SERIES 5 • ISSUE 16 • APRIL 20, 2015
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS


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CRAWFISH BOIL TO CELEBRATE THREE YEAR REOPENING OF BUSY BEE CAFÉ

Noah Chandler
noah@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Following the devastating tornados of 2011 which left most of downtown Cullman in ruins, the Spears family didn't throw in the towel and walk away after the family-owned establishment was literally blown to the ground.

"It has been open since 1919, but the Spears family has owned it since 1967. We are now on the third generation of Spears' owners," Busy Bee owner Kyle Spears said. "We have always tried to have a family friendly restaurant with good food at affordable prices."

The family fought back from injury – to then owner Kitty Spears who was trapped inside the building during the tornado and suffered several broken bones – and forced themselves to have the business up and running within a year of the tornado.

"After rebuilding, the Busy Bee reopened its doors on Friday, April 27th 2012 at 6 a.m.," Spears said.

Now three years later and the Bee is preparing for a reopening celebration which doubles as the business' 96th year P3


NOAH CHANDLER/CULLMANSENSE
The Crawfish Boil will begin Saturday at 5 p.m.

OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE WEEK

MEET SHARON ELLIS
THIS TEACHER OF ALL AGES MAKES EVERYTHING A SPECIAL OCCASION


SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE
A Head Start teacher for 25 years, Sharon Ellis now brings her fun-loving energy to Victorian Manor.

"WHEN THE KIDS WERE LITTLE, I'D BRING OUT THE FINE CHINA AND THE CRYSTAL, JUST ME AND THEM FOR CANDLE LIGHT DINNERS."
SHARON ELLIS, RESIDENT PROGRAM DIRECTOR AT VICTORIAN MANOR

SHARON SCHULER KREPS
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CULLMAN – It takes all kinds of people to make the world go round. Thankfully we have some of the best here in Cullman, such as Sharon Ellis. Sharon is the Resident Program Director at Victorian Manor Assisted Living Facility in Hanceville. After moving to Cullman from Columbus, Ga. in 1983, she became a single mother to three children. P6

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS HELP GIVE INDPENDENCE

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Among many other noble causes, April is also Occupational Therapy month. In light of that, Encore Rehabilitation Occupational Therapy Director, Tammy Gipson, spoke about what kind of therapy this is, and how they help others in our community.

"Occupational therapy practitioners work with a variety of individuals from infant to adult to help them achieve independence in all they do every day or their daily occupations," said Gipson. "The goal for OT [occupational therapy] is always helping individuals P3

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CULLMAN CITY FIREFIGHTER

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Firefighters have a rewarding, but undeniably tough job. Risking their own safety to rush to the aid of others is a sacrifice that should not be understated. Children across the country watch their large, shiny trucks in awe as they race down the street to save the day, but what is the day-to-day life of a firefighter like? Captain Darrell Harrington of Station B explains that there is a lot more to their day than simply waiting on a call.

"No two days P9


CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE
Captain Darrell runs a tight ship at Station B in Cullman City, making sure his crew receives quality training and support at all times.

SACRED HEART ALTAR SOCIETY HOLDS BUNCO TOURNAMENT

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The rattling of dice and squeals of delight filled the Family Life Center at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. The glasses were filled, and the dies were cast in an evening of delight for all. The goal was twofold, have fun with friends and raise money for the Altar Society. P4

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

BUBBLES OF LOVE: SHINING A LIGHT ON PARENTAL ALIENATION

Chelsea Sparks
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CULLMAN – It is not an uncommon occurrence to see a child put in the middle of a marital dispute, and one parent pitting their child against the other parent. To shine a light on the damage caused by situations like these, Mayor Max Townson declared April 19-25 as Parental Alienation Prevention Week.

Parental Alienation or hostile aggressive parenting deprives children of their right to be freely loved by both parents and the right of expressing love for both of their parents.

Wendy Archer, co-founder and officer of Parental Alienation Awareness Organization USA, spoke about the seriousness of this form of abuse.

"Parental alienation is when one parent tries to damage or destroy the relationship a child has with the other parent. Parental alienation can be mild, moderate or severe. It's a form of child abuse that causes extreme emotional harm and trauma."

Alabama Family Rights Association (ALFRA) is working hard to preserve, promote and protect family relationships. This is why they are asking everyone to participate in their annual Bubbles of Love day on April 25.

The idea is simple, but helps to remind people of the unconditional loving and innocent nature of a child, and how that precious nature should be preserved. According to the Director of ALFRA, Kenneth Paschal, regardless of marital status and differences between those parents, a child should never be coerced to reject a loving parent.

Each bubble we blow will represent the love our children have and should be allowed to share with both their parents," said Paschal.

"Please join us for this important community campaign. Children should be encouraged to freely love both parents regardless of their parents' marital status."



KENNETH PASCHAL

Mayor Max Townson declares the week of April 19th as Parental Alienation Prevention Week.

APRIL 2015 CULLMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING BREAKDOWN

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – A regular Cullman City Council meeting was held last Monday night in the Lucille N. Galin Auditorium in City Hall at 7 p.m. The meeting began with roll call and the minutes from the city council meeting on March 23, 2015 was approved. There were no additions to the night's agenda.

Next were reports of standing committees by council members. The following reports were given:

General Government - Council Member Jenny Folsom
Public Works - Council Member Johnny Cook
Public Safety - Council Member Andy Page
Tourism - Council Member Clint Hollingsworth
Utilities - Council Member Garlan Gudger

Mayor Max Townson presented new flags to two veterans from the VFW.

There were no comments from anyone not on the agenda and no public hearings.

The following petitions, applications, complaints, appeals and communications were passed:

• A request from Lainie Alexander of Cullman County DHR for a special event permit to hold a candlelight vigil to honor children in Cullman and across Alabama that died from child abuse in 2014. The event will be held in Depot Park on April 16, 2015 from 5:30-8 p.m.

• A request from Mary Dyer of Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation for a special event permit to hold the annual charity motorcycle ride beginning at the Cullman County Fairgrounds on June 6, 2015 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

• A request from Tami Thompson of Alabama for Marriage for a special event permit to hold a rally for marriage at the Cullman County Courthouse on May 3, 2015 from 3-5 p.m.

• A request from Water and Sewer Superintendent Chris Freeman to restock the repair materials inventory in the budgeted amount not to exceed $80,000.00.

• A request from Sanitation Superintendent Larry Jones to purchase a pickup from ADECA to replace a wrecked pickup in the amount not to exceed $18,000.00.

• A request from Ken Brown of American Red Cross for an emergency supplemental appropriation in the amount of $7,500.00 to assist the citizens of Cullman in times of disaster.

The following resolutions, ordinances, orders and other businesses were discussed:

• **Resolution No. 2015-43** – To grant a tax abatement to Goat Island Craft Brewery (a capital investment $576,000 and five new jobs).

• **Resolution No. 2015 – 44** – To grant a tax abatement to Hyundai (Royal Technologies)(a capital investment $2,400,000).

• **Resolution No. 2015 – 45** – To enter into contract with Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood for professional engineering services related to the taxiway rehabilitation in the amount not to exceed $92,352.00.

• **Resolution No. 2015 – 46** – To enter into contract with Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood for professional environmental services related to the taxiway extension in the amount not to exceed $45,000.00.

• **The First Reading of Ordinance No. 2015 – 28** – To annex the property owned by Perry Louis Easterwood located at 186 Golf Course Road (PPIN 6138, PARCEL 17-08-27-0-001-029.000, and Lot 3 Block 1 Dialsdale Subdivision 4) into the city limits of Cullmanas R-1 Residential District.

• **The First Reading of Ordinance No. 2015 – 29** – To annex the property owned by Jacob Wood located at 81 County Road 1412 (PPN 12375, PARCEL 09-07-35-0-001-048-000, 0.80 Acres, and Lot 3 Shi-Log-Hill Subdivision) into the city limits of Cullman as R-1 Residential District.

• **The First Reading of Ordinance No. 2015 – 30** – To rezone the property owned by Rodney Steven and Heather Sunshine Wynn located at 109 Main Avenue (PPIN 19577, PARCEL 17-05-16-1-001-006-000, PT Lot 2 Block1 Musgrove Addition) from R-4 Residential District to CBD (Central Business District).

There were no board appointments and the meeting was then adjourned.

CULLMAN EC HOSTS MULTIPLE EVENTS FOR EARTH DAY 2015

Brian Lacy
Cullman Electric Cooperative

CULLMAN — Cullman Electric Cooperative is helping members celebrate Earth Day the week of April 21-24, 2015, with several activities focused on recycling, conservation and energy efficiency.

Document Shredding
Tuesday and Wednesday, April 21-22, 2015
Cullman EC offices in Cullman (Eva Road) and Addison (Hwy 278)

Document shredding is a safe and smart way to recycle old paper. Identity theft is a real threat, and can take years to fix credit fraud and recover from financial losses. Cullman EC is working with Alabama Archives to provide secure document shredding barrels so personal documents can be properly and safely disposed.

Bring the materials you need shredded to Cullman EC's offices in Cullman or Addison on Tuesday, April 21, and Wednesday, April 22. The service is free to our members. Any paper items that include information about credit cards, social security numbers, bank accounts, old bills or other private information should be considered for secure document disposal. There is a limit of three (3) bags or boxes per member household.

Energy Efficiency Expo
Wednesday, April 22, 2015
10 a.m. -1 p.m.
Cullman EC Training Room

Using less electricity in your home or business is a great way to help the environment while saving money at the same time. Stop by the Cullman EC office on Eva Road from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2015, to visit with energy efficiency experts and see examples of easy energy savings techniques. Co-op members can pick up brochures and videos that teach hundreds of simple steps you can take to save on your monthly power bill. TVA will give a 20-minute presentation on home energy savings at 10:30 a.m. and again at 12:30 p.m. The first 50 guests to attend the presentation will receive a home energy savings starter kit, and everyone who visits the expo will take home a free gift from Cullman EC.

Electronics recycling
Thursday and Friday, April 23-24, 2015
Cullman EC office on Eva Road

Cullman EC is working with JCR Recycling to offer two days of electronics recycling. In today's world of constantly evolving technology, it's easy to find small electronics that stop working or simply don't get used sitting around the house. Don't throw those items away. Recycle them! Bring your small electronics to the Cullman EC office on Eva Road, and drop them off at our temporary recycling center.

Small electronics include items such as cell phones, digital cameras, desktop and laptop computers, TVs and computer monitors, video game systems and more. (As a general rule, "small electronics" are items that one person can carry. If it takes multiple people to load, unload or move an item, it will not be accepted).

Cullman Electric Cooperative is a member-owned cooperative serving more than 42,200 member accounts in Cullman, Morgan, Lawrence and Winston counties.



2015 STATE OF THE SCHOOLS: STUDENT & TEACHER OF THE YEAR NAMED

Natalie Bonner
natalie@cullmansense.com

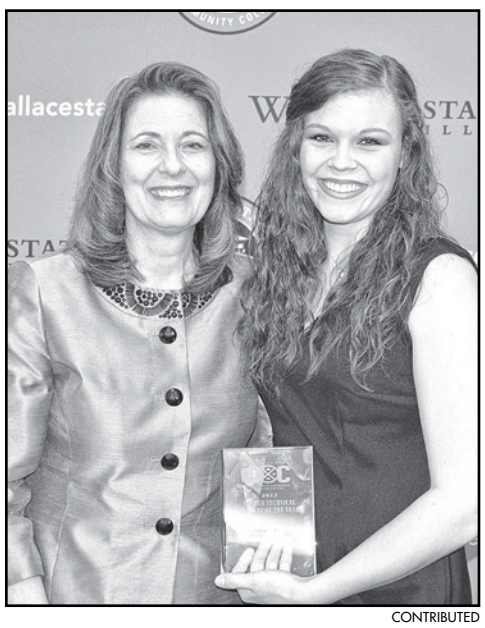
HANCEVILLE – Life is a never-ending lesson, and school is full of the best teacher ever – experience. A symbolic testimony to this statement was alive and well this past Thursday night as teachers, students, parents and supporters sat eagerly awaiting the results of the 2015 State of the Schools/ Student & Teacher of the Year event held in Wallace State's new School of Nursing and Center for Science building.

The suspense continued to build as Superintendents Dr. Doreen Griffeth of Cullman City Schools and Dr. Craig Ross of Cullman County Schools presented their State of the Schools addresses. Dr. Griffeth showed endearing videos of her young students with whom the city teachers work and stated that she and they felt honored to work with Cullman's children. She also emphasized the city's impressive growth and plans on the horizon. Dr. Ross equally shared in her passion for what he does. His remarkable success so far was displayed on-screen as he went through the latest figures and plans to push the county schools to be the very best they can be. He expressed an urgent message for educators in the form of teachers ratifying their techniques and methods in order to relate to millennials as they are a hands-on generation.

Following their opening sentiments, Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce President Leah Bolin presented the awards to nominees and, finally, winners. The 2015 Student of the Year Nominees were: Isom Paul Carden, Fairview High School; Aimme Cortes, St. Bernard Prep High School; Hunter Creel, Good Hope High School; Jeffrey "Heath" Dean, Hanceville High School; Seth Donaldson, Cullman High School; Brooke Duke, Cold Springs High School; Destiny Lansford, Vinemont High School; and Kaitlyn Stephens, Holly Pond High School. Lansford was awarded the honor of Student of the Year. The 2015 Career Technical Student of the Year nominees were Hadyn Ford, Cullman High School; Emily West, Fairview High School; and Blitz Yeager, Hanceville High School. Ford was awarded the honor of Career Tech Student of the Year.

The 2015 Teacher of the Year Acknowledgements for Cullman City Schools were Vanessa Rakestraw of West Elementary as the Elementary Teacher of the Year, and Sara McCutcheon of Cullman High School as Secondary Teacher of the Year.

The 2015 Teacher of the Year Acknowledgements for Cullman County Schools were April Smith of Parkside Elementary as Elementary Teacher of the Year, and Dana Lisle of Hanceville High School as Secondary Teacher of the Year.



CONTRIBUTED

Cullman City Schools Superintendent Dr. Doreen Griffeth proudly stands next to Career Technical Student of the Year winner, Hadyn Ford, of Cullman High School.



CONTRIBUTED

A smiling Destiny Lansford of Vinemont High School poses with Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Craig Ross as she holds her Student of the Year award.

Referencing the crowd and the head table, Bolin stated, "These guys are passionate about your kids." The passion was evident throughout the room with applause and recognition following each awardee. Corporate sponsors for the event included Cullman Electric Cooperative, Cullman-Jefferson Gas and Wallace State. The award sponsor was Knight-Free Insurance.

Independence (from Front)

to live life to the fullest. If a person is born with a disability, or has an unfortunate accident or health condition, OT practitioners help those individuals to obtain their greatest level of independence by strengthening, adapting, or developing strategies to gain independence."

The therapists at Encore in Cullman serve a wide variety of ages from babies to adults, helping them to achieve goals from feeding to walking and writing. Occupational therapists typically go through years of schooling to obtain a master's degree, and continue their education beyond by learning the latest techniques in their field. Currently, the OTs at Encore have the responsibility of serving all the children in Cullman County, according to Gipson.

"We provide early intervention for children born with special needs from birth to three years old, serving all of Cullman County," said Gipson. "Our occupational therapy team currently treats all children in the county and city school system who have been identified as needing additional assistance to be successful in the school setting. We serve all head start, primary, elementary, middle and high schools of all county and city schools. We also treat approximately 50 individuals per week in our Cullman clinic."

Occupational therapy is a crucial part of many children's road to success, especially in early intervention. Gipson stated that the knowledgeable and caring team with whom she works, makes their organization what it is.

"I am fortunate to have working with me, a very valuable team of occupational therapy practitioners. Our Team of OT practitioners in Cullman include: Sister Michelle St. Marie, Melissa Dew, Tammy Bryson, Shannon Armstrong, Stacy Monk, Rachel Gooch, Tina Al-Dijaili, Phyllis Bradford, Joelle Johns and Leslie Gregory."

With an efficient team in place, the therapists at Encore have been able to provide quality care to those that need it most in our community. There are, however, frustrations with any job, but Gipson said the one that gets to them most is that they cannot help everyone, but went on to state that any frustrations become well worth it when they see a client achieve a goal they never thought they could.

"As OT practitioners, we find the hardest part of the job is that we are bound by insurance or boundaries of intervention," she said. "And this often prevents us from doing everything we would love to do to help a child or an adult in their rehabilitation process. The most rewarding part of it is when you see a client achieve their goals. If a child who could not eat with their family, or play with their siblings, or even hug their parent is finally able to complete those tasks, it is priceless."

The work of an occupational therapist is not easy, but vital to many in our community, and for that, they deserve the recognition this month and every month. While some goals are harder than others, Gipson stated that she and her team work tirelessly to overcome any obstacle with their clients.

"The most important thing I would like for individuals to know about OT in our Cullman community is that we are here," said Gipson. "And that we are able to help individuals with a variety of disabilities to achieve their goal of greater independence and improved function. No matter what their disability, we can help them live a life more full by addressing their individual needs and finding a method to compensate or rehabilitate to an improved level of function."

For more information about Encore Therapies, call 256-775-3737.

Boil (from Front)

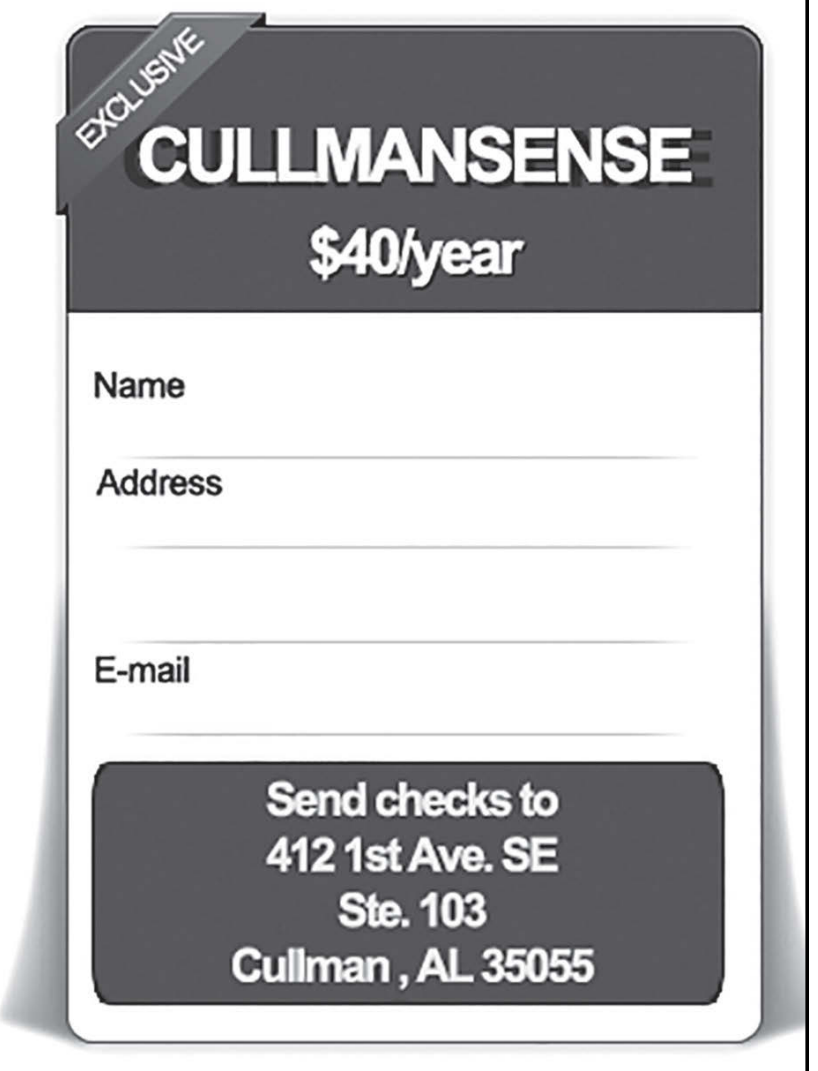
in Cullman.

"We are planning on having a crawfish boil and it will be served while supplies last," he said. "We'll also have drink special with a $5 grilled honey bourbon lemonade. The live entertainment starting at 7 p.m.

The 96th year anniversary and 3 year reopening Celebration will be Saturday, April 25 beginning at 5 p.m.

For any and all updates concerning Busy Bee check out our Facebook page or website at www.busybeecafealabama.com.

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



RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT

ASHLEY TANKERSLEY: LIVING THE LIFE OF A PASTOR'S WIFE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – This week's Religious Spotlight takes a little different approach than the others. Rather than focusing on a pastor, we are recognizing the wife of a pastor. Loving and kind, these ladies don't just marry their spouse and raise their children; but they also take on additional duties within the church as they support and encourage their pastor husbands. A lot of times these women go unnoticed, but they don't seem to mind because they are simply doing their part in the bigger picture; they are doing the Lord's work.

Meet Ashley (Reese) Tankersley. She was born and raised in Hanceville, graduated from Hanceville High School and then graduated from Wallace State Community College with a degree in business management. When she was 23 years old, she met Clay Tankersley and soon married him on March 28, 2009. They started their ministry by serving in a small church in Hanceville, called East Hanceville Baptist. After serving for a year, they accepted the call to serve as Student Pastor Family at Hanceville First Baptist.

"Three years later, we had our beautiful, sassy, little girl, Reese," Ashley giggled.

"She is our little ray of sunshine. Soon after I had Reese, I started my own photography business, Proverbs 31 Photography. I started it as a ministry just to love on others and enjoy my hobby. It quickly became a full time business that worked well with me being able to stay at home with my baby and also allowed me to still serve in the ministry with my husband."

Ashley's devotion to the church didn't just come about once she married her pastor husband Clay.

"I have always been involved in church, even before I got married, I was involved in VBS and was a children's Sunday school teacher," she smiled warmly. "I always knew I was going to marry a youth pastor."

The Tankersleys recently resigned from Hanceville First Baptist, where they served as Student Pastor Family for five years. Clay has accepted his first Associate Pastor position at a church in Falkville called Fairview: The Grace Place.

"Fairview will be a new experience for Clay and us as a family," she stated. "It's a much larger congregation for us to love on, a new position to learn, a new city, a new home, and an entirely new environment for our family. We are so excited to see exactly where we will fit and serve in this church."



ASHLEY TANKERSLEY

Clay, Reese and Ashley Tankersley enjoy a day at the beach.

When asked about the biggest challenge of being a pastor's wife, Ashley thought for a minute and then grinned.

"Well, one of the biggest challenges would have to be having enough time in the day. Ministry is a 24-hour job sometimes. Learning how to share time with my husband and all the ministries that he does separate from our own ministry together and our family was hard," she explained, "especially when you are a part of a church that is growing. Being married to a youth pastor certainly requires patience. Long days require us all to be flexible."

If you or someone you know is about to become the husband or the wife of a pastor, Ashley has the following words of advice.

"It definitely takes some getting used to. Sometimes the long hours can become exhausting on a marriage and family. Giving others your all in service to the Lord is beautiful... but the Lord loves when you give your all to your marriage. Marriage is something that is a beautiful gift from the Lord and is such a wonderful ministry in itself."

Ashley Tankersley is a woman to be admired. Her love for God, her family and church helps her to continue to serve the Lord in the special way she has been called to do. She is truly someone to look up to and makes a perfect role model for young women to follow.

If you know a religious leader whom you think should be spotlighted in CullmanSense, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me via e-mail at sharon@cullmansense.com.

"I have always been involved in church, even before I got married I was involved in VBS and was a children's Sunday school teacher. I always knew I was going to marry a youth pastor."

Ashley Tankersley,
Youth Pastor's Wife

Bunco (from Front)

"The Altar Society is made up of all the women of the church," said LuAnn Gissell, president-elect of the group. "We take care of the altar. We buy the wine, bread, candles, linens and flowers. Anything that is needed there, we take care of and pay for it. Which can be expensive so we raise the money by holding events like this."

Bunco is a simple but exciting game played with dice and a scorecard. Players roll three dice at a time and try to roll the number in play that correlates with the round you are in. For example, if a player is in round one, then for each 1 that the player rolls, they get one point, unless they roll three 1s, which would be a 21 or Bunco. Losers at the end of each round switch to a new table with new partners.

While not difficult to learn, the game was anything but boring. Women all around the room were laughing and cheering every time they hit a Bunco. One participant loved the idea of the event for more than just the wine.

"I think this was a wonderful night," said Susan Copeland. "You are always moving around so you get to mingle with a lot of different women. It's also a great fundraiser, and I think it's just a lot of fun for the social aspect of it. You can't beat a good cause, good time and good refreshments."

The event also featured a wide array of prizes for their Chinese auction. Participants were given a number upon arrival, and a drawing was held to see who won, instead of a bidding match.

"We had a lot great businesses and people donate items," said Grissell. "Deep South Classics, The Grotto gift shop donated, Serendipity and Flavors were some of the businesses that helped us with this. We also had individuals bring items as well, and we are grateful to everyone that helped."

The ladies' night event was a huge success, drawing over 50 women of all ages to Sacred Heart who felt that the night was more than worth the $20 ticket. Grissell stated that they will almost definitely hold another ladies' Bunco night in the future.

For more information on the Altar Society or this event, call 256-734-3730.



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Bunco is a simple and fun game that made for the perfect fundraiser for the Altar Society.





A MAN OF STRONG CONVICTIONS AND CONSERVATIVE VIEWS

GETTING TO KNOW MR. MAX SCHMITT, ONE OF CULLMAN'S EARLY SETTLERS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Mr. Max Schmitt's family was one of the early settlers to establish Cullman with the infamous Colonel Johann G. Cullmann. He was a busy man and loved by all. He and his wife Josephine owned a bakery, as well as a brick masonry. It is said that he helped to build some of the bridges throughout town. He was of the Catholic faith and served on the Sacred Heart Building Committee. Today his descendants are sprinkled all over Cullman County.

Mr. Schmitt was born February 9, 1860 in Alsace-Lorraine, France. He came to the United States with his parents when he was just six years old. At the ripe old age of 14, his family moved to Cullman where he lived for the rest of his life. He had been married twice, as his first wife, Frances, died at the age of 23. Later, on September 5, 1892 he married Miss Josephine Wendling.

From early manhood he was an active and progressive citizen. He served Cullman County as a member of the Board of County Commissioners and the city as a councilman for a number of years. He was a man of strong convictions, yet conservative in his views. As a businessman, he had prospered. No citizen of Cullman was any better or more favorably known than he at the time of his death.

Mr. Max Schmitt passed away unexpectedly on August 24, 1919. It was a Sunday morning, shortly after 11 o'clock. His death not only shocked his dear family, but the entire town.

The Saturday prior to his passing had been a typical day. Active and cheerful, he had been looking after his business interests, as was his daily custom. He had gone and checked on the bakery then stopped by his sawmill and lumber business for a bit. The next day, he got up bright and early, and went through the same routine as always, check on his businesses.

After looking after a few things at home, Mr. Schmitt went back to the bakery. He built a fire in the furnace and was helping his Josephine in the café when he became tired.



ANCESTRY.COM

Max and his wife Josephine owned a bakery and a brick masonry.

"I'm going to go upstairs and lay down for a little while, dear. I think I may be coming down with something," he said as he kissed Josephine on the cheek. It was normal for Mr. Schmitt to nap a little after his morning's work.

"You need to take care of yourself, Mr. Schmitt," sweet Josephine warmly smiled, then watched her husband climb the staircase that lead to their living quarters.

After a while, Mrs. Schmitt decided to go up to see about him. It was after 11 a.m. in the morning and a little later than he normally spent on his naps.

To her horror, she found that he had answered the supreme call of the Master. The family physician, Dr. Armstrong, was called. The moment he arrived at Max's bedside, he found that sure enough, the breath of life was gone. Heart failure had taken a wonderful man without warning. He was 57 years old.

Mr. Schmitt was survived by his widow and the following children: Miss Marie, Sister Eugenia, O.S.B. of Birmingham, Mrs. E. E. Wedding of Florence, Alphonse, Eugene, Misses Anna and Frances, Mrs. C. M. Richard and Mr. Emil Schmitt. The two latter being daughter and son of Mr. Schmitt's first wife.

The funeral services were conducted on the following Tuesday morning at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, of which he was a prominent and influential member. Interment followed the funeral Mass in the Catholic Cemetery.



ANCESTRY.COM

Max and Josephine Schmitt pose for a portrait around the time they were married.

From Mr. Max Schmitt, there are lots of doctors, nurses and multiple business owners around town that are proud to call him their grandfather. They are a very giving type of people, who are extremely proud of their town and the people they call family.

MIRRORING HISTORY

CULLMAN MUNICIPAL POOL

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

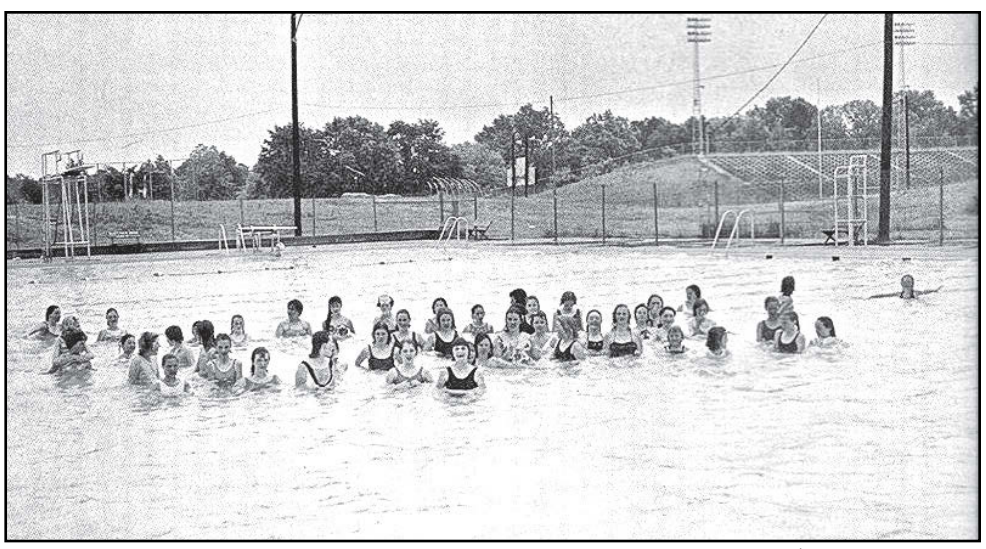
CULLMAN – The Cullman Municipal Pool was located in a lot next to Cullman High School. Not only did it offer endless fun for people of all ages during the long, hot summer days, but it also featured mixed and individual swimming classes. In both springtime and in the fall, the middle school and high school physical education departments used the pool as part of the curriculum. The girls had the pool to themselves on Tuesdays and Thursdays, while the boys had the pool on Mondays and Wednesdays. Fridays were the only day that both boys and girls shared the pool.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

A field is all that remains in the pool's location.

Today the pool is long gone. All that remains of the old swimming pool is an open field of grass and many happy memories.



FACEBOOK/CULLMAN COUNTY HISTORY

The middle school and high school physical education departments used the pool as part of the curriculum.

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

ANNUAL 'DINNER WITH THE DRUM LINE' SUPPORTS CHS PERCUSSION PROGRAM

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman High School Bearcat Band's Drum Line held its annual fundraiser at the high school lunchroom on Thursday night, April 16. All proceeds from the event will go to benefit the Cullman High School's Percussion Program.

This year guests participated in a "soup-off" in which they were offered soup samples from six local restaurants. Once everyone tasted the soups, they voted on the one they liked the best. They were also able to eat a full bowl of their favorite hearty soup after voting.

The competing restaurants for the night were:

- The Irish Chipper - Hearty Beef Stew
- Brothers Kitchen & Pourhouse - Gumbo
- Carlton's Italian Restaurant - Potato Bacon Soup
- The Downtown Grill - Chili
- Augusta's Sports Grill - Potato Soup
- Rumors Deli - Tomato Bisque



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Members of the Cullman Bearcat Band's Drum Line perform at their yearly fundraiser.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Attendees are served their favorite soups at the Dinner with the Drum Line on Thursday night.

"Tonight's fundraiser is for the Cullman Indoor Percussion Ensemble," said LaTonya Boike, band parent. "Every year we have a dinner but last year we had our first "soup-off", which was a huge success," she smiled. "We decided to do it again this year, except this time we used local restaurants. We went to a few of the chains but they weren't able to participate, and so we stuck with locals just to keep it at home and let the people kinda know that they are out there."

"It's been a great success; the kids get to perform after we have dinner," she added. "We have a silent auction and then everybody heads to the gym to listen to the percussion ensemble perform their music. Every bit of the proceeds that we raise tonight will go for the indoor percussion," Boike continued. "This is how they buy some of their instruments, their music and anything they need."

Members of the band's drum line worked hard, serving the many guests. People left the event with full stomachs and smiles on their faces.

"This is the first year we are doing a concert percussion ensemble," said Adam McDowell, associate director of bands and percussion director at Cullman High School.

"This is the seventh or eighth year for our dinner that we host, 'Dinner with the Drum Line'. It's the second year we've done the soup. We have had an amazing turnout; it seems the parents, community, fans and friends around the town have really enjoyed the evening."

For more information about the Cullman Bearcat Band, visit CullmanBand.com.

Ellis (from Front)

Suddenly thrown into the workforce to care for her young family, Sharon became a very busy woman – and hasn't slowed down a bit.

"I worked for Head Start for 25 years and raised half of Cullman County," Sharon smiled.

"In the midst of those 25 years, I worked three and four jobs while raising my kids. We did Boy Scouts, football, cheerleading, Girl Scouts – I was a Girl Scout leader for 15 years. Two of my friends and I, we did the total Girl Scout cookie sales for Cullman County for six years, in addition to me having two troops," she giggled.

Fun-loving and energetic, Sharon has a good time wherever she goes. From teaching 5-year-old children to active senior citizens at Victorian Manor, she is sure to make things exciting and loads of fun.

"When I was growing up, everything was an occasion," she explained.

"My mother made everything an occasion and so I think I've just got that in me. When the kids were little, I'd bring out the fine china and the crystal, just me and them for candlelight dinners."

"I'm not sure what I thought coming into it (her job at the assisted living), but the residents are not as limited as you would think," Sharon smiled.

"Having things to do such as outings and exercise enriches their lives. Some of them will say things like, 'I just don't know why I'm still here', and 'I'm just not good for anything'. But I ask them, 'Can you pray? Then that's why you are still here. There are people out there that need your prayers. You can do something.'"

Sharon loves the people she works with and genuinely enjoys being with them.

"It's a challenge, but it's a lot of fun," she mused.

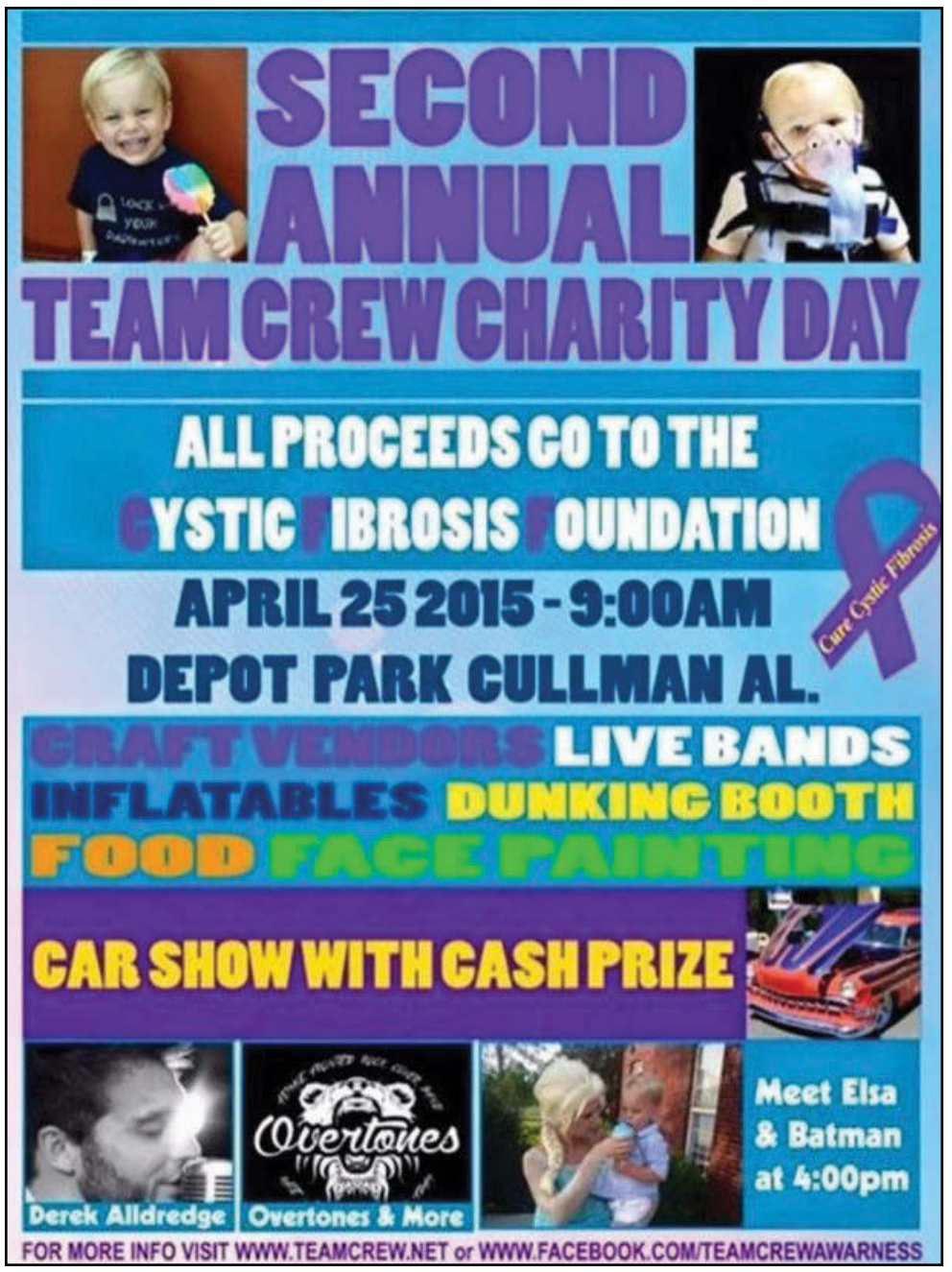
"Sometimes I get home and I'll wake up in the middle of the night and I'm asking myself, 'Oh gosh, did I get to this one today?' or 'Did I speak to that one today?' I want to make sure I get to everyone and some days I just can't do that, it's hard, but I try to get to everyone."

Sharon Ellis' love for family overflows into a love for her community and those in it.

From the very young to the very old, she has found her calling in life and continues to do her best to make things just a little brighter and happier for her friends at Victorian Manor.

If you know someone you think should be the CullmanSense's Citizen of the Week, we'd love to hear from you! Email the information to sharon@cullmansense.com.





RAIN DAMPENS 31ST ANNUAL BLOOMIN' FESTIVAL

INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELS SECOND DAY OF EVENT, PARKING AN UNEXPECTED ISSUE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Despite the dreary weather forecast for the weekend, people came out in droves to visit Saint Bernard's 31st Annual Bloomin' Festival Arts and Crafts Fair on Saturday. The event was cancelled on Sunday due to inclement weather, though many vendors stayed open at their own risk. There was something available for just about everyone, whether it was children's clothing, pottery, home décor or delicious snacks.

The Bloomin' Festival is a two day arts festival that attracts thousands of visitors. It all takes place on the beautiful campus of St. Bernard Abbey and Prep School.

There were more than 140 booths filled with artists demonstrating and exhibiting their work. The festival is the largest fundraiser annually for the operation and maintenance of the school.

"We came today because it's pretty much tradition," said Brandi Sims of Huntsville.

"We've gotta get that monk bread - and that might be my favorite thing! My other favorite thing was the bag lady - I bought the cutest bag today." she giggled.

"We do try to come every year, and I would've brought the umbrella if it was going to rain, and maybe some rain boots because it sure gets muddy!"

The Saint Bernard monks have been working for days baking their famous Monk Bread. Attendees came from miles around just to get a few loaves of the delicacy.

"I know this is special," said Tim Creekmore about the bread, "the monks pray away all the carbohydrates and gluten! Seriously, great bread and seriously wonderful monks. God bless Saint Bernard!"

This year there was a glitch in the Bloomin' Festival system – parking. Due to the excessive rainfall the week prior to the festival, the fields, which are used for parking, were overly saturated with water and mud and were unable to be used.

As a result, shuttle services were set up along Highway 157 and area churches. For some it was a great thing, for others, it was a major problem.

"The parking situation was extremely disappointing," said Vicki Shaw of Trussville.

"We live over an hour away, yet managed to get there at 9 a.m. - just at opening time - and already the lots were full. We waited an hour for a shuttle to show up to take us to the festival. We were limited on what we could buy because our car was so far away. Better planning for transporting people to the festival would have been nice. It should have been no surprise that the fields were too wet since it had rained all week."

For more information about the Bloomin' Festival, visit bloominfestival.com or follow them on Facebook at Facebook.com/bloominfestival.



FACEBOOK.COM/BLOOMINFESTIVAL

A variety of colorful crafts were on display at the 2015 Bloomin' Festival.



This year's Bloomin' Festival was home to over 140 booths.

FACEBOOK.COM/BLOOMINFESTIVAL

TEAM CREW CHARITY DAY
CAR SHOW
Cure Cystic Fibrosis
Cure Cystic Fibrosis
$500 Cash Prize & Trophy
● Registration starts at 9:30am
● Cars must be parked by 10am
Registration → $35 Per Car
April 25th | Depot Park | Cullman, Al
All proceeds go to the cystic fibrosis foundation
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
Inflatables, Bands, Craft Vendors and more!

EARTH WEEK
RECYCLING • CONSERVATION • ENERGY EFFICIENCY

DOCUMENT SHREDDING
April 21-22, all day, at both Cullman EC offices
Document shrerdding is a safe and smart way to recycle old paper and protect yourself from identity theft. Bring your documents and deposit them in the secure containers provided by Alabama Archives.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY EXPO
April 22, 10a.m.-1p.m., at Cullman EC - Eva Road office
Visit with energy efficiency experts.
"Lower Your Bill" presentation at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Learn 100s of simple steps you can take to save on your monthly power bill. Take home brochures and DVDs.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING
April 23-24, all day, at Cullman EC - Eva Road office
Bring your unused small electronics (cell phones, laptops, TVs, video game systems & more) to the temporary recycling center hosted by JCR Recycling at our Eva Road office.

Cullman Electric Cooperative
providing energy with care
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

For more information, call 256-737-3200 or visit cullmanec.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

Hypertuffa at North Alabama Agriplex
Make your own lightweight planter that mimics concrete planters but are easy to move around. Be prepared to get messy, and you will create a planter that will last through the years. Price TBA. Starts at 6 p.m. at the North Alabama Agriplex. Limited space. Registration required, call 256-297-1044, or e-mail cullmanag@gmail.com.

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

Pilot Club Luncheon & Fashion Show
The Pilot Club of Cullman, Inc. presents "Walking on Sunshine", a Luncheon & Fashion Show in honor of Administrative Professionals' Day. To be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at the Cullman Civic Center**.** Doors Open at 11 a.m. for shopping at local stores' booths. Great door prizes given throughout the show! Purchase Tickets for $20 each from: Cullman County Museum**,** Cullman Civic Center **or** Pilot Club members. Food Provided by: Sweet Peppers Deli**.**

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

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

April Community Luncheon
Join the Cullman Chamber for their monthly Community Luncheon held at All Steak on every fourth Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at All Steak in their banquet room. This month's speaker, Jeremiah Castile, former University of Alabama football player ,will be speaking about character and leadership. If you would like to attend, please register by calling the Chamber office at 256-734-0454. $15 for Chamber Members & $20 for Future Members.

'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

County Wide Yard Sale at Smith Lake Park
FREE admission to the general public. Vendor spots: $10 for grass sites, $15 for pavilions. Set up begins at 6 a.m. and sale starts at 7 a.m. To reserve a spot, contact Smith Lake Park at 256-739-2916. Rain or shine.

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

President's Prayer Breakfast
Please join The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and its members for the first annual President's Prayer Breakfast. It will be a time of remembering and sharing as we reflect on the past and pray for the future of our community. Doors open at 7:30 am at Loft 212, April 27 and program begins at 8 a.m. Our guest speaker, Gary West, President & CEO of GA West Contracting in Mobile, Alabama, will share his testimony and Almost Brothers will provide special music. Registration is required. Call 256-734-0454.

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).

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Cornerstone Revival Ladies Prayer Meeting
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LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

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

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

WEDNESDAY
- Pilot Club Luncheon & Fashion Show at 11 a.m. at the Cullman Civic Center
- 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.
- 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
- April Community Luncheon at All Steak from 11:30 a.m. to 1 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
- County Wide Yard Sale at Smith Lake Park at 7 a.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 Sunday, April 26

NEXT MONDAY
- President's Prayer Breakfast at Loft 212 at 8 a.m.
- 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.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
@CULLMANSENSE



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™

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

RESEARCH IN CHILDREN CAN LEAD TO PREVENTING LEARNING DISABILITIES

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The human mind is a remarkable thing. It holds all of the pieces that make us who we are and has enabled mankind to survive throughout the ages. For some, however, the brain can have a wire crossed in its complex web of circuitry leading to learning disabilities in many children. Take a look at the delicate chemistry of the brain and the puzzle of why some children's struggles become even more complicated.

Luckily, researchers at the University of Washington are at the forefront of unlocking the secrets of how we learn at a young age, and how to help those who are having trouble.

An educational psychologist named Virginia Berninger, and radiologist Todd Richards, have been studying the way we learn to speak, read and write through the use of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Using this technology, we have discovered that children are primed for learning during the first five years of life.

The combination of our genetics and early childhood experiences set the stage for how our brain's cells network together, and either help or stunt learning capabilities. It is during the first five years of life that our brains are at their most malleable, and is why giving children opportunities to learn about speech and written language is crucial.

The discoveries being made at the University of Washington are helping parents, schools and preschools figure out ways to stop, or at least lessen learning disabilities early on.

One way they are doing this is to see if specialized teaching techniques improve reading and writing with kids who struggle.

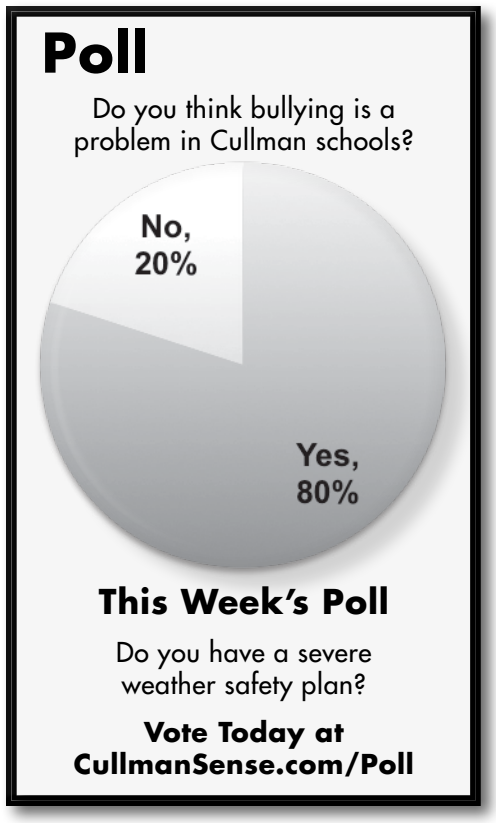
The study works by showing children specialized instruction for a specific amount of time, and then performing brain scans both before and after. In a child who has a hard time with spoken or written language, the nerve fiber tracts that help connect different areas of the brain, are firing differently than that of a typically developing child. This causes a host of different delays and learning disabilities.

In a similar lab close to Berninger's, Patricia Kuhl is also studying the minds of young children, but her research is focused on speech development in infants and toddlers.

Her goal is to see what and how our minds look at a young age when we are learning language. Her ongoing, unpublished research has made some interesting discoveries on the way we learn our native language, and how there is more to the story than just genetics.

An infant's ability to focus on discerning differences between sounds that are relevant for learning a language, and tuning out the sounds that are not important has a lot to do with language development.

Both sets of studies will help more parents and teachers around the world better understand the mechanisms of development, and what a child needs as far as instruction to succeed. Children are already benefitting from this research, and one can only hope that the keys to unlocking a child's mind and freeing them from a learning disability is getting closer every day.



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.

Firefighter (from Front)

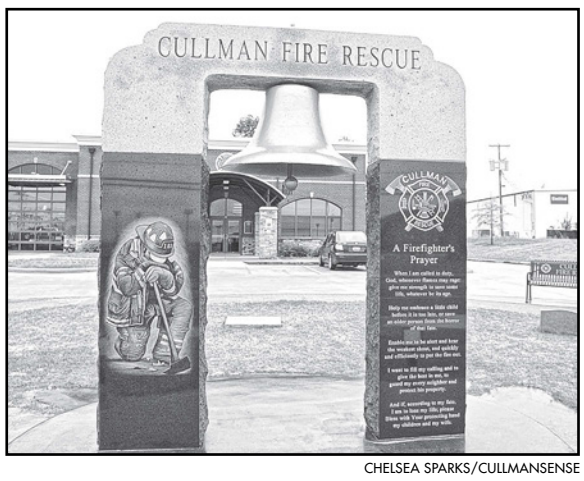
are alike as firefighter," Harrington said.

"Here we work a 24 to 48 hour rotation with an A, B and C shift. We come on duty at 7 a.m. in the morning and we will get off duty at 7 a.m. the next morning. After we get to work and eat breakfast, we make sure our uniforms are in place and then at 8 a.m., we will have our radio test. After that we begin our station clean up."

Firefighters have a long list of chores that include physical training, cleaning and maintaining equipment daily.

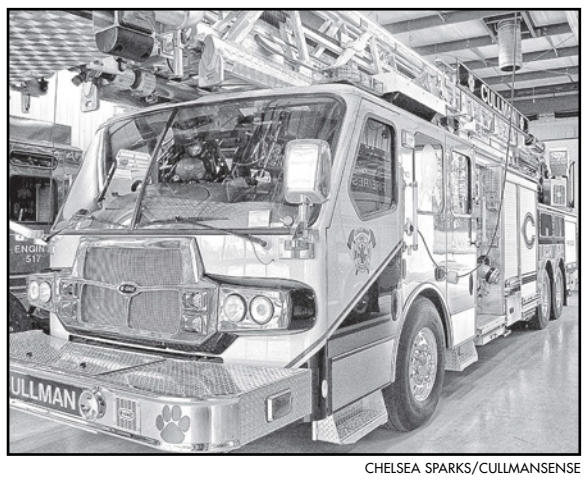
"We also have to check our radio apparatuses to make sure we have communications with dispatch," Harrington said.

"We check all the trucks in and once that is done, we go through all the equipment and make sure it's serviceable, and we go through this routine daily so there actually isn't as much down time as people might think."



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

A monument in front of Station B is etched with the firefighter's prayer, signifying their deep commitment to helping their community.



CHELSEA SPARKS/CULLMANSENSE

Fire trucks at every station are kept in pristine condition and ready to go at a moment's notice.

While fighting fire is their number one job in the community, the fire department actually responds to a wide assortment of needs within our community, according to Harrington.

"The fire service has evolved over the years into more of an all hazard response," he said. "Because we do technical rescue, high angle rope rescue, hazard material, emergency medicine and vehicle extrication. So we respond to almost any hazard, and it's a whole lot more than fire nowadays."

For an intense job, you are going to need intense training. Our local firefighters go through a rigorous 360-hour course, EMT training and hazardous material technician training.

"Once you go through the testing process and you are hired in as a candidate, then you have to go to minimum standards, which takes about 10 weeks," Harrington said. "Education in this job never stops; it carries on through your whole career."

Harrington said that while they do everything within their power to minimize the risk, there are still dangerous calls. He recalled some sketchy fires in the past, but at the end of the day, it's all about helping people.

"The most rewarding part of this job is helping people," said Harrington. "At the end of the day, we all got into this job so that we could help others and that is its own reward. Knowing that you helped someone when they were in a situation where they absolutely needed someone."

For more information on the Cullman City Fire Department, call 256-775-7186.

What's Online

'WHAT STANDS IN A STORM': NEW BOOK LOOKS AT APRIL 27 TORNADOES THROUGH THE EYES OF VICTIMS

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...

qrne.ws/345



MEET LARRY ROWLETTE A.K.A. COLONEL CULLMANN

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...

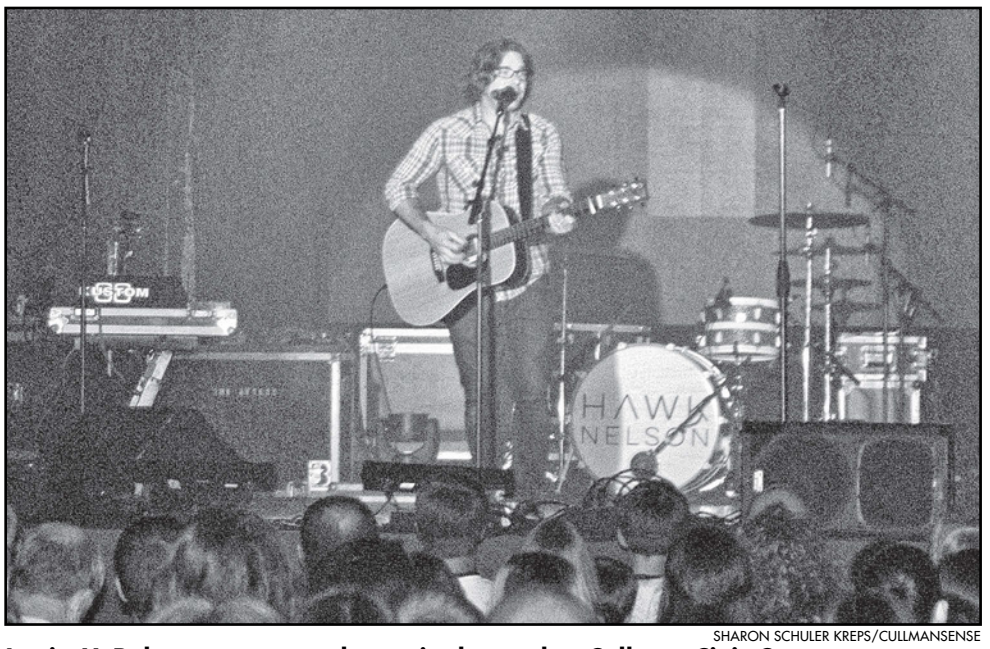
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NEW HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE COMES TO CULLMAN

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 enemy does not discriminate, affecting all different races...

qrne.ws/347

CORNERSTONE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE HOSTS "HERE FOR YOU" TOUR AT CIVIC CENTER



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Justin McRoberts croons to the excited crowd at Cullman Civic Center.

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman Civic Center was transformed into a major concert hall Friday night as the Christian bands Hawk Nelson, The Afters and special guest Justin McRoberts rocked the house. People of all ages danced and chimed in to their favorite songs while colorful lights twirled all over the place.

The bands came to Cullman as a part of their "Here for You" tour. It was the only concert they performed in the whole state of Alabama.

"We're excited to bring a concert like this to Cullman," said Mark Sanford, pastor of Cornerstone Church. "Since YouthQuake is not going on anymore, we want to try to fill that niche. You know, we feel like Cullman is the best community in Alabama and we want to bring the best shows and the best concerts here. We want to give back to the community here at Cornerstone and we feel like this is just the beginning. We want to bring in bigger and better names because we want people to feel like they can live in Cullman and still get that experience without having to drive to Huntsville or Birmingham. We have great venues like the Civic Center and the fairgrounds and we feel like, why not here? We are excited to host this one, it is our first concert here in Cullman, and it's definitely not our last."

> **"Since YouthQuake is not going on anymore, we want to try to fill that niche."**
> Mark Sanford, Pastor of Cornerstone Church

The concert was a hit, especially with the teenage girls. Grinning from ear to ear, they just couldn't seem to get enough.

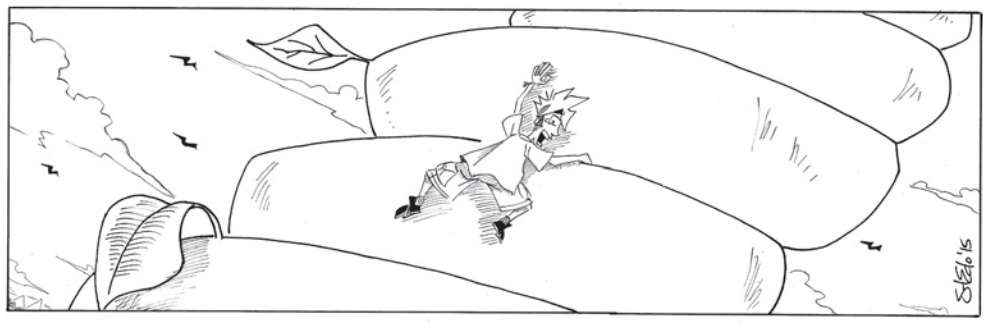
"I'm enjoying it," said 16-year-old Reagan Hudgins. "Hawk Nelson is my favorite, of course. I want their album now – I love them!" she said as she giggled and nudged her friend, Alissa Dupree.

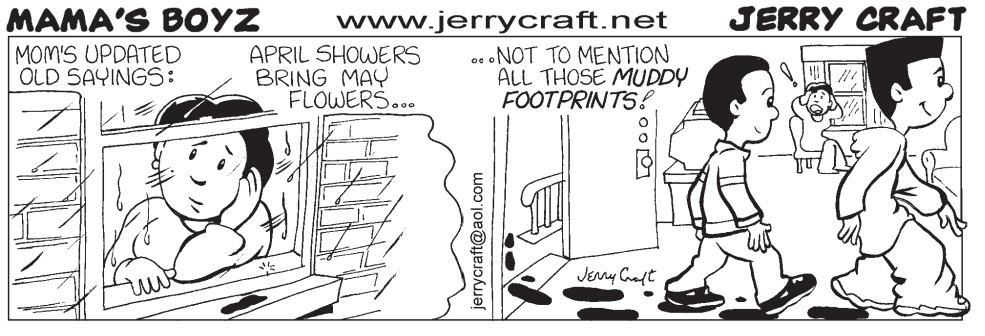
Not only was there great music but there was also an important message from each of the bands. It was a message that stressed God's love for each and every person that was there that night. If you missed the concert, keep an eye on Cornerstone Church as they plan to host many more in the future.

Cornerstone Church of the Nazarene is located at 321 3rd St SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 and they can be reached by calling them at 256-775-2756. You can e-mail them at cullmancornerstone@gmail.com or visit their webpage at CullmanCornerstone.com. Be sure to follow them on Facebook by going to Facebook.com/nazcornerstone.

COMICS

WHITE & BLACK • **"The Great Climb"** • st.edo@cullmansense.com











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PETS OF THE WEEK

TRUMAN



Hello my name is Truman and I am about 6 months old. I am a Corgi mix and I currently weigh 12 lbs. I am a stray and if not claimed will go up for adoption on 4/23/15 at 10:30 a.m. 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!

ZOE



Hello my name is Zoe and I am about 6 months old. I am believed to be a Flat Coat Retriever mix and I currently weigh 32 lbs. 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!

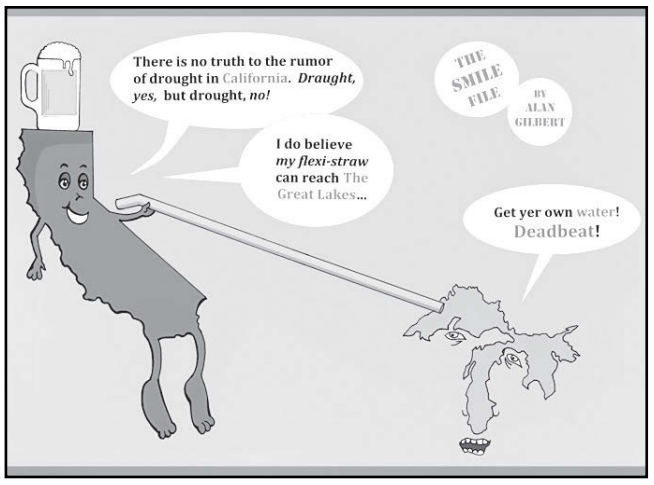
ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

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.

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OPINION

FOR THE MEDIA, TRADITIONAL VALUES STILL MATTER

Lee H. Hamilton
Contributor

I have been involved in politics and policy-making for over 50 years, and as you can imagine I hold strong feelings about reporters and the media. They're not what you might think, however.

Far from considering journalists to be irritating pains in the neck — though I've known a few who qualified — I believe them to be indispensable to our democracy.

Our system rests on citizens' ability to make discriminating judgments about policies and politicians. Without the news, information, and analysis that the media provides, this would be impossible.

So I am uneasy about some of the directions I see journalism taking these days.

Reporters often seem to take what politicians and their handlers say at face value. They look for winners and losers at the expense of nuance. They strive to give the appearance of even-handedness by creating a false balance between two sides that do not deserve equal weight.

They elevate politics, polls and personality over substance and measured analysis. They slant the news. They engage in pack journalism.

And they delight in spotlighting screw-ups, which might be entertaining to readers but sheds no light on the underlying issues that could make government better if addressed.

I also worry about the increasingly sophisticated efforts by the government and powerful interests to tell us only what they want us to know.

The White House in particular — under presidents of both parties — has become quite skillful at manipulating the press.

I believe that much contemporary journalism has come untethered from a set of traditional values that served the country well over many years:

- Journalism needs to be in the service of justice, asking questions, telling stories, and inspiring those in power and those who vote for them to do the right thing.
- It should be a check on power.
- It must hold tight to accuracy, intellectual honesty, rigorous reporting, and fairness.
- And journalists have a profound responsibility to serve as lie detectors. Journalists have to be curious and skeptical, and not buy into the conventional wisdom of the establishment.

In the end, my concern is that skeptical reporting and deeply informed investigative journalism are fading. We need more of them, not less. I want to see journalists digging deep into the activities of government, politics, business, finance, education, welfare, culture, and sports. Our Republic depends on it.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University; Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

OPINION

A DAY FOR OUR MOTHER EARTH

Tom H. Hastings
PeaceVoice

How many holidays do we have? MLK Day in January, Valentines Day in February, Easter in March or April, Earth Day in April, Memorial Day in May, and so forth. Of those few examples, two were declared in my adulthood. New holidays take time to catch on and embed themselves in the culture. They can stray from their roots. Christmas is for consumerism. Veterans Day is to promote war. Thanksgiving is for football.

The first Earth Day, in 1970, was the launch of a new holiday with deep challenger social meaning for many of us. I was 19. I was excited that this new holiday reflected my values, the ones I was raised to hold, the ones that had worked forward from many indigenous leaders to John Muir to Aldo Leopold to Rachel Carson.

My Dad taught me the number one value and tactic in life: always leave the campsite a bit nicer than when you found it. We camped across the country and that was our ritual; we broke camp and made sure the site was free of garbage but also had a bit more firewood left for the next ones than what we found.

Earth Day was meant to bring that ethic forward in innumerable ways.

It was meant to celebrate the first major environmental protection law, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and to promote more protection from the industrial, chemical, bulldozer, polluting, clearcutting, strip mining, ocean dumping, fuel spilling, poison spraying, habitat wrecking culture that was turning America the Beautiful into America the Dumpsite, America the Cancer Ward, America the Slashed and Burned.

It is a holiday that had an agenda and still has it. Few purchase glitzy gifts for the occasion and no one gains 10 pounds from rich food on Earth Day.

Find the Earth Day section in the card aisle in Walgreens. Ha. Good luck with that. Simply put, Earth Day is anathema to corporate predatory culture and so far has not been amenable to hijacking.

As a result, it is largely a roll-your-own day, no one takes off work to celebrate it, and the vast majority of attention it gets is from elementary school teachers who have a value affinity with its meaning and want to pass that along to children.

So thank you, teachers. Thank you, environmentalists. Thank you, naturalists and nature lovers. This is your day.

Long may its meaning and message hold forth and may it mark great victories for our environment and clean future. April 22, Earth Day 2015, a day of hope and challenge toward a society that cares for the future of the generations and the rights of the generations to hug huge Redwoods, breathe clean air, eat healthy food, drink pure water, and see all the species in their wild places.

Tom H. Hastings is Founding Director of PeaceVoice.

POSITION AVAILABLE

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

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