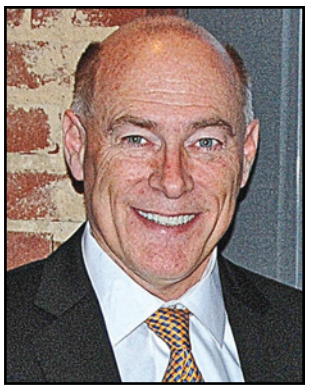
SERIES 5 • ISSUE 13 • MARCH 30, 2015
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS


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HEALING THROUGH AWARENESS

CULLMAN CARING FOR KIDS HOPES TO RAISE AWARENESS OF CHILD ABUSE IN APRIL

"From January 2014 to January of 2015, Cullman County DHR had 852 cases of abuse and neglect."

Nancy Bryant, CCK Assistant Director

Chelsea Sparks
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CULLMAN – April is a big month as far as awareness for various causes, but one that should not be overlooked is child abuse. This is often a painful subject to delve into in order to really become aware, but it's more than necessary to stop these horrific acts from occurring. One organization works day and night to make a difference in Cullman in regards to child abuse called Cullman Caring for Kids (CCK).

CCK is a non-profit organization that diligently works to spread awareness and offer re-

P9



CULLMAN CARING FOR KIDS

Director Javon Daniel and Nancy Bryant work hard to fundraise and educate our community about child abuse.

REBUILD THE FARM, REBUILD LIVES

THE FOUNDRY LAUNCHES NEW CAMPAIGN TO FUND EXPANSION OF REHAB FACILITY P4


FOUNDRY RECOVERY CENTER

An aerial view of the farm shows the massive amount of room that the organization has to expand their outreach.

GIVING H.O.P.E TO PARENTS

A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE OF HORSE THERAPIES

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CULLMAN – I have written several articles over the past year about H.O.P.E Therapy and the services they provide, but have not had the chance to speak on my firsthand experience. As the parent of an autistic child, I understand the value of great therapy, and the impact it can have on any child with special needs. I knew the therapy offered by H.O.P.E. would be good for my son, but the implications were much larger than I had even anticipated.

My son's first session was, to say the least, incredible. The moment he saw the horses he was excited and eager to participate. He has always had an affinity for animals and because of that, this therapy was a perfect match for him. For kids who may not be so keen to horses, there are still plenty of exercises to do without the horse, that will give your little one time to acclimate.

I was pleased

P3


RHONDA RILEY

My son Anson, receiving his first horseriding lesson at H.O.P.E, is all smiles as he gets acquainted with his horse.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT TO BE HELD AT SPORTSMAN LAKE PARK

Will Hogue
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CULLMAN – The Saturday before Easter, April 4, Sportsman Lake Park will be hosting an Easter egg hunt. In the past, local radio station WKUL has hosted the event, but due to complications, the station was forced to drop out of sponsoring the event, leaving the park scrambling to find sponsors.

"It is important for kids to have a place to come," Park Manager Delitha Marchman said. "Not all the kids have a

P2

SERRA VISSER NISSAN SPONSORS EASTER SCAVENGER HUNT

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CULLMAN – Starting around 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 4, people participating in Serra Visser Nissan's Easter Extravaganza will receive Facebook messages giving them their first hint on where their first destination is. This will start the competitors off on a trip around the city

P7

RED CROSS ASKS FOR PILLOWS AND BLANKETS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – The American Red Cross hosted a "pillow fight" on Saturday, outside of Walmart, in an effort to gather supplies for their new disaster shelter facility on Beech Avenue

P3

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OFFICERS HONORED AT CULLMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CAPT. JEFF SANFORD AND SGT. JEFF WARNKE SHOW DEDICATION THROUGH THE YEARS

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CULLMAN – During the March 23 city council meeting, Captain Jeff Sanford and Sergeant Jeff Warnke were honored for their service to the city of Cullman's Police Department. Their dedication and commitment to the protection of the people in Cullman were recognized and commended.

The two officers have reached milestones in their service to the Cullman Police Department. Capt. Sanford has served for 30 years and Sgt. Warnke for 20 years. These two officers are fine examples of the longevity and quality of staff that work for the city police department.

During the council meeting, Police Chief Kenny Culpepper and Assistant Chief Craig Green thanked them for their many years of dedicated service and commitment.

"A law enforcement agency is only as good as the men and women who serve in it," said Kenny Culpepper.

"These two officers are fine examples of the quality we have on staff."

Mayor Townson and the city council reaffirmed the sentiments expressed by Chief Culpepper and Asst. Chief Green. They also expressed appreciation to Capt. Sanford and Sgt. Warnke for their service to the City of Cullman.

"Capt. Sanford and Sgt. Warnke are valuable assets to our law enforcement system," said Mayor Townson.

"It was a privilege to honor them for their service at the city council meeting, and the council and I encourage our citizens to express their appreciation to them – and to all of our law enforcement officers who work every day to protect and serve us all."

The two dedicated men were celebrated and their accomplishments revered by all.

"I have watched these two fine men," said James C. Fields Jr.

"They have always been very professional on and off their job. God bless both of them and continue to protect them and their families."

More supportive and endearing statements were heard all around the room.

"Two dedicated and caring police officers," said DeAnn McDonald, "wonderful men all around. Congrats to you both!"

The city of Cullman is lucky to have Capt. Sanford and Sgt. Warnke serving and protecting us. If you happen to see them out and about, make sure to congratulate them on their years of service and for keeping our town safe.



FACEBOOK.COM/CULLMANPD
Capt. Jeff Sanford



FACEBOOK.COM/CULLMANPD
Sgt. Jeff Warnke

MAYOR PROCLAIMS APRIL 2015 "MS AWARENESS MONTH"

Leanne H. West
Office of Mayor Townson

CULLMAN – On Friday, March 20, 2015, Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson proclaimed the month of April 2015 "MS Awareness Month." The proclamation was announced at the office of Dr. Christoper Laganke, who strongly supports muscular sclerosis research.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic and often disabling disease of the central nervous system that affects thousands of people in Alabama and hundreds of thousands of people nationwide. The symptoms vary greatly but generally include abnormal fatigue, numbness in arms and legs, blindness, and even paralysis. MS affects not only the person with the disease, but also family and friends.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Alabama-Mississippi Chapter, supports the mission to end the effects of MS.

They also strive to educate the public on the disease, support programs that improve the quality of life for people with MS, and support MS research related programs. Thousands of volunteers, corporations, and health professionals are working diligently to end MS, and research continues to bring us closer to a cure while also developing treatment options that enhance the quality of life for those who currently have the disease.

Mayor Townson, as he proclaimed the month of April "MS Awareness Month" in Cullman, urged all citizens to learn more about MS and to support all national and local MS Society programs and events. One such event is the Cullman Walk for MS, which is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on March 28, 2015, at Cullman's Heritage Park.

Those who wish to learn more about National MS Awareness Week, or MS, can visit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's web site at www.nationalmssociety.com.

COUNTY WIDE INDOOR YARD SALE COMING SOON

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VINEMONT – On Saturday, April 4, 2015, the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center will host the Cullman County Wide Indoor Yard Sale. There will be a little bit of everything available for purchase and all are encouraged to stop by and shop. Attendees are sure to find a variety of bargains.

"This is the first time we've done this," said Cullman County Parks & Recreation Director Doug Davenport.

"It's $10 a spot and will be inside, so it will go on, rain or shine. We've got the porch outside for overflow and we've got the whole parking lot as well. I will try to have a bluegrass band there that day to play while everyone shops. We'll have the concession stand open if someone's passing through and wants to get a drink or a snack."

Spots are still available for $10. For more information or to reserve a spot, call 256-739-4959.

Set up begins at 6 a.m. and the sale starts at 7 a.m.

The Agricultural Center is located at 17645 US Hwy. 31, Cullman, AL 35058. Call them at 256-739-4945. Follow them on Facebook at Facebook.com/CullmanAgCenter and follow the Cullman County Parks & Recreation on Facebook at Facebook.com/CullmanCountyParks to know what other fun things are going on in the county.

SUSPECT LEADS CNET ON SHORT PURSUIT ENDING WITH APPREHENSION

Noah Chandler
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WHITE CITY – Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry confirmed a car chase involving CNET, Cullman County Sheriff's Office, Hanceville PD and Cullman City PD has successfully ended in White City after beginning on Hwy 31 near Johnsons Crossing Thursday afternoon.

"CNET officers had been observing the suspect. They spotted him driving a truck and attempted to pull him over and that is when the chase began," Sheriff Gentry said. "The suspect led the officers on a short 15 minute pursuit before we were able to box him in."

Gentry said the suspect, David Jerry Reynolds, 34, of Hanceville, crashed a blue Chevy S-10 pickup.

"Once he crashed, officers involved from all departments were able to box him in and detain him," he said. "There were no injuries to the Mr. Reynolds or to any of the officers' involved."

Gentry said the quick response from CNET and all the other local law enforcement agencies made for a safe apprehension. "I just want to thank all the police departments, Cullman, Hanceville and Sheriff's Office for working with CNET to apprehended Mr. Reynolds," he said.

David Jerry Reynolds is currently being held at the Cullman County Detention Center for a Federal Probation Violation. He has no bond.

Hunt (from Front)

place to go where they can be with other kids; like church or something. This is good so they can come and socialize and be in the park."

Marchman said that the park hopes to put out 10,000 eggs. According to Marchman, as many as 800 people have been known to attend the event in the past. The event will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning and will go until about 11 a.m.

"Once we get the eggs ready and let the kids go at them, it usually doesn't take too long for them to all get found," Marchman said.

The park will be fully open, with the concession stand open for business, and all the rides will be running. Along with classic candy-filled eggs, there will be prize eggs, which will feature tickets for free ice cream and other treats. The free to attend event will be held near the stage at Sportsman Lake Park.

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JAMES SPANN DISCUSSES TORNADO AWARENESS AT CHAMBER'S 4TH FRIDAY COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – James Spann was the guest speaker at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's March Community Luncheon, which was held at the All Steak restaurant on March 27. This month's event was presented by Shirley Quattlebaum State Farm Insurance and was sponsored by Vintage West.

James Spann of ABC 33/40 is a well-known meteorologist in Alabama who hails from Tuscaloosa, where he began his career in 1973. His alma mater is Mississippi State University, and his first employer was WTBC-AM radio. He became one of the youngest chief weathermen in the United States at the age of 23 and has set the precedence for meteorologists. He is the founder of The Weather Factory and his company provides weather forecasts for various radio stations. He spoke to a crowd of over 100 people about weather preparedness and what it means to really be prepared.

"A large majority of the population of the state honestly believe in their heart of hearts they will hear this magical air raid siren before every tornado, and that's insane," Spann said emphatically. "This is World War II technology. The sirens were never ever designed to reach anybody inside a building. Oh, you might hear them every once in a while, but they reach a limited number of people outside. Yet it never fails, over and over people say, 'I never heard the siren – We need more sirens.' It is the siren mentality and it is killing people."

> **"A large majority of the population of the state honestly believe in their heart of hearts they will hear this magical air raid siren before every tornado, and that's insane."**
> James Spann, Chief Meteorologist for ABC 33/40

"We'd like people to have more than one way to receive warnings," he continued. "There is no fail safe method. Everybody here should have a weather radio. This is the baseline. They are inexpensive and it's the best we've got as a baseline. We all should work to get one of these in the hands of everyone, but that's the baseline. The other way is a smart phone app. Everyone should have a good warning app on their phone. The weather apps that come with your phone are not good for warnings. We have two apps that we like, one is called MyWARN and the other one is a weather radio by WDT. They are both $9 apps and work amazingly well."

Spann believes every human life is precious. His goal is to have zero deaths from tornados and works hard to spread the word about weather preparedness.

The ability to know of warnings in advance is vital and he will continue to talk to communities about this. Because human life is a special gift, Spann also spends a lot of time working with children. He believes the time you spend with a child is priceless and the memories made are what really matters. He encouraged the audience to befriend a child who may not have much or a family that is down on their luck.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

ABC 33/40 Meteorologist James Spann talks to the crowd at the Chamber of Commerce's March Community Luncheon.

In order to save lives, we must take weather preparedness seriously. For more information about James Spann and tornado safety, go to ABC3340.com/story/12780923/james-spann.

Red Cross (from Front)

in Cullman.

"We have a new disaster shelter here in Cullman over on Beech Ave., which is the same road the county jail is on," said Ken Brown, local Red Cross Board Member. "It is capable of sheltering up to 250 people if there is an emergency. Tornado season is right around the corner. So we're accepting donations for pillows and blankets to help us stock up the shelter."

The pillows cost $2.58 each at Walmart, but anyone can donate as much as they like to assist the Red Cross.

New unwrapped pillows and pillowcases are also appreciated. No used items can be accepted. Keep in mind, the shelter can be used to house residents after any type of disaster.

"We're always accepting donations and we count on the generosity of the American people to keep the Red Cross going," Brown added.

"It's Americans helping Americans. We have no paid staff here anymore; it's all volunteers. If anyone has any questions about it, they can give me a call. My number is 256-507-1121."

Those that missed the chance to donate to the Red Cross when they were at Walmart, can still do so by writing a check to the American Red Cross and mailing it to the Red Cross at 1803 Beech Avenue Southeast, Cullman, AL 35055. For more information, you can call the Red Cross at 256-734-0921.

H.O.P.E. (from Front)

to find how gentle and patient all of the horses are with the kids.

Even with my son enthusiastically jumping and yelling around the horse, he never flinched or showed any sign of annoyance. The volunteers were also something special as each one of them treated my son with something that can be difficult to find – normalcy.

While the instructor and other volunteers know the challenges the kids' face, they never once give the child they are working with any indication that they aren't capable of moving mountains.

With a lot of understanding, they walked the small tightrope between understanding my child's limitations and not making him feel different.

This was a spectacular thing to see as my own son gained a new level of confidence. Sitting straight, hands firmly gripping the reins, he rode with a glee I have rarely seen in him.

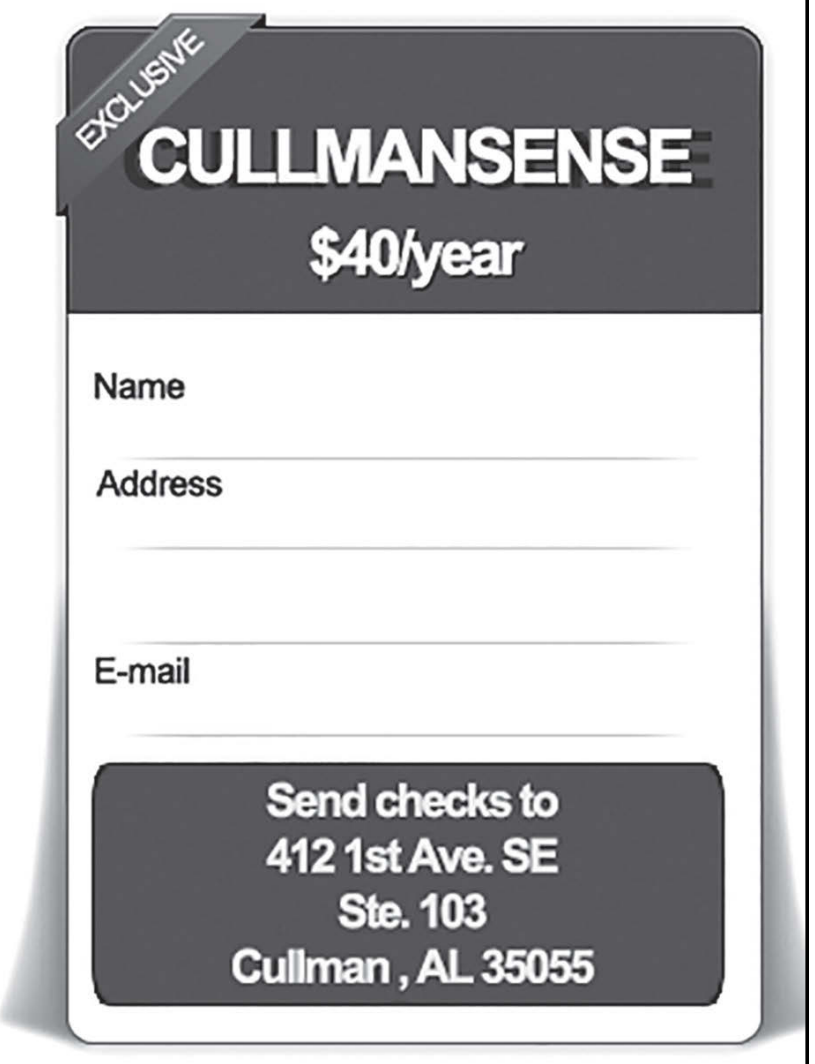
Perhaps the best part of the program from a parent's perspective is the amount of therapies your child receives. Speech therapy is one, as the instructor asked my son to say the commands to get the horse to start and stop.

Physical and occupational therapy are also combined into the hour session, as riders are asked to throw, stretch, bend and more to strengthen and tone muscles.

Lastly, my son is also able to reinforce some school lessons as some "games" in the program required him to identify shapes and colors. Sensory integration, which is huge for him, is also a part of the lesson plans with sensory trails set up throughout the facilities.

There is almost too much to list, but the staff at H.O.P.E and the facilities offer a unique and enjoyable experience. I have been so impressed with their work that I talk about them all the time. I know some will begin to think I am getting paid to do so. The truth is that I am simply a special needs mother who is overjoyed that her son gets to participate in an activity that he thoroughly enjoys and will truly benefit from.

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WALKING TO SOLVE THE MYSTERIES

2015 WALK FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS RAISES MONEY TO HELP FIND THE ANSWER TO MS

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CULLMAN – Every year, residents of Cullman and North Alabama have gathered together to walk and spread awareness for Multiple Sclerosis or MS. This debilitating and painful disease attacks the central nervous system and disrupts the flow of information from the brain to the body, causing a wide variety of symptoms.

This year's walk participants were greeted with blue skies and cold air, but spirits and enthusiasm were still high. Teams lined the sidewalk sharing their stories and selling T-shirts to raise even more money for the cause. Drug representatives also set up shop offering free merchandise and educating MS sufferers of the many medications that manage the disease. Jeff Speegle of ABC 33/40 opened up the ceremonies for the day and stated that he is affected by MS due to his coworker and wife both having the illness.

"I know everyone is here for a variety of reasons," Speegle said. "You're here because you have MS, or know someone with MS, or even have lost someone with MS. Whatever the reason, we really appreciate everyone being here. This walk is a rallying point for the MS movement, and together we can stop the progression of MS, restore lost function, and end MS forever."

Approximately 367 people pre-registered for the event, and many more registered at the walk itself. According to Deborah Bower, area coordinator of North Alabama for the National MS Society, the event averages around 450 people.

"This is my second Cullman walk," said Bowers. "And while I did not have a personal tie to MS when I started this job, I now know so many people who have MS, or have a family member with MS, that now I have developed a connection. I was ignorant to MS before this job, but I have learned so much, and was surprised at how differently it can affect each person."

One long time volunteer and participant knows all too well the toll this disease can take as she lives with it every day.

"I found out that I had MS in 2006," said Sheila Edwards. "I had migraines since I was 12, and later in life I started seeing Dr. Laganke in 1999. I would go see him every six months and he always said, 'If your migraines change, let me know'. So when the migraines did change from occurring on my left side to my right side, and I started experiencing extreme dizziness and fatigue, I went back. It is like living with the flu every day."

Edwards went on to say that the number one thing to remember with people who have MS is that everyone is affected differently, but they are all living in pain.



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Volunteers work to get the long line of attendees registered and checked in to the walk.

"People always say, 'You look so good, you don't look sick', and what they do not realize is that may be the first day you have been out of the house that week," said Edwards.

"I wish people would understand that we deal with pain and never know when it is going to hit."

The Walk MS event is like a family reunion for many, and a time to get much needed support that they cannot get most anywhere else. It was also a day of fun for the families with live music by the band Avenue G, face painting, arts and crafts, a T-shirt fashion show, and even a chance to deliver a pie to the face of the much respected Dr. Laganke who treats many patients of the area and country. Much advancements are being made, but there is still a long way to walk.

More information on the walk and MS can be found at Facebook.com/NationalMSSociety.

Foundry (from Front)

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CULLMAN – Addiction is a serious problem throughout the world, country and even right here in Cullman County. Everyone living in the Cullman area probably has at least one person in his or her life that has struggled or does struggle with addiction. The Foundry Recovery Center in Cullman has made it their mission to break the hold of addiction for men in Cullman and surrounding areas. Now, with more and more demand for their services, the organization has decided to expand.

"A few years ago, The Foundry Ministries purchased a farm in Cullman County for the purpose of creating a pastoral location for men's recovery," said board member Jay Weatherly.

"The Foundry has historically been able to accommodate up to 60 men at a time at the Foundry Farm. However, fire code deficiencies have forced the Foundry to lower its daily occupancy levels from 60 to 45 residents, and examine long term facility needs."

There is a plan in the works, however, that Weatherly says will help the organization to help even more people.

"As a result, the Foundry has developed an exciting and much needed plan, the Rebuild Campaign, to develop new dormitory and dining facilities at the Foundry Farm," said Weatherly.

"This will allow the Foundry to increase resident capacity to 80 men."

The phase will take place in two separate phases, with phase one being a 1.1 million dollar project to expand the men's dormitories, put in fire systems, furnish and operate them.

Phase 2 of the project will cost approximately $600,000, with the money going to upgrade the kitchen and dining facilities.

Farm Director Eddie Wilson says that God's timing is perfect for this expansion and there is no shortage of space for it.

"At any given time we have 45 men on the farm," said Wilson.

"And there are a lot more that need our help. So with 60 acres here, we have plenty of room to expand and help more men get to recovery. This is something we have always wanted to do."

Wilson also said that the need for more occupancy is great because the problem of addiction in the area is a serious one.

"I think it's bigger than most people realize," he said. "I would say right now within a 50-mile radius, at least 50 percent of the people in our program are from Cullman or a close by county. So this area being so centrally located, the Cullman Farm gives people a chance to go somewhere close to home."

The Foundry Recovery Center has helped many men kick their addiction to drugs and alcohol and hopes to do even more with the new expansion.

According to their website, the statistical truth is that Cullman loses one citizen every month to addiction and the state loses approximately 853 people per year.

This is why Wilson states that donating to the Rebuild Campaign is more than just giving to build a structure; it is giving to rebuild lives.

"It is so much more than just the building," said Wilson. "It's donating to restore families, change hearts and rebuild lives in the Cullman community by supporting this expansion."

More information on the Rebuild Campaign can be found at rebuildcampaign.com or by calling Doug White at 256-390-2200.

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CATHERINE CLARK VOSS: A WOMAN WITH NERVES OF STEEL

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – Catherine Clark Voss was no ordinary woman. Not only was she very beautiful, but she was also very smart, stubborn and had nerves of steel. Her story is one of bravery and strength. She worked with her father at the bank as a teller. One fateful day, she was involved in an incident that proved just exactly how brave – and stubborn – she really was.

The year was 1936 and Cullman's State National Bank was really small at the time. There were just two employees, Mr. Rene Clark, manager, and his daughter, Mrs. Catherine Clark Voss. In order to be open all day, the father/daughter duo had to take separate lunch breaks.

On December 10 between 11 a.m. and 12 noon, Mr. Clark went out to lunch as usual. Catherine was by herself in the bank when a young man entered the bank. Acting a little shady, he checked to see if there was anyone else in the bank other than himself and Catherine. They were completely alone.

"Give me money!" he demanded.

"No!" She crossed her arms. "I will not help you. If you want the money, you'll just have to get it yourself," she said very boldly.

The thief, a little thrown off by Catherine's response, walked across the room and went behind the counter. He went into the teller cage and helped himself to about $1,200 cash.

"You know how wrong this is? You are stealing and that is a sin! God's gonna punish you!" Catherine huffed. Meanwhile, the man just ignored her and quickly filled his sack with money.

When the robber went toward the change drawer and other small bank receipts, Catherine pushed him away.

"You've got enough money!" she spat and before she knew it, the two began to scuffle.

During the fray, Catherine's glasses were knocked to the floor and the robber lost his gun. But both the glasses and gun were quickly recovered.

"Get in the vault and lie down, or I'll kill you," the man said, aiming the gun right at Catherine. But she refused to move.

"I'm telling you, woman; you get into that there vault and lie down – or I'm gonna kill you!" He threatened again, and again she refused to budge.

Then he shot her. The bullet went into her shoulder, struck the bone and was diverted upward. It then came out the back of the shoulder and stuck into the ceiling. The force of the shot threw her to the floor and knocked her unconscious momentarily. But just as the man ran from the bank, Catherine came to and began screaming.

The men across the street heard her. They ran to G.W. Johnson's Hardware Store and got guns and began running after the robber. When the guns were gone, other men grabbed rakes and hoes from a barrel in front of the hardware store and they ran after the others.

The thief was caught about three blocks away from the bank. He had stopped long enough to hide the money in a garage behind Ms. Katie Azar's house. Thankfully, it was all there.

The men who had chased the robber were all riled up and rowdy. Dr. C.E. Herrin, the local eye, ear, nose and throat doctor, was so mad, he tried to get a group of men to take the robber out and hang him right then and there.

Meanwhile, Catherine recovered after spending a week in the hospital. Then, about a month later, she received the Gold Medal of Valor from the National Surety Corporation for her courage.



"LEGENDARY LOCALS OF CULLMAN COUNTY"

Catherine Clark Voss once stood up to an armed robber.

Catherine Clark Voss was one tough cookie. Not many people would have the courage to do what she did all those years ago. She is just one of the many people in Cullman's rich history considered to be a true hero.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF COLONY, ALABAMA

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COLONY – It is believed that Colony, Alabama was originally settled after the Civil War during Reconstruction and following the emancipation, or freedom of slaves. The people that came to live in the area now known as Colony had probably been freed slaves from the old settlement of Baltimore, AL. It is Cullman County's only African American community and in its early days, it was considered a safe haven for African Americans in the Deep South.

Major Reid, a former slave, was one of the first people to settle in Colony. He received his land as compensation for unknown services. His brother, Enoch Montgomery, also a former slave, received his land by filing a claim in Huntsville, AL.

The brothers did not share a last name because Montgomery – following custom – acquired the surname of his master.

Reid died in 1893 and Montgomery died in 1894. The brothers are buried in the Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church Cemetery in Colony.

Other original residents of Colony that were known to have entered land claims were George Wilson, John Johnson and Irson Byars.

According to legend, some of Colony's early settlers that did not have a mule and wagon walked all the way to Huntsville to file their homestead claims. Imagine how long that took!

Reid Byars, not to be confused with Irson Byars, built the first cotton gin in Colony. The gin operated using horse-drawn machinery.

Later, he partnered with Lee Reid and J.P. Ward and the three established a steam mill, which powered a cotton gin, sawmill and grist mill.

A two-story lodge hall was constructed with the first floor being used as a general store operated by Mall Fields. It was known as the Colony Mercantile and it thrived from the patronage of both black and white citizens in the area for a number of years.

M. A. Griffin, a field worker, was instrumental in urging the Negro community to build a school. He did this by pointing out that the necessary resources – timber, sawmill, and manpower – were available within their own community. The school was built in 1927 and was originally a seven grade institution. It later increased to nine grades with the last three being senior high grades.

They were added in 1939, 1941 and 1942 under then principal Matthew E. West. The Colony School was consolidated with Hanceville in 1965-66, providing students with an opportunity to attend an accredited school.

Colony has come a long way since its beginning. It was incorporated in 1981.

The current mayor of Colony is Mr. Vernon Fields. The Town Clerk is Heather Royster and the council members are Marcus Bradford, Crystal Wilson, Parish Fitts and Alexander Twitty. The Town Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Colony Town Hall.



Upcoming WSCC Alumni Association Events

Continuing Education Opportunities

Experiencing Nursing's Dream

April 24th 7 am—2:30 pm 6 Contact Hours $35
Includes breakfast, lunch, breaks, exhibit hall, silent auction
ABN Provider #ABNPO137
www.wsccalumni.org/nursingconnect2015

OTA and PTA Alumni Connection

May 7th 7:30 am –4:40 pm up to 8 Contact Hours
Includes breakfast, lunch, breaks, exhibit hall
www.wsccalumni.org/otapta2015

Other Activities

Antique and Bargain Hunting Trip to East Alabama

May 15th 7:30 am—4:30 pm $20
www.wsccalumni.org/antiqueeast2015

Preparing to Take the ACT Test Workshop

June 15th 12 Noon—4:30 pm
$50 workshop only $75 workshop and workbook
www.wsccalumni.orgactprepjune15

Family Fun Day at Lake Winnie Amusement and Water Park in Chattanooga, TN

July 17th 7 am—7:30 pm $75
Includes transportation, unlimited rides and water park activities, picnic lunch at the park
www.wsccalumni.org/familyfun15

Questions? Call 256-352-7808

BERLIN SUNSHINE CLUB HOLDS ITS LARGEST EASTER EGG HUNT TO DATE

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

BERLIN – If you felt a rumble in the earth near Berlin on Saturday, it wasn't an earthquake. It was the pounding of little feet across the ground racing to gather Easter eggs. The Berlin Sunshine Club held their annual Easter egg hunt and ended up with far more children and parents than ever before.

Approximately 120 people showed up to the little community center to eat, play games and, of course, hunt eggs and win prizes.

Eggs were placed for the younger children, around 5 years old and younger, across the baseball field where the children lined up eagerly to hear the ever important word, "Go". What followed was absolute pandemonium as children sprinted as fast as their short legs could carry them across the field, scooping up colored eggs as quickly as possible.

"My favorite part was running to get the eggs," said young participant Karly Arndt who captured 2nd place in her age division. "It's a lot of fun."

Her mother, Jennifer Arndt, added that they make it point to come every year they can.

"It's a great event," said Ardnt. "We didn't make it last year, but have come to the ones two or three years before. She always loves it."

The Berlin Sunshine Club is comprised of ladies from the community who want to make a difference in Berlin.

Newest elected president of the club, Becky Cook, says that the club is a great place to meet new people and help others.

"We are here to help our community," Cook said. "We do a lot of different events and fundraisers. We help community members out if there is a crisis, like if someone's house burns or at Christmas we always sponsor two families. Then, of course, we have fun events like today where people can come together and enjoy each other's company and have a good time with their community."

Cook went on to say how pleased and shocked they were at the magnitude of the turnout.

"This biggest event I have been to," Cook said. "When we saw how many people were pouring in, we got scared we might run out of food. But it seems that we still had enough to feed everyone. I am happy so many turned up, even in the chilly weather, to spend the day with us."

It was quite a day for the children with the Easter Bunny making an appearance, games, coloring and their mad dash. Many prizes were given out for those who found the most eggs, as well as for those who found a coveted number egg. One child even won for guessing the correct number of jelly beans in a jar and all the children were thrilled with the experience.



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

The winners of the older children's egg hunt were: 3rd place Cody, 2nd place Karly and 1st place Lex.

For more information on the Berlin Sunshine Club, call Joyce Rodgers at 245-339-3451.

JIM 'N NICK'S COMMUNITY BAR-B-Q CELEBRATES 30TH BIRTHDAY BY GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Last Monday Jim 'N Nick's proudly celebrated their 30th birthday with a Day of Giving. The restaurant offered their "Pig on a Bun" special for $2.99, which was the price it was back in 1985 when they first opened. The Pig on a Bun special consists of a pork sandwich and one trimming.

During their celebration, Jim 'N Nick's asked that their customers graciously give up to $30, or however much they could afford, to celebrate 30 years of giving back to the community.

Every dollar donated beyond the special $2.99 price from 1985 will go to the charity No Kid Hungry. It was their way of saying thank you for a great 30 years.

No Kid Hungry is ending childhood hunger by ensuring that kids start the day with a nutritious breakfast. It also helps families learn the skills they need to shop and cook on a budget.

"Jim 'N Nick's has a big culture of giving," said Beth Kibler, Jim 'N Nick's sales manager. "We don't do traditional advertising. What we call our advertising budget is what we do in good wills for the community. When someone comes in and asks us for, say, cheese biscuits to donate, that's called a good will. Anytime we give away food to an organization, that's our advertising."

"We work with lots of local charities such as the CRMC Foundation and the H.O.P.E. organization," she continued. "We as a company work with the Bell Center in Birmingham. They work with kids, I think, from 1 to 5 years old with developmental issues. We also work with magic moments, Mercedes Marathon – we've done their food for the past 10 years for free. The Bell Center sells the food as part of the race and all that money goes back to the Bell Center."

Jim 'N Nick's is a compassionate partner for helping give back to the community. Their selflessness and desire to help others is a touching factor of the company.

"Jim 'N Nick's opened in Cullman and immediately became a part of the community by giving back and supporting area charities," said Maria Stanford, executive director of the Cullman Regional Medical Center Foundation.

"The Cullman Regional Medical Center Foundation is grateful to have such a great community partner. We are extremely thankful for the support and contributions to the Refresh-A-Room campaign. Owners Mary and Paul Liollio have rolled up their sleeves providing lunch to hospital staff thanking them for providing compassionate, quality care to area residents in the Cullman community."

> **"We don't do traditional advertising. What we call our advertising budget is what we do in good wills for the community."**
>
> Beth Kibler, Jim N' Nick's Sales Manager

Jim 'N Nick's doesn't believe in freezers or shortcuts – just slow-smoked Southern food done just the way it ought to be done.

Jim 'N Nick's is located at 1851 Cherokee Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055. For more information, call them at 256-727-5421or go to their webpage at JimNNicks.com and follow them on Facebook at Facebook.com/pages/Jim-N-Nicks-Cullman/634796303208469.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Jim 'N Nick's employees showcase a variety of entrées during the restaurant's Day of Giving.

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GETTING HEALTHY TO HELP OTHERS

LOCAL HUMANITARIAN ASKS FOR COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT TO WIN WEIGHT LOSS SURGERY

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com



IMAGES BY SARA LINKOUS

After years of research, Linkous decided that weight loss surgery is the best option for her.

CULLMAN – Most everyone wants to be in good shape and live a lifestyle that leads to health and happiness. For some, this is a harder mountain to climb than others. It may be difficult due to medical conditions or emotional issues, but no matter the reason, some of us need a little extra help to lose the weight and be our healthiest self. The National Obesity Foundation (NOF) works to help people achieve these goals by offering the necessary tools to get there.

In some instances, when more conventional methods have been exhausted, the resource the individual may draw upon is surgery. The National Obesity Foundation wants to help one lucky person obtain this service who works to make their community a better place.

This award is given to someone who has been nominated by a person in their life who believes they are deserving of the humanitarian award.

One Cullman resident, Sara Linkous, was nominated and is now in the final round of the competition.

Linkous stated her cousin, Lauren Heatherly, nominated her for the award, because of all of her work in and around the community.

"Through the summers of 2003-2007 I either volunteered or worked for The North American Mission Board," said Linkous. "NAMB works in neighborhoods that fall below the poverty level. I was able to help with construction based projects and help build wheelchair ramps, put up sheetrock, and help with roofing projects. We also took part in Bible studies. In more recent years, I spend time volunteering through Desperation Church here in Cullman. I volunteer at least one day per week; this could be helping with the nursery and children's ministries, to helping with paperwork, to assisting our DCcampus news staff."

While Linkous feels that the surgery is necessary, she said it was certainly not her first option as she has tried losing the weight on her own for several years.

"I have been researching weight loss surgery for almost three years," Linkous said.

"I do have health insurance, but my specific plan does not cover weight loss surgery. I have made efforts on my own to lose weight, from working out at local crossfits and a local gym. I feel that having weight loss surgery would help to get the weight off faster and that will allow me to serve our community more. I feel that the effects of obesity can often leave me on the sidelines, because I am too exhausted to do anything."

It is a common misconception that weight loss surgeries, or bariatric surgeries, are a quick fix for those who are obese, but even after surgery patients are required to work out and eat healthy. However, the procedure does make sticking to the plan easier.

"I want Cullman to know that I cannot win this award without you. The person with the most votes wins, it is that simple. Although I do work full time, paying out of pocket for this surgery is almost inconceivable. This contest is nationwide, and I am 1 of 4 people who made it to this round. I work in Cullman, in the field of substance abuse, and it is probably the most rewarding job. I want to be able to help our community more."

To vote for Sara Linkous, visit http://fb.nofusa.org/nomination/list. Voting ends April 15.

> **"I feel that having weight loss surgery would help to get the weight off faster and that will allow me to serve our community more."**
>
> Sara Linkous, Local Humanitarian

Scavenger (from Front)

of Cullman, throughout which will involve numerous local businesses.

Keith Rudder, a sales professional at Serra Visser Nissan, is the man behind this event.

With experience in grassroots promotion and 15 years in the automotive industry, Rudder decided to use that experience to benefit his business, as well as other small businesses throughout the Cullman community.

Rudder explained how this event will create foot traffic in local shops and hopefully more business.

"What happens during the time around Easter," Rudder explained, "is that people are drawn away from stores and stuff, which really chokes local businesses."

Rudder has gotten over 20 sponsors to team up with him for this event, which is starting on a smaller scale, but Rudder hopes will grow after this year. "This is really meant to highlight local businesses," Rudder said.

As far as the logistics of the event go, Rudder is capping the number of adults that can participate at 200.

There are currently 79 people who have RSVPed through Facebook, which is where all of the information and hints will be made available for the event. Rudder said that, while there will be driving involved, it will only be within the Cullman city-limits.

The event should last for around 2-4 hours, according to Rudder, depending on how long each competitor stays at each business.

Also, if participants just can't figure out the next spot,

Rudder said his wife will be logged onto his Facebook from a separate location, and will provide a hint to those who are stuck through Facebook Messenger.

The event will yield valuable prizes to the winners, as well as trinkets and knick-knacks for children along the way.

"We have prizes involving high quality jewelry, as well as costume jewelry for the kids. We have gift certificates to restaurants," Rudder said. There are many other types of prizes as well that are not to be revealed just yet.

To participate in the event, log onto Facebook and search 'Keith Rudder At Serra Visser Nissan Easter Extravaganza!'



Monday

Easter Celebration and Dinner Theatre
Stone Bridge Farms and Pepsi present an Easter Celebration & Dinner Theatre on Monday, March 30, 2015. Dinner is at 6 p.m., followed by the Program at 7 p.m. Advance Tickets are $20. Make reservations for tickets at 256-734-9765. Tickets must be picked up at Stone Bridge Farms unless other arrangements are made. Featuring "The Greatest Friend of All," presented by the Simcoe Worship Center at the beautiful Brown Stone Centre at Stone Bridge Farms. The address is 281 County Road 717 Cullman, AL. For more info, visit www.StoneBridgeWedding.com.

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

Raised Bed Gardening
Visit our raised beds and learn about the art of growing vegetables and herbs in raised beds as a part of our Living Landscapes Series. Take home plans to make your own (or buy one of ours), and learn how to plant and care for your new garden. The program begins at 6p.m. Cost: $5. For more information, email cullmanag@gmail.com or call 256-297-1044.

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.

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

City Parks & Recreation Night Out
City Parks & Rec Night Out will be held on April 1, 2015 from 7-10:30 p.m. $30. Mother/daughter pajama party and a father/son night out. The father/son night out will be at Heritage Park. The mother/daughter pajama party will be held at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center.

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

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

'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

Sportsman Lake Park Easter Egg Hunt
The Saturday before Easter, April 4, Sportsman Lake Park will be hosting an Easter egg hunt. The park hopes to put out 10,000 eggs. The event will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning and will go until about 11 a.m.

Serra Visser Nissan Easter Egg Hunt
Starting around 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 4, people participating in Serra Visser Nissan's Easter Extravaganza will receive Facebook messages giving them their first hint on where their first destination is. This will start the competitors off on a trip around the city of Cullman, throughout which will involve numerous local businesses.

County Wide Indoor Yard Sale at the Agricultural Trade Center
On Saturday, April 4, 2015, the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center will host the Cullman County Wide Indoor Yard Sale. There will be a little bit of everything available for purchase and all are encouraged to stop by and shop. Spots are still available for $10. For more information or to reserve your spot, call 256-739-4959.

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
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Cornerstone Revival Ladies Prayer Meeting
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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.
- Easter Celebration and Dinner Theatre at Stone Bridge Farms at 6 p.m.

TUESDAY
- Raised Bed Gardening at the North Alabama Agriplex at 6 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
- City Parks & Recreation Night Out from 7-10:30 p.m.
- 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
- Sportsman Lake Park Easter Egg Hunt
- Serra Visser Nissan Easter Egg Hunt
- Cullman County Wide Indoor Yard Sale at the Agricultural Trade Center
- 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

SUNDAY
- Happy Easter!

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

BUSY BEE CAFÉ HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS
Wine Wednesdays • Thirsty Thursdays
Fill'er Up Fridays • Sudsy Saturdays
LIVE TRIVIA EACH THURSDAY 6-8 P.M.

FROM THE DESK OF

JOLAINE WELLS

CULLMANSENSE'S NEW DIRECTOR OF MARKETING



I am so excited to be a part of CullmanSense! It makes me so happy to be affiliated with a newspaper that's all about Cullman, my hometown, and its wonderful citizens! I am looking forward to seeing a lot of old friends and making new ones as I will be contacting all of the businesses of Cullman to help you grow your business at affordable rates. I encourage all of the citizens of Cullman to patronize the advertisers of CullmanSense. Let's all work together to keep Cullman special and support a local paper that's keeping us informed about our great city, county and its citizens.

CONTACT ME AT 256-595-3620
OR JWELLS@CULLMANSENSE.COM

GRANT BROWN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER HELD WITH SWAMP JOHN'S

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – The family and friends of Grant Brown have been working hard to raise the money to send one lucky Hanceville student to college for a year. After coming off of a 5K event, the group is not stopping their work to honor a lost loved one. This event featured a regional favorite, Swamp John's, whose food has become somewhat of a craze in recent years.

The Grant Brown Memorial Fund was founded last year after the tragic death of Brown who was 17 at the time.

"Grant was a great guy who everyone wanted to be around," said organizer Amy Cornelius.

"He was really well loved and had dreams of traveling to Europe and then coming back to school. So after he passed, we just wanted a way to remember him and help another student at Hanceville achieve their goals and go to college."

According to Cornelius, the amount of money needed for one year's tuition for a student runs at approximately $3,400. This is the second year for this event with Swamp John's after the first year raised a good portion of money toward their goal.

"Last year we raised right around $1,000 from this event," Cornelius said.

"The plates are $11 and that comes with french fries, slaw, hush puppies and a choice of catfish, shrimp, chicken or a combination. We hope to meet that or get close to it this year. Things have been steady today so we should get close to our goal again."

Swamp John's has become a sensation among people in the area and has been growing in popularity. A lot of people follow the company whenever they come to the area for a fundraiser.

"We always find Swamp John's," said Mary Jo Lakin. "If there is a Swamp John's close by, then we stop and eat there. It just so good, and if they are doing a fundraiser, then the money is also helping a good cause."



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Friends and family volunteer their time to serve food and raise money to send a Hanceville student to college.

Eating with Lakin was Sandy Waters, who is also a Swamp John's fan, and connected to the Brown family. "We always get something when we see Swamp John's, too," Waters said. "I also work at the elementary school with Grant's mom, so it was great to support the scholarship fund as well."

According to Cornelius, all of their planning and organizing has been successful because of the community of Hanceville and their continued support.

"Hanceville has been wonderful to us," Cornelius said. "The students, parents, schools, businesses and the entire community have been so generous and supportive. We really appreciate it all so much."

Email acornelius@ccboe.org for more information on the Grant Brown Memorial Scholarship.

Awareness (from Front)

sources to prevent or stop child abuse from occurring.

"We were originally established in 1988," said Cullman Caring for Kids Director Javon Daniel. "We now have nine programs, all of which are geared toward child abuse."

Daniel stated that one such program is their food bank, and he is often asked how that applies to child abuse.

"People often ask me what a food bank has to do with child abuse," said Daniels.

"And I always ask them have you ever been around a hungry three year old and not know where your next meal is coming from? The stress of that situation with money, and a hungry, screaming child can be a situation that leads to child abuse. So if we can prevent that from giving a family food, we will."

While the food bank is located at their offices beside the Cullman County Board of Education, the other eight programs are conducted out in the community.

"We do a program in the elementary school called C.A.R.E.S where we educate children what child abuse is, and that it is not their fault and it is okay to tell someone," said Daniel.

"We also have a program called K.A.R.S. which stands for Kids at Risk in Schools, where we deal with conflict resolution and bullying. And we are also the umbrella agency for Cullman County CASA, where volunteers are thoroughly screened, and go through 40 hours of in classroom training. They are then sworn as court officers."

They also broadcast over the radio with their show Kids Matter, to spread their message and also cover other various topics relevant to children. The show airs on 92.1 WKUL on Friday mornings at 9:30 a.m. and on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. on 99.9 WRJL.

With April upon us, Cullman Caring for Kids has many events on the horizon that they hope the community will actively participate in. While Cullman is a nice town with good people, it is not without its problems, and child abuse is one of them, according to Nancy Bryant, assistant director.

"Last year alone, we lost 18 children in Alabama due to abuse and neglect," said Bryant.

"From January 2014 to January of 2015 Cullman County DHR had 852 cases of abuse and neglect. That is a staggering number, and we need to do something about it. This is why we post our blue ribbons around the city, the blue represents the bruises on our children, and also why the events we have coming up are important."

April 1 is the National Day of Hope and a time where Cullman Caring for Kids asks that everyone participate by lighting a five-wick candle. Each wick is in remembrance of the five children who die every day of abuse.

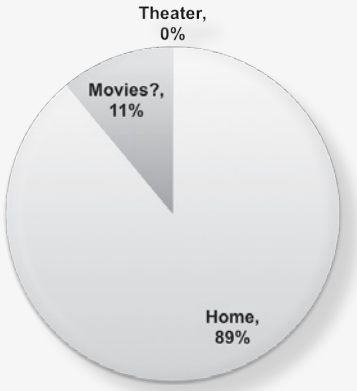
"On April 7 at noon, we will have our prayer walk around the courthouse and up to the top of the Cullman Savings Bank parking deck where we will release 100 blue balloons," Bryant said.

"Everybody needs to feel this, because if everyone has this in their heart, so that everyone will act when they suspect a child is being abused. We need people to pick up the phone and call the police or DHR when they think a child is being hurt."

More information about Cullman Caring for Kids can be found at CullmanCaringforKids.com.

Poll

Do you prefer to watch movies at the theater or stream them at home?



This Week's Poll

Should voters have to show identification to vote?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

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

HOT DAYS AND COOL TREATS: SELF-EMPLOYED CULLMAN ICE CREAM TRUCK DRIVER CHRIS EADY IS READY TO DELIVER

Spring is just around the corner and before we know it the dog days of summer will be upon us. Outdoor activities and the hot weather can leave us craving something cold and sweet – ice cream. Thankfully, there's a...

qrne.ws/336



DO YOU KNOW THESE HISTORIC FACTS ABOUT CULLMAN?

Did you know that our town's founder Colonel Johann Gottfried Cullmann's original home was located where Just for Looks and Berkley Bob's Coffee House are now? Also, according to Cullman city maps that go back as far as 1888, Colonel Cullmann had a greenhouse. It even had a glass...

qrne.ws/337

SUSPECT LEADS CNET ON SHORT PURSUIT ENDING WITH APPREHENSION

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry confirmed a car chase involving CNET, Cullman County Sheriff's Office, Hanceville PD and Cullman City PD has successfully ended in White City after beginning on Hwy 31 near Johnsons Crossing Thursday afternoon.

qrne.ws/338

WSCC HOSTS RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Cancer Survivor Lindsey Jones speaks to faculty and students about Relay for Life and being a cancer survivor.

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College's Common Read committee joined forces with the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Cullman County and held an event on March 25 at the Hanceville campus.

The students heard from UAH freshman and cancer survivor Lindsey Jones, of Gurley, who was almost 4 years old when she was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer which caused blindness, similar to a character in "The Fault in Our Stars." Now a cancer survivor of almost 15 years, Jones shared her story with the students and members of the community as a Hero of Hope for the American Cancer Society.

"I lost my eyesight; the tumor had pressed against my optic nerves causing me to become blind," said Jones, "but just because I lost my vision doesn't mean I lost my vision for living. Just because you can't see doesn't mean you can't accomplish in life," she continued. "Last year I graduated from Madison County High School with honors in the top 10 percent of my class with straight A's. I currently attend the University of Alabama in Huntsville where my major is psychology and my minor is in music."

During the program, Jones sang a beautiful song and the Nursing Department's Kids on the Block puppetry program performed a couple of skits.

Students, faculty, staff and attendees visited booths that had been set up by the American Cancer Society and various Wallace State programs. They took part in games and activities, and had a chance to support the WSCC Relay for Life team's fundraising efforts.

Fundraisers included meals from Dewey's Cajun Shack food truck which will donate a portion of their proceeds from that day to the Wallace State Relay team.

The WSCC Relay for Life team offered a cupcake bar where participants chose the flavor of cupcake, icing and toppings to go on their treat.

Those wishing to purchase a luminary in honor or in memory of a loved one were able to do so at the event.

A quilt made from team T-shirts from the 2014 event was on display. There were opportunities to win it, along with a prize package for Dollywood. Both prizes will be given away at the May 1 Relay for Life of Cullman County event at the Cullman County Fairgrounds.

"There are four things that we strive for in Relay for Life; it's our motto," Jones explained. "We celebrate. We remember. We hope. We fight back. In celebrating, we celebrate more birthdays and we celebrate so that one day we will find a cure for cancer. We hope that we will find that cure for cancer and we hope for more birthdays in the future. We fight back because we want to face that terrible disease. We don't want cancer to ruin our lives. We remember for the loss of those who have lost their lives to cancer."

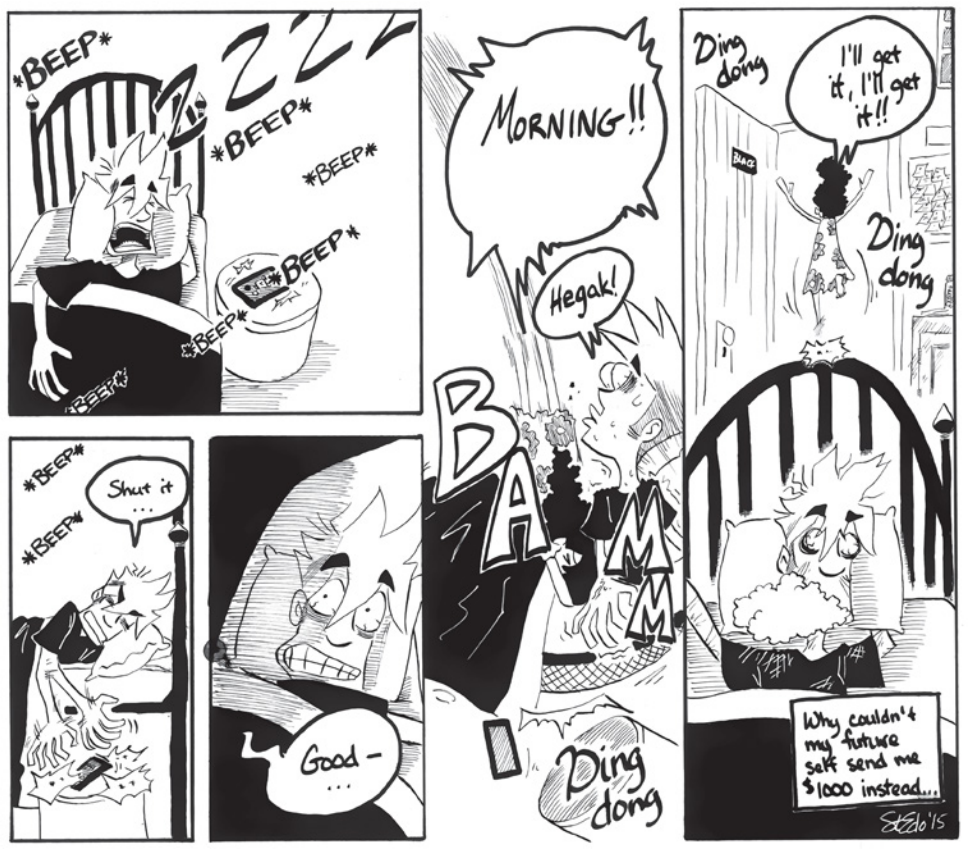
For more information about Relay for Life of Cullman County, visit RelayforLife.org/cullmanal or call Helen Allen at 256- 709-4019.

POSITION AVAILABLE

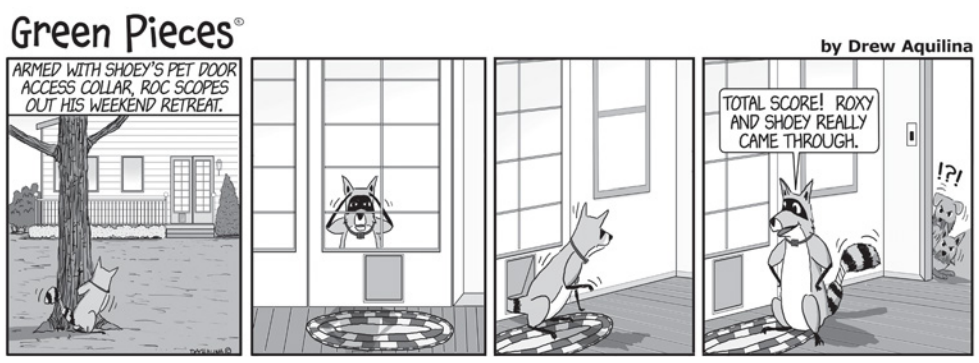
Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.
Full time, BS degree required. Send resume to: vsoced@vsoccullman.org

COMICS

WHITE & BLACK • "Wake Up" • st.edo@cullmansense.com







SPRING TIME RECIPES

REESES TRUFFLE

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

Creamy and decadent, this scrumptious truffle combines the classic flavors of peanut butter and chocolate. Now add brownies to the mix, and you have a home run dish for your next potluck. No one will be able to resist this dessert, and you will love how easy it is to make.

Ingredients:

- 1 box – fudge brownie mix
- 1 - 10 ounce - package peanut butter chips
- 2 - 13 ounce packages - miniature peanut butter cups
- 4 cups - cold 2 percent milk
- 2 - 5.1 ounce packages - instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1 cup - creamy peanut butter
- 4 teaspoons - vanilla extract
- 3 - 8 ounce - cartons frozen whipped topping, thawed

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare brownie batter according to package directions; stir in peanut butter chips. Bake in a greased 13x9-in. baking pan for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out with moist crumbs (do not overbake).
- Cool on a wire rack; cut into 3/4-in. pieces.
- Cut peanut butter cups in half; set aside 1/3 cup for garnish.
- In a large bowl, whisk milk and pudding mixes for 2 minutes (mixture will be thick). Add peanut butter and vanilla; mix well. Fold in 1-1/2 cartons whipped topping.
- Place a third of the brownies in a 5-qt. glass bowl; top with a third of the remaining peanut butter cups. Spoon a third of the pudding mixture over the top. Repeat layers twice.
- Cover with remaining whipped topping; garnish with reserved peanut butter cups. Refrigerate until chilled.

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

PETS OF THE WEEK

MARSHALL



Hello my name is Marshall and I am about 9 months old. I am believed to be a Dalmatian mix and I currently weigh 32 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!

EGAN



Hello my name is Egan and I am about 2 years old. I am a Shepard mix and I currently weigh 46 lbs. I am a stray but no one claims me, I will go up for adoption on 03/19/15 at 11 am. 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!

ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

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

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON





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

E-mail feedback@cullmansense.com
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OPINION

GO GREEN REGARDLESS OF YOUR STANCE

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

Climate change has become a phrase that can spark a debate in no time at all. The debate of whether or not mankind is speeding up the process of global warming has become not a question of science any more, but a political statement. While this topic does seem to rile controversy, should it?

Considering such a divide among people in our country over the matter, there is a question that nags at me daily, why are people so opposed to "going green"? When you look at the benefits of living a more environmentally conscious lifestyle other than the planet heating up, it seems that anyone could find a reason to be on board.

For starters, becoming a friend to the environment makes sense from a fiscal perspective. Consider your utility bills like electricity and water. Conserving these most basic of resources can save not only our planet, but also our wallets. When you are less wasteful with water or electricity, you save the countless dollars that would need to be spent for those utilities. When enough people turn off lights more frequently, or do not leave the faucet running unnecessarily, it saves households and a lot of hard earned cash.

A second reason to live green no matter your stance is simply preserving our ecosystems.

The way we live our lives as consumers has a considerable impact on natural ecosystems that will and do affect us. The idea that every living thing on the planet is connected may seem like a hippie dippy idea, but it is one that is nonetheless true. When trash is being dumped into our oceans, or bee colonies die off at an alarming rate, the human race is put in grave peril, because believe it or not we are all dependent on those ecosystems surviving for one reason or another.

Bees for example, help pollinate 30 billion dollars worth of US crops, and their rapid decline in numbers could mean disaster for civilization as we know it.

A third, and no less important, point in favor of searching for more environmentally friendly methods of living is sustainability.

As of now, the primary source of energy in our world is the use of fossil fuels, which are not sustainable. There is a point where fossil fuels will run out, and even given the areas of coal and natural gases, that too will only carry us so far. Therefore, it is imperative to our future to invest in more sustainable energy sources such as wind and air. If you want to look at a more political stance, the U.S. investing in mainstreaming another outlet along the lines of solar energy would break us of our dependence on foreign oil.

The point is that whether you "believe" in climate change or not, there is no reason to snub the idea of being more efficient. There are more reasons to care about recycling, alternative fuels, etc. than a warming planet alone. The only thing that will come of living green is making a more sustainable world for our kids and grandkids. We as a people must look further than our own lifespan, and our leaders must care about more than the next election.

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they will never sit in." – Greek Proverb.

VOICE

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: WE ARE FAR FROM READY!

Dave Robinson
Contributor

Did you ever wonder how many folks were actually making preparations for a disaster? How many are actually stocking up on extra groceries? A recent national poll by Adelphi University Center for Health Innovation surveyed 1,000 Americans about their personal preparedness behaviors and the results show that we're not ready!

More than half of Americans have not prepared copies of their vital documents. So take the title deed to your house, insurance policies, social security cards and any other document you think is important, make copies and store them in a safe place outside your own home.

That way if your house burns in a wildfire or is somehow destroyed, you have proof that you own it. Scanning to a flash drive or to an online cloud application is another method of saving documents. (If you don't do computers, then refer to the first sentence about making copies and the safe place plan.)

Getting your life back to normal after a disaster will be easier if you can prove who you are, when you were born or whether or not you are a legal citizen. 48% of those surveyed lacked emergency supplies for use in the event of an emergency.

Frankly I'm surprised the number isn't higher. But considering most people have roughly a two week supply of food in the house anyway, it's the other essentials they're short on.

Things like flashlights, batteries, battery powered radio or water. After the disaster strikes is not a good time to head for the store. Stores may be closed, roads may be impassable and ATMs will probably not work anyway, so stock up before you need to.

Trying to stock up after the event is a bit like trying to buy insurance after you've had the fender bender.

More than half of parents do not have a designated meeting place in case of disaster.

Half of the families surveyed have no recorded medical histories, almost half have no idea how to contact their doctor, or their spouse's or child's doctor.

Then 44% didn't know how to contact outside family members. If their cell phones died, there was no other resource for phone numbers to contact critical members of their family circle.

During the 2010 Haiti earthquake, hundreds of children were separated from families.

The American Red Cross offers a service called "Safe and Well". Safe and Well helps reconnect loved ones after an emergency. Check it out at their website, redcross.org.

The conversation with your family should establish two meeting places, one directly outside your house in case of fire, and one outside your neighborhood in case you can't get home right away.

Remember using the texting function on your phone betters your chance of getting the message through.

I hear from folks all the time that read this column, but when I ask if they're ready for a disaster, they often change the subject. It starts with extra flashlight batteries, or a new camp stove, or buy one, get one at the grocery store. Or maybe something as simple (and potentially lifesaving) as designating a meeting place if you wake up at night and smell smoke.

As always you can reach me for comments or questions at disasterprep.dave@gmail.com and you can find previous columns at www.disasterprepdave.blogspot.com.

Dave Robinson is the Postmaster in Bandon, Oregon, and the author of "Disaster Prep For The Rest Of Us."

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