SERIES 5 • ISSUE 24 • JUNE 15, 2015
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS


BEN HARRISON

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SINGER/ SONGWRITER BENNETT GLASSCOCK PLAYS IT COOL IN LATEST COMPETITION P10

WSCC WRAPS NEW BUS IN LION PRIDE

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College recently acquired a new bus, that was designated to be covered in an orange and blue WSCC Lions themed vinyl wrap designed by the local company Creative Design.

Mark Bolin, a representative for WSCC who worked with Josh Heron (a graphic artist at Creative Design), said that a new bus was needed because reliability had become an issue with the current fleet of buses.

"We have had situations where students have been stranded on the side of the interstate because of a mechanical breakdown," Bolin said.

The buses are used, according to Bolin, mainly for athletics; the basketball teams, baseball team, softball team, and other groups. "The music department also travels several times during the year," Bolin continued "to locations such as Branson, MO, Washington, D.C. and Orlando, FL."

As far as the design process for the wrap, Bolin describes what he and the people at WSCC were looking for in a design to Heron.

"Ironically," Bolin said, "the very first design that Josh sent P4



JOSHUA HERON

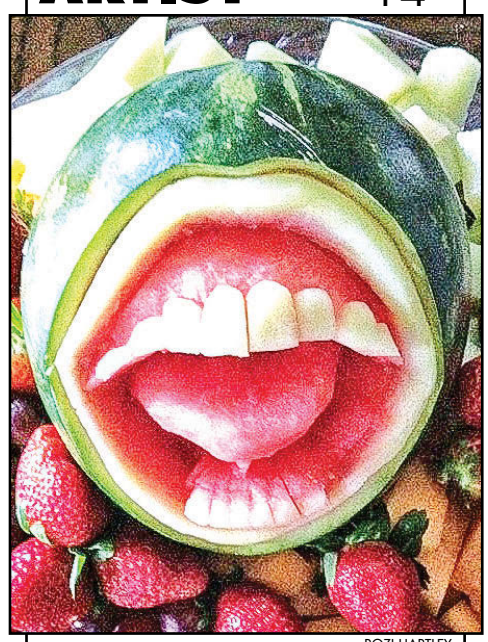
WSCC recently acquired a new bus due to reliability issues with older transportation.

MOPARS ON THE STREET CAR SHOW BENEFITS HUNGRY CHILDREN


SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Hundreds of people came out to Pentastar South Car Club's 8th Annual Car Show and, as a result, helped feed area children. P2

ROZI HARTLEY: FRUIT CARVING ARTIST P4


ROZI HARTLEY

Hartley creates a variety of fruit displays including a watermelon turtle fruit bowl.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS PROTECT CULLMAN COUNTY'S YOUNGEST CITIZENS

Hannah Ward
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CULLMAN – School Resource Officers are the individuals who protect children when their parents are unable to be around. Not only do they protect students and faculty at every school in Cullman County, but the are also trained to be teachers and counselors. The Cullman County Sheriff's Office has an excellent selection of these Officers who go beyond the call of duty on a daily basis.

School Resource Officers have the op- P9


CONTRIBUTED

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office has School Resource Officers in every school in the county.

CAAWA SUPERHEROES RESCUE LOCAL ANIMALS


FACEBOOK.COM/RESCUECAAWA

The volunteers at CAAWA enjoy finding forever homes for their rescued animals. P9

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

CULLMAN MAN KILLED AFTER COLLIDING WITH A TRACTOR TRAILER HAULING HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

Noah Chandler
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CULLMAN – The Cullman Police Department, along with Alabama State Troopers, Cullman EMA and Cullman County Sheriff's Office worked a deadly collision in the southbound lane at the intersection of Ala. Hwy 157 and I-65, after a Cullman resident rear-ended an 18-wheeler hauling hazardous material Sunday evening.

"At this time we are asking residents to please avoid the area as one of the vehicles involved is carrying hazardous material, anhydrous ammonia to be exact," Cullman Police Officer Matt Tucker said.

Tucker said the deceased is a male Cullman resident, however, his name has not been released at this time as family members are being contacted.

"Right now it is still under investigation but it appears the deceased rear-ended the 18-wheeler," Officer Tucker said. "He was pronounced deceased on scene."

More details will be at CullmanSense.com as they are made available.



CCSO

The collision occurred in the southbound lane at the intersection of Ala. Hwy 157 and I-65.

FIVE POUNDS OF ICE NABBED FOLLOWING TWO-MONTH INVESTIGATION

Noah Chandler
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DODGE CITY – Last Tuesday, agents with the Cullman Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET), along with the assistance of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), arrested Angel Ariel Zumbia Mendias, 24 year old Hispanic Male of Tuscon, AZ for Trafficking in Methamphetamine.

According to Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry, the drug bust originated in Dodge City and a total of 5 pounds of ICE, a stronger and purer quality of Meth, was seized.

The total street value is valued at $224,000. This is a result of a two month long investigation between CNET and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

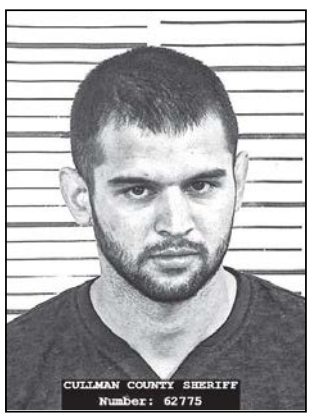
"This arrest represents a major blow to the pipeline of Meth from Birmingham into Cullman County. The Meth and ICE dealers took a hit with the arrest of this mid-level dealer. I am proud of the joint cooperation between CNET, the Cullman County District Attorney's Office and the DEA which led to this arrest and the work they put into this case," said Sheriff Gentry.

Mr. Mendias is currently being held in the Cullman County Detention Center. His bond is set at $1,000,000.00



CCSO

The street value of the drug is $224,000.



CCSO

Ariel Zumbia Mendias

DAIRY QUEEN OPENS NEW CULLMAN LOCATION

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – On Wednesday, June 3rd, Dairy Queen Grill & Chill opened their 2nd location, and people are enjoying the convenient location and beautiful new building. The weather has been hot and many people have already been to the new restaurant to cool off with their delicious, creamy treats.

"Business has steadily grown," said Mike Way, Owner.

"The store on Highway 31 has been in the same location for sixty years, so when people say, 'Let's go to Dairy Queen' that's the location they think about. But as time goes on, we hope that the community will think about both places, depending on which side of town you are on."

Although both locations offer the same food, the new location has something a little different than the other place – a patio.

The large patio in front of the building is the perfect place to have birthday parties, feed a ball team or just hang out with friends.

"We still have customers say they didn't know you were here or that we are open yet, so we are planning a grand opening on June 18th to help get the word out," Mike explained.

"One of the biggest complaints we always heard about the Hwy. 31 location was, 'we love coming there but it's so hard to get in and out'. The new store has a huge drive through lane that is so nice to have. Our 31 store probably holds twelve cars and our new one can hold twenty-seven cars, so we are hoping this will please our customers," he smiled.

The new store is open Sunday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Friday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

The store is located at 1840 Lee Avenue SW, Cullman, AL 35055. For more information, call them at 256-775-8870.

Mopars (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Pentastar South Car Club hosted their 8th Annual Mopars on the Streets Car Show on Saturday, June 13, 2015 at Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Dealership. The show was a fundraiser and all money raised will benefit Secret Meals for Hungry Children. There were close to one hundred vintage cars on display, twenty-five more cars than last year. The weather was great, and lots of people came out and enjoyed the beautiful cars while helping to make sure that no child in Cullman County goes hungry.

"Today we are having a car show for one of our favorite charities, Secret Meals for Hungry Kids," said Brenda Allison of Pentastar South Car Club.

"We are collecting money this year to pack backpacks for hungry kids. It breaks my heart to know that a child is going home hungry, so that is why this is so dear to my heart."

Alabama Credit Union created the Secret Meals for Hungry Children program in 2008 with one goal in mind, to decrease the number of children who face hunger over the weekend.

Currently, there are approximately 2,500 students receiving Secret Meals food packs across Alabama.

All money donated to the credit union is used to purchase food for the cause.

"Every dime donated through Alabama Credit Union goes to buy food," said Laurie Legg, Branch Supervisor at Alabama Credit Union in Cullman.

"We are so glad to have these guys do this car show two years in a row now. All their proceeds go to Secret Meals for Hungry Children. We've been serving kids in Cullman County and Cullman City for six years now."

"We would like for people to know that there are children out there that do need the service," explained June Landrum of Alabama Credit Union.

"It's just a very good cause and we appreciate any help we can get."

The Pentastar South Car Club's car show benefitted many hungry children. For more information about the Pentastar South Car Club, follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/616255698449046.

To donate to Secret Meals for Hungry Children, visit Alabama Credit Union, located at 1901 Main Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055.

For more information, call 256-737-9885, visit SecretMeals.org, or e-mail secretmeals@alabamacu.com.

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CULLMAN REGIONAL AIRPORT: FLYING IN COMMERCE FOR CULLMAN COUNTY

Hannah Ward
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CULLMAN – Cullman Regional Airport was built in the 1950s due to the hard work of the City and County of Cullman. Since then it has flown in revenue for Cullman County from all over the United States. Folsom Field was named after the airport's greatest supporter, the 42nd Governor of the state of Alabama Jim Folsom, who was also a Cullman native.

Cullman Regional Airport is Wallace State Community college's Aviation Flight School base. It is one of the few and longest running FAA 141 Programs in Alabama.

Ben Harrison, General Manager at Cullman Regional Airport stated, "They can take you all through your ATP which is your Airline Transport Pilot License. They're here all the time because they have to learn to fly in all kinds of weather conditions. It's a complete flight school, all the way up to multi-engine. It's a very good program. There are an absolute ton of flight school operations up here, and it's good because there's such a big demand for pilots. In the next ten years half of the people that are flying commercial airlines right now will be retired." Cullman Regional Airport is assisting in preparing for that future need.

The airport is also home to the Air Evac base and the Alabama State Trooper's North Alabama base. These two bases ensure essential health and security to Cullman and surrounding counties.

Mayor Max A. Townson stated, "The Cullman Regional Airport has been important to our community for many years, but it's never had more of an impact on our community than it does now. Having a thriving regional airport makes Cullman more accessible and more efficient to do business with, which is vital in recruiting new industrial and retail business. The airport is also a tremendous attraction with the outstanding success of the air show a few years ago and its role in the annual Veterans Day Program. The future looks bright for the Cullman Regional Airport, and we are excited to see this tremendous asset continue to grow and expand."



BEN HARRISON

Not only is Cullman Regional Airport WSCC's Aviation Flight School base, it is also one of the few and longest running FAA 141 Programs in Alabama.

There are multiple projects around the field that need to be taken care of, but will take time since most will be funded through grants. Still the Airport has grown and expanded a great deal since its birth.

To say Cullman Regional Airport is vital to economic growth in Cullman County might be an understatement.

According to Kenneth Walker, Chairman of the Airport Board, "The airport plays a vital role in the community and is a valuable tool for economic development - both industrial and retail. The city and county have contributed to the airport and matched grant funds to make it a modern, state of the art facility. We do this because we know its importance to the vitality of our community. It is a developed corporate tool, recreation facility, and emergency operation base all wrapped into one."

Harrison explains the reason the Airport is an obvious resource for businesses, "You can be in Orlando and have to come up here for a meeting. Where that would usually be a 3 day trip its now turned into a one day or even a half day trip depending on how long the meeting is."

"Each corporation here in town, the majority of them, in some form have used the airport. Whether it be someone visiting them, like a supplier, or their own company visiting them. Cargo is the biggest thing, especially these plants here when they run just in time inventory. If there is a problem they can get it a lot quicker than having it trucked it. It happens quite a bit, and that's what we need to be there for."

The Airport offers Jet fuel and AV gas. The 5,500-foot runway guarantees the likelihood of most private and corporate aircrafts being able to land and the self-serve gas pumps ensure a 24-hour service to all who fly in. Currently, the airport's corporate and T-hangars are at full capacity.

The American style café located inside the Airport serves breakfast and lunch. The café hours are 8 a.m. -2 p.m. Thursday - Saturday and 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Sundays.

The Airport is located at 231 County Road 1360 Vinemont, AL 35179.

HANCEVILLE CITY COUNCIL HOLDS JUNE 11 MEETING

Hannah Ward
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HANCEVILLE – A regular Hanceville City Council Meeting was held last Thursday night at City Hall at 7 p.m.

The meeting began with roll call and approval of the minutes from the previous city council meeting held on May 28, 2015.

There were no additions or deletions to the night's agenda.

The following reports were given:

1. Hanceville Police Department – Police Chief Bob Long reported on the month of May. The department is currently finishing up the Ladies Firearms Class. The department has begun working on the upcoming Kids Night Out, and has applied for a grant from Walmart to sponsor it.

2. Hanceville Fire Department – Brad Jones, EMS Officer, reported the department recently purchased two portable cameras at $50 each. The cameras have a $13,000 value and were purchased from a surplus store in Eva. These multi-purpose "Whale" cameras can be used in small crawl spaces during search and rescue operations. The department also began teaching a new 40-hour instructor class. Additionally, Jones reported the department received nearly 100 calls in the month of May. The department also received an $8,000 CCCDC grant for a Kik, a thermal imaging camera, which they will be purchasing soon. The camera can be used in search and rescue operations to find victims that might be trapped inside a smoke filled structure. The department also bought an air compressor for truck tire maintenance.

3. Mrs. Walls reported on the recent Hanceville Knapsacks for Kids meeting. They elected Sandy Waters as chairwoman. The organization is now looking for donations and volunteers as they prepare for the upcoming school year.

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

1. A $500 request was presented by Councilmember Kim Brown for the Tree Commission to buy identification tags for the trees in C.W. Park and to purchase seedlings to plant in the park.

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

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

1. TAP Grant - Resolution to approve a base bid of $109,082 for sidewalk construction. The cost to Hanceville will be $25,000.

2. Farm Animals Ordinance – Unresolved. A Public Hearing to gather the public's comments concerning the Farm Animals Ordinance is set for the next Hanceville City Council meeting on June 25, 2015 at 6 p.m.

3. The $500 request was granted to The Tree Commission.

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RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT: MITCHELL WILLIAMS, PASTOR OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Meet Mitchell Williams, pastor of Cullman's First United Methodist Church. He deeply enjoys leading his congregation in the genuine worship of the Lord. He also uses his position in the church to help families in need in every possible way. He thrives by serving alongside other members in ministry to benefit the community as a whole.

Pastor Mitchell grew up in Homewood, Ala. He attended Vanderbilt University for a degree in drama and earned a Masters in Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He has been a United Methodist pastor ever since graduation. He married his wife Jodi 35 years ago. They have two grown sons whom each has a family of his own. Mitchell and Jodi are grandparents to six lively, wonderful grandchildren.

Mitchell has served congregations in Huntsville, Sylacauga, Birmingham and Decatur. He has been the pastor at First United Methodist Church in Cullman for five years.

"First United Methodist was the third Protestant church in Cullman, founded in 1879," he proudly explained. "We have three worship services, one of them 'contemporary,' though all have folks casually dressed," he smiled. "We are not judgmental and welcome those who have questions, doubts, and hungers."

"We have two of the most trusted preschool programs in the city: Sonshine School and Mom's Day Out," he continued. "We sponsor a large scouting program and host various groups from the community. The tornadoes of 2011 wrecked some of our building, especially the sanctuary, but we recovered with unity, grace and joy. We appreciate serving a great community like Cullman," he said warmly.

However, recovering with unity, grace, and joy is not necessarily easy. Mitchell has had many challenges over the years, but thankfully he continues to give his ministry his all, and, as a result, the church continues to thrive.

"I find that one of the greatest challenges is myself – staying true to and growing in Christ," he said, quite honestly. "There are the challenges of translating the Gospel into lifestyles in Cullman, presenting a winsome call for discipleship (taking into account the many rivals for times and attention), and making sure everyone knows a meaningful and worthwhile place to serve the kingdom of God."



MITCHELL WILLIAMS

Pastor Mitchell ministers to the congregation at First United Methodist Church in Cullman.

Clearly Pastor Mitchell loves his church and takes his ministry quite seriously. His love for God and devotion to his congregation is akin to a breath of fresh air.

First United Methodist Church is located at 320 3rd St SE, Cullman, AL 35055 and can be reached by calling 256-734-6690.

They have traditional worship each Sunday at 8:45 and 11 a.m. in the sanctuary and contemporary worship at 8:45 a.m. each Sunday in Hearin Hall. Sunday School begins at 10:05 a.m.

For more information, visit CullmanFUMC.com and follow them on Facebook at Facebook.com/cullmanfumc.

"The tornadoes of 2011 wrecked some of our building, especially the sanctuary, but we recovered with unity, grace and joy."

Mitchell Williams, Pastor of First United Methodist Church Cullman

Bus (from Front)

us turned out to be exactly what we wanted."

Creative Design and WSCC already had a long history of working together. According to Bolin, Creative Design has provided WSCC with apparel and fulfilled other printing needs.

"Also," Bolin said, "we loved the idea of a Wallace State alumni (Josh) working on the project."

According to Mike Pitts, the owner and president of Creative Design, this is the biggest job they've ever undertaken.

"We've done a 48-foot tractor, but nothing this size," Pitts said. However, Pitts is not new to wrapping vehicles. He and his company have been dealing with vinyl and car wraps for ten years.

Keep an eye out for an orange and blue bus rolling through town this fall; it might be the Auburn Tigers, or it just might be the hometown Lions.

Artist (from Front)

Mary Standifer
mary@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Stonebridge Farms is well known for its exceptional event planning and venue services. Employee Rozi Hartley has been offering an experience like no other to customers seeking a novel touch to their event.

Brazillian born Rozi Hartley is an artist who uses a unique medium: fruit.

Rozi carefully hand-carves fruit into impressive displays ranging from a vast array of subjects. Wildlife, flora, and logos are all popular subjects for her work.

Rozi has only been carving fruit for roughly four years, but she has already mastered and perfected the art.

"I'll dare anybody in Alabama to do a better carving than I do," laughs Rozi.

Anyone willing to accept her challenge will have a lot to live up to.

Rozi's ability to take an average piece of fruit and transform it into a delicate, dramatic piece of art is unlike any other.

Rozi approached the owner of Stonebridge about her work by recommendation of a friend.

"I was in a wedding with a friend. I was helping her take pictures. So I was talking to a lady, and I showed her some pictures of stuff that I do, and she said 'You should talk to him,' which was the owner of Stonebridge. So I came to him, and I showed him, and he said, 'You come to my office Monday,' so I came and he loved the stuff," says Rozi.

Rozi thoroughly enjoys her line of work and being able to do art to support herself is an ideal position for her.

"I always like arts. I paint, I draw. I don't like being stuck in an office or dealing with papers, that would kill me, so if I can make my living with arts, for me it's just heaven," explained Rozi.

In addition to her work at Stonebridge Farms, Rozi is also an accomplished Zumba instructor who teaches classes in Decatur and Hartselle.

To order a piece of art by Rozi, visit stonebridgewedding.com.

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POSITION AVAILABLE

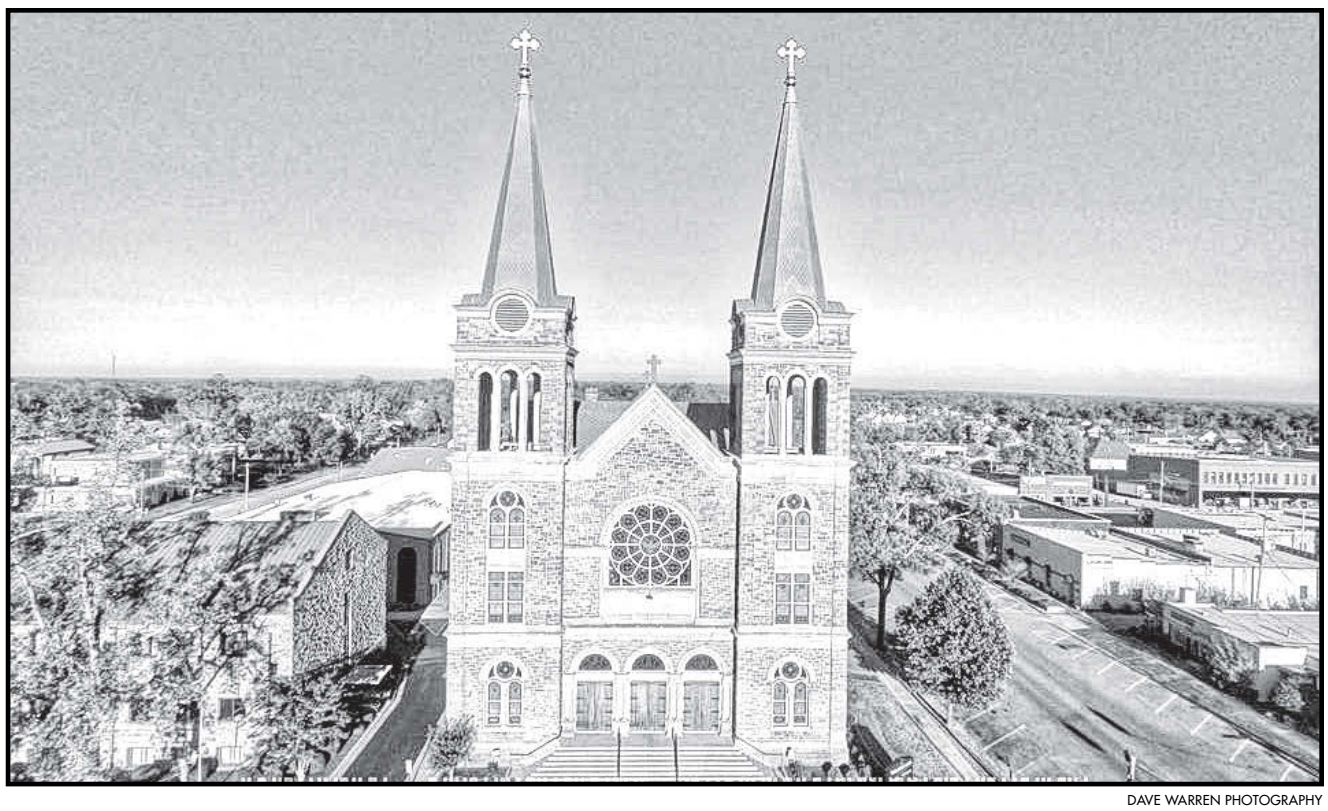
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Full time, BS degree required. Send resume to: vsoced@vsoccullman.org

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THE HISTORY OF SACRED HEART CHURCH AND SCHOOL: BENEDICTINE LEADERSHIP AT ITS BEST



DAVE WARREN PHOTOGRAPHY

Catholics have enjoyed their beautiful church and school for many years.

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Sacred Heart Church is one of the oldest churches in Cullman. Its two large, cross-topped steeples can be seen from all over town. Area Catholics fill the huge church for all their services. The church is used as a reference point when giving directions. "Down the road from the Catholic Church"or "Across from the Catholic Church" is something most all of us have said at one time or other. As it turns out, people of Cullman have been giving directions by way of the Catholic Church for a long, long time.

In 1877, shortly after Colonel Cullmann founded the City of Cullman, the Catholic settlers attended Mass, which was given by a circuit-riding priest named Father James Meurer.

Father James had arrived in town on October 30, 1877 and soon established the parish and became the first resident pastor.

A full square block of land was given to the church from the railroad, and a small house for Father James was built. Next a little convent was constructed for the Sisters of Notre Dame, who, on December 16, 1878, busied themselves by establishing the new Sacred Heart Elementary School.

In 1899, 5 Benedictine Sisters arrived from San Antonio, Florida and replaced the Sisters of Notre Dame, and the school has been under the Benedictine Sisters' leadership ever since.

As a matter of fact, way before St. Bernard Abbey was founded in 1891; Benedictine Priests were serving Sacred Heart as pastors in 1888. Since then, priests from St. Bernard have continued to act as pastors of the church.

The current Sacred Heart School building was dedicated on March 21, 1950 on the feast of St. Benedict.

Construction of the actual building had begun in 1948, but to make the school match the church, there were some extra steps that had to be taken.

The face of each stone was hand-cut using a method devised by one of the parishioners at the time. Thankfully, the remaining sides were able to be cut by machine. Once finished, Sacred Heart School was the first Church affiliated elementary school and the second private elementary school in Alabama. Their certificate was proudly received in January 1973.

The lovely Sacred Heart Church was dedicated in 1916, and among its most prominent features are the gorgeous stained glass windows, which were designed in 1914 and built in Germany.

During the outbreak of World War I, while still in Germany, the windows were buried in order to protect them from harm. After the war, they were dug up, shipped to Cullman and installed in 1920.

For those who have visited or currently attend Sacred Heart Church, you have heard the jaw-dropping sound of the beautiful pipe organ.

The church's pipe organ is among the largest in northern Alabama.

It was built in 1921, acquired by the parish in 1959 and was later overhauled in 1988.

People near and far can see Sacred Heart's most prominent feature, the gold crosses that are at the top of its steeples.

They were part of an important restoration project conducted on the church steeples and roof in 1999.

They are, and will remain, a recognizable landmark to Cullman residents and visitors.

Rev. Cletus Meagher, O.S.B., the current Abbot of St. Bernard Abbey launched the Family Life Center Program in 1991. The Center enjoys a constant activity and is utilized by nearly every member of the parish.

Pastor, Rev. Patrick Egan, O.S.B. began studying for the priesthood in 2003 after retiring as a Colonel in the United States Army.

He was ordained in June, 2008 and was assigned as Pastor in August 2009. He continues to play a significant role in the church, as well as the community.

MIRRORING HISTORY: SPORTSMAN LAKE PLAYGROUND

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Nearly everyone that has grown up in Cullman County has, at some point in time, played on the playground at Sportsman Lake Park.

The park consists of one hundred eighty-six acres and offers a variety of things to do. The park was built in 1951 by the State Conservation Service. It has always been a popular place to meet for family reunions and company picnics.

The newest addition to the park is the splash pad that keeps people, young and old, cool during the hot days of summer.



FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/CULLMAN-COUNTY-HISTORY/216943871827803

Sportsman Lake Park was created in 1951.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The playground at Sportsman Lake has really changed its looks over the years.

cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Friday Nights at Festhalle** will take place on Friday, June 5th from 4pm-9pm. The event will feature live bands, free kids games and activities, and fresh produce at the Farmer's Market. Event is FREE to attend!
- **Women's Self Defense Class** starts June 9 and will take place for 4 weeks at 6pm on Tuesday nights through June 30. Cost is $45 which includes a manual; register through June 8 at the Cullman Civic Center.
- **Just Play!** This FREE program for children 5-12 years old will start Friday, June 12 at Culpepper Park. Organized games such as capture the flag, relay games, and more will be held from 1pm-3pm. The program will take place every Friday in June and July . See our website for a full lineup.
- **CP&R Arts Classes** will be offered for homeschoolers and pre-school age students in our Mommy & Me Class starting in June. Call 256-734-9157 for more information.
- **FREE Exercise in the Park** will take place every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 2pm. This Sunday, May 7 will feature a FREE Pilates Class at Heritage Park. Meet at the recognition gardens!
- **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.

ART SHOP AROUND THE CORNER TURNS LITTLE CAMPERS INTO LITTLE ARTISTS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – Art Shop Around the Corner hosts fabulous art camps throughout the summer. Laura Walker, shop owner guides 5 to 8 year olds in learning the basics of acrylic painting, watercolors, pastels, pencils, several other mixed media. Multiple projects are completed during the week, and lots of brand new artists are born!

"Every year we do these camps," Laura explained. "This year we have 4 art camps and 3 pottery camps. The camps are very well priced, and are about half what they are in Birmingham and Huntsville, plus we have more time together and do more projects," she smiled.

"We get the children ready to enter their art in the fair," she continued. "We do a lot of solid projects, like this week we painted salt and pepper shakers made from jelly jars I saved throughout the year. I plan the projects using recycled supplies as much as possible."

Laura and all the teachers at Art Shop Around the Corner strive to encourage kids to be creative. The children really respond to Laura and have made some truly amazing things while in camp.

"My goal with the camps and my aim in teaching children throughout the year is to help their creativity and not discourage them. I don't give them too much to handle and keep it positive experience so that they will think, 'Hey, I'm good at art!'".

"We do lots and lots and lots of art," said 7 year old Lexie with a smile. "We have an art show on Friday. I pretty much love all we do at camp."

"My favorite thing was the water colors," said Anna Catherine, age 7. "We made Father's Day projects. They were pictures of our fathers. I can't wait to show mine to my dad!"

The price of the camp is $70 and it covers all supplies. The camp lasts a full week, Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day. The camps often fill up fast, so you should reserve a spot for your child as soon as possible.

"Please remember to send your child with lunch, snack and a drink in old clothes and old shoes for I promise the paint will fly," Laura grinned.

If you or someone you know would like to send their little ones to art camp, the following camps are still available. For more information, call the Art Shop Around the Corner at 256-775-1775 or visit the shop in person. They are located at 908 2nd Ave NW, Cullman, AL 35055. Follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/laurasshop.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Art camps help turn young children into aspiring artists.

Art Camps $70, 10:00-2:00

- June 15-19 Pam's 9-14 year olds
- July 13-17 Pam's 5-8 year olds
- July 20-24 Laura's 9-14 year olds

Pottery Camps $125 11:00-2:00

- June 22 – 26 Cindy's 9-17 year olds
- July 27-31 Cindy's 9-17 year olds

FOLK ART TOUR STOPS AT WSCC MUSEUM OF ART

Mary Standifer
mary@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College's art museum is currently show casing two Influential folk artists' work. Many pottery pieces by Jerry Brown and paintings by Mose Tolliver can be seen at The Evelyn Burrow Museum of Art through July 2.

Both artists are Alabama natives; Jerry Brown was born in 1942 in Pine Springs Alabama, and Mose Tolliver was born in approximately 1920 near Montgomery.

Jerry Brown is a renowned potter who learned the trade from his father. "Jug" Brown, as his father was called, trained his two sons in a nineteenth-century style of pottery making. After the death of his father, Jerry decided he could no longer stay in the pottery business. Jerry became a logger for almost twenty years of his life before deciding to reenter the pottery trade.

Although Jerry still uses many of the traditional styles of pottery making passed down to him by his father, his work has expanded the process in various ways. Face jugs are some of the most well known pieces from Jerry; he also began experimenting with different glazes. Jerry says he can remember his father making a few face jugs, but "Jug" Brown mainly stuck to utilitarian pieces.

By the time Jerry got back into the pottery business, Alabama was beginning to take interest in folk art as a whole, especially pottery. The National Endowment for the Arts funded a documentary in 1985 called Unbroken Tradition which documented the processes used at Jerry Brown's shop. Jerry, who has managed to pass on his traditional style of pottery making to students at his shop, won the National Heritage Award in 1992.

Mose Tolliver began painting due to boredom after he was injured while sweeping for a furniture company in the 1970s; a load of marble fell onto his legs and crushed them.

Mose began painting on pieces of cardboard, wood, and other materials that would normally be thrown away. He began selling the paintings out of his front yard to people passing by for a dollar or two. The paintings were painted using mainly house paint.

Mose's work often featured self portraits in which he would paint a representation of himself wielding crutches. His work also features birds, flora, children, and other animals.

Mose is particularly well known for his paintings featuring suggestive adult content. The most famous series of these types of paintings are his "Moose Ladies".

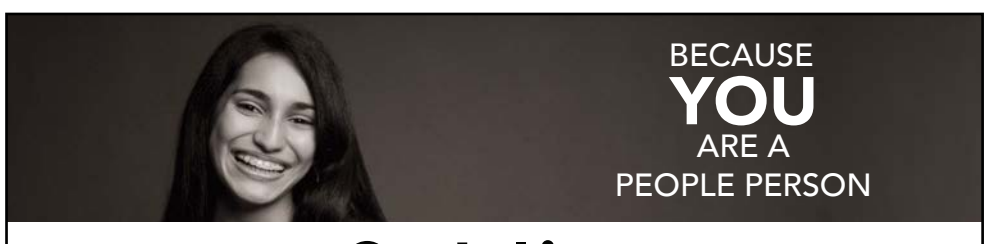
The gallery currently features over 90 pieces of folk art and is open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 – 5:00, and Saturday from 10:00 – 2:00. Admission is free and open to the public. To find out more, visit http://news.wallacestate.edu/2015/05/26/the-evelyn-burrow-museum-showing-work-of-folk-artists-moset-and-jerry-brown.



MARY STANDIFER/CULLMANSENSE

Jerry Brown's face jugs have become some of his most sought after pieces.





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FIELD OF MIRACLES: MIRACLE LEAGUE AND FIELD BRINGS JOY TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Hannah Ward
ward@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Field Of Miracles, located across the street from the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center, was a vision of Chester Freeman's, the board and Jon Hunt, who was the director of Cullman Parks and Recreation at the time.

"The field opened in 2006, and it was built from different donations, and sponsors," Shelby Williams, the Cullman Parks and Recreation Athletics Director said. "There were various people in the community that got together and realized that we had over 2,500 special needs people in our area."

They saw a dire need and met it without hesitation. Today they have around 122 players in the league that play in the spring and fall of each year.

"Meeting the need of all of our community members was very important to us. So we wanted a place where they could play, they could perform. They could experience what every child and adult with full ability could experience," Nathan Anderson, executive director for Cullman Recreation and Parks, stated. "So that was kind of the inspiration behind it, we also had the need for additional ball field space. We had packed out at the Heritage Park Complex, and we knew any field we built would fill up to. Right now with Field of Miracles and Champion field we are full 43 weekends out of the year with tournaments."

The League consists of ages six and up. They play eight weeks in the spring and eight weeks in the fall. There is also a Miracle League for basketball.

They also use the field for special events like soccer and kickball. Cullman Parks and Recreation also hosted the Miracle League World Series one year.

Anderson said, "We have baseball teams come from up to two hours away to serve one night in our Miracle League games. I talk to the coaches after they come to just thank them for their time, and they are thanking me. Every member of their team, the coaching staff and the parents are just touched by what happens with this, what the game does for our players in the Miracle League."

Park Board President, Rusty Turner expressed his thoughts concerning the field, "The Field of Miracles Complex satisfied a need for our community to give children and adults of all ability levels the chance to play ball." The field offers great opportunities for the community to come together and enjoy a sense of belonging and inclusion.

A collection of parents whose children use the park agreed, "It gives our kids the opportunity to participate in sports; otherwise they wouldn't be able to."

Darlene Quick one of the players in the Field of Miracles League stated the reason she loves Field of Miracles is, "Team sport and compete and win." Baseball player, Eddie Shaddix said his reason is, "So I can hit a homer." "I love playing ball," Christie Brown, another Miracle Leagues player, stated.

Because of the Field of Miracles, disability does not get in the way of players feeling pure joy when they swing a bat, or get to home plate.

They can experience everything a child should have a right to experience; but sometimes do not get the opportunity.

"The neat thing about the field is it's brought to our attention the need for other developments like this. Like our playground (Ingle Park) we're gonna be building. It's going to be a playground where a kid with limited mobility can play alongside a kid with full mobility. There's nothing that will stand in their way to play on this playground. So it's a playground for everyone. Our eyes were opened to that because of the Field of Miracles," Anderson said.

"It's imperative for us to serve our community, everyone. When you show up and see the faces of our baseball players, softball players or tee ball players that use that field, it's amazing. It is truly incredible to see their excitement, their enjoyment of that baseball field. We want to always do our best to think of all those that we serve, and to serve them to the best of our ability."



HANNAH WARD/CULLMANSENSE

The Field of Miracles opened in 2006.



SHELBY WILLIAMS/CP&R

The Field of Miracles helps disabled players enjoy sports.





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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

Swamp John's Dinner
The Swamp John's Dinner will be held at Corinth FCM Church from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The church is located at 5130 Co Rd 1101, Vinemont AL 35179 (5 miles west of Battleground).

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. Nonperishable 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

'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

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

Next Monday

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

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

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

TUESDAY
- Pickin' Under the Pavilion at the Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- Trivia Night at Rodney G's at 7 p.m.
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-7 p.m.

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

THURSDAY
- 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
- Rock the South at Heritage 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

SATURDAY
- Rock the South at Heritage 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 Sunday, June 14

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

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CROSSBONES ROCK MOE'S BBQ

Mary Standifer
mary@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – A local band from Warrior Alabama, Crossbones, held a concert at Moe's BBQ Saturday, June 6. The band played both original songs and covers varying from a vast array of genres.

The band managed to pump out almost three hours and fortyfive minutes of music without losing the enthusiasm and energy that was present from the beginning of the show. The band considers themselves to be a southern rock/outlaw country band. The group gave an entertaining performance that caused some audience members dance and interact with lead singer Tim Cheatwood.

The band played from an extensive repertoire that included everything from Wild Cherry's "Play That Funky Music" to a raw, southern rock, original song entitled "Born in Alabama". Crossbones debuted another original song by lead guitarist, Paul Maxwell, entitled "Safe and Warm" at the concert. The song showcased the band's ability to write and perform a rock ballad styled piece that resonated well with the audience. Crossbones said in a statement about the song, "Like many songs, the original inspiration for "Safe and Warm" probably came from a failed relationship. When he introduced the song to the band, we developed the concept to be about more than a romantic relationship but relationships in general. As human beings, we not only desire but need all relationships to be a safe haven: something real that is safe and warm and we need to be able to count on our relationships with those people. Most people have seen the ugly side of relationships and we hope our fans can identify with the pain in the lyrics from the realization that people do let you down. By the end of the song's trials and tribulation, regardless of the result, we hope to have conveyed the message to keep ourselves open to the concept of finding and maintaining those relationships without settling for anything less."



MARY STANDIFER/CULLMANSENSE

Crossbones' stage effects made for a visually pleasing experience.

Crossbones has played many venues around the area, a favorite being a gig to play for the Pirates of the Warrior River Alabama Yacht Club in Tuscaloosa. The concert was performed on a river; the band played on a large barge anchored to a sandbar surrounded by boats full of audience members.

The band made it clear that Moe's Original Barbecue in Cullman will always "have a soft spot" in their hearts. After playing their first concert together as Crossbones at the restaurant, the band has continued to play shows at the venue.

For more about Crossbones, visit facebook.com/pages/Cross-Bones/509735939069700, or follow them on Twitter @xbonesnation.

CAR SHOW TO BENEFIT FAIRVIEW MARCHING BAND

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

FAIRVIEW – The Fairview Aggie Marching Band will hold its first annual car show on the 4th of July at Fairview Park. The show will begin at 10 a.m. and go until 2 p.m. The event will also feature music and food vendors.

The car show is being held to raise money for the Fairview Aggie Marching Band so that they can purchase new uniforms.

The uniforms the band has now, according to Nathan Kilgo, the band director at Fairview, are 15 years old.

"If you get ten years out of a uniform, you're doing good," Kilgo said.

The cost to purchase all new uniforms will be $60k, according to Kilgo, but the need for new attire is dire.

According to Michelle Watwood, an organizer of the car show and the parent of one of the band members, "Mothers are having to use safety pins and tape to fix [the uniforms] before the kids march into the football stadiums before games."

This significant cost comes a year after the Fairview football team's stadium was deemed unsuitable for use and condemned. Last year, every game for the Aggies was an away game.

While Cullman High School allowed Fairview to use its world-class facilities last year, it was still "financially challenging" for the school to have to transport all the equipment each and every week.

As a result, the Aggies are holding this car show event to raise funds to cover the cost of new uniforms.

To register or RSVP to the car show, contact Booster President Brian Lodge at BrianLodge67@gmail.com.

While attending the event will be free, parking will cost $5.

Additionally, there will be fireworks after 3 p.m. provided by the local churches in Fairview.

For the students in the Fairview Aggie Marching Band, the uniforms are more than just clothing.

"These kids have endured so much between losing a band member in a tragic car accident in 2014 and loss of their stadium, uniforms will restore their sense of hope," said Watwood.

Animals (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – CAAWA, the Cullman Area Animal Welfare Association, is a band of individuals whose job is to rescue and save the neglected and abused animals of Cullman County. The group is completely non-profit, and all its members are volunteers. They consider themselves to be a 'no kill' organization that rescues companion animals.

Established in 2004 CAAWA was federally recognized as a non-profit animal welfare organization in 2005. Many of the animals they rescue come from high-kill animal shelters while many others come from abusive situations. CAAWA does their best to intercept the animals prior to being taken to a shelter.

The people of CAAWA pride themselves in providing excellent medical care to the animals accepted into their foster care program.
Each animal is examined by a veterinarian at least once, and is provided with all necessary medical treatments.

The animals receive all age appropriate vaccinations, including rabies, the bordetella vaccine, heartworm or FIV/Leukemia tests, fecal exams and parasite prevention.

Each animal is spayed or neutered, as well as microchipped. All rescued animals are quarantined for a minimum of ten days prior to adoption.

While in foster care, the dogs are socialized and house trained.

Cats are fostered indoors only, socialized, and litterbox trained before they are adopted into their forever families. The main priority of CAAWA is large, female dogs that have had large litters.

CAAWA also provides low-cost spay/neuter assistance to animals owned by persons with low income. For those who live in Cullman County and need help with getting their pet spayed or neutered contact CAAWA at 256-636-4627.

"We try to promote education and understanding on things such as spay and neutering, declawing animals and that sort of thing," explained Sue Jones, CAAWA Volunteer. "We want healthy animals to go to good forever homes and we don't want them to be reproducing and causing more unwanted animals that will end up at the Cullman Animal Shelter – That's our goal," she smiled warmly.

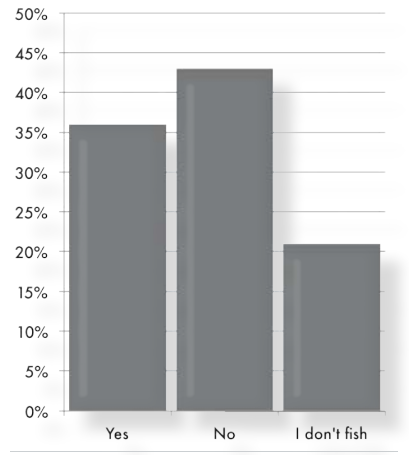
"CAAWA is a very small organization, so we need volunteers, foster homes – desperately need foster homes so we can save more animals," Jones explained.

"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."

To donate or adopt a pet through CAAWA, call 256-636-4627 or e-mail caawarescue@yahoo.com. Follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/rescueCAAWA.

Poll

Have you gone fishing this year?



This Week's Poll

Are you excited about Rock the South?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

WHAT'S ONLINE



STEVE CUMMINGS

CITIZEN OF THE WEEK: STEVE CUMMINGS – WINNING BY BEING DIFFERENT

Steve Cummings is no stranger to Cullman; his family owned and operated Cummings Sporting Goods for many years. He has worked in various areas throughout Cullman to help make the city a more desirable place to live. He served... **QRNE.WS/364**



SHIRLEY BURDEN

HANCEVILLE'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM HAS CHILDREN RUBBING ELBOWS WITH LOCAL HEROES

Recently the first day of Hanceville Public Library's Summer Reading Program began. The day's theme was 'Hometown Heroes' and the children met numerous personalities that the area's residents consider their local heroes. Behind the library... **QRNE.WS/365**

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SINGER/SONGWRITER BENNETT GLASSCOCK PLAYS IT COOL IN LATEST COMPETITION

Mary Standifer
mary@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Local musician Bennett Glasscock has entered his second Guitar Center sponsored challenge. In February of last year, Bennett was selected as a finalist for the fourth Guitar Center Singer-Songwriter Competition. The competition usually allows for 10 finalists, but that year's only allowed five.

Renowned record producer Don Was handpicked all of the finalists for that year. "We did our best to get as many points as possible, [but] once we got there, they were like, 'Well he just picks who he wants,'" said Glasscock. "If you have more points, they'll see you because you'll be toward the top, but at the end of the day, he just went through there and chose whoever he wanted." Contestants made channels on a specially made social media platform specifically designed for the contest.

Glasscock and the other four finalists were flown to Los Angeles, where they performed at the Troubadour in front of a live audience to compete for the title of first place. The first place winner was given studio time with Don Was himself. Although Glasscock did not win, he still enjoyed the opportunity to meet Don Was and sing for the first time in front of a live audience.

This time, Guitar Center's competition focuses on the well-known musician, music producer and DJ, Zedd. The "Cover Me Zedd" competition requires contestants to cover the producer's new song, "I Want You to Know," featuring Selena Gomez. "It's set up the exact same way as far as the points, and he ends up just picking who he wants. I don't know if there are finalists for this one or not; I think he might just pick a winner," explained Glasscock, "When you make a channel, [Zedd] gives you all the separate tracks to his song with Selena Gomez called 'I Want You to Know'. The whole contest is, you have to remix it, and I just wanted to play with all the different parts of the song, so I made a channel."

Just like last time, Glasscock is not expecting to win but is simply enjoying the opportunity to create music. His unique musical style is heavily influenced by his love of R&B; his cover for the contest transforms the EDM single into a smooth, euphonic and R&B fueled experience. "Zedd, in the video, kept talking about how it should be your interpretation of the song, and I was like maybe he doesn't even want an EDM version. I'm hoping he doesn't want that, and he wants what I make. That would be ideal," he laughed.



BENNETT GLASSCOCK

Glasscock performs live at the Troubadour in LA.

The contest ends July 9, and the winner will be offered studio time with Zedd, a meeting with Interscope Records, $10,000, and an impressive array of music gear from various sponsors. To listen to Bennett Glasscock's cover, go to Zedd.amplifiertv.com/channel/BennettG. To hear him perform his original song, "One More Time" live at the CullmanSense building, visit CullmanSense.com later this week.

AUGUSTA'S SPORTS BAR GEARING UP FOR THREE-DAY BLOCK PARTY

Noah Chandler
noah@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – With Rock the South just a few days away, local establishment Augusta's Sports Bar is preparing for its own country bash as it welcomes American Idol season 14 contestant Dexter Roberts on Thursday evening to help kick-off a three day parking lot party.

"We are going to have a large tent setup out front each day and will have a portion of our parking lot blocked off so everyone can came out for a great time over the weekend," Deb Verses, owner Augusta's Sports Bar, said. "But Thursday night we are getting to get the party started with American Idol sensation Dexter Roberts, who'll be taking the stage at 6 p.m."

Roberts finished seventh overall in the 14th season of American Idol.

The Fayetteville native is just happy to be playing his favorite music in front of crowds who enjoy original country music.

"If you love good, original country then you'll enjoy the show," Roberts said. "I'm grateful to be able to help kick-off the great events happening in Cullman this Thursday at Augusta's. It's going to be some great music, food and a party for everybody!"

The party will begin on Thursday when Roberts takes the stage at 6 p.m. and the fun will last until 11 p.m. It will pick back up Friday and Saturday beginning at 8 a.m. until midnight where the staff at Augusta's will be serving outdoors.

"We will be serving beverages out-front along with a condensed menu, so bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the fun," Verses said.

Officers (from Front)

portunity to build relationships with children and teenagers and give them a realistic perception of a Law Enforcement Officer.

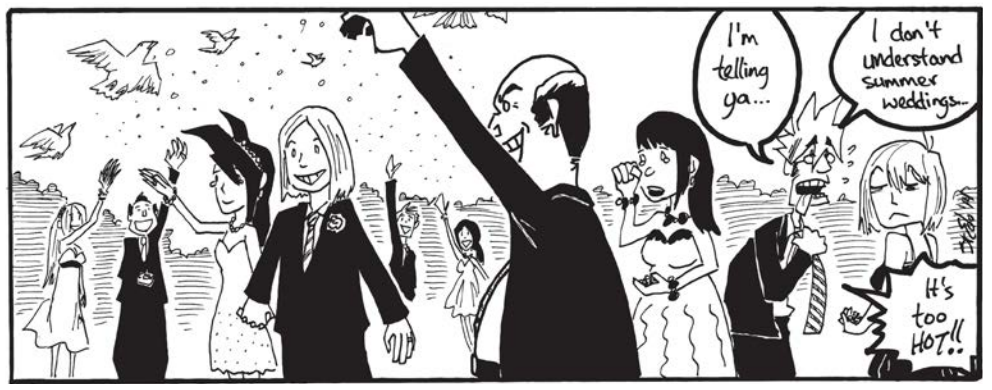
Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry explains their role, "We are very fortunate to have an SRO in every school in Cullman County. Because they take a proactive approach to law enforcement by educating students on the law and also the dangers of drugs. SROs are not just deputies but they also serve as protectors, role models, and educators by helping students with things that came up in their everyday lives."

Every Cullman County School's Resource Officer is a deputy. They are also Alabama Peace Officer Standards and Training Certified.

These officers police school grounds and ensure the safety of students and faculty. Thanks to them Cullman County Schools are kept secure throughout the school year.

COMICS

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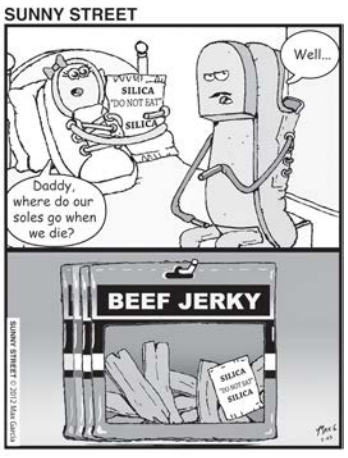
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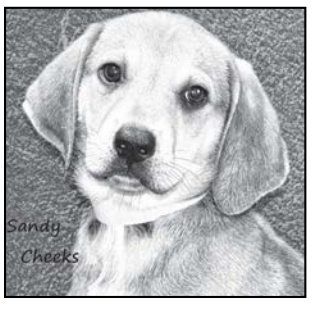
PETS OF THE WEEK

RAISIN BRAN



Hello my name is Raisin Bran and I am about 1 years old. I am a Feist mix and I currently weigh 26 LBS. I am currently a stray but if not claimed, I will be up for adoption on 6/17/15 at 7:30 am. I am full of life and I love to play, so please come and visit with me! My adoption fee is only $90 and that covers my first set of vaccines and wormer at the Shelter. You may find out I'm a lovable companion!

SANDY CHEEKS



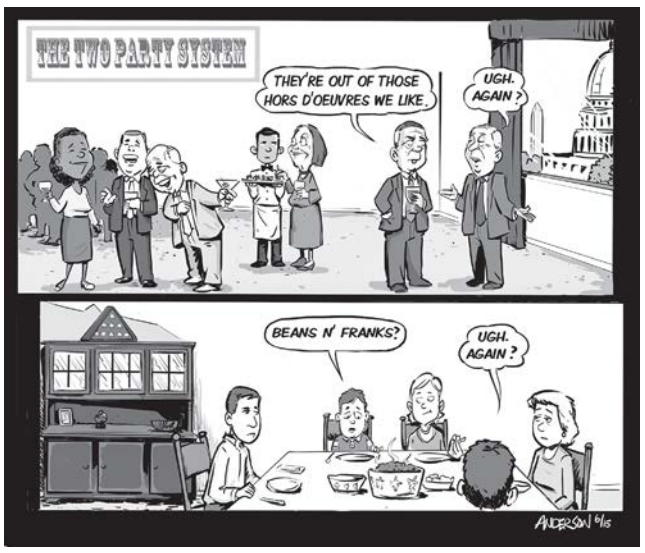
Hello my name is Sandy Cheeks and I am about 2 months old. I am a Beagle/Bloodhound mix here with 6 of my siblings and I currently weigh 11 lbs. Because I was fully vetted when coming in to the Shelter, my adoption fee is only $90 and that covers my first set of vaccines and wormer at the Shelter. I am full of life, love to play and ready to meet my forever family! Please come by and visit with me.

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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.

EDITORIAL CARTOON





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OPINION

U.S. SOCCER SHOULD NOT LOOK THE OTHER WAY ON HOPE SOLO

Laura Finley
PeaceVoice

If the U.S. is serious that domestic violence is unacceptable, even when perpetrated by the heroes we idolize, then there is absolutely no way we should be looking the other way when it comes to U.S. soccer goalkeeper Hope Solo.

In early June, ESPN's Outside the Lines aired an interview with Solo's sister, Teresa Obert, about the incident that occurred a year ago. Obert's story differs dramatically from the one that Solo keeps getting the chance to repeat. Solo's story centers on herself as victim. She claims her nephew, who is 6 foot 8 and weighs 270 pounds, was the one who hit her on the head with a broomstick and then threatened her with a gun. She claims that she was severely concussed from the incident, although no medical evidence has yet confirmed that conclusion.

Obert claimed that Solo arrived to her home drunk and upset with her husband. Obert says that after more drinking, Solo began insulting her 17-year-old nephew, and then he claims she lunged at him, trying to hit him in the face. She connected multiple times, the boy says, and then he subdued her briefly but she grabbed his hair and began "repeatedly" slamming his head into the concrete. Obert alleges that when she tried to intervene, Solo punched her "multiple times." At this point Obert's son called 911, although the melee continued until police arrived.

As is often the case, when the police arrived all parties involved looked visibly upset. Officer Elizabeth Voss observed physical injuries on Obert's son and that his clothing was in disarray. The other officer, Chuck Pierce, recorded similar injuries on Obert. Sergeant Phil Goguen, the first on the scene, noted that Solo's breath smelled of liquor and she was slurring. She claimed she was protecting herself but refused to provide any specifics. The report notes that Goguen did not observe any injuries on Solo. Given all of the above, Goguen determined, per state law, that Solo was the primary aggressor.

Her poor behavior did not stop there. When she was being booked at the Kirkland Jail Solo allegedly yelled profanities at the officers involved and repeatedly harassed the officers, making fun of them because, as she allegedly put it, her necklace was worth more than their salaries. She was then transferred to another facility and in the process continued to abuse the officers involved.

After the incident, Obert obtained a temporary restraining order against Solo and then a permanent order was issued in January 2015.

Just like the NFL with the Ray Rice incident (until it got too big to ignore), U.S Soccer was largely silent on the case. Three months later it released a statement saying that Solo was cleared to play. In their investigation, Outside the Lines found no evidence to suggest that U.S Soccer did any kind of investigation into the incident...no records that it contacted the prosecutors, police, or Obert and her son, nor did it request the police records of the case.

Sure, there are inconsistencies in Obert and her son's stories, but that too is not unusual. Incidents of domestic violence are often a blur, as victims are more concerned with protecting themselves than recording the specifics. On January 13, 2015, a judge dismissed the case on procedural grounds, not based on evidence, and on February 9 the prosecutor's office announced it was appealing the decision, which Prosecutor Tamara McElyea said was extremely rare.

Sports journalist Keith Olbermann has been most vehement in his calls for U.S Soccer to suspend Solo, noting that not only is she supposed to be a role model, but that because she is representing the U.S. she, her coach, Jill Ellis, and U.S. Soccer President Sanil Gulati are also representing each of us.

But of course she has not been suspended, as the U.S Women's Soccer team is performing well in the World Cup and Solo is considered by many to be the hero of those victories. Most media outlets are contributing to the free pass Solo has received, calling the last year a "roller coaster" instead of providing specifics. Despite her many embarrassing debacles, Solo was even named team captain. Coach Ellis even had the audacity to claim that most of the players have no idea that the incident even happened and that those who do have "moved on." And, of course, Nike continued her endorsement package, which is odd, given that it separated with Rice who was actually cleared of all charges while those against Solo are pending.

While it is up to the court's to determine whether Solo is guilty of domestic violence, U.S. Soccer and Nike can and should engage in a serious investigation of her behavior. Her gender and her gifts as a goalkeeper should not be a factor. Sadly, both seem to be.

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

OPINION

WHY RUN FOR OFFICE?

Lee H. Hamilton
Contributor

I spend a fair amount of time talking to students and other young people about Congress and politics in general, and I've noticed something. It used to be that I'd regularly get asked how one runs for office. Nowadays, I rarely do.

A lot of young people are repelled by politics; they've lost faith in the system just as many other Americans have. But look.

If you don't have people who are willing to run for office, you don't have a representative democracy. As the leading edge of the Millennial generation reaches the age where running for office is a realistic possibility, I hope they'll consider a few things.

First, it's hard to find a more challenging job. The number, complexity, and diversity of the problems we face are astounding. As a politician, your work is never done; your to-do list is always full. It's intellectually as challenging an occupation as anything I can imagine.

Second, I don't know of another profession that puts you in touch with more people of more different types, ages, and views.

You meet — and, if you're serious, really engage with — liberals and conservatives, voters rich and poor, religious believers and secular humanists alike. This is one of the great attractions of the job: the splendid array of individuals and convictions that you encounter in politics.

Finally, and perhaps most important, the work can be immensely satisfying. Whatever level you're running at, whether it's for the school board or for President, you're doing it to try to make things work.

My first year in Congress, in 1965, I voted for Medicare. I'd had no role in drafting it. I played no substantive part in its passage. Yet I still remember that vote, and I still derive deep satisfaction from it. Because I know that I voted for legislation that has helped millions of people, and will continue to do so into the future. That's the thing about holding public office: you have a chance to contribute to the direction and success of a free society. In the scheme of things, this chance isn't given to all that many people.

There is no America without democracy, no democracy without politics, and no politics without elected politicians. There are a lot of exciting, challenging and satisfying professions out there, but here's what I tell young people: I consider politics chief among them.



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