality Jimmy Dale Burgess to provide some extra commentary on the radio broadcast and also handle the public address announcing. Jones had provided color commentary for radio broadcasts of high school games off and on for years, so he had experience behind the microphone.



WSCC

Donald Jones died at the age of 76 after a long battle with cancer.

Jones turned that opportunity into a lasting legacy.

Wallace State's baseball team opens the 2015 season on Thursday against Motlow State at James C. Bailey Stadium.

Putman knows there will be a huge void around James C. Bailey Stadium from now on without Jones's presence.

"It seems different with Donald not stopping by the office. It seems different with him not stopping by practice. It's going to seem different at the games without him in that press box. Donald will be with us though. He'll be looking down upon us. I'm sure he'll have a microphone in his hand in heaven," Putman said. "Donald will always be remembered and never forgotten."

The funeral service for Jones is Monday at 11 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in Cullman. The family will receive visitors before the service from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, it was Jones's wish that donations be made to Hospice of Cullman County or the Wallace State baseball team.

For more information about Wallace State athletics, visit wallacestate.edu.

THE SHINER SHACK: THE BAIT STORE IN YOUR BACKYARD

Alex Thornton
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GARDEN CITY – Tucked away in a part of the county many only rarely pass through, is a wonderful little tackle shop called The Shiner Shack. The Shiner Shack is the last thing you would expect when you drive by the Garden City Chevron gas station, but as many of us have heard our whole lives, don't judge a book by its cover.

Kyle Chandler is the mastermind behind this unique bait shop. Taking a tour of the shop, the realization of it not being your run of the mill tackle store sets in. Some of the brands carried are Zoom, Xcalibur, Quantum, Penn and Berkley. However, what makes The Shiner Shack extraordinary is their specialization in live bait. "We are the only place in Cullman County that sell minnows by the pound and pack them in pure oxygen," Chandler says. "People's minnows stay alive for days and they waste less. Nobody likes seeing their money float to the top of the bucket."

FACEBOOK.COM/SHINERSHACK31

The Shiner Shack specializes in live bait.

They sell all varieties of live baits 365 days a year, as well as all of their artificial baits, and even take custom orders for those anglers that tend to be more particular about their gear. The Shiner Shack also sells a wide range of baits and equipment for all the types of fishing offered in our nearby lakes and rivers. The Shiner Shack is located at 313 1st Ave S Garden City, AL 35070 and can be reached by telephone at 256-352-2400.

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2ND ANNUAL MOMS HELPING MOMS EXPO CONNECTS FAMILIES

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CULLMAN – When Tiffiney Crawford created the Facebook group Moms Helping Moms she knew that her mission was to reach out and help other moms around her. What she did not expect was the massive scale that her group would achieve and the amount of lives that would be touched. Now in its second year, she and her group will reach out in person with the Moms Helping Moms expo on February 7 to be held at First United Methodist Church.

"We started last year at our one year anniversary of the Moms Helping Moms group," said founder Tiffiney Crawford. "We had over 30 vendors and over 150 participants. We decided after that to make it an annual thing. We wanted to let people know that we are a group of moms where it doesn't matter where you come from or what you do, we are here to support one another."

According to Crawford, the expo serves as a way for local moms in Cullman and surrounding areas to have the chance to connect in person. The online group's reach extends far beyond North Alabama however, with active members across the US and overseas.

"We have reached nearly 3,000 members over 16 different states as well as Canada and England," said Crawford. "It really is a huge support group, but we wanted to have a time for those that are local to get together and meet one another."

In addition to supporting each other in a more personal way, Crawford stated that the expo is there to help small businesses as well.

"We also wanted to support our local businesses," she said. "A lot of times we will encourage local business owners like Griffin Farms, we advertise a lot for her, because many of our admins swear by her products. So this expo allows her and other businesses to come and share their products with the rest of the community that may not be on Moms Helping Moms."



TIFFINEY CRAWFORD

The Moms Helping Moms organizers and helpers were all smiles after completing their first expo.

Crawford went on to state that any extra money gained by the expo after venue costs goes straight into a bank account to help with their efforts to assist families in need.

The event promises to have many interesting vendors such as Griffin Family Farms, Pampered Chef, Crunchy Bean, Young Living Essential Oils and many more. Additionally there will be a new feature that Crawford says she is really excited about.

"We are doing something new this year with presentations," she said.

"We will have hourly presentations with different speakers. It will be really exciting to do these little workshops and meet all the new vendors. Everything will be reasonably priced. A lot of us come from one income families so we want to have affordable vendors."

The expo will take place at First United Methodist Church located at 320 3rd St SE on February 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All families are welcome to attend. Admission is free and door prizes will be given away hourly.

To join the Moms Helping Moms Group visit Facebook.com/groups/momshelpingmomsal/.

Play (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – Cullman's own Ben South has had another one of his brilliant creative streaks. The beloved southern artist and comedy writer has written a new play that promises to tickle your funny bone one minute, then tug at your heartstrings the next. But, in order to make the play the best it could be, he needed a little help from his friends.

On Saturday, Ben invited a handful of friends and acquaintances to the Red Door Emporium for a "closed door" private reading.

The play was read by Jay Jones and Martha Williams, and afterwards, the jovial group had an in depth discussion, offering Ben their very candid inputs and excellent advice.

The play shows the endearing relationship between a son and his mother through a lifetime of letters between the two.

When the autobiographical play is ready to perform, well known Cullman citizens, Marsha Folsom and son James, will star in the show.

"I've known Marsha since we were in kindergarten. She has always been totally smart and adorable," Ben said with a smile.

With only two actors and minimal props, Ben hopes the play will be easy to perform and reach lots of people.

"I really want this play to be able to be done in many, many places," Ben said. "If you've got to have many sets, staging and that sort of thing, that sets limits some of what you get done. To perform in the play, you don't have to be a trained actor, but you do need to be a good reader," he added.

Ben is known for his generous sense of humor and love for southern culture.

What makes his new play different is its combination of emotions that will have the audience laughing one moment and crying the other.

The play can take place anywhere and is quite different from anything Ben has done in the past.

"I'm looking for this to be done many, many, many, many times," Ben chuckled. "Also, it's not regional. Most of my work involves southern stuff; this is intended to be universal. People can perform this in San Francisco, Seattle, New York and Chicago."

Ben's play, which has not yet been named, will be ready to perform soon. Cullman-Sense will share updates and information about the play as it becomes available.

If you or someone you know would like to know more about Ben South and his work, visit his website at southernness.com.

You can also visit the Red Door Emporium and purchase his books and artwork. They are located at 324 4th Avenue SE, Cullman, AL 35055. Visit them online at TheRedDoorCullman.com or call 256-734-0599.

Contest (from Front)

Holly Pond, second place went to Miranda Southern from Good Hope and third place was Jeffrey Heath Dean from Hanceville.

Don Reid, county commander, post adjutant and oratorical chairman of Cullman Post 4 made introductions for the contestants and the judges. The three judges for the competition were Curtis Mize, retired mechanical engineer from NASA, Don Smith, retired Navy captain and Fred Arceneaux, published author and 4th Degree Knight of Columbus.

In the end, the judges decided that the honor of 1st place went to Christopher Garcia for his stirring speech on defending our republic and the Constitution.

"I heard about the competition from my great uncle George," Garcia said. "And I decided to enter because I really enjoy talking about these issues. I think more people from my generation need to talk about them. I enjoy politics and speaking about it."

Garcia gave his speech with maturity and an obvious understanding of the Constitution; something he feels everyone his age should be concerned about.

"I feel that a lot of people my age are going to have to learn that we have a responsibility to not just ourselves and 'enjoy the ride', but also to take part in our nation to make sure it stays united."

Finally, when asked how he felt upon winning, Garcia stated that he was surprised.

"I really didn't expect to win this," he said.

"I thought that I would just come and say my piece, shake some hands and that would be it. I could not have done this without my mom who helped me drill and memorize the speech. I also practiced my speech in front of others. I am just so humbled by the fact that I get to go on in this competition, it's really awesome."

Garcia will now move on to the state competition, and if successful, will compete for large scholarships on the national stage in April.

For more information on this annual contest for high school students, call Don Reid at 256-636-1913 or e-mail cdonreid@yahoo.com.

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HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW: HISTORIC CULLMAN COUNTY CONVICT CAMP DEMOLISHED

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The area that was once a prison farm will now be used as storage space for the Road Department.

CULLMAN – What once was the old Cullman Convict Camp, now part of the Road Department, has been demolished. Bulldozers and dump trucks were on site Monday and Tuesday, taking down the old buildings and clearing the remnants from the area.

"The place was deteriorating and looking bad," said Kenneth Walker, Cullman County commission chairman. "The roofs were starting to cave in and there was going to be a lot of maintenance work done in order to restore it."

Once considered an eyesore, the newly cleared land will be put to better use by the Road Department.

"We need storage space for equipment and trucks," Walker continued.

"Hopefully in the next couple years we'll be able to build a steel building with a fence all the way around it where the equipment and trucks inside the fence can be covered and out of the sun."

The older generation of readers will remember the old place as Camp Cullman, a county prison farm. Some of the prisoners worked on roads, highways, etc.

Eventually, the chain gangs were done away with and the Highway Department took over the facilities when the County took over the maintenance of the state highways and roads in the county.

MIRRORING HISTORY: GOOD HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The current church was built in 1942.

GOOD HOPE - The earliest residents of Good Hope were mostly Baptists by faith. These citizens, the pioneers, established a Missionary Baptist Church in 1842. They chose the name Good Hope.

It was chartered by 15 members; the original log church had been located on the south side of the current cemetery.

The church doubled as a school on weekdays for half a century until it was rebuilt in 1896. The current sanctuary was built in 1942.



FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/CULLMAN-COUNTY-HISTORY/216943871827803

Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church was originally built in 1842.

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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Cabinet (from Front)

Warnick. "A lot of people out in that part of the county may not have the money to go to town. Most of what Cullman has is in town, which is good, but if people can't afford to get into town then we hope they can afford to get to us."

The 501(c)3 organization runs solely off the food and monetary donations of businesses, individuals and grant money.

"Cullman County Economic Development has worked with us and we have now received grant money," Warnick said. "ADECA gave us a $178,000 grant. We were very thankful for that and look at it from the standpoint that God has blessed us for doing what we are suppose to do."

The new Carpernters Cabinet in Holly Pond will be located just off of Highway 278, behind Jack's Restaurant. The building was once home to Shirley's Video and is currently undergoing renovations for the new project.

"We are hoping to be open by mid-summer," stated Warnick. "The location was the best available space we could find. It offered the most opportunity and the least amount of work to accommodate what we need."

One of the more unique parts of this non-profit is the manner in which they distribute food. While a lot of food banks and organizations offer only non-perishable items, The Carpenters Cabinet offers meat with their food to complete their meal plans.

"We don't just put food in a box, we try to plan meals," said Warnick. "We have refrigeration and freezers that allow us to offer perishable items as well. We have one large corporation that gives us around two to three boxes of tortillas every week, so we use that with hamburger meat for people to make tacos. So we try to put together meals that are stable and healthy."

According to Warnick, the organization is not set up as a long term relief, but is there to help when situations become dire.

"There are five situations that automatically qualify for assistance," said Warnick. "Fire, Divorce, Flood, National Disaster as well as those who are already receiving SNAP benefits. We also ask for a picture ID, proof of residence like a utility bill, proof of income for everyone in the home."

While the Holly Pond location will not be open until summer the search for volunteers is always underway. A board of directors for the Holly Pond location is also being set up. Warnick said that he is proud to help even more people, which is a promise he made long ago when he himself was hungry.

"I remember as a child being food insecure," he said. "And I remember making a commitment to God all those years ago that if I ever became financially stable then this is what I would do."

More information can be found at thecarpernterscabinet.org, or at facebook.com/TheCarpentersCabinet. Monetary donations can also be mailed to P.O. Box 133 Holly Pond, AL 35083.

Immunization (from Front)

outbreak has led to at least 67 cases, many in children who did not have the recommended vaccination against the virus. Before 2013 approximately 60 people in the United States were reported as having measles each year; however, this number more than tripled to around 189 people infected with the disease in 2013 and 644 cases reported nationally for 2014. The total number of measles infections last year was at a 20-year high.

Measles can stay airborne or live on surfaces for up to two hours. Symptoms include fever, runny nose, cough and a rash all over the body. Those infected can transmit the virus for about five days before the typical rash appears. Symptoms occur within one to two weeks after exposure. Measles is so contagious that any child who is exposed to it and is not immune will probably get the disease.

Dr. Michael Ramsey, president of the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, said, "The pediatricians of this state are concerned about the risk of a measles outbreak and support public health in emphasizing the need for children to be up to date on all vaccines."

State law requires children to be up to date on their vaccinations prior to attending school, and adolescents and college students must also be up to date on their MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) immunizations.

"People who get measles disease put others who are not vaccinated at risk" Dr. Karen Landers, pediatrician and medical consultant for the Alabama Department of Public Health Immunization Division, said.

"Fortunately, we in Alabama currently have a high rate of vaccination. However, we will see a measles outbreak in this state if children are not vaccinated."

The 2013-14 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention immunization survey found more than 92 percent of Alabama's kindergartners had received the MMR vaccination. Religious exemptions were filed for 447 kindergarten students and 70 others had medical exemptions from vaccinations.

Common complications of measles are ear infections and less often pneumonia. Rarer complications are inflammation of the brain and death. Routine MMR vaccination is recommended for all children, with the first dose given at age 12-15 months, and a second dose at age 4-6 years.

Unless they have other evidence of immunity, adults born after 1956 should get at least one dose of MMR vaccine. Two appropriately spaced doses of MMR vaccine are recommended for health care personnel, college students and international travelers.

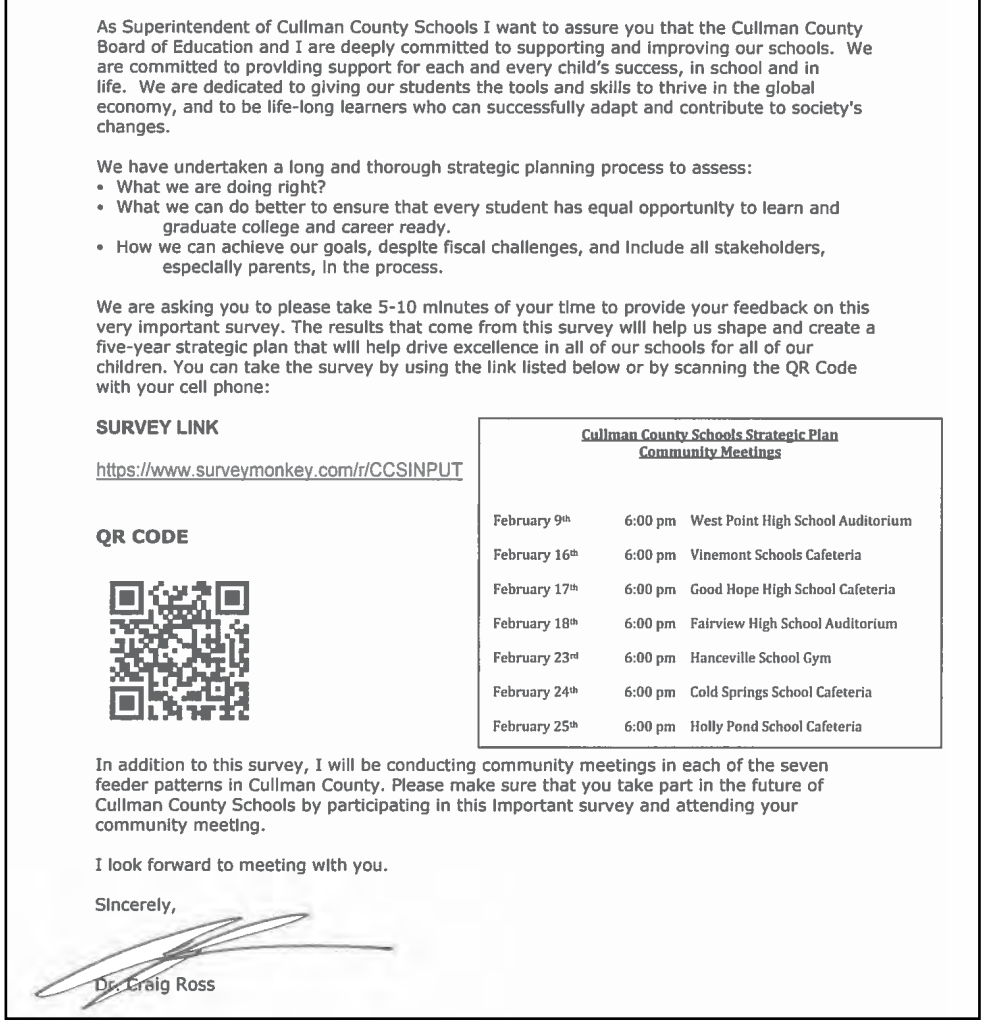
In addition, communities with pockets of unvaccinated people are vulnerable to measles outbreaks.

At least 95 percent of people in a community need to be immunized to achieve herd immunity that not only protects the people who received the vaccine, but also children too young to be vaccinated and those who do not respond to the vaccine.

Dr. Landers said parents who fear side effects of vaccinations should know that highly contagious measles is a serious disease with life-threatening complications, and concerns about links between vaccines and autism are baseless. "I can say as a scientist and as a pediatrician that the measles vaccine does not cause autism."

Where possible, persons suspected of having measles should be promptly screened before entering medical waiting rooms and appropriately isolated, or have their office appointments scheduled at the end of the day to prevent exposure of other patients.

For more information, contact your local health department or visit www.adph.org/immunization.



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

DR. CRAIG ROSS
SUPERINTENDENT

Telephone
256-734-2933
Fax
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

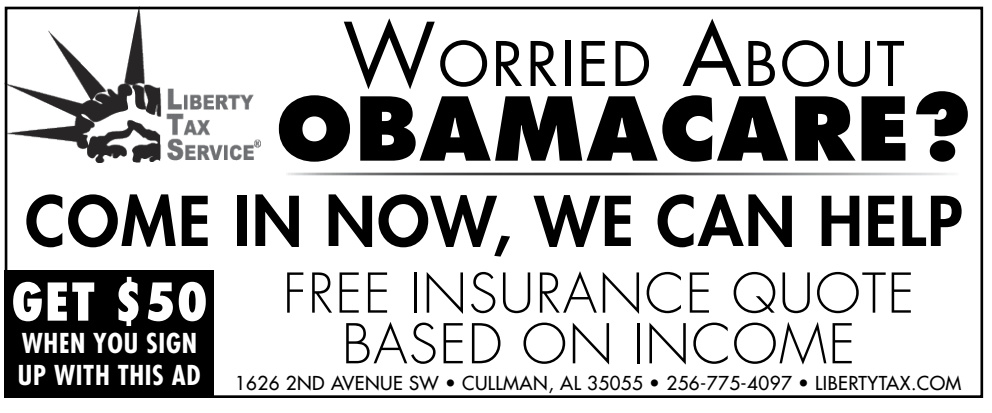
In addition to this survey, I will be conducting community meetings in each of the seven feeder patterns in Cullman County. Please make sure that you take part in the future of Cullman County Schools by participating in this important survey and attending your community meeting.

I look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

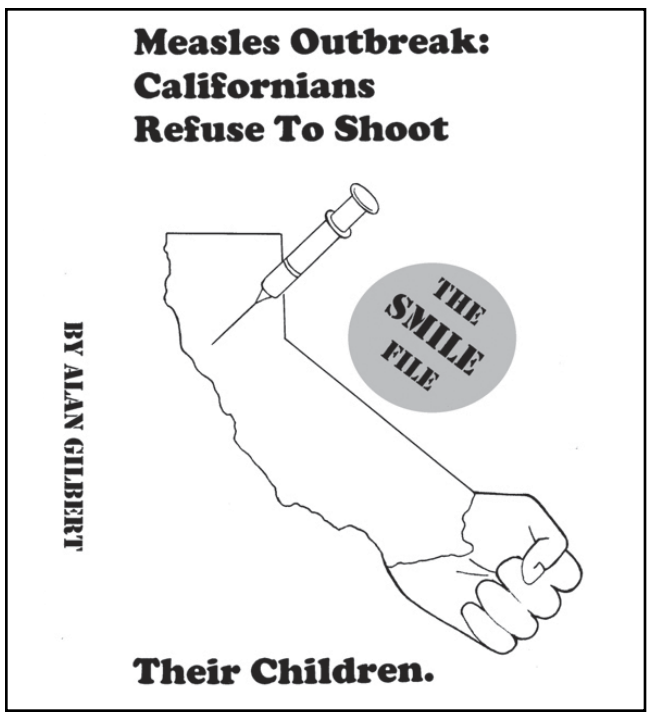
Dr. Craig Ross

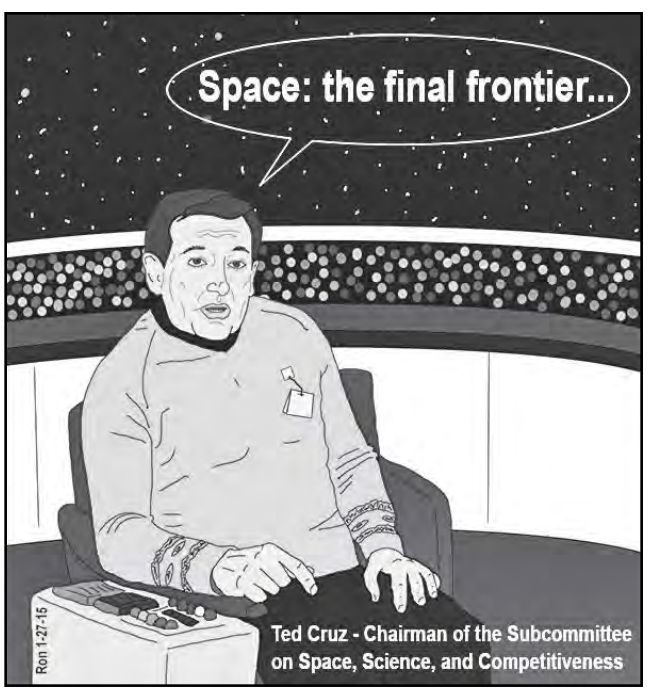






EDITORIAL CARTOONS







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OPINION

IT'LL NEVER BE TIME FOR TERM LIMITS ON CONGRESS

Lee H. Hamilton
Contributor

It didn't get much attention at the time, but the elections last November did more than give Republicans a majority in the U.S. Senate. Voters also added to the ranks of people on both sides of Capitol Hill who believe members of Congress should serve a limited number of terms.

I know a lot of people to whom this is good news. I know them, because I hear from them every time I speak at a public event that allows for a give-and-take with the audience.

Americans are frustrated with the federal government as a whole and with Congress in particular, and are searching for a simple solution. The notion that the bums could be thrown out automatically has great appeal.

Yet as popular as the idea might be among the public at large, it has no traction on Capitol Hill. The fundamental problem is that any measures imposing limits will need the support of leaders who, almost by definition, have served a long time.

They're not going to put themselves out of a job they like. Small surprise that bills calling for term limits don't even make it out of committee.

Now, I should say right up front that you're not going to hear a strong argument in favor of term limits from a guy who served 34 years in Congress. I'm biased. But I want to spell out the reasons for my bias, not because I think term limits are a burning issue in Washington — they're not — but because I wish they were less of an issue for ordinary voters.

Congress has a lot of problems right now, and the American people have a role to play in fixing them, but term limits are a distraction from the truly hard work that needs to be done.

When you boil down all the debating points for and against term limits, there are two that bear the crux of the argument. The first has to do with the nature of our democracy.

Supporters of the idea believe that bringing in fresh thinking and new leaders on a regular basis will make Congress more representative. However, stripping voters of the right to re-elect a representative whom they've supported in the past does not make for a more democratic system — rather, less.

Representative government rests on the notion that voters get to choose their legislators. Telling them that this is true for all candidates but one — the incumbent — does not strengthen voters' rights; it reduces their choices.

It also weakens Congress. And that's the other key issue.

The most important point to remember in all this is that if you take power away from a senior legislator, that power does not evaporate. Instead, it flows to the bureaucracy and the President. Serving productively in Congress is a tough, exacting task.

It demands a deep knowledge of the issues that confront the country; a keen eye — backed by years of experience — for the ways in which executive agencies can go off track and then seek to hide that fact; insight into the ways in which both allies and opponents on any given issue might be motivated to shift their positions; and the hard-earned wisdom to forge common ground among competing interests and ideologies.

These traits come neither quickly nor easily. Kicking members of Congress out of their seats just as they're gaining the ability to legislate effectively and oversee the government responsibly demotes Congress to the status of a minor agency.

A politician elected to a limited term immediately begins looking for another job, which reduces his or her effectiveness and attention to the job at hand.

Moreover, in government, information is power. Legislators constantly come up against executive branch expertise backed by thousands of employees and big budgets. Legislators without expertise are at a strong disadvantage.

Term limits are not the solution to the real dysfunction that besets Washington. They reduce the choices of voters and accelerate the accumulation of power in the executive branch. They move representative democracy in the wrong direction.

VOICE

DISASTER PREPARATION: SANITATION

Dave Robinson
Contributor

During a major disaster, water mains may break, the municipal water processing system may fail or plumbing may be disrupted. At the same time, something we take for granted, a flushing toilet may not be available. In the event of an earthquake, it's not too much of a stretch to expect that your plumbing, both incoming and outgoing could be disrupted.

Human waste, if not disposed of properly, can not only cause a sanitation and hygiene mess but if not managed properly will spread disease. This is called a secondary disaster.

For those who live in rural areas and your waste is managed by a septic system, you may be in good shape, barring any damage to your plumbing. Some of the newer systems being designed are dependent on an electric pump or grinder. If that's the case, then a reliable generator needs to be a part of your plan. Our disaster preparedness plan isn't complete until we consider some alternative way to dispose of waste.

Several solutions are available from a toilet seat that snaps to the top of a five-gallon bucket for $10, to a chemical porta-potty costing $200 plus. If you opt for the five-gallon bucket solution, don't forget to get some small trash bags to use as liners.

The 2010 earthquake in Haiti taught responders several lessons. In a region that was marginally sanitary in the best of times, it became painfully aware that in a post-event environment, the health climate deteriorated rapidly and drastically because of the lack of adequate sewage capability. Health officials are still battling cholera in Haiti.

Any disruption of sanitary service poses significant health risks. Every so often a major city experiences a shutdown of garbage services. The mountains of accumulated trash are an attractive nuisance to all sorts of disease-bearing vermin, including rats, mice and dog packs.

On a different note, researchers are learning about compost piles and their drawbacks after a disaster. Composting is basically managing the decomposition of certain biodegradable products. In other words it is simply a managed collection of garbage intended for a noble purpose, eventually. The word of caution here is to ensure that your compost pile is well-secured and does not get scattered nor become an attractant for disease-bearing rodents or other scavengers. Communities will have their hands full with trying to restore basic services without worrying about the runaway rat population.

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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.

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.

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.

Next Monday

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

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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.
- County Spelling Bee at 7 p.m. at Fairview High School

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

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CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

Official Newsletter

Volume 46 | February 2015 | Issue 2

Eyes of PROGRESS

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We are excited to announce the 72nd Annual Meeting & Gala. It will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2015. The event will take place at Stone Bridge Farms, located at 281 County Road 717 in Cullman. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the program starts at 6 p.m., with an after party from 8-10:30 p.m. The event is presented by Peoples Bank of Alabama, and the theme of the program is "The Magic of Success". You will be entertained, educated and inspired by our keynote speaker, Joe Turner. Although Turner comes from a corporate background his magical entertainment and has allowed him to adapt his performance to entertain and amaze his audience while emphasizing specific marketing and inspirational messages. You will see how his illusion and magic can help you better understand your business and customers. The presentation is sponsored by Freedom Insurance - The Gloria Williams Agency. There will also be an award presentation of the annual Emma Marie Eddleman Citizen of the Year Award and the Small Business of the Year Award. A limited amount of general admission tickets are now available for $50. For inquiries, please contact the Chamber at info@cullmanchamber.org or by calling 256-734-0454.



Joe Turner

Speaker Sponsor:

FREEDOM INSURANCE AGENCY

There's Magic in the Air



Leah Bolin

President & CEO,
Cullman Area Chamber
of Commerce

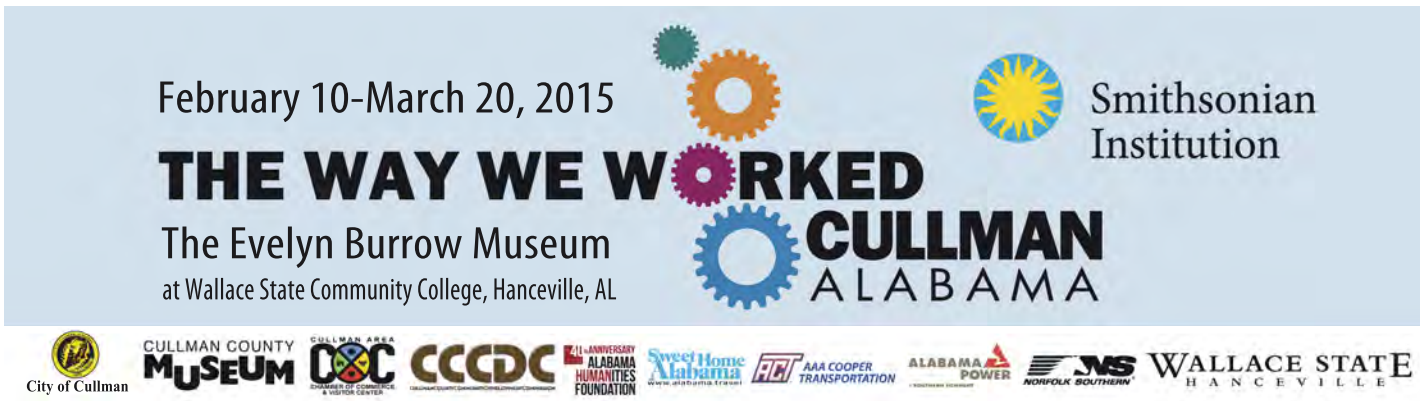
Remember how the first magic trick you saw as a child made you feel full of wonder and excitement? I loved magic so much that I asked for a magic set on my 7th birthday. It was a purple box full of cheap tricks. I thought for sure I would be the next Houdini! Perhaps, however, I didn't miss the mark by much. A magician knows how to draw you in and get you to believe what you see. Selling a belief is at the core of magic, much as it is in business. We all know that people don't get sawed in half or swallow 15 sharp swords and walk away unharmed. A magician has to persuade the audience that the seemingly impossible is, in fact, possible. Similarly, leaders need to persuade others to believe in their strategies and products. Successful leaders convince customers to buy a product before they know they need it. The best magician in business was Steve Jobs. No one realized they needed (or wanted) music in their pocket. Apple persuaded consumers they did and sold 600,000 iPods in their first year on the market. A leader has to use these abilities to connect with customers. No matter how great you think your product is, there isn't a one-size-fits-all solution for problems. To tell you how to tweak your product so that it fits their specific needs, customers have to be comfortable with you on a personal level. This year's annual meeting speaker, Joe Turner, says, "When a magician's or mentalist's audience experiences something amazing, they are engaged and excited. They remember it forever and can't wait to tell others about it. Harnessing that power in a marketing context begins with an analysis of the factors that make an experience "amazing." In my presentation, we will explore five different categories of amazing experiences in terms of magic and performing arts, then we will see how those relate directly to five arenas that your organization must execute in order to be perceived as amazing by your audience. Amazing isn't something you can be until it's something you do; this presentation will show you where the "doing" has to happen." When the tiger appears in an empty cage, the magician disappears into thin air, and when David Copperfield flies above the audience, that's the magic everyone reacts to. There's nothing like the feeling you get when you realize that your audience just had that magical moment. We look forward to this year's "magical moment" on February 19th. Passing of the gavel, recognition awards to citizens of the year and small business of the year, coupled with music, magic and a wealth of fun is sure to make this year a memorable one. To purchase tickets, please contact the Chamber office today. I look forward to an AMAZING experience!

www.CullmanChamber.org

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

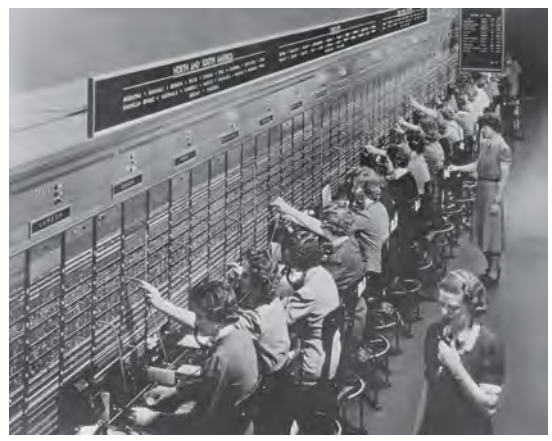
Smithsonian Exhibition
THE WAY WE WORKED - CULLMAN, ALABAMA



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 and March of 2015. 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 exhibition is touring six communities in Alabama from July 2014 through June 2015: Pell City, Athens, Valley, Cullman, Demopolis and Dothan. The Cullman Exhibition opens on Feb. 10, 2015 and will be held at the Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State Community College. The event is hosted by the Cullman County Museum. "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. "With this special tour, we are pleased to be working with the City of Cullman and the Cullman County Museum to help develop local exhibitions and public programs to compliment the Smithsonian exhibition." "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



Visit FB: The Way We Worked - Cullman to learn more about the exhibit as well as Cullman's history!



$2,000 to Cullman Caring for Kids



The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Staff presents check to Javon Daniel & Nancy Bryant, Cullman Caring for Kids.

We recently held our Chamber for Charities/3rd Annual Art After Hours event to celebrate the end of a fantastic year! We would like to thank all of our current Chamber members, communtiy members, and contributing artists for supporting the cause. The event was held Tuesday, December 9 at TP Country Club from 5-7:30 p.m. and featured original, local art from our community. The event was our fourth and final Business After Hours installment, successfully raising funds for the benefitting charity, Cullman Caring for Kids, as well as supporting the local arts in our thriving, talented community. Everything from original paintings and pottery to repurposed furniture and wire creations were sold at the silent auction event. Attendees enjoyed heavy hors d'oeuvres, the beautiful scenery of art, and some networking in a relaxed setting where prizes, live music, the silent auction and fantastic art captivated everyone's attention. Canned food and toys were also donated to Cullman Caring for Kids, in addition to local artists donating 50-100 percent of their profits made, culminating into a $2,000 donation to the charity. If you or someone you know would like to participate in next year's Chamber for Charities Art After Hours, please email info@cullmanchamber.org or call 256-734-0454.

Business After Hours: Speed Networking | March 10

Turn to page 16 for more details!

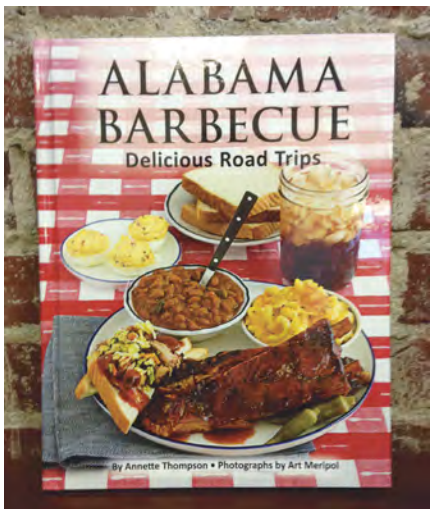
MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Colonial Life	256-347-7478
Boy Scouts of America, Greater Alabama Council	205-969-4298
Virginia R. Smith	205-625-6333
Johnson Chiropractic Center	256-734-7585
Lisa Jones Photography	256-338-7334
Valley Rubber	256-784-5231
Another Helper	256-784-5231
Down Syndrome Alabama - Cullman Satellite	205-988-0810
MCC Holdings Inc. DBA Crane ChemPharma & Energy	256-775-3800

CULLMAN'S "JOHNNY'S BAR-B-Q" FEATURED IN NEW BOOK OF ALABAMA BARBECUE



The Alabama Tourism Department has released a new book and travel guide titled "Alabama Barbecue: Delicious Road Trips", which includes a local Cullman favorite, Johnny's Bar-B-Q, as one of the featured restaurants.

Former Southern Living staff, travel editor Annette Thompson and photographer Art Meripol, have created a beautiful book filled with delicious commentary and appetizing photos of 75 different barbecue places all across the state.

Johnny's Bar-B-Q has been in existence since 1963 and is a family owned business in its third generation. With an impressive reputation and winning tagline of "We'll Serve No Swine Before Its Time," Johnny's draw is their delicious barbecue, mouth-watering pies, and family appeal. Whether it's chicken, pork or ribs, Johnny's Bar-B-Q will hit the spot.

The 126-page hardcover book was produced by the Alabama Media Group, in cooperation with the Alabama Tourism Department, and it covers the state by geographic regions. To order copies of the book, please contact Carl Bates of Advance Central Services Alabama at (205) 325-2237 or at cbates@acsal.com. The book is also available at Books-A-Million stores and online at amazon.com & Johnny's Bar-B-Q.

CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER Ribbon Cuttings



Catoma Dermatology
1300 Bridge Creek Dr. NE Cullman, AL 35055 | 256-737-7546



The Hair Loft
1714 2nd Ave SW Cullman, AL 35055 | 256-734-9949

Call 256-734-0454 to schedule a ribbon cutting!



U.S. Senator Richard Shelby

Please join us on February 14, 2015, for a

Washington update

presented by

U.S. Senator Richard Shelby

at the All Steak Restaurant
Program begins at noon.

Chamber Members $15 | RSVP by Feb 11th to 256-734-0454 or online

Alabama Technology Network
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Last year, work done by the experts at Alabama Technology Network saved businesses **$5 million...** through lean manufacturing, innovation, quality services, environmental health and safety, industrial maintenance, information technology, strategic planning, engineering services, business services and strategic management, human resources and organizational development, and sustainability.

ATN works with industries and businesses to identify ways to improve what they do and how they do it. Learn how ATN can help your company grow jobs, reduce costs, and create innovation in your business.

2015 Open Enrollment Training Courses

February 18:	Microsoft Office Excel 2007 Level 1 - $195.00
February 23:	HAZWOPER 8-Hour Refresher - $195.00
March 2-6:	HAZWOPER Emergency Response (40 hour) - $695.00
March 2-6:	Introduction to Control Logix PLC's with Troubleshooting (40 hour) -$995.00
March 10:	Advanced Product Quality Planning (APQP) & Production Part Approval Process (PPAP) - $99.00/$59.00 AAMA Members
March 10-13:	OSHA 30 hour-General Industry Training - $495.00
March 24:	Microsoft Office Excel 2007 Level 2 - $195.00
April 6-10:	Introduction to Siemens - $995.00
April 16-17:	OSHA 10 hour-$195.00
April 21:	Microsoft Office Excel 2007 Level 3 - $195.00
April 20-24:	Basic Hydraulics & Hydraulic Troubleshooting - $1295.00
April 29-30:	Pneumatics-$395.00
May 7:	Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) - $195.00
May 12:	Geometric Dimensioning & Tolerancing (GD&T)-$195.00
May 21:	Root Cause Analysis for Maintenance - $195.00
May 18-22:	Advanced Hydraulics & Closed Loop Hydraulic Training - $1295.00
June 15-19:	Electrical Motor Controls - $995.00

Alabama Technology Network
ISO 9001:2008

ATN-Cullman/Hanceville
For more information call 256.734.4796
www.atn.org

Make things better in your business!

Membership 101 pg 15

Cullman Job Fair - February 28, 2015 See page 13 for more details!

Social Media Seminar - page 14

Upcoming Events page 16

FEBRUARY SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Bill Smith
BUICK GMC

1940 2nd Avenue NW
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4472
www.billsmithbuickgmc.com

February's Sponsor:

The All Steak RESTAURANT

JANUARY'S SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

APEL MACHINE & SUPPLY CO.

9910 US Highway 31
Hanceville, AL 35077
(256) 734-2032

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



Nicholas Apel, Project Manager; Josh Wiggins, Chamber Retail Comm.; Maria Richter Schultz, Chair, Chamber Retail Comm.; John Apel, President; Jeff Crider, Sponsor- Bill Smith Buick-GMC; Cheri Dalgleish; Susan Guthrie, Vice Chair of Business Development; Derek Lane, Chamber Dir. of Small Business/ Workforce Solutions.

Cullman Florist



Bring in this ad by February 10, 2015 and receive $5.00 off your special Valentine's Day arrangement!

Sweet Embrace Bouquet

111A 1st Street NE Cullman, AL 35055
Located in the Warehouse District
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COMMUNITY LUNCHEON



LeNa' Powe
Director of Workforce Development at West Alabama Chamber of Commerce

Our upcoming Community Luncheon will be held on Feb. 27 at the All Steak restaurant in the Banquet Room from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Our guest speaker will be LeNá Powe. She currently serves in a dual role as the Director of Workforce Development for the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce and the Executive Director of West Alabama Works. In this combined role, Powe is the primary liaison between business and industry and education and training. She formerly served as the manager of minority and small business development for the Birmingham Business Alliance, the leading economic development agency for the seven-county Birmingham region. Powe is a former Miss Black Alabama USA, and has helped raise over $29,000 for diabetes research in Alabama. She serves on the executive board for the UAB Minority Health and Research Center's young professional board and is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She was the 2013 recipient of the Best in Minority Business - Female Outstanding Young Professional Award. She will be speaking about the current workforce relations and this topic of interest will be especially informative for industry and retail affiliates. For more information or to reserve your seats today, call 256-734-0454 or email info@cullmanchamber.org. Prices are $15 for chamber members and $20 for future members.

February's Community Luncheon Sponsor:

Quality STAFFING SOLUTION, INC

Presenting Sponsor for 2015 Community Luncheon

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(256) 255-1515
www.shirleyq.biz





Conner Carroll is the 1st Quarter Intern of the new 2015 year program. Conner is a high school graduate from Elmore County High School currently studying Collision Repair at Wallace State Community College. He is sponsored by J&R Feed Service. Conner is excited to be an intern at the Cullman Chamber and looks forward to learning the inner workings of how a Chamber operates, meeting new business contacts, and expanding his knowledge of clerical, administrative and specialized project tasks.

SMALL BUSINESS & WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

Job Fair - Cullman

The Cullman Jobs Fair will take place on February 28th from 8am until 2:00pm at Wallace State Community College School of Nursing Center. The hiring industries include REHAU Incorporated, Topre America Corporation, and Alabama Cullman Yutaka Technologies. The following positions are available:

REHAU	Topre	Yutaka
Assistant Paint Line	Maintenance Mechanic A	Production Associate
Assistant Injection Molding	Die Maintenance	Industrial Engineer
Assistant Fabrication		Die Maintenance
Maintenance Technician		Industrial Maintenance - Technician

The Cullman Jobs Fair is designed to provide an opportunity for pre-screened applicants who meet preliminary conditions to be interviewed at the Cullman Jobs Fair on February 28th. Participants are strongly encouraged to visit the website, www.cullmanjobsnow.com to pre-register and complete the online application and come prepared to be interviewed.

The opportunity to receive an interview is based upon information provided from the online application. Pre-registered applicants who are selected will receive a notification for a scheduled time to interview.

Potential applicants should be 1) authorized to work in the U.S., 2) have no felony convictions in the past seven years, 3) possess a high school diploma or GED, 4) are not full-time employees at any of the three hiring companies. Applicants not meeting these pre-screening conditions may still participate but will be referred to appropriate agencies on site for additional assistance and support. Pre-registration is not required but strongly encouraged. Walk-ins may complete applications on site but there is no guarantee of an interview that day.

www.cullmanjobsnow.com

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

For the past 15 months, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's Retail Committee has presented the award of Small Business of the Month to a deserving business in the Cullman area that met pre-selected criteria. For the first time ever, the Small Business of the Year will be awarded at the 72nd Annual Meeting & Gala to be held on Thursday, February 19, 2015. If you would like to nominate a business for Small Business of the Month, please contact Derek Lane at dlane@cullmanchamber.org or submit a nomination form online at cullmanchamber.org. We look forward to awarding one of our hardworking local companies, as well as showcasing that our community is honored to have such prominent small businesses, which serve as one of the major economic engines of growth in the Cullman area.

SBotM Winner	Sponsor
Oct-13 Chick-fil-A	Moe's Original BBQ
Nov-13 Freedom Insurance – Gloria Williams	Brown & Co. Beverages
Dec-13 Werner's Trading Co.	Bella Faire Day Spa & Salon
Jan-14 Mitch Smith Chevrolet	The Spot Beverages
Feb-14 Brandin' Iron Steakhouse	April Flours Catering
Mar-14 Johnny's Bar-B-Q	ADS Security
Apr-14 Alabama Farm Credit	Prestigious Pets
May-14 EvaBank	Cullman Chamber
Jun-14 Quick Tire	Cullman Chamber
Jul-14 DQ Grill & Chill - Cullman	Cullman Chamber
Aug-14 Walker Brothers Ltd.	Cullman Eye Specialists
Sep-14 R.E. Garrison Trucking, Inc.	Cullman Chamber
Oct-14 Southern Accents	EvaBank
Nov-14 Valley Heating & Cooling	What a Girl Wants
Dec-14 Office Equipment Co.	Cullman Florist

Tickets are limited for the Annual Meeting & Gala, please call the Chamber to reserve yours today at 256-734-0454. To learn more about the Annual Meeting & Gala, please refer to page 9. We hope to see you there!

CULLMAN COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Youth Leadership Cullman County's class of rising seniors are the talented group that will be leading our community in the near future. One of those class members, Lacey Barrett, writes to tell you a little about the program, their session in January, and her perspective on the things they learned.

My name is Lacey Barrett, I'm 17 years old, and a junior in high school. I am part of the Cullman County Chamber of Commerce's Youth Leadership Program representing Homeschool. This month's session was held on Jan. 14, 2015, it was our Quality of Life day. We went to the Child Development Center, the CCCDD, and Cullman Regional Medical Center. At the Child Development Center, we got to tour the facility and see how they operate; it is such an awesome place! The kids are amazing, and so sweet, and the staff is made up of some of the most special people you could ever have the chance of meeting. It's a place where children with mental disabilities can go to school, until age 21, and learn at their own level. There are many programs for these kids.

The CCCDD is a place where people with mental disabilities can go and learn things that we would find simple, such as how to brush their hair, boil water, balance a check book, and so many other things. There is also a nursery where children with mental disabilities are integrated in with children who develop normally. They also learn how to work. For example, in another building, the older ones can go and recycle boxes to send back to Walmart and other corporations.

Cullman Regional Medical Center is just another one of the amazing facilities that Cullman has. We've all probably been there for one reason or another, but not many people know just how much we have. You don't have to go to Birmingham or Huntsville, we have all of the equipment here in Cullman. Right now they are in the middle of the Refresh-A-Room campaign, to update the interior of the hospital. I, for one, did not know how much we actually do have in Cullman. We really are a county that takes care of its own, and those around us.

February's session will focus on Business & Industry. Breakfast will be provided by Jackson & Williams and lunch will be provided by Pepsi Distribution.

Presenting Sponsor:
WALLACE STATE
HANCEVILLE

ANTI - SHOPLIFTING SEMINAR
Speaker: Matt Dean - Cullman City Police Investigator
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February 3 | 5:30 pm | Free
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LEADERSHIP CULLMAN COUNTY

The 2014-15 Leadership Cullman County class met on Jan. 7, 2015 to learn about the health care industry in Cullman County. This year's tour included stops at the Good Samaritan Health Clinic, USA Healthcare's facility at the Folsom Center, Cullman Regional Medical Center and the Mental Healthcare of Cullman's new Reid House.

"The health care tour this month really opened my eyes to a lot of things," said class member Ashley Graves, who works for Cullman County Economic Development. "Having lived in Cullman for such a short period of time, I was unaware of how much these services are depended upon."

Dr. Craig Ross, superintendent of Cullman County Schools, was most impressed with the way different health care agencies in Cullman County work together to provide the best care possible.

"My big take away was the collaboration between Cullman Regional and the Good Samaritan Clinic," Ross said. "Everyone wins in this situation – the patient, CRMC and the Good Samaritan Clinic. The more collaboration we practice as a community, the more we as a community will move forward and have more to offer."

Jolanda Hutson, fundraising and marketing coordinator for Good Samaritan Clinic, shared information on the clinic's history and the services it offers.

At the Folsom Center, Hannah Brown and Jennifer Graves gave a tour of USA Healthcare's rehab and long-term care units that serve many senior citizens in Cullman County.

CRMC treated the leadership class to lunch followed by a tour of the entire hospital campus hosted by the hospital's marketing director, Lindsey Dossey, and vice president of patient care, Cheryl Bailey. "The highlight of the day was getting a campus tour of CRMC," Graves said. "It was interesting to see the advancements they are making throughout the hospital to ensure patients are getting the best care possible."

The final stop of the day was at the Reid House, where Chris Van Dyke, executive director for Mental Healthcare of Cullman, gave a tour of the new residential facility and educated class members on the variety of services and the number of people who received mental health care treatment of some type every year.

January's meeting marked the fourth out of eight classes in this year's program. Class members have studied Education (October), Criminal Justice (November), Local Government (December) and Health Care. Remaining sessions for the class are Quality of Life (February), State Government (March), Economic Development (April) and Agriculture (May). February's Session will be focused on Quality of Life, with Richard Electric Co., Inc., Breakfast – Cullman Heritage Funeral Home Lunch – Cullman Electric Cooperative

Presented By:

TRADITIONS BANK REACH HIGH

Brian Lacy, Leadership Co- Chair



The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce will host a seminar on the use of Facebook & other social media platforms to build and grow your business. The seminar will take place on Thursday, March 3rd at 5:30pm. The seminar is free to the public but registration is required.

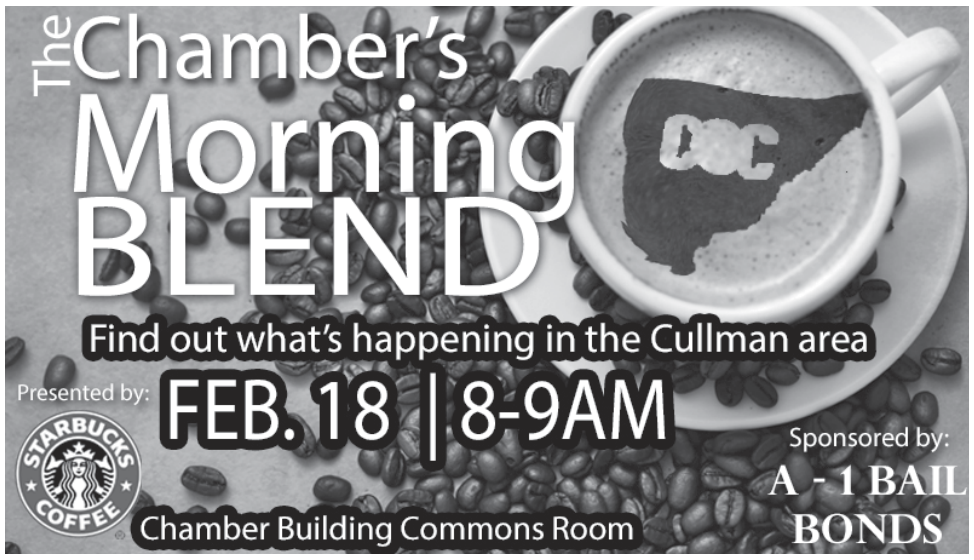
This seminar will give you practical tips and insights on how to use social media to build and grow your business. If you have been thinking about using social media (or if you are already using it in your business), then you will benefit from this seminar. This seminar will show you: the value of using social media to reach your customers; how it can lead to new customers, drives repeat business from your current customers, Facebook best practices and strategies, how to get started the "right" way with Facebook,what you should post and when you should post it, and why Facebook is no longer "free".

Register TODAY at the Cullman Area Chamber's website…www.cullmanchamber.org!

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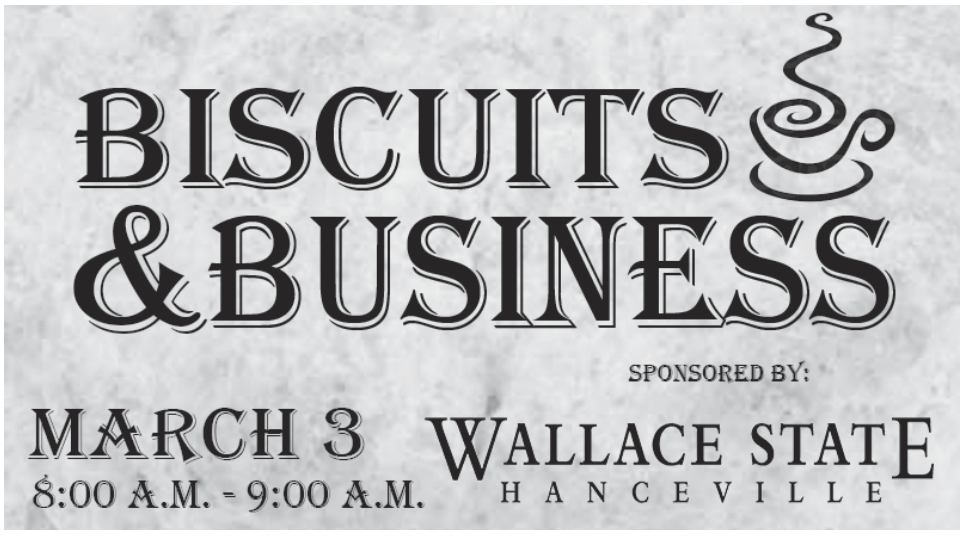
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Morning Blend is a Chamber event held each third Wednesday of the month. It is located in the commons room at the Chamber of Commerce. You set the topic, Starbucks provides the coffee. There is a tremendous opportunity to network with local people within the Cullman community. Thank you to presenting sponsor Starbucks for the delicious, complimentary coffee and to monthly sponsor A-1 Bail Bonds. Please stop in and join us for some conversation, a cup of coffee, and some new business contacts. The next Morning Blend will be Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2015 from 8-9 a.m. Please call 256-734-0454 for more information.

February's Monthly Sponsor: A-1 Bail Bonds



Business changes for 2015?

Is your business changing locations for 2015, changes in staff, new hours of operation? Make sure you update your information with the Chamber! You can do this by logging into your Member Center. Please contact Magan F. Bartlett for your username! You can login to your Member Center by going to www.cullmanchamber.org, selecting the Chamber Tab, and choose Member Login. You will be able to access "how to videos", Business Reports and update your information. By updating your business' information you are helping others find you!

MEMBERSHIP 101

Membership 101 is a quarterly meeting intended to teach new members and existing members how to maximize their membership investment. Investing a little bit of your time can allow one to have a great experience and learn the ins and outs of being a Chamber member. The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes existing members and new members to attend these free seminars, which contain vital information for membership.The environment is personable in a business fashion. The seminar will show businesses different tools they can utilize to ensure their business has the most impact as a member. The first quarter seminar, held on January 22, 2015, was a successful meeting, with several new members and existing members in attendance. First time attendee Katherine Morgan of State Farm Insurance & Financial Services had the following to say about the program: "Attending the Membership 101 class at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce has expanded my knowledge of ways to grow my business, network with other local small business owners, and recruit new employees while becoming active in the local community. The Chamber offers so many services such as mentoring business owners as well as providing complimentary meeting space to current members! I cannot wait to take advantage of all that the Chamber has to offer!" The event is sponsored by Charter Business, with a complimentary lunch provided for all attendees. Joining this seminar will allow a business to embark on an educational voyage about Cullman, the history of the Chamber, and ways to maximize their membership investment. If you are interested in signing up, please call 256-734-0454 or email info@cullmanchamber.org. The next seminar will be held April 23, if you would like to attend please contact Magan F. Bartlett at mbartlett@cullmanchamber.org, space is limited!



Membership 101 is presented by:

Charter Business

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce has revamped our Ambassador program. Ambassadors will assist with member services and will provide recognition for the ambassador and the business they represent. We are looking for someone that enjoys meeting people, shares enthusiasm for the Cullman Area, and has the ability to establish a positive rapport with indviduals and businesses. There will be monthly meetings, along with a point system. This will ensure the Ambassador is recognized for their work throughout the year. We look to have our first meeting in February 2015. If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of please fill out the application at www.cullmanchamber.org/pages/AmbassadorApplication1/ or contact Magan F. Bartlett. If you are interested in sponsoring the Ambassador Program please contact the Chamber 256-734-0454 and speak with Magan about this wonderful opportunity!

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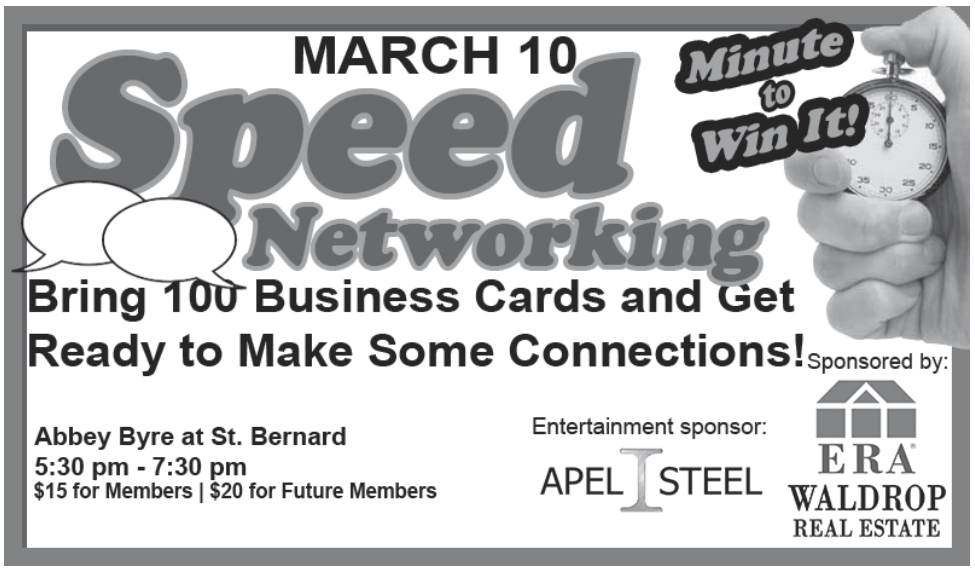
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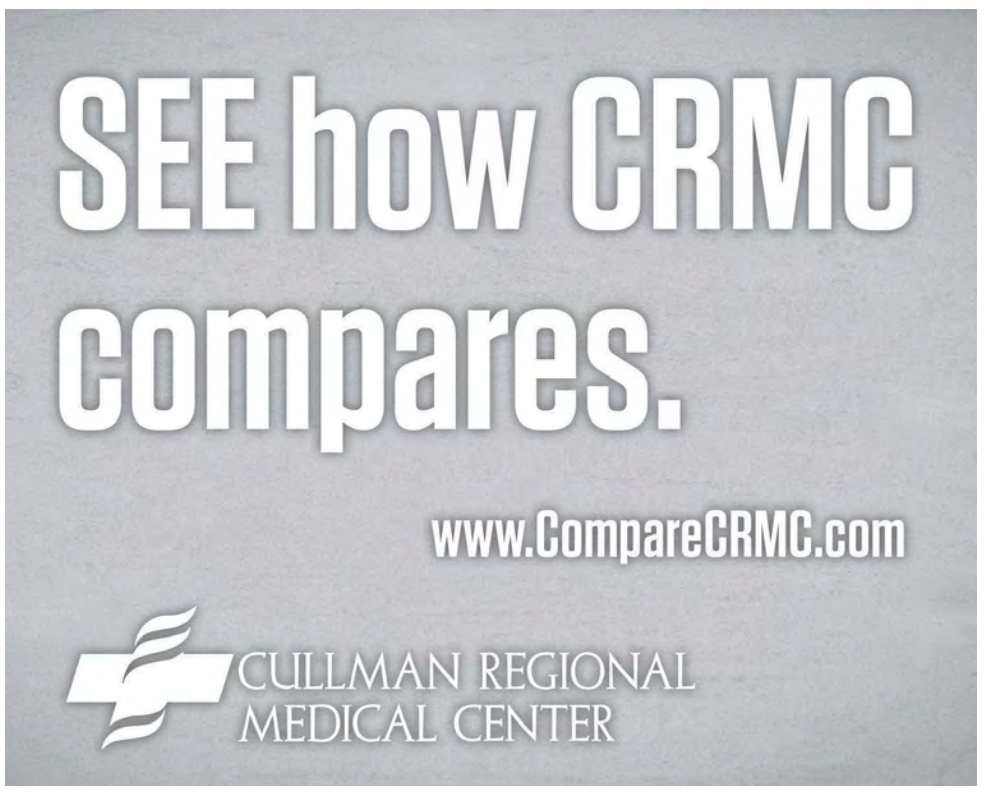
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events

February 3 - Anti- Shoplifting Seminar
February - March - Smithsonian (pg 14)
February 19 - 72nd Annual Meeting & Gala (pg 9)
February 27 - Community Luncheon
February 28 - Cullman Job Fair
March 3 - Biscuits & Business
March 3 - Social Media Marketing Seminar
March 4 - Montgomery Drive-in
March 5 - Industry Tour
March 10 - Business After Hours - Speed Networking



Bring your business cards and get ready to network like you never have before! Light Hors d'Oeuvres and drinks will be served. Don't miss out on this fun opportunity to grow not only your contacts but your business' reach in the Cullman Area. It is recommended that you wear an appropriate outfit, prepare a short elevator speech (a small speech that is about 30 to 60 seconds long that describes you and your career), bring business cards of your own, prepare questions to ask those you will meet, and finally have fun. If you would like to register please call the chamber at 256-734-0454.



INTERN APPLICATIONS

The Chamber is now accepting applications for the 2015 Internship Program. This quarterly internship is designed to develop the necessary skills required to efficiently perform in the fast-paced, multi-faceted environment in which we live. The internships occur on the following quarterly basis: April-June, July-Sept., Oct.-Dec. If you would like to apply for this paid internship, please complete the application online, it can be found under forms at cullmanchamber.org, or contact Debbie Matthews at dmatthews@cullmanchamber.org.



Montgomery Drive - In

The Chamber's Montgomery Drive-In presented by the Cullman Economic Development Agency and Cullman County Industrial Development Authority is set for Wednesday, March 4. The cost for participants is $50 which includes transportation (bus) to and from Montgomery and lunch.The program will also include presentations from Governor Bentley; Lt. Governor Ivey; Attorney General Strange;



Greg Canfield, Secretary of the Department of Commerce; Jim Byard, Director of ADECCO and John Cooper, Director of ALDOT who will meet with our group and provide an update on their respective programs and activities. Furthermore, our local Cullman area state legislative delegation has been invited to join us for lunch that day to provide an overview on legislative issues. If you would like to attend please call the Chamber at 256-734-0454 to register.



OUTSTANDING CITIZENS

BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY: MEET GOOD HOPE'S MARY REID

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

GOOD HOPE – Cullman County is full of outstanding citizens. Within each nook and cranny, over each rolling hill, wonderful people are scattered everywhere. Meet Mary Reid, a resident of Good Hope, who devotes most of her spare time to the growth and stability of our local American Legion Auxiliary.

Mary felt drawn to the auxiliary after her husband's uncle, Herman Reid, enlisted her. As Commander of The American Legion - Cullman Post 4, Mr. Reid wanted the auxiliary reactivated after several years of inactivity. After all, the auxiliary's duties are to support the legion and also to work beyond the legion with veterans, active duty military and in the community.

Without any hesitation, Mary rolled up her sleeves and got to work. Being the little spitfire that she is, she went into a non-functioning American Legion Auxiliary Unit and managed to turn it into a viable working unit. Even more impressive, she successfully completed the task in less than a year!

Thankfully Mary's work history helped prepare her for the task of reactivating the Cullman's American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 3. Her résumé is quite impressive. She worked for over 20 years for renowned attorneys such as Oliver Diaz and Annette Ball, impressive legal minds who have attained a reputation for excellence and have served in multiple roles throughout Mississippi. She also worked for Sul Ozerden, a Federal District Court Judge; and Cy Faneca, a onetime chairman of the Republican party in Mississippi and attorney/liaison for the Gulfport-Biloxi Airport to the Mississippi Congressional leaders.

"The American Legion and the Auxiliary are important to me because I had three brothers who fought in World War II, one of which didn't come back," Mary explained. "It's important to our veterans to be remembered."

Thinking about her brothers, Mary continued. "Somebody has to do it, and should do it," Mary said when talking about remembering our veterans and the sacrifices they have made for our country. "And if we don't remember them, we are destined to repeat things as we are doing right now."

Although she loves all aspects of the auxiliary, Mary has a couple of things that she has taken to heart.

"One of my pet projects is working with Cullman County teens, sending girls to Girls State," she smiled. "American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is a nonpartisan program that teaches young women responsible citizenship and love for God and country."

"I enjoy working with our Cullman County teenagers and seeing them develop into our leaders of tomorrow," Mary added proudly.

Mary strives to add new membership to the auxiliary. She is forever looking to open the doors for people to join the cause and participate in the fun. She requests that anyone who would like to join to give her a call at 256-636-1916.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

One of Mary's favorite parts of the Auxiliary is working with Cullman County teens.

"We always need good people," she said excitedly.

Mary's love and selfless service is truly amazing and evident in her work. She is an inspiration to all.

If you or someone you know would like to join Mary and help serve our veterans, call her or go to AlaForVeterans.org for more information about the American Legion Auxiliary.

VICTIM SERVICES HOLDS $20 BRACELET FUNDRAISER

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – For those who love beautiful jewelry and supporting a great cause, contact Victim Services and purchase one of their lovely bracelets. The unique pieces of jewelry are being sold to raise money and to bring domestic abuse awareness to the community.

"The bracelets are hypoallergenic and made out of pewter," said Donna Jacobs, executive director of Victim Services. "It helps us to make money in a passive way for the shelter, and they make great gifts."

The bracelets come with four charms that dangle from them. Each charm has a very special meaning.

"The strength charm is for anyone who has been through difficult situations such as survived a disease, breast cancer, domestic violence, etc.," Marie Lindsey of Victim Services explained. "The ribbon charm, which has no color, can stand for anything such as breast cancer awareness, domestic violence awareness, or whatever applies. The purple bead charm is actually for domestic violence, or can also be for cystic fibrosis because their color is purple as well. Finally, there is the Made in America charm, which represents the importance of American made products," she smiled.

The bracelets are $20 and can be paid for either in cash or by check. If you or someone you know would like to purchase one, call Victim Services at 256-775-2600 and make arrangements to pick out one or several. The bracelets will make wonderful Valentine's Day gifts for all those special ladies in the area.

Victim Services of Cullman, Inc. currently operates a 24-hour, 365-day hotline to provide immediate assistance to victims of family and domestic violence. They strive to provide a community without domestic violence. Harbor Haus, a safe house run by Victim Services, provides a safe haven to everyone that seeks help and shelter from domestic violence. Their crisis calls include an assessment of critical needs, crisis intervention, education, information and referrals. For more information about Victim Services of Cullman, visit their website at vsoccullman.org.

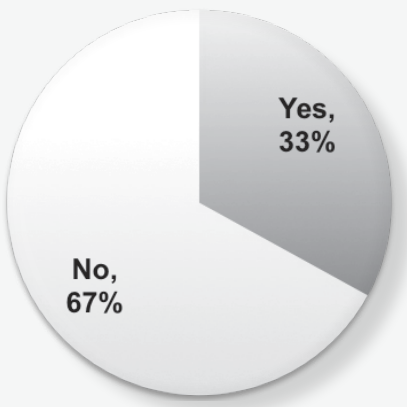


SHARON SCHULER KREPS

Bracelets come with four symbolic charms.

Poll

Do you think gas prices will continue to drop?



This Week's Poll
Should E-Cigs be part of the smoking ban?
Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **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.
- **CP&R Photography Classes** will begin February 24, 2015 at the Cullman Civic Center. Classes will be held for a 6 week session on Tuesday and Thursday nights each week at 6pm. Cost is $45; must bring your own camera to the class. Class will focus on taking quality pictures, action and still shots, and other techniques. Limit of 25 for the class, register at the Civic Center now.
- **CP&R Adult Archery Classes** will begin in March 2015. Classes will be offered on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm; cost is $40 per month. Instructor is professional archer Robin Green. Register now at the Civic Center or call 256-734-9157 for info.
- **Community Garden Coming Soon.** CP&R's Community Garden will open in March at Nesmith Park. The garden will feature plots to rent and use throughout the year with community supplies, provided water, and other perks. Gardening Classes will also start in March with participants receiving a free gardening plot to use when they register for the class. Call 256-734-9157 for info.
- **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.
- **CP&R Youth 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

CIRCUS PROMISES BIG FAMILY FUN

A new year has brought the Loomis Bros Circus back to town and families across the county are welcome to come join in the fun. The show will be in town for two days only on February 1 and 2 with all of the excitement you would expect from the circus.



qrne.ws/312

A THREE-PEAT TAKES PLACE FOR THE HOLLY POND LADY BRONCOS

Never before had the Holly Pond Lady Broncos captured three consecutive Cullman County High School basketball championships That became reality Saturday night thanks to a 14-7 rally in the fourth quarter with the Lady Broncos getting past Cold Springs 46-42 at Wallace State's Tom...

qrne.ws/313

HOLLY POND CLAIMS COUNTY BASKETBALL TITLE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 2002

In the highest scoring Cullman County championship game ever played at Wallace State's Tom Drake Coliseum, the Holly Pond Broncos took home the hardware for the first time in 13 years. With four starters shooting lights out and the offense getting...

qrne.ws/314



MICHAEL LAKE

Lake's favorite part about dance is giving the audience an experience with the music that goes deeper than listening alone.

MOVIN' & GROOVIN'

LOCAL DANCER/MINISTER TEACHES HIP HOP CLASS

Shannon Embree
shannon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Wallace State College Community Education system presents Hip Hop Dance with Michael Lake. With over six years of professional dance experience, Michael Lake has also danced and provided choreography for internationally renowned Christian artist Eddie James. Lake also travels and ministers with dance at youth conferences under Michael Lake Dance Productions and teaches workshops around the nation.

His class started on January 15 and has quickly filled up. The $40 class is not a typical hip hop fitness, gym class. Dancers will learn not only the technicality and skill of hip hop, but the style as well. They will learn to interpret music into stylish dance moves from Lake, who has taken master classes from dancers such as Wade Robinson from "You Got Served" and Rob Hoffman from "Step Up 2".

What was originally intended to be a single Thursday night class has now been split into a Kids hip hop class from 5-6 p.m. and a regular class at 6:30 p.m.

Because the announcement did not specify age, young children were present at the first class and the decision was made to create two classes.



MICHAEL LAKE

In addition to teaching his dance class, Lake, along with his wife, is a full time minister.

"Me and my wife are full time ministers aside from this, we travel on the road doing dance workshops for church dance and drama teams all over the nation, so I've worked with kids plenty. I love 'em, I wish I could just take them all home with me."

Lake made a separate class for kids because he knows they need extra focus and attention to be able to get the most out of his class.

Lake creates an open, free and fun environment that the children respond well to.

"I knew I wanted to be a dancer when I realized I was dancing whenever the opportunity presented itself, even in Walmart," Lake chuckles.

"What I love the most is the fact that I can give the audience an experience with the music that goes deeper than just listening. And teaching gives me the satisfaction that what I'm doing is not just for nothing, that I'm actually being able to sell into the next generation."

Students will also learn a warm up routine designed to get their blood pumping followed by a stretch routine that will provide flexibility, as well as help to avoid injury.

Students will be taught new choreography every day and will be drilled on the choreography they have already learned.

Hip-hop dancing is a great way to escape the stress of everyday life and is a wonderful method to not only stay in shape but to also learn and excel in a versatile art form.

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COMICS

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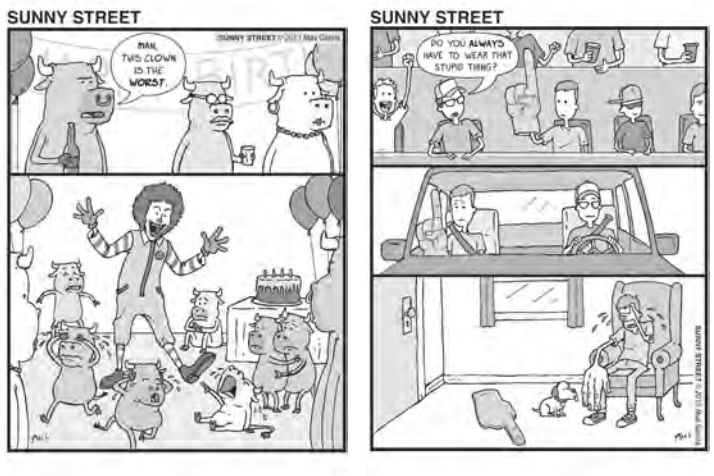




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by Drew Aquilina





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PETS OF THE WEEK

GIZMO

Hello my name is Gizmo and I am about 18 months old. I am a Great Pyrenees/Golden Retriever mix and I currently weigh 65 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!



GYPSY

Hello my name is Gypsy and I am about 18 months old. I am believed to be a Great Pyrenees/Golden Retriever mix and I currently weigh 51 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!



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.

BOOSTING CAREERS AND LIVES

WSCC'S NEW BOOST PROGRAM OFFERS NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDENTS

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Since the new School of Nursing/ Center for Science building was erected at Wallace State Community College, many things have changed. The immaculate and beautiful building has given not only students and teachers more classroom space, but it has also brought along state of the art technology. Better facilities and leading innovation has led to the school being chosen for a very exciting new program called BOOST.

BOOST Director Karen Walton is thrilled to be heading up the new program and is ready to help students succeed.

"Better Occupational Outcomes with Simulation Training, or BOOST, is a two semester short certificate program where students obtain stackable credentials as a Certified Nursing Assistant, EKG Tech and in Career Readiness," said Walton. "These credentials help students obtain employment faster while obtaining college credit. Students graduate with a Patient Care Specialist (PCS) certification but we have alternative pathways available as well."

> **"They will leave with three credentials to help them find a job, and we do our best to work with our students' schedules because many of them are working or have children."**
> Karen Walton, Director of BOOST Program

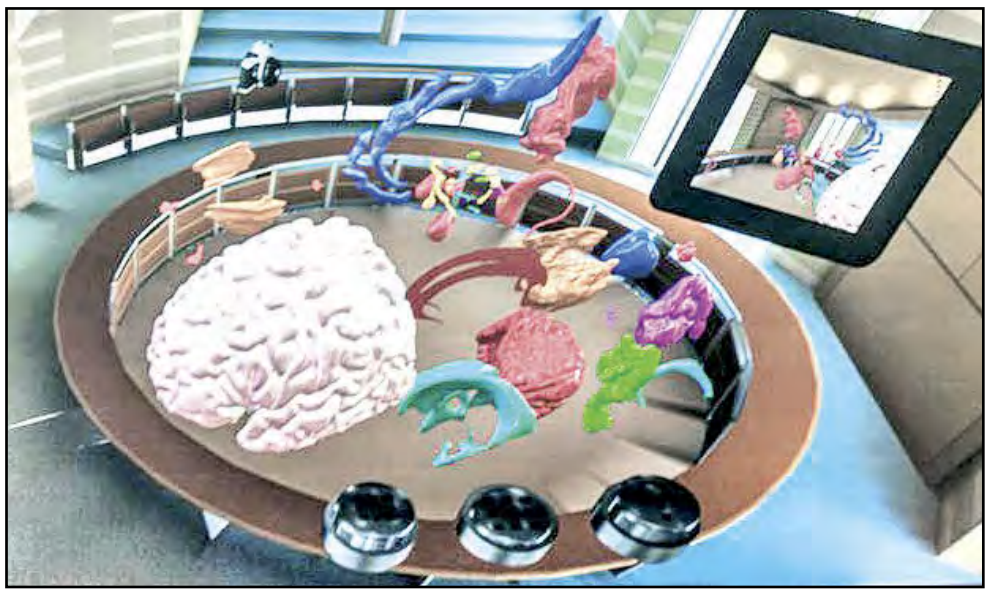
The program utilizes cutting edge simulation technology, 3D technology and alternative learning strategies to enhance learning. Wallace was able to start the program after receiving a $3.2 million portion of a $25 million grant by the Alabama Department of Labor.

"We are in partner with five other colleges," Walton said. "Wallace in Selma is our other Alabama school, Central Carolina Tech, Florence Darlington Tech, Robeson Community College and Midlands Technical College in Columbia, South Carolina is the lead college."

According to Walton, this program will be an amazing opportunity for students who may not otherwise have the time or resources to pursue higher education.

"This program is targeting low-skilled or underemployed workers," stated Walton. "Some may have lost their job due to foreign trade; others may be coming out of high school or GED classes and need to get into the workforce quickly. This gives them that opportunity to get credentials and into the workforce quicker."

BOOST has birthed the new title of Patient Care Specialist. Courses for the program range from medical terminology to microcomputer applications. Students will also take Wallace's Nursing Fundamentals course to obtain certification as a nursing assistant, and also EKG interpretation courses to become EKG certified.



WALLACE STATE NURSING DEPARTMENT

The anatomy of the brain is taken apart using iBench technology as part of the BOOST program.

"So in two semesters students can get all of that with some anatomy background," said Walton. "They will leave with three credentials to help them find a job, and we do our best to work with our students' schedules because many of them are working or have children."

The technology behind this program is also breaking new ground on how students are taught and how they learn.

"We now have the iBench which we also call 3D mobile technology," Walton said. "It can take the place of wet labs. We can review anatomy and many more things. With this technology we can view a 3D version of organs, like the heart. We will also work on skills labs here and practice different scenarios."

The technology looks much like any high end computer, but when coupled with the special lenses, information is literally jumping off the screen. It is easy to see the possibilities for easier hands on learning with this machine. It will enable teachers to better show students how certain procedures are done, and from almost any angle.

Walton said that the new simulation technology, coupled with the new program should bring forth a more professional and competent support staff. "The design is to create a better entry level healthcare worker so that they will be of more assistance to the nursing staff and the medical staff as a whole."

For more information on BOOST, call Karen Walton at Wallace State at 256-352-8000 ext. 8198.

Teacher (from Front)

teacher. This year we had three teachers nominated and the staff voted. Mrs. Smith received the most votes and was named our Teacher of the Year."

The winners of individual schools then move up to the county level where a decision is made for the county's teacher of the year, and the secondary as well. This year long time teacher and librarian of Parkside, April Smith, was given the honor and Dana Lisle from Hanceville High School was the secondary teacher of the year.

"Mr. Orr came and told me after the county office had e-mailed him the results," said Smith. "I was really surprised, because normally classroom teachers receive it. So I never thought I would get that. I was very excited and honored."

Smith began her teaching career in 1996. She has taught several different age groups ranging from elementary classrooms up to middle school. She holds a master's degree in elementary education as well as a master's in library science.

"I got the library science degree to use later," Smith said. "In case I wanted a change, but I never tired of teaching. However, the job opened up for the librarian position here when our librarian became sick. So I thought it was a good opportunity to put this degree to use and it allowed me to stay at Parkside. I love it in the library because I get to know all of the students. Seeing a child learn something new is my favorite part, and this allows me to do that with even more children."

Even though Smith is no longer in the traditional classroom setting, her love and skill of teaching is still very much in use, according to Principal Richard Orr.

"Mrs. Smith represents so much of what every parent hopes for in someone who teaches their children," Orr said.

"She has a kind and loving heart to all of our students. She works hard to help all of our students do so much beyond finding books that interest them. She helps our kids with work, and she helps our teachers by pulling books for units being taught in class. She helps our students with AR [accelerated reader], she also helps administer the tests that all of our teachers use for data that determines what drives the instruction in the classroom. The doors of the library are a constant revolving door for our students and she helps everyone that comes through those doors."

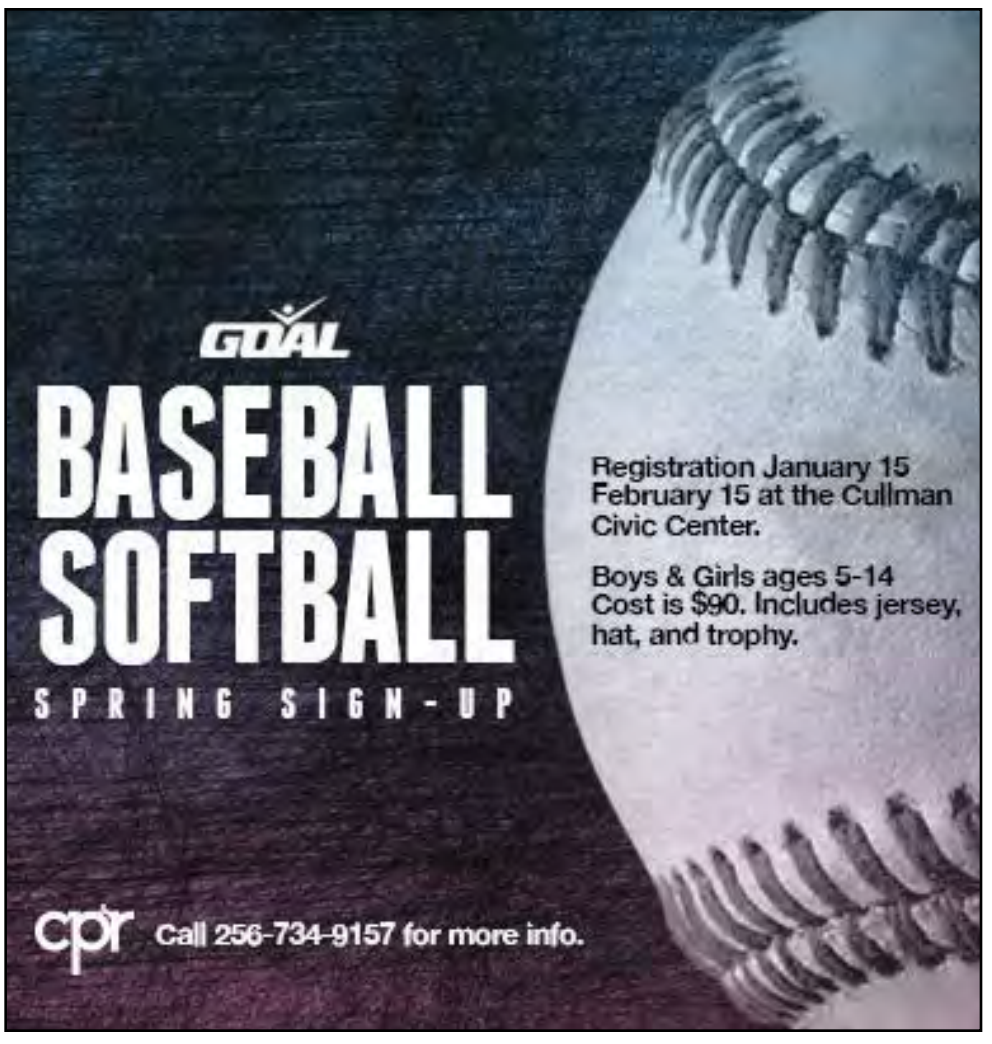
Awards like these are a great motivator for teachers and schools alike. Teachers who pour all of themselves into their profession are doing remarkable work; this award allows the schools and county to recognize that work in a big way.

Principal Orr stated that his school is beaming with pride for Mrs. Smith, and the work she has done for so long at Parkside.

"First, I am so proud for Mrs. Smith," Orr said. "It is great for her to get the recognition she deserves for all that she does for so many at Parkside. I think it is just continued validation of what so many of our teachers are doing in the classroom and in the lives of our students. We have been on a mission for a couple of years now to show our community, and county, that our kids receive an incredible education at Parkside and our teachers are the best."

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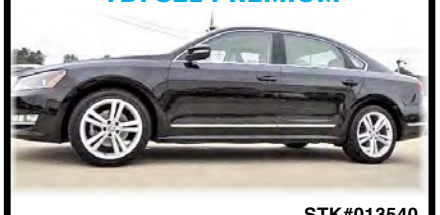
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