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CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS


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'SQUADCOPTERS' GIVE CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT EYES IN THE SKY

Hannah Ward
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CULLMAN – Technology today is similar to the '80s movies about the future: cell phones, talking robots, and computers have come a long way. Today's technology isn't just new gizmos though; most advancements are actually helpful tools. Take the Cullman Police Department's new drones, for example. These " copters" are used for finding missing persons and assisting in security at Cullman special events.

The Cullman Police Department owns two Phantom 2s by DJI. The Copters were each $1,200 and the City of Cullman received a full federal grant for them. These copters are small, white, four propeller machines that have a camera at their base, which is used to search the area. These high-tech, multi-purpose drones are similar to a remote-controlled helicopter, only these have a video camera attached to them and are connected to GPS satellites.

This technology will mainly be used for missing elderly and child cases and also the managing of Cullman events.

Daniel Hunt, director of IT at the Police Department, explained the purpose of the copters: "Looking for missing children, an elderly person that's missing and special events. It's mainly more eyes in the sky in a missing person's case. In a lot of cases in these special events we really need current aerial photography. Google maps photography could be years out of date, so this is great for planning where we will put things or where we will direct traffic to."

Currently the drones have only been used in two cases by the Cullman Police Department. They were fortunately not needed, but Daniel Hunt and Shannon Cheatwood of the Cullman Police Department technology constantly prepare, just in case.

Daniel Hunt said P4

STONY LONESOME MUD RUN 5K

WHERE MUD AND MAYHEM COLLIDE

Mary Standifer
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BREMEN – Stony Lonesome OHV Park held its Mud Run 5K Saturday at 8:30 a.m. The event had a turnout of at least 400 contestants. This was the first 5K in what is to be an annual event at the park. P4


CONTRIBUTED

Event organizers hope to make the Stony Lonesome OHV Park Mud Run 5K an annual event.

TOMATOES AND LETTUCE AND BERRIES – OH MY!

CULLMAN'S FESTHALLE FARMERS MARKET HAS IT ALL P6


SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

There is a little bit of everything available at the Festhalle Farmers Market. P6

FIRE AT WALLACE STATE QUICKLY EXTINGUISHED

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HANCEVILLE – Tuesday morning at 7:43 a.m. a fire broke out at Wallace State Community College. Hanceville Fire Chief Rodger Green explained the origin of the fire, "It appeared to have started behind a little refrigerator on the first floor. It looked like it had an electrical shortage that possibly started it."

The Hanceville Fire Department responded to the Health and P4




IMAGES CONTRIBUTED

The fire was possibly started by an electrical shortage.

MOTHER'S DAY OUT

CRAFTED CULLMAN IS A HIT

Natalie Bonner
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CULLMAN – Tucked away behind the doors of Northbrook Baptist Church in the early morning hours on Saturday was an epic crafting sensation that had mothers, daughters and friends alike reveling in crafts and fellowship.

CRAFTED Cullman is the new brainchild fundraiser for Hospice of Cullman County, sponsored by Share Club of Cullman. This hardworking group of ladies decided to do something different this year as opposed to the traditional tour of homes as they have done for years.

Long time member and reporter/historian of Share Club, Cindy Ponder, said that she thought the new event was a wonderful way to help Hospice of Cullman County garner the funds needed.

"We usually do the tour of homes and this time, we had a God calling change of heart, and our committee members who are on the fundraising team in our club got together and thought of this," Ponder said with a grin.

The gamble paid off. Attendees raved about the new event that included guest speakers Ben South, who spoke on Southerness as he displayed his original creations for purchase, and Tony Haynes who constructed a beautiful floral arrangement P6

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SHEDD PROPOSES BILL TO LOWER STATE SPENDING IN ALABAMA

MONTGOMERY – State Representative Randall Shedd, R-Cullman introduced one bill in the House of Representatives recently aimed at reducing state government and duplication and promoting less bureaucracy and lower state spending. He plans to introduce a second bill Tuesday.

"If state government is so strapped financially that we have raise taxes and be bailed out by gambling, we need to reduce government, too," Shedd said. "Reducing government is a long-term solution."

HB642 would consolidate the Alabama Department of Senior Services with the Alabama Department of Public Health. "They have the same mission," Shedd said.

"This is a perfect example of how we can do more with less. Public health already has offices in all 67 counties and Senior Services does not," Shedd added.

Shedd noted the current Commissioner of Senior Services is eligible to retire this summer.

"This is a perfect time to do this before a replacement is named to fill this state job."

Shedd said he plans to introduce a second cost-cutting bill next Tuesday. The second bill would eliminate regional councils of government. Currently, the state funds twelve regional governments in Alabama.

"This legislation would do away with an entire layer of government all across this state," Shedd said.

Shedd believes counties and cities could take half the money and do twice as much as regional councils.

Shedd believes these two bills will save the state of Alabama more than $5 million per year.

"I am convinced, the people of Alabama will not even notice these state bureaucracies are gone as they are transitioned into other existing state or local agencies." Shedd commented.

Shedd Chairs the Senior Advocacy Sub-Committee in the House of Representatives.

"I don't want to see anyone lose their job but we have to get government bureaucracy under control," Shedd said. "I believe we can arrange transfers as people retire during this process."

ALEA'S ICAC UNIT ARRESTS FIVE IN STATEWIDE INTERNET CHILD PORNOGRAPHY TAKEDOWN

MONTGOMERY – Over the past week, Special Agents with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's (ALEA) Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit teamed with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies across the southeast, in an internet-based child pornography takedown resulting in five arrests and the seizure of numerous digital devices containing child pornography.

"ALEA's ICAC Unit is focused on locating and arresting predators who use digital media and devices to prey on children," said Secretary of Law Enforcement Spencer Collier. "This multi-jurisdictional initiative is a true testament to the efforts of law enforcement to protect our children."

Those arrested include: Richard Bryant, 60, of Ardmore, was charged with one count of Failure to Provide Required Registration Information and is being held at the Limestone County Jail; Michael Brandon, 37, of Hoover, was charged with one count Possession of Child Pornography and one count Dissemination of Child Pornography and is being held at the Jefferson County Jail; David Adam Knight, 35, of Decatur, was charged with one count Failure to Provide Required Registration Information and is being held Morgan County Jail; Darren Venable, 26, of Rainbow City, was charged with three counts Possession of Child Pornography and is being held at Etowah County Jail; Anthony Andrew Tew, 67, Eufaula, was charged with two counts Possession of Child Pornography and two counts Dissemination of Child Pornography and is being held at the Barbour County Jail.

LEA's ICAC Unit partnered with the Hoover Police Department, Morgan County Sheriff's Office, Decatur Police Department, Limestone County Sheriff's Office, Dale County Sheriff's Office, Eufaula Police Department, Phenix City Police Department, Tallapoosa County Sheriff's Office, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Florida Department of Law Enforcement (Central Florida ICAC) and Georgia Bureau of Investigations (Georgia ICAC). Additionally, ALEA's State Bureau of Investigations and SWAT Team were instrumental in this takedown. Nothing further is available as investigative operation continues.

SMITH LAKE VINTAGE CAMPER RALLY SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEKEND

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CULLMAN – On the weekend of Friday, May 15 through Sunday, May 17 there will be a vintage camper rally at Smith Lake Park. For those that don't know what a 'vintage camper rally' is, don't worry; Smith Lake Park Director Tony Harris was recently in the same boat.

"I didn't know much about it at all," confessed Harris about the esoteric subculture. He explained how he recently began learning about the vintage camper culture. "It's similar to how car collectors get old cars and fix them up," Harris said.

The campers are renovated and improved. Some people add bathrooms to them, and others restore them to working condition.

When asked if Cullman has ever had an event like the rally coming up this weekend, Harris who is nearly halfway into his second year as the manager of Smith Lake Park, said that he had never heard of any. "Most of these rallies take place out west," he said.

Although there are similarities to car shows, Harris stressed that there is a big difference in car shows and camper rallies.

"Car shows are more for the spectators, while camper rallies," Harris explained, "are more about the owners of the campers to get together with other people who like to fix up campers and talk about vintage campers."

On Saturday, May 16, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. there will be a free open house.

This is a time when people visiting the park will be able to walk around, see the different kinds of campers, look inside the campers, and talk to the owners of the campers. There are no vendors scheduled; however, Harris says vendors are welcome.

There are currently 15 different campers scheduled to be present at the rally. Harris is looking forward to a big future for this event though. "I'm shooting for 50 to 60 entries in the next few years," said Harris.

"Sure, everyone wants 200 at your event, but that's not realistic."

The camper rally is preceding Harris' re-installment of the car show for which Smith Lake Park was once famous. CruiseFest, the car show, will be happening later this summer on June 6.

For more information on the vintage camper rally call Tony Harris at 256-739-2916.

GIRLS U11 SOCCER WINS STATE IN TEAM'S FIRST YEAR

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CULLMAN – To win a championship is the ultimate goal of most any athlete. State championships are the coveted prize of high school sports. However, most people never even reach the state championship game, let alone come away with the trophy.

The Cullman Girls Under-11 Club soccer team won the U11 state championship last weekend in Decatur, Ala. Winning the state championship in the first year of their existence, the girls of Cullman Soccer have set a high bar for those that follow after them.

But, Coach Jacob Brown isn't intimidated. "We are very excited about the future," Brown said.

The Cullman girls dominated their competition, winning all four games to clinch the Division 2 championship.

On their way to the top of the division, Cullman Girls vanquished teams from Decatur, Huntsville, Homewood and Vestavia. Brown said, "[I'm] very proud of what the girls accomplished in their first year of club ball."

The club isn't wasting any time, however, as it will be joining the Birmingham United Soccer Association this fall. Coach Brown is encouraging anyone interested in playing for the team to participate in tryouts the week of May 18.

Under the leadership of Coach Jacob Brown, and the winning ways set in place by this inaugural squad, Cullman could become a powerhouse in girls soccer in the upcoming years. For more information on how to register, visit CullmanSoccer.org and click on the registration tab.





HELPING KEEP SMITH LAKE SAFE: BOAT SAFETY AWARENESS & OTHER TIPS ENSURE SUMMER FUN

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CULLMAN – As summer and all its activities come upon us, we start thinking about getting ready for a day at Smith Lake. It's time to uncover the pontoon and pull out the swimsuit, but there are a couple of things you need to do before getting out on the water.

First, make sure your boater's license is up to date and if you do not have one then you can easily get one at the courthouse.

Second, ensure your boat has enough life preservers for everyone riding.

Third, make sure you have a working fire extinguisher.

This simple checklist will make a day at the lake safe and enjoyable.

Safety on the lake is not always easy, but Sheriff Matt Gentry encourages boat drivers to be aware of their surroundings while driving.

Also, be very careful when any children are on the boat – they need to be seated with a life preserver on.

Never drive while under the influence of alcohol; driving while intoxicated will tremendously raise the likelihood of having a wreck and injuring someone or could result in getting yourself injured.

One major problem Sheriff Gentry and his department deal with in the Smith Lake area is theft from houses and boat docks located on lake property.

Owners need to be aware of the risks involved leaving valuable items on docks or leaving doors unlocked. Installing a security system is almost always successful in preventing theft.

Sheriff Gentry stated, "One of the ways we prevent it is by being very vigilant because a lot of the time criminals will target people that are seasonal lake property owners. So they're going and hitting their property when they're not there. We try and stay very vigilant in the winter time."

Gentry encourages residents to lock their fishing rods and their equipment up, and if it's on your boat, don't leave it out in the open for someone to pull up and steal it.

This is a big problem because some criminals will patrol the lake, looking for something easy to to steal.

"We ask residents to be very mindful and to keep stuff locked up, don't lay it out or leave it out on the boat, and maintain awareness of their property while at the lake," the Sheriff concluded.

Another concern voiced by Sheriff Gentry is that Cullman County is currently lacking a marine police.

This means the Cullman County Sheriff's Office spends their time and limited resources on and around the lake.

This summer they will be picking up the slack like never before by adding two to three extra patrol cars around the lake area.

"What we're doing locally is we're going to have our guys, our dive team members, our Sheriff's deputies out there more often this summer than we have ever had," Gentry explained.

This summer do not let the sun and fun of beautiful Smith Lake make you blind to that fact there are people on the lake not just looking to ski. They want your belongins and this summer, do not be an easy target. Be aware and vigilant. Also, be a responsible driver and help Smith Lake remain a safe place for families and friends to come have a good time.

CITIZEN OF THE WEEK: LOCAL ARTIST LAURA WALKER

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – Meet this week's Citizen of the Week – Laura Walker. Laura is married to Ryan Walker, owner of Walker Timber Frames and is the mother of three wonderfully creative kids. She limits her work hours so she can be home with her children in the evenings. Family is extremely important to her and Laura is the type of person who will never lose sight of where she comes from.

"I come from the independent Willinghams and the supportive Persalls, which are two large families in the Cullman area," Laura smiled. "My mother is a professional artist and my dad is a professional musician. I was raised in an encouraging, creative environment. Art was in my soul from birth. Mom and I now run the Art Shop Around the Corner, an art gallery and studio."

Laura is the daughter of well-known artist Pam Willingham, and together the two have formed quite the artistic force here in town. The mother/daughter team has given local citizens the gifts of imagination and creativity. They have taught their students how to express themselves in very positive and beautifully unique ways.

"At our shop we have weekly art class for adults and for kids," Laura explained. "We also offer weekly pottery classes for adults and children. Our most popular program is the Extended Day Art program, where we pick up students from school for daily art classes, help with their homework and play time," she smiled warmly.

"We do arty birthday parties and have summer art camps and summer pottery camps. All of our teachers are kind, talented people. Our class and camp schedule can be seen at CullmanArtShop.com."

Laura is an extremely talented artist and her work has its own look and feel.

She has the ability to capture just about anything in her work. Whether the subject matter is a local landmark, a simple farm animal or the woman down the road, Laura's artwork captures the essence of the scene.

"My art is about expressing emotion, typically the love of family, joy in faith, sometimes sadness but never shock art," she smiled.

"I might have a poignant watercolor like 'Hear My Prayer, Lord', using Bible pages in the art or a more playful oil painting like 'Betsy and Birdie'."

Everyone has something they do to either focus on their work or just to relax. Artists definitely have to be in the right frame of mind to accomplish their desired work. Laura has several things she does to keep her mind and creativity sharp.

"My creativity is grown by singing, taking classes from other creative people, playing with plants, praying, and spending time with intelligent people," she continued.

"My spiritual life is very important to me. I worship with the South Cullman Church of Christ. I practice yoga regularly at Santosha Yoga studio, where my mind can get quiet and meditative. Also, just being quiet and still helps with my spiritual paintings."

Laura Walker has more talent in the tip of her little finger than many people dream about.

Through her love and dedication to the art community, she is forever promoting fellow artists and their work.

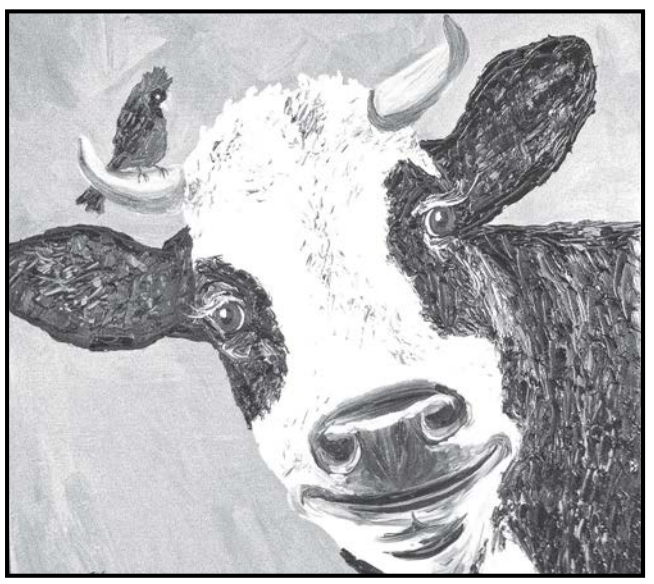
"We have some amazingly talented people in Cullman! I post art events, craft shows and photos of our students on my FB page, Facebook.com/LaurasShop. I encourage other artists to post events and quotes on there too," she said. "To see some great art from local artists, go eat at the Red Door Cafe."

The Art Shop Around the Corner is located at 908 2nd Ave NW, Cullman, AL 35055. Their phone number is 256-775-1775.



LAURA WALKER

Laura Walker's artwork is about expressing emotions such as the love of family, joy in faith and sadness.



LAURA WALKER

Local artist, Laura Walker comes from a creative family.

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



RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT: SEVENTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH'S PASTOR ERIC MARTIN

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ERIC MARTIN

Tennessee native Pastor Eric Martin loves serving the Lord in his ministry at Seventh Street Baptist Church.

CULLMAN – Cullman is full of wonderful, God loving people. With the amazing amount of churches that dot the community, it's no wonder why Cullman is a great place to live. In this week's edition of CullmanSense, we spotlight Pastor Eric Martin of Seventh Street Baptist Church.

Pastor Eric is a West Tennessee native and grew up in the Memphis-metro area. However, he is no stranger to Alabama and spent most of his childhood traveling throughout the state visiting family in Albertville, Huntsville, Pell City and Birmingham. He married his lovely wife Sarah in Memphis in January 2001. Together they have two children, Aubrey, 9, and Elijah, 6.

"I felt called to Christian ministry as a college student in 1996," Pastor Eric explained. "I realized there was nothing else that would be more fulfilling to me than teaching the Bible and helping people with their relationship with God. So in 1994, I graduated from Evangelical Christian School in Memphis. In 1998, I received a B.A. from Union University in Jackson, Tenn., double majoring in religion and psychology," he smiled.

After pastoring at Grace Baptist Church in Pinson, Tenn., Eric came to Cullman and became the pastor at Seventh Street Baptist Church.

"I am honored to call Seventh Street my church home," he addressed his congregation one evening. "Tonight, my precious Sarah looked at me and said, 'I love our church.' You see, it is important to us that you know that when we say we love you, it is real. It is not some fabricated language pastors are 'supposed to say.' Rather for us, our love for you is a raw, real and authentic emotion."

Being the pastor of a church isn't always easy, but it does have its very special rewards.

"Seventh Street has been through difficult times in the past," he smiled. "I have challenged our people to take down the rearview mirror and not look back. It is a new day at Seventh Street!"

Everyone has his or her special moments in life. Thankfully, Pastor Eric is allowed to be a part of some of the most special moments in the lives of his parishioners. When talking about these moments, he grins really big and says a few beautiful words, "Seeing people develop a true passion to pursue the things of God and glorify Him in every aspect of life."

Truly Pastor Eric has a burning love for his church. His family has been a perfect fit in the congregation, as well as the community.

"We are a fellowship of believers with a passion to reach people with the gospel message of Jesus Christ and to equip believers to become fully devoted followers of our Lord Jesus," he smiled warmly. "Our purpose is simple; we want to glorify God by making, maturing, and multiplying disciples of our Lord in Cullman and throughout our world."

The service times for Seventh Street Baptist Church are on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. for Sunday school, 10:30 a.m. for morning worship and 6 p.m. for evening worship. Their Wednesday mid-week services are at 6 p.m.

For more information, visit the church on the web at SeventhStBaptist.com or visit Pastor Eric's ministry site at GarlandofGrace.org. Visit them on Facebook at facebook.com/seventhstreetbaptistcullman. Seventh Street Baptist Church is located at 708 7th Street SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055. They can be reached by phone at 256-739-8724 or by e-mail at 7thstpastor@gmail.com.

"Seventh Street has been through difficult times in the past. I have challenged our people to take down the rearview mirror and not look back. It is a new day at Seventh Street!"

Eric Martin, Pastor at Seventh Street Baptist Church

Run (from Front)

"We do stuff for the community. We wanted to offer something here where you can come here to the park and not have to have off road machinery and still have a good time," said Park Manager Tyler Lindsey.

"It was a good trouble shooting event. We should just enjoy the day, but everybody's actually already talking about which ways we can improve it for next year."

Approximately 40 volunteers showed up to assist the park in making the run happen. Some of these included people from the rescue squad, churches, and the regional paramedic services.

The 5K, which could be walked or ran, consisted of a large trail with various obstacles with one thing in common: mud.

Contestants ran, waded, walked, climbed, and everything in-between through mud to get to the finish line ending in a giant slide which spat the contestant into even more mud.

"They had plenty of mud," said 5K participant Hannah Kreps. "So that was good, that was fun. The slide at the end was a nice touch!"

Both Hannah and her friend and fellow contestant Erica Moody agreed that the slide was their favorite part of the course.

Hannah was one of the many contestants who has spent time doing different large scale running events including mud runs. The activity's fan base is diverse, encompassing children, teens, adults and seniors. People of all ages and experience levels enjoyed Saturday's event.

"It's all about people. It's a community park. We're a non-profit organization so we try to do stuff that doesn't take a lot of funds up and people can come out and enjoy. That's what we love about our job," remarked Lindsey.

"People really enjoy this place. They come here to have fun and we try to provide for them."

Tyler Lindsey and his crew already have plans to change and improve upon the course for next year's event. With not a dry sock nor frowning face at the finish line, Stony Lonesome's Mud Run 5K was certainly a hit with the community.

Fire (from Front)

Science building in a timely fashion to discover it had been almost entirely extinguished by a student while heading out of the building. The firemen cleared the smoke, which enveloped the whole first floor and found the damage was minor.

Only the wall the refrigerator was situated against had burned. Due to the quick actions of this unknown student, property was able to be saved, and safety secured.

Squadcopters (from Front)

the length of time it took to learn how to fly the copters was veritably short.

When flying, it requires two people, one at the controls and the other watching the video feed. FAA regulations limit the height of drone flight to 500 feet.

Despite their benefits the quadcopters have limitations concerning wind, power lines, trees and people.

"It's another resource, another thing in your tool belt. Say your helicopter is down, it's a backup," Shannon Cheatwood stated about the importance of a UAV.

The importance of the Phantom 2 will be proven in the days to come. This vital resource will not only assist in finding missing persons but also in enhancing security at major local events.

REMEMBERING CULLMAN'S FOUNDER

THE EULOGY OF COLONEL JOHN GOTTFRIED CULLMANN

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FINDAGRAVE.COM

Colonel Cullmann's eulogy was delivered by Mr. George Henderson Parker.

CULLMAN – John Gottfried Cullmann was born on July 2, 1823 and died December 3, 1895. He is buried in the Cullman City Cemetery. Below is his eulogy, which was delivered by Mr. George Henderson Parker.

"Friends – We meet here today, in this city of the dead, with the blue sky over our heads and the bright sunlight all around us, in the fall season of the year, in which nature tells us by the blighted grass, and the falling, golden leaves, that she too is dead, or sleeping, to perform the last sad rite over the body of our departed friend, to pay to his memory that respect, and to show to his kindred, that sympathetic feeling, which man can only show to his fellow man, in times like this, when we are called upon to mourn the loss of one near and dear to us.

The departed, John Gottfried Cullmann, was born on the Rhine in Bavaria, July 2, 1823; he came to America in 1865 and to Alabama in 1871 and died on December 3, 1895. His first enterprise was in and near Florence, Alabama. He spent near two years here and at the sister city of Tuscumbia, starting the immigration of the Germans to that local city. In the fall of 1872, Mr. Cullmann came to where Cullman now stands, and decided to plant a colony here. At this time this locality was an unbroken woods; the ax had not touched the noble trees of the forest; the deer fed unmolested in the shady glades; and the wild flowers gave off their sweet perfume untouched and unnoticed. This was regarded as the poorest part of the state; and the project of Mr. Cullmann was looked upon by many as the working of a disordered brain, or a mere chimerical venture that would amount to nothing. But with that keen foresight, with which he was endowed, he persisted in his attempt, and today you have the County and City of Cullman as the result of his efforts. To him goes the honor of establishing the first successful colony in this state and of the few in the southern states. More lasting, more impressionable, than the work of hands in brass or stone, is the monument he has built for himself, and to which he has given his name, the City and County of Cullman. Never holding, never desiring an office, he was never happier than when doing something for the material advancement and progress of his beloved Town and County: and for which his purse was ever open, and his energies ever directed.

In all his family relations he was always tender, affectionate and true. As a friend and neighbor, there are many here today who will join me in saying that he was always kind, true and helpful. There are but few of the earlier colonists who have not received some assistance at his hand. Always looking upon the bright side of life, his was a happy disposition indeed.

In the fullness of age, with his life work accomplished, he quietly has gone to his rest; and his familiar form and kindly face will be no more among us. Our words can offer but poor consolation to his sorrowing kindred and friends. To each of these and to all, we would say: let us take a lesson from nature. As nature is now not really dead, but only sleeping for a time; and in the spring time of the year will awaken from the sleep on winter – and the grass, flowers, trees and everything around us and above us will bespeak ceaseless life and activity and the power and wisdom of the Great Ruler of the Universe, and nature will put on her most beautiful dress and the hills and valleys will be radiant with the beauty and fragrant with the perfume of flower and shrub – so let us believe that he is not dead, but only sleeping, and that in the Spring time of the great life immortal, he will awaken and be with his kindred and friends to part no more. Let us murmur not at the parting, 'His will, not ours be done,' but let our minds dwell upon the happy meeting on the other shore. He is not dead, but just gone on before. And while in the midst of life, let us not forget that."

"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,

And all that beauty, all the wealth e'er gave

Await, alike the inevitable hour

The path of glory lead but to the grave."

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.

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

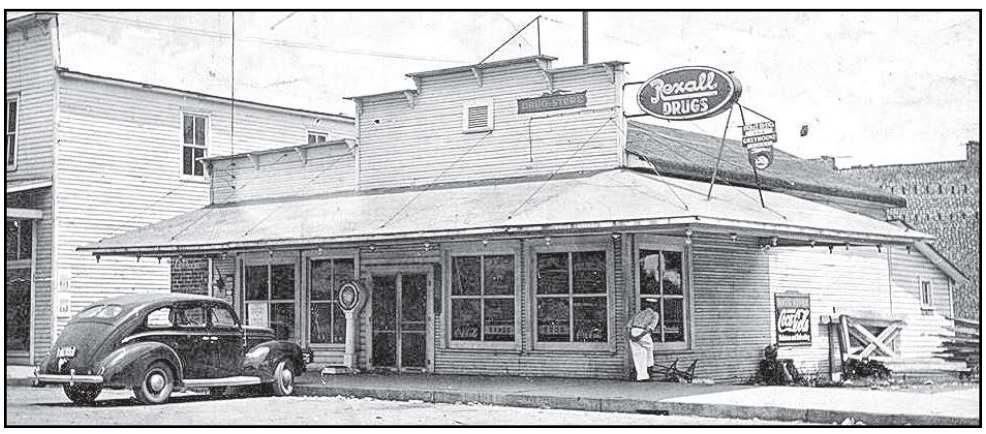
MIRRORING HISTORY: HANCEVILLE DRUG COMPANY

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HANCEVILLE – Cullman County's oldest pharmacy, Hanceville Drug Company, has been in operation since 1924. The building has seen some pretty dramatic changes over the years. The store first belonged to Ernest C. Veal and his dentist brother Dr. David H. Veal and the original name was Veal Brothers Drugstore.

In 1924 the brothers decided to sell the drugstore to local veterinarian Roy F. South and his brother-in-law C. T. "Carlie" Burkart. Today, Carlie's son, Eddie Burkart is the owner as well as its pharmacist.

Hanceville Drug Company is located at 101 Commercial Street SE, Hanceville, AL 35077. Their phone number is 256-352-4110.



GREG BURDEN

Hanceville Drug Company in the 1930s.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The Hanceville Drug Company is still in operation today.

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.

CRAFTED (from Front)

and spoke on floral design.

Included in the ticket were the two crafting workshops: building terrariums and hand lettering. Each group at a table worked together to create a one of a kind terrarium, enabling participants to have a hands-on experience with the project. They were also sent home with terrarium starter kits. Presenter Connie Sandlin educated the groups on how adding just a bit of green can liven up your indoor space with an eye-catching, easy to care for terrarium.

The hand lettering "letter lab" workshop was an intensive focus on calligraphy, and a starter kit was distributed with several sheets for one to study and practice this old and highly revered style of script. The ladies enjoyed trying their hand at this lettering, with several remarking it was much harder than they thought it would be. Presenter Laura Ray has been an avid calligrapher since college and perfectly summed up the mindful and difficult nature of calligraphy with a simple phrase we all take for granted in today's world of technology: "Back when I started calligraphy, there was no copy or delete," she said with a chuckle.



NATALIE BONNER/CULLMANSENSE

Beautiful terrariums of all colors, shapes and sizes, constructed by participants.

The event announced several door prizes and swag bags were given out to all attendees, along with a silent auction that was held. Southerners reunited in their joy of creating and crafting with this special program.

Mother/daughter duo Rita Fromhold and Magan Bartlett enjoyed the event as not only crafters, a hobby they share together, but as a way to celebrate Mother's Day with one another and a chance to be artsy and expressive.

"This event has been great. It's been very informative and yet a basic enough approach for both activities that anyone would be able to do it. It feels like Pinterest in real life," Bartlett said, smiling at her mom.

"It's reality Pinterest!" Fromhold said with a laugh. "This event has been well organized and it's just creative, crafty fun for Cullman."

The event garnered a large turnout and may turn into an annual event. Housewives, business professionals, mothers and the typical creative woman in general have expressed interest in having this event again as they thoroughly enjoyed this first time program, which allowed their inner creative desires to be expressed in the form of lettering and terrariums.



NATALIE BONNER/CULLMANSENSE

Program attendees spanned all ages and walks of life as they came together for a fun time of crafting and fellowship.

"I am glad this appealed to the Cullman community. We have a lot of talent in Cullman County and using those talents for the greater good of the community, and in turn for Hospice, is a wonderful thing we can do," Share Club member Ponder said.

Festhalle (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The weather is warming up nicely and with warm weather comes all the fresh fruits and vegetables for which Cullman County is famous. Thankfully there's a place in town where people can stop and shop for all sorts of homegrown goodies. This place is the Cullman Festhalle Farmers Market.

The Farmers Market is now open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. through October. Farmers, chefs and local crafters come from all over the county to sell their products. Keeping it in Cullman is the common thread that makes the place a success. By shopping at the Farmers Market citizens are able to support local farmers and obtain fresher produce, which is a super nutritious option. Festhalle also gives consumers the ability to know the source of their produce and connect with others in the community.

"I sell my baked goods here on Thursdays and Saturdays," said Cathie Richert, owner of Cathie's Baked Goods. "I sell small cakes, sourdough bread, pound cakes, banana bread, pecan pies and jams. I also do a lot of craft shows after the market season, so I bring some of that stuff with me too," she grinned. Cathie also takes orders for larger cakes and desserts from her booth at the Farmers Market. Cathie can be reached by calling 256-338-2198.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

A variety of homemade goods are available at Festhalle Market Platz including sourdough bread, pound cakes, pecan pies, and jams.

This time of year, strawberries are all the rage. Following the Strawberry Festival, the Farmers Market is still covered up with the bright red berries.

"We are here every time the Farmers Market is open. We sell a lot of produce," CeCe Livingston of Golden Farms explained. "Right now we just have strawberries, but we've planted tomatoes, cantaloupe, peas and corn, which should be ready soon."

Each person who has a booth at the Farmers Market is a character. Although some vendors offer similar items there, each farmer is unique and enjoys what they do.

For great food that has been grown locally the Festhalle Market Platz is a one-stop shop for healthy food and lots of fun.

The Cullman Festhalle Farmers Market is located at 209 1st Ave NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

For more information, call 256-775-7207 or 256-734-9157.

"I sell small cakes, sourdough bread, pound cakes, banana bread, pecan pies and jams. I also do a lot of craft shows after the market season, so I bring some of that stuff with me, too."

Cathie Rickert, Owner of Cathie's Baked Goods

ANNUAL CREW'S CHARITY DAY BRINGS AWARENESS TO CYSTIC FIBROSIS AND FUN TO FAMILIES

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com



JOEL BURKS/CULLMANSENSE

Over 40 craft vendors attended the cystic fibrosis awareness charity event.

CULLMAN – After the threat of severe weather forced a postponement of Crew's Charity Day, and after much perseverance, the big day finally arrived on Saturday. Team Crew has worked tirelessly to spread awareness and raise funds for Cystic Fibrosis, and yet another year has come to fruition where their efforts have paid off.

The 2nd annual Team Crew Charity Day was held at Depot Park and residents across the county showed up to donate funds and support. Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is a serious genetic disorder that damages the lungs and digestive system by disrupting the workings of cells that produce mucus, sweat and digestive juices. According to Joe Pettus, Crew's father, it is up to families like his and others to help fund the research for CF as federal funding is slim to none.

"Cystic Fibrosis affects an estimated 30,000 Americans," he said. "That's not a very large number of people to the government so they haven't seen fit to fund a lot of the research. But that is why all of our proceeds go to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Almost all of the funding for research has come from that foundation, and unlike like a lot of other places, 90 percent of the money they get goes to the research."

It was a beautiful day for the event, and children enjoyed a fun-filled day of bounce houses, face painting and meeting Spiderman and Elsa. Over 40 craft vendors came to sell their wares and support the cause. Clothing, accessories, candles, pottery and home decor were available to browse and shop. One such vendor is Ashley LaShum, owner of MadebyGrace, who chose this particular event as her first ever event to show her beautiful bows and accessories. "This my very first time showing my crafts and I have had a great day so far," said LaShum. "I didn't know anything about this event until I saw a post online by a friend. I was actually going to do another event, but after I read Crew's story, I knew I just had to do this one."

At the conclusion of the days activities, it was announced that Team Crew had raised $7,348 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation that will hopefully help to bring scientists that much closer to a cure. Crew's mother Jessica Pettus was thankful for the support of their community.

"I really want to thank everyone that has supported us through all of this," she said. "The whole community has been so good to us and supportive. I really wouldn't want to do this anywhere else but Cullman."

For more information on Crew's Story and how to donate, visit Facebook.com/TeamCrewAwareness.



JOEL BURKS/CULLMANSENSE

Face painting was among the many children's activities at Crew's Charity Day.

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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

2015 Cullman Area Tourism & Community Improvement Awards
Join us for a home cooked breakfast buffet and awards program at the Brown Stone Centre at Stone Bridge Farms from 8-10 a.m. this Thursday as we celebrate those in the Cullman community who make our area extra special. For more information, call 256-734-0454. Chamber members $20; future members $25; limited number of tables available.

American Legion And Auxiliary Meetings
The American Legion Cullman Post 0004 and Auxiliary, Cullman Unit 4, located at Veterans Hall, 112 Veterans Drive, S.E., will meet Thursday, May 14th, at 6 p.m. If you served in the military during wartime in any capacity, you are cordially invited to attend. Please come and enjoy dinner out compliments of the Auxiliary.

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

Smith Lake Park Vintage Camper Rally
Smith Lake Park will be having a Vintage Camper Rally on May 15-17, 2015. Campers will be camping in the center section in front of the Main Bathhouse. The campers will also be having an Open House on Saturday the 16th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for you to come around and view them and ask questions. If you have a vintage camper and would like to get in on the fun contact the office at 256-739-2916.

'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

Smith Lake Park Vintage Camper Rally
Smith Lake Park will be having a Vintage Camper Rally on May 15-17, 2015. Campers will be camping in the center section in front of the Main Bathhouse. The campers will also be having an Open House on Saturday the 16th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for you to come around and view them and ask questions. If you have a vintage camper and would like to get in on the fun contact the office at 256-739-2916.

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

Next Monday

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

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

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

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

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

TUESDAY
- 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
- 2015 Cullman Area Tourism Awards at Stone Bridge Farms from 8-10 a.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
- Smith Lake Park Vintage Camper Rally
- 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
- Smith Lake Park Vintage Camper Rally
- 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
- Smith Lake Park Vintage Camper Rally

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

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

RESIDENTIAL RECIPES
CREAMY SHRIMP AND MUSHROOM PASTA

Chelsea Sparks
chelsea@cullmansense.com

What is better than fresh pasta from Olive Garden? Nothing, except for this recipe that you can make from the comfort of home.

Ingredients:
- 1 lb - shrimp
- 2 tablespoons - olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves
- Sprinkling - dried basil (approximately 1 teaspoon)
- Sprinkling - crushed red pepper flakes (approximately 1 teaspoon)
- 1 teaspoon - paprika
- 8 ounces - mushrooms
- 1 cup half and half
- 1/2 cup - parmesan cheese
- 3/4 cup - shredded mozzarella cheese
- 8 ounces - fettuccine pasta

Instructions:
- Heat a large skillet on medium-high heat and add 2 tablespoons of olive oil, then immediately add garlic and shrimp, cook on one side for about 1 minute until pink.
- Flip the shrimp to the other side, sprinkle the top of cooked side of shrimp with dry basil, paprika, and salt, cook for another 1-2 minutes, occasionally stirring, until shrimp is pink on both sides. Remove the shrimp from skillet.
- To the same skillet add sliced mushrooms. Add more olive oil if necessary. Cook on high heat for about 2 minutes, occasionally stirring, until mushrooms become soft and release juices. Salt midway through cooking.
- Then add cooked shrimp back to skillet. Immediately add 1 cup half and half and all of the cheese - bring to boil, and then reduce to simmer, constantly stirring, until all cheese melts. Cover with lid and remove from heat.
- Cook pasta according to package instructions. Reserve some of pasta water.
- Drain and rinse pasta with cold water. Add pasta to the skillet with shrimp and mushrooms and cream sauce.
- Stir well, season with more salt and add more crushed red pepper flakes and basil, if desired. You can add more pasta water to make the mixture even creamier.

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POLICE RUN WITH TORCH FROM COURTHOUSE TO FOOTBALL STADIUM TO RECOGNIZE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Hundreds gather at Oliver Woodard Stadium to participate in the Special Olympics.

"We had a great run and a good time. We had the largest group of runners we've ever had, which is about 35 total."
Rex Sorrow, Cullman County Deputy

CULLMAN – The 2015 Alabama Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Run was held on Wednesday. Members from area law enforcement agencies gathered on the Cullman County Courthouse steps for a Torch Lighting Ceremony and then ran two miles as a group to the Oliver Woodard Stadium at Cullman High School. The run was to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics. Once the police arrived at the stadium, they handed the torch off to an athlete and circled the track, which was the official opening to the day's Special Olympics.

"We had a great run and a good time," said Deputy Rex Sorrow.

"We had the largest group of runners we've ever had, which is about 35 total," he smiled happily.

One of the Alabama Law Enforcement Torch Run's service projects benefitting Special Olympics athletes is the sale of their Law Enforcement Torch Run T-shirts, but that's not the only thing they have done to acquire the funds.

The group hosts an annual "Cops on Top" in which local law enforcement and Special Olympics athletes will collect donations at the doors of Walmart. They also visit area businesses and ask for donations.

Cullman County merchants are some of the most generous in the state and lots of money has been donated to ALETR from them over the years.

"We're not finished with our fundraising events though," Sorrow continued.

"Today will probably end our T-shirt sales, but we are thinking of some other things. Our goal was $15,000 and we busted that, and so we raised our goal to $25,000 and we're almost there. We are going to announce our totals next Thursday, May 14, which is when the state run comes through. Today was the local run, but next week is the state run."

Wednesday's Special Olympics was a day in which both Cullman County and the city of Cullman's special needs athletes were able to enjoy a full day of competition and comradery.

Each school was represented in the day's events, by students with and without special needs.

By teaming up together, all students were able to spend the day making new friends and having a great time.

"My favorite part of the Special Olympics is where the typical high school students interact and work with the special needs students," said Stephanie Laney, teacher at Cullman Middle School. "I love it – I think it's wonderful! It does everyone good, especially the typical students."

Children of all ages and sizes were able to showcase their athletic skills as well as their loving hearts.

For more information about Alabama Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, like them on Facebook at Facebook.com/pages/Cullman-County-Alabama-Law-Enforcement-Torch-Run-For-Special-Olympics/1568473543397877 or visit their website at AlabamaLETR.com.

WALLACE STATE TRIO PROGRAM ENRICHES STUDENTS' LIVES

Hannah Ward
ward@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State President Vicki Karolewics gave a warm welcome to high school and middle school students at Trio day on Tuesday, May 5. She stated, "Our goal is for you to go to college. We want you at Wallace State, but our goal is for you to go to college because that's how you shape your future. I want to encourage you to develop that plan and stick to it and hopefully let us be a part of it." Trio, a talent search program, prepares students and shows them what they can expect when they go to college.

The day spent on Wallace State's campus was not just a great learning experience but also quite fun. The high school and middle school students were treated to a Wallace State Singers performance, a highly talented group of performers who are students at Wallace. The main speaker at the event, Sheriff Matt Gentry, encouraged the younger generation to be leaders and make the right decision, no matter how tough it may be.

Gentry stated, "Growing up, things are not easy, there's nothing easy in life. Those things that are worth it in life take us having to dig in, put our heels in and move forward."

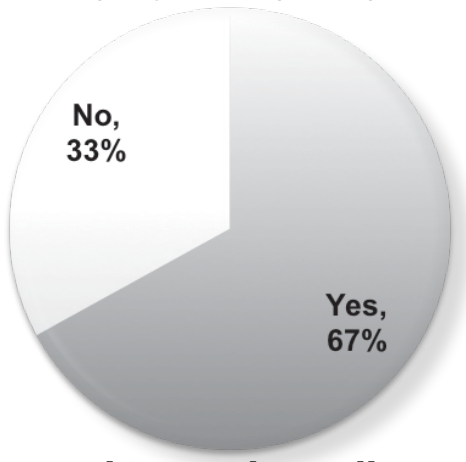
Following the events in the Betty Leeth Haynes student center, the students went on a guided tour around Wallace's beautifully manicured campus. They got to see what a real college classroom looks like and meet some of the professors. Giving them a taste of what college will be like hopefully inspired these young students to see how easily attainable a higher education is. The reception these teenagers received from Wallace State should persuade most to attend college when it comes time to do so. This program should be a priority for all high school students who are struggling or unsure about their capability of being a successful college student.

Sheriff Matt Gentry expounded on the importance of this type of program, "This event is very important for the direction and leadership of our youth here in Cullman County and surrounding counties. I think the impact is going to be great."

A program like this will indeed affect the next generation. It will hopefully harvest more educated and responsible adults. College is not always for everyone, but it will help you reach your goal and increase your job opportunities. Producing more programs like this will create a better economy in the future, with potentially less low-income families and leaders of our society.

Poll

Have you grilled out yet this year?



This Week's Poll

Do you think certain items should be restricted to food stamp recipients?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

WHAT'S ONLINE



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

LOCAL VETERAN CHOSEN TO TAKE ROTARY HONOR FLIGHT TO WASHINGTON D.C.
World War II Veteran and Victorian Manor resident Homer Parker recently received exciting news. He was chosen to participate in the Tuscaloosa Rotary Honor Flight on May 6. He and many other World War II and Korean War veterans flew to... **QRNE.WS/354**

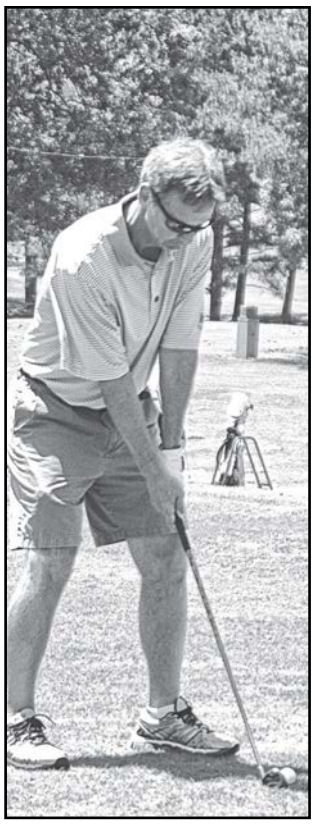


MARY REID

AMERICAN LEGION AND LADIES AUXILLARY REMEMBER VETERANS
Every year, we remember our veterans who have given everything to protect our homeland and others throughout the world. The American Legion, along with the Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting Memorial Day Ceremonies at Sportman's Lake as well as a unique display on the fence at Veteran's... **QRNE.WS/355**

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TP COUNTRY CLUB HOSTS 'DEMO DAY'







SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Golfers of all different skill levels were at TP Country Club to participate in Demo Day, where various vendors had merchandise available for testing.

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Golf enthusiasts from all over Cullman came out to TP Country Club to take part in Demo Day. Representatives from three major golf club manufacturers from Ping, Cobra, Callaway and TaylorMade were on hand to display and demonstrate their products. Tables were set up with the latest shoes and apparel from Nike, FootJoy and Callaway, as a DJ blasted music for all to enjoy.

"This is Demo Day, which is where we display all the products that we sell," explained Rich Santagata, a Cobra/Puma sales representative.

"It's kind of like a wine tasting event where people taste different wines they are trying to sell; same thing here, they are 'tasting' the different golf clubs. We've got three of the major manufacturers here today. People are free to come by, test drive our stuff and see which ones they like better. If they like it, they buy it," he smiled.

"That is basically what we do this time of year, during March, April, May and maybe midway through July. We go to just about every range, kind of like a traveling road show," he chuckled.

Steven DeBoer, director of instruction at Steven DeBoer Golf Academy, Aleah Scott, women's golf instructor at Wallace State, and several other golf pros were on hand to offer golfing advice and tips, club and ball fittings, and to teach specialized stretching techniques.

"We are 'Ask the Pros'," said Aleah Scott. "If you need any help with your swing, like any technical aspects of it, you can come to us. If you have any golf questions about the rules, you can come and ask us.

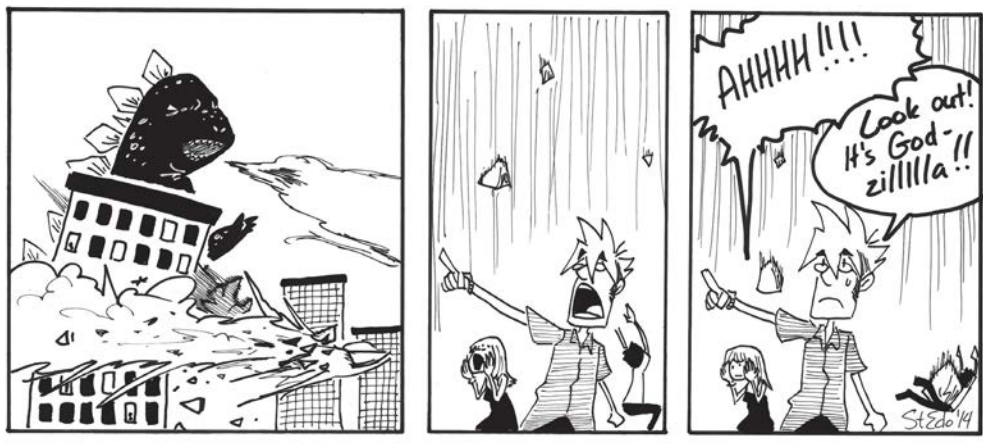
Maybe you need a little tweak with your swing, we can help you with that as well," she smiled.

Demo Day at TP Country Club gave a variety of people an opportunity to take advantage of deals on equipment and to get golfing help. The weather was perfect and the golf course, as always, was amazingly beautiful and peaceful.

For more information about TP, visit them at 700 Pine Hill Dr, Cullman, AL 35057. Call them at 256-739-0738 and visit them online at TPCountryClub.com. Follow them on Facebook at Facebook.com/pages/Terri-PinesCountryClub/156108567118.

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PETS OF THE WEEK

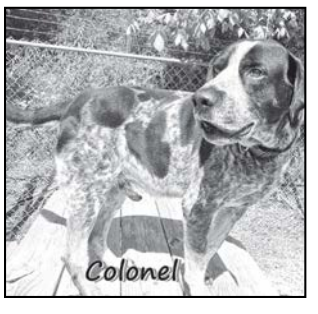
TACO

Hello my name is Taco and I am about 10 months old. I am a Chihuahua and I currently weigh 5 lbs. 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!



COLONEL

Hello my name is Colonel and I am about 4 years old. I am believed to be a Hound mix and I currently weigh 94 lbs. I am full of life, love to play and ready to meet my forever family! Please come by and visit with me. You may find out I'm an extremely lovable companion!



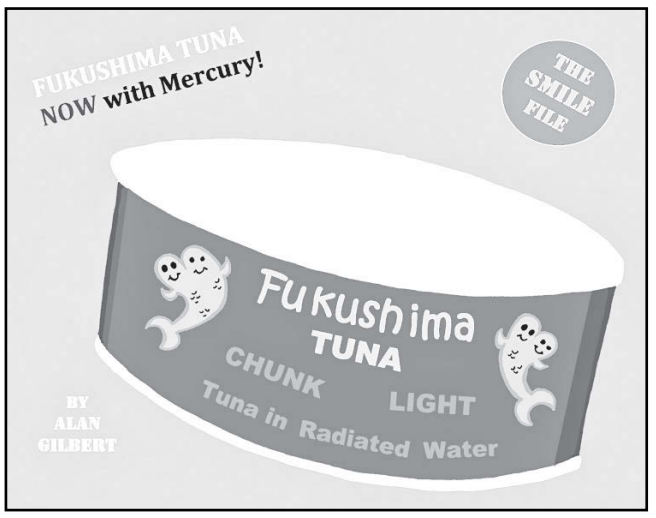
ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

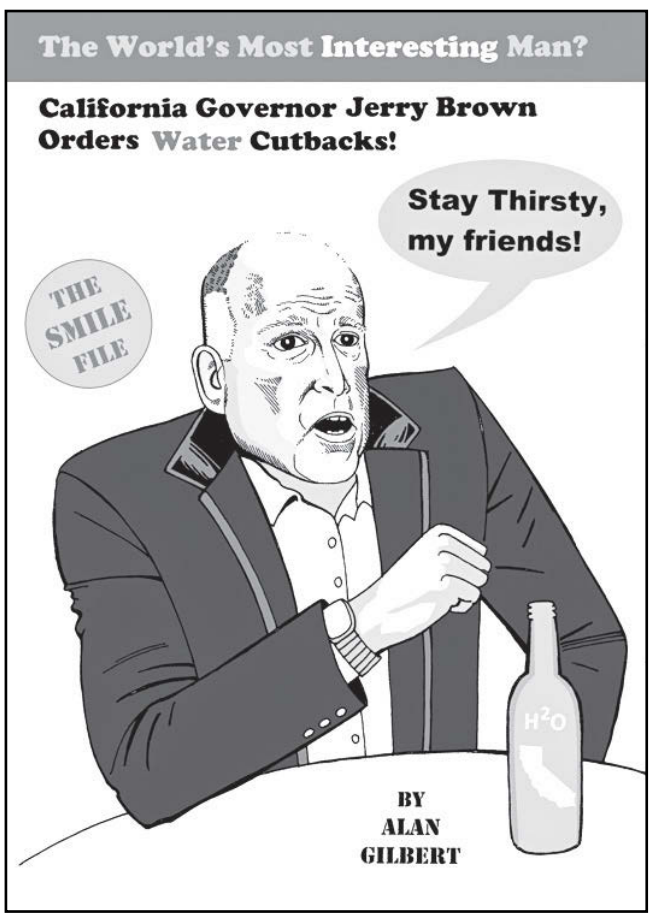
Both of these dogs have an adoption fee of $90 that will include their general exam at the Vet, vaccines, wormer, rabies shot, microchip, spay/neuter, and free 45 days of pet health insurance. Pet Depot will give you a bag of food (you pay taxes) as their way of supporting adoption.

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 CARTOONS







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OPINION

THE IRAN FRAMEWORK

A CASE STUDY IN ENGAGEMENT

Mel Gurtov
PeaceVoice

We have every reason to celebrate the so-called framework agreement with Iran. It exemplifies the best of President Obama's foreign policy, namely, engaging adversaries. Remember when candidate Obama's argument for engagement during campaign 2008 was ridiculed by Hillary Clinton, among many others? Now Obama has two major engagement successes to crow about, leaving behind those who are quick to criticize the deals with Cuba and Iran as anything from foolish to treasonous. Needless to say, neither of those understandings is complete; the devil is always in the details, and there are plenty of them. But to reach this point after more than 35 years when other administrations have either failed to cut a deal or refused to try is nothing short of extraordinary.

John Limbert was a political officer in the US embassy in Tehran when the nightmare hostage crisis unfolded in 1979. Out of his captivity has come a seminal guide, Negotiating with Iran: Wrestling the Ghosts of History (2009), which reflects his deep background in Persian studies and his commitment to dialogue and mutual understanding. His book examines several cases of crisis in Iran and then offers a number of guidelines to successfully negotiating with the Iranians. Limbert proposes fourteen negotiating lessons. I have selected seven of them, and added one of my own.

Avoid legalisms; seek solutions based on "mutually agreeable standards" that Iran can claim as a victory. Having two MIT scientists who knew of one another discuss technicalities was a key to successful talks. That allowed many details of an accord to focus on science, not politics. As for claiming victory, while Secretary of State John Kerry and other US officials could cite major concessions by Iran, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif could boast that Iran will keep its centrifuges and nuclear enrichment program, its major nuclear research site at Fordo, and some of its uranium stockpile.

"Be aware of Iran's historical greatness" and past grievances based on humiliations by foreign powers. President Obama, in an interview with Thomas Friedman of the New York Times and elsewhere, has shown his attentiveness to Iran's history and culture.

He has pointed to the Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's mention of Iran's unhappy history with the US, and has made respectful comments about Iran's greatness and right to acknowledgment as a major regional power.

Throughout the years of talks with Iran, its leaders have above all else demanded "respect," i.e., justice and recognition of Iran's legitimacy. The nuclear negotiations have provided that.

Clarify lines of authority: be sure to talk with the right people, but also present a common US position. This was a challenging lesson to follow inasmuch as the ayatollah deliberately kept in the background, letting his negotiators do their thing but without committing himself to the outcome. On the US side, Republican and others' sniping presented obstacles for negotiators, in particular when 47 US senators signed a letter to the ayatollah warning that any agreement was subject to Congressional review. Nevertheless, the "right people" were evidently at the table and were able to craft an agreement that, on Iran's side, the ayatollah did not negate and, on the US side, amazed even some conservative critics.

Understand Iranian interests. Obviously, removing the sanctions was essential to a deal, but not at any price. Iran's insistence on keeping fuel rods at home and not shipped to Russia was essential face-saving, and US negotiators did not allow that position to halt the talks. Likewise on the centrifuges issue: The US negotiated down their number (from about 19,000 to 6,000), but Iran still has some 5,000 allowed to operate according to CIA director John O. Brennan.

Do not assume the Iranians are illogical, uncompromising, untrustworthy, duplicitous. US negotiators clearly did not. Hopefully, they kept in mind that many Iranians view Americans the same way.

Ignore hostile rhetoric and grandstanding; be businesslike and professional—and be willing to stay the course.

Remember that there were successful US-Iran talks in the past, for example in 2001-2002 over Afghanistan following the fall of the Taliban.

Be ever-conscious of the politics of a deal—the fact that on each side, it must be sold to wary buyers and outright opponents who want to see it fail. This is why the "optics" of the deal are so important, with each side having a different narrative of the deal's strengths so as to make it more attractive domestically. The message here: Don't interpret public statements about the deal by the other side as backsliding with the intention to subvert it.

The nuclear deal with Iran, if it holds, could potentially open a new era in US relations with the Middle East. We can see the outlines of cooperation with Iran in Iraq and Afghanistan, where Washington and Tehran have common interests. Simply put, Iran's leaders feel threatened by ISIS, al-Qaeda, and the Taliban. To be sure, there are also places—Yemen, Israel/Palestine, Libya, and Syria—where the US and Iran are at odds. But if the nuclear deal can move forward, and termination of sanctions can lead to a fruitful economic relationship, the agenda of cooperation may expand and violence-by-proxy may greatly reduce. For the US, an end to one-sided relationships in the Middle East would be a blessing, with positive ramifications for Israel and others.

Mel Gurtov, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Portland State University.

OPINION

MONEY AND POLITICS: WE NEED CHANGE NOW

Lee H. Hamilton
Contributor

I've seen a lot over my decades in politics, and not much alarms me. But I have to be blunt: Money is poisoning our political system.

The people who matter most to a representative democracy — the ordinary voters in whose interests elected politicians are supposed to act — feel they've become an afterthought in the political process. The tidal wave of money washing over our elections, with no end in sight, is causing Americans to lose faith in the system.

Oddly, many politicians see no problem. They don't believe that they're selling their votes, or even that money influences their behavior.

While it is a rare member of Congress who would change his or her vote because of money, there is ample evidence that when donors contribute heavily, they have a disproportionate influence over the legislator; that's not "corruption," but it means that the opinions of average citizens are diminished when it comes to policy-making.

Thanks to a series of Supreme Court decisions over the last half-decade, we've seen a surge in campaign spending that is beyond the ability of journalists and regulators to track. This money purchases attack ads that saturate the airwaves with scant clue as to who is funding them.

And it pushes our politics toward the extremes, emphasizing ideological purity, unremitting partisanship, and a political culture that exalts confrontation over consensus-building. In other words, it cripples representative democracy.

So what can we do? The first priority is to find ways of boosting prompt financial disclosure — to trace the source of campaign spending on behalf of candidates and incumbents before an election so that voters know who is supporting whom, and can match candidates' positions on issues with the interests of their financial backers. Disclosure done after elections is meaningless.

The second major reform is to make public funds available for financing campaigns, thus amplifying the contributions of ordinary Americans, freeing candidates to spend more time on substance rather than fundraising, and letting them engage more fully with voters rather than donors.

The odds of action are not encouraging. Yet I'm heartened by something Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham told reporters in New Hampshire the other day.

"You're going to have money dumped in this election cycle that's going to turn off the American people," he said. "There's going to be a need and a movement to try to control the money in politics." Let's hope he's right.

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.

CULLMANSENSE.COM
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HALEIGH BLACK & MYLES CAIN: A POWERHOUSE OF CREATIVITY

Mary Standifer
mary@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Haleigh Black and Myles Cain are two residents of Cullman who can best be described as a powerhouse of creativity. Haleigh, 22, and Myles, 23, first met in high school while taking the SAT. The two did not talk at that time, but a few days later, Myles was hired to film a wedding at Sacred Heart Church – the same wedding for which Haleigh was hired to play violin. The two almost immediately became friends and later began to date. On May 12, 2012, the couple married and have lived in Cullman and worked together ever since.

Myles first showed an interest in film when he was between the ages of two and three and saw "Jurassic Park" for the first time. He would watch the behind the scenes film more than the actual movie itself and must have watched it hundreds of times.

"I wanted to be the guy to tell the dinosaurs how to act," chuckled Myles. As Myles grew up, he began making short films and funny videos with his brother and posting them on YouTube.

As time went on, Myles's talent continued to grow. Eventually, he started earning money through his work by finding different gigs to film for clients.

Haleigh's emphasis growing up rested in violin and visual arts. She began taking Suzuki Method violin lessons from Penny Adair at the age of three. While fostering a love of music, Haleigh also showed interest and talent in visual arts.

By the time she reached high school, the young artist was being paid to perform violin solos for church services and weddings.

In 2011, Haleigh submitted a mixed media art piece entitled "Perpetual Use of the Mind's Eye" to U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt's Fourth Congressional District Art Competition. Her work took home the title of Best of Show and was displayed in the state capitol in an art exhibit called "Artistic Discovery".

Myles and Haleigh have managed to make a living through various projects, many of which are film oriented.

While the two brought different art styles to the table when they decided to begin working together, one idea, above all else, was shared by both: they wanted and still want to create.

The couple works with Patton Group Ovations, LLC under owner Kerry Patton. The events they film vary greatly, ranging all the way from weddings and hair shows to politician campaign commercials, just to name a few. Their work takes them all over the U.S., and sometimes the world, and allows them to meet a vast array of interesting people.

Haleigh and Myles helped to launch the non-profit organization OnePlate America, Inc. with actress Cassi Davis earlier this year. The goal of the organization is to give youth, especially those who live in small towns, an opportunity to be exposed to different people, places and experiences. While doing work for the organization, Haleigh and Myles were asked to interview and film Reverend Joseph Lowery.

"He fought alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr for civil rights," explains Haleigh.

"That was such an interesting interview with him. We were told that he was going to be kind of short and wanted to get the [interview] done really quick, but then we got there and he had all these pictures of himself with Martin Luther King. He sat down and started joking around with us. Then he said, 'Alright, are we ready?' and he just gave a speech perfectly. We didn't have to do any more takes or anything," remarked Haleigh.

The couple is working to help launch a hair product line called Inc.d. The brand uses elements from tattoo culture to market and express their ideas as a company.

"It's representing that everybody has 'ink' somehow. Everybody has something that makes them a little different, or just makes them them," said Haleigh.

The brand promotes acceptance of all people for who they are.

The couple have been spending time doing photo shoots with tattooed models and brainstorming with the brand's owners to help find ways to create and present media that will reflect the company's positive theme.

Many times, the most rewarding part of their work is not necessarily the jobs they are hired to do, but the people and situations they experience along the way.

While in Trinidad to film a hair show, the two and their boss, Kerry Patton, visited Maracas Bay.

A drunk older man walked up to the crew and said "Lights," then pointed at the sun, "Camera," then pointed at Myles' camera, "Action," and finally pointed at the guitar he was holding. The man asked Haleigh to sing popular songs with him such as "Wonder Wall" and "Sweet Home Alabama" as he began strumming his guitar with a plastic spoon.



CONTRIBUTED

Haleigh Black and Kerry Patton "liming" with a local in Trinidad after filming a hair show.

Myles immediately began filming and Kerry joined in with Haleigh to sing along with the man.

"It was just such a magical moment," reminisced Haleigh, "Everything was so beautiful... I like just taking a peek into these peoples' lives." Meeting new people has given Haleigh a new perspective on some things in life.

"Through traveling with work and meeting these different people, its actually made the people that I've grown up around in this small town much more interesting to me. Since I've gone to other places and met new people, they are of course interesting to me because they're new. But then I come back home and... anybody that I meet [I realize] has a story just like people in Trinidad, or California, or Houston. It's part of growing up and it's helped that I've gotten to travel," explained Haleigh.

The two stressed that it is important to note that while they are happy doing creative work, it is not always easy; being self employed holds its own set of challenges.

For example, almost every year will bring at least one slow season when work is hard to find.

"We can't always make money doing our fun creative stuff; sometimes we have to do jobs where we can't really show much of our creativity," says Haleigh, "We do enjoy those times that we get to do the things we're passionate about which are documenting people's lives, getting to know real life characters, and then also coming up with stories and basing them off the people that we meet."



CONTRIBUTED

Kerry Patton, Cassi Davis, Myles Cain and Haleigh Black celebrating the launch of OnePlate America, Inc. in Washington, D.C.

Haleigh and Myles have learned a lot about themselves, art and the world around them just through their travels and constant exposure to creativity.

Creating stories to be told through film and other art forms is what the couple has been enjoying focusing on in their personal projects.

"I feel like in the past we've been really concentrating on... technical sides of art, and now we've been wanting to get a little deeper into what makes humans tick," said Haleigh.

She also stated, "A lot of times fiction really helps you figure out what life is really all about and how to deal with situations."

The two described themselves as sponges, observing other people and situations to gain ideas for stories to tell.

"You have to observe all the things happening around you because there's an endless amount of stories and characters and scenarios," explained Myles.

"No idea is new," he added, "your perspective is new. Your perspective is different than anyone else's, so you'll interpret situations differently than anyone else; if you throw yourself into new situations, you'll always come up with stories."

The two plan to ultimately share their ideas and talents with the world through TV shows, movies and documentaries.

Haleigh and Myles are very accomplished artists with a yearning to learn about the world around them and create. One can certainly expect great things to come from their hard work, dedication and unbeatable teamwork.