SERIES 5 • ISSUE 10 • MARCH 9, 2015

CULLMANSENSE COMMUNITY MATTERS



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

AMERICAN BULLDOG CHARITY SHOW HONORS YOUNG BOY P7



WBRC

IRS SCAM BULLIES RESIDENTS

Chelsea Sparks
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CULLMAN – A growing scam has been spreading rapidly across the nation, and has affected some residents of Cullman County and surrounding areas. The scam artist will make threatening phone calls to the victim and claim to be from the Internal Revenue Service with the aim of scaring the victim into paying large sums of money.

There are always scams around tax time, and it is important to know the signs. Gloria Winton, a CPA in Cullman says that she has had around four clients of her own call saying that they were contacted.

"I have had a few clients that have received these calls this year and have heard of more," Winton said. "They will call and say they are from the IRS and claim that because the taxpayer has not responded to notices that a suit is being filed against them. One lady was even told that the sheriff was on their way at that point to their house to arrest her."

According to Winton, the plan is to use aggressive scare tactics to get the taxpayer to pay the money without thinking, but there is no reason to fear.

"The people I work with did not give money to the person calling, but would call me to ask what to do. What I told all of them is that the IRS does not call people on the phone and say things like that, ever. The whole concept of the IRS filing a suit against people is wrong, because if you owe taxes they are going to contact you by mail as their first means of contact."

This information can be con- P3

FLYING TO THE RESCUE

AIR EVAC SAVES LIVES IN THE SKY P2



AIR EVAC

Air Evac's mission is to provide access to patients in more rural communities where mortality and morbidity rates are often higher.

'CARLY'S LAW' CBD OIL DRUG TRIALS TO BEGIN P6

VINEMONT EAGLES BASEBALL TEAM TO HOLD 1ST ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND SILENT AUCTION P7

EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH INVITES ALL TO 'CELEBRATE EASTER' P9

ANNUAL AUTISM WALK AND 5K RETURNS TO HANCEVILLE APRIL 11 P3

SPRING CLEANING IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER P9

CP&R HOSTS PARENT/CHILD NIGHT OUT

Waid Harbison
CP&R

CULLMAN – A family night out can be one of the best ways to bond together. CP&R will be holding a Mother/Daughter PJ Party and a Father/Son Night Out on Friday, April 17, 2015 from 7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Registration is open at the Civic Center.

The Father/Son Night Out will take place at Heritage Park featuring fun and games for fathers and sons to bond. P7

OUTSTANDING CITIZENS

MEET FORMER FIRST LADY MARSHA FOLSOM

"HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE ALABAMA AS ITS FIRST LADY WAS INDEED AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE, AND WITH IT, CAME MUCH RESPONSIBILITY."



MARSHA FOLSOM

Marsha Folsom was First Lady from April 22, 1993 to January 16, 1995.

P6

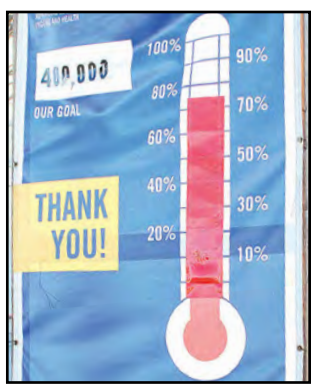
UNITED WAY OF CULLMAN COUNTY CLOSES IN ON MONETARY GOAL

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – United Way of Cullman County adds tremendous value to our community. Fourteen different local agencies receive funding from United Way. Together the various agencies work to combat social issues such as abuse, homeless, hunger, medical needs, child advocate programs, etc. In order to supply money to places such as Cullman Caring for Kids, the Cullman County Commission on Aging, Victim Services and many others, the United Way must set goals and have many different fundraisers throughout the year. As of March 3, 2015, they have raised $348,817 toward their overall $400,000 goal. That is 87 percent.

"The $400,000 goal was our goal for the '14-15 fiscal year which started in April 2014 and ends March 31, 2015," explained Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Stephanie Wood. "We have held various fundraisers throughout the year including T-shirt sales, the Girlfriend Gala, payroll deductions and more. Thanks to the support of our corporate & individual donors, we are really close to our goal."

"We do not have any more fundraisers planned between now and the end of the month but we do, however, have our T-shirts on sale," Wood c o n t i n u e d . "Short sleeves P2



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Chart showing the 2014–2015 fundraising goals for United Way of Cullman County.

NEW SHANGHAI CIRCUS COMES TO WSCC

Will Hogue
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HANCEVILLE – On Tuesday, March 17, at 7 p.m., the New Shanghai Circus will perform in the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre at Wallace State Community College. The acclaimed circus "will present a variety of feats of skill and daring," according to a press release. The circus, which began in Branson, Missouri, went on to enjoy a "28-day sold out" run on Broadway in 1999.

The Cullman Community Concert Association has organized the event. The CCCA has been picking up its P7

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

GOVERNOR AWARDS FUNDS FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS

Larry Childers
Contributor

Gov. Robert Bentley has awarded nearly $1 million in grants to help state law enforcement officers to maintain safe highways in Alabama.

The grants, awarded to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, will increase trooper presence on the highways and ensure that dangerous drivers who have had driver license privileges suspended remain off the roads.

"While everyone should always drive defensively, crashes caused by impaired or reckless drivers can occur in an instant," Bentley said.

"This funding will allow our troopers to monitor state roads more closely, remove unsafe drivers and keep them off the roads. I also encourage motorists who see any unsafe drivers to call *47 or *HP and report them."

Two grants totaling $887,287 will enable troopers to increase patrols during periods of heavy traffic, including major holidays.

A $24,381 grant will help the agency more efficiently handle appeal hearings of drivers whose licenses have been suspended.

Bentley notified Spencer Collier, Secretary of Law Enforcement, that the funding had been approved.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is administering the grants with funds provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

ADECA manages a wide range of programs that support law enforcement and public safety, economic development, workforce development, recreation, energy conservation and water resource management.

HEALTH HOME EXPANSION TO HELP PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

Contributed by Medicaid

More than 250,000 Medicaid recipients with chronic health conditions will soon have access to enhanced care coordination and other services to improve their overall health when the Alabama Medicaid Agency expands its Health Home program on April 1, 2015.

Six probationary Regional Care Organizations (RCOs) have signed contracts to operate Health Home programs, including Region A which includes Cullman.

The program, which has operated since 2012 as Patient Care Networks in 21 counties of the state, is expanding statewide as an interim step toward implementation of full-risk Regional Care Organization. RCOs are locally-led managed care systems that will ultimately provide healthcare services to Medicaid enrollees at an established cost under the supervision and approval of the Alabama Medicaid Agency.

In contrast, the Health Home program is defined by the federal government as an optional Medicaid program that integrates and coordinates care for patients with certain chronic conditions to achieve improved health outcomes. In Alabama, the Health Home program is set up to add an additional level of support to Patient 1st Primary Medical Providers (PMPs) by intensively coordinating the care of patients who have or who are at risk of having certain chronic conditions: asthma, diabetes, cancer, COPD, HIV, mental health conditions, substance use disorders, transplants, sickle cell, BMI over 25, heart disease and hepatitis C.

Care management, or coordinated care, in the Health Home program is done by connecting patients with needed resources, teaching self-management skills, providing transitional care and bridging medical and behavioral services, among other efforts.

"This interim step is designed as a building block for probationary RCOs that are working toward full certification by facilitating network development and providing resources while offering the probationary RCOs an opportunity to demonstrate that they have resources to manage patients in their region," said Dr. Robert Moon, Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Commissioner for Health Systems.

Rescue (from Front)

Chelsea Sparks
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VINEMONT – When the unthinkable is happening to you or your loved one, mere minutes can mean the difference between life and death, and sometimes it takes more than an ambulance to get you there in time. Luckily, there are real life flying superheroes that swoop down when we need them most, risking life and limb to get us to safety.

Air Evac EMS, Inc. is one of the largest independently owned and operated air medical services in the U.S. and operates in 15 states with 2,400 employees.

They are the largest air ambulance service in Alabama, with their first base starting right here in Cullman, according to Program Director William Franklin.

"Air Evac established our first base in Alabama at the Cullman Regional Airport in February 2001," Franklin said.

"We were designated as AE15 as the fifteenth base in our organization. Later, we expanded throughout Alabama to the Shoals (AE16), Scottsboro (AE32), Fayette (AE45) and Demopolis (AE106) - eventually to 117 bases across 15 states."

The company was founded in Missouri in 1985 by a group of local citizens living in the Ozark region where there wasn't an air ambulance service.

Knowing that those living in the most rural parts of America were those that needed this service most, they worked hard to turn their dream into a reality.

"Specifically, Air Evac's mission is to provide access to patients in more rural communities where mortality and morbidity rates are often higher," Franklin said.

"Consider the fact that definitive care (trauma surgical suites, invasive cardiac procedures, specialized pediatric and traumatic neuro-surgical support) is often located in larger cities and takes longer to reach when time is of the essence. Air Evac chooses to locate bases in smaller towns and rural areas in order to access patients faster than if we were based at inner-city hospitals or an urban environment."

According to Franklin, those working on the Air Evac team are highly trained professionals, completing rigorous training to be sure that they are ready to aid patients as fast as possible.

"Aviators must have thousands of flight hours, including many for the model aircraft that we utilize," said Franklin.

"Flight paramedics must have two years experience in pre-hospital emergency services; flight nurses must have three years in an emergency department or an intensive care unit. Medical crews must attain and maintain advanced certifications, state licensure, many advanced life support credentials, continuing education credits and regularly train with local medical directors. The crews are in uniform and ready-to-go 24-hours a day. The aircraft travels at 120 miles per hour (depending on wind direction and speed), so AE15 can be at varying locations within a few minutes."

Franklin stated that not only does the advanced training ensure top care for patients, but also utilizes technology for their teams.

"Air Evac was first in the industry to provide all flight crew members with night-vision technology. In 2004, we were first at developing an operations control center, which is only now a requirement by the FAA. Our entire fleet is being updated with auto pilot, all computerized instrumentation cockpit and new warning systems."

Using this technology and a highly skilled team, Air Evac has come to the aid of many patients in Cullman within the past month alone.

"From our Cullman base this past month, Air Evac transported 10 qualifying trauma patients that were designated as most critical," Franklin said.

"These patients were transported to Huntsville Hospital as well as University and Children's Hospitals in Birmingham. These were severe traumas, one of which included burns. With the help of ambulance crews and first responders, 90 percent of those patients were quickly admitted to intensive care units and trauma/neurological services at these facilities, and hospitals were alerted prior our arrival."

At the end of the day, Franklin says saving lives takes more than a company – it takes a community.

"It's a team effort with EMS, local volunteer fire departments, rescue squads, hospitals, and don't forget, 911 and emergency dispatchers. These high acuity patients mentioned are from our local 5-county area may be friends and family of people who read CullmanSense. Through the dedication and hard work of everyone involved, we're confident these patients have a greater chance at positive outcomes."

For more information about Air Evac, employment opportunities or 1.4 million member AirMedCare program, please visit www.lifeteam.net or call 1-800-793-0010.

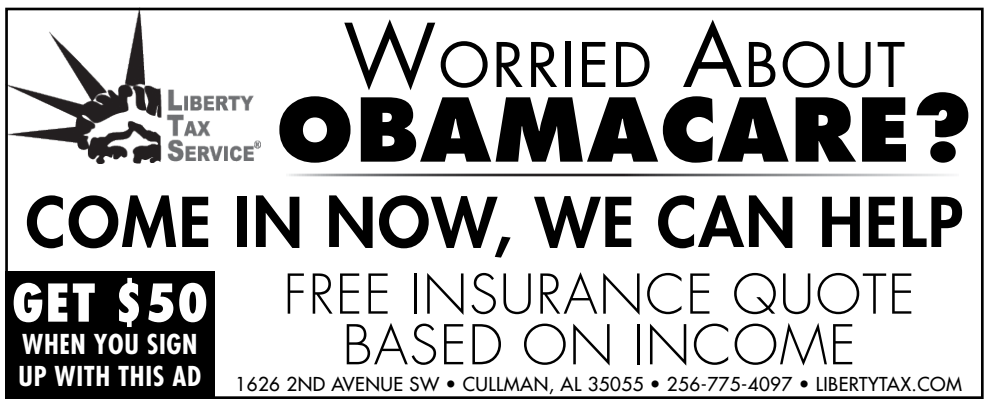
Goal (from Front)

are regularly $10 apiece, but right now are 2 for $15. Long sleeves are regularly $15, but now 2 for $25. These can be purchased by contacting us on Facebook or stopping by our office, located here at the Train Depot," she smiled warmly.

When talking about United Way of Cullman County, Wood said, "If there is anything I want people to know, it's that United Way has a true heart for Cullman County. These dollars are rescuing women from abuse, providing shelter for homeless men/women & children, feeding hungry mouths in Cullman, changing behavior in troubled teens and so many more worthy efforts," she said.

"Cullman has wonderful agencies that are pouring their time and hearts into the work they do to better the lives of our citizens and they can't do it without the funds that United Way raises."

Donate online at UWayCC.org, send donations via mail to PO Box 116, or stop by their office, which is located inside the Cullman Train Depot next to the Cullman County Museum.





DALE GREER DISCUSSES THE WORK OF THE ALABAMA WORKFORCE COUNCIL AT CHAMBER'S BISCUITS & BUSINESS EVENT

Chelsea Sparks
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HANCEVIILLE – In July of 2014, Gov. Robert Bentley appointed industry leaders, educators and others to work on the Alabama Workforce Council. The council's primary goal is to create a conversation between education and industry by advising and supporting the state Board of Education.

Assistant Director of Cullman Economic Development Agency, Dale Greer, was appointed to the workforce council by Bentley, and spoke at the Cullman Chamber's quarterly held morning seminar, Biscuits & Business.

"Governor Bentley created this workforce on July 1 as a three year program," Greer said.

"There are 36 members, and these members represent the largest companies in Alabama. Representatives from Mercedes Benz, Honda, Alabama Power, Air Bus [are a part of the group] and also include former state superintendents and state senators and more. It really is a strong group of people who have strong opinions."

Greer went on to say that each person from their area came in with certain ideas, with the main concern that their needs weren't being met.

"Each one came in with certain thought processes," said Greer.

"And that was mainly because their workforce needs were not being met. They were not sure of how to get everything going, but they all universally said that 'We're not getting what we need from education'."

According to Greer, those within the committee went to meetings with subcommittees to address the issues of individual groups, something he said was educational for everyone.

"It was an education process for us," said Greer. "The four committees they assigned was just to address those issues of our group. Then we came back two months ago, and it was a general overview of what those committees did. It was eye opening to some of us, like me, I had been on the marketing side. We were all in our own cubbyholes, until we got the presentations from the others. After that, there was some fine tuning and then it was presented to the governor."

Working with community colleges like Wallace State and others is essential to putting out a quality workforce in Alabama, Greer said.

"Right now it is all a 65 page report," said Greer. "It is also a work in progress. I think once it is all done, it will be very different."

The report has not been released for public consumption as of yet, as there is still a lot of work to be done. One of the ideas that Greer said was presented was the creation of an educational database.

"The industry education and collaboration committee came up with the suggestion of creating a statewide database," Greer said.

"They said that you have around eight agencies that are gathering that information, and that we could put it in one place and protect students by declassifying private information. They said it would provide insight on how Alabama is meeting education needs and workforce skills. They would like it operational by the fourth quarter of 2016."

For Greer and his subcommittee, he stated that their focus was getting the word out about the benefits of working in industry, and how important a strong graduation rate was to the future of the workforce.

"Marketing and Promotion was the committee that I was on," he said. "I think the task we have is one of the more difficult. We focused on telling kids and parents that there are great opportunities in industry. We talked about how there are careers there and they can make good money. What I think we are missing is the basic education side of things. We have 150,000 that do not have a high school equivalent education. So we are working to get the graduation rate to 90 percent by 2020."

While there are many exciting industry leaps and tremendous job growth happening in Cullman, Greer has shown that there is still much work to be done.

The current workforce in Alabama as a whole is simply not yet on par with the demand, but Greer stated that this council has offered the opportunity to learn and grow to make the changes that are necessary.

"This has been a better learning experience that any of us have ever anticipated," Greer said.

For more information on this work, contact Dale Greer at daleg@cullmaneda.org.

IF THIS CAUGHT YOUR EYE, WHY AREN'T YOU ADVERTISING HERE?

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CULLMANSENSE.COM

ANNUAL AUTISM WALK AND 5K RETURNS TO HANCEVILLE APRIL 11

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – While many may be aware of the condition of autism, there is still much work to be done in the way of education and unlocking the secrets of the disorder. Autism affects approximately 1 in 68 children in the U.S. right now, and its effect on those with the disorder and their families is significant. To raise funds and awareness, the Cullman Autism Networking Group founded by Rhonda Davis will join with the Autism Society of Alabama to host the annual Autism 5K and Fun Day.

"We are excited for this year's event," said organizer and Cullman Autism Networking Group co-founder Rhonda Davis.

"We have exciting bounce houses, carnival games, craft and product sales tables, a disability and advocacy resource fair, food trucks and more. We will also have drawings for gift baskets. These baskets are themed, will have over $100 worth of items in each, and single items of $50 value or more!"

There is no charge to enter the event, but food trucks and some carnival games will be charging small fees.

If there is a business or individual who is interested in a craft or product table, or is willing to donate an item to the gift basket giveaways, there is still time to join by calling Jessica Dyson at 256-339-1151. All those who pre-register by April 1 will receive a commemorative T-shirt.

Registration Fees

- Adult (Small - 2XL Shirt Size): $30
- 3XL - $35
- Ages 10 & under (Youth Sizes S - L): $20
- Sleep in for Autism (All Sizes): $40 where you choose to send in your donation to receive shirt that will be mailed directly to you.
- On-Site Registration is $5 more

Volunteers for the event are always needed, and those who sign up before March 25 will get a special commemorative T-shirt.

The event will be held Saturday, April 11 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville. The 5K will include a Walk & Run, with registration at 8 a.m. and the 5K at 9 a.m. Fun Day Registration will be from 10-11 a.m., with the walk itself beginning at 11 a.m. and the Fun Day activities commencing at 10 a.m.

For more information on volunteering, call Rhonda Davis at 256-962-2208.

Scam (from Front)

firmed on the website IRS.gov as seen on their annual "Dirty Dozen" list. The Dirty Dozen is compiled annually by the IRS and lists a variety of common scams taxpayers may encounter any time during the year. Many of these con games peak during filing season as people prepare their tax returns or hire someone to do so.

"If someone calls unexpectedly claiming to be from the IRS with aggressive threats of if you don't pay immediately, it's a scam artist calling," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen on the IRS website. "The first IRS contact with taxpayers is usually through the mail. Taxpayers have rights, and this is not how we do business."

Winton said that her best advice to everyone who receives these calls is to simply ignore them, and contact the IRS directly.

"If you are contacted by someone claiming to be the IRS, there is a number you can call and notify them that you are receiving these threatening calls," Winton said. "If they give you a phone number to call them back at, then you can call the IRS yourself and they can verify if this was a legitimate call or not. Other than that, just ignore the call."

More information is available at IRS.gov, or you can call Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) who handles these incidents at 1-800-366-4484.

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CHAMBER HOSTS SEMINAR ON USING FACEBOOK & SOCIAL MEDIA TO BUILD AND GROW LOCAL BUSINESSES

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Tuesday, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce offered an informative seminar on social media. Dozens of area businesses were represented as Mike Coleman, a web consultant, presented lots of information about the top five social media websites. The seminar gave practical tips and insights as to how to use social media to build and grow your business.

"People say, 'Social media is interesting, but I'll never get a million fans,' but that's not true," said Coleman.

"You don't need millions of fans, you just need to start with three or four people who want to hear what you have to say and that will share what you have to say."

During the seminar, Coleman discussed the following: the value of using social media to reach customers; how it can lead to new customers; how it drives repeat business from current customers; Facebook best practices and strategies; how to get started the "right" way with Facebook; the difference between a personal page and a business page; what should be posted and when it should be posted; and Why Facebook is no longer "free".

"Most of this stuff you can do in 15 minutes a day," said Coleman, "or spend an hour over the weekend."

There are tools online that can help people post to several media outlets at the same time, which saves a lot of time and accomplishes a whole lot more.

The seminar was filled with invaluable content, strategies and insights on how to get the most out of the time you spend on social media.

> **"You don't need millions of fans, you just need to start with three or four people who want to hear what you have to say and that will share what you have to say."**
> Mike Coleman, Web Consultant

Beginners and seasoned users walked away with something they could use to build their business using different popular social media platforms.

Mike Coleman is a web consultant, speaker and author who works with organizations, business owners and professionals who want to create a stronger web presence, communicate their message to their target market more effectively, and make better use of their time and resources to grow their business. He is a Constant Contact Authorized Local Expert (ALE) and provides e-mail marketing and social media seminars across the state of Tennessee and surrounding regions teaching best practices.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Mike Coleman speaks about social media at a recent seminar offered by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce.

His business services include content development, SEO, e-mail marketing, social media and web design.

For more information about email marketing, social media management, search engine optimization, Google AdWords, content marketing and web design, contact Mike Coleman at mike@mikecoleman.net or visit his website at www.mikecoleman.net. He can also be reached by calling 615-308-8078.

OUT OF THE ICE AND INTO THE STORMS

LOCAL EMA SAYS BE PREPARED FOR TORNADO SEASON

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CULLMAN – On the heels of two winter storms in our area, severe weather and tornado season are fast approaching. It is easy to become complacent with preparations for the season, but if the fourth anniversary of April 27th should remind the area of anything, it is that disaster can and will strike when least expected. While an outbreak of that magnitude is not likely to come again for quite some time, it is important to be always be aware and prepared, as it doesn't have to be a major disaster to the state to be a disaster for you.

Cullman County Emergency Management Agency Director, Phyllis Little, explained about the agency's role during emergency situations such as severe weather.

"Any time there is a weather watch or warning, we come in to activate the emergency operations center," Little said. "Sometimes it is sitting here waiting on something to happen, and sometimes it is going wide open because something has already happened. Keeping people informed is one of our biggest jobs."

When it comes to preparing for severe weather, Little suggests researching some helpful websites, and also putting a Go Kit together.

"Ready.gov is a great website for tips," she said. "There is a list of things you would need in almost any kind of disaster. It also has lists for things for a go kit to keep in your car. Most people only think of it for winter weather, but they are great to have for any time. We encourage people to have a to-go kit at all times."

According to Little, having things like water, non-perishable snacks, coloring books for the kids, diapers, etc. are all things to consider for your personalized bag. The Ready.gov website also suggests items like flashlights and batteries, a small first aid kit and a blanket or two.

All of these items could be essential in the case of an emergency where you are stranded in your car.

Of course, according to Little, it is also important to prepare your home for severe weather complications like extended power outages. She says it is essential for everyday people to take personal responsibility to prepare and not rely solely on local and state governments.

"People need to be aware and they need to know how to take care of themselves if there is an emergency like being without power for days," Little said.

"It doesn't take a whole lot to buy an extra can of food at the grocery store for an emergency. Most people are not going to miss an extra dollar at the store, but it can help you later. The local, state and even federal government cannot be everything for everyone, you have to be able to take care of yourself."

The general rule of thumb for a stockpile is to have enough food and water on hand to last you at least three days, in addition to having the essentials of food and water, you must first survive the storm. According to Little, knowledge is power and the best way to come out of a tornadic or severe weather situation unscathed is to be conscientious.

"My biggest advice is to be aware of what is going on," said Little. "Forecasting has come a long way, and they may not always be right on, but you should always take it seriously. April 27th happened a while ago, and human beings tend to have short memories. I recommend the best way to keep up to date is to purchase a NOAA weather radio. That is absolutely your best early warning device, without a doubt."

Little went on to say that having a plan in place on where to go this tornado season is the next step after getting an alert system in your home. There is only one community shelter in Cullman City, Little says.

"On Sportsman Lake Road there is a five pod community shelter," said Little. "It is the only one in Cullman city at this time. It's right across the road from the fairgrounds, and it is ready take people in should they need it. It will seat around 490-500 people, but it is a great resource because up until the past year we could only offer a hallway in the basement of the courthouse."

While the storms that raged through the county in 2011 were rare, they can happen again. According to Little, you can never be too prepared for severe weather in Alabama come springtime.

More information can be found at CullmanEMA.org, Ready.gov or you can download the Cullman EMA smartphone app for Android and iPhone.



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

CULLMAN SAVINGS BANK

A BUSINESS WITH LOTS OF CHANGE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Towering over the city of Cullman stands a wonderful piece of the community's history, Cullman Savings Bank. The bank was originally known as Cullman Building & Loan and was first organized in October of 1887.

With humble beginnings, it started with 30 original settlers of Cullman, including its founder and first president, Mr. G.O. Dinckelberg.

A very smart man, Mr. Dinckelberg had a brilliant plan; if each of the 30 members deposited a small amount of money into the bank, then the money could then be loaned to each other until every member could construct their own home.

The arrangement remained intact until each of the 30 members had an opportunity to either build or purchase their homes.

The 30 charter members held a total of 130 shares representing an investment of $5,200.

On December 3, 1887, a month after it's beginning, the bank made its first home loan to Mr. Peter Winkerbach in the amount of $200. The bank was first located at the corner of 3rd St. and 5th Ave. SE in the old Cullman Hall.

Believe it or not, there were no regular office hours and the members assembled each Saturday night for the transaction of business at that time.

At the turn of the century, assets had reached $50,000 and the bank held loans totaling $40,000. The bank first changed its name to Cullman Savings & Loan in 1941 and had begun holding regular office hours. Along with the name change, it also moved into the Imbusch Building, which was on the corner of 1st Ave. and 4th St. E. The total assets were $136,000 that year.

In 1957, the bank changed locations again and moved to the Fuller Building.

It was located on the corner of 2nd Ave. and 4th St. E. Assets at that time had grown to over 2 million, with 800 savings account holders and 367 borrowers.

The final move to their present location at 316 2nd Ave. SW was in 1970. Nine years later, in May of 1979, a small branch office was opened in the town of Hanceville.

Cullman Savings & Loan converted to a federal savings bank charter and changed its name to Cullman Savings Bank on July 1, 1994. A second branch was opened in June of 2004. It is located at the intersection of Eva Rd. and Hwy. 157.

A third branch was opened at the intersection of 2nd Ave. and Cherokee Ave. in August of 2013.

Since 1887, Cullman Savings Bank been going strong and has made thousands of loans for the purchase, construction or refinancing of homes throughout Cullman County.

In addition, it has paid depositors over 100 million dollars in interest and dividends.

Cullman Savings Bank has always been associated with Cullman County exclusively. Nearly all of its customers are either residents or former residents of Cullman County.

The county's border still serves as the bank's designated lending area boundary line - just as it did in 1887.

The historic bank has successfully interwoven itself into the fabric of our community and continues to be one of Cullman's local treasures.



GREG RICHTER

Mr. G.O. Dinckelberg, founder and first president of Cullman Building & Loan which later became Cullman Savings Bank.

MIRRORING HISTORY

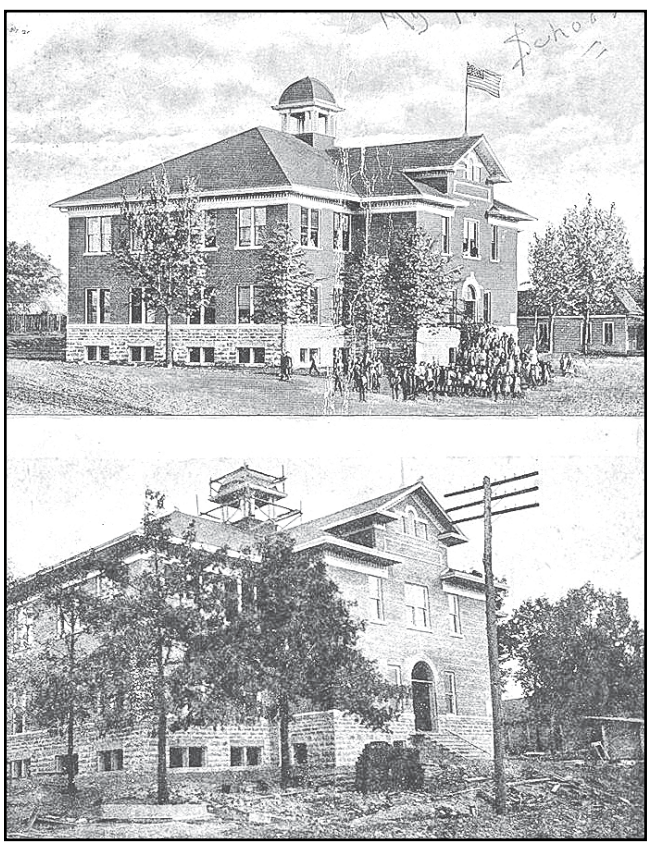
CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOL BECOMES THIRD CULLMAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The Cullman County Courthouse's current location was vacant until the year 1920 when it became home to a two-story brick building, which was used as the Cullman Public School.

The building had a large auditorium that had a balcony. Unfortunately, the school building burned to the ground in 1943.

Today Cullman County's third courthouse stands in its place. The courthouse was completed in 1965 at a cost of $1.5 million.



CULLMAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The location of the courthouse once housed Cullman Public School.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The current courthouse building was constructed in 1965 for $1.5 million.



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'CARLY'S LAW' CBD OIL DRUG TRIALS TO BEGIN

Melanie Posey
WBRC

BIRMINGHAM, AL (WBRC) – Tuesday afternoon, Michelle Graham stood in the lobby of the Civitan building on UAB's campus with tears brimming in her eyes.

Her husband and son stood close by. In a large stroller underneath her hand, her 3-year-old daughter Christian lay motionless, her eyes closed, her breathing barely noticeable. Christian has epilepsy.

"She suffers daily," Michelle explained. "She doesn't walk. She doesn't talk. She's on tons of medicines that don't permit her to do any of these things."

Christian was diagnosed at age one. Michelle says her daughter used to talk a little until she was given one particular medicine.

The up side: it cut Christian's seizures down from more than 100 to roughly 20 a day. The down side: Christian can barely move on her own.

But while the tears skirting Michelle's eyes were for her daughter on Tuesday, it wasn't because she was sad. They were tears of hope.

"I cried. I bawled my eyes out and was happy that my child has a chance at a future and a chance to go out and play with the other kids and not just sit back and watch," she said while holding back tears.

Her excitement came in response to learning the federal government had given final approval last Monday to UAB doctors to begin conducting studies using cannabidiol, or CBD oil.

The oil is derived from marijuana plants.

"This has been a long process," explained Dr. David Standaert, who chairs the UAB Neurology Department. "Carly's Law was passed a year ago and we estimated it would take at least six months. Turned out it took twice as long to get to the end."

But Standaert says early Monday morning doctors received final FDA and DEA approval.

Standaert says he hopes the studies can begin in a couple of weeks. There will be one study for children and one for adults. The participants will have to go through a screening process and submit an application to be considered by a medical review board.

Participants must have epilepsy and have not responded to conventional therapies.

"We'll be looking very carefully at the question of whether this is safe, are there side effects that are observed," Standaert explained. "We'll be looking to see whether there's a change or reduction in seizure frequency.

The studies came about after a push from Hoover resident Dustin Chandler in support of his daughter, Carly, who has a genetic disorder called CDKL5. The disease causes her to have uncontrollable seizures.

Chandler admits the approval process challenged his family's patience, especially after having to get legislative help to encourage the FDA to render final approval. But on Tuesday, his spirits were high.

"It may not work for Carly," Chandler said at a news conference Tuesday. "I've said it a lot. It may not work for my daughter. But it may work for somebody and that's what it's all about."

There are other studies using CBD oil. But UAB's study will be one of the largest in the nation.

A vendor has already agreed to provide UAB with 100 doses of the medication used during the study.

"The vendor has agreed to supply this at no charge ... a tremendous benefit to the state," Standaert explained. "I don't know what this would cost, there's not a published price but it would not be cheap."

He says about one percent, or 40,000, of Alabamians suffer from epilepsy. Nearly 400 have inquired about the studies. Twenty have already submitted applications. That includes Michelle Graham on Christian's behalf.



WBRC

Christian has epilepsy and suffers from seizures, but her mother Michelle Graham hopes CBD oil could help.



WBRC

Cannabidiol, or CBD oil, is derived from marijuana plants.

"I have tremendous hope in the study...that it's going to help all our kids and hopefully adults," she says, her tears now given way to a slight smile. "And hopefully one day it'll go on to help with things other than epilepsy."

Folsom (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – There's a special place in the hearts of most Alabamians for this week's pick for Outstanding Citizen. Former First Lady Marsha Folsom is a very busy woman, but she is never seen without a warm smile and twinkle in her eye. With a genuine desire to improve the world around her, Mrs. Folsom is considered to be one of Cullman's truly beloved sweethearts.

Mrs. Folsom is a graduate of Fairview High School and later, the University of Alabama's School of Human Environmental Sciences. In 1977, she married Jim Folsom Jr. and currently lives in their hometown of Cullman.

She is the mother of two children, Meghan and James. Meghan is the founder and owner of MegaMega Projects, a fashion marketing and public relations firm in New York City; and James is a third-year law student at Loyola University Law School in New Orleans, LA.

The Folsom family are members of Grace Episcopal Church in Cullman.

From April 22, 1993 to January 16, 1995, Mrs. Folsom was Alabama's First Lady when her husband Jim served as the state's 50th Governor.

Marsha handled her new title with grace and brought many positive things to the position.

"Having the opportunity to serve Alabama as its First Lady was indeed an honor and a privilege, and with it, came much responsibility," said Folsom.

"While the First Lady is not elected, it is a position of public trust and allows the person to be an advocate on behalf of the causes in which she believes can be impactful for the state as a whole."

"Serving as First Lady allowed me to learn a great deal, and it enabled me to grow intellectually as well as gain wisdom from the people of our state," she continued.

"During that time, I traveled extensively across the state, not just in the metro areas but, having been brought up in rural Cullman County, I spent a great deal of time in rural Alabama. I saw firsthand, the poverty and the lack of infrastructure that is most evident in the Black Belt region of our state."

Marsha has taken what she's learned over the years and put it to good use. She has done many things that have proven to enhance the lives of the people around her, especially families and children of Alabama.

"I consider some of my greatest accomplishments lie in the realm of my personal life. My husband and I have been married for over 37 years; we have two wonderful adult children who are both on their way to assuring their roles in society," she smiled warmly.

"Also, I must say I am particularly grateful for the fact that during my years as First Lady, I was able to spearhead the effort to establish the first Family Resource Center in the state of Alabama in Dothan. Today there are over 15 Family Resource Centers scattered throughout the state of Alabama. These are brick and mortar facilities which offer job training, parenting classes, food banks, even family gardens, all with the mission to create better communities by working with families at the community level."

"Another accomplishment was to be able to lead the effort to bring and establish the Cullman City Schools Foundation," she continued.

"Through its grants program, the Foundation has enabled teachers to add additional teaching and learning opportunities for the children in their classrooms, providing enrichment to the teaching and learning experience of the students. The Foundation will celebrate its 20th Anniversary in 2016, providing a lasting legacy for the Cullman City Schools."

Marsha will be changing hats soon as she and her son James become actors in the upcoming play 'Yours Eternally: Letters of a Lifetime' written by childhood friend Ben Johnson South.

"When he [Ben] asked me to participate, he made it sound like so much fun, so I was captivated from the start," she giggled.

"Let me also add, I haven't been in a play since I attended Fairview High School and that has been a very, very long time. My son, James, loves to act and has appeared in several productions over the years. This will be quite a first for James and me."

"Ben has written a meaningful love story centered around the relationship between a mother and her child, illustrated through their exchange of letters over the course of their lives," she explained.

"There are laughs and there are tears...just like the lives we all experience. I know the audience will enjoy the story, as I did, the first time I heard it read. The story touches all the emotions."

There are many wonderful things people can associate with Marsha Folsom.

She is a loving and caring soul who never meets a stranger. Marsha and James will perform 'Yours Eternally: Letters of a Lifetime' on Saturday, March 14 at 7 p.m. at Wallace State's Burrow Center.

Tickets are $10 at the door and will benefit the Wallace State Future Foundation.

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VINEMONT EAGLES BASEBALL TEAM TO HOLD 1ST ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND SILENT AUCTION

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

VINEMONT – The Vinemont Eagles Baseball team will host their 1st Annual Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction Saturday, March 14 in the school lunchroom. Plates are $7 and carry outs are available as well. The breakfast will be from 8-11 a.m., with the auction ending at 12 p.m.

"We have been very fortunate to have such generous people in our community," said Renee Hoffman, mother of one of the players.

"I want to say thank you to all the businesses who have donated items, purchased signs, or purchased T-shirt ads from the baseball program this season. For the auction we have something for everyone - shampoo gift sets, locally written books, jewelry, tools and so much more. We want to invite everyone to come out and join us Saturday," she smiled.

The Vinemont Eagles have a new baseball coach this year, Jason Veres. He is a 2003 graduate of Vinemont and was also a hind catcher under Coach Cupp.

Coach Veres is working hard to make the program the best it can be.

"I hope to raise enough money to get netting for our field," said Veres with a grin. "We lose a lot of baseballs each season by being hit into the woods. If we can get netting up this would make it safer for our fans, as well as save the program lots of money."

"In addition to the breakfast and silent auction, we will also be raffling off a Gift Card Tree," said Tumika Noblett, another team mom.

"It is a real tree with lots of gift cards attached to it. All the cards were donated from various local businesses all over town. It will be a sight to see and a delight to win."

Make plans to come out to Vinemont High School on March 14 between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. to enjoy a delicious breakfast and bid on a variety of local items.

The cost is $7 per plate and all proceeds go to the Vinemont High School baseball team.

For more information, e-mail Renee Hoffman at vinemonteaglesbaseball@yahoo.com.



RENEE HOFFMAN

Coach Veres hopes to raise enough money to purchase netting for the team's baseball field.

AMERICAN BULLDOG CHARITY SHOW HONORS YOUNG BOY

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

VINEMONT – The North Alabama American Bulldog Club hosted their 4th annual NKS sanctioned American Bulldog Charity Show in honor of Colton Evans, a young boy who died of cancer who very much loved dogs. The event was held on Saturday and Sunday, March 7 & 8 at the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center in Vinemont. The proceeds went to Relay for Life of Cullman County and St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Colton was diagnosed with cancer at 9 years of age. He loved dogs of all kinds - as much as he loved people.

"The North Alabama American Bulldog Club started planning our first American Bulldogs Care show in the fall of 2011 in honor of Colton," explained Elena Caudle, one of the event's organizers.

"Colton was extremely excited about being a part of it all and we kept him informed of all the plans as they happened. We talked about all parts of the show including the criteria the dogs had to meet in order to get their points, ribbons and awards."



IMAGES BY SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

A variety of tough looking American Bulldogs competed at the Vinemont Agricultural Center over the weekend.

"That was all great, but true to his sweet, kind and compassionate heart, Colton started worrying about the dogs that were 'different' and didn't 'fit' the conformation standards. One day he said to me, 'But just because a dog isn't the prettiest or doesn't walk exactly right doesn't mean it's not the best dog ever to someone who loves it.' I dare anyone to argue with that wise logic," she smiled.



Many bulldogs received ribbons for their participation.

The dogs all did very well. Some won blue ribbons and others just had fun strutting their stuff for the crowd. But by far, the best part of the whole event was the Colton's Choice Award.

"Sadly, though he fought a hard and courageous fight, Colton died in January 2012 just before our first show in March," Caudle explained.

"Our hearts were broken, but we absolutely didn't want to do away with the award. The plan was to have Colton meet and greet all the dogs at the show and based on his criteria alone, choose the dog that he liked best for whatever reason he liked it! Thankfully, Colton's little brother Garrett is also a diehard dog lover and he stepped up to choose the recipient of the award for us instead and has done so ever since. This year is no exception," she giggled excitedly.

Hardee's/Red Burrito provided the food and helped raise money for the Relay For Life's C-Team in honor of Colton Evans.

The next American Bulldog Conformation Show will be in one year. Don't miss out on one of Vinemont's growing events – all for fun and a great cause.

Circus (from Front)

efforts in recent years, hoping to expose Cullman to more culture and entertaining events. The tickets for the New Shanghai Circus will be available at the door the night of the event and are priced at $30 for adults and $10 for students.

Night (from Front)

Activities include a Nerf gun war, capture the flag, fathers v. sons' games, and more. The Mother/Daughter PJ Party will be held at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center with activities including makeovers, movies, dancing, and additional fun. Dinner and snacks will be provided at both events; registration is open to boys and girls ages 5-12 and their parents. A parent/child pair is $30 to register, and registration is open through April 14 at the Cullman Civic Center.

For more information on these programs, call 256-734-9157 or e-mail wharbison@cullmanrecreation.org.



County Wide
Yard Sale
March 21, 2015
7:00am-3:00pm
Sportsman Lake Park
Contact 256-734-3052

Monday

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

Domestic Violence Survivor Support Group
Victim Services of Cullman sponsors a Domestic Violence Survivor Support Group meeting every Monday evening from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the old County Board of Education Building with childcare available. For additional information please call 256-775-2600. CRISIS HOTLINE - 256-734-6100.

Overeaters Anonymous Gather at Grace Episcopal
Members of Overeaters Anonymous meet every Monday, at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in the Carriage House located on Church premises. Further information is available at 256-747-6218 or 256-352-1143. Everyone is invited to attend these gatherings.

Cornerstone Revival Ladies Prayer Meeting
A Ladies Prayer meeting is conducted each Monday night at 7 p.m. at Cornerstone Revival Center. For additional information call 256-796-2899. All interested women are invited to attend.

Tuesday

Speed Networking
The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce will offer their first quarter Business After Hours event from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Byre at St. Bernard. $15 Chamber members. $15 future members. Call 256-734-0454 for more information.

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 at 256-595-0515 or Rita at 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

The Link of Cullman County "Flourish Event"
Join The Link in their celebration from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Loft 212 for all that God has done this past year through the ministry of The Link of Cullman County. This year's annual event will include a review of 2014, casting vision for 2015, recognizing The Link's 2014 Dream Big award winners, and raising funds to see our dreams become realities.

Agriplex Harvest to Home Fundraiser & Silent Auction
Attend this fundraiser event for a fun night of food, fellowship and fundraising. Proceeds go to promoting agricultural heritage. The event is from 6-8 p.m. at the Agriplex, with the silent auction at 6:30 p.m. and the dinner at 8 p.m. Call 256-297-1044 for more information.

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.

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

2nd Fridays
The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with Rock the South, and presenting sponsor Coca-Cola, brings to the community, 2nd Fridays, where a Battle of the Bands will happen in Downtown Cullman. Come out and enjoy live music, extended store hours, and delicious deals at local restaurants. Eat local, shop late. For more information, go to CullmanChamber.com/Fridays.

'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.

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

Bosom Buddies Support Group
The Bosom Buddies Support Group offers support to individuals affected by breast cancer. The group will hold its next meeting on Monday, March 16th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Cullman Regional Medical Center's Ave Maria Room in the Community Education Center located in Professional Office Building 2 (1890 AL Highway 157, Cullman, AL 35058).

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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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.

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

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

TUESDAY
- Cullman Chamber's BAH Speed Networking at The Byre at St. Bernard from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 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.
- The Link of Cullman County "Flourish Event" at Loft 212 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Agriplex Harvest to Home Fundraiser & Silent Auction from 6-8 p.m. at the Agriplex

FRIDAY
- 2nd Fridays in Downtown Cullman
- 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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EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH INVITES ALL TO CELEBRATE EASTER

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – East Side Baptist Church was hit hard by the tornadoes that came through Cullman on April 27, 2011. Thankfully, with God's help and the dedication of many faithful church and community members, East Side Baptist has been rebuilt and is stronger than ever before.

Located on the corner of Highway 278 East and Convent Road, the church has a variety of events coming up soon. All are invited to attend, especially those looking for a place to worship.

"We will be having a weekend of prayer and praise on March 14 and 15," Sam Hollis, Pastor of Outreach explained. "On the 14th, members of our congregation will be coming throughout the day and volunteering for an hour to pray at the church. Then on Sunday, March 15 we will have a day of praise. We'll have a worship celebration at 10:30 a.m. and express our gratitude and give praise to the Lord for how He has sustained us and strengthened us as we have come out of the tornado destruction of our building."

"We are spotlighting our Celebrate Easter at East Side," said Hollis.

"On the Friday night before Easter we are showing the nationally acclaimed movie, 'God's Not Dead'. I'm not sure if you realize, but Billy Coleman, former Superintendent of Education of Cullman County, had a similar 'God's Not Dead' experience when he was a student at Auburn University. He will be sharing his personal testimony that same Friday night after the movie is shown."

There will also be a Mother's Day celebration and banquet for the ladies and a guest at East Side on Saturday Night, May 9, 2015.

The event will be catered by Stone Bridge Farms and served by the East Side men. The cost is $10 per person, and reservations must be made by calling 256- 734-6144 no later than May 6. On Sunday morning following the banquet, there will be free family pictures taken at the church.



EASTSIDECULLMAN.COM

East Side Baptist Church's Pastor of Outreach, Mr. Sam Hollis.

"I was radically saved and called to preach at the age of seventeen years old, a junior in high school, and started pastoring Southern Baptist churches when I was twenty years old."

Sam Hollis, East Side Baptist Church's Pastor of Outreach

On June 6 and 7, the church will be having a weekend Bible School from 5-8 p.m. each night for children ages 4 through sixth grade.

There will be Bible study, music, and crafts. During that time, there will be things to do for the parents of the children in Bible School. Saturday night is date night with a nursery provided and Sunday there will be a parenting seminar.

"I was radically saved and called to preach at the age of 17 years old, a junior in high school, and started pastoring Southern Baptist churches when I was 20 years old," Hollis said.

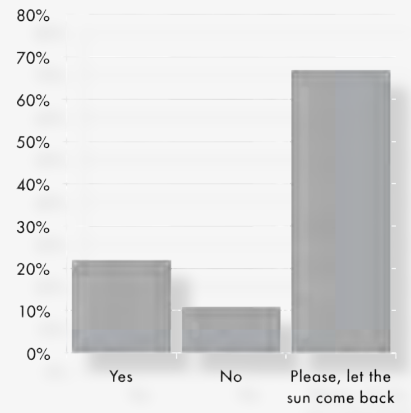
"I served as Pastor of East Side from 1979 to 1993 and from 1993 to 2006, I was the pastor at First Baptist Church at Hayden in Blount County. I returned to East Side in 2006 as the Pastor of Outreach."

Mr. Hollis is a graduate of Samford University and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He and his wife, Mary, are parents to a grown son, Paul, and they have one grandchild, Elianna.

East Side Baptist Church is located at 1111 3rd St SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. Contact them at 256-734-6144 or visit EastSideCullman.com.

Poll

Are you prepared for another round of winter weather?



This Week's Poll

Do you think the U.S. Supreme Court should repeal the Affordable Care Act?

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SPRING CLEANING IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Despite all the snow and ice lately, spring is just around the corner. Flowers will begin to bloom and the grass will suddenly become a lot greener. During the spring, most people find themselves outside, enjoying the sunshine and nice weather. Others will take the opportunity to do things indoors, such as the annual tradition of spring cleaning.

Most of us can remember our mothers and grandmothers, hair up in rollers, yanking the curtains down and washing them up, scrubbing the baseboards, and polishing up the old silverware used for special occasions. Each person in the home had specific chores that had to be done during this time, things that went unnoticed the whole year until then.

Cleaning out old toys and donating them to charity was always a little bittersweet. Moving your bed and cleaning out the junk piled underneath was a nightmare and what the heck was growing on the pizza that had been hidden there for months?

As adults, do you still do as your grandma and mother did and rid the house of any and all debris imaginable? Do you have your own spring cleaning routine or just try to maintain a clean environment all year round?

The origin of the annual tradition has several explanations.

In colder regions during the wintertime, before central heating and gas fires, houses were sealed up tightly against the freezing temperatures outside.

Log or coal burning fires were on continuously in order to warm up the building.

Once the first warm day of spring came, people would open the house and clean out the accumulated dust and soot that had formed over the winter months.

Once the soot was gone, the rugs and bed sheets were taken up and hung outside and beaten. Since the rugs were up and out of the way, the floors were swept, the dust and muck went right through the open doors.

Another possible origin for the tradition of spring cleaning can be traced back to the Chinese.

They have a tradition of spring cleaning their houses to ready themselves for their New Year, which comes just after our New Year.

The idea is to rid the house of any misfortune or bad luck that has accumulated during the previous year. When the house is considered clean, the families would not clean the homes for a few days in order to welcome in the good fortune that came with the beginning of the coming New Year.

Springtime can be the best time to get things accomplished. Whether you deep clean your house every spring or use the time to play out in the yard with your children, the choice is yours. No matter how you choose to spend your time this spring, make it count.

What do you do in the spring? If you have some specific cleaning tips or techniques, we want to hear about them. Send an e-mail to sharon@cullmansense.com and tell me about them. We may feature it in an upcoming edition of CullmanSense.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.

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

cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **CP&R Lacrosse:** A FREE Lacrosse clinic will be held at Heritage Park on Saturday, March 21, at 10am. All equipment will be available for use for free, and the clinic will take any interested individuals through the basics of playing the game. The clinic will also feature games to be played. Call 256-739-9931 to register for FREE!
- **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 in March.** 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 start March 31 at the NEW Community Garden at Nesmith Park. Classes will be held on Tuesday nights from 6pm-7:15pm and are limited to the first 15 who register. A work session will also be offered on Saturdays from 9am-12pm for the duration of the 8 week class. Cost is $75 which includes all supplies, a plot in the Community Garden for the entire year, and all seeds for start up. Registration is now open at the Civic Center.
- **Men's Spring League Softball Registration** is now open through March 15 at Heritage Park. Cost is $425 per team with a 12 game season and a single elimination tournament . Games will be played at Heritage Park; call 256-739-9931.
- **Miracle League Baseball Registration** is open now through March 15 at the Cullman Civic Center. Cost is $50 which includes a jersey and trophy at the end of the season. Call 256-739-9931 for more information .
- **Father/Son Night Out** will take place on Friday, April 17 from 7-10:30pm at Heritage Park. This event will feature great bonding time for sons ages 5-12 and their fathers with games including team events, capture the flag and more. Registration is $30 for a father/son pair at the Civic Center.
- **Mother/Daughter PJ Party** will also take place April 17 from 7-10:30pm at the Wellness & Aquatic Center. Register at the Civic Center for games, makeovers, and great bonding time!

What's Online

WEISS COTTAGE: CULLMAN'S OLDEST HOME

In the heart of downtown Cullman, located at 401 1st Ave. SW, there sits a little white house. The house, although delicate and beautiful, is actually the town's oldest cottage. Simply lovely, the cottage is available for show by appointment through the Cullman County Museum. The small wood framed cottage is typical of...

qrne.ws/327



MORE THAN COOKIES: GIRL SCOUTS SERVE POSITIVE IMPACT TO COMMUNITY

February and March have always been the season for selling cookies, according to Girl Scout Leadership Experience Manager Debbie Hicks. However, Hicks, who has been with the Girl Scouts her entire life - as a scout, and now as an employee...

qrne.ws/328

A LITTLE BLACK DRESS & LOTS OF FUN: WALLACE STATE FUNDRAISER AIMS TO EMPOWER WOMEN

Once a year the ladies of Cullman County come together for a night of fun and great food. The Little Black Dress Event came around once again this past Saturday to benefit the Wallace State women's scholarship funds.

qrne.ws/329

FORMER ALABAMA FIRST LADY MARSHA FOLSOM TO STAR IN BEN SOUTH'S NEW PLAY

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – On Saturday, March 14 at 7 p.m., Ben Johnson South's new play, "Yours Eternally: Letters of a Lifetime" will premiere. The play will star former Alabama First Lady Marsha Folsom and her son James Folsom III. The play will be at the Wallace State Burrow Center. Tickets are $10 at the door and will benefit the Wallace State Future Foundation.

"The scenario is a playful and meaningful exchange between a nurturing mother and child over a lifetime," said South. "I attempted to have the humanity of the characters on stage connect with the humanity of the audience. 'Yours Eternally' deals with the elements of life most of us experience: love/loss/struggle/nurturing/family divorce/death/triumph/joy."

"Marsha Folsom, who is a childhood friend of mine, and her son, James III, are going to be perfect in the premiere of this play," South continued. "They are thoughtful, dynamic, delightful individuals and together they are, as Marsha's mother-in-law, Miz Jamelle, would say, 'My sunshine.' I hope they will want to perform this play in Birmingham, Montgomery and maybe in New Orleans where James is in law school at Loyola."



CONTRIBUTED

Ben Johnson South's new play, "Yours Eternally: Letters of a Lifetime" will premiere at WSCC on Saturday.

> **"The scenario is a playful and meaningful exchange between a nurturing mother and child over a lifetime."**
>
> Ben Johnson South, Playwright

COMICS

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RESIDENTIAL RECIPES
SOUTHERN CHESS SQUARES

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

This recipe is absolutely delicious and always makes me think of springtime. I usually have these every year around Easter time. They are a perfect dessert after a hard day of hunting eggs with your family, and are ridiculously simple to make.

Ingredients:

- 1 box - yellow cake mix
- 1 cup - melted butter
- 1 egg
- 1 cup - chopped pecans
- 2 8 ounce packages - cream cheese
- 4 cups - confectioners sugar
- 2 eggs

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Grease and flour a 9x13 inch pan.
- Mix together the cake mix, melted butter and the egg.
- Stir in the chopped pecans. Press mixture into the bottom of the prepared pan. Set aside.
- In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese with the confectioners' sugar. Beat in the eggs one at a time until blended.
- Pour cream cheese mixture over crust.
- Bake in the preheated oven for 45 minutes.
- Cool in the pan, then cut into squares before serving.

WE WANT TO PUBLISH YOUR RECIPE! • SEND SUBMISSIONS TO RECIPES@CULLMANSENSE.COM

PETS OF THE WEEK

LUNA



Hello my name is Luna and I am about 4 years old. I am a Chesapeake Bay Retriever and I currently weigh 63 lbs. I am full of life, love to play and ready to meet my forever family! Please come by and visit with me. You may find out I'm an extremely lovable companion!

GLACIER



Hello my name is Glacier and I am about 2+ years old. I am a Labrador Retriever and I currently weigh 71 lbs. I am a stray but if no one claims me, I will go up for adoption on 02/21/15 at 2 p.m. I am full of life and I love to play, so please come and visit with me! You may find out I'm a lovable companion!

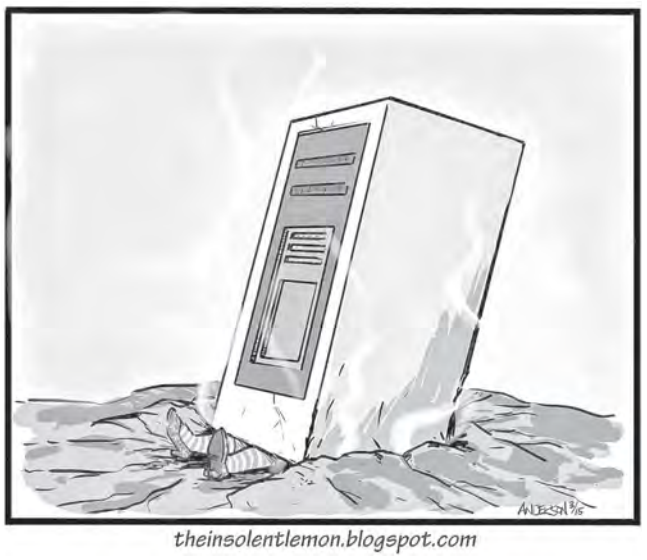
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If you know the owner of either dog or if you are interested in adopting one of the dogs, please call 256-734-5448 or come by the Animal Shelter.

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OPINION

H.B. 56 MAY BE MORE THAN YOU BARGAINED FOR

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

On March 5, a bill passed through the House's Judiciary Committee and will make its way through our legislature, and if made into law, will become one of the more shameful bills Alabama has produced. While you may be aware that this bill could allow probate judges to deny same-sex couples marriage licenses for religious reasons, it goes a lot further than that.

This abhorrent piece of legislation, in a last ditch effort to thwart the inevitable, would not only affect same sex couples, but interracial, interfaith and almost any marriage that doesn't suit the person issuing the license. The bill doesn't stop there, however, it also would give religious affiliated hospitals the right to not recognize marriages with whom they disagree, which would result in giving a religious hospital the right to refuse to allow a legally-married spouse to make medical decisions for their incapacitated partner; or allow a religiously-affiliated university to refuse to provide appropriate tax documents to an employee who has divorced or remarried.

Of course, many would say that a religious affiliated organization should have that right, which prompts one to wonder if they should not re-evaluate why they do what they do. If a religiously affiliated hospital is there to help people, then they should do so regardless, if they agree with the couple or not. After all, did Jesus himself not help those who He deemed sinners? In what world is it acceptable to treat other human beings in such a way?

Why is it that throughout this state's history, we cling to ideas that oppress and demean those that differ in beliefs. Time and time again, Alabama officials have shown a deep rooted fear to accept those who do not fit into their box, and every time history has shown that manner of thinking to be on the wrong side. Why? Because it is wrong.

It is wrong to expect the people of your state, good and hard working taxpayers, to bow down to the rules of another's religion. Most would not like their laws shaped by Buddhism, Hinduism or Islam, and so it is for those who do not want their laws shaped by any one religion. The same-sex, interracial and interfaith couples that this bill would affect have no agenda. They do not have a master plan, they simply want what anyone does, the right to live happily and quietly with their spouse in the state where they grew up. It is my hope that the leaders in our legislature will put aside personal feelings and look at the slippery slope of hate we are on, and choose the path of love and compassion.

SERVANT LEADERS VS. EMPTY SUITS

Winslow Myers
PeaceVoice

In a normal world, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's speech to a joint session of the U.S. Congress would have been roundly mocked by the audience for its hypocritical fear mongering. In a normal world, 70 years beyond Hiroshima, major powers would have long since acceded to the wishes of their constituents and established far more extensive arms reduction treaties. In a normal world, there would be a single, not a double, standard challenging the undiluted evil of nuclear weapons, no matter who possesses them.

That single standard would underpin not only a regional but also a planet-wide effort at nuclear disarmament. And in a normal world, a foreign leader would not have been handed the most prestigious possible venue to undermine delicate, complex negotiations merely to allow him to score political points in two countries simultaneously.

To focus upon the existential danger of a nuclear Iran is to miss the point Albert Einstein, one of the most prophetic Jewish thinkers, made back in 1946: "The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking, and we thus drift toward unparalleled catastrophe." By making Iran into Israel's nemesis, Netanyahu particularizes and localizes what should be universal and planetary: for Israel to be secure, all nations must be secure. Every nuclear point of tension on the planet today is equally an existential threat to all of us: Ukraine-Russia, India-Pakistan—and Israel-Iran.

Netanyahu did not call for general nuclear disarmament because he is stuck in an old mode of thinking based in his limited identification with his own nation, a nuclear-armed nation tied in ethical knots by the need to choose between democracy and privileging a particular ethnicity. In this old mode, self-interest is defined in terms of what's good for my own country, in particular for the Jewish citizens of my country, rather than the planet as a whole. The scenario of a nuclear-free zone in the region is dismissed because it doesn't fit with the Israeli—and American—right wing's hyper-macho view of response to perceived threats. The drift toward nuclear catastrophe continues, even accelerates, in an atmosphere of mutual paranoia and denial.

In this obsolete mode of thinking, "we" are exceptional and "they" are the axis of evil. "We" project our own unacknowledged aggressiveness onto adversaries and dehumanize them, justifying endless mistrust, closed hearts, and killing that resolves nothing. "We" become more and more like the very thing we fear and hate, descending into torture, unjust land appropriation, secret arms sales, assassination, imperial expansion of spheres of influence—dysfunctional tactics common not only to both Israel and Iran, but also to the U.S.

Fear of non-state actors having the same power as the nine nuclear states to incinerate millions in seconds rationalizes extreme behavior against perceived extremists. Would the United States have descended into torture so quickly and completely without the specter of an extremist Muslim with a suitcase nuke?

A new mode of thinking would acknowledge that the nuclear genie cannot be put back in the bottle, that the impossibility of victory in a nuclear war is a challenge shared by all nations, and that it is imprudent to let the tail of fear wag the dog of arms sales, both conventional and nuclear.

In the new mode of thinking, the emphasis is taken off bilateral conflict and becomes a cooperative international effort to inventory, control, and lock down loose nuclear materials everywhere.

This would cost infinitely less than the trillion dollars the U.S. is planning to spend over the next decade to refurbish its nuclear arsenal.

Netanyahu is inarguably right to assert that Israel lives in one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the world, but there is much that he and his fragile coalition could do to begin to make it a safer neighborhood for themselves—beginning with restraining illegal settlement colonization of Palestinian land.

An alternative vision of global security is taking shape, based in initiatives that slowly build trust on the basis of overlapping environmental crises and other challenges that simply cannot be addressed by militarism. To grow this embryonic vision toward robust maturity, we need fewer empty suits, pawns in the dangerous game of arms sales and endless war, and more servant-leaders, figures like Dag Hammarskjold, Oscar Arias, Vaclav Havel, and Aung San Suu Kyi, people who exemplify the new mode of thinking for which Einstein implied the need if our species is to survive beyond the nuclear age. As Netanyahu's hero Churchill once said, "To jaw-jaw is better than to war-war."

Winslow Myers, syndicated by for Peacevoice, is author of "Living Beyond War: A Citizen's Guide." He serves on the Advisory Board of the War Preventive Initiative.

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