SERIES 5 • ISSUE 14 • APRIL 6, 2015

CULLMANSENSE COMMUNITY MATTERS



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

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CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

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# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LOCAL CHARGE NURSE

## COMPASSION AND CARE COME STANDARD IN THIS SPECIAL LINE OF WORK

**Chelsea Sparks**
chelsea@cullmansense.com

**HANCEVILLE** – There are everyday people in our community that make a huge impact in the lives of others. They work in jobs that, while important, are often overlooked. These silent heroes of our community never ask for gratitude, but instead, feel grateful themselves to be in a position to help others.

Amanda Baker is one such community hero, who works tirelessly as a charge nurse at Hanceville Nursing Home in the Moody Rehab Center. Working at the home since 2002, she keeps a cheery disposition as she works her rounds with patients, and ensures that her team members stay well supported.

"I started out in high school at the vocational school and began working here as a certified nursing assistant," Baker said. "And this place has been so great to me. They paid for me to go to nursing school and I have been here ever since. I absolutely love it, and am really happy in what I do."

It is easy to see what makes Hanceville Nursing Home so special. Looking at their pristine establishment and smiling residents, they are definitely doing something right. Baker says it all begins with

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CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

**Amanda Baker is one of many Geriatric nurses who work every day to improve the lives of the elderly in our community.**

# BLOOMIN' FESTIVAL RETURNS APRIL 18 - 19

**Will Hogue**
will@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – On Wednesday, April 18, at 9 a.m., Joyce Nix will see a project she's been curating for 31 years begin another annual installment.

The Bloomin' Festival, a cornerstone of the Cullman community for three decades, will once again be held on the lawns of St. Bernard Prep School, and the woman who has been the director of the festival for the previous 30 years, Joyce Nix, will also see the festival through its 31st year.

The Bloomin' Festival truly had humble beginnings: "The school was basically broke," Director Joyce Nix said. So, in 1983, Nix decided to have a festival and charge admission as a fundraiser.

"We had it on the soccer

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# GOOD HOPE GETS READY TO RENOVATE

## NUMEROUS IMPROVEMENTS MAKE BIG DIFFERENCE ACROSS TOWN P4





FACEBOOK.COM/CITYOFGOODHOPE

**Crews work to correct Good Hope's water drainage issues, among other renovation projects.**

# BIO BEAUTY CARE PRODUCTS SOLD EXCLUSIVELY AT THE NEW TOWNSEND TREASURES

**Sharon Schuler Kreps**
sharon@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – What once was a beauty shop many years ago, the old rock house behind NAPA Auto Parts, has taken on a whole new presence. Now it is the home to Townsend Treasures, and it offers unique and often homemade items to make you and your home look amazing.

"We have homemade Bio Beauty Care products, such as candle tarts, bath butters and candles," said Maryanne Townsend, owner. "I originally started making and selling the items from home, but the business has grown so I had to move into this shop. I really want to offer things that you just don't see here in Cullman," Townsend added. "I wanted to do something new and I will be expanding."

The Bio Beauty Care products such as the scented tarts, bath scrubs, homemade bath soaps, and both scented and

P3




SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

**Townsend Treasures offers a wide selection of beauty care products and homemade gifts.**

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

# A STINGING REALIZATION: IF THE BEES GO, SO CAN WE

**Chelsea Sparks**
chelsea@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – Throughout modern history, we have known about ecosystems and have heard how the smallest of changes within those ecosystems can have grave consequences. While this may seem like a farfetched idea, it is absolutely true. A phenomenon happening right now may show us how true this really is.

Bee colonies over the past few years have been on a rapid decline due to a strange condition termed colony collapse disorder.

This began around 2006 when beekeepers began noticing entire colonies of bees completely disappearing. So far, colony collapse disorder has accounted for nearly one-third of commercial bees dying out or abandoning their

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# WALLACE STATE KICKS OFF ARTS IN APRIL EVENTS

**Chelsea Sparks**
chelsea@cullmansense.com

**HANCEVILLE** – The annual month long Arts in April event is back at Wallace State Community College. New exhibits featuring every medium of art one could think of will be present at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts located on campus.

"Providing cultural enrichment for our students and our community is an important part of Wallace State's mission," said Director of Communications and Marketing and Burrow Museum Administrator Kristen Holmes. "Planning for Arts in April events intensified when the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts was established five years ago, and our offerings across campus increased as a result. Each April, as we enjoy the beauty of springtime, we celebrate Arts in April with a month-long line up of events highlighting visual arts, literature, music, theatre, film, dance and so on."

The Community Art Exhibition kicks off the first part of the month and will be ending on April 11. This exhibition features work inspired by Dutch artist Piet Mondrian, who is best known for his abstract pieces using blocks of vibrant, primary colors. Students from area schools have entered pieces into the exhibit, which is on display in the exhibit hall of the Burrow Center. Wallace State students also have three-dimensional pieces on display in the atrium of the Burrow Center. The Community Art Exhibition is free and open to the public Monday through Saturday.

Next on the list is Mountain Brook artist, Arden Ward Upton, and her "Equus" collection of large-scale photography, which showcases the majesty and grace of the equine species.

The exhibit will be on display in the gallery of the Evelyn Burrow Museum April 7-May 16. An opening reception will be held on April 23 at 6 p.m.

Of course, other forms of art will also be happening throughout the month. Like the Lion's Den Writing Club who will host a Mix-Tape Talent Show that will be held Wednesday, April 8, at 9:30 a.m., and the final installment of the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Films that will be screening the documentary, "If You Build It", on Thursday, April 9 at 6 p.m. in the Burrow Center Recital Hall.

The Wallace State Theatre program will present the musical sensation, "Into the Woods", April 9-12 at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre. The musical will be presented at 7 p.m. from April 9-11, and at 2 p.m. on April 12. With a live orchestra backing up the 30-member cast, this show is one you won't want to miss. Tickets will be $10.

On April 14, former NFL tight end and Amazing Race contestant Marcus Pollard will speak to students in Learning Communities courses at 9:30 a.m. in the Recital Hall of the Burrow Center. The Lanett, Ala., native is the director of player development and youth football for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

The Wallace State Jazz Band will present its annual Big Band Ballroom Dance on Friday, April 17, starting at 7 p.m., in the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. The band will perform instrumentals, as well as a few tunes featuring vocalist Tahauny Cleghorn of the Wallace State Singers. Admission is $15. Meanwhile, the Wallace State Concert Choir will perform at 2 p.m. at St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church as part of their Arts in April performances.

On Tuesday, April 21, Wallace State's Suhana Chikatla will present "India and Indian Culture", as a part of a Learning Communities event. The public is welcome to attend the 9:30 a.m. presentation to learn more about the Indian culture. Finally, the Wallace State Concert Band will close out Arts in April with its Spring Concert on Thursday, April 30 at 7 p.m. in the Burrow Center Recital Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information, call 256-352-8277 or visit WallacState.edu.

# FESTHALLE FARMER'S MARKET GETS NEW HOURS AND ACTIVITIES

**Chelsea Sparks**
chelsea@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – Cullman Parks & Recreation announced recently the reopening and revitalization of the Farmer's Market at the Festhalle. The kickoff day for the market was on Tuesday, April 2, and Waid Harbison, director of marketing at CP&R says that there are a lot of exciting days on the horizon for the Farmer's Market.

"We have added quite a few new things this year to the Farmer's Market," said Harbison. "The biggest thing that will be coming up in another month or so is the Strawberry Festival that Parks & Rec recently took over. With Parks & Rec being over the Farmer's Market, we thought it would be a good fit for us to take over organizing that event. We're really excited about that."

The Strawberry Festival is an annual event that will take place this year on May 1 and 2, with the kickoff will take place on Friday night beginning at 4 p.m. The Farmer's Market will be open that night as well.

"We are also going to be doing a cool event called Friday Nights at the Festhalle beginning the first Friday in May," said Harbison. "Basically, once a month we will be staying open late at the Farmer's Market with extended hours. Farmers will be able to stay from about 3:30 p.m. to about 7:30 or 8 at night. We will have food trucks on site, and bands playing and downtown businesses will also be staying open late."

This new late evening event will allow those who are not able to make it to the regular hours of the market to have the chance to support local growers.

"The hours are normally 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday," said Harbison. "So a lot people are not able to make it out there at those times due to work. So we are thinking that this Friday night event will become a cool hangout where people can spend a Friday evening."

Agriculture is still the biggest industry in Cullman, and according to Harbison, supporting these local farmer's keeps that tradition alive, as well as adding benefits to your home.

"It is really good for local economy when we support our local farmers," he said. "Another benefit is that when you buy from the store, you don't know where the produce is from and what pesticides were used or anything. With these farmers, they are on hand to answer any questions. You also can't beat the freshness of fruits and vegetables freshly harvested the day before as opposed to grocery items that could be a week or two old by the time you take them home."

For more information on the Farmer's Market, the Strawberry Festival or Friday Nights at the Festhalle, call 256-734-9157.

## Festival (from Front)

field, but then the thunder and lightning came," she recalled. "So we carried 60 vendors' booths up the stairs to the gymnasium."

Despite the storm and the complications, Nix estimates that 2-3,000 people showed up for the one-day arts and crafts festival.

"I said, 'We're having it on the lawn in front of the agricultural building next year, rain or shine.' But," Nix said, "I still had to get permission from Abbott Hilary."

Luckily, she received the permission she needed, and the second year of the festival was a success.

Along came the third year and a second day was added to the festival.

Since its third year, the Bloomin' Festival has only gotten better.

With the exception of two years – one year because of tornadoes, and another year because of snow – the festival has had great attendance and all has gone relatively smoothly for the event.

A tradition started in the third year of the event, which will carry on this year, is the prize that is given away.

"Back then," said Nix, "we gave away a Ford Thunderbird." This year at the top of the prize list, is a brand new, red 2015 Jeep Patriot. Along with the Jeep, a Go-Pro camera, a tablet computer, and an iPod Shuffle will be given away.

"The only thing you need to do to be eligible to receive one of the prizes is a $5 donation when you enter," Nix explained.

Entrants not lucky enough to leave with (or in) one of the prizes, can drown their sorrows in some of the delicious, fresh-squeezed lemonade on site at the festival.

They can also try strawberry waffles, roasted almonds, polish sausages or ice cream to put a dent in their cravings.

"You can pretty much start at one end of [the festival] and eat your way to the other end," Nix said.

The Bloomin' Festival has become one of the main events on the Cullman calendar, something to signal the arrival of spring, and something to bring the community closer. The Bloomin' Festival, according to the Southeast Tourism Society, is one of the top 20 events in the Southeast for the month of April. However, Joyce Nix has no plans to expand the festival any more.

"We could have 500 booths if we wanted," she said. "But I'm happy to keep it around 150-160 because when you grow in number, you decrease in quality."

Nix explained that having quality and diversity in the vendors is paramount.

"If you've got eight booths selling baby clothes, none of them are going to do well," she said.

"We even had vendors send in a list of the raw materials they're working with this year ahead of time," she said.

Among the vendors that will be at the festival this year will be glassblowers, a blacksmith, local potters, and an interesting man named George Jones Jr.

George Jones Jr. grows his own corn, but not to eat, but instead, to make brooms.

Jones Jr.'s brooms are handmade, customizable, and fully functional, practical brooms.

"He can paint them, make them Alabama or Auburn brooms," Nix explained.

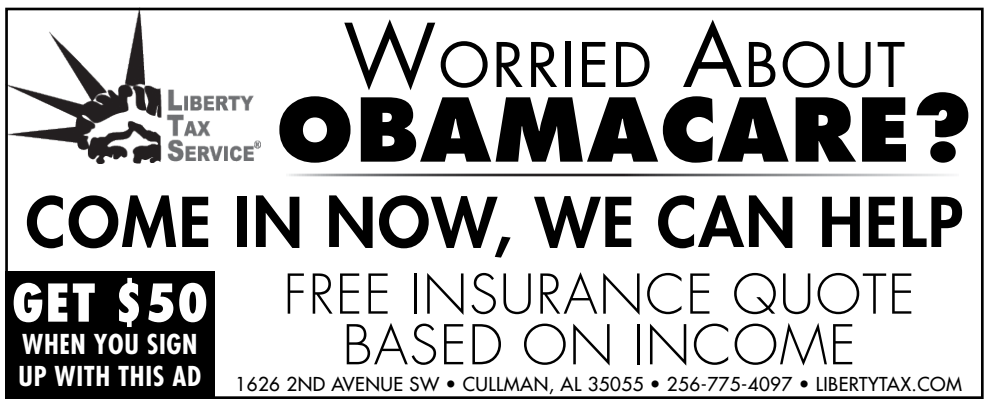
As far as the people working the event, besides the police officers directing traffic and keeping people safe, everyone is a volunteer from St. Bernard.

The students help people with parking, and parents of students volunteer their time as well.

A big concern that Joyce Nix believes she's solved this year, is the traffic problem. Each year the Bloomin' Festival, with an estimated attendance last year of 20,000 between the two days, produces a lot of traffic issues.

"We've created a new entrance and exit into St. Bernard," Nicks said, "Along with school buses in the parking areas to take people from their cars to the festival."

The Bloomin' Festival will be on April 18 and 19, and will start at 9 a.m. on each day and end at 9 p.m. each day. Experience is said to be the best lesson; if that's the case, this year's festival will be better than ever!






# 2ND LOCAL CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL TABLETOP DAY SET FOR APRIL 11

**Chelsea Sparks**
chelsea@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – Everyone has a favorite tabletop game, whether it's Monopoly, Risk, or maybe even Trivial Pursuit. There are, however, a plethora of fun and challenging games to play that many may not even be aware of. Tabletop games have made a comeback over recent years, and now there is a whole day dedicated to them. You can celebrate International Tabletop Day right here in Cullman on April 11.

Leslie Sanders, who helps organize the event with her brother Boomer Barr, explained how this day got started and why it is such a sensation.

"International Tabletop Day is an event created by Wil Wheaton as a celebration for all the fans of tabletop gaming," said Sanders. "It is a single day where the whole world is brought together in a common purpose of spending time together and having fun. We're just providing a local place to gather people together in order to introduce many to the wide world of tabletop games."

Indeed, it is a wide array, and Sanders stated that their library has several varieties of games for every taste.

"There are games for all types of players," Sanders said. "We have strategy, action, adventure, war games, cooperative, dice and cards. We have a huge library of games to choose from but guests are welcome to bring their own favorites to find someone to play with. Due to the age restrictions on most of our games, we are asking that children 10 and under be accompanied by an adult."

This free event will take place at the Comfort Inn Suites located on Highway 157 on April 11. Gamers are welcome to drop in throughout the day from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.



LESLIE SANDERS

**Tabletop lovers from around the county and beyond gathered at last year's event to share in their passion for gaming.**

"Our favorite part of the day and games are one in the same, fun memories," said Sanders. "You'll laugh at and with each other as everyone tries their best to win, whether it's you against them, or everyone against the game. You get to build strong friendships, great memories and a few fantastic inside stories that'll always make you smile."

A full library listing of the host's games and more information can be found at Facebook.com/CullmanTabletop or you can e-mail them at CullmanTabletop@gmail.com.

## Bees (from Front)

hives.

So, what happens if this continues, and if the world's bee pollination dies out? One thing is for sure, the results will be brutal.

Consider for a moment that the pollination that is directly controlled by the bee population accounts for 70 percent of the production of our fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds.

That is a staggering amount of our food supply that is completely dependent upon bees. Thus, if there are no bees, there may be no life as we know it.

So what is causing this rapid decline of bees? The answer may lie within the insecticide used commercially called neonicotinoids.

A recent study by Harvard University proved this theory, and negated the claims that these chemicals biodegrade and are not a threat.

"The results we present here more clearly define some potential intersections between foraging honeybees and some of the seed treatments used during planting of maize," said the study published on the National Center for Biotechnology Information's website.

"These results demonstrate that honeybees living and foraging near agricultural fields are exposed to neonicotinoids and other pesticides through multiple mechanisms throughout the spring and summer. The potential for greatest exposure (and the period when mortality was noted), occurs during planting time when there is potential for exposure to extremely high concentrations of neonicotinoids in waste talc that is exhausted to the environment during and after planting. Furthermore, we show that bees living in these environments will forage for maize pollen and transport pollen containing neonicotinoids to the hive."

It would seem that the human race's disregard for how we affect our environment is catching up with us.

A world without bees will not stand, we could simply say goodbye to a lot more than honey if the farming industry doesn't stop the use of neonicotinoids.

Our ecosystems are fragile, and every action will have a reaction, as we are finally beginning to see.

## Treasures (from Front)

unscented candles are made and sold right in the shop.

Many people may not know what wax tarts or cubes are used for, but Townsend just smiled and explained.

"It is basically a wickless candle. Just break them apart and melt them in a warmer for a great fragrance."

The made to order foaming bath butter soap is wonderful. You only need to use an amount the size of a dime, so a small jar of it goes a long way.

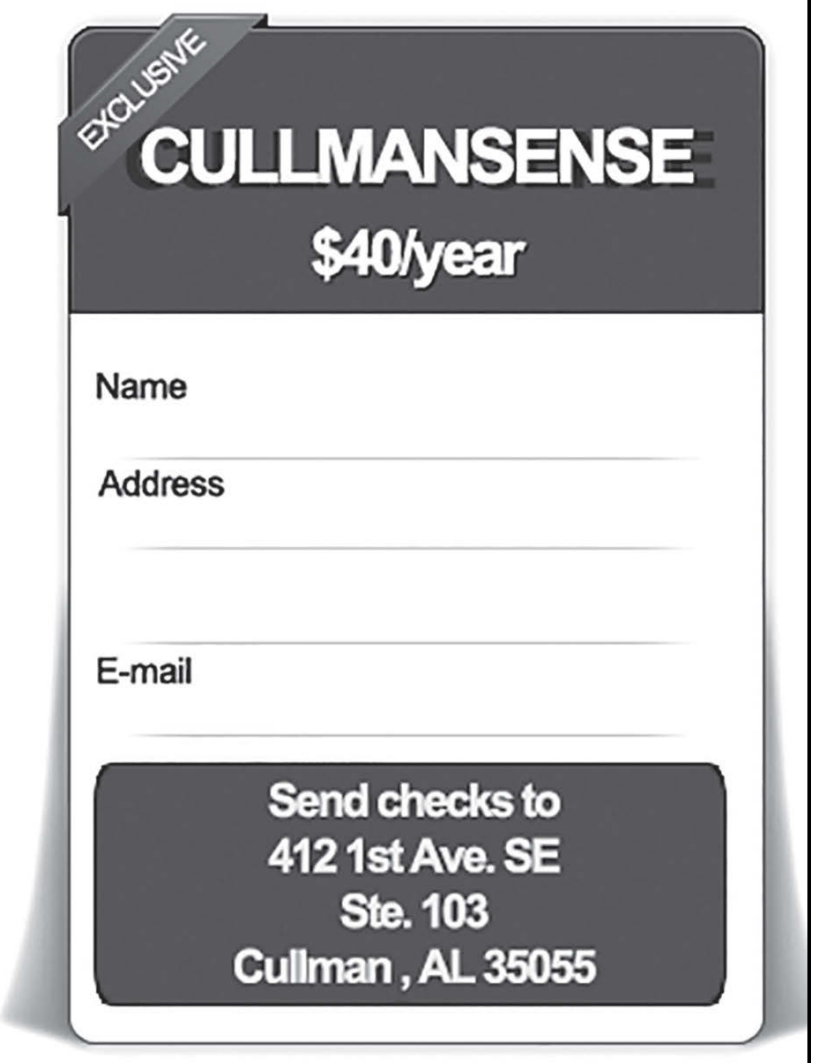
"Just put a small amount on a loofah, rub together and wash," Townsend grinned. "That's it. That will be more than enough rich, moisturizing, lathering soap for a single wash at a time."

There are also other great things available from Townsend Treasures; things such as ceramic tart warmers, herbal items for making potpourri, handmade wooden bowls and crocheted afghan blankets. If you haven't had a chance to check them out, run by and meet Maryanne and see what all the fuss is about. For downhome charm and special handmade products, you'll want to keep going back for more.

Townsend Treasures is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. They are closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

The shop is located at 411-B 6th Avenue SW, Cullman, AL 35055. Call them at 256-339-2448 or e-mail them at mtownsend34@yahoo.com. Follow them on Facebook at Facebook.com/BioBeautyCare.co.

Subscribe to CullmanSense today and have it delivered to your door for only $40 a year.



# RAISED BED GARDENING 101

## SEMINAR AT NORTH ALABAMA AGRIPLEX TEACHES PROVEN CONCEPTS

**Chelsea Sparks**
chelsea@cullmansense.com

**"I love teaching. I love teaching my kids in 4H, and tonight thoroughly, I enjoyed teaching all of these adults about gardening."**
Raydonna Sims, Agent Assistant at Cullman County Extension Office

**CULLMAN** – As part of the Living Landscapes program at the North Alabama Agriplex, Raydonna Sims from the Cullman County Office of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System spoke on the benefits of raised bed gardening. The extension office works to improve their area's quality of life by educating people on research based methods of improving economic wellbeing.

Sims specializes in working with 4-H groups and youth development in our area, as well as educating others on the sustainability a person can achieve through gardening. On Tuesday night's class, Sims explained what exactly a raised bed is.

"A raised bed is any bed that is made at least eight inches above the soil level," she said.

"You can put anything around the soil to contain it. It doesn't matter, you can be really creative with what you use as your frame, and they can really be a beautiful touch to your landscape."

Sims went over a few more added benefits of raised beds, including the versatility and the high quality of soil you can achieve, and also the benefit for those who may have a hard time bending over, such as the elderly.

"You can build these beds up high so you do not have to bend over, which can be a problem for some," said Sims.

"You simply use filler for these higher beds like rocks or pinecones and then put your soil on top. It just makes it so much easier for someone who has problems with reaching or bending."

A full house was present for the class, and Sims was very happy to see it.

"It really was a great turn out," she said. "I love teaching. I love teaching my kids in 4H, and tonight, I thoroughly enjoyed teaching all of these adults about gardening. I just hope they got something out of it."

While some may find the idea of any type of gardening intimidating, Sims said there is nothing to fear.

"I had someone last night tell me that they were overwhelmed," said Sims.

"And it is a lot of information in one class, but it's really not hard once you get used to it. Of course, you're going to make mistakes, but anyone can learn this, and I am happy to help."

The two-hour class offered a wealth of great tips and information that even experienced gardeners could use.

According to Sims, one of the benefits of attending an event with someone from the extension office speaking, is the knowledge that you are getting is high quality information.

"The extension office partners up a lot with the Agriplex, and when you have extension partnering, you know you have research based information," said Sims.

"We absolutely cannot teach anything that isn't based on research. So you know you are getting good information that has been proven to work. It is just terrific that we have a place like the Agriplex to share this information with."

Programs like the Living Landscapes class and youth classes are happening all the time at the Agriplex.

To receive more information on future classes, call 256-297-1044, or for more information on extension and their programs, visit Aces.edu.



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

**Raydonna Sims from the Cullman County Extension Office offers research based tips for raised bed gardening.**

**POSITION AVAILABLE**

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

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

# Improvements (from Front)

**Sharon Schuler Kreps**
sharon@cullmansense.com

**GOOD HOPE** – Springtime is here and the city of Good Hope has been busy getting ready for the warmer weather and outdoor activities by working major improvements to the baseball fields and correcting the drainage issues on Day Gap Road. Things are looking great in Good Hope.

"The first of our projects was our baseball fields," said Good Hope Mayor Jerry Bartlett.

"We had a lot of washing out problems; water was going under the concrete slab and washing dirt out. So we dug out loose material and backfilled with cement, then dug a footer and sealed it off. So we stopped it from washing out."

"All the ruts and little ditches in it [the baseball field], we filled them with top soil, packed it and laid sod on top of it," Bartlett continued. "There are four dugouts that were bad about holding water. Dirt would get in and it would fill up with water – it was like a bathtub. So we poured concrete slabs so the water can't settle."

With a load of topsoil, a lot of sod and several yards of concrete, it took about a week to complete the baseball field project.

The other project they are working is by the Good Hope Primary School on Day Gap Road from County Road 437 to the 4-way stop

That part of the road has been closed to everyone but local traffic. Workers are repairing a major water problem that will include concrete inlet boxes with manholes, 36-inch pipes with curb and gutters.

When the project is completed, maintenance workers will be able to mow over it. Right now it is a huge ditch that risks washing away the road.

Another big project for Good Hope is the remodeling of the basement at City Hall, presently used by the senior citizens on Wednesdays.

Two closets with lots of shelves were built, each with a lock the seniors can store their things in.

There has been new ceiling tile installed, along with new light covers and air vents.

New cabinets have been ordered and will be installed soon, along with nice new white round tables and chairs. To top it off, they will also be getting new appliances and a fresh paint.

The mayor wants to make sure the seniors are taken care of and have a place all their own.

The basement will still be available for rental the rest of the week to members of the community.

To find out what else is happening at Good Hope, follow them on Facebook at Facebook.com/CityofGoodHope or contact Jerry Bartlett at 256-739-3757 or e-mail him at Mayor@GoodHopeAL.com. Good Hope City Hall is located at 134 Town Hall Drive, Cullman, AL 35057.

**LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO**
FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY THIS SPRING?
MARCH 21 | LEARN TO PLAY LACROSSE FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS
MARCH 31 | COMMUNITY GARDEN & GARDENING CLASSES BEGIN
APRIL 4 | YOUTH OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
APRIL 6 | KAYAKING CLASSES
APRIL 17 | MOTHER/DAUGHTER PJ PARTY & FATHER/SON NIGHT OUT
VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE TO GET PLUGGED IN
WWW.CULLMANRECREATION.ORG

# THE CITY AND COUNTY OF CULLMAN IN 1912 ACCORDING TO CULLMAN COMMERCIAL CLUB

**Sharon Schuler Kreps**
sharon@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – On January 24, 1911 the Cullman Commercial Club was officially organized with Honorable M.L. Robertson serving as President; L.N. Buell, Secretary; and Fred J. Buchannan, Treasurer. Sixty leading businessmen from around the city were enrolled at the first meeting. The purpose of the club was to build up and promote the city of Cullman.

In hopes of attracting additional fine, upstanding citizens, the Commercial Club put together a book of facts about Cullman City and County. The handsome booklet was entitled The Land of Strawberries and Cream. Five thousand copies of the book were printed and distributed throughout the land.

The preface of the booklet went as follows:

*Dear Reader:*

*In presenting to you this "BOOKLET" it is not the purpose of the Cullman Commercial Club to worry you with a long drawn out description of cold facts and figures of that which they have to offer the homeseeker, nor to place in your hands a conglomerate and unreliable collection of matter that has within it no truth and is not based upon absolute facts, but rather we desire to describe to the interested reader something concerning what we think one of the best towns and counties in Alabama, and its attendant possibilities, in the most readable manner possible, leaving the individual the privilege of accepting or rejecting as he may see proper.*

*Assuring all in advance, however, that where statistical tables and other figures are employed, absolute accuracy obtains in accordance with authenticity. Trusting that those who follow us to the end may find something of interest, something to amuse, and at last something beneficial.*

*H. Clay Smith*
*Geo. Stiefelmeyer*
*J.D. Searcy*
*Publicity Committee Cullman Commercial Club*

The booklet described a few of the many truthful things concerning Cullman County. It described the city's formation, the climate, churches and schools. It boasted of the many health benefits of living in Cullman: "Its high elevation above sea level gives it perfect drainage; having no malarial swamps, and an abundance of pure water...." and, "Many people suffering from pulmonary troubles and those seeking recuperation from debilitated conditions have found a great relief."

The book listed the city's interests at the time. When compared to the Cullman of today, it's obvious the booklet had worked and brought many new people to town.

In 1912, the city of Cullman had the following businesses: three banks, 40 general merchandise stores, three drug stores, four hotels – two more were in the process of being built, six restaurants and a large number of private boarding houses. There were four livery stables, four meat markets, four jewelry stores and six produce stores. Cullman also had two photographers, two tin shops and plumbing, three cotton gins, two gristmills and one of the largest furniture factories in the south. The Southern Cotton Oil Company had one of their largest plants located in Cullman at the time too.

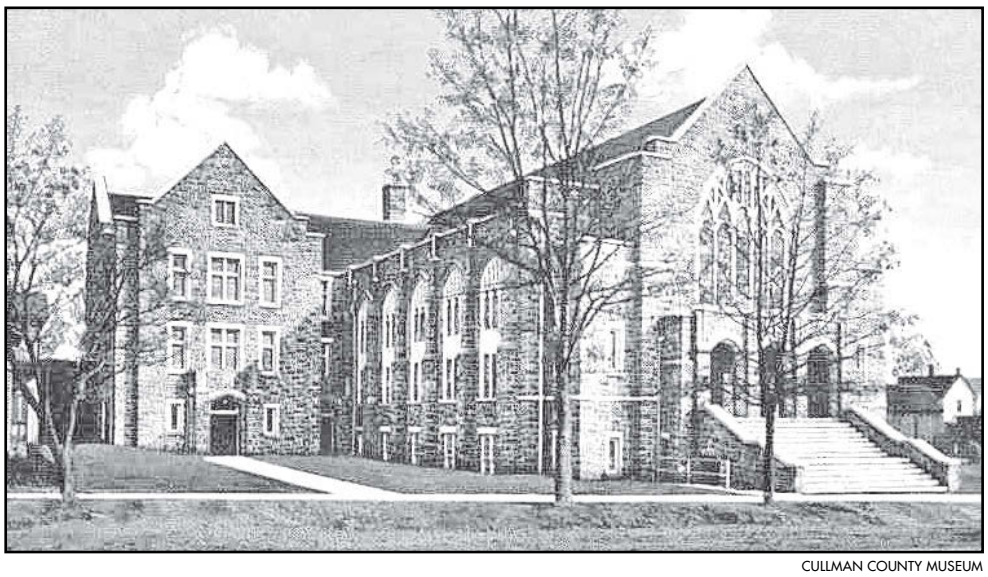
Cullman also had one handle factory, one steam laundry, one machine shop - foundry and iron works, one cabinet shop, one poultry coop factory, two monument and marble works, and one steam brick works. For printing and advertising, there were four book and job printing establishments and two weekly newspapers. In operation were three wagon factories, one ice factory, two large fertilizer factories, two sash and or door factories, several lumberyards and one axle factory.

In addition, there were four barber shops – each had two chairs, one garage, one bottling works, two large cotton warehouses and five real estate and insurance offices. There were 10 lawyers, eight physicians, two dental surgeons, 35 carpenters, 40 masons and plasterers, and five painters and decorators. There was a state of the art aeroplane company just formed and ready to erect shops for building flying machines, beside many other industries, which for lack of space were unable to enumerate.

Obviously Cullman was the place to be back so many years ago. Over the years it has grown by leaps and bounds. Businesses and industries have moved here and more places are opening nearly every day. The Cullman Commercial Club had it right when they printed their book and boasted of our great town - Cullman County remains one of the best places in the south to live and work.




# MIRRORING HISTORY: CULLMAN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM

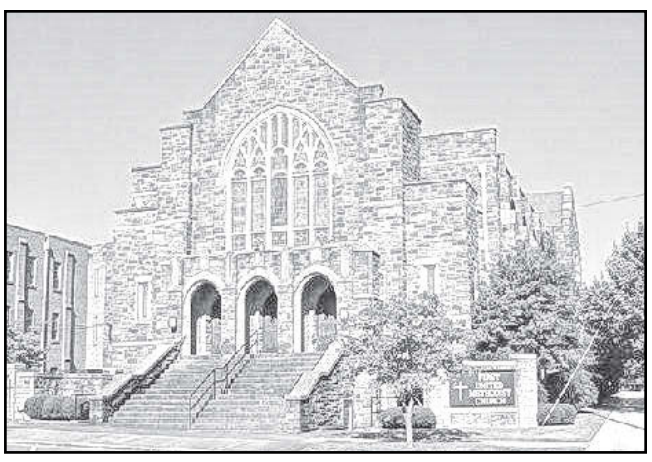
**The cost of building the stone church was nearly $100,000.**

**Sharon Schuler Kreps**
sharon@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – The Cullman Mission was organized by Reverend Sam P. West in 1881. One of its leading laymen, Mr. George W. Hanlin, organized a Sunday school class for Methodists in 1879. Two years later, under the leadership of Rev. R. S. Hullett, the congregation built their first church building on 1st Avenue, west between 1st and 2nd Streets.

Unfortunately the first church building was destroyed by the fire of 1893, which had also destroyed the greater part of the northwestern section of Cullman.

Shortly thereafter, the congregation led by their pastor, Dr. D. S. McDonald, made plans for erecting a new building on the present site. The frame building stood until 1923 when, under the leadership of the Rev. S. O. Kimbrough, it was torn down and used in constructing a tabernacle where the congregation worshipped while the present stone church building was completed at a cost of nearly $100,000, incurring a large indebtedness.



CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM

**A present day view of the church.**

## 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

# THE HUNT MUST GO ON

## LOCAL BUSINESSES COME TOGETHER TO REVIVE SPORTSMAN LAKE EASTER EGG HUNT

**Sharon Schuler Kreps**
sharon@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – When it was announced that the annual WKUL Easter Egg Hunt had been cancelled this year, Noah Chandler, publisher at CullmanSense, spoke with Doug Davenport, director of Cullman County Parks & Recreation, and together they worked to make it happen. Local businesses here in Cullman stepped up to the plate and the egg hunt was back on.

"We were notified eight days ago that WKUL was not going to host the egg hunt due to an illness in the family," said Davenport. "So Noah at CullmanSense, Sarah Teichmiller and I went out and got sponsorships and donations. It cost about $2,500 for all the candy, the eggs and everything we did. We were able to raise the money in four days," he chuckled.

"We had such tremendous response from the public and sponsors that we actually met our goal the same day we went out," Davenport continued.

"That was just the estimate of what it would cost, the next task was going out and finding 7,000 plastic eggs!" he smiled.

In the playground area, thousands of colorful eggs covered the grass and at exactly 9 a.m. the gates were opened and hundreds of children, with Easter baskets in hand, ran in and began picking them up.

"There were just tons of eggs on the ground, so we just had to grab them and go!" said 8-year-old Lily Burke excitedly.

She and 2-year-old Ford Hagen had worked together to fill their baskets.

The egg hunt was a little different this year. Some of the eggs had candy in them, but most of them didn't, for sanitary reasons.

After all the eggs were picked up, the children went to the front of the park and received a large scoop of candy from the volunteers.

The Easter Bunny milled around the whole time, happily having his picture taken with the children.

"Sportsman Lake Park would like to thank all of our sponsors thus far for helping with the Easter egg hunt on April 4," said Delitha Marchman, park manager.

"Our generous sponsors are: Merchants Bank, Freedom Insurance, Peoples Bank, Payroll Services, Creative Design, CullmanSense, Marchman Farms, H&R Block and Northbrook Baptist Church."

Indeed, all had a memorable day, and another Easter egg hunt goes down in history.

Without the help of some very wonderful people, the children would not have been able to have such a great time. Thank you, people of Cullman, for keeping the Sportsman Lake Easter Egg Hunt tradition alive and going strong for many years to come!



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

**Attendees rush to collect Easter eggs at Sportsman Lake Park.**



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

**Children gather eggs spread across the park.**

# LEARN HOW TO USE CHALK PAINT AT VINTAGE WEST

**Sharon Schuler Kreps**
sharon@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – Chalk Paint was developed over 20 years ago by Annie Sloan and now it is a famous decorative paint. She created the paint in order to have a versatile paint that would have many uses. She wanted something that acted like limewash and created the look of old painted furniture. She called it Chalk Paint because of its beautiful chalk-like, matte finish.

The great thing about Chalk Paint is that it's very easy to work with. Rarely does it require preparation, such as sanding or priming. It can be used indoors or outside, and can be applied to just about any surface.

It can completely revitalize the look of old furniture, walls, ceilings and floors. It's fun, easy and makes spectacular results available to everyone.

If you are interested in learning how to use Chalk Paint and want to gain a little confidence before tackling your first piece, Vintage West invites you to take part in one of their weekly paint classes.

Not only will you learn the basics, but you will also be taught all the techniques the pros use in order to have beautiful results every time.

Teresa Daniel, owner of Vintage West, received her training through the Annie Sloan Unfolded program.

She will carefully walk you step-by-step through the various Chalk Paint techniques including Color Distressing, Impasto (Style), Color Washing, Crackling, Stenciling & more. You will enjoy the fun and light-hearted atmosphere.

"Bring your own piece to work with, or we can provide something for you – it's up to you," said Daniel.

"Either way, you'll leave not only with something you can be proud of, but also the confidence and experience to take on your own Chalk Paint projects at home!"

Classes are offered on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. and every other Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

The cost is $150.00 but special prices for the classes can be found at groupon.com/deals/vintage-west. Classes can be paid for online and setting up the class day is done over the phone. Custom times are also available by calling the store.

If you or someone you know is interested in taking the painting classes, stop by and talk to Theresa Daniel about it. She will be happy to get you started.

Vintage West is located at 101 First Ave NE Suite 120, Cullman, AL 35055. Call them at 256-841-1474 or e-mail them at vintagewest278@yahoo.com.

For more information, find them online at VintageonWest.com or follow them on Facebook at Facebook.com/VintageWestStudio.

**"Bring your own piece to work with, or we can provide something for you – it's up to you."**

Teresa Daniel, Owner of Vintage West



FACEBOOK.COM/VINTAGEWESTSTUDIO

**People learning how to paint with Chalk Paint® at Vintage West in Cullman.**

# A WILD EGG CHASE

## SERRA VISSER NISSAN HOSTS COMMUNITY SCAVENGER HUNT

**Chelsea Sparks**
chelsea@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – Running all over town has never been so much fun as it was on Saturday with Serra Visser Nissan's Easter Extravaganza. Residents from all over the city and county participated, and according to organizer Keith Rudder, the results were fantastic.

"The event has been very successful," said Rudder. "We all got together a couple weeks ago to come up with a community event, and then it really grew. It started off at such a small idea to do something a little different for the community other than normal baseball field hunts and stuff like that."

The event was social media driven, with participants signing up on Facebook, and receiving a message the day of the event with the first clue.

Participants would then follow the clues around town from business to business giving local establishment's exposure on an otherwise slow weekend.

"We really wanted this event to be something that benefitted the whole community," Rudder said.

"We connected with local businesses to get more people through their doors. Today with all the events going on, they are kind of slow, so this was a way to help get more people through their doors and give them some exposure. The businesses got to go as big as they wanted or as small as they wanted."

Children on the scavenger hunt received goodies from the businesses, and every child seemed to be thrilled with the game.

Back at the ending location, Nissan offered hotdogs, drinks, and a chance to meet the Easter Bunny and have your favorite balloon animal made by some very lovable clowns.

"We had a really good time," said participant Lisa Alexander, who was with her three children.

"We went through What A Girl Wants, Rumors Deli, Jennifer's Treasures and one or two more. The clues were good, they weren't too easy, and they weren't too hard either. It was fun."

At the end of the hunt, those with a winning number got a prize ranging from $10 gift certificates, all the way up to a beautiful jewelry box donated by Ed White Jewelers. Rudder stated that the event was a success because of their sponsors.

"I really want to recognize all our sponsors who were such a huge help with this event, as well as our store here at Nissan," Rudder said.

"It was just a fun day for everyone, and hopefully everyone got a little something out of it."

Sponsors for the event included: Serra Visser Nissan, Applebee's, Cracker Barrel, AutoSounds, Just Clowning Around, The Candle Garden, The Rental Place, Southern Stampede Tack and Supply, Jennifer's Treasures (formerly Etc. By Nikki), It's My Party, CullmanSense, Ed White Jewelers, Cullman Sign and Banner CSB, Complete Cash, Rumors Deli, Dave Warren Photography, EVA Bank, What A Girl Wants, Books-A-Million Cullman, Werner's Trading Co., Liberty Tax, Krystal Corley Art, and O-baby.



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

**Lisa Alexander with her three children after picking up their prize, are congratulated by the Easter Bunny.**

# CULLMAN TAKES HOME TOP FARM-CITY AWARD THREE YEARS RUNNING

**Mary Johnson**
Contributor

**CULLMAN** - The Cullman County Farm-City Committee has become a dynasty, claiming the Overall Best Farm-City Committee Award for the third straight year for excelling in Farm-City programs. County Chairman Lesia Van Gundy received a trophy during the Farm-City Awards Luncheon April 2 in Birmingham.

The group was also recognized in Division I with the Innovative Idea Award for encouraging Farm-City business sponsors to participate in a harvest display contest and received the Target Award for reaching a different audience through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

"Cullman County has worked hard to involve everyone in Farm-City activities, from farmers and business owners to civic leaders and school students," said Alabama Farm-City Committee Chairman Jeff Helms. "Farm-City committee volunteers across the state are passionate about developing a greater understanding of the connection between rural and urban residents, and this luncheon is a time to celebrate their work."

In Division I, the Lee County Farm-City Committee was runner-up for best committee and received the Scrapbook Award. Other division winners were Coffee County, Best Farm-City Tour; Houston County, Best Media Coverage/Proclamation and Best Civic Club Activities; Mobile County, Best Farm-City Dinner; and Russell County, Best Special Activities.

The Pike County Farm-City Committee received top honors in Division II, made up of Alabama's smaller counties, along with awards for Best Media Coverage/Proclamation and Best Special Activities. The Lawrence County Farm-City Committee was division runner-up and won awards for Best Farm-City Tour and Innovative Idea.

Other Division II winners were Fayette County, Target Award; Franklin County, Best Farm-City Dinner; Henry County, Best Civic Club Activities; and Randolph County, Scrapbook Award.

Jessica Jones of Crenshaw County was named the 2014 Volunteer of the Year. Jones was recognized for reviving the county's Farm-City kindergarten tour. She worked with the Brantley High School FFA chapter to build a hay bale slide and train with sections painted like Holstein cows. Jones also scheduled the educational exhibits and displays for the event.

Farm-City committees across the state host numerous events throughout the year, culminating with Farm-City Week observed the week before Thanksgiving. Since 1955, Farm-City committees have hosted educational events and invited city folk to visit local farms for a first-hand look at how food is raised. The 2014 Farm-City theme was "Agriculture: 365 Sunrises and 7 Billion Mouths to Feed."

Student winners in the annual Farm-City poster, essay and multimedia contests were also recognized during the luncheon.



MARY JOHNSON

**Cullman County Farm-City Chairman Lesia Van Gundy accepts the award for Overall Best Farm-City Committee from Alabama Farm-City Chairman Jeff Helms.**

# 10TH ANNUAL COLTON'S COOKOUT FOR A CURE HELD IN MEMORY OF COLTON EVANS

**Will Hogue**
will@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – On Saturday, April 11, starting at 10 a.m. and continuing until 2 p.m., at Werner's Trading Company in Cullman, there will be a cookout. The cookout, which is an annual event, is held in memory of Colton Evans. There will be deep fried hot dog plates and BBQ sandwich plates available. There is a $7 suggested donation per plate. All proceeds at the event will go to benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.



## Monday

**Arts in April**
This Spring, thoughts will turn to "Piet, Pixels & Polygons" at Wallace State Community College, as the 2015 Arts in April Celebration transpires this week. The annual exhibition will be held Monday, March 30 through Saturday, April 11.

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

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

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

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

## Tuesday

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

**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

**"If You Build It" - Independent Film Series**
This documentary by Patrick Creadon follows designer-activists Emily Pilloton and Matthew Miller as they work with high school students in Bertie County, NC, to help transform both their communities through a building project. Living on credit and grant money and fighting a change-resistant school board, Pilloton and Miller lead their students through a yearlong, full-scale design and build project that does much more than just teach basic construction skills: it shows ten teenagers the power to re-invent not just their town, but their own sense of what's possible. Happening from 6-8 p.m. at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts at WSCC. Free admission.

**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

**Walk for Autism and 5K Run**
The Walk for Autism is the single most powerful fundraising event in April that unifies thousands of participants statewide in support of the mission and projects of the Autism Society. Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the U.S., and affects over 50,000 people in Alabama alone. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at WSCC Track.

**Colton's Cookout for a Cure**
This Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Werner's Trading Co. in memory of Colton Evans, come out for the 10th Annual Colton's Cookout for a Cure where BBQ sandwiches, chips, deep fried hotdogs and French fries will be served. All plates are served with slaw, baked beans, dessert & drink. $7 per pate (suggested donation). Sponsored by: Comfort Care Home Health & Hospice, Werner's Trading Co., Ted Calvert's State Farm Insurance, and Mitch Smith Chevrolet. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

**Tabletop Day**
Held at Comfort Suites in Cullman from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tabletop Day, created by Wil Wheaton, is a celebration for all the fans of Tabletop Gaming; a single day where the whole world is brought together in a common purpose of spending time together and having fun. Attention Parents: Due to age restrictions on most games, we recommend all children under the age of 10 be accompanied by an adult at all times. For more information, visit: Facebook.com/CullmanTabletop.

**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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# LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
## Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

### MONDAY
- 79 cent wings at Rodney G's Hickory Grill from 6-9 p.m.
- Arts in April Showcase Exhibition at WSCC

### TUESDAY
- Pickin' Under the Pavilion at the Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- Square Dancing Lessons at East Point Community Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-7 p.m.
- Arts in April Showcase Exhibition at WSCC

### 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.
- Arts in April Showcase Exhibition at WSCC

### THURSDAY
- "If You Build It" Independent Film at WSCC from 6-8 p.m.
- Arts in April Showcase Exhibition at WSCC
- 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
- Arts in April Showcase Exhibition at WSCC

### SATURDAY
- Arts in April Showcase Exhibition at WSCC
- Tabletop Day at Comfort Suites from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Walk for Autism and 5K Race from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Colton's Cookout for a Cure from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Werner's Trading Co.
- 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.

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



STATE FARM WELCOMES NEW AGENT
**KATHERINE MORGAN**
TO CULLMAN

**STATE FARM** is pleased to welcome new agent Katherine Morgan to its family of Good Neighbor Agents in (Cullman). (Katherine Morgan State Farm) agency, located at 909 Fisher St SW, Cullman, AL 35055), is set to officially opened its doors on April 1, 2015.

Prior to becoming a State Farm Agent, Katherine worked for Cullman Regional Medical Center serving our community for 18 years. Katherine is a longtime Cullman county resident. Katherine joined the State Farm family in 2014. Now she is excited about her new venture providing insurance and financial services in her hometown.

"My goal is to help the people of (Cullman) and the surrounding communities to manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected, and realize their dreams," said (Katherine).

"Being a State Farm agent fuels my desire to continue making a difference in the lives of the people around me."

Katherine's office includes four staff members which are well prepared to help customers with their insurance and financial service needs.

Katherine and her family, husband Jason and daughter Kelsie, are very active in the community with the local schools and church activities. Katherine is a member of the (Cullman) Chamber of Commerce where she serves as an Ambassador.

StateFarm™

# DESPERATION CHURCH FLIPS CLOSET TO KITCHEN

## CULLMAN POLICE ENJOY NEW BREAK AREA

**Sharon Schuler Kreps**
sharon@cullmansense.com



CRAIG GREEN

**Among its many projects during "Passion Week", Desperation Church transformed an empty storage room into a new kitchen for police officers.**

**CULLMAN** – Cullman City Police received a nice surprise recently when members of Desperation Church converted an old storage room into a beautiful new kitchen. The kitchen is in the west side patrol office and is used as a break area for patrol officers to complete paperwork. It allows a constant police presence and makes for a much faster response time.

"We went to visit it after talking with Craig Green at the station and noticed that it was super dated," said Keith Varden, executive pastor of Desperation Church.

"The wallpaper was old, recliners were up on cinder blocks, carpet/kitchen was old, etc. We wanted to do something nice for this group that spends so much time keeping us safe." he smiled.

The church does what's called serve days, which means they go out in groups into the community to offer their services.

The church did a serve day last Saturday that led into a serve week which they call, Passion Week.

"It's a week just to give back to the city," Varden explained. "We renovated teacher's lounges at West Point and Curry High Schools. We fixed up a courtyard at Hanceville High, made a new long jump track at Fairview, and many other service projects this week. The police station was one of them."

"We put in a new kitchen including cabinets, stove, etc.," he continued.

"We added new carpet, all new furniture, painted the walls and gave them a new TV. We wanted to create a space that when they do have a chance to rest, they could enjoy it. A couple of our small groups joined together and worked on it a little last week and finished it up on Saturday."

"Our department will be forever grateful to the members and staff of Desperation Church," said Craig Green, assistant chief of police.

"They are truly taking the love of Christ to Cullman. This remodel will not only affect the current patrol officers, I believe it will make a difference for many years to come. With words, we cannot say 'thank you' enough for the way Desperation Church serves our department and this community. They truly love and serve Cullman, as Christ called us to."

Clearly the fine people at Desperation Church want to show the love of Jesus through serving and teaching people about the love of God.

They believe that the local church is the hope of the world and that hope is Jesus.

Desperation Church is located at 202 Elizabeth Street NE, Cullman, AL 35055. Their phone number is 256-255-5979.

For more information, visit them online at DesperationChurch.tv and follow them on Facebook at Facebook.com/DCcampusnews.

## Nurse (from Front)

her and her teammates, and the compassion and genuine care that they put into their job.

"It is different being a nurse in a long term care facility," said Baker. "Because most are here permanently, we become a part of their life, and they become a part of ours. It is a little different over here on the rehab side than it was when I was in the nursing home side, but still either way you care. Our motto here is to treat each resident like they are your mom or your dad, and that is easy to do."

According to Baker, nurses who work in geriatric care have to juggle a multitude of duties at once such as managing daily needs of patients, dispensing medications, charting, education and much more.

"Each day we are giving medications and running around helping with almost every single task. We do a little bit of everything. Multitasking comes easy to me because I am a mother to five children, and I think that helps with this job," Baker said with a laugh.

One of the more rewarding parts of the job Baker said is when she gets to be there for a patient who may not have anyone else, and she is happy to be there to fill the gap for them.

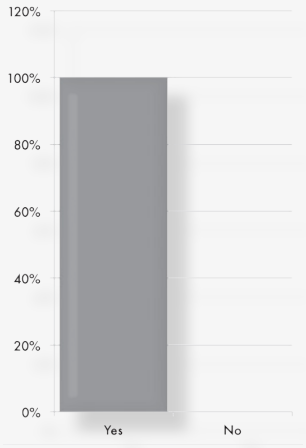
"It's very hard when we see someone who doesn't have a lot of family," Baker said. "We have a patient now, and he is so sweet and I love going to his room. I go in and see how he is doing and, of course, let him know I am happy to be there. Then the other day he reached his arm out to me to give me a hug. So we do fill that gap, because we are there through everything with them."

It is clear upon meeting Baker that she has a deep love for her work, and those she works with. While those in the outside world may not know her, or the work she does, many lives have been touched by her compassion and all those that work hard with her. Her story represents many more of others like her.

"With there being more and more elderly to take care of, and families sometimes not being able to care for their loved one themselves; I just want people to know that this is a great place," she said. "That when their loved ones come here that they will be cared for."

**Poll**

Should voters have to show identification to vote?




**This Week's Poll**

Do you own any solar panels?

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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

### GRANT BROWN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER HELD WITH SWAMP JOHN'S

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.



qrne.ws/339

### BERLIN SUNSHINE CLUB HOLDS ITS LARGEST EASTER EGG HUNT TO DATE?

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...

qrne.ws/340

### RED CROSS ASKS FOR PILLOWS AND BLANKETS

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 in Cullman.

qrne.ws/341

# WALLACE STATE KICKS OFF ARTS IN APRIL EVENTS

**Chelsea Sparks**
chelsea@cullmansense.com




FACEBOOK.COM/BURROWMUSEUM

**Local Artists participated in the Arts in April community exhibition; this year's theme was Piet, Pixel and Polygons.**

**HANCEVILLE** – The annual month long Arts in April event is back at Wallace State Community College. New exhibits featuring every medium of art one could think of will be present at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts located on campus.

"Providing cultural enrichment for our students and our community is an important part of Wallace State's mission," said Director of Communications and Marketing and Burrow Museum Administrator Kristen Holmes. "Planning for Arts in April events intensified when the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts was established five years ago, and our offerings across campus increased as a result. Each April, as we enjoy the beauty of springtime, we celebrate Arts in April with a month-long line up of events highlighting visual arts, literature, music, theatre, film, dance and so on."

The Community Art Exhibition kicks off the first part of the month and will be ending on April 11. This exhibition features work inspired by Dutch artist Piet Mondrian, who is best known for his abstract pieces using blocks of vibrant, primary colors. Students from area schools have entered pieces into the exhibit, which is on display in the exhibit hall of the Burrow Center. Wallace State students also have three-dimensional pieces on display in the atrium of the Burrow Center. The Community Art Exhibition is free and open to the public Monday through Saturday.

Next on the list is Mountain Brook artist, Arden Ward Upton, and her "Equus" collection of large-scale photography, which showcases the majesty and grace of the equine species. The exhibit will be on display in the gallery of the Evelyn Burrow Museum April 7-May 16. An opening reception will be held on April 23 at 6 p.m.

Of course, other forms of art will also be happening throughout the month. Like the Lion's Den Writing Club who will host a Mix-Tape Talent Show that will be held Wednesday, April 8, at 9:30 a.m., and the final installment of the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Films that will be screening the documentary, "If You Build It", on Thursday, April 9 at 6 p.m. in the Burrow Center Recital Hall.

The Wallace State Theatre program will present the musical sensation, "Into the Woods", April 9-12 at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre. The musical will be presented at 7 p.m. from April 9-11, and at 2 p.m. on April 12. With a live orchestra backing up the 30-member cast, this show is one you won't want to miss. Tickets will be $10.

On April 14, former NFL tight end and Amazing Race contestant Marcus Pollard will speak to students in Learning Communities courses at 9:30 a.m. in the Recital Hall of the Burrow Center.

The Lanett, Ala., native is the director of player development and youth football for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

The Wallace State Jazz Band will present its annual Big Band Ballroom Dance on Friday, April 17, starting at 7 p.m., in the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. The band will perform instrumentals, as well as a few tunes featuring vocalist Tahauny Cleghorn of the Wallace State Singers. Admission is $15. Meanwhile, the Wallace State Concert Choir will perform at 2 p.m. at St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church as part of their Arts in April performances.

On Tuesday, April 21, Wallace State's Suhana Chikatla will present "India and Indian Culture", as a part of a Learning Communities event.

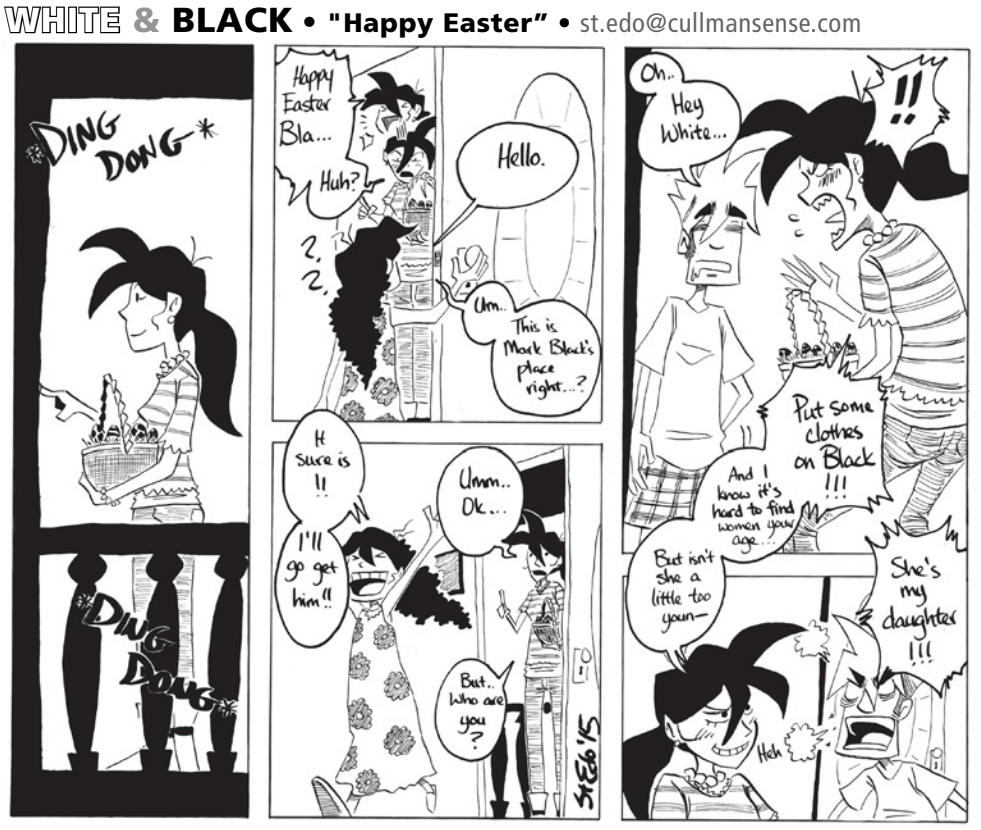
The public is welcome to attend the 9:30 a.m. presentation to learn more about the Indian culture. Finally, the Wallace State Concert Band will close out Arts in April with its Spring Concert on Thursday, April 30 at 7 p.m. in the Burrow Center Recital Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information, call 256-352-8277 or visit WallacState.edu.

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# COMICS

WHITE & BLACK • "Happy Easter" • st.edo@cullmansense.com










# PETS OF THE WEEK

## APRIL



Hello my name is April and I am about 2 years old. I am a Springer Spaniel and I currently weigh 49 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!

## DAYDREAM



Hello my name is Daydream and I am about 2 years old. I am a Border Collie and I currently weigh 41 LBS. I am a stray but no one claims me, I will go up for adoption on 04/06/15 at 1 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!

## 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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Community Matters

**Founder** Noah Chandler
**Editor** Dustin Isom
**Address** 412 1st Ave. SE, Ste. 103, Cullman, AL 35055
**Back Issues** issues@cullmansense.com
**Sports** Josh McBrayer, Johnny Thornton
**Newsroom Editor** Natalie Bonner
**Reporters** Chelsea Sparks, Sharon Schuler Kreps
**Tips** news@cullmansense.com or 256-297-1847
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**Cartoonist** Anthony Saint
**Contributors** Will Hogue

OPINION

# SPEAK UP, AND SPEAK OUT

## CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH URGES FOR ADVOCATES

**Chelsea Sparks**
chelsea@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – With child abuse awareness month underway, advocates for these children plead with their communities to be more aware and involved in preventing more children from becoming victims. One of the major factors that keep Alabama's stats high for child abuse may lie with all of us, a lack of involvement.

Most of have seen, or have suspected that a parent might be neglecting or abusing a child.

You see the signs like unexplained marks, the behavior of a child, or seeing a parent interact with that child. Sometimes it is subtle, but more often than not, it is obvious that something is going on, yet we do not call the authorities, why?

We tell ourselves that we shouldn't get involved, and that we should stay out of it.

When we rationalize explanations and ignore the warning signs, we, as a society, become accessories to abuse. Last year, 18 children in Alabama died, one of which was a baby from Cullman.

Still more will be abused this year, and it is up to us as a community to take a stand against it.

The best way to help these children is to stop indifference and to know the warning signs of a child who needs an advocate.

The fact is that most children will not report their abuse, and it is, therefore, vital to memorize the signs and symptoms.

Some signs include: mood swings, withdrawal, eating problems, fear of adults, sleeping problems, self destructive behaviors, frequent absences or tardiness, and strange bruises or marks. These are just a few of the clues that could point to a problem in the home that needs to be addressed.

There are organizations, such as Cullman Caring for Kids or Brooks' Place, that work year round to educate and prevent these occurrences, yet the number climbs higher each year.

These noble organizations cannot do this alone, and it is when we all stop turning a blind eye to it that we may begin to see real change.

When you see a child that you suspect is in trouble, please pick up the phone and call DHR at 256-737-5300, 911 or the child abuse hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD. You can remain completely anonymous and possibly spare a child from dying at the hands of an abuser.

OPINION

# LOWER DRINKING AGE, RAISE KILLING AGE

**David Swanson**
PeaceVoice

The United States sends people to kill and die in war that it doesn't trust with a beer.

It trains police in war skills to assault young people it suspects of going near beer.

Here's an idea: Drink At 18, Don't Kill Till 21.

Alcohol prohibition is not working, and creates unsafe drinking by people old enough to vote, drive, and work. A case can be made, and is being made, for returning the drinking age to 18.

But allowing 18-year-olds to join the military has created illegal and immoral recruitment of minors, not to mention deep moral regret, post-traumatic stress, and suicide in young veterans.

Raising the age for war participation (for joining either the military or one of its contractors) to 21 would do more for education and informed career choices -- not to mention reducing drug and alcohol addiction, and suicide -- than banning alcohol does.

Make-Daiquiris-Not-War is a policy based on actual dangers. The problem with alcohol is not responsible drinking of it. Alcohol is not a satanic liquid to be counterproductively made into a forbidden fruit.

The problems with alcohol are: drinking and driving, which should be addressed by avoiding the driving, not through an unenforceable ban on drinking; drinking to dangerous excess, which should be addressed through open discussion, not the secretive plotting of contemporary speakeasies; and addiction, which is driven not so much by the chemicals involved as by the life of the person who becomes addicted.

And what could we most easily do to assist young people in leading more fulfilling, less horrific, lives? We could put off the decision to join in a program of warmaking until age 21, thereby giving a young person a chance to consider all the options.

In many nations there is no drinking age. In others the drinking age is after you're dead (alcohol is prohibited). Among those with a drinking age between zero and forever, far and away the most common is 18. Exceptions are Egypt, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates, Cameroon, Indonesia, the United States, and various Pacific island colonies of the United States, all of which make the legal age to drink 21.

But how's that working out for them? In Egypt if you happen to witness the police murder someone, you'll face prison or worse, while the U.S. President chats with the Egyptian President promising him more weapons and money, but if you want to drink underage, apparently nobody really minds. The inevitable result of making it legal to sell alcohol to some but not all adults (taking adults to be 18 and up) seems to be either stiffer and stiffer penalties or routine violation. This of course creates both a disrespect for laws and drinking in secret without appropriate discussion of dangers and measures to prevent recklessness.

In Argentina enlistment in the military is allowed at 21, or at 18 with parental consent. In Bahrain and Kazakhstan military enlistment starts at 15. Who's right? Who's respecting the enlistees? Well, according to some brain scientists at MIT -- not that they should know anything: "As a number of researchers have put it, 'the rental car companies have it right.' The brain isn't fully mature at 16, when we are allowed to drive, or at 18, when we are allowed to vote, or at 21, when we are allowed to drink, but closer to 25, when we are allowed to rent a car."

Scientists at Dartmouth agree. (But they would, wouldn't they?) Not to mention neuroscientists who write books and go on NPR.

So upping the killing age to 21 would be moving in the direction of the wisdom of the scientists and the rental car companies. Why lower the drinking age at the same time? Because alcohol needs to be treated principally not as a means of drunken escape, but as an enjoyable beverage with dinner. Nations with no drinking age at all tend to have less alcoholism than do puritanical nations.

The point is not that 18 year olds are qualified to head off to parties at which they'll drink gallons of hard liquor (as some currently do, law or no law) but that alcohol, like other enjoyable and risky parts of life -- from dangerous sports to sex to other drugs to those televisions in airports blasting Fox News -- should be dealt with openly and calmly by parents and teachers and friends, with the actual dangers made crystal clear and imaginary dangers debunked.

The fact is that prohibiting alcohol leads to more reckless drinking, while prohibiting war participation leads to less reckless killing. We've got our priorities wrong. Let's rework them.

*David Swanson writes for PeaceVoice, is director of WorldBeyondWar.org and campaign coordinator for RootsAction.org. Swanson's books include War Is A Lie. He hosts Talk Nation Radio. He is a 2015 Nobel Peace Prize Nominee.*

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