SERIES 5 • ISSUE 20 • MAY 18, 2015
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS


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'GLAMPERS' ROLL IN TO SMITH LAKE PARK P7


KASSY ASHLEY

HANCEVILLE OFFERS FREE LADIES FIREARMS CLASS

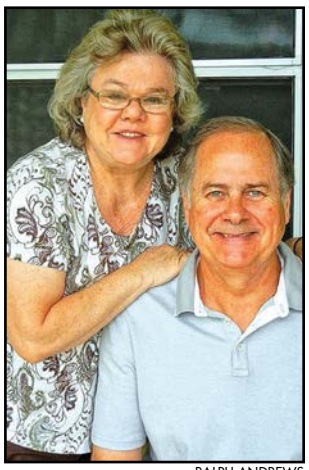

P12

The Ladies Firearms Class teaches basic gun safety.

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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RALPH ANDREWS

RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT

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VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK HONORS LOCAL HEROES


FACEBOOK.COM/CULLMANCOUNTY

Cullman Memorial Park has several monuments dedicated to our fallen service men and women.

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – Memorial Day is a federal holiday and is meant to remember the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces. The holiday is observed every year on the last Monday in May. In the beginning, it was known as Decoration Day and originated after the Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who had been killed in the battle. By the 20th century, Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who died while in the armed forces.

Memorial Day typically marks the start of the summer vacation season, while Labor Day marks its end. This year, Memorial Day is Monday, May 25, and most people will be

P4


MARY STANDIFER/CULLMANSENSE

Lovelocks are meant to symbolize a couple's everlasting love.

KNAPSACKS FOR KIDS FEEDS HUNGRY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Hannah Ward
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CULLMAN – Knapsacks for Kids is an organization that feeds starving children in Cullman County. Melissa Betts, children's minister at First United Methodist and director of Knapsacks for Kids, explained the way it works. The backpacks are packed at First United Methodist Church every Thursday. The children take them home Friday and bring them back to school on Monday.

These organizations rely heavily on volunteers and can always use help. They work anonymously: they give the backpacks to the school and the school takes it from there. There are currently seven schools not being served in Cullman County.

The program got its start when Betts realized just giving children meals over the Thanksgiving holiday was not enough. She realized she had to think of the bigger need; something more needed to be done. "There are kids hungry every single week throughout the year," she stated. She started making contacts and looking into other programs. She got a grant from a program called Servants Like Jesus. That first check took them a lot further than they could have ever imagined.

Betts stated, "It's so easy just to give, we have a church that does a food drive each month. Think about how you can help."

Donations of any amount will go into a fund for the program. Two hundred dollars is the cost of sponsoring one child for a year.

P4

LOCAL COUPLES ATTACH 'LOVELOCKS' TO PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Mary Standifer
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CULLMAN – Across the street from Moe's Original BBQ sits a small pedestrian bridge which connects 1st Ave SE to 1st Ave SW. This bridge has recently garnered some attention from local couples looking for a fun way to make a statement about their relationship. "Lovelocks", as they are popularly referred to, are padlocks placed on public bridges, monuments and other structures with a couple's names or initials displayed on them. The couple then throws the key away to signify their everlasting love.

Local couple Jessie Douglas and Stetson Taylor were one of the first couples to bring the tradition to Cull-

P12

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WORK RELEASE PROGRAM BENEFITS CULLMAN COMMUNITY

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CULLMAN – The Cullman County Sheriff's Office hosted a celebration for the 10 year anniversary of the Work Release Program this past Wednesday. Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry expressed his gratitude to Sergeant Hadley, Mr. Brock and Mr. Whaley for their hard work for the program. If it weren't for their blood, sweat and tears throughout the last 10 years, this program would not be what it is today.

Program Director Sergeant Eulaylon Hadley explained the mechanics of the program, "Inmates who are on better behavior start out working in the jail. If they do well on the inside work, then they go out and do some free labor for townships and different events. If they are successful in that, then they get to move up into the Work Release Program," she smiled as she continued.

"It helps them when they get out. Hopefully, they've got a job and can keep their job when they get out. A portion of their salaries they get are put into a savings account, which they can draw from each month. So they have a chance to start a better life. We want them to learn some job skills, get a good job, get out and have enough money to get them started. It helps everybody really. Our employers rely on them and we can guarantee to have them laborers every day. It is really a win-win situation."

Sergeant Hadley has clearly seen the fruits of her labors and is genuinely excited for all that the program has accomplished.

Honorable District Judge Kim Chaney explained exactly what the program has accomplished, "The defendants have an opportunity to learn, support their family, and pay their fines and restitution. It pays child support and keeps their family off welfare. It helps the inmate and his family. We utilize the Work Release Program all the time. The great thing about it is while they're here we can address addiction issues, anger management issues or education issues. When we address these issues that will help them make that transition to home." Changing a person's life from a criminal to an upstanding citizen is not easy, but that is exactly what this program hopes to accomplish.

A key component to this program is Sheriff Matt Gentry and his office.

The Sheriff expounded on the importance of it: "One of the most important things for me in this program is we, as law enforcement, are able to ensure that victims are not continued to be victims; we're making sure they are getting their restitution and the money that is owed to them by 'criminal offenders'. Programs like this provide law enforcement a way we can ensure that they are paying the money back to the victims and our community. So it gives these inmates some pride, it teaches them life skills so when they leave, they can pay the victims of this society and get a fresh start financially and have some direction in their lives, which a lot of times keeps them from being repeat offenders and that's very important to us. One of the greatest impacts we've seen is it has reduced the amount of people coming to the jail."

An inmate who is currently in the Work Release Program discussed his thoughts about it.

Michael Austin claimed, "It's impacted me for the good, pays toward my fines and my restitution, it also has IOP night classes we can attend to help us recover."

Austin also said having the opportunity to go to church on Sundays helped him integrate back into society easier.

This is a self-sufficient program and all salaries are paid through the Work Release Program, which means taxpayers' dollars are not being spent.

Victims receive restitution, inmates have a second chance at life, and employers are supplied with labor; programs like this are incredibly important and we need more like them. Please support and recognize these programs.

By giving people a chance to reform, they are molding our community into a place for which we can continually to be proud citizens.

CULLMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING BREAKDOWN

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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 held on April 27, 2015 was approved. There were no additions or deletions to the night's agenda.

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

1. General Government - Council Member Jenny Folsom
2. Public Works - Council Member Johnny Cook
3. Public Safety - Council Member Andy Page
4. Tourism - Council Member Clint Hollingsworth
5. Utilities - Council Member Garlan Gudger

There was no report from the mayor, no comments from anyone not on the agenda and no public hearings.

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

1. A request from Traffic Superintendent Jeff Adams to approve travel and training for David Kreps in the unbudgeted amount of $2,300.00.
2. A request from Assistant Street Superintendent Mike Jenkins to extend for one additional year the annual plant and hot lay mix bids awarded to Good Hope Contracting.
3. A request from Assistant Street Superintendent Mike Jenkins to extend for one additional year the annual plant cold, and hot mix bids awarded to Good Hope Contracting.
4. A request from Police Chief Kenny Culpepper to purchase a truck from ADECA (State Surplus) in the budgeted amount of $16,325.00 (partially funded by confiscated vehicles).
5. A request from Mayor Max Townson to approve the travel expenses for the Mayor of Council to attend the Alabama State Baseball and Softball Tournaments in Montgomery, Alabama as representatives of Cullman, Alabama.

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

1. Resolution No. 2015 – 51 – To award the Bid R-01720 for employee uniforms to the lowest responsible bidder, Cintas Corporation.
2. Resolution No. 2015 – 52 – To renew the annual general liability and property insurance with Smith-Gray Insurance Agency, Inc. of Cullman, Alabama (Travelers Companies).
3. Resolution No. 2015 – 53 – To award the bid for Duck River Recreational Trail Phase 2 to the lowest responsible bidder, William Preston York, in the budgeted amount of $149,912.40.
4. Resolution No. 2015 – 54 – To accept County Lane, also known as County Road 497, from the Cullman County Commission.
5. The Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2015 - 32 – To amend the City of Cullman Alcohol Ordinance.
6. The First Reading of Ordinance No. 2015 – 34 – To annex the property owned by Judd and Lori Taylor located at 383 County Road 1414 into the city limits of Cullman as R-1 Residential District.
7. The First Reading of Ordinance No. 2015 – 35 – To approve 2015 Back-To-School Sales Tax Holiday from August 7, 2015 until Sunday August 9, 2015.
8. The First Reading of Ordinance No. 2015 – 36 – To annex the property (Lot 6 of Dialsdale 4th Addition) owned by Ronnie M. Scott located at Country Lane also known as County Road 497 into the city limits of Cullman as R-3 Residential District.
9. The Board Appointed Lisa Eckenrod to the Tree Commission.

CULLMAN TRACTOR SUPPLY TO HOST PET EVENT

Brandon Puttbrese
Contributor

CULLMAN – Tractor Supply Company in Cullman at 1807 Second Ave S.W is hosting a pet event Saturday, May 30 to encourage adoptions and support local animal groups. The Saturday event is part of Purina Days, which lasts from Wednesday, May 27 to Sunday, May 31.

All Purina Days events are open to the public and their pets.

Along with all the products to care for a variety of pets and animals, Tractor Supply will have free adoption kits on hand throughout Purina Days for the first 10 customers who adopt a pet or animal from a local shelter or rescue.

During the event, the store will host the CAAWA group that will be on site from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on May 30, 2015. There will be pet adoptions.

"We have excellent pet and animal advocates in our community," said Kelvin Hyatt, manager of the Cullman Tractor Supply store. "Tractor Supply is honored to work with them in finding forever homes for our furry friends during Purina Days and throughout the year."

Contact the Cullman Tractor Supply store at 256-737-5000 for more information.

cullman city parks & recreation
cpr&

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.

2015 CULLMAN AREA TOURISM & COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

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CULLMAN – The 2015 Cullman Area Tourism & Community Improvement awards were awarded to area recipients on Thursday at Stone Bridge Farms in the Brown Stone Centre. The event consisted of a huge breakfast, a speech given by guest speaker Ms. Tami Reist, President/CEO of Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association, and the presentation of the various awards. The ceremony was filled with a deep pride for the Cullman area and the people that work so hard to make it the great tourist destination that it is.

"In 2014, 1,381 individuals in Cullman were directly or indirectly employed by tourism. That is a 5.7 percent increase over 2013," said Ben Harrison, Tourism Board Chair and manager of Cullman Regional Airport.

"The City Parks & Rec department have hosted major events. Our local hotels, local restaurants – everyone has benefited from this," Harrison continued. "Our local shops bring people in and provide tax dollars, which is very beneficial to all of us."

The following lists each award that was given. It also gives a brief description of the award and the winners.

THE BUSINESS AWARDS

• Exceptional Festival or Event Award was given to the Cullman County Fair. The award recognizes a festival or event that attracts visitors as well as locals, generates regional and/or state media attention and positively promotes the Cullman area.

• Best Attraction Award was given to The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The award recognizes a regional attraction, including museums, performing arts, parks, amusement parks, etc., which attracts visitors and contributes to an outstanding tourism experience.

• Near Nature. Near Perfect Award was given to Cullman's Veterans Memorial Park. The award recognizes a business, organization, community or outdoor recreation area that has developed a tourism product/service that best demonstrates the ecological, cultural or historic assets of the region.

• Spirit of Cullman Award was given to Cullman Rest Area. The award recognizes an outstanding tourism or hospitality related business or organization that provides excellent service, exemplifies innovation and causes our region to shine.

• Rockin' Retailer was given to Three Pears Shoe Outlet. The award recognizes a retailer that provides an outstanding shopping experience for visitors.

• Extraordinary Everyday Eatery was given to Johnny's Bar-B-Q. The award recognizes a restaurant offering an atmosphere that provides an outstanding experience for visitors.

THE INDIVIDUAL SERVICE AWARDS

• The White Glove Award was given to Peggy Lowery – Hampton Inn. The award recognizes exceptional service from an individual hotel housekeeping staff member.

• The Silver Spoon Award was given to Preston Wiley – Chick-fil-A. The award recognizes consistent superior service by a restaurant or food service employee.

• Superior Service Award was given to Amber Strawbridge – Hampton Inn. The award recognizes excellent customer service by an individual who has first contact with the public. Front desk personnel, concierges and all other guest service employees qualify.

• Savvy Retail Sales Associate Award was given to Jennifer Bennett - Jennifer's Treasures. The award recognizes excellent customer service from a retail sales associate who has first contact with the public.

• Heart of the House Award was given to Lisa Hall – TP Country Club. The award recognizes an outstanding individual who works behind the scenes to keep their institution, organization or business operating smoothly, creating a superior experience for the public.

• Hospitality Volunteer of the Year was given to Rebecca Branch - Christmas in Cullman/Pilot Club. The award recognizes any hospitality industry volunteer (i.e. entertainment venues, museums, and festival and event volunteers) who has made an outstanding contribution.

• Rising Star Award was given to Doug Davenport – Cullman County Parks and Rec. The award recognizes an up and coming leader for their exceptional efforts to serve and enhance the experience of the public. Those individuals who have been in the tourism industry for five years or less qualify.

• Tourism Professional of the Year Award was given to Shane Quick of Premier Promotions. The award recognizes a person who has made a significant contribution to the tourism industry through more than five years or more of innovation, inspiration and industry leadership.



FACEBOOK.COM/CULLMANAREACHAMBER

Cullman County Parks & Rec Director Doug Davenport, Sportsman Lake (Veterans Park) Manager Delitha Marchman, and Cullman County Economic Development Director Cherrie Haney pose for a photo.

2014-15 COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT WINNERS

• Best Landscaping – Small – Marx Optical
• Best Landscaping – Large – Webb Wheel Aftermarket
• Best Curb Appeal – Cullman County Museum
• Best New Construction – Wallace State Community College School of Nursing and Center for Science
• Best Restoration – Coldwell Banker Hill Real Estate
• Building a Sense of Community – Sportsman Lake Park

Congratulations to all of this year's winners and nominees!

KIDS DESIGNER WAREHOUSE SALE TO BENEFIT BROOKS' PLACE

Brooks' Place
The Child Advocacy Center

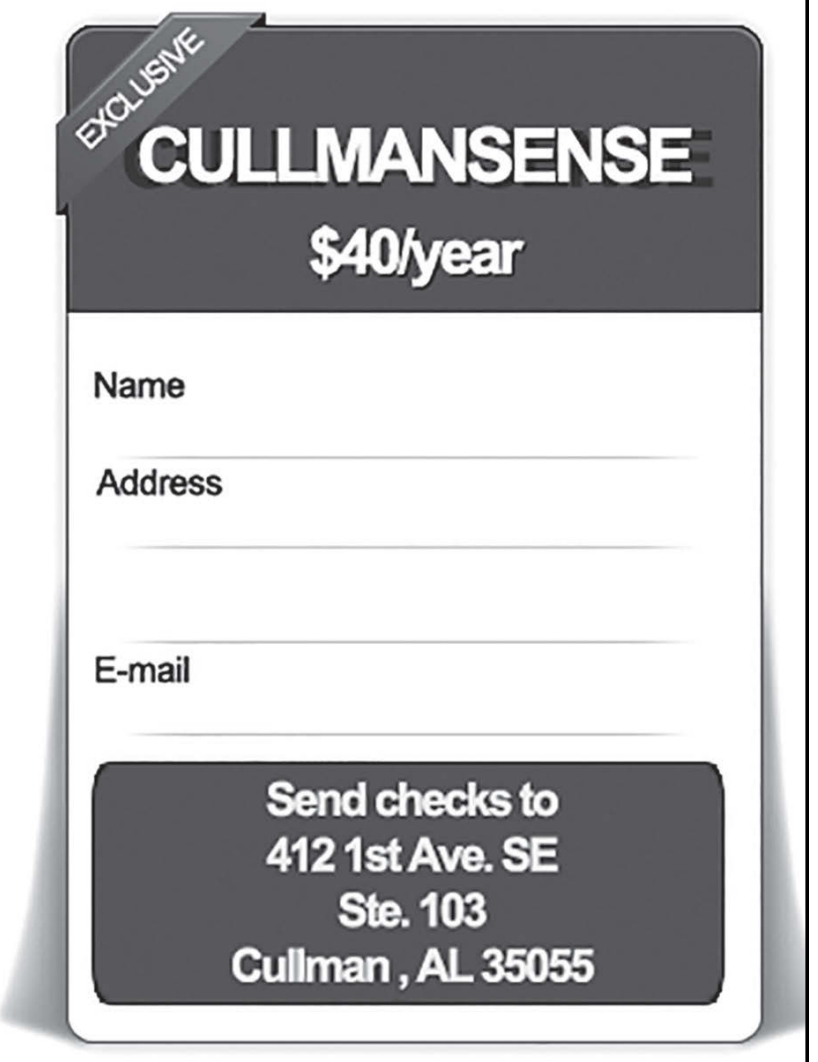
CULLMAN – Brooks' Place, The Child Advocacy Center of Cullman, will be holding a fundraiser on Wednesday, May 27th, Thursday, May 28th and Friday, May 29th, with Kids Designer Warehouse Sale at Loft 212. This sale provides an opportunity for parents to purchase boutique brand clothing at playground prices for boys and girls, infants through size 12, while supporting the fundraising efforts of Brooks' Place.

Brooks' Place, the child advocacy center of Cullman, is dedicated to providing a home-like environment where child victims of physical and sexual abuse, as well as their caregivers, are able to receive a wide range of services and support. Additionally, Brooks' Place provides educational opportunities to parents, caregivers, professionals and others who provide services to children.

The Kids Designer Warehouse Sale features dozens of boutique brand designer labels and focuses on bringing new brand-name children's clothing typically sold at high-end boutiques at prices up to 60% off; while, giving a portion of each sales proceeds to the hosting organization. The sale will be held at Loft 212, 212 4th Street SW, Cullman, Alabama, on Wednesday, May 27th from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. (this event will be a Mom's Night Out), Thursday, May 28th, from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Friday, May 29th from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., and is open to the public. There will be no cost for admission and children are welcome on Thursday and Friday.

For more, contact Holly Bussman at 256-338-9083.

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May 18, 2015

RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT: DR. RALPH ANDREWS - PASTOR OF GOOD HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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GOOD HOPE – Please allow me to introduce Dr. Ralph Andrews, pastor of Good Hope Baptist Church. Dr. Andrews has been married to his lovely wife Sherry for 42 years. They have two sons, Joshua and John. Joshua graduated from the Air Force Academy; John graduated from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

"Even though they are nine years apart, they share the same birthday... that takes planning," Andrews chuckled. "We also have three grandchildren: Eli, Lily and Lauren."

Just like most religious leaders, Dr. Andrews has gone through extensive schooling in order to be able to guide his flock and help them to find the Lord.

"I have a Masters of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctorate from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary," Andrews explained. "When I was pastor of my first church, the Lord called my wife and me to the foreign mission field. However, we had a problem: I didn't have the educational requirements that the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (now the International Mission Board) required. So, three months before my 30th birthday, I started college," he grinned.

"After finishing college and seminary, the next step was to go to language school in France for 11 months," he continued. "However, when we finally arrived in the Ivory Coast and drove through the city in which we would be working, it felt as if we had gone home. I have often said that God's will is always best; it's just that sometimes we don't have the sense to realize it!"

In 1995, the Andrews' came home to the States for a little down time. But just as they were getting ready to go back to the Ivory Coast, they learned real quickly, God had other plans.

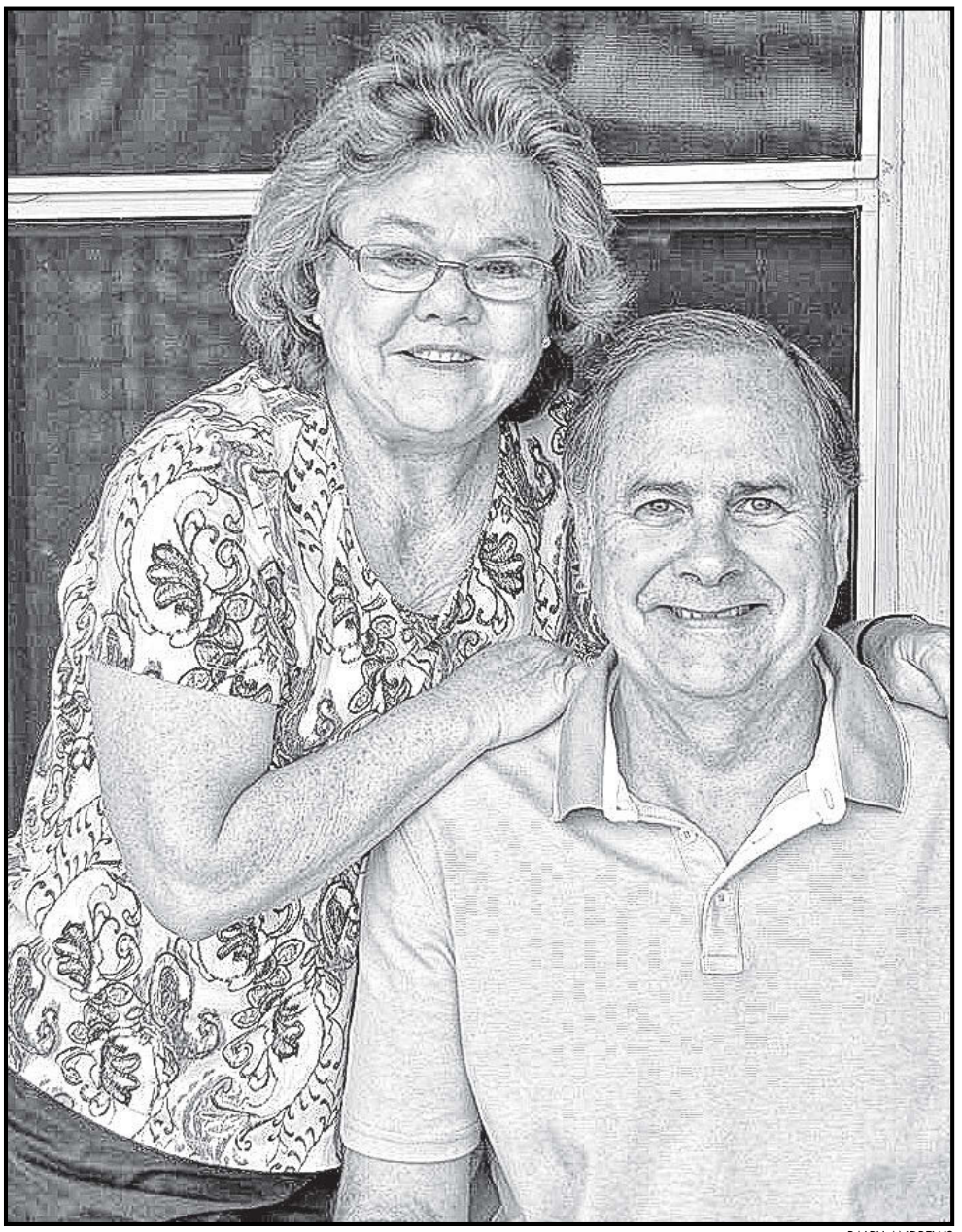
"Good Hope Baptist Church asked me to be their interim pastor for two weeks," said Andrews. "That has been 19 years ago - and I'm still there," he smiled. "After 11 years on the mission field, the change wasn't easy, but again, God knows best! I accepted the call to preach in 1978 and have never doubted it."

Dr. Andrews is a very busy man, as most pastors are. He preaches at least two sermons a week and teaches two Bible studies. In addition to that, the church has several members in the nursing home that he tries to visit regularly, and several members who are home bound. Somewhere in there, he has a family to spend time with as well.

"My number one priority is preaching. Preaching is not only something that I enjoy doing, it is what God has called me to do," Andrews said in all sincerity.

Dr. Andrews has been an incredible asset to the congregation at Good Hope Baptist Church. His years of service and dedication are a testament to his love of God and fellow man. Just the thought of his church brings a smile to his face and kind words from his mouth.

"I realize that I am biased, but Good Hope Baptist Church has some of the finest, friendliest people that you will ever meet. I realized one day how special Good Hope is when pastors from other states were telling their members who were moving to the Cullman area to go to Good Hope," he grinned. "God has truly blessed us with a wonderful fellowship."



RALPH ANDREWS

Dr. Andrews has been married to his wife Sherry for 42 years.

"My number one priority is preaching. Preaching is not only something that I enjoy doing, it is what God has called me to do."

Dr. Ralph Andrews, Pastor of Good Hope Baptist Church

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.

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

Memorial Day (from Front)

off work for the holiday. The three-day weekend and beautiful springtime weather make for great family time and a wonderful way to remember our fallen heroes.

One way to enjoy time together as a family is to visit the Veterans Memorial Park.

Open year round, the park honors those of all branches of service who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. It is home to the Alabama Veterans Memorial Wall.

The wall, which the Vietnam Veterans of America, Alabama Chapter 416 built in 1992, lists the names of 1,209 Alabama soldiers killed in Vietnam between 1963 and 1975. Among the names are several Cullman County natives.

The park also has monuments from World War I and II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

At the entrance, people can see a large, one-of-a-kind waving flag made entirely of cement.

There is also an Army tank on display. For larger groups, the park has a visitors pavilion designed to seat approximately 150 people.

After visiting the Veteran's Memorial Park, walk over to Sportsman Lake, which adjoins the property. Attendees can also enjoy the day with a picnic.

There is a sizable playground and a refreshing splash pad for the children to enjoy.

People can ride the train and enjoy the lake by riding all over it in colorful pedal boats. The ducks and geese enjoy being hand fed by park visitors who have extra food from their picnic lunches.

Another option for celebrating Memorial Day is to attend the Smith Lake Park Memorial Day Weekend Festival, which is now a two day event.

The event will begin on Saturday, May 23 and go through Sunday, May 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be live music, food vendors, arts and crafts vendors, games, contests, and a golf cart and bike parade.

The putt-putt golf course has been renovated and is back and better than ever.

While there, enjoy the refreshing swimming pool, which will officially open for the season on May 23. Make your plans now to attend.

To escape the large crowds, enjoy the holiday at home with family and friends. Barbecues and outdoor activities are the perfect way to make lasting family memories.

Whatever you choose to do this year for Memorial Day, take a few minutes to remember those who sacrificed their lives so that we are able to freely enjoy ours.

Without them, we wouldn't be able to do the things we choose to do.

IF THIS CAUGHT YOUR EYE, WHY AREN'T YOU ADVERTISING HERE?

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Kids (from Front)

Programs like this not only need money, but they need volunteers, food and space.

Another program similar to Knapsacks for Kids is Secret Meals, the program sponsored by Alabama Credit Union.

The Cullman branch supervisor, Laurie Legg, heads up the program. They do all sorts of fundraisers to raise money for this program. They are currently feeding eight schools.

Cullman Caring for Kids is a program similar to these; only it serves as more of a community food bank.

The program is now partnering with Secret Meals and Knapsack for Kids, in addition to the amazing work that it is already doing in the community.

Cullman Caring for Kids Executive Director Javon Daniel stated, "If the food is donated to us, it doesn't make any difference who gets it to them, just the fact that they have it."

Hunger is physically, emotionally and mentally damaging to a child's well-being.

An adult cannot function hungry and neither can a child. Since it affects their focus on school, it also affects their education and future. These programs are making a difference in many children's lives and need all the support they can.

For more information about these organizations including volunteering opportunities, contact Laurie Legg for Secret Meals at 256-737-9885 or llegg@AlabamaCU.com or Melissa Betts at 256-734-6690 or mbetts@cullmanfumc.com.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

A SMALL CHURCH THAT KEEPS GROWING

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – St. Paul's Lutheran Church was organized on December 6, 1885 under the leadership of Rev. Ferdinand Englebert. Englebert had been sent to Cullman the previous August as a missionary to the area. The original Constitution was written in German and was signed by all the men of the new congregation.

In January 1886, a lot of land was given to the church by J. H. Karter. Together, the congregation voted to construct a wooden framed church that was to be 30 feet by 50 feet. The cost of the place was not to exceed $350. When finished, the church was white with a tall steeple on top.

It was dedicated on December 26, 1886 with two services. The morning preacher was Rev. C. Burkart of Garden City and the afternoon speaker was Rev. F. Englebert. By 1889, there were 143 dedicated members.

In June of 1891, John Gerdes donated a lot across the church on Fourth Avenue. A one-room building was constructed to be used for the school, which had begun in 1887.

For about 30 years, the school's enrollment grew and eventually there were as many as 70 youngsters in attendance.

Later on, a new brick church was built to replace the small white original one. The building was dedicated on February 11, 1923.

In 1969, the current building was created. The total cost of the new facility, including furnishings, was $350,000. The new church is able to seat 750 people.

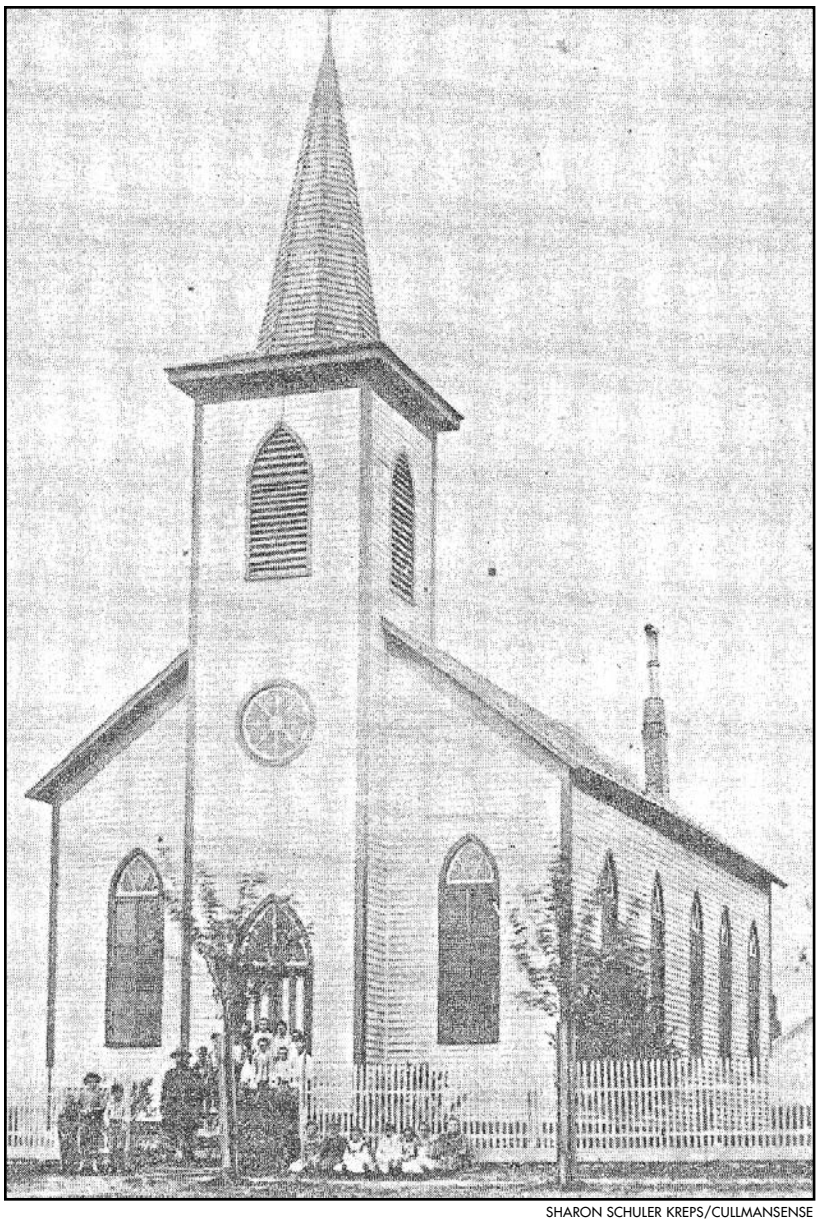
"We have a very rich tradition here and a great love for our Lord Jesus Christ and our community," said Pastor John Bussman.

"Each and every day we strive to 'Proclaim Jesus Christ today – to all.' Our biggest mission at St. Paul's is our school. We teach from three years old through sixth grade. Our children receive an education that is Christ centered and competes with the city system, which is among the top in the state. We are excited for the bright future ahead."

"Our congregation stands firm on the confession that 'Jesus is Lord' and that 'All Scripture is God breathed'," he continued. 'God's Holy Word' is our rule of faith and practice. Everything that we believe, teach and confess has its foundation in Scripture alone. Feel free to browse our website, watch services from the past, and join us anytime. The peace of our Lord Jesus be with you!"

For more information about St. Paul's Lutheran Church, visit their website at StPaulsL.com or follow them on Facebook at Facebook.com/StPaulsCullman.

The church is located at 513 4th Ave SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 and their phone number is 256-734-3575.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The first St. Paul's Lutheran Church building was created in 1886.

MIRRORING HISTORY: CULLMAN CITY MAYORS

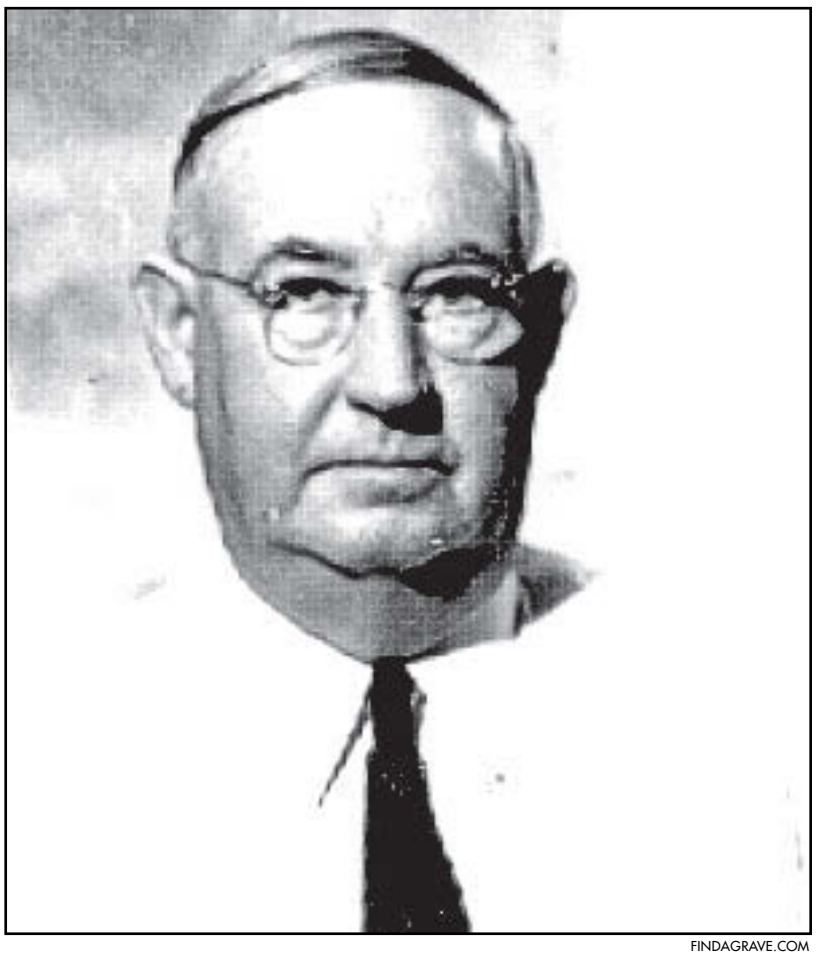
Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Mayor is the most visible of the city's elected officials and is held publicly accountable for the performance of city government. He serves as the Executive Officer of the City of Cullman and is responsible for the management of the city.

A Mayor is elected every four years, and the Mayor's term runs concurrent with the terms of the City Council members.

John Allen Dunlap was elected Mayor of Cullman in 1932. He was later re-elected to three more four-year terms before being defeated for a fifth term by J.W. Nesmith.

Max A. Townson was elected Mayor in 2008 following Donald E. Green, who was Mayor from 2000 to 2008.



FINDAGRAVE.COM

John Allen Dunlap, Mayor of Cullman from 1932 to 1948.



CULLMANCITY.ORG

Max A. Townson, Mayor of Cullman from 2008 until the present.





PONTIAC SHOW ATTRACTS FANS FROM ALL OVER

Mary Standifer
mary@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – This past Saturday marked the 5th annual Pontiac GMC Car Show at Sportsman Lake Park. The turnout for the event was a bit lower than previous years due to weather concerns. "We probably got about a third of what would have normally came," says Pontiac Oakland Club International Alabama Chapter President Dennis Philo. "If they've got a lot of money invested in a car, they don't necessarily want to get it out in the rain. We're probably down to a third of what we should have." Despite the weather, 21 beautiful cars still appeared at the event.

Lawrence Sledge is of a rare breed of car collectors who bought his car new from a dealership and has kept it ever since. Lawrence purchased his Pontiac Catalina 2+2 on May 30, 1967.

While most collectors buy a used and often neglected vintage car to restore, Lawrence simply took excellent care of the vehicle he purchased at age 23 and never parted ways with it.

On display in his trunk is the original car manual, paperwork from the dealership in Florence, the receipt from the original license plate, various vintage magazine clippings describing the model, and a plaque from 1989 commemorating his achievement at the same car show, which was then hosted in Talladega.

The car also sports its original license plate from 1967. Lawrence purchased the car for $5,090.89. When asked what the vehicle's value would be today, Lawrence laughed and said "Well, I'll put it like this, if anyone wanted to buy it, I would not price it any less than the sticker price there. It's probably worth upwards of $30,000."

The event draws attention from both collectors and appreciators alike. Tiffany Todd and her two daughters Tylyn and Ashlynn were among the appreciators at the event.

"We were walking by to go to the flower garden; we didn't even know this was going on today," remarked Tiffany. "I'm trying to teach them a little bit about classic cars." Tylyn, 6, and Ashlynn, 7, giggled and walked around the vintage cars while peering into the driver side windows for a closer look.

"I enjoy looking at nice cars... If I could afford to buy one, I would. I definitely enjoy stopping at a good car show every once in a while, especially when they're unexpected," said Tiffany.

The car show also provides a fun place for collectors to speak with others about the hobby.

"It helps perpetuate the hobby and give people ideas of what to do. We have a lot of people who come and look, and maybe they're restoring their car and want to look at what we're doing with our cars," explained Dennis Philo.



CONTRIBUTED

Lawrence Sledge's 1967 Pontiac Catalina 2+2 could be worth upwards of $30,000.

Next year's event will be held on the third weekend of May at Sportsman Lake Park.

"Our members come from Decatur, Huntsville, and the South... so it's centrally located for us," explained Philo. The organization is very appreciative of the staff at Sportsman Lake Park and intends to keep the car show at the venue.

"The park has been very helpful and very friendly and loves to work with us," he said. "It just worked out really well and we really like it."

Top 6 (in no particular order)

- Danny Bailey, '67 GTO
- James/Lisa Carlton '69 Firebird 400
- Johnny Calhoun '64 GTO Convertible
- Dion Sanger '66 GTO
- Eric Ruthann Burke '71 Lemans
- Steve/Cindy Hall '76 Trans Am

Best of Show

Vintage Category

- Lawrence Sledge '67 Catalina 2+2

Firebird/Trans Am Category

- Kevin Adams '69 Firebird 400 Convertible

GTO Category

- Jim Smith '66 GTO

STONY LONESOME NIGHT RIDES ATTRACT OUT OF TOWN VISITORS

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

BREMEN – This Saturday, May 23, Stony Lonesome OHV Park will have its latest installment in a long running program that gives riders of off-road vehicles an opportunity to have fun after the park normally closes. The Night Ride will begin at 6 p.m. and will continue until 11 p.m.

"It's a totally different park after dark," said Customer Service Representative for the park Kassy Ashley.

"For people who ride in the park all the time during normal hours, they come out for the night ride and it's like they've never been on these trails before," she continued. The Night Rides began three years ago, and started from a customer suggestion.

"We had people coming in and saying, 'Hey, all these other parks are doing this,' so the park took the suggestion of the customers," said current Park Manager Tyler Lindsey.

"We really pride ourselves on providing the best possible riding experience for customers," Lindsey added.

Lindsey said that there are very few OHV parks in this region of the Southeast, and Stony Lonesome serves a wide range of customers, most of which, he said, are out-of-towners, "I'd say up to 70 percent are probably from out of the county. Maybe even 80 percent."

Not only are there not many public riding spaces around, and zero south of Stony Lonesome, but there are few that show the concern and attention to their customers as Stony Lonesome.

"We could be open for 24-hours like several of the parks are, but we insist on having plenty of workers out there with the riders helping anyone who gets stuck or anything like that," Lindsey said.

"Our goal is to please the people. We want to provide the best possible riding experience money can pay for."

Along with having the Night Ride, which happens once and sometimes twice a month during the summer, Stony Lonesome has a campground.

The Night Rides are becoming more and more popular. During the last Night Ride, the park recorded a record 787 visitors in one night.



KASSY ASHLEY

It is estimated that 70-80% of the park's attendees are from other counties.

As far as expanding or advertising the park, Tyler Lindsey is building the park's reputation so it can speak for itself.

"Most of the stuff we do is based on customer response," Lindsey said. "We take a lot of pride in taking care of people."

In his first full year as the park manager at Stony Lonesome OHV Park he has set an attendance record and has built a quality reputation throughout the Southeast.

The prices for riding at the park are $10 for normal hours, $15 to ride at night, and $20 to ride during the day and night.

No vehicles are turned away, according to Lindsey, and the only caveat is that the vehicles have fully functioning headlights and taillights.

"We want to provide the best possible riding experience money can pay for."

Tyler Lindsey, Stony Lonesome OHV Park Manager

'GLAMPERS' ROLL IN TO SMITH LAKE PARK

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

TRIMBLE – A new form of camping came to Smith Lake Park last weekend at the Vintage Camper Rally. 'Glampers' came together from all over the South to visit with each other, to compare their 'glampers', and most importantly, to have a lot of fun.

'Glamping' is a combination of two things: glamour and camping. Women everywhere have fallen in love with the restoration of older, vintage campers.

Janelle Adkins of Argo, Ala. was at the event showing off her 1967 Shasta Camper she named 'Miss La De Da'.

Adkins worked on the camper for over a year and a half and the Vintage Camper Rally was her first outing with the newly glamorous camper.

"The trailers really bring your personality out," said Adkins. "I saw my first glamper around the first June of 2013 and by the 19th I had bought one – sight unseen – in Buffalo, N.Y., I went up there and got it and that's what started the whole thing," she giggled.

"Its women who are doing this, mainly older women from the age of 50 on up," she explained. "They do a lot of the work themselves. I do all mine by myself. I've done the electrical work – put electrical plugs in it. I've done all the paint, both inside and outside. I put board over all the doors and added trim around it. I just learned as I went," she smiled proudly.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Glampers, restored vintage campers, have become popular with women 50 and older.

Camping is a fabulous way to get out and enjoy nature. Campgrounds are a place where total strangers can come together and have a great time. The smell of campfire and the sounds of families make for a very relaxing vacation from the ordinary. Adkins was in her element and her friends had a great time playing cards and enjoying each other at her camper.

"The people here today are the Southeastern Vintage Friends. They are kind of a spinoff of the TCT, which stands for Tin Can Tourists. We just wanted to get together, it's nothing official, and it's just a small get-together in and around the area. We were supposed to have 17 campers this weekend, but wound up with only eight of them. The rest were afraid of the weather getting bad, so they cancelled."

For more about camping at Smith Lake Park, call 256-739-2916, e-mail smithlakepark@co.cullman.al.us or visit CullmanCountyParks.com. Follow them on Facebook at Facebook.com/SmithLakePark. Smith Lake Park is located at 416 County Road 385, Cullman, Alabama 35057.

"The trailers really bring your personality out. I saw my first glamper around the first June of 2013 and by the nineteenth I had bought one – sight unseen – in Buffalo, New York."

Janelle Adkins, Glamper



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Janelle Adkins named her 'glamper' Miss La De Da.

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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

May Morning Blend
The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce staff will welcome members and visitors to the Chamber building every third Wednesday to discuss the hottest topics in business and share tips, ideas and viewpoints. Free to community and Chamber members. It is held from 8-9 a.m. at the Chamber in the commons room.

St. Monica's Group
St. Monica's Group for those addicted to alcohol or drugs meets every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. in the Rectory Basement of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church. All are welcome to attend who feel the need. For further information please contact Brian at 256-595-0515 or Rita at 256-507-0358.

Church Group Wednesday Nights at CWAC
Youth groups, Sunday School Classes and other Church groups are invited to take part in 'Church Group Nights at Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center every Wednesday night from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. Please call 256-775-SWIM (7946).

Latter Day Saints Genealogy Library
The Genealogy Library at the Latter Day Saints (L.D.S.) Church is open to the public each Wednesday night from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Don Jones is available to open the Library at other times, if needed, so please contact him at 256-784-5098.

Girls & Boys Club at Spirit Life
Spirit Life Church will host a Girls & Boys Club meeting for those 12 and under every Wednesday beginning at 7 p.m. at the church. All are welcome. Please call the church for further info 256-739-3326.

Thursday

New Vision Support Group
There is a New Vision Support Group which will meet at 10 a.m. and everyone interested in this subject is welcome to attend. The program is at Hilltop Community Center. Additional information is available by calling Linda Estes, 256-739-4653.

'Celebrate Recovery' at Hanceville First Baptist Church
There will be a 'Celebrate Recovery' meeting tonight starting at 7 p.m. at Hanceville First Baptist Church. Childcare will be available. Additional info Church office at 256-352-9150. Open to all!

Ageless Grace Fitness Class
Come join in the Ageless Grace Fitness Class held each Thursday evening starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Cullman Civic Center. Leader Ann Caretti will show attendees the latest fitness tips available. The event is sponsored by Cullman Park and Recreation Department. Call 256-734-9157 for more information.

Thursday Afternoon Overeaters Anonymous Meeting
Those interested are invited to attend the weekly Thursday afternoon meetings of Overeaters Anonymous which begin at 4:45 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church's Carriage House. For additional information please call 734-376-2124 or 256-352-1143.

Friday

May Community Luncheon
Join us for the Cullman Chamber's Community Luncheon. Allison Black Cornelius, Founder & President of Blackfish Strategies will speak on "The 5 Dysfunctions of a Team". If you would like to attend, please register by calling the Chamber office at 256-734-0454. Reservations required. $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

Memorial Day Festival
A Memorial Day Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Smith Lake Park. Call the Cullman County Parks & Recreation department at 256-734-3369 for more information.

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

Happy Memorial Day
Spend this special day relaxing with family and friends!

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

Cullman Kiwanis Club
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LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

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

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
- May Morning Blend at the Cullman Chamber from 8-9 a.m.
- Karaoke Night at Grumpy's at 7 p.m.
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-7 p.m.
- Karaoke Night at Cadillac Ron's at 7 p.m.
- Ladies' Night at Cadillac Ron's from 5-8 p.m.

THURSDAY
- Open Mic Night at Brothers from 8 p.m. to close
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-7 p.m.
- Karaoke Night at Cadillac Ron's at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY
- May Community Luncheon at All Steak from 11:30-1 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
- Memorial Day Festival from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Smith Lake Park
- Live Music at Brothers
- Live Music at Moe's
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-6 p.m.
- Live Music at Cadillac Ron's from 8 p.m. to close

NEXT MONDAY
- Happy Memorial Day!
- 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.

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CITIZEN OF THE WEEK

CLIFF POWELL TEACHES HOW TO "PRAY HARD & SPEAK LIFE"

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com



CLIFF POWELL

Cliff and Tamika Powell have lived through devastating times and now they want to help others get through their own battles.

CULLMAN – Meet Mr. Cliff Powell. Cliff is married to the beautiful Tamika Powell. Together they have four children: three girls and one boy, ranging in ages from seven to 15. After graduating from Cullman High School in 1995, Powell left Cullman for the University of Alabama. He earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Education; however, he chose a career in sales. Today, he is responsible for Alabama, Mississippi and West Tennessee as the Regional Sales Manager for Igus, Inc.

Curiously, in the past year, he has grown a love for writing, which he does in his limited spare time. He has written a book titled "Pray Hard & Speak Life", which will be available later in 2015. It is a memoir about finding hope in the midst of addictions, bankruptcy, suicide and cancer.

"When Tamika was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, I started a Facebook prayer group. The group served two purposes: one was to update everyone easily and the other was to attract as many prayer warriors to pray hard for my wife," he explained.

"One day, there was nothing to update, so in order to keep everyone's attention, I decided to tell the story of how Tamika and I met," he grinned. "I started receiving feedback from many people who told me how our story had blessed them, followed by the suggestion to write a book."

"I know that God placed this opportunity into my life to share my story in a way that could reach lost and hurting people all around the world," he admitted. "It is a story about overcoming the hard times in life. We all have moments when it feels as if all hope is lost. I know there have been times when life seemed unfair and you felt like giving up, but I am hoping to encourage my readers to find hope in the midst of chaos."

Tamika has had more than her fair share of health issues, and over time, her cancer diagnosis has taken a toll on the whole family. Mr. Powell is sure to have felt the weight of the world on his shoulders at times – supporting his family, both financially and emotionally, while trying to keep himself going. Yet, he never gave up and as a result, he has grown in his relationship with God and has learned to 'speak life', which means to use his words and actions to honor the inherent value in every person created by God. Powell urges everyone to use their words wisely and to be aware of what they are saying.

"I'm one of the most analytical persons on earth which kept me from having faith in God for years," he smirked, shaking his head.

> **"I know that God placed this opportunity into my life to share my story in a way that can reach lost and hurting people all around the world."**
> Cliff Powell, Author of "Pray Hard & Speak Life"

"Six years ago, if you told me to speak life, I would have said you're crazy and walked away. However, I have learned words are powerful. They can bring life or they can bring death into situations that surround you. For this reason, I try hard to not analyze and just have faith. Am I perfect at this? Absolutely not! I fail all the time, I do know it is biblical and when I do speak life, things tend to be a lot smoother. I encourage everyone to speak life. Some may think this is unrealistic. To that, I say stop analyzing and just believe," he grinned with a twinkle in his eye.

Everyone goes through hard times, but not everyone knows just how to handle it. Cliff and his wife Tamika have made it through some pretty devastating circumstances, yet they never gave up and both have grown spiritually from them.

Their incredible focus and faith in God only continues to magnify. In return, they are doing their best to help others who may be in similar trouble.

For more information about Cliff and his incredible message of hope and faith, visit PrayHardSpeakLife.com or like his Facebook page at Facebook.com/PrayHardSpeakLife.

BERLIN SUNSHINE CLUB HOLDS MONTHLY MEETING

Joyce Rodgers
Berlin Sunshine Club

BERLIN – The Berlin Sunshine Club held their annual Easter Egg Hunt for the Berlin community on March 28, 2015. Approximately 130 total parents and children attended. Marilyn Bolte portrayed the Easter Bunny and captured the hearts of everyone present. She eagerly posed for pictures throughout the day. Her antics produced many smiles and happiness for everyone.

Club members working the event were:

- Becky Cook
- Gail Wood
- Joan Walker
- Ruth Teichmiller
- Marilyn Bolte
- Joyce Rodgers
- Rena Watson
- Tootie Sanford
- Doris Walker
- Susie Smith
- Ruth Freeman
- Ann Bishop
- Jill Bishop Hollis
- Madison Washburn
- Janice Hays
- Marie Walker

Members of the Berlin Sunshine Club met on April 16th, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Becky Cook. Hostesses were Doris Walker and Peggy Hardman. The devotion was given by Jo Schaffer on the Crown of Thorns. All members were presented with a Crown of Thorns lapel pin. The pins were donated by Jo Schaffer and Doris Walker.

The program was "Getting to Know Each Other". Each member gave brief highlights of their personal history.

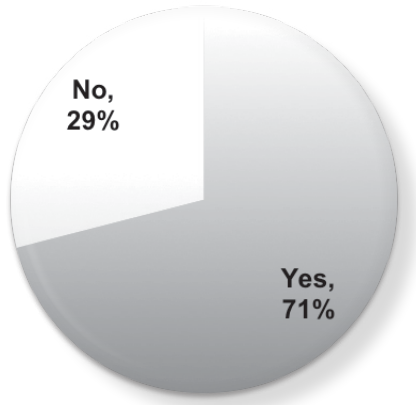
The business part of the meeting included discussion on the upcoming annual bazaar.

The next meeting will be June 18, 2015. There was not a regular meeting in the month of May because the members enjoyed a dinner at Stonebridge Farms on Mother's Day.

For more information on the Berlin Sunshine Club contact Joyce Rodgers at 256-339-3451 or Marilyn Bolte at 256-339-7057.

Poll

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



This Week's Poll

Are you concerned about "Operation Jade Helm 15" that begins in July?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

WHAT'S ONLINE



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

TOMATOES AND LETTUCE AND BERRIES – OH MY: CULLMAN'S FESTHALLE MARKET PLATZ HAS IT ALL

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... **QRNE.WS/356**



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

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

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... **QRNE.WS/357**

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DISTRACTED DRIVING: A DEADLY EPIDEMIC

Hannah Ward
ward@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Today, most people's lives are quite busy. Their minds and hands are constantly doing something, which is generally a good thing, except when they are driving. Driving requires a foot, two hands and a clear mind. For some it can be incredibly hard to not talk on their cell phone or reply to a text, disregarding the road. This is a habit that needs to be broken.

No matter how imperative the text message may be, it is illegal to reply because the distraction is dangerous to others. Drivers are responsible for every person in their vehicle and every other vehicle on the road. It is not a right to drive, but a privilege.

Sergeant Jeff Warnke of the Cullman Police Department Patrol Division stated, "If you walked in my shoes for a day and saw the accidents I see, you would see the result of driving distracted and you would never do it."

The sergeant sympathized with how easy it is to be preoccupied while driving but explained, "Most accidents are caused by drivers texting, talking on the phone, and just not focusing on the task ahead."

For many, especially teenagers and young adults, there is a constant pull to pick up their cell phone while driving.

No longer is a phone something to be used only for talking. It now provides a portal to the world through a variety of applications.

The assortment of apps seem to need attention every minute of the day and unfortunately some believe they should be interacting with them while driving.

Motorists should be aware of how their actions impact everyone around them and not let their negligence as a driver take their life or someone else's.

KEEPING AN EYE ON MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

Hannah Ward
ward@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Motorcycles have come a long way since their invention. Now, riders have less to worry about when they cruise down the street due to anti-locking brakes and many other safety advancements. These advancements have greatly reduced the risks of motorcycle accidents, but other dangers remain. May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness month and serves as a reminder for drivers to be cautious both in the car and on the motorcycle.

Chuck Shikle, a former motor officer of the Cullman Police Department for eight years stated, "It is my opinion that the most crucial aspect of motorcycle safety lays within the rider. Riders are ultimately responsible for their own well-being and safety. Riders know that this sport has risks and approaching it with a willingness to learn and adapt will help keep them alive."

Shikle is also the president of the Jack Aces R.C motorcycle club.

Every year in the spring they kick off the riding season with a motorcycle-training day.

"The majority of accidents in this area are operator error accidents involving improper braking, improper curve negotiating, or failure to avoid an obstacle. Training can really improve rider odds of successfully avoiding most of the latter type of accidents. Rider training and education is crucial as is proper safety equipment," Shikle persuaded.

Shikle also pointed out the importance of car drivers being aware of motorists, "Vehicle operators can help reduce their involvement in motorcycle accidents by simply understanding that motorcycles are harder to see and their speeds are harder to judge. Look longer and let your mind process the information you are seeing. Also, give riders a little more space when following. Motorcycles can stop faster than cars."

It can be easy to not always pay attention while driving. Unfortunately when motorists do that, accidents happen and people get hurt.

When asked why he rides motorcycles after knowing all the dangers involved, Shikle replied, "I can't explain why I ride, I've ridden since I was 14. It's a part of me."

As the traditional riding season rolls on, motorcycle safety awareness will ensure the continued safety of motorists driving on both two and four wheels.

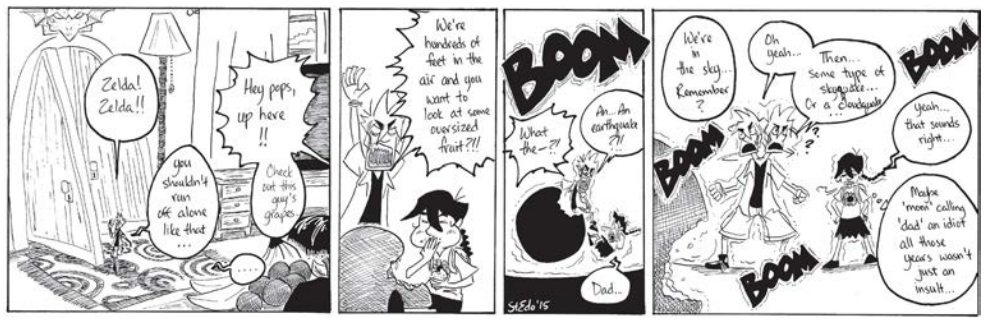
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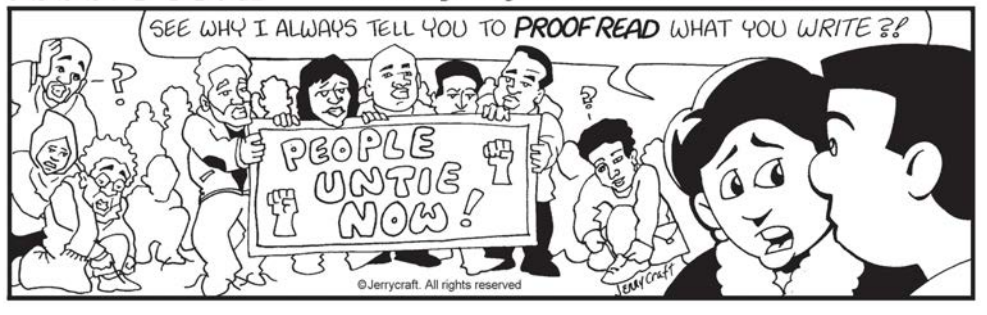


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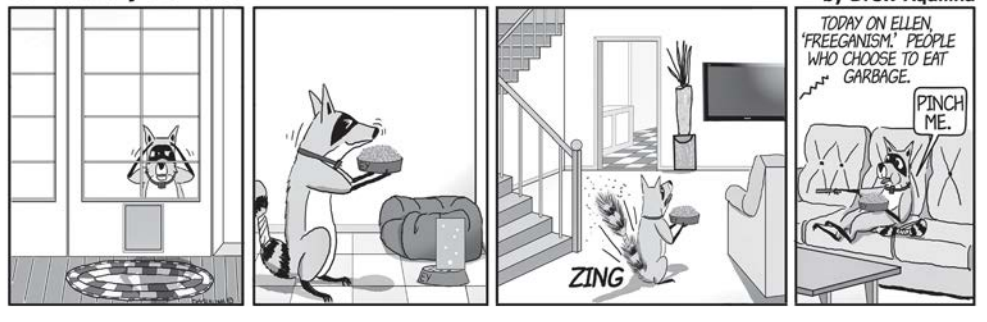
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PETS OF THE WEEK

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

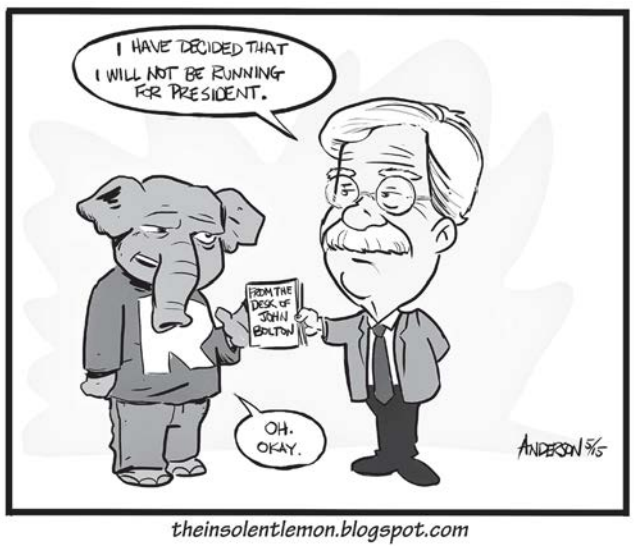
Both of these dogs have an adoption fee of $90 that will include their general exam at the Vet, vaccines, wormer, rabies shot, microchip, spay/neuter, and free 45 days of pet health insurance. Pet Depot will give you a bag of food (you pay taxes) as their way of supporting adoption.

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.

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OPINION

THE WAY FORWARD FOR CONGRESS

Lee H. Hamilton
Contributor

There have been encouraging signs on Capitol Hill of late that Congress's long slide into irrelevance may be slowing.

Agreements on Medicare reimbursements and on Iran, No Child Left Behind, Pacific trade and other issues in various committees led last month to a chorus of relieved approval both in Washington and in the press. Just as important, the amendment process — at least in the Senate — is once again functioning as it's supposed to.

But let's not go overboard. Major challenges lie immediately ahead, chief among them how Congress handles the budget. If Congress finds that it likes feeling productive, then I've got some suggestions for turning these first, tentative steps into full-blown progress.

First, it needs to remember that our founders placed Congress first in the constitutional firmament. It has been far too timid.

As has been noted, "Congress today is a reactive body, taking its cues from the President: sometimes in deference to him, sometimes in opposition to him, occasionally in agreement with him — but always in reference to him." That's not the definition of a co-equal branch of government.

Second, Congress needs to return to good process. This is not a panacea, but it enhances the prospect of getting things right. Returning in both houses to the so-called "regular order" of committee hearings and amendments would do wonders for restoring transparency, encouraging fact-finding, hearing all sides, weighing options, and finding agreement.

Third, members need to understand that their conduct has a direct impact on Americans' trust in Congress. Too many have a constricted view of what it means to serve.

They understand their responsibility to represent their constituents, but apparently feel little or no responsibility to get legislation enacted into law or to make the country work. This approach fails the ultimate test of the legislative process, which is to find remedies to the nation's challenges.

Finally, Congress should heed the lesson of these past few months and re-energize its commitment to negotiation and compromise.

There's room in politics for elected leaders who do not back down on their principles, but these politicians can't be allowed to dominate the process. If they do, the legislative process deadlocks and representative government becomes impossible. Skillful legislators know how to honor their firmly held principles while still finding common ground.

The progress we've seen of late on Capitol Hill is proof that these legislators exist. May their ranks increase.

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

NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROTESTERS' SABOTAGE CONVICTION OVERTURNED: COURT SAYS JURY VERDICT WAS NOT RATIONAL

John LaForge
PeaceVoice

An Appeals Court has vacated the sabotage convictions of peace activists Greg-Boertje-Obed, of Duluth, Min., and his co-defendants Michael Walli of Washington, DC, and Sr. Megan Rice of New York City. The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals found that federal prosecutors failed to prove -- and that "no rational jury could find" -- that the three had intended to damage "national defense."

In July 2012, Greg, Michael and Megan clipped through four fences and walked right up to the "Fort Knox" of weapons-grade uranium, the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility inside the Y-12 complex in Oak Ridge, Tenn. Uranium processed there puts the "H" in our H-bombs. With three hours before they were spotted, the nuclear weapons abolitionists painted "Woe to an Empire of Blood" and other slogans on several structures, strung banners, and celebrated their luck in catching the nuclear weapons system asleep at the wheel. When a guard finally confronted them, they offered him some bread.

They were convicted in May 2013 of damage to property and sabotage and have been imprisoned since then. Boertji-Obed, 59, and Walli, 66, were both sentenced to 62 months on each conviction, to run concurrently; and Sr. Megan, who is 82, was given 35 months on each count, also running concurrently.

Questions about the legal status of nuclear weapons were not on appeal, but rather the issue of whether the Sabotage Act applies to peace protesters who do no damage to weapons. During the appeal's oral argument, the prosecutor insisted that the three senior citizens had "interfered with defense." Circuit Judge Raymond Kethledge asked pointedly, "With a loaf of bread?"

The Court's written opinion, also by Judge Kethledge, ridiculed the idea of depicting peaceful protesters as saboteurs, saying. "It is not enough for the government to speak in terms of cut fences..." The government must prove that the defendant's actions were "consciously meant or practically certain to" interfere with "the nation's capacity to wage war or defend against attack." Greg, Megan and Michael, the court said, "did nothing of the sort," thus, "the government did not prove the defendants guilty of sabotage." The opinion went so far as to say, "No rational jury could find that the defendants had that intent when they cut the fences." The point is shockingly uncharacteristic in its direct implication of prosecutorial overreach and manipulation of the jury.

Another reason the Appeals Court vacated the sabotage conviction was that the Supreme Court's legal definition of "national defense" is unclear and imprecise, "a generic concept of broad connotations..." The Court said it needed "a more concrete" definition because, "vague platitudes about a facility's 'crucial role in national defense' are not enough to convict a defendant of sabotage. And that is all the government offers here." The definition was so general and vague, the Court said, that it barely applies to the Sabotage Act, since, "It is hard to determine what amounts to 'interference with' a 'generic concept'."

Re-sentencing may result in "time served" and release

The Court took the additional and unusual step of voiding the prison sentences for both the sabotage and the damage-to-property convictions, even though the lesser conviction still stands. This was because the harsh prison terms given for property damage were heavily weighted in view of the (ill-gotten) sabotage conviction. The result is that the three radical pacifists will be re-sentenced and may be released. As the Appeals Court said: "It appears that the [sentencing] ... for their [damage to property] conviction will be substantially less than their time already served in federal custody."

If the federal prosecutor does not challenge the reversal of his overzealousness, and another superior court doesn't reverse the 6th Circuit's decision, the three could be freed in July or sooner.

The high-profile nature of uranium enrichment at Oak Ridge, and the vulnerability of the site to senior citizens, brought enormous media attention to the case, which has been featured in lengthy investigations by the Washington Post, The New Yorker and others. The action, known as "Transformation Now Plowshares," also helped uncover scandalous misconduct and malfeasance among security contractors at Y-12/Oak Ridge complex. Arguably and ironically, these pacifists almost certainly thus strengthened the defense of the country.

What remains unscathed is the White House's plan to spend $1 trillion on new weapons production facilities over the next 30 years -- $35 billion a year for three decades. The role of the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility in this Bomb production -- a clear violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty — was named with blood by the Plowshares action, but H-bomb business marches on. Protesters will converge on the site again Aug. 6.

For more on Y-12 and the weapons build-up, see the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, OREPA.org.

John LaForge works for Nukewatch, a nuclear watchdog group in Wisconsin, edits its Quarterly newsletter, and is syndicated through PeaceVoice.

GOAT ISLAND BREWING: THE BEER NEXT DOOR

CULLMAN'S FIRST PRODUCTION BREWERY SERVES UP SEVEN CRAFT BEERS

Natalie Bonner
natalie@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Watch out, Back Forty Beer Co. and Good People Brewing Co., there's a new brew in town. Cullman is getting its first production brewery. Mike Mullaney, John Dean, Brad Glenn and Gery Teichmiller are the masterminds behind the new idea that has been in the works for a while. With the updated alcohol ordinance the City of Cullman just approved, breweries will now be allowed within the city limits, and Goat Island Brewing couldn't be any more excited to set up shop in Cullman.

The four friends helped to found the Cullman Brewers Guild a few years back based on their mutual interest and desire for craft beers, recipes and brewfests. And from there, the love and excitement for beer expanded into the idea of running a local brewery.

"We hope to become a regional brewery. Of course, you have to start small and grow. Hopefully our plan will fall together," said Gery Teichmiller, who has been brewing wine since he was old enough to walk.

At the moment, Goat Island Brewing crafts seven different beers. The talented group of guys believe it is great for people to expose themselves to different beers. Whether a German lager, American pale ale, IPA, porter, or stout, the group believes they all have a place.

"It's just according to what mood you're in. It's like asking what kid you like the best. It's hard!" joked Teichmiller about the various brews available.

This brew team knew exactly what they wanted with their new endeavor. Since Mullaney and Teichmiller have been homebrewers for years, they knew they wanted to eventually do their brewing on a larger scale.

"We want to be in all the restaurants and pubs in Cullman. We make a wide variety of beers, from Belgian, German, English and American ales to lagers," said Mike Mullaney with a smile.

With just over 500 likes on Facebook, Goat Island Brewing is gaining in popularity and recognition for their delicious brews and quality of craftsmanship. Having gotten their start through the Cullman Brewers Guild and the Blue Moose Café & Pub where they were known as the brew crew, the fan base is evident and growing.

"The support from Blue Moose has rendered us a reputation. We knew we had something good. The community supported us, too," said John Dean.



CONTRIBUTED

Brad Glenn, Mike Mullaney, Gery Teichmiller and John Dean stand before their Goat Island Brewing banner.

And their reputation is certainly one of the highest caliber due to their diligence in perfecting each recipe.

"Every time we would go to a brewfest, nothing was as good as what Gery and Mike made. Compare the quality of what Mike and Gery can do compared to what's on the market, we knew we had something good," said Brad Glenn.

The brewery's name was chosen after the group would come up with several different ideas and then would discover the names they liked were already taken.

They had to think long and hard about something that was unique but fitting for this group of outdoorsy men who all grew up fishing and swimming. The name would surprise even them with its appropriateness and Cullman feel.

"We wanted something that came from who we are. We wanted to brand this after Cullman, something we all know and have in common," said Glenn.

"Our slogan, 'Life's too short to drink baaaad beer' was something Mike came up with," said Dean with a grin. The clever slogan, delicious craft beer and community support have garnered a fan base that is becoming omnipresent with the increase of T-shirts being worn and local restaurants and pubs around town carrying their brews.

For the latest information on Goat Island Brewing, like their Facebook page at Facebook.com/pages/Goat-Island-Brewing/470122419790560.

Lovelocks (from Front)

man.

"I like to come up here and count how many [locks there are]," said Douglas.

"We were one of the first people who did it. There was only like four or five, then we put one up here... then there were 12, then 19, then 20, then 25, and now there's 30 something. It's just really cool to see all of them fill up."

The locks on Cullman's bridge have been a fast growing trend. Jessie and Stetson placed their lock on the structure on June 1, 2014; today 31 locks hang on the bridge overlooking the train tracks.

While many will recognize this tradition from the well known Pont des Arts bridge in Paris, the lovelock phenomenon is actually a relatively recent occurrence and has been appearing worldwide only since the mid 2000s.

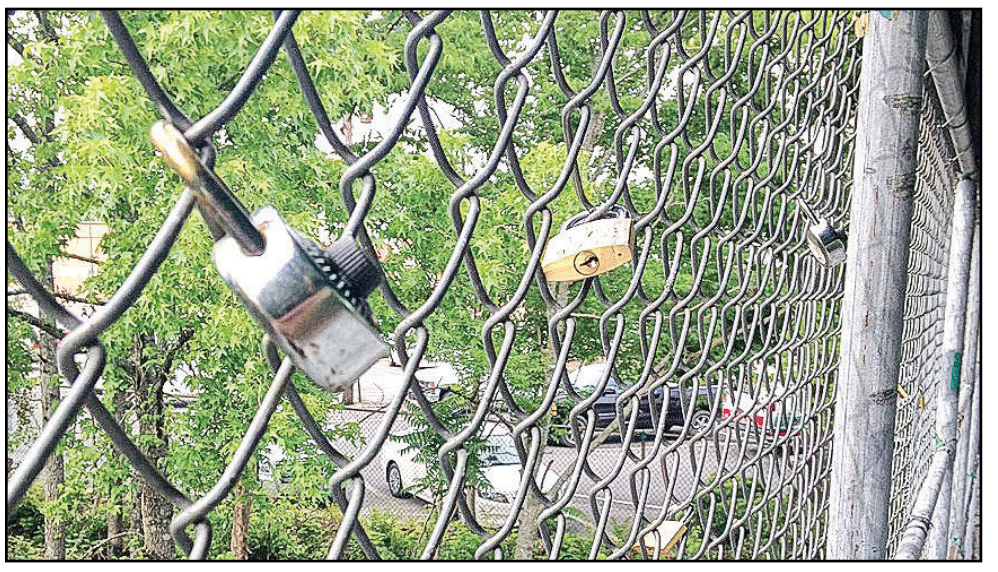
In some places where the lock count reached well into the 5,000 range, the added weight to bridges became a cause for concern.

This issue has sometimes been resolved by officials building separate art fixtures on the bridges for the sole purpose of accommodating the locks and keeping the tradition alive.

"That's cheating," laughed Douglas as she pointed to a combination lock.

"You can remember a combination!" Once the lock has been affixed to the bridge, couples are expected to throw the key down below where the train tracks sit to ensure that the lock cannot be removed.

Cullman's small-scale version of this global phenomenon adds uniqueness and personality to what would otherwise be just an average, everyday bridge.



MARY STANDIFER/CULLMANSENSE

Today 31 locks are attached to the pedestrian bridge.

Classes (from Front)

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – On Saturday, May 30 and Saturday, June 6, the Hanceville Police Department will hold their fourth annual Ladies Firearms Class. At 7:30 a.m. the doors to the Hanceville City Hall will open and on-site registration will begin. The classes themselves will start up at 8 a.m. and will go until 12 p.m.

There will be two hours of the participants being in a classroom-type setting, and two hours of firing.

The classes are meant to teach basic safety. According to Hanceville Police Chief Bob Long, "Women need to know how to defend themselves," and he hopes that these classes help women to do just that.

The idea for the classes came about four years ago when the Hanceville firing range was in construction. Since the classes started, 149 people have gone through the course.

Along with being the Police Chief, Bob Long is a firearms instructor and leads the classes.

Women who would like to attend the classes can and sign up on the day of the class, or e-mail Hanceville251@yahoo.com to register beforehand.

The necessary accouterments for attending the class are a weapon, 50 rounds of ammunition and a holster.

For those that don't already own these items, they are are available for purchase from Hanceville Guns and Ammo which is across the street from Hanceville City Hall.

Perhaps the best part about the class is that it is free of charge. The City of Hanceville allots a certain amount of money to the program to make it possible.

There will be refreshments provided at the event as well. The classes are the same on both days, so if someone attends one weekend and not the next, they will still be up to date.