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CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

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CULLMAN CARING FOR KIDS REMEMBERS CHILDREN LOST TO ABUSE, CONTINUES FIGHTING FOR OTHERS

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The local non-profit organization, Cullman Caring for Kids (CCK), along with a few dozen advocates and supporters, gathered around the courthouse on Tuesday to pray for the leaders of the county. A balloon release followed to remember those lost, and to send a message to children that are being abused that there are people who care.

Tuesday's 2015 Walk for Children began with the handing out of white crosses and signs to participants. Each cross bore the name of one

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CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Supporters of all ages gathered at the Cullman County Courthouse to raise child abuse awareness.



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Lana Thornton clutches the cross for Hoss Wayne Benham who died in Cullman in March of 2014.



LARRY ROWLETTE

OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE WEEK

MEET LARRY ROWLETTE A.K.A. COLONEL CULLMANN P7

CULLMAN'S ANNUAL WALK FOR AUTISM BRINGS FUN AND AWARENESS P7

STONE BRIDGE FARMS OFFERS NEW RETREAT TO CUSTOMERS P9

INTERNATIONAL TABLETOP DAY BRINGS GAMERS TOGETHER P10

SEN. SESSIONS SPEAKS AT BARBECUE LUNCH

"I'M REALLY PROUD OF CULLMAN. THIS IS A HARD WORKING COMMUNITY; VERY CUTTING EDGE AND HAS ECONOMIC GROWTH AND I THINK YOU ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO SEE THAT."

P4



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Senator Jeff Sessions speaks to Cullmanites at Southern Accents before sharing a barbecue lunch with them.

NEW HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE COMES TO CULLMAN

"I wanted to start this task force here, because a lot of people think of human trafficking and they think, 'Oh, that doesn't happen here', but it does."

Kathy Wilson, Cullman Juvenile Probation

Chelsea Sparks
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CULLMAN – Human trafficking is a term rarely heard in the community, but it is a term with which everyone should become familiar. It happens every day, and it is a growing problem right in Cullman's backyard. This

P3



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Members of various departments and agencies in the community met to discuss the growing problem of human trafficking in our state.

HOSPITAL BOARD NAMES CLEMENTS PERMANENT CEO FOR CRMC

Lindsey Dossey
CRMC

CULLMAN – The Cullman Regional Medical Center Board of Directors is pleased to move James Clements from Interim President/Chief Executive Officer into the permanent position leading CRMC. "The board has been extremely impressed by the financial and operational improvements made during his short tenure," CRMC Board Chair Todd McLeroy said. "We are confident that with his leadership, CRMC will continue to be a healthcare leader in our state."

Clements is a healthcare executive with more than 25 years of healthcare operations experience for acute-care hospitals with 60-500 beds. He has previously served as Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer for a seven-hospital healthcare company in which he was responsible for the man-

P10

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TEST RESULTS FOR SUSPECTED MEASLES CASE ARE NEGATIVE

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CULLMAN – A 9-month-old baby girl was brought into the emergency room at CRMC on Saturday, April 4 with suspected measles. According to CRMC lab tests that were sent off, confirmation wasn't obtained until April 7. The news spread across social media, however, and had many parents worried.

Fortunately, according to CRMC, the results came back negative, but the story has raised many questions as to the effectiveness of the vaccines for those that have received it. Infection Control Nurse at CRMC, Marti Smith, said, "The likelihood of someone who has been vaccinated contracting the disease is slim, albeit not impossible."

"One dose of MMR vaccine is about 93 percent effective at preventing measles if exposed to the virus, and two doses are about 97 percent effective," said Smith.

"According to the Centers for Disease Control, very few people – about 3 out of 100 – who get two doses of measles vaccine will still get measles if exposed to the virus. Experts aren't sure why; it could be that their immune systems didn't respond as well as they should have to the vaccine. But the good news is, fully vaccinated people who get measles are much more likely to have a milder illness, and they are also less likely to spread the disease to other people, including people who can't get vaccinated because they are too young or have weakened immune systems."

While the threat of a measles outbreak seems to have diminished at this time, knowing the signs and symptoms is important. According to the CDC, measles is a highly contagious virus that lives in the nose and throat mucus of an infected person. It can spread to others through coughing and sneezing. Also, the measles virus can live for up to two hours in an airspace where the infected person coughed or sneezed. If other people breathe the contaminated air or touch the infected surface, and then touch their eyes, noses or mouths, they can become infected.

Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, 90 percent of the people close to that person who are not immune will also become infected.

Infected people can spread measles to others from four days before through four days after the rash appears.

Measles has become more and more of a problem in other parts of the country, but Smith says that this is not a common occurrence in the Cullman area.

"CRMC does not typically see potential measles in the Emergency Room or in hospital inpatients," Smith said. "I have 17 years of experience as an infection prevention nurse, and I have never seen a potential measles case at CRMC."

When asked about steps to further protection, Smith stated that there was not much else to do in the way of protection other than immunizations.

"That is a tough question," Smith said. "Try to minimize his or her exposure to anyone who has symptoms. There isn't any one specific thing that is recommended, other than limiting exposure of children/infants to others."

"The risk should be very, very low since this baby has mostly stayed home. There shouldn't be too many others that have been exposed."
Marti Smith, Infection Control Nurse at CRMC

According to the CDC, people who received two doses of measles vaccine as children, according to the U.S. vaccination schedule, are considered protected for life and do not ever need a booster dose.

Adults need at least one dose of measles vaccine, unless they have evidence of immunity.

Adults, who are going to be in a setting that poses a high risk for measles transmission, including students at post-high school education institutions, healthcare personnel, and international travelers, should make sure they have had two doses separated by at least 28 days. If you're not sure whether you are vaccinated, talk with your doctor.

MONKS BREAD AVAILABLE AT BLOOMIN' FESTIVAL

Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Contributor

CULLMAN – St. Bernard Abbey's Br. Ambrose Steele, OSB has spent many hours lately mixing monk bread in preparation for the 31st Annual Bloomin' Festival Arts and Crafts Fair in Cullman, Alabama on April 18-19, 2015.

Br. Ambrose expects to have 2,000 loaves ready by the weekend. In addition to monk bread, festival patrons will be welcomed by over 160 vendors offering a variety of handmade arts and crafts which include handcrafted jewelry, children's clothing, garden art, birdhouses, recycled art, pottery, soaps, jewelry holders, fashion accessories and furniture; along with visuals including live demonstrations of broom making, glass blowing, and blacksmithing.

There's nothing better than strolling the grounds munching on fresh popped kettlecorn, roasted almonds, or funnel cakes. Prep school students and parents will be serving concessions of smoked chicken, polish sausages, hot dogs and hamburgers as well as spiral potatoes and strawberry waffles. The fresh squeezed lemonade has been taunted as the best on the planet!

Plenty of flowering plants will be available as well.

Ave Maria Grotto is simply stunning with all the beautiful flowering dogwoods and azaleas. The stone cut creations of miniature places and replicas from around the world are beautifully accented with color as the flowers are in full bloom.

Festival Director, Joyce Nix said the school has done all they can do to make the weekend a success. Nix said, "We have done everything we know to do to make this show our best yet. Weather is always key with an event like ours. Rain or shine, the show must go on."

Nix said corporate sponsors have been a blessing to the show and wishes to thank everyone who has assisted in promoting the show. "We appreciate the community for supporting our work at St. Bernard. With the assistance of the artist, patrons, parents, students and friends our festival has been recognized as a Top 20 Event in the Southeast by the Southeast Tourism Society."

On Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m. St. Bernard will host a 5K/10K Run on the 2015 Trail of Champions at St. Bernard! To participate visit stbernardprep.com or bloominfestival.com.

At the conclusion of the show, St. Bernard will give away a 2015 Jeep Patriot and other valuable prizes with all proceeds benefitting St. Bernard Prep School.

An admission donation of $5 is requested for entrance to the festival with plenty of free parking. Ave Maria Grotto is reducing admission to only $3 the entire weekend of the festival.



ST. BERNARD PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Br. Ambrose Steele, OSB is busy baking bread in preparation of the 31st Annual Bloomin' Festival.

Festival T-shirts are available at bloominfestival.com. Kristin Brock of Cullman, Alabama was awarded $100 for the 2015 Bloomin' Festival T-Shirt Design contest. The shirt sells for $15 and comes in mint green, sky blue, and violet. The artwork features all things St. Bernard to include a cross, pottery, flowers, and jewelry.

A monk shirt features St. Bernard monk, Br. Charles Manning, who teaches in the school promoting monk bread. The shirt is light gray in color and sells for $20. It depicts Br. Charles holding a loaf of bread in each hand and says: "'Knead some dough?' St. Bernard Monk Bread, Divinely Delicious!"

MAYOR PROCLAIMS APRIL 7, 2015 "NATIONAL SERVICE RECOGNITION DAY"

Leanne West
City of Cullman Contributor

CULLMAN - On April 7, 2015, Mayor Max A. Townson officially proclaimed April 7, 2015, National Service Recognition Day in the City of Cullman.

"The City of Cullman appreciates those who volunteer to help us here in Cullman, and those who volunteer to help communities throughout our nation," said Mayor Townson.

"I encourage our citizens to recognize the positive impact of national service in our city and thank all of those who serve."

Accepting the proclamation on behalf of Rachel Dawsey of the North Alabama Agriplex and the members of AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) were Kim Puckett and Stormy Bland of the Cullman City Clerk's Office.

"The North Alabama Agriplex's Food for Life program has 5 VISTAS through the Cooperation for National and Community Service," said Ms. Dawsey.

"These volunteers serve for one year in Cullman County helping to promote healthy lifestyles, feeding the hungry, promoting local agriculture, and promoting healthy food choices."

The first two VISTAS started in July 2014, and the Food for Life Program is now taking applications for 2015 VISTAS.

VISTAS receive a living stipend, end of year service award, healthcare, and optional childcare reimbursement.

Those interested in the VISTA program may apply at my.americorps.gov/mp/login.do.

For more information on the North Alabama Agriples and the Food for Life program, visit www.agriplex.org.

POSITION AVAILABLE

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'WHAT STANDS IN A STORM': KIM CROSS TRAVELS TO BOOKS-A-MILLION TO PROMOTE HER BOOK ON THE APRIL 27TH TORNADOES

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – April 27, 2011 is a day that will live in many of our hearts forever. That terrifying day where we thought the sirens would never end, and when those caught in the storm finally did emerge, it was to a landscape no one recognized. Kim Cross, editor at Southern Living Magazine and author of "What Stands in a Storm", appeared at Books-A-Million in Cullman Thursday to talk about her newest literary creation.

"For me, it started with a story I wrote for Southern Living," Cross said. "It happened close to our offices, and only seven miles from my house, so it hit close to home. Our editor wanted to do a story, and so I headed up a team that canvassed disaster zones in several states."

Cross stated that the constants she and her team found across the state were faith, food and fellowship.

When it was finally published, comments and letters poured in with high praise and thanks.

"This was kind of our Katrina," said Cross. "We need to remember that time and tell it, and I wanted to tell it through the eyes of people who lived it. So I looked at the people who didn't make it all over the state and chose to focus on Tuscaloosa, because I had gone to school there, and I know the town, and it is a lot of what people remember. I do mention Cullman, because Cullman gets hit first, and so I talk about it through the eyes of people watching in Tuscaloosa."

The book follows the stories of different people and families, but one of the more heart-wrenching tales from that dark day was the story of three students who were killed at Beverly Heights near the University of Alabama. Danielle Downs, Will Stevens and Loryn Brown.

Both Danielle and Will's mothers were at the book signing on Thursday to support the story of their incredible children who grew up together in Priceville.

"Danielle and her sister have both been involved in their communities since they were little," Danielle's mother, Terri Downs, said.

"Danielle just wanted to help people, and was a senior at Alabama, about to graduate as a social worker. She really wanted to help military families since she came from a military family, and she worked very hard to get there."

Will Steven's mother, Jean Stevens, spoke fondly of her son and his determination to be a coach at his school one day.

"Sports were always what he loved," she said. "Well, that and Guitar Hero. He got a call from the Stillman College Coach who wanted to meet with him and talk to him. He was signed for a scholarship for baseball. He was only 10 days from graduating college when it happened. His coach from high school asked him to come help over the summer, and Will told him, 'I'm not coming to help you, I'm coming to get your job'."

Unfortunately, neither of these childhood friends were able to finish out their work, and now their families' work hard to remember their lives by helping others. The Will Steven's Scholarship Foundation, the Danielle Downs Memorial Fund and the Loryn "Lo" Brown Endowed Scholarship all help others achieve the goals that these three outstanding people never had the chance finish.

"The more I talk about it, the easier it gets to talk about it," said. "We just wanted their story to be told, and to keep their memory alive."

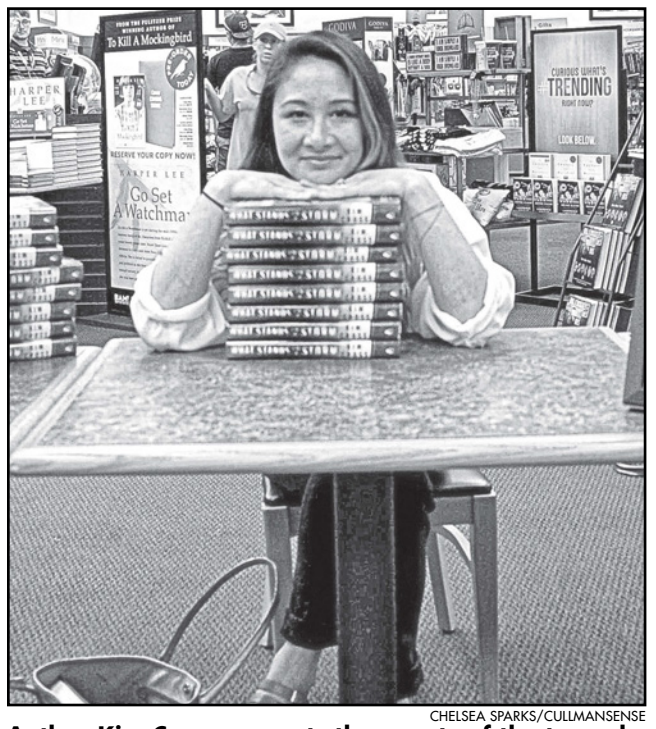
For more information on Kim Cross, visit Facebook.com/KimCrossAuthor. Copies of the book can be purchased at Books-A-Million.

To donate money to any of the aforementioned funds:

Danielle Downs Memorial Fund
Air Force Aid Society
241 18th Street S Suite 202
Arlington, VA 22202
Checks made payable to ASAF with Danielle Downs Memorial Fund in the memo line.

Will Stevens Scholarship Foundation
P.O. Box 128
Somerville, AL 35670

Loryn Brown Endowed Scholarship
P.O. Box 861928
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486
Checks payable to Alumni Fund with endowment name in the memo line.



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Author Kim Cross recounts the events of the tornado outbreak on April 27th through the eyes of victims.

Trafficking (from Front)

enemy does not discriminate, affecting all different races, socioeconomic classes and gender.

Human trafficking is defined as the illegal movement of people, typically for the purposes of forced labor or sexual exploitation. This term covers more scenarios than one might think, and is certainly not an issue that only happens overseas. In fact, according to the Huntsville-Madison Human Trafficking Task Force's website, it is the second largest criminal industry in the world. Patricia McCay, chair of the Huntsville-Madison Human Trafficking Task Force, stated that this problem happens here in the U.S. and it is not foreign nationals that make up the bulk of our victims.

"Over 80 percent of those who are trafficking victims in the U.S. are U.S. citizens," McCay said.

"We do have problems in this state, and until people know about it, they're never going to look for it. Not everyone is going to see or find it, but it is there and until you become aware of it, you cannot fix it."

It is this awareness that has spurned Cullman Juvenile Probation Officer and current Huntsville-Madison task force member, Kathy Wilson, to begin building a task for Cullman County. A meeting took place on Wednesday to begin forming a team made up of representatives of the local Child Advocacy Center, the Cullman Sheriff's Department, Juvenile Probation, Daystar Church and the District Attorney's Office.

"We are looking to get a grant right now that would allow us to educate the community and set the task force up," Kay Bell of Cullman Juvenile Probation said in the meeting. "We have to have a partnership between a victim service and prosecution. I really just want us to get ahead of this problem, because it is so close to us with these interstates being so close to us and we have already witnessed these behaviors but probably didn't recognize it for what it was."

Talks began of how the grant money would be used, and how best to set up the new task force team. Kathy Wilson, who has been working with Huntsville's program, explained what the plan of action for North Alabama has been so far.

"The task force in Huntsville has been geared toward education of the community," Wilson said. "I wanted to start this task force here, because a lot of people think of human trafficking and they think, 'Oh that doesn't happen here', but it does."

Wilson went on to state in the meeting that a large portion of human trafficking victims are under the age of 18. These teens and children are often lured by someone who claims to be a friend, who introduces them to a person that ultimately ensnares them into a trap. Trafficking is a much wider umbrella than one might think, including domestic servitude, sweatshops and migrant agricultural work which is known as labor trafficking.

"This is something that we are going to have to face and deal with," said District Attorney Wilson Blaylock. "It's coming, and is already all around us, and so it is so important to have these resources in place for when we finally do see it in Cullman and surrounding areas."

For more information on human trafficking, visit STNow.org.

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RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT: MEET BO EDMONDS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Cullman County is full of religious people from all different denominations. Whether the congregation is full of Catholics, Protestants or Non-Denominationalists, people around here love to praise and serve the Lord. And where there is a group worshiping together, there is normally someone leading the way. Today we meet Bo Edmonds, current events and end times preacher and evangelist.

Bo has been married to his lovely wife, Lisa Smith, of Boaz for 13 years. He graduated from Cullman High School in 1990 and has worked at Cullman Regional Medical Center for 25 years. Not long after graduating, he was called to preach in late 1991.

"I was saved in 1980 at East Side Baptist Church under Pastor Sam Hollis. I backslid in my teen years," he explained. "I rededicated my life under a good friend and brother I worked with, Bro. Alio Turney. I received a license to minister at Calvary Baptist Church in 1992, the year I was called to preach. Over several years, my calling has been on current events and end times prophecy so I have been called specifically to teach and preach on this."

"For me, the biggest challenge of being a church leader is the changing culture and society and dealing with those changes; to be uncompromising in a compromising world."
Bo Edmonds, Preacher and Evangelist

Bo became the Pastor at Holly Pond Church of God in 2004 and over time he has worked various jobs in several area churches.

"I have been an Associate Pastor at Cathedral of Praise, Youth Pastor at Arab Church of God, and Christian Education Coordinator at Simcoe Worship Center," he explained. "I have also been a Sunday School teacher, Sunday School Superintendent, and a member of the Pastor's Council and the Finance Committee as well." Bo recently served at Vinemont Church of God as assistant minister, teacher and evangelist. He is also a member of the Pastor's Council.

Bo loves his family and has been blessed to be able to attend church with his wife Lisa and her family as his parents have passed away.

"My wife and I currently attend church at the Dora Church of God where my father-in-law is the pastor. I am a teacher and I do end time prophecy updates as well. I love teaching and preaching on current events and end times prophecy and love sharing it and I have spoken on the subject many years in the church."

Like many pastors around town, Bo has had many good times, and some very difficult ones in his ministry.

"For me, the biggest challenge of being a church leader is the changing culture and society and dealing with those changes; to be uncompromising in a compromising world," he said.

"The most rewarding moment is seeing a person give their heart to The Lord Jesus Christ; seeing a precious soul getting saved is worth it all," he grinned from ear to ear.



BO EDMONDS

Local preacher and evangelist, Bo Edmonds of Cullman loves to spread the Word of God.

Bo is one of the many fine men and women who spread the Word of God throughout our communities. Their prayers and leadership help play a large role in making Cullman the wonderful place it is. If you or someone you know in the area would like Bo to come and speak at their church, they can give him a call at 256-734-1906 or look him up on Facebook at Facebook.com/bedmonds4.

"IF YOU BUILD IT": WALLACE SHOWS LAST INDEPENDENT FILM IN SERIES

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – The final film in the Southern Tour of Independent Filmmakers was shown at the Burrow Center Recital Hall at Wallace State on Thursday, April 9. "If You Build It" follows two teachers, 10 students and one epic homework assignment in rural Bertie County, the poorest in North Carolina.

The documentary, directed by Patrick Creadon, follows designer-activists Emily Pilloton and Matthew Miller, as they work with high school students to help transform both their communities and their lives 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 year-long, full-scale design and build project that did much more than just teach basic construction skills: it showed 10 teenagers the power of design-thinking to re-invent not just their town, but their own sense of what's possible.

"Our producing partner connected us with Emily, the designer for the film," said Christine O'Malley, filmmaker, "and she was just about to go off and do this project in Bertie County, North Carolina, a place I'd never heard of. We didn't know anything about it but it sounded like an interesting story. After we finished talking to her, we really thought it was an interesting idea about a side of public education that you don't hear a lot about."

Christine O'Malley has been making documentaries for film and television as a writer and producer for over 15 years.

She began her work in non-fiction on the Biography series for A & E before transitioning into long form documentaries. O'Malley served as associate producer on the Academy-Award nominated documentary film "Enron: The Smartest Gus In The Room" in 2004.

For more information about the film, visit the website at IfYouBuildItMovie.com or watch the trailer at http://vimeo.com/79902240.

Sessions (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Senator Jeff Sessions came to town Friday, April 10 to eat some barbecue and meet local citizens. Southern Accents was host to the senator and attendees enjoyed the time spent with him.

"Senator Sessions had called and requested a place to meet and greet the people that are not normally at his base," said Garlan Gudger, Southern Accents owner. "For some reason, they chose our store," he smiled.

"I told them I would host him today so he can give a small speech, break bread and have some barbecue."

Sen. Sessions addressed the crowd as if he were talking to old friends.

He stood on a small platform and talked to everyone in his own 'down home' kind of way.

"It's been interesting what you've done and how you've grown and how you've developed this kind of business," Sessions said to the crowd.

"We've got so much creativity and American entrepreneurial spirit that it's really hard to get even though we try sometimes. The Washington crowd can be difficult at times. I'm really proud of Cullman. This is a hard working community; very cutting edge and has economic growth and I think you are going to continue to see that."

After his speech, everyone was invited to have lunch together.

Moe's restaurant catered the event with barbecue sandwiches and chips while Southern Accents supplied bottles of Coca-Cola. Attendees spoke with Sen. Sessions and were excited to shake his hand.

"It was great to have Sen. Jeff Sessions and his lovely wife Mary Blackshear Sessions in Cullman today," said Leslie Hollingsworth, who was a part of the crowd. "Such an honor to chat with them and let them know how much we appreciate all that the Senator is doing in Washington, D.C."



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WILD AS A HOG: WHO WAS NEWTON MACK "HOG" MILLER?

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HOLLY POND – Newton Mack "Hog" Miller was considered to be an industrious entrepreneur. He was typical of the early settlers who brought their families to Cullman County, Ala., in the late 1800s. Born in Georgia in December 1854, he was a farmer, saw mill operator, and probably the largest distiller of corn whiskey in the eastern part of Cullman County. At one time, he owned more than 600 acres of land along Duck River near Holly Pond. Many tenant farmers and saw mill laborers lived on his farm. It is said that he developed a type of voucher system for paying his employees. They could use the vouchers to purchase necessities from the local farm store or supply house.

Mack moved his family to Cullman County, Ala., from Haralson County, Ga., sometime after the death of his father in 1892. His mother, Mary Powell Miller, had died in Haralson County in about 1880.

There's an old family story that has been passed down throughout the years that proves that Mack was not a man to mess with. According to the story, Mack was leaving the Haralson County Courthouse one day when he saw a man untie his horse (some say mule), then slapped the animal on the rump to make it run away.

"That's a durn sorry thing to do to another man's animal!" Mack fumed, and from there a fuss ensued. The discussion got so bad, it turned into a feud.

"I challenge you to a dual," the other man hollered and spat. "Do you want to use guns or knives?" he bellowed.

"Knives!" Mack growled, digging into his pocket and grabbing his knife.

There are different versions of the story that explain what followed, and all of them end with the man dying. There was an inquest or hearing conducted; however, Mack was never charged with a crime.

After coming to Cullman, Mack became known throughout the area as "Hog" Miller. One possible reason was because he kept some of the best hog breeding stock in the county. It was extremely common to see farmers on the road carrying his sow to visit one of Mack's boars.

"Where are ya going?" the farmer would be asked.

"Carrying the hog-to-Millers," he'd usually reply. Eventually the response was shortened to just "Hog Millers."



ANCESTRY.COM

Hog Miller with his wife Emeline and granddaughter Emma Patterson.

In the early 1900s, entertainment and social activities were very limited, especially in the county. Families worked hard throughout the week and reserved Saturday and Sunday afternoons for fun and relaxation. In the Holly Pond area, there were two places where people tended to gather, both old and young alike. One of these was the home of Dr. H. E. Watts located in the town of Holly Pond. The other was the home of Hog Miller located a few miles west of town.

The people that met at the Watts home were well chaperoned. There was lots of croquet tournaments played and horseshoe champions crowned.

Things were a lot wilder at the Miller's place. Not only were there horseshoes, but also horse racing and boxing events where the contestants wore gloves - sometimes. Some people participated in drinking contests on Saturday nights. The Miller farm had a power plant that provided lighting for the home and grounds that allowed festivities to continue late into the evening. A baseball game seems to have been the main event for both days of the weekend.

Many of the young men and women of the community were strictly forbidden by their parents from attending the events at the Miller farm as they did not feel that their children should be exposed to such events and the associated activities.

Even though Mack "Hog" Miller was considered a little rowdy at the time, he was respected by the people of the area and appears to be a man of good standing in the community. As one person put it, "You didn't have to like Hog, but you had better have some respect for him."

MIRRORING HISTORY: HANCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOG BAND

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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HANCEVILLE – Hanceville High School was originally constructed in 1923, and an elementary school was built in 1936. When a new high school was erected in 1955, the older school became a junior high.

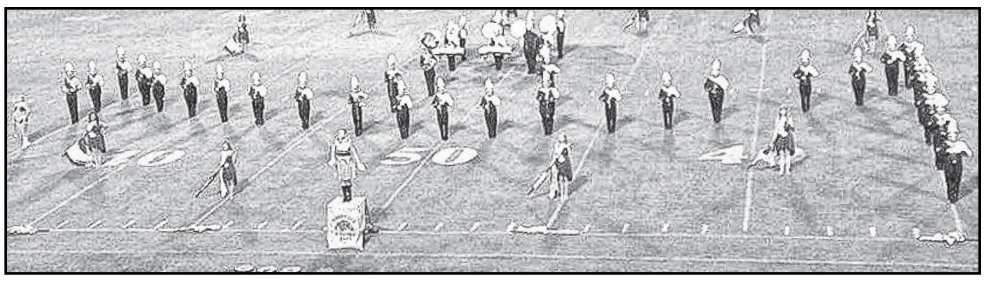
The Hanceville Band was formed in 1952. The first band director was Mr. Bonnie K. James of Hanceville.

Today the Hanceville Bulldog Band, under the direction of Mr. Steven Porter, is going strong and continues to entertain people of all ages.



GREG BURDEN, STEVEN PORTER

Hanceville Band in 1952 – Bonnie James, Director.



GREG BURDEN, STEVEN PORTER

Hanceville Bulldog Band in 2015 – Steven Porter, Director.

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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

NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN TAKES ROOT

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman Housing Authority and the North Alabama Agriplex have been working together on a Community Garden. The new Garden is located on Logan Street, where Cleveland Ave dead-ends into the Housing Authority property. The Housing Authority residents were invited to sign-up for an 8-foot by 4-foot raised bed to tend throughout the growing season. The official kickoff for planting the garden was held on Tuesday, April 7 at 5 p.m.

"This is definitely a community effort, and I am excited that the Housing Authority has been so willing to do this," said Rachel Dawsey, North Alabama Agriplex director.

"I think it's great that they have put in the infrastructure and providing plants and getting a good start. I think we will have a lot more gardeners that will be getting starting soon."

The garden will be able to hold 42 raised beds, but it currently has 15, with more expected to be built.

"The garden is a great way for people to learn about growing healthy food," said Ricky Kreps with the Housing Authority.

"The folks from the Extension Service will be helping by offering classes on how to cook it, can it and all those good things. It's very much an ongoing project," he said with a smile. "I think this is a good experience," said Robin Lowe, who will be working in the garden with her three children. "We learned how to plant and spend time together. I'm excited, and so are my kids," she said, hugging one of her young sons.

Community Gardens are a wonderful way to grow your own healthy food. It is also a lot of fun and a great way for families to work together.

To participate in the Community Garden on Logan Street, e-mail Rachel Peinhardt Dawsey at cullmanag@gmail.com or call the North Alabama Agriplex at 256-297-1044.

The Agriplex is located at 1714 Talley Ho Street, Cullman, AL 35056. Visit the Agriplex online at Agriplex.org and follow them on Facebook at Facebook.com/NorthAlabamaAgriplex.

The Housing Authority can also be contacted for more information. It is located at 408 Cleveland Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055 and can be reached by calling 256-734-6171.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The Community Garden is capable of holding 42 raised beds.

10TH ANNUAL COLTON'S COOKOUT FOR A CURE BENEFITS RELAY FOR LIFE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Saturday, April 11, Werner's Trading Company hosted the 10th Annual Colton's Cookout for a Cure to benefit the Colton Evans' Cteam for Relay For Life. Crowds of people were there, buying barbeque plates and ordering T-shirts. There was also a quilt on display, which will soon be raffled off. Werner's graciously donated a Yeti Cooler to be given away at some point during the day as well.

"We've been doing this for 10 years now," said Beth Evans, Colton's mother. "I can't believe the turnout, year after year. It's been amazing. It just seems to get bigger every year; everybody just knows what needs to be done and does it," she grinned.

Colton was diagnosed with cancer at the tender young age of nine. He passed away at the age of 17 after battling a brain tumor for eight years.

He left behind a town that will never forget his courage and strength, as many loved him. He was a true inspiration to all who knew him.

Humble and gracious, Evans greeted everyone with a warm smile.

She said she could not imagine there ever being a time they did not remember raising money for Relay For Life in her son's honor.

"We've had a pretty steady crowd come through today," said Vanessa Rakestraw, Colton's aunt.

"We have sold a lot of to-go plates so far today, too. A lot of businesses will purchase plates to take back to their whole office."

"Mitch Smith Chevrolet always brings cars to the cookout to get people looking this way," Rakestraw continued. "Mitch was always a huge supporter of Colton," she mused.

"He took Colton to an Alabama football game once. We were in a skybox right next door to Nick Saban!" she giggled proudly.

Sponsors of the event included Comfort Care Home Health Hospice, Werner's Trading Co., Ted Calvert's State Farm Insurance and Mitch Smith Chevrolet. Everyone had a great time and much needed money for cancer research was raised.

For more on Colton Evans and the Relay For Life Cteam, like them on Facebook at Facebook.com/coltonscteam. To find out more about Relay For Life, visit their website at Relay.acsevents.org or go to Cullman's Relay For Life's Facebook page at Facebook.com/RFLCullmanAL.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

A steady crowd showed their support at the 10th Annual Colton's Cookout for a Cure at Werner's Trading Company on Saturday.

LEARN, TRAVEL AND SHOP THIS SPRING AND SUMMER WITH WSCC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – The Wallace State Community College Alumni Association has been filling the spring and summer calendar with numerous events that allow for learning, networking, shopping and spending fun times with family and friends.

Networking and educational experiences include the annual Nursing Alumni Connection on Friday, April 24, from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the Conference Center of the School of Nursing and Center for Science.

The event themed "Experiencing Nursing's Dream" will earn participants 6 contact hours. The $35 fee includes breakfast, lunch, breaks, exhibit hall and silent auction. Register at www.wsccalumni.org/nursingconnect2015.

Occupational Therapy Assistants and Physical Therapist Assistants will have their OTA and PTA Alumni Connection on May 7, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m., earning up to 8 contact hours.

The event will be held in the School of Nursing and Center for Science, and includes breakfast, lunch and exhibits. Register at www.wsccalumni.org/otapta2015.

The next educational experience will be for those who are preparing to take the ACT.

The next "Preparing to take the ACT Workshop" will be held on June 15, from noon to 4:30 p.m. The fee is $50 for the workshop or $75 for the workshop and workbook. Register at www.wsccalumni.org/actprepjune15.

The WSCC Alumni Association is also planning short trips that will appeal to antique collectors and bargain hunters, families and girls who love the "American Girl" dolls. All of the trips are open to the public, as well as Alumni Association members. There are a limited number of spaces open on each trip, so registering early is advised.

On May 15, the Association will take an Antique and Bargain Hunting Trip to East Alabama, departing at 7:30 a.m. and returning at 4:30 p.m. The cost is $20 and includes transportation to and from the college and snacks on the bus. Lunch will be Dutch treat. The trip will include visits to antique and thrift stores in Albertville, Boaz, Rainbow City, and more. Register at www.wsccalumni.org/antiqueeast2015.

The whole family can enjoy a day together on July 17, when the Association hosts Family Fun Day at Lake Winnie Amusement and Water Park in Chattanooga, TN. The trip will depart at 7 a.m., on July 17 and return at 7:30 p.m., that night. The $75 fee includes transportation, unlimited rides and waterpark activities and a picnic lunch at the park. Register atwsccalumni.org/familyfun15.

Fans of "American Girl" dolls have the opportunity for the ultimate American Girl experience with the American Girl Sweet Dreams Adventure in Alpharetta, Ga.

The overnight trip includes transportation, accommodations, American Girl gifts and crafts, dinner at the American Girl Bistro, and more. Cost is $260 for adults and $95 for children. For more information or to register visit wsccallumni.org/americangirl.

For more information about these events, contact Natalie Godwin at 256-352-7808 or natalie.godwin@wallacestate.edu, or visit wsccalumni.org and click on the Events link.

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WALKING FOR AWARENESS

CULLMAN'S ANNUAL WALK FOR AUTISM BRINGS FUN AND AWARENESS

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – The annual Autism 5K, Walk and Fun Day took place this Saturday at Wallace State Community College. It was a beautiful day to be outside with family, and crowds of people showed up to spread awareness and have fun at all of the events planned throughout the day.

Rhonda Davis, founder of the Autism Support Group in Cullman, organizes the event annually, pouring all of her extra time and energy into events like these that raise awareness. According to Davis, there were quite a few new additions to this year's event.

"We have new arts and crafts vendors this year, along with a lot of other stuff," said Davis. "The horses of H.O.P.E Therapy are here this year and that is very exciting. We have a great raffle this year with themed baskets. We got fire trucks and helicopters, carnival games, new food trucks. There are a lot of new things to do today."

When it came time for the walk, various teams supporting a friend or family member lined up to walk the track in support of a loved one that is living with autism. Everyone present gathered as Mayor Nail of Hanceville welcomed everyone to the walk and thanked them for their support.

Team Big B was one of the larger teams present at the walk to honor their family member Brenton, who is 4 years old. Brenton's grandfather, Steven Freeman, spoke of how grateful he is for events like this one.

"We're just very thankful for events like this and people who put forth their time to help with this cause," said Freeman. "It does us good to see the community coming together and having our family, church family and friends supporting us. These children just need a little more understanding and patience, and it's events like this that let these kids know that people care and accept them."



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Participants from across the county and beyond walk together to show their support for all individuals who are living with autism.

The children and adults were all smiles as they played games, slid down inflatable slides, got up close with a helicopter and spent the day with friends that genuinely cared about the struggles they face in the world. Balloons were released for the 1 in 68 children that are now diagnosed with autism every day with the hope that they can create a more accepting world for these individuals who are as the saying goes, different, not less.

For more information on the Cullman Autism Networking Group, call 256-962-2208.

OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE WEEK

MEET LARRY ROWLETTE A.K.A. COLONEL CULLMANN

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Larry Rowlette has been studying and portraying Colonel Cullmann, the founding father of Cullman, AL since the year 2000. He appears as The Colonel during annual Oktoberfest celebrations and many other events throughout the year in Cullman and all around North Alabama. We are proud to announce that he is this week's Citizen of the Week.

Over the years, Rowlette has been asked how he became The Colonel, yet instead of answering the question; he'd normally smile, wink or ask the person to dance. Truth is, Rowlette's transformation into The Colonel is a long story, and one that has remained somewhat a mystery... until now.

"It all started years ago with Mrs. Elaine Fuller, curator of the Cullman County Museum," Rowlette smiled. "She regularly attended tourism events around Alabama and had noticed a common theme - local citizens portraying people from area history, specifically the founders or leaders of the towns and cities. She fell in love with the idea and wanted to do it here in Cullman as well."

After several discussions with the Oktoberfest committee, the movement to have an actual Colonel Cullmann for Cullman, Ala. was born and the search for such a person soon began. It was the spring of 1999.

> **"I enjoy spreading the message of heritage, tradition, and values everywhere I go. I also try to live by those same words, because it gives me something to work toward - honoring the heritage, speaking and promoting the tradition, and living the values each day."**
>
> Larry Rowlette, Colonel Cullmann

One year later, a Colonel Cullmann had still not been selected because no one fitting the description nor the desired persona had been found. One afternoon Pastor Bob Kurtz, president of the Oktoberfest committee and pastor of St. John's Evangelical Church, indicated he had someone in mind that may be interested in the Col. Cullmann portrayal. The man Kurtz was talking about was Larry Rowlette, a local resident and member of the church.

"Kurtz invited Fuller to a Fourth of July presentation given by the members of St. John's Church," Rowlette explained. "Mrs. Fuller was a little leery, but she drove out to the Ave Marie Grotto in Cullman, where the presentation was held, and attended. She had gone to secretly watch me as I delivered a speech as James Madison," he chuckled. "When the program was over, she introduced herself to me and explained her idea of me portraying Colonel Johann G. Cullmann."

Rowlette was more than willing to support the community and there was no doubt in his mind he would accept the offer to portray Colonel Cullmann. But because he is also a prankster, he wanted to have a little fun with Mrs. Fuller.

"I acted a little confused, and then told her I would have to think about it," Rowlette said, grinning like a mule eating corn.

"I thanked her for the consideration, turned and took two or three steps away from her. Then I turned back around and said, 'Okay, I have thought about it. I'll do it,' and gave her a big ole smile."

From that point on, things happened fast! Rowlette was told the portrayal was to be kept strictly confidential. Then he received a new suit of clothes made in the late 1800s style. An old walking stick was purchased that matched the one the Colonel held in the old photographs of him. Before long, Rowlette found himself completely transformed into the old gentleman!

A keynote speech was prepared for the Oktoberfest 2000 opening ceremonies. It was written as if Colonel Cullmann had risen from the grave just to attend the festival and talk to his people! It told of his life from birth to his death in 1895. It described the sacrifices he made, as well as the sacrifices of the people that settled in Cullman with him. It spoke of the travels and hardships he personally endured and also about his many accomplishments during his lifetime. Rowlette delivered the speech while standing next to a statue of Colonel Cullmann. Once the speech had ended, the crowd erupted with applause and Colonel Cullmann 2000 was born.

What originally was intended as a once a year Oktoberfest portrayal, Colonel Cullmann 2000 quickly became an opportunity for Rowlette to portray our founder throughout the whole year.



LARRY ROWLETTE

Larry Rowlette poses as our town founder, Colonel Cullmann.

Dressed as the Colonel, he has spoken to civic groups all across the region, addressed local and state leadership and talked to kindergarten through high school senior classes throughout the county.

"I enjoy spreading the message of heritage, tradition, and values everywhere I go," Rowlette stated.

"I also try to live by those same words, because it gives me something to work toward - honoring the heritage, speaking and promoting the tradition, and living the values each day."

Cullman is full of talented and imaginative people, and Larry Rowlette is just one of them. This week we honor Rowlette as the CullmanSense's Outstanding Citizen of the Week. If you know someone that you feel should be honored as an Outstanding Citizen, please let us know by e-mailing at sharon@cullmansense.com.

Monday

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

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

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

Candlelight Vigil
Your presence is requested to raise awareness of child abuse in Cullman by remembering the 18 children who died in Alabama last year due to child abuse. This Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Depot Park in Cullman. #enoughisenough

2015 State of the Schools/Student & Teacher of the Year
This event will be held at WSCC from 6-8 p.m. Superintendents Dr. Craig Ross and Dr. Doreen Griffith, along with Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics, will deliver the State of the Schools address. Awards will be presented for the Student and Teacher of the Year.

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

"Here For You" Tour
The Cornerstone Church Nazarene will have a "Here For You" Tour with the following musical acts: The Afters, Hawk Nelson and Special Guest Justin McRoberts. Happening this Friday at the Cullman Civic Center at 7 p.m. Get tickets at www.cullmancornerstone.com.

'BUNCO NIGHT' at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
Members of Sacred Heart of Jesus Altar Society are sponsoring a 'Ladies Night Out - Bunco Night' on Friday, April 17. This event will be held in the Family Life Center starting at 7:00 pm. Advance tickets may be purchased for $20 by contacting Gloria Burke, 256-739-2767, or LuAnn Gissell, 256-734-9637. The evening will include refreshments, Bunco games and prizes and a Chinese auction. Funds raised from this event will go toward maintenance of the interior of the Church. All are welcome.

'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 Mountain Bike Race
Contact the Cullman City Parks & Rec department for more information at 256-734-9157.

Laughter Yoga at the Cullman Civic Center
Everyone is invited to take part in 'Laughter Yoga' classes each Saturday morning starting at 10 a.m. Donations accepted but no set fee is charged. Come start your weekend out with some great 'laughs'! Please call 256-734-9157 for additional information.

Next Monday

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

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

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LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

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

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

WEDNESDAY
- Karaoke Night at Grumpy's at 7 p.m.
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-7 p.m.
- Karaoke Night at Cadillac Ron's at 7 p.m.
- Ladies' Night at Cadillac Ron's from 5-8 p.m.

THURSDAY
- Candlelight Vigil at Depot Park at 6:30 p.m.
- 2015 State of the Schools/Student & Teacher of the Year at WSCC from 6-8 p.m.
- 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
- 'BUNCO NIGHT' at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church at 7 p.m.
- "Here For You" Tour at Cullman Civic Center at 7 p.m.
- 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 Mountain Bike Race
- 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
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LIVE TRIVIA EACH THURSDAY 6-8 P.M.

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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™

STONE BRIDGE FARMS OFFERS NEW RETREAT TO CUSTOMERS

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com



IMAGES BY CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

This stately, but cozy house can give you and yours a perfect weekend of relaxation.

CULLMAN – Patrons of Stone Bridge Farms have a new, beautiful retreat to spend time with family or get ready for your big day. Once the home of Ron Foust, it has served as a place for family for many years and that remains the purpose now as the Stone Bridge Manor.

The 10,000 square foot Manor is nestled in the heart of the substantial 75-acre farm. This beautiful estate is equipped with five bedrooms and four bathrooms to accommodate large groups of guests.

"This house has been here for about five years," said Advertising and Facebook Administrator Kayla Windsor. "Ron Foust, the owner of Stone Bridge, lived here for a while and he decided that he wanted to open it up for our customers as a sort of retreat for bridal parties or families who wanted to get away, or have a place to stay before their wedding."

The house is perfect for any group to unwind for a weekend with the spacious rooms, enormous kitchen and sparkling pool. Event Coordinator Janet Fortner said that business is already looking good for The Manor as customers are already booking their dates.

"What has been selling for The Manor so far is the wedding parties," Fortner said.

"Although it can be rented for any event like a reunion. It's really convenient for our wedding parties because they can all stay together in one house, as opposed to staying in our separate cottages. Then, of course, having access to the private pool and grill makes it an appealing place to stay. We have already had bookings since we posted it on Facebook."

Beautiful views of the farm, a luxurious Jacuzzi tub, a pool and plenty of space makes this a perfect place for the next corporate, family or wedding event, according to Fortner. For more information on The Manor and pricing, call 256-734-9765.



With a large master bedroom and four more spacious bedrooms, accommodating a large party is a breeze at the Stone Bridge Manor.

Abuse (from Front)

of the 18 children who were killed in Alabama this year from abuse and neglect. Participant Lana Thornton, who works as a court appointed advocate for CCK's program, held tight to Cullman's own victim Hoss Wayne Benham, who was killed in spring of 2014.

"When it came out in the news about the details of what happened to Hoss and how he was tortured, it hit me hard," said Thornton. "I mean this happened in Vinemont and I am from Vinemont. Just knowing that there were people that saw some of the signs and didn't want to get involved or do anything was just so sad to me. So I just wanted to be involved and help."

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry attended the event to remember the children and the struggles they face as it is a struggle law enforcement knows all too well.

"It's an issue that we have to face every day as law enforcement officers," Gentry said.

"It is something that is near and dear to our hearts and we just keep on every day trying to educate the public. Events like today are important to educate people, because our goal is to stop child abuse."

After a reflective prayer walk around the courthouse, an emotional speech was given by Javon Daniel, director of Cullman Caring for Kids, before releasing the balloons atop the parking deck at Cullman Savings Bank.

"Child abuse happens every minute of every day," a passionate Daniel said. "Right here in our community. It's not in a a far-off place, it's right here, and last year there were 849 cases of child abuse reported to DHR in Cullman. In Alabama, 18 children died, and that is why we are releasing these balloons. This is to remember those who have died, those who are still victims, and those who are survivors. The important thing about today is that children are abused, and the only people who can do something about it is us!"

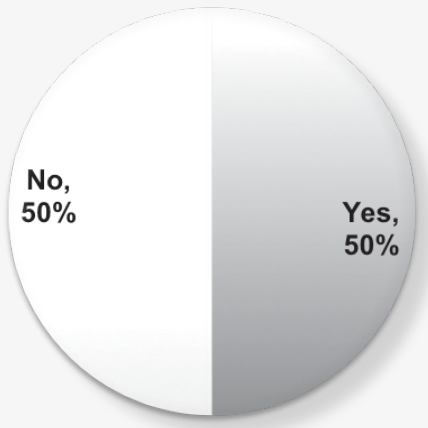
One hundred blue balloons, which represent the bruises of all the children being hurt, gently drifted up into the sky as they served as a remembrance, but also a sign of hope for any child that is suffering. The release of the balloons served as a reminder that people do care, and that they are fighting to stop the madness and useless violence committed against innocent children every day.

For more information on upcoming events and information on child abuse visit, Facebook.com/CullmanCaringForKids.

If you suspect child abuse, do not hesitate, you can call anonymously to Cullman County DHR at 256-737-5300 or call 911.

Poll

Do you own any solar panels?



This Week's Poll

Do you think bullying is a problem in Cullman schools?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Youth Outdoor Adventure** will begin Saturday, April 4 and continue for 6 weeks meeting Saturday each week at 9am. Adventures will include hiking, rock climbing, paddling, rappelling, and more! Program is open to ages 7-14; registration is open now at the Cullman Civic Center for $75. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children and will not be charged. Call 256-734-9157 for info.
- **Art in the Park** will take place Saturday, April 11 at Heritage Park featuring craft vendors, an art show, sidewalk chalk contests, and FREE crafts for your child. Information to enter the art show is online at www.cullmanrecreation.org. Winners receive cash prizes, so be sure to display your art!
- **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!
- **Youth Tennis League Spring Session** starts April 20, 2015 at the Cullman High School Tennis Courts. Athletes ages 5-14 can register and will be sorted by skill levels into different groups and practice times. Cost is $80 for the 4 week session will include matches and practices. Registration is now open at the Cullman Civic Center.
- **Strawberry Festival—May 1 & 2** will be held at the Festhalle Farmer's Market and Depot Park Friday, May 1 from 4-10pm and Saturday, May 2 from 7am-4pm. Come check out dozens of craft vendors, live music, free kids games and rides, and strawberry-themed everything! Farmers will also be on site with the freshest strawberries in the area. Call 256-734-9157 for more information.
- **Camp Cullman Registration Now Open** at the Cullman Civic Center. Camp sessions will be held from June 1-June 26 and July 6-August 7. Camp will be held 5 days a week from 7:45am-5:15pm based at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center with field trips weekly, swimming, arts and crafts, fun and games, activities, and much more. Spaces are limited, so signup now at the Civic Center.

What's Online

BLOOMIN' FESTIVAL REMAINS A TOP TOURISM EVENT IN THE SOUTHEAST

The Bloomin' Festival Arts & Crafts Fair is one of the most popular events in not only Cullman, but throughout the southeast. The festival has consistently gained attention and notoriety through several local and regional outlets.

qrne.ws/342



FESTHALLE FARMER'S MARKET GETS NEW HOURS AND ACTIVITIES

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...

qrne.ws/343

DESPERATION CHURCH TRANSFORMS CLOSET INTO KITCHEN FOR CULLMAN POLICE

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...

qrne.ws/344

INTERNATIONAL TABLETOP DAY BRINGS GAMERS TOGETHER



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Organizer Boomer Barr, dons his table top game shirt as he leads a game.

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Three years ago, sci-fi celebrity Wil Wheaton wanted to bring people together to have fun in the world of tabletop games. On Saturday, local residents came together at the Comfort Inn Suites to meet new people, have fun and learn about new games.

Leslie Sanders and her brother Boomer Barr have organized the event for two years now, and are happy to share their love of tabletop games. The room, set up with several tables and refreshments, hosted several different groups of players all enjoying a different type of game. Sanders stated that her brother provided the games from his vast collection.

"Boomer is a big tabletop guy," Sanders said with a chuckle. "He has so many different games, it's crazy. I enjoy them too, though. They are a lot of fun, and I really enjoy them. But my brother started watching Wil Wheaton's tabletop videos, and that got him into different types of games and how he eventually learned about International Tabletop Day."

The event has started out small, but is steadily growing, according to Sanders.

"Today has went pretty well," she said. "We've had a few games going pretty steadily throughout the day, and we have had more games going at once today than we did last year. People will come in and out throughout the day, though and that's what we wanted. We're just hoping more people will come join us every year and have fun together."

Having fun seemed to be happening all around the room as players dove into strategy games, dice games, card games and more. One participant was new to the area and happy to have found an event where she could meet new friends.

"Well I haven't been in Cullman for very long and I found a group on meetup.com called North Alabama Board Gamers in Huntsville," she said.

"And we have just recently started a group in Cullman that meets on Thursdays at Denny's, and Boomer has been a few times and he told me about this event. I have really enjoyed it, because this is my way of socializing and meeting new people."

Tabletop gaming is once again growing in popularity and variety. More and more people across the nation are finding that cutting the cord to the controller and sitting down to a game at the table can be just as entertaining.

For more information on Tabletop Day and Cullman's group, please visit Facebook.com/CullmanTabletop.

Clements (from Front)

agement of hospital executives and medical directors. He has also served in various capacities as a Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and as Vice President of Business Development and Strategic Planning during his career.

Prior to joining CRMC, Clements served as the CEO at South Fulton Medical Center, a Tenet Healthcare Corporation hospital in Atlanta, Georgia where he had served since 2004.

Clements holds a Master of Business Administration from Georgia State University in Atlanta and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia.

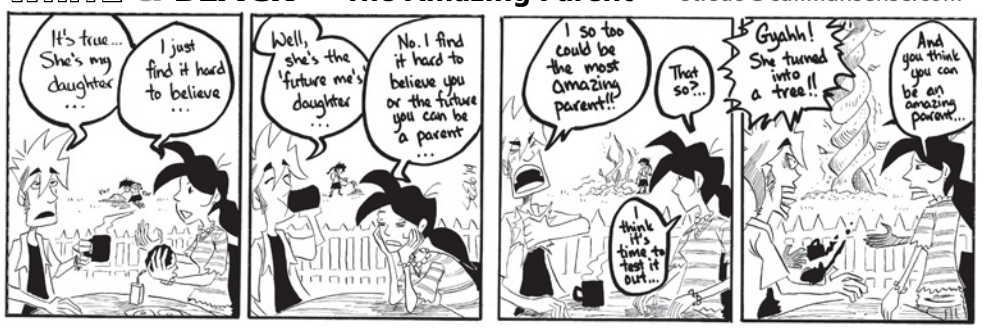
"The CRMC family and the Cullman community have many wonderful people who have been very welcoming during my interim period," Clements said.

"I am proud to be a part of such an excellent team which includes some of the highest quality medical staff I have had the privilege to work with in during my healthcare career. I look forward to making Cullman home."

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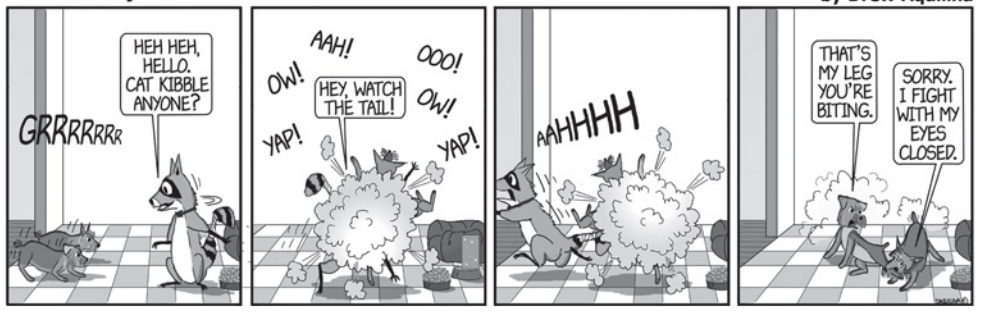
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PETS OF THE WEEK

CUDDLE BUG



Hello my name is Cuddle Bug and I am about 5 months old. I am a Husky mix. I am full of life and I love to play. I have been at the Shelter since 02/09/15 but I am still hoping that someone is going to come adopt me. 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!

SUGAR



Hello my name is Sugar and I am about 4 years old. I am a Husky mix and I currently weigh 47 LBS. I have been at the Shelter since 02/03/15 and I'm still hanging on to hope that my forever home is out there. 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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OPINION

1040 FOR PEACE

Jack Payden-Travers
PeaceVoice

In the fiscal calendar this is Tax Time. In my church calendar it is the season of Easter, the holiest time of the year for all Christians. For my Jewish brothers and sisters it is Passover season. By my garden's reckoning it is Spring.

There is a certain irony that resurrection time parallels Tax Day for I have just meditated on gospel passages reminding me of Jesus driving the money changers out of the temple followed by his arrest, judgment and execution by the state.

It is with this background that each year I am expected to file my federal taxes to share the costs of government expected of all citizens. I do file each year but each time I find myself asking, as I am sure you do also: What does my tax dollar buy?

Unfortunately I have found ever since I began working that the U.S. tax dollar is disproportionately paying for war: past, present and future. This year that amounts to 40 percent. During the Vietnam War, I was issued a Draft card and notified to report for military duty. It was my obligation to fight. I reported to the Armed Forces Entrance and Examination Station at 39 Whitehall Street in lower Manhattan but when issued an order to "take one step forward and join the finest fighting force the world has ever seen, the United States Army," I refused.

My mother thought I was crazy. She told me I had ruined my life, dishonored our family, and deserved to be prosecuted and put in jail. Five years and $10,000.00 was the penalty for induction refusal.

I had wanted to join the military and fight in 'Nam when I graduated from high school but a college scholarship and family pressure sent me off to college. I encountered a History professor who had served in the German Army during World War II. The question he asked each of us was: "What would you have done, if you had been ordered to serve in Hitler's army during that period?"

On my Induction day in 1970 I answered that question by refusing to step forward and fight in what my conscience told me was an unjust war. As fate would have it, I am once again confronted with that challenge each April 15th when I am asked to pay my taxes with the largest percentage going to current and past and future wars. As a conscientious objector to war, I believe that paying for war is participation in war. That is something that my religious beliefs forbid.

And so this year as I have done for four decades I will file my taxes. I will pay for roads, health care, social programs, government operations, education, etc. But I will also refuse a portion of my tax debt. I will withhold $10.40 of my taxes owed as a symbol of my refusal to participate in war with either my body or my money. I will join with 1040 for Peace members who choose to support peaceful alternatives to war by donating that money to groups that work for peace and justice.

Jack Payden-Travers, Lynchburg, VA, writes for PeaceVoice serves as the Director of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund in Washington, DC.

OPINION

IN SOLIDARITY WITH CHINESE BRIDES ACTIVISTS

Laura Finley
PeaceVoice

I write this having just returned from a nonviolent protest in which I wore my bridal gown smeared with fake blood. How ironic that it was exactly that type of action that led to the arrest and now 38 day imprisonment of five Chinese domestic violence and human rights activists.

Initially, 10 Chinese women were arrested on March 6, 2015 and five remain in detention as of April 12, 2015. Li Tingting, 25; Wu Rongrong, 30; Zheng Churan, 25; Wei Tingting, 26; and Wang Man, 33, wore bridal gowns covered with fake blood in an effort to raise awareness about domestic violence.

They were also organizing a public campaign against the sexual harassment of women on public transportation that would have taken place on March 8, International Women's Day, and attempted to occupy men's restrooms in an effort to prompt officials to build more women's facilities.

Additionally, the detained are all well-known activists for LGBT equality. Wu and her colleagues had used performance art, shaved their heads to protest barriers to higher education for women, and other nonviolent forms of activism.

These women have been unjustly held in prison for more than a month and are being held for at least another seven days while prosecutors decide whether to bring charges that could result in prison sentences of up to five years.

Some reports have stated that the women had been denied medical access at points in their incarceration. In addition, CNN reported that Chinese authorities raided the office of a non-governmental organization that had supported the women.

While the issue hasn't received nearly as much attention as it should have, Hillary Clinton posted on Monday, April 6 on Twitter: "The detention of women's activists in #China must end. This is inexcusable."

Clinton and others have noted the ironic timing of the repression of female activists, as this year marks the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Congress on Women that was held in Beijing.

It was at that conference that Clinton famously announced "women's rights are human rights."

Similarly, UN Ambassador Samantha Power, tweeted: "In China speaking out against sexual harassment is 'creating a disturbance.' Disturbance is restricting NGOs fighting for universal rights."

As a nonviolent activist who seeks to raise awareness about dating, domestic and sexual violence and to promote appropriate legal and community-based responses to these problems, I am deeply concerned that the arrest of these women will have a chilling effect on activism in China and beyond.

We know it is only through the tireless work of so many activists, female and male, before us that domestic violence is illegal in the U.S and in many other countries.

Yet this work remains tremendously important, as an estimated one-third of the world's women will endure an abusive relationship during her lifetime.

Despite legislation, there are an estimated 1,300 domestic violence murders in the U.S each year.

China had drafted its first domestic violence legislation in fall 2014, amidst data that shows some 40 percent of women who are married or in a relationship had suffered from abuse. It was not until 2001 that physical abuse was accepted as grounds for divorce in China.

I implore all who read this to express their support for these women and to call on China to release them. Activists are using the hashtags #FreeTheFive and #FreeBeijing20Five to offer support. People can also contact the U.S. State Department to encourage their continued action on the behalf of these nonviolent activists.

Learn how to take immediate action to address the women's health concerns in prison atamnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa05415_1.pdf.

For additional information about South Florida dating and domestic violence activism, see collegebrideswalk.com.

Laura Finley, Ph.D., teaches in the Barry University Department of Sociology & Criminology and is syndicated by PeaceVoice.

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