SERIES 5 • ISSUE 22 • JUNE 1, 2015
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS


NOAH CHANDLER/CULLMANSENSE

COMMUNITY LINES UP FOR CWAC'S NEW WATERSLIDE P12

BIKERS AGAINST CANCER: CULLMAN COUNTY BOSOM BUDDIES SET TO RIDE ON SATURDAY

Mary Standifer
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CULLMAN – Saturday, June 6, will mark the 3rd Annual Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation Charity Motorcycle Ride. The cost is $20 per rider and $5 per passenger with registration running from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided to participants.

Participants will start at the Cullman County Fairgrounds and proceed on a scenic route that will take them through the backroads of Vinemont, Lacon, Morgan County and Cullman. An escort of police and the Blue Knights Alabama VIII will lead the ride.

The Cullman County Bosom Buddies Helping Hand Foundation began in 2013. Because the organization consists of only volunteers, 100 percent of the money that is raised or donated goes directly to assisting cancer patients within the area.

Each candidate must go through a thorough application process to prove a need for assistance.

Once determined to be a suitable candidate, the organization may help the patient in a variety of ways.

This can include gas cards to assist the patient in getting to treatment centers, rent, utility bills, and even propane to keep a patient's home warm during the winter season.

The first annual motorcycle ride consisted of 123 participants. Last year's event garnered an impressive 200 participants. This year's expected turnout is projected to be 250.

To learn more about the event, contact Mary Dyer at 256-734-8729.


SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

WALLACE STATE HOSTS 17TH ANNUAL HANCEVILLE ANTIQUE TRACTOR & ENGINE SHOW P6

'FAST TRACK FOR INDUSTRY' GIVES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CAREER JUMPSTART P2

CITIZEN OF THE WEEK

KELLEY BURGESS

DESPITE CRIPPLING INJURIES LOCAL BODY BUILDER ACHIEVES HIGH ACCOLADES


KELLEY BURGESS

Burgess hasn't let her 'chicken leg' stop her from reaching her dreams.


KELLEY BURGESS

Burgess is a two-time State Champion in Masters Bikini.

P6

CULLMAN TRACTOR SUPPLY HOSTS PET ADOPTION EVENT

P4


SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Lots of friendly dogs were available for adoption at Saturday's event.


STEVE BRITT

RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT

STEVE BRITT, PASTOR OF NORTHBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH P4

RUSSELL MARINE MAKES A SPLASH: STATE'S LARGEST BOAT DEALER COMES TO DODGE CITY P7

LOCAL BUSINESSES OFFER SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDENTS

Hannah Ward
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CULLMAN – The school year has come to a close and summer has arrived, and high school students everywhere are looking for something to do with their time. Although they would most likely love to lie by the pool all summer, most parents of teenagers would rather they get a job. A summer job not only gives teenagers something constructive to do, but also gives them a chance to get their feet wet in the job market; teaching them essential lessons that will later be invaluable job experience and look great on a resume. Ranging from fast food restaurants to grocery stores, there are a wide variety of jobs to fill. Here are some job opportunities for high school age teens living in the Cullman area.

Chik-fil-A is accepting applications and does hire several high school students. Personnel Director Breana Posey stated, "People are attracted to Chik-fil-A because we promote leadership and create a fun and positive environment. Our team at Chik-fil-A cares for the people that they serve and that is what attracts people to a job here."

Carmike 10 Movie Theater in Cullman and Domino's in Hanceville offers jobs to high school students. These are both great places for a first job. CVS, Dairy Queen and Sweet Peppers Deli are also currently accepting applications.

Arby's in Cullman located on Cherokee Avenue is also hiring high school age students. Assistant Manager Brittney Cosper stated, "We really are a great place to work for."

P10

CPD WEIGHS IN ON LOVELOCKS



MARY STANDIFER/CULLMANSENSE

Forty locks currently reside on the pedestrian bridge.

P9

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

BREMEN MAN CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER; VICTIM IN STABLE CONDITION

Noah Chandler
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BREMEN – Just before noon Sunday the Cullman County Sheriff's Office responded to a shooting call near 417 Co Rd 109 in Bremen. Sheriff's deputies began an active search for the alleged shooter, 70 year old Jack Wilson, who was to be driving a white 1999 Chevrolet S-10.

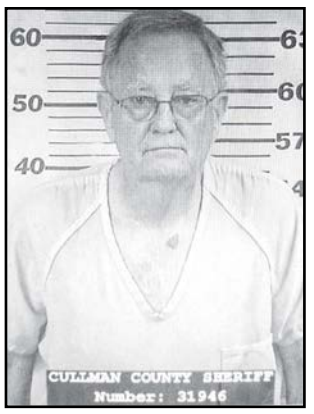
According to Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry, deputies and investigators began the search and within a few hours Mr. Wilson was apprehended.

"I just want to thank the hard work of the deputies, investigators and the citizens that assisted in the arrest of Mr. Wilson," said Sheriff Gentry.

Sheriff Gentry said the victim, Johnny Bentley, 38, is a neighbor of Wilson. He said investigators are continuing to look into the cause of the shooting.

Bentley's condition was last updated from serious to stable shortly after 6 p.m. on Sunday. Sheriff Gentry said Jack Wilson has been charged with attempted murder – 1st and unlawful possession of marijuana – 1st degree and he is currently being held at the Cullman County Detention Center with no bond.

Visit CullmanSense.com for updates.



CCSO

Jack Wilson

TEN NON-COMPLIANT SEX OFFENDERS ARRESTED DURING COMPLIANCE CHECKS

Bradley Williams
Cullman County Sheriff's Office

CULLMAN – The Cullman County Sheriff's Office made the arrests of the ten non-compliant sex offenders while conducting compliance checks on the 225 registered sex offenders located in Cullman County from February 1st, 2015 through May 27th, 2015.

Also, during that same period of time sheriff deputies have completed a total of 715 compliance checks on the 225 registered sex offenders. This means some sex offenders have had multiple compliance checks from deputies.

Contrast this to only 277 compliance checks completed during the same period in 2014 and prior to Sheriff Matt Gentry taking office.

"I am proud that in my first 100 Days here at the Sheriff's Office I can say I have fulfilled one of the promises I made to the people of Cullman County which was to hold sex offenders accountable. Any sex offender who does not follow the law and register will be arrested", said Sheriff Matt Gentry.

Those arrested were:

- Edward Dean Thornton: Prohibited Residence
- Paul Steven Meyer: Prohibited Residence, Fail to Complete Quarterly Verification
- Christopher Peyton Welch: Fail to Register Upon Release, Fail to Complete Quarterly Verification
- John Ludwig Lenz: Fail to Terminate Employment
- Clinton Alem Weaver: Fail to Register Upon Release
- Kevin Lee Laningham: Fail to Terminate Employment, Fail to Terminate Residence, Prohibited Residence/Living with a minor, Fail to Report Establishment of Residence, Prohibited Residence/ 2000 FT
- Gary Lynn Smith: Fail to Register Upon Release, Fail to Complete Quarterly Verification
- Wendell Daugherty: Fail to Register Upon Entering State, Fail to Register Residence
- Jason Wayne Chambers: Fail to Register Change of Residence
- Kelly Wesley Gilliland: Fail to Register Established Residence

'FAST TRACK FOR INDUSTRY' GIVES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CAREER JUMPSTART

Hannah Ward
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CULLMAN – The Cullman County School Board is now offering a program to Cullman County schools, which will give high school students the opportunity of a lifetime. The program is called Fast Track for Industry and will allow students the opportunity to complete high school with not only their high school diploma, but also a two-year degree in an industrial field. This program will either be a major jump start to someone's career or the higher education he or she may not have otherwise been able to receive.

Thanks to Dr. Vicki Karolewics, president of Wallace State Community College, the Fast Track for Industry's campus will be located at Wallace State in Hanceville.

Dan Sheets, director of communication for Cullman County Schools stated, "Dr. Karolewics is a big advocate of Cullman County schools so when she was approached with the idea by Superintendent Dr. Craig Ross, she was more than willing to engage in a partnership."

Sheets explained the mechanics of the program, "Fast Track for Industry is something that dovetails into our career development center and it is now a part of Wallace State Community College. What happens is conceivably a student in the 9th or 10th grade could start in our Fast Track for Industry program and graduate high school with a two-year industrial degree from Wallace State."

"When we first launched this, we didn't really know what to expect in relation to how many would be interested in getting involved, but it has met our expectations. Currently we have around a 130 students enrolled in this program for next year and the enrollment period is now closed," he said.

In the beginning, the Fast Track for Industry Program was just a glimmer of an idea in Superintendent Dr. Craig Ross' mind; today it is a reality.

This upcoming school year will be the inaugural year for the program.

The students will be taught in fields pertaining to technical, mechanical and automotive. REHAU has also gotten involved in helping Cullman youth.

They have selected eight individual students from the Fast Track for Industry program to work in an apprenticeship program for their company.

The cost of the program is also a key attraction in that there is no expense to the student for the program.

For students who are unable to afford college, this means they can now acquire a degree and attain a successful job.

For instance, the students who are selected for the apprenticeship at REHAU Industries and are successful will likely have secured a job there once they complete the program.

"This program is very important, not only for Cullman County schools, but for Cullman County. Especially if you look at the rate of unemployment and poverty level in Cullman County. This is a great opportunity for these kids who want to be skilled workers, who have that propensity to be in some sort of a technical, tapped welding field of some sort," Sheets pointed out the purpose of the program.

"It is not only for Cullman students, this program is for the Cullman community. By investing in today's youth, we are building on tomorrow's future. Hopefully we shall soon see the fruits of this program shooting up in every part of the county, lowering unemployment rates, the poverty level and creating a more stable economy."

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105 MICHELLE STREET, HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA

HANCEVILLE HOLDS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Hannah Ward
ward@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – A regular Hanceville City Council meeting was held Thursday, May 29 in the Hanceville City Hall at 7 p.m. The meeting began with prayer, the pledge of allegiance, and roll call. No one came forward to add anything to the agenda and nothing was changed about the agenda. The May 15 Council meeting minutes were approved.

A video was shown viewing Hanceville Police body and car cameras. Bob Long, Hanceville Chief of Police, presented the request for the purchase of two car cameras. The purchase was granted under the condition the price of each camera would be under $4,200 per camera. They will come from money set aside in the budget.

A request came from Sandy Waters for the use of a room for the Knapsacks for Kids program they are trying to bring to Hanceville School. She also asked permission for the use of a room to hold a Knapsacks for Kids meeting June 9 at 9 a.m. The council granted both requests.

Mayor Kenneth Nail discussed something they bid on. It had extended the base bid they had originally decided on though and had to wait to continue with it.

He talked to DOT and Johnny Harris, the engineer. The road owned by Mr. Chandler was discussed. Nothing was settled.

They discussed the issue of animal control, but did not come up with any ideas on fixing the problem of odor and strays.

The police chief announced there will be a third Ladies Firearm class due to the amount of women registered.

A total of 90 women registered, with 13 on the waiting list.

The Fire Department is finishing up the four-month long 160 class.

There will be a graduation for the 20 hard working participants.

Jeffery A. Pruitt, executive directive of North Alabama Regional Council of Government, notified the council of two meetings coming up in Cullman County. The first is on June 4 at the Agriplex and will address transportation issues.

The second is June 6 concerning commercial bankers.

Jeffery Pruitt explained what NARCOG is, "On one side there are services for the elderly and disabled and on the other side it is services we provide to the community, regional planning and economic development. The two things I would like to make you aware of is a new one, we call it the aging and disability resource center. For instance, do you know someone or have a relative who is elderly that needs help, but you don't know what they need. Call us and we have people on staff who are trained to help you, whether we provide the services or we direct you to someone that does. The second thing is the business lending program."

HOSPITAL VISITS FOR SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID USE IN ALA. CONTINUE TO DECLINE

Jim McVay, Dr.P.A.,
Contributed

MONTGOMERY – Despite increased awareness of the dangers of synthetic cannabinoids known as spice, these substances are still being ingested or smoked in Alabama. These dangerous substances are being used alone or in combination with other drugs.

A total of 1,019 patients suspected of using spice have been seen in Alabama hospitals between March 17 and May 18, and there have been at least 246 patients hospitalized and five deaths in the past three months. While the total numbers seen at Alabama hospitals during the week of May 12-18 is an increase of 55 from the numbers announced last week, the totals from several hospitals not reporting last week are included in the most current count.

"We are hopeful that this downward trend will continue," Assistant State Health Officer Dr. Mary McIntyre said. "With the approaching holiday, please remember that these products are both illegal and unsafe. Do not use them." In two weeks during April, April 7-13 and April 21-27, more than 300 probable spice users had been seen at Alabama hospitals. Dr. McIntyre cautioned that people under the influence of synthetic cannabinoids may exhibit bizarre and violent behavior that can endanger not only themselves but others around them.

Symptoms of spice use include the following:

- Severe agitation, hyperactivity and anxiety
- Racing heartbeat and elevated blood pressure
- Muscle spasms, seizures and tremors
- Intense hallucinations and psychotic episodes
- Coma

Users of synthetic marijuana can experience these symptoms or others, with varying intensity. Because there is no control of the types or amount of chemicals contained, users have no way of knowing what they are ingesting. Analyses conducted in other states have shown not only the presence of synthetic cannabinoids but other chemicals including amphetamines and methamphetamine, cocaine, and Lovamisole (an animal dewormer), creating a toxic combination.

The designer drug substances consist of dried plant material sprayed with synthetic cannabinoids and various mixtures of other unknown chemicals including pesticides and rat poison. The chemical compounds reportedly stimulate the same brain areas affected by marijuana, and they have a high potential for abuse. Users may opt for these marijuana alternatives because they mistakenly believe the substances are safe.

THE DANGERS OF LEAVING A CHILD OR PET UNATTENDED IN A HOT CAR

Hannah Ward
ward@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – As the summer months start rolling around and the weather starts heating up, everyone is thinking about getting a nice tan. What most people do not think about is the dangers of the heat. Generally you can keep cool outside by staying hydrated and in the shade, but one place that is hard to keep cool is the inside of a vehicle. It can be 60 degrees outside and feel like an oven inside a car. Even cracking windows does not help very much.

Kenny Culpepper, chief of police at the Cullman Police Department stated, "People don't realize how quickly it can happen because they think it's not that hot out there. Well it's the greenhouse effect; the sun's coming through the windows and it can heat up 30 to 40 degrees in an hour." Reaching temperature levels too hot for an adult, these can be even more critical to a child. A small child or pet left alone cannot do anything to get out when they are locked inside a vehicle.

It is up to a parent or guardian of the child to ensure he or she is kept cool. Sadly, people imagine leaving your child sitting in the car cannot possibly hurt them, but what they do not realize is the rate a car can heat up and the effects heat can have on a child and/or pet. Children heat up faster than adults, and they do not sweat as much as an adult. This means they have a low heat tolerance. "Even though we think I'm going in for just a minute, you run into someone you know and start talking. Or if something happens to you, no one knows the child is in the car. A minute can turn into 10 minutes," stated Chief Culpepper.

We have all heard the stories, a parent forgets their child is in the car and the child ends up dying or becoming very sick.

The police then have to investigate and see if it was intentional or accidental. Sometimes it is intentional, but most of the time these are just busy parents.

Like most people do, they lead busy lives with schedules that help keep them in order so they hopefully do not forget anything; things like dropping your child off at daycare before work, or retrieving your child from the backseat when you return home after a long day. Good parents forget and even though they are accidents, a small child or pet has to pay the price.

The frequency of these accidents is heartbreaking. A couple dozen children died due to vehicular heat strokes in 2014.

Here are a couple of tips to ensure your beloved little boy/girl or pet is never left inside a hot vehicle. One option is leaving a stuffed animal in the car seat whenever your child is not occupying it, and when they are occupying the car seat, put the animal in the front where you can see it. This is a great reminder to get your child out of the car. Also, practice checking the backseat every time you get out of the car and making this a habit will help prevent any accidents.

Another helpful reminder is placing something you will need in the backseat, for instance, your purse, phone, brief case, etc.

Whether a parent, guardian, sibling or babysitter, almost everyone has a child or pet in his or her life.

Make others aware of the importance of never leaving a child in the car unattended for even a minute. If you ever see a child in a car alone, take action and call 911. Babies and pets are worth whatever hassle it takes to protect them as they don't have the ability to vocalize their needs.

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RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT: STEVE BRITT, PASTOR OF NORTHBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Northbrook Baptist Church is a beautiful place to attend church. The exquisite atmosphere is like a breath of fresh air to everyone who passes by, and part of this atmosphere is Pastor Steve Britt. Pastor Steve and his family have been major a part of the Northbrook community for many years. As pastor, Steve has played a very important role in the lives of his congregation. As a result, many people have grown to know, love and serve God through his guidance.

Pastor Steve and his lovely wife Tana have been happily married for thirty-two years. Together they have two daughters, Emily Powers married to Preston, and Stephanie Datnoff married to Jake, who both live in the Birmingham area.

"I trusted Christ to be my personal Savior at the age of six," he said in speaking of his call to the pastoral life.

"I sensed that God was inviting me to serve Him with my life at the age of nine. And I began pursuing that sense of call when I was 21."

Pastor Steve took God's call quite seriously and before long, he had finished his undergraduate studies at Southeastern Bible College, Samford University in Birmingham and his graduate studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Like many others, I worked a variety of jobs throughout my education years," he said warmly.

"I served as a pastoral intern for two years at First Baptist Montgomery before our family moved to Cullman in May 1994. I have had the privilege of serving as pastor of the Northbrook family since then," he grinned and continued, "I currently get to teach God's amazing life-changing truth at Northbrook, which is the only church I've ever had the privilege to pastor."



STEVE BRITT

Pastor Steve truly loves his Northbrook Baptist Church family.

Pastor Steve loves his church, and that love really shows as he speaks about his wonderful flock. God has certainly called the right man to fulfill His work at Northbrook.

"My biggest challenge as leader of the church is to understand why God would allow someone like me to know and serve someone like Him," he shrugged, "and also wanting every member of the Northbrook family to know how much I love and appreciate them."

"The most rewarding moments as a leader of the church," he added, "is when someone personally experiences God's saving grace and forgiveness and then seeing that same person continue the lifelong journey of spiritually growing as a disciple of Christ," he beamed.

Northbrook's mission is, "Introducing others to the love and lifestyle of Jesus Christ", but exactly what does that mean?

"It means we are ordinary people who share a common need for God's extraordinary love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness," he explained.

"And we want everyone to experience this hope. We put a lot of emphasis on and energies into encouraging and equipping families because we believe in the value of investing Christ into tomorrow's generation," he continued.

Steve Britt is a godly man. He has made it his life's mission to spread the word of God to the many fine folks at Northbrook Baptist Church.

Northbrook Baptist Church is located at 3691 AL Highway 157, Cullman, Alabama 35058.

For more information, call 256-734-6401 or e-mail questions@northbrookbc.com. Visit their website at northbrookbc.com and follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/northbrookbc.

"My biggest challenge as leader of the church is to understand why God would allow someone like me to know and serve someone like Him."

Steve Britt, Pastor at Northbrook Baptist Church

Adoption (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Saturday, Tractor Supply Company hosted a pet adoption event to encourage adoptions and support local animal groups. The event was part of Purina Days, which lasts from Wednesday, May 27 to the last day in May.

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 had free adoption kits on hand throughout Purina Days for the first 10 customers who adopted a pet or animal from a local shelter or rescue.

During the event, the store hosted the Cullman Area Animal Welfare Association (CAAWA) who was onsite offering pet adoptions and advice on animal care.

"CAAWA is a very small organization, so we need volunteers, foster homes – desperately need foster homes so we can save more animals," explained Sue Jones, CAAWA volunteer.

"We also need donations to help pay the vet bills. We just do the best we can with what we have to change things for the better for the animals in Cullman County."

"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 details about Purina Days.

For more information and tips on raising pets and other animals, visit TractorSupply.com/KnowHow.

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, donate or adopt a pet through CAAWA, contact them by calling 256-636-4627 or e-mail them at caawarescue@yahoo.com.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.

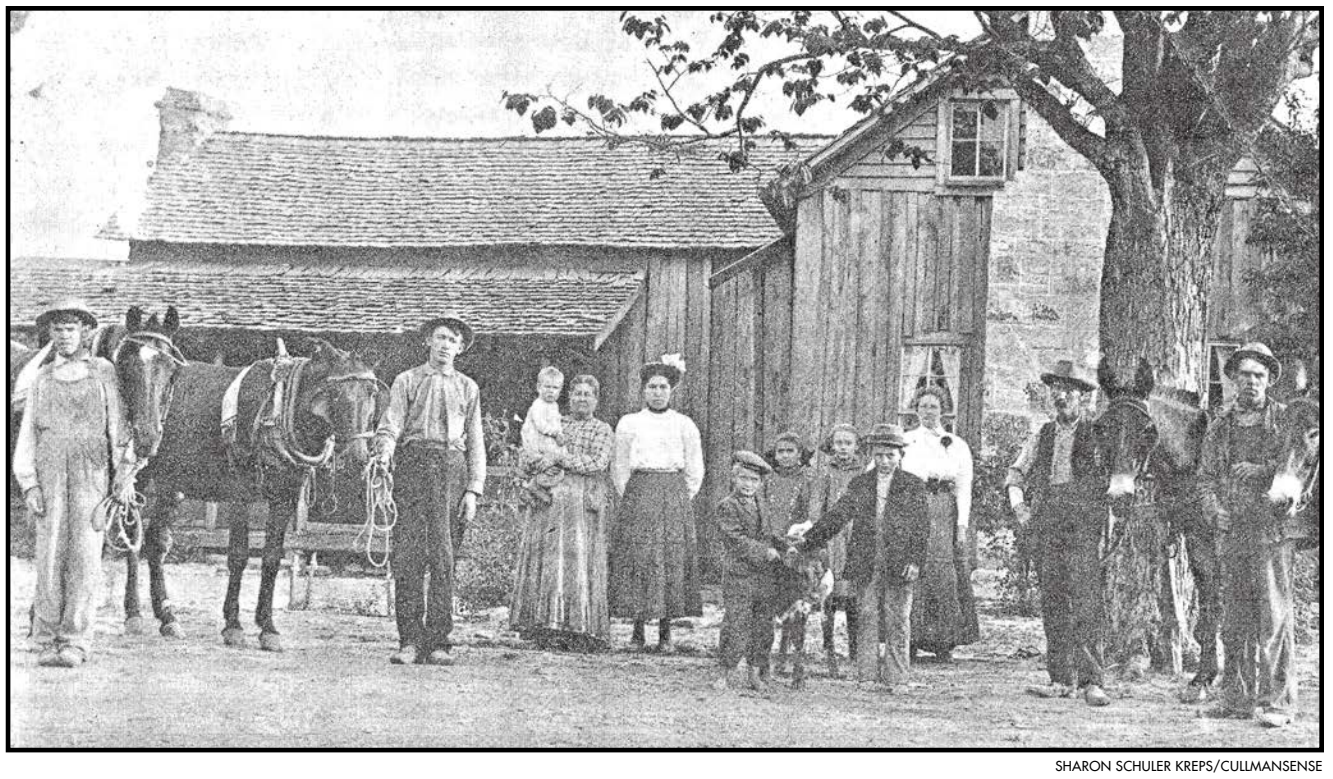
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SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Thomas Jefferson Yeager moved his family all over the country.

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Thomas Jefferson Yeager loved adventure. As a matter of fact, he never stayed in one place for very long. During the late 1880s and into the early 1900s, he was known to move from state to state fairly regularly. He and his wife Mary "Hollie" (Willoughby) would gather up their belongings, load up the family and head for parts unknown.

Originally from Georgia, the Yeager gang travelled by oxen wagon from Carroll County, Ga. to Wood County, Texas and then back to Carroll County before landing here in Cullman County around 1910.

While in Cullman County, Tom and his family had settled in the Fairview area. From here, they eventually settled for good in the hills of Tennessee.

Tom was an expert sorghum syrup man and he carried his syrup mill everywhere he went.

He was also very proud and ambitious, as one might imagine; his family consisted of 17 children, 14 living until adulthood. One could imagine the task of moving all those children in an ox-drawn wagon.

At the end of his life, he had descendents scattered throughout Texas, Alabama and Tennessee, all of them proud and ambitious just like Tom.

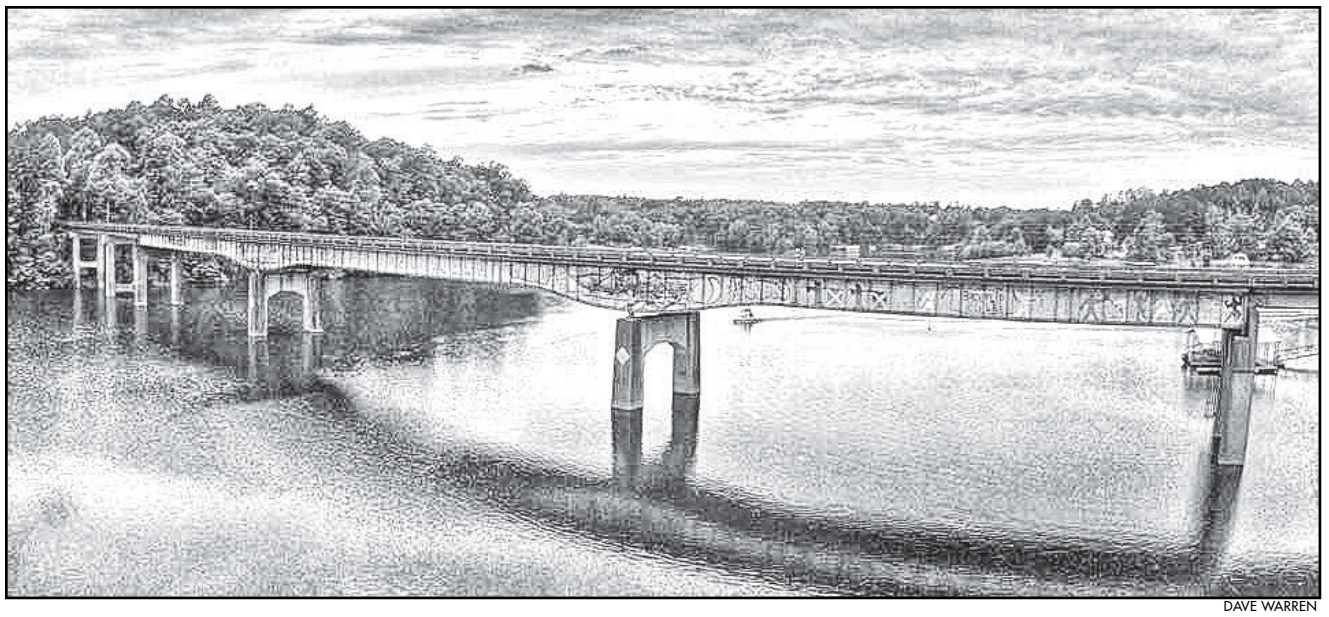
Mr. Yeager was a very prosperous farmer. He was also deeply religious and was even a sacred harp singer.

In his opinion, work was a virtue, and a slothful attitude was considered to be a sin.

He was the head of his household and was well known for his adventurous spirit.

Life was never dull on the Yeager trail. Tom was a typical pioneer and his spirit was common among early Cullman settlers.

MIRRORING HISTORY: BIG BRIDGE



DAVE WARREN

Some choose to jump from the top of the bridge.

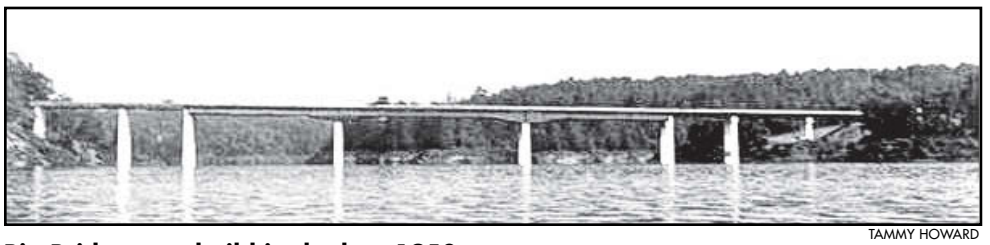
Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

BREMEN – Summertime is here and people will soon be headed to Smith Lake to enjoy all the fun there is to be had out on the water.

Big Bridge is known for giving excitement to the brave souls who jump into the water from its impressive height.

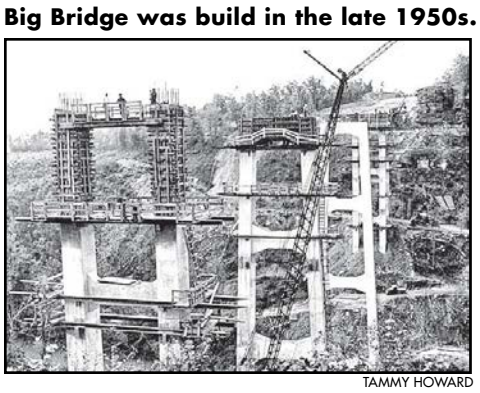
Many others will scoot along underneath the bridge in their boats, either fishing or pulling skis.

The bridge was built in the late 1950s and continues to be visited and talked about to this day.

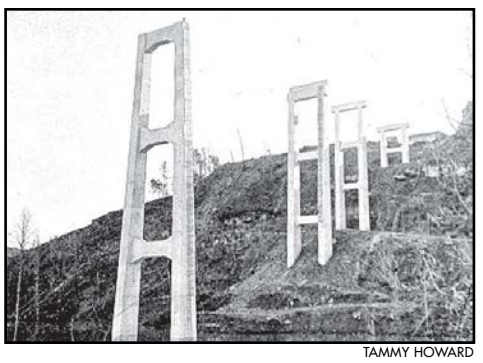


TAMMY HOWARD

Big Bridge was build in the late 1950s.



TAMMY HOWARD



TAMMY HOWARD

cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **NEW Waterslide Opening at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center** on Saturday, May 30. The new waterslide is over 40 feet tall with a 6 foot drop off into the competition pool going at speeds of close to 25 miles an hour. The slide is a new addition to our already existing waterpark featuring 2 other waterslides, a child's play feature, high and low diving boards, and a lazy river. Call 256-775-SWIM for additional info!
- **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.
- **USATF Summer Track & Field:** CP&R will host its annual USATF competitive track and field team starting with practices and meets in June. The team is open to ages 5-18 with practices on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday each week. Ages 13-18 will meet at 3:45pm and ages 12 & under will meet at 4:45pm. Call 256-734-9157 for info.
- **CP&R Arts Classes** will be offered for home-schoolers and pre-school age students in our Mommy & Me Class starting in June. Call 256-734-9157 for more information.
- **Archery Camp** will be held June 29-July 1 at the Cullman Archery Park. Registration is now open at the Cullman Civic Center; call 256-734-9157 for more information.
- **Speed & Agility Camp** will be held this summer for ages 6-14. Starts June 9; two week sessions are available for $60 or 6 weeks for $135. Camp will be taught by Steve Johnson. Call 256-734-9157 or come by the Cullman Civic Center to register.
- **Jr. Golf Clinics** are registering now at the Cullman Golf Course. Clinics will be held every Tuesday in June starting June 2. Cost is $60 for the 5 weeks and includes instruction from PGA Golf Pro Ches Harris. Call 256-739-2386 for details.
- **Cullman Gymnastics and Cheer** is registering now for summer classes in cheer, tumble, and gymnastics. Classes are filling up FAST, so stop by the gym to signup today. Summer classes start June 8. Call 256-739-5567 for more info.

WSCC HOSTS 17TH ANNUAL HANCEVILLE ANTIQUE TRACTOR & ENGINE SHOW

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – On Saturday, the 17th Annual Hanceville Antique Tractor & Engine Show was held at Wallace State Community College. There were plenty of antique tractors, lawnmowers, engines, vintage cars, trucks and peddle tractors – both restored and not. There was also an exciting Tractor Parade around the school campus.

There were Tractor Slow Races where a trophy was given to the tractor that crossed the finish line last without going dead. There was also a Skillet Throwing Contest for the ladies. Plaques were awarded to the person who threw the cast iron skillet the longest distance. There were different age categories for this one. There were hamburgers, hot dogs and homemade ice cream made by an engine-powered freezer for dessert.

The Antique Tractor Show originated with Mr. Jimmy Hamrick, a man who dearly loved restoring and collecting old tractors. He, along with a couple of friends, hosted the very first Antique Tractor Show 16 years ago.

Those first few shows went great. There were lots of participants who brought many various tractors to display. Sadly, Mr. Hamrick was killed in an accident in 2010 leaving the fate of the tractor show looming. Thankfully his daughter, Bonnie Brannon, chose to continue her father's legacy.

"We have folks who drive a good distance to this area to bring their tractors," said Bonnie Brannon, organizer. "A large number of the folks that bring their tractors are members of the Alabama Chapter 23 International Harvester Collectors Club. For the tractors that are registered for the races, they are given a 'goody' bag of information, tractor catalogs, pens, etc."



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

People came from faraway places to see all the antique tractors at Wallace on Saturday.

"We've had as many as 109 tractors at one time here in the past, when my dad was alive," Bonnie continued. "There are not quite as many tractors now since he's not here, but we continue to have a really good crowd."

Bonnie plans to have the tractor show next year and the years to follow. There is never an admission charge to get in. The show always falls on the second weekend in June, mainly to honor Mr. Hamrick and all the fathers out there who enjoy and appreciate the authentic pieces of history on display. Mark your calendars for next year's Antique Tractor Show. You are sure to have a great time.

Burgess (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Kelley Burgess has overcome some pretty hard times growing up. As a child, she suffered a horrific accident that has left her with issues that she's had to deal with her whole life. Amazingly, she has never let her childhood injury slow her down, and as a result, she has grown into an incredible force that's all her own.

"I burned my leg in a 3-wheeler accident when I was seven," she explained. "I flipped it and was trapped under it for over 30 minutes while the muffler and crank case burned through my right ankle, tendons and muscles. I had seven surgeries, in those I had my Latissimus Doris muscle from my back transplanted into my leg, I had multiple skin grafts and my ankle fused at 90 degrees. Doctors said I would never walk normal or wear heels and that I would have severe arthritis, boy, they were right about the arthritis," she grinned. I spent 33 days in Children's Hospital and came out with what I now call my 'chicken leg'," she smiled, showing off her small, scarred leg.

"This past September I had a complete ankle replacement, tendon transfer, and a rod put in my fibula due to my ankle turning over at a 45 degree lateral shift and the pain was getting unbearable," she continued. "We hoped this would give me more movement in this joint (it has a little) and help with the pain, however, I now have pain with every step and walk with a limp.

"Dr. Kirchner wants to do surgery again as soon as possible to fuse the foot in two spots and clean up scar tissue around the ankle and Achilles tendon. It will be another 6-8 weeks in a cast and 4 weeks flat off my back with my ankle propped above nose level and only get to get up to go to restroom and bathe," she paused then grinned, a twinkle in her eyes. "I will not let this stop me from attaining my dream of being an International Federation of Bodybuilders pro bodybuilder. Fear can stop you in your tracks, and I choose to not live in fear. My motto is 'unstoppable.'"

Unstoppable is an understatement. Kelley is married to the handsome Adam Burgess, also known as 'Mr. Plumber.' They have three children: 8-year-old Addyson and 4-year-old twins, Canaan and Lakyn. She is the owner of Team Kelley Fitness where she works as a personal trainer and body building coach. She is an avid National Physique Committee bikini competitor. Kelley has never been what you'd call, 'overweight', but after giving birth to her twins, she decided to make a few changes in her life.

"I got into bodybuilding because I was driving home one day and could feel my belly hanging over my pants and jiggling with every bump in the road," she said quite honestly. "I decided that on January 1 [of that year] I would start exercising and eating better. Next, I started exercising five days a week, eating clean, and hired a personal trainer. One month in, I realized how much better I felt and how much more energy I had."

During her time at the gym, Kelley met some bikini competitors and knew if they could do it, so could she.

She then chose to do the Alabama State Body Building Show where she won the Masters Bikini Class and from there she was hooked. She is now the two-time State Champ in Masters Bikini.

It wasn't long before she got her personal trainer certification and opened a gym at her home for personal training called Team Kelley Fitness. Now, she coaches people for competitions and helps them with their meal plans.

"I feel as though I am changing this world, one body at a time," she beamed. "The feeling I get when I see the excitement in my client's eyes when they are not only changing their body, but their entire life is more than addictive!"

"If you want to drop body fat, you must start with a clean meal plan. Worried about eating clean while eating out? No problem! Rumors Deli now has a TKF sandwich," Kelley giggled. "The owner, Annette Harris, came to me for meal guidance and together we came up with a clean sandwich. People think I starve myself but I eat six meals a day. It's way more food than I have ever eaten. Stick with it for the long haul. If you have a bad day, just get right back at it."

Kelley is an inspiration to everyone around her. Even though her 'chicken leg' has given her fits throughout her lifetime, she has never let it control her.

For more information about Team Kelley Fitness, find her on Facebook at Facebook.com/TeamKelleyFitness.



KELLEY BURGESS

Kelley smiles proudly as she displays her special TKF sandwich at Rumors Deli.



RUSSELL MARINE MAKES A SPLASH: STATE'S LARGEST BOAT DEALER COMES TO DODGE CITY

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

DODGE CITY – Russell Marine has celebrated more than 50 years of serving boaters on Lake Martin and now they have opened their newest dealership in Dodge City. On May 15 the business held its grand opening celebration.

"Russell Marine is Alabama's largest boat dealer carrying premier brands: Nautique, Hurricane, Sanpan, Aqua Patio, Sweetwater and Rinker boats," said Daniel Uline, manager.

"We also carry Hyperlite, Byerly, CWB wakeboards, HO, Connelly tubes, Yeti coolers, Sun Bum skin care products, stand up paddle boards and Chill Rafts."

"Our commitment to our customers has earned us many accolades," he continued.

"Not only are we Alabama's largest dealer, and one of the largest in the southeastern U.S., but Boating Industry magazine has selected us as one of the top dealers in North America – ranking Russell Marine in their Top 100 in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and now as #2 in 2014! Every year, more boating enthusiasts put their trust in Russell Marine."



IMAGES BY FACEBOOK.COM/CULLMANAREACHAMBER

Russell Marina opens their 5th location in Dodge City.

Russell Marine Smith Lake is Russell Marines fifth location.

They have four other marinas located at Lake Martin in Alexander City. They are The Ridge Marina, Kowaliga Marina, River North Marina, Real Island Marina, along with their Pre-Owned Boat Center.

"Here at Russell Marine Smith Lake, we offer boat sales, service, on water service, a parts department, and a fully stocked wakeboard proshop, with all the watersports toys for you to enjoy while on the water," according to Uline.

Russell Marine is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and closed on Sundays.

They are located at 690 AL Hwy 69 S, Hanceville, AL 35077.

For more information, go to RussellMarine.net or call the store at 256-841-6365. Follow them on Facebook at Facebook.com/RussellMarineLakeMartin.



Russell Marine Smith Lake offers boat sales and service.



Russell Marine also offers a fully stocked wakeboard proshop including a range of accessories.

COUNTRY MUSIC CONCERT COMING TO CULLMAN: TYLER STEEL, SWEET TEA, JEFF CORDES TO PERFORM AT BEECH CONVENTION CENTER ON SATURDAY

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On June 6 at the Beech Convention Center in Cullman, the up and coming country music singer Tyler Steel will perform. The doors will open at 7 p.m., and the show will start off with the country music trio Sweet Tea, and Cullman's own Jeff Cordes.

While Tyler Steel isn't from Alabama, he's a true southerner.

From Waxahachie, Texas, Tyler Steel has gone on to record music for a Nashville based production company.

Concert tickets are $30 at the door and $25 in advance.

Johnny's Bar-B-Q will be providing food for the event.

To purchase advance tickets, call Red Ridge Entertainment at 615-268-4023.





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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.

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

Jerry Brown Pottery Exhibit at The Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State
An exhibit featuring the pottery of Jerry Brown is on display at The Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State Community College now through July 2. The exhibit features more than a dozen pieces of Brown's work, from the utilitarian to the fanciful "face jugs" for which he's known. The exhibit is free and open to the public. The Evelyn Burrow Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. For more information contact 256.352.8457 or visit www.burrowmuseum.org.

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

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

8th Annual Character Camp at Heritage Park
The 8th Annual Character Camp event will be held at Heritage Park on Friday, June 5th from 5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. and Saturday, June 6th from 8:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. Jeremiah Castille will be the guest speaker. To register contact: Cullman County Board of Education, located at 402 Arnold Street NE, or call T.J. Franey or Leah Sapp 256-590-4803 or 256-734-2933.

'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

Tyler Steel Concert
Magenta Records presents Tyler Steel's Break Out Tour Saturday, June 6th, 2015 along with Cullman's own Jeff Cordes and Alabama's own Sweet Tea. Brought to you by Tex-Ten Productions, Inc. Food sales provided by Johnny's BBQ. For sponsorship, vending, or ticket info contact Mark: (940)-782-3595 or Red Ridge Entertainment: (615)-268-4023. Doors open at 7 p.m. at the Beech Convention Center, located at 1807 Beech Ave. SE in Cullman. Tickets are $25 in advance; $30 at the door.

4th Annual Music Fest and Car Show
4th Annual Music Fest and Car Show featuring the Cullman Community Band, Winslow Davis, Microwave Dave, Bimini Road, Roy Crawford and friends, and more. Concessions will be available. Proceeds to benefit Daystar House, Inc. - A homeless shelter for women and women with children. United Way Agency. The event will take place at Sportsman Lake Park Stage & Pavilions 1, 2 & 6 from 3-9 p.m. For more information, call Brenda Thomas 256-734-4942.

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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

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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
- Jerry Brown Pottery Exhibit at The Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State
- 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
- Jerry Brown Pottery Exhibit at The Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State
- 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
- Jerry Brown Pottery Exhibit at The Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State
- 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
- 8th Annual Character Camp at Heritage Park from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Jerry Brown Pottery Exhibit at The Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State
- 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
- Tyler Steel Concert at Beech Convention Center at 7 p.m.
- 4th Annual Music Fest and Car Show at Heritage Park from 3-9 p.m.
- 8th Annual Character Camp at Heritage Park from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Jerry Brown Pottery Exhibit at The Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State
- Live Music at Brothers
- Live Music at Moe's
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-6 p.m.
- Live Music at Cadillac Ron's from 8 p.m. to close

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

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Fill'er Up Fridays • Sudsy Saturdays
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ANNUAL CHARACTER CAMP BEGINS FRIDAY

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – For the eighth year, the Character Camp will be held in Cullman at Heritage Park. The camp, which is mainly for football, will run from June 5-6, and thanks to the sponsorship of community members, the camp is free for youth in grades 1-12 to attend. Former Auburn and Alabama football players, along with former coaches, lead the Character Camp.

This year Olympic Gold Medalist Willie Smith will be running the agility portion of the outing.

Smith was a member of the United States relay team that won gold at the 1984 Olympics. The leader of the camp, Jeremiah Castille, has a 'Character Corner' that T.J. Franey, someone who has been a part of the Character Camp since its inception, says is very important for the program.

"The Character Corner allows Jeremiah and the other speakers an opportunity to emphasize integrity and impact the students and youth in a positive way," said Franey. The camp will begin on June 5 at 5:30 p.m. in Heritage Park and will conclude for the day at 7:30 p.m.

The next day on June 6, the camp will be from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., with a final event at 6 p.m. at St. John's Church. At this event there will be a guest speaker as well as a musical guest. The event at St. John's Church is also free to attend.

Because lunch is provided for free at the Character Camp, it is important for those running the camp to know how many lunches will be needed beforehand. To register for the Character Camp or for more information, please contact T.J. Franey or Leah Sapp at 256-590-4803 or 256-734-2933.

4TH ANNUAL MUSIC FEST AND CAR SHOW TO BENEFIT DAYSTAR HOUSE WOMEN'S SHELTER

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Director of Daystar House Women's Shelter Mary Leone knows how important fundraisers are. Leone helped start the Annual Music Fest and Car Show, now in its fourth year, after a preceding event floundered.

"The Music Fest and Car Show came out of the North Alabama Folk Festival, which was only around for three years," Leone explained.

There is no admission for the event. Instead, attendees are encouraged to donate money to the Daystar House.

All the proceeds from the event will go to supporting the privately run women's shelter.

"There will be musical acts performing, like the Cullman Community Band and Microwave Dave," Leone said.

"The performers are doing this gratis," she said. The musical acts are donating their time and music and are not charging anything to perform. "They know us," Leone said of the performers, "they know how important it is to be able to fundraise."

Leone, who has been with Daystar House since 1999, said, "it takes time to grow an event," explaining how important it is to sustain this annual community gathering.

While there will be no outside vendors, Leone said that there will be a concession stand with hot dogs and hamburgers being grilled. There will be charges for concessions.

Leone was careful to distinguish the average crowd at the Music Fest and Car Show saying, "This is not Rock the South." She went on to explain that the people who attend this event tend to be older.

The Music Fest and Car Show will be held at Sportsman Lake Park on June 6 from 3 - 9 p.m.

Lovelocks (from Front)

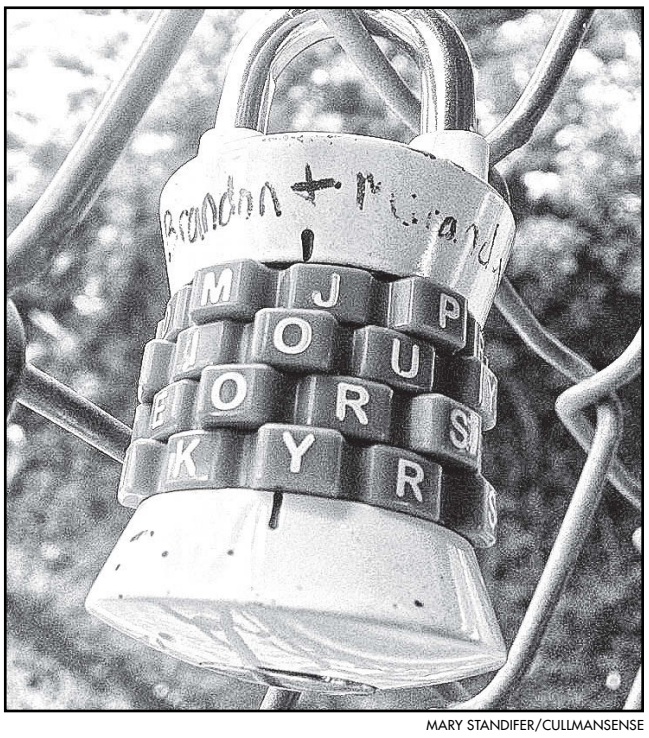
Mary Standifer
mary@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Cullman's own "lovelock" phenomenon has been on the rise this week. Forty locks have now been attached to the pedestrian bridge across from The Vine Cellar and Moe's Original Bar-B-Que that connects 1st Ave SE to 1st Ave SW. The locks often have a couple's initials inscribed on them to symbolize the pair's permanent love for one another.

The first coverage of this story brought concerned citizens out on social media to explain the risks of placing the locks on structures. The Pont des Arts Bridge in Paris, for example, suffered a collapse to the railing due to the added weight. The lock count on the Pont des Art was estimated to be 400-700,000. The city has begun to remedy the situation by replacing some of the panels on the bridge with glass that prevents couples from being able to attach locks. The estimated weight of each lock-encumbered panel that was removed was over 1,500 lbs.

As of right now, the locks on Cullman's pedestrian bridge have yet to pose a major problem.

"The bottom line is, it could be a problem at some point in the future, but it's not a problem now," says Chief of Police Kenny Culpepper. The placement of the locks also plays a role as to whether they will be a destructive force.



MARY STANDIFER/CULLMANSENSE

Lovelocks come in all shapes and sizes.

In Paris, the locks on the Pont des Arts Bridge were placed directly on the structures railing.

"These locks are attached to chain link, so if at some point in the future there were enough locks attached to where the chain link was sagging, to where we thought it might be a danger, then we would probably have to remove the locks," continued Chief Culpepper.

For now, citizens do not have to fear legal action as a result of placing a lock on the bridge. Only in the event that the locks begin to cause damage and so become expressively prohibited will local law enforcement begin to consider this an act of vandalism.

"It's kind of a neat idea, but it may not be too practical if it reaches a point to where it's a safety consideration or causing damage to the bridge," explained Chief Culpepper "Right now it's not a problem, but if it becomes a problem, then we'll just remove them and hope that it doesn't break the love between the two people who put the lock on the gate."

For more information on lovelocks in Cullman, visit Cullmansense.com/articles/2015/05/19/local-couples-attach-lovelocks-pedestrian-bridge.

"The bottom line is, it could be a problem at some point in the future, but it's not a problem now."

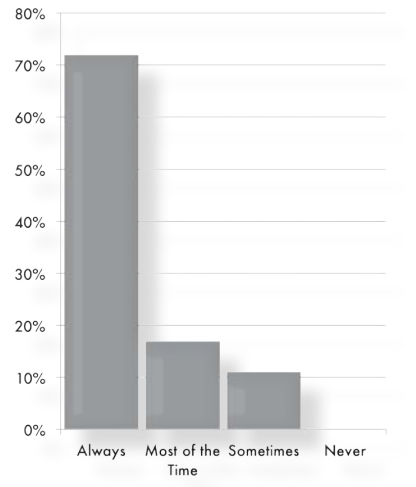
Chief of Police
Kenny Culpepper

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This Week's Poll

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WHAT'S ONLINE


MARY STANDIFER/CULLMANSENSE

AGRIPLEX TEACHES 'LASAGNA GARDENING'
Recently, a class geared towards teaching individuals how to begin and maintain a garden using the "Lasagna Gardening" format was held at the North Alabama Agriplex Heritage Center. The process is low maintenance, long lasting, and results in a virtually weed-less garden. **QRNE.WS/360**


CONTRIBUTED

SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM RETURNS
The Cullman City Public Library is starting up its annual Summer Program in June. The program has served the children of the city "since at least 1964," according to Cullman librarian, Sharon Townson. The theme of this year's program is "Every Hero Has a Story," and will feature various heroes from around the Cullman community, including police... **QRNE.WS/361**

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LOCAL ARTIST ADDS DEPTH TO COMMUNITY PRAYER ROOM

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CULLMAN – In the Arnold House on Arnold Street behind Grace Episcopal Church is a community prayer room that is open 24 hours a day for members of the Cullman community to utilize. It is a small room with six miniature pews, two rows of three, and on the walls is Ben Johnson South's artistic contribution to the room.

There are four panels hanging on the walls. Covering the panels are pages of religious texts, from the Common Book of Prayer to the Qur'an, and it is on those pages that South has painted his art. Each of the four panels, every one representing one of the four prayers found in every religion according to Johnson – 'thanks,' 'gimmie,' 'oops,' and 'wow' – has a rose painted on it.

Each rose is painted to portray the prayer it represents: for instance, the 'oops' rose is wilted and appears crestfallen. "I think it's good because you're using playful wordage," South said as he explains the titles of the prayers. "I don't want to be ponderous or anything. It's just how I live my life, looking at life in that slant of light."

South, ever one to, as he says, "puncture pomposity," always wants to veer from insulting or exclusive behavior when it comes to religion. "I'm looking for a religion that doesn't damn other religions," he said.



WILL HOGUE/CULLMANSENSE

Ben Johnson South points out a page from the Qur'an.

The prayer room at Grace Episcopal is always open to everyone. It is a quiet, solemn place to be alone, to pray, and, thanks to South's addition, a work of art.

CWAC'S OASIS GRILL AND BISTRO TO SERVE UP LOCAL BURGERS TO ALL

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CULLMAN – When the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center first opened, there was a small concession stand that served the indoor and outdoor pool areas. There have been several changes to the concession stand and to CWAC since the first year it opened. One thing that hasn't changed, however, is the quality of the food at the CWAC, quality that hasn't improved until now.

Cameron Everett, the facility director at the CWAC, saw the potential that was being wasted in the concession stand. Everett recruited his mother, Marlys Ross, in order to straighten up the concession stand. Within a year, she had tripled the revenue of the stand, up to $71,000. But making more money isn't the only goal for Ross as she has a vision for the restaurant.

"We want [Oasis Bar and Grill] to be classy. We want people to say, 'Hey, let's go to Oasis for lunch,'" Ross explained. In an effort to improve the food and the quality of eating at the restaurant, Ross said that Oasis would only serve burgers made from local meat that will never be frozen.

Along with the quality of food, Ross is trying to develop a reputation for quality customer service. "We will have servers going around to people who are sitting by the pool taking orders, and then they will bring the orders right to them, that way you don't even have to leave your seat," Ross said.

But patrons do not have to be utilizing the amenities at the CWAC to eat at Oasis.

"You can walk up to the front desk in the lobby and say, 'I'd like to place an order with Oasis,' or you can call in and order," Ross said about the ordering process.

The restaurant is committed to moving far away from the 'concession stand' label. When it opens soon, Oasis will offer freshly made-to-order burgers, along with chicken and steak kebabs, sandwiches made with Boar's Head meat, gourmet hot dogs, and several different kinds of salad.

However, although Osais is striving to provide higher-quality meals, the restaurant will also offer a Grab-and-Go menu that will feature pizza by-the-slice, hot dogs, candy bars and other classic concession stand items.

Oasis' full menu will be available Monday-Saturday, and only the Grab-and-Go menu will be available on Sundays. Item prices range from $1-10.

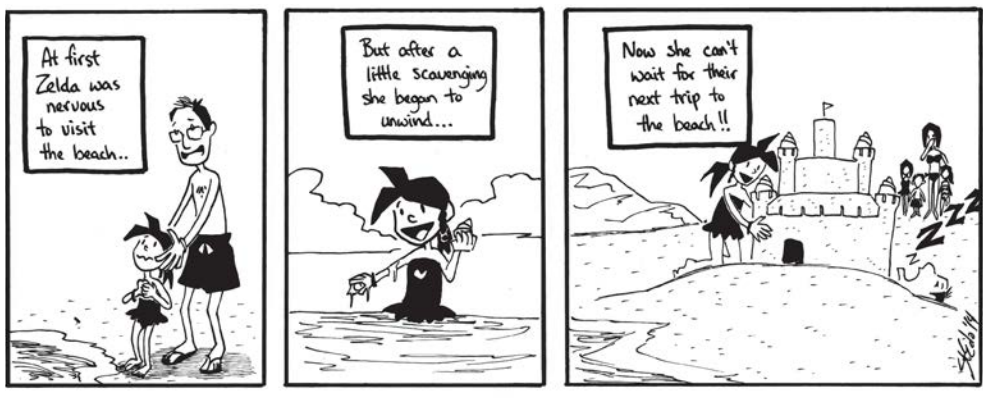
Jobs (from Front)

Her enthusiasm for her job is contagious. Almost all of these businesses offer an online application or can be called to find out when their open interviews are. Whether delivering pizzas, keeping the movie theater clean, or making sandwiches, Cullman County has the perfect job for high school students this summer.



COMICS

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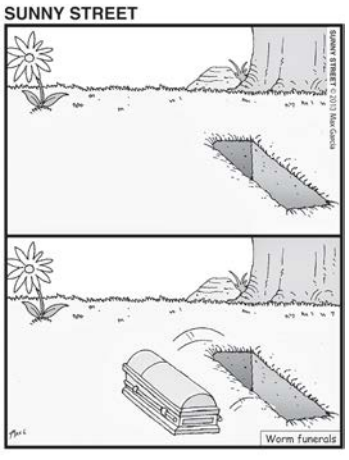
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PETS OF THE WEEK

COLONEL



Hello my name is Colonel and I am about 4 years old. I am a Hound mix and I currently weigh 94 lbs. Because I was fully vetted when coming in to the Shelter, my adoption fee is only $25 and that covers my first set of vaccines and wormer at the Shelter. 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!

SANTOS



Hello my name is Santos and I am about 2 years old. I am a Terrier mix and I currently weigh 25 lbs. I was a bit more energetic than my previous owners liked so they no longer wanted me. I am full of life and I love to play. Because I was fully vetted upon arrival to the Shelter, my adoption fee is only $25 and that covers my first set of vaccines and wormer at the Shelter. You may find out I'm a lovable companion!

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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

NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROLIFERATION: MADE IN THE USA

John LaForge
PeaceVoice

The United States is perhaps the principal nuclear weapons proliferator in the world today, openly flouting binding provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Article I of the treaty forbids signers from transferring nuclear weapons to other states, and Article II prohibits signers from receiving nuclear weapons from other states.

As the UN Review Conference of the NPT was finishing its month-long deliberations in New York last week, the US delegation distracted attention from its own violations using its standard red herring warnings about Iran and North Korea -- the former without a single nuclear weapon, and the latter with 8-to-10 (according to those reliable weapons spotters at the CIA) but with no means of delivering them.

The NPT's prohibitions and obligations were re-affirmed and clarified by the world's highest judicial body in its July 1996 Advisory Opinion on the legal status of the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

The International Court of Justice said in this famous decision that the NPT's binding promises not to transfer or receive nuclear weapons are unqualified, unequivocal, unambiguous and absolute. For these reasons, US violations are easy to illustrate.

Nuclear Missiles "Leased" to British Navy

The US "leases" submarine-launched intercontinental ballistic missiles (SLBMs) to Britain for use on its four giant Trident submarines. We've done this for two decades. The British subs travel across the Atlantic to pick up the US-made missiles at Kings Bay Naval base in Georgia.

Helping to ensure that US proliferation involves only the most verifiably terrible nuclear weapons, a senior staff engineer at Lockheed Martin in California is currently responsible for planning, coordinating and carrying out development and production of the "UK Trident Mk4A [warhead] Reentry Systems as part of the UK Trident Weapons System 'Life Extension program.'" This, according to John Ainslie of the Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, which closely watchdogs the British Tridents -- all of which are based in Scotland, much to the chagrin of the Scots.

Even the W76 warheads that arm the US-owned missiles leased to England have parts made in United States. The warheads use a Gas Transfer System (GTS) which stores tritium -- the radioactive form of hydrogen that puts the "H" in H-bomb -- and the GTS injects tritium it into the plutonium warhead or "pit."

All the GTS devices used in Britain's Trident warheads are manufactured in the United States. They are then either sold to the Royals or given away in exchange for an undisclosed quid pro quo.

David Webb, the current Chair of the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament reported during the NPT Review Conference, and later confirmed in an email to Nukewatch, that the Sandia National Laboratory in New Mexico announced, in March 2011, that it had conducted "the first W76 United Kingdom trials test" at its Weapons Evaluation and Test Laboratory (WETL) in New Mexico, and that this had "provided qualification data critical to the UK implementation of the W76-1."

The W76 is a 100 kiloton H-bomb designed for the so-called D-4 and D-5 Trident missiles. One of the centrifuges at Sandia's WETL simulates the ballistic trajectory of the W76 "reentry-vehicle" or warhead.

This deep and complex collusion between the US and the UK could be called Proliferation Plus. The majority of the Royal Navy's Trident warheads are manufactured at England's Aldermaston nuclear weapons complex, allowing both the Washington and London to claim they are in compliance with the NPT.

US H-bombs Deployed in Five NATO Countries

An even clearer violation of NPT is the US deployment of between 184 and 200 thermonuclear gravity bombs, called B61, in five European countries -- Belgium, The Netherlands, Italy, Turkey and Germany. "Nuclear sharing agreements" with these equal partners in the NPT -- all of whom declare that they are "non-nuclear states" -- openly defy both Article I and Article II of the treaty.

The US is the only country in the world that deploys nuclear weapons to other countries, and in the case of the five nuclear sharing partners, the US Air Force even trains Italian, German, Belgian, Turkish and Dutch pilots in the use of the B61s in their own warplanes -- should the President ever order such a thing.

Still, the US government regularly lectures other states about their international law violations, boundary pushing and destabilizing actions.

With so much a stake, it is intriguing that diplomats at the UN are too polite to confront US defiance of the NPT, even when the extension and enforcement of it is on the table. As Henry Thoreau said, "The broadest and most prevalent error requires the most disinterested virtue to sustain it."

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

OPINION

CONGRESS SAYS, "WAR POWERS? WHAT WAR POWERS?"

Lee H. Hamilton
Contributor

A few weeks ago, Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia made a small splash in the press when he took Congress to task for failing to authorize our nation's ongoing war against Islamic militants. "The silence of Congress in the midst of this war is cowardly and shameful," he said. "[T]his Congress, the very body that is so quick to argue against President Obama's use of executive power... allows an executive war to go on undeclared, unapproved, undefined and unchecked."

It has been three months since President Obama sent his proposal for an "Authorization for the Use of Military Force" focused on ISIS to Capitol Hill. It has gone nowhere.

This is mind-boggling. On the most important question government faces — military intervention overseas — Congress seems unable to stir itself to hammer out an agreement with the President.

You can blame the President for this or you can blame Congress — each side comes in for its fair share — but inaction only expands the power of the President, leaving him to make hugely consequential decisions by himself. It's a shocking dereliction of duty on Capitol Hill.

This is going to be a long and difficult conflict. It raises tough questions about the scope of the President's powers, the duration of those powers, the definition and identity of the enemy, the extent of the field of battle, and America's fundamental role in the world.

The decision to apply American lives and resources to such a war is momentous, and as a country we need to know how far we're willing to commit ourselves.

If we are going to send U.S. forces into dangerous places, they need to go in with the public backing that comes from a formal authorization hammered out in Congress. Both the President and Congress are dragging their feet on this, but that only helps the President, not the country.

It leaves him — and most likely his successor — with dangerously broad authority to use military force without restriction, in perpetuity. This is not how a democracy like ours should operate.

The American people are beginning to understand all this. They overwhelmingly believe that Congress needs to weigh in on the government's war-making powers.

Yet that seems to mean nothing to Washington. "Cowardly and shameful," Sen. Kaine said. That pretty much sums it up.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years

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COMMUNITY LINES UP FOR CWAC'S NEW WATERSLIDE

Hannah Ward
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CWAC's new waterslide is 40 feet tall and a thrill for children and adults alike.

CULLMAN – Looking for a fun way to beat the heat this summer? Cullman's Wellness and Aquatic Center has added an exciting addition to their outside waterpark. CWAC opened their shiny new 40-foot tall waterslide on Saturday. The waterpark previously consisted of two three-story waterslides, but now they have officially cranked the amusement up a notch.

Cameron Everett, facility director at CWAC stated, "We wanted to add another attraction to the Cullman community. We have got really loyal members and they're very valuable, we wanted to add an awesome thing that no one else had around here. We pretty much asked people what they would like and what we should add." The Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center's members responded with a cry for another slide and the center clearly listened.

The Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center's Facebook competition offered a free day at the waterpark plus the first ride down the slide. \

Winner Joan Cruce explained how she won, "I always like and share things on Facebook, and this time it finally paid off." She passed the opportunity for first slide to her granddaughter, Emma Pichelmayer. Emma was able to bring her two friends Gracie Cruce, and Hannah Rollo-Myers with her.

The girls were ecstatic about going down it right up until they climbed the stairs and realized it was higher than they had imagined it would be, but the first thing they did when they climbed out of the pool was head right back up again.

They learned the journey down is not quite as frightening as it looks. All three girls claimed they would be returning very soon to ride it again.

The pool and slide is kept safe by the constant watch of trained CWAC lifeguards.

Opening day there were about as many adults climbing the stairs to the mouth of the slide as there were children.

For $10 a person, the waterpark is something the whole family can enjoy.

To catch special discounted days and special waterpark hours, check out their website at CullmanRecreation.org or find their page on Facebook at Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center.

