SERIES 5 • ISSUE 25 • JUNE 22, 2015
CULLMANSENSE COMMUNITY MATTERS


LELDON MAXCY

LELDON MAXCY SCROLL SAWING ARTIST P10


WILL HOGUE/CULLMANSENSE

BOWLING CENTER'S THERAPEUTIC PROGRAM IS A STRIKE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Cullman Bowling Center now offers therapeutic bowling for individuals with disabilities. The program is offered every Tuesday in June and July 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The cost is $3.00 per person and the individual with the disability is not required to wear bowling shoes. Immediate family members are welcome to participate.

One very special boy who took advantage of the therapeutic bowling Tuesday night was Brenten Sams. Brenten is four years old and has autism. Although he has never been bowling before, the little guy almost knocked down all the pins every time he bowled.

"We figured he would like bowling," his mother Brittney said with a smile. "At first he wanted to run with the ball down the lane, but after the first time though, he got the hang of it just fine," she giggled.

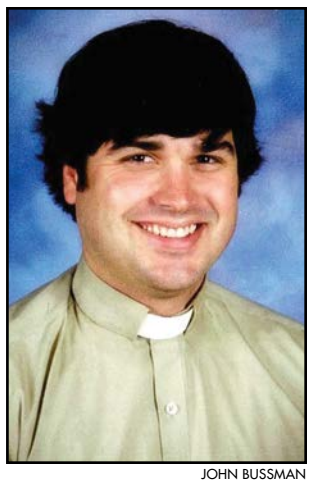
P3


SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Four year old Brenten Sams has autism and loves to bowl.

HISTORIC BOMBER PLANE SET TO LAND IN CULLMAN, TAKE RESIDENTS AIRBORNE P3

CCBOE VOTES APPLETON TO BE NEW STAFFING AGENCY FOR NON-TENURE TEACHER AIDES P2


JOHN BUSSMAN

RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT

REVEREND JOHN BUSSMAN OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH P4

ROCK THE SOUTH WRAP-UP P6


HANNAH WARD/CULLMANSENSE

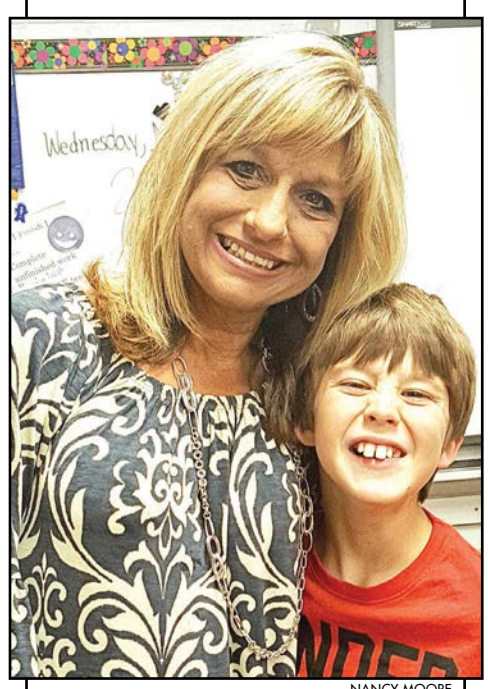
Attendees learn how to make rain barrels from common materials.

RAIN BARREL CLASS TEACHES TO SAVE WATER AND MONEY

P9

CITIZEN OF THE WEEK

NANCY MOORE: A REFLECTION OF SOBRIETY


NANCY MOORE

Hunter is very proud of his mother's sobriety. P4

15TH ANNUAL TOURING FARMS FOR KIDS TEACHES YOUTHS ABOUT AGRICULTURE

Hannah Ward
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CULLMAN – North Alabama Agriplex recently had its 15th annual Touring Farms for Kids event. The program focused on teaching third through ninth graders about farming.

The two-day event gave around 35 children the opportunity to learn everything they could about agriculture. They got the chance to meet cows, rabbits, chickens, horses, and hawks.

They also learned P9


HANNAH WARD/CULLMANSENSE

The children learn about feeding and caring for chickens.

MOMMY AND ME ART CLASSES: LITTLE ARTISTS CREATE WORKS OF ART WITH MOM'S HELP


SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Preschoolers and their mothers enjoy creating colorful artwork together. P2

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CCBOE VOTES APPLETON TO BE NEW STAFFING AGENCY FOR NON-TENURE TEACHER AIDES

Hannah Ward
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CULLMAN – Cullman County School's non-tenure teacher aides received the notification of termination of their employment on May 29, 2015. Due to budget restrictions and rising utility and health care costs the school board implemented a new staffing agency for Cullman County schools.

The Cullman County School Board of Education voted Thursday night, June 18, at a regular Cullman County School Board meeting to contract Appleton Learning Corporation. The agency will take over the hiring and paying of non-tenure teacher aides.

Around 50 aides lost their jobs, but they each have the opportunity to get it back by applying through the agency. The non-tenured teachers will no longer qualify for tenure since they will be working for the agency, not the school system.

Dan Sheets, the Director of Communications at Cullman County Schools stated, "The reason this decision was made is due to the fact of the teacher aide situation; the district is way over staffed. What happens is you have a teacher aide who is hired, say they follow a child they're tied to, then after three years they become a tenured employee. So what that means is even if that student leaves that aid is still an employee, but what do they do now? There is not necessarily a student to be assigned to. Obviously they get put into a position somewhere, to fill some sort of a roll, but yet you can kind of see the problem of an over expanding surplus."

Cullman County Board of Education chose a staffing management agency as the solution to relieve this problem. Appleton Learning Corporation will be handling health care and financial benefits, saving around $375,000 a year. This saved money will be used for various school improvements.

This agency will not only cover the financial side, but it will also ensure a more thorough hiring process.

"They'll have the opportunity to enlist in the staffing agency which would require them to basically have to do the hiring process," Sheets said. "This will help increase the likelihood of better quality teacher aides.

In the upcoming school year, every need for a teacher aide will be met. This will not affect students in need of a teacher aide in any way.

Lisa Faust from the Alabama Education Association stated, "Privatization is not good for Cullman County. Our aides, the ones who provide services to our most precious commodity, will be forced into unemployment if they don't go with the private company. Even if they do go with the private company, they will have less money and have fewer benefits. I do not want Cullman County to go with private companies to hire their aides and other personnel. I do not feel it is in the best interest of students and Cullman county employees and the community. The school loses all control when a private company comes in."

Sheets stated, "Really it's again trying to do what's best for the kids; the students ultimately are the objective. So if we can save money without jeopardizing the student's experiences and be able to provide them with smart boards or a sort of learning device. Even new windows in the classroom is definitely a positive for them."

Janna Absher, a Hanceville teacher for 17 years and the Cullman County Education Association president, stated, "I am very disappointed the vote did not go in the favor of supporting our education family."

Wendy Crider Cullman County Board of Education, stated, "Our number one goal is to take care of these kids. We did a lot of research for this company and we're gonna work very closely to them. I've been a previous teacher myself and I had a special needs child in my class for two years, and she changed my life. So I'm very passionate about taking care of these kids. If it's a previous aide or a new aide that's not doing their job the principle can call Appleton and tell them, and they'll have a replacement in three days. Where a lot of times you have trouble with an aide that is tenured it takes a lot longer to get resolved. I thought this was something worth trying for the better."

Based in Huntsville, Ala., the ten-year-old company works with districts across the state of Alabama.

Glenn Clayton, President of Appleton, stated, "What we do is work exclusively with K through 12 public schools to help them in for exactly the situation Cullman is in where budgets are being cut and rather than eliminating personnel or lay people off this is a way they keep everybody fully employed and still serving the need of their children. We also as an education company provide more in-depth training that most of these staff members have currently been able to access. So this way they can get better training and be better equipped to do their job. We do all of our training certified through the Glenwood Institutes in line with all national and state standards."

No school district has ever fired the company, even though every school can within the first 90 days.

STATE REP. RANDALL SHEDD APPOINTED TO STUDY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC PENSION REFORM

Rachel Adams
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – State Rep. Randall Shedd (R – Cullman) on Wednesday announced that he has been appointed to serve on the Legislature's Joint Committee on Public Pensions, a newly-formed panel tasked with ensuring the long-term fiscal health of the Retirement Systems of Alabama and the monthly benefits it provides.

"More than 330,000 current and former employees of Alabama's state and local government participate in the retirement system, and many of them depend upon it as their sole source of monthly income in retirement," Shedd said. "A variety of factors including low investment returns caused by the 2008 economic turndown and changes in government accounting rules have driven the system's unfunded liabilities to more than $12 billion. Taxpayers have shouldered much of the resulting burden, but that cannot continue over the long haul. If the retirement system is going to keep its promise of paying benefits to public retirees for decades to come, we must address its structural issues and secure its long-term solvency."

Shedd, who is a retired director of the Cullman County Commission on Aging, is one of 16 members who will sit on the committee, study the operations within the RSA, and make recommendations for reform before the Legislature convenes for the 2016 regular session.

Among those serving on the panel are: three members of the House Ways & Means Education Committee; three members of the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee; and two members of the Alabama House, all of whom are appointed by the Speaker and two of whom must be from the minority party. The Senate President Pro Tem will appoint the same number of members from the corresponding committees and pool of candidates in that body.

Each chamber will appoint one co-chair from among the committee's members.

According to HJR288, which formally created the committee, all agencies and departments of the state, including the RSA, "shall provide any assistance and information requested by the committee."

Meetings are required to be held on at least a monthly basis prior to mid-December.

Mommy (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – Local artist Sandy Price has gotten off to a colorful start since hired as the art instructor for Cullman City Park and Rec. She is teaching two classes this summer: Homeschool Art Classes and Mommy & Me Art Classes.

Mommy and Me encourage mothers and their preschoolers, ages two to five, to create memorable artwork together. The group meets each Tuesday in June and July at 10:00 a.m. in the basement of the Civic Center. There will be a total of eight classes, and the children have been busy creating a variety of art projects and keepsakes. During their class on June 16th, the children made Father's Day cards.

"I was hired in April to be the art instructor for Park and Rec. and I'm just hoping so much it grows," Price explained.

"I hope to offer the same classes again in the fall. I also hope to be able to have a one day, after school class, like around 4:00 in the afternoon. Out of all the county schools, I think there are only four or five of them that have an art teacher. The bad thing is that anytime something is cut from the school system, art is cut first. I think art is more crucial than anything because it builds up their self-esteem. You know, it's where they can show whatever they are," she smiled.

"I like to color and paint," 2-year-old Jillian said happily as she colored away on a piece of paper.

"Jillian sure loves art class. She missed out on making the elephants last time because she was out sick, but she's back now," said Jillian's Grandmother, Debra Ellison.

The children's impressive artwork will soon adorn the walls of the classroom. The cost is $50 for the entire class. For more information, call 256-734-9157 or visit cullmanrecreation.org.





HISTORIC BOMBER PLANE SET TO LAND IN CULLMAN, TAKE RESIDENTS AIRBORNE

Will Hogue
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CULLMAN – Cullman Mayor Max Townson announced last Thursday that the renowned World War II B-17 Bomber, Memphis Belle, will be flying into Cullman for this year's Veterans Day Celebration.

The annual ceremony will take place on Saturday, November 7. Under the oversight of Elk's Lodge member Colonel Ken Brown the event has grown in the past few years. Colonel Brown estimates that as many as 12-15 thousand people could show up to the event this year.

The Memphis Belle flew 25 missions over Nazi-occupied Europe where the loss rate for U.S. airborne excursions was 82% in 1943.

U.S. officials promised that any crew completing 25 missions could go home. The Memphis Belle and her crew were the first to achieve that goal.

On Saturday morning the Memphis Belle will fly riders over Cullman. Interior tours of the historic plane will be given on Saturday afternoon.

"The rides will be 45 minutes long," said Colonel Ken Brown. "And people from all over will be coming to get a ride on it. I wanted to make sure local citizens had a chance to [take advantage of the opportunity to ride the plane] before tickets were sold out."

Along with the aircraft itself, the 1990 film, The Memphis Belle, starring Harry Connick Jr., will be shown in Cullman's Carmike theater for the entire week leading up to the Veteran's Day celebration.

"I hope every seat in the theater is full for that entire week," the Mayor said.

The Mayor also praised the War Memorial at Sportsman Lake Park.

"We have the best Veterans Park in the state of Alabama," the Mayor said. He also emphasized Cullman's appreciation of all veterans, whether they faced combat or not.

To buy a $450 ride in the Memphis Belle call Colonel Ken Brown at 256-507-1121. All proceeds go to the Liberty Foundation to keep the Memphis Belle operable.



Mayor Max Townson and Colonel Ken Brown announce the special visit from the Memphis Belle.

WILL HOGUE/CULLMANSENSE

RADKIDS SUMMER CAMP TO TEACH VALUABLE SAFETY SKILLS

Mary Standifer
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CULLMAN – On June 22-26, Officer Cindy Rohrscheib will be leading the RadKids Summer Camp. "Rad" stands for resisting aggression defensively, and that is exactly what Officer Rohrscheib intends to teach young people who attend the camp.

The program was brought to Cullman in 2009 after parents and community members began requesting a self defense class that would teach all the same valuable lessons found in the Equalizer Women's Self Defense Program, to boys and girls younger than thirteen.

The program aims to not only teach, but also allow kids to put into action the skills they are being taught in the program. "We only talk to our kids about stranger danger. We talk to them about good touch, bad touch, but we don't really explain it," says Officer Rohrscheib.

During the program, students will be taught and able to practice simple self defense maneuvers designed to thwart predators and abductors. The camp will also cover topics like Internet safety, how to escape a fire, safety in public places, and much more.

"I don't want any child feeling obligated to give somebody a hug, or any kid feeling obligated to let somebody in their space because you have someone telling you that you don't have a right to take up for yourself," explains Officer Rohrscheib, "You can tell a child how to protect themselves, what to do and what not to do. RadKids shows them how to protect themselves. We run them through drills and fake scenarios."

The program has already proved itself valuable; a child that went through the RadKids program under Officer Rohrscheib's instruction had to put her knowledge to the test only two weeks after completing the program.

Two people in ski masks broke into the little girl's house; luckily the child remembered to find a safe place as instructed in RadKids training, and was able to avoid being abducted. "Her momma even said that had she not had that class, she was the kind of kid that would have just sat there and not known what to do; it's not like her to stand up for herself," elaborated Officer Rohrscheib.

The program has been growing in Cullman since its' inception. Between ten and twelve kids attended the camp in 2009, where as there were over 40 kids in attendance last summer.

The cost of the camp is $5 per child and will be held at the Cullman Civic Center from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

For more information, call Officer Cindy Rohrscheib at 256-736-4703, or visit radkids.org.

Bowling (from Front)

The Sams family learned about the therapeutic bowling program through the Cullman Autism Networking Group's Director, Rhonda Davis, who continues to do excellent work with those with autism.

Brenten had a great time bowling against his parents and two-year-old sister Brindley.

His grandparents were also there clapping and encouraging the children when it was their turn to roll the ball. Good natured Brenton munched on a batch of nachos and cheese as he patiently waited his turn at the ball. Then, as the night went on, he broke out into waves of giggles while his grandma loved on him, a sure sign it was getting close to his bedtime.

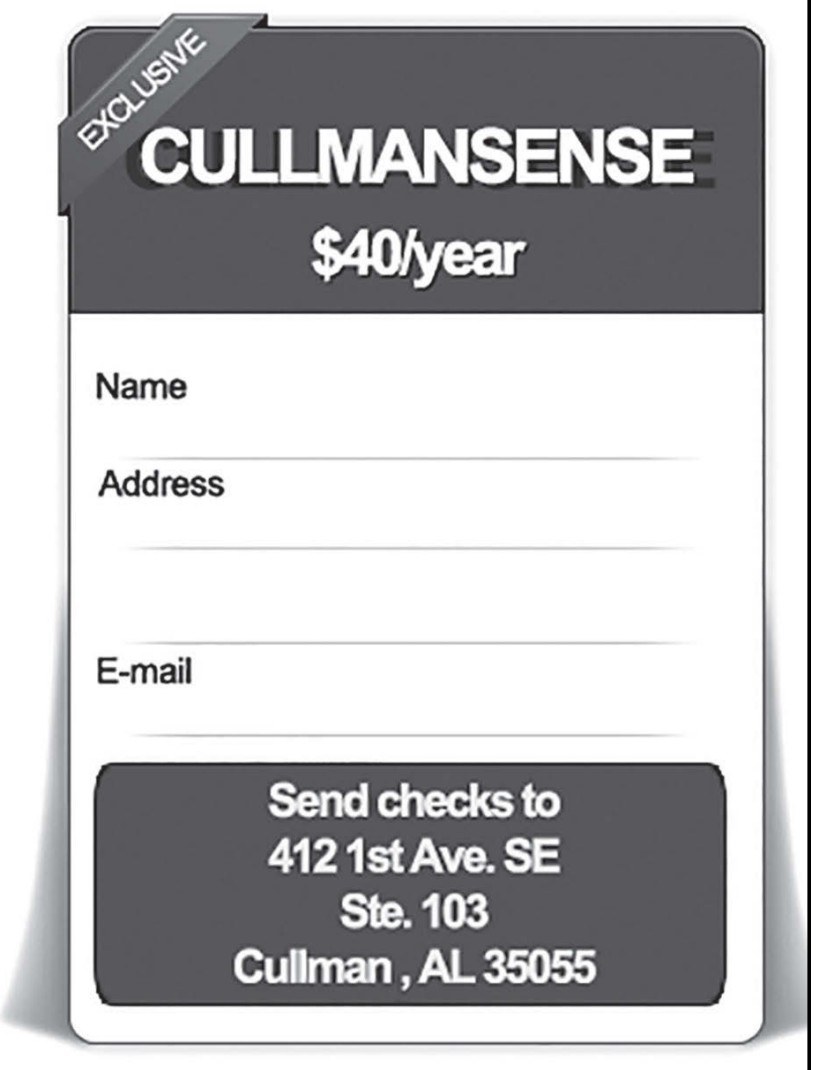
"We tried t-ball this year, and he had a little trouble with the coordination part, but he just didn't have the attention span to play – and we didn't either," his father explained.

Children with autism need all the support they can get. Brenten and his family have been able to benefit from the various activities around town that are designed to offer friendship, therapy and lots of fun.

For more information about these activities around the area, contact Rhonda Davis at 256-962-2208.

The Cullman Autism Networking Group meets on the second Saturday of the month from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. To find out the location of the meetings, e-mail CullmanNetworkingGroup@autism-alabama.org.

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CULLMANSENSE.COM
June 22, 2015

RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT: REVEREND JOHN BUSSMAN OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – For the past three years, John Bussman has been the sole pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. One of the younger ministers in the community, St. Paul's is Pastor Bussman's first parish, and from the looks of it, he's doing an excellent job. He loves people and cares deeply about their eternal salvation. He also has a deep concern for the truth of the Scriptures, which he feels has been greatly corrupted in our nation for far too long. He has dedicated his life to proclaiming Christ so that all those who hear might live.

John has been married to his beautiful wife, Emily for just over two years and together they have a 1-year-old son named Gabriel. He graduated undergrad from Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska where he majored in history and focused on the Biblical languages Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. He was in Seminary school for four years at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis where he received his Masters of Divinity. He is currently working on his doctorate that will probably take another three years to complete.

Pastor Bussman truly loves his ministry. He considers the people of his congregation to be his religious responsibility. The members of St. Paul's are one big family, and they strive to treat each other as such.

"We strive to love one another as Christ loves us in order that His kingdom might advance," Bussman explained. "The biggest challenge is certainly seeing all of my people. I love to be in my members' homes simply for a leisurely visit. Most of the time, however, is spent seeing them in the hospital, before surgery/after surgery, and nursing homes. Just because someone isn't physically well enough to come through my door doesn't mean I can't take the Gospel to them," he smiled.

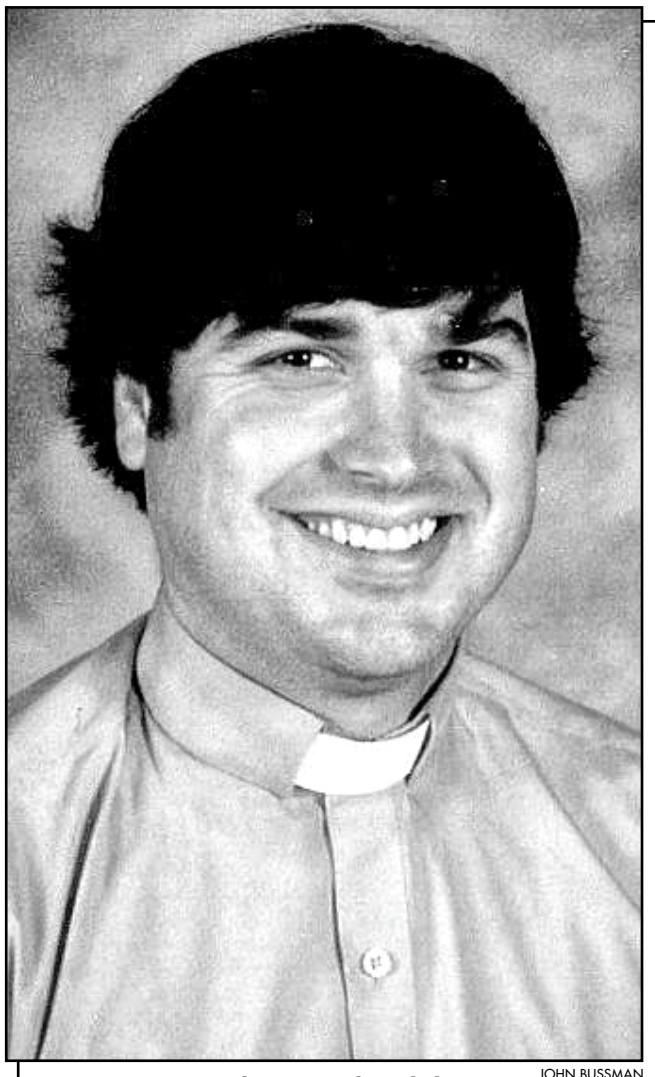
"We have several hundred members, and it's difficult to see all of them as often as I'd like."

When thinking about pastoring to the congregation, Pastor Bussman just grins happily and chatters away.

"The most rewarding moments are administering the Sacraments," he begins.

"There's nothing like being the instrument through which God brings a little child or an adult into His Church. Then when my people come to the altar to receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of their sins, it truly is a privilege to be able to give that to them. This might sound morbid, but funerals are also rewarding. They are an opportunity for me to bear witness to our Lord Christ who has defeated death by His resurrection and to proclaim that same resurrection is awaiting those who fall asleep in Him. It's like preaching Easter Sunday over and over and over. It's certainly a time to mourn but to mourn with hope."

Pastor Bussman is an intelligent man that strives to pass his knowledge of God on to others. St. Paul's Lutheran Church is located at 513 4th Ave SE, Cullman, AL 35055. For more information, call 256-734-3575 or visit stpaulsl.com. Follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/StPaulsCullman.



JOHN BUSSMAN

Pastor Bussman loves God and the people at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

"There's nothing like being the instrument through which God brings a little child or an adult into His Church."

John Bussman, Pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Moore (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Nancy Moore is like a breath of fresh air. Her bubbly personality is infectious and her willingness to help others is remarkable. But there's something most people may not know about the town's little sweetheart - that on July 12, 2015 she will celebrate one year of sobriety.

Nancy is married to the handsome Steve Moore and they have four children, Hunter, Caitlin, Nash and Brittney. They have one grandson named Kaden. Nancy is a full-fledged stay at home mom and in her free time she volunteers in the community. Happy as a clam and always full of life, Nancy has overcome many obstacles in her past.

"I am an alcoholic and a drug addict," she said without blinking an eye. "I was addicted to Xanax and pain pills. I own everything that has happened to me and I take full responsibility for what happened."

"In July of 1993 I got sober the first time," she explained. "I realized I was an alcoholic and a drug addict. I got sober here in Cullman and had a lot of support. I went to my twelve step meetings regularly. Life was great and I blossomed," she smiled.

In May of 2008 Nancy's life changed dramatically when she lost both her parents in a plane crash. As a result, she just couldn't handle life anymore.

"A doctor put me on Xanax, Ambien and anti-depressants," she said. "I needed help for the short term but I became addicted to those. Then in 2010 somebody offered me a beer and I drank it."

Nancy didn't start drinking daily; she just drank here and there. She actually handled the first few times she drank well, and thought she had the problem licked. Unfortunately, with alcoholics, once they begin to drink, they start craving the alcohol, so she began to drink quite a bit.

"It really got bad around 2012. A lot of people knew I had a problem before I ever did," she smiled. "My brother and sister, my husband, my mother-in-law, other family members and friends confronted me about my drinking, so I began to hide it and for the next year I drank by myself. I was so heavily addicted to the pills and the drinking that my life was falling apart around me."

"On July 10, 2014 I asked for help. I told my brother, sister and husband that I could not get off the pills by myself – I needed help. I believe that is the day God intervened in my life. The next day I was in a car headed to rehab. They sent me to rehab in Panama City so nobody could come and get me," she added, "because when you ask for help, it needs to happen really quick before you have time to change your mind. On July 12th I woke up in rehab and that's when my life changed. I was detoxed and have not craved or wanted a pill or a drink since."

"I am extremely grateful for where I am today. I love being a part of life again."

Nancy now lives her life one day at a time. She considers herself to be extremely blessed to have the support from her family and friends. Her church family at St. John's has taken her under their wing and continues to pray for her and lend a helping hand when needed. But above all, Nancy says that she would never be able to maintain her sobriety without God.

"I am extremely grateful for where I am today. I love being a part of life again."

Nancy Moore

"I pray every morning that God will help me stay clean and sober, and when I lay down at night I thank Him," she smiled warmly. "When my day starts getting crazy, I can start my day over any time by saying, 'Okay God, this day is going crazy, let's start this over'. After all, it's His will, not mine. That's hard sometimes because I try to take my will back, but I've turned my life back over to the care of God."

Sobriety is a fabulous thing. It has taken Nancy's shell of addiction and has turned it into a whole new life for her. She is thankful for each new day she is given and turns it into something wonderful for everyone she comes into contact.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.

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

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LOCAL LAND-MARKS SCATTERED ACROSS DOWN-TOWN CULLMAN



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The Patio of Patriots was built and dedicated by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution in 1976.

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Most everyone who has been in Cullman for a bit has, at one time or other, walked across the pedestrian bridge that crosses over the railroad tracks between the Highway 278 bridge and the 4th Street viaduct. The rush and excitement that comes over people as they cross the bridge while a train races under their feet is nothing but pure magic!

The trains whizzing by blaring their horns isn't the only interesting part about hanging around the pedestrian bridge though, after looking around a little, a couple other blasts of Cullman history appear.

For example, there is a huge shade tree that stands next to the steps leading up to the bridge, but it's not just an ordinary tree, it is known as Cullman's Liberty Tree.

The Liberty Tree was dedicated by the Cullman Federation of Garden Clubs in honor of America's liberty in hopes that in the future our country can grow. There is a small stone marker with a plaque attached. The marker says:

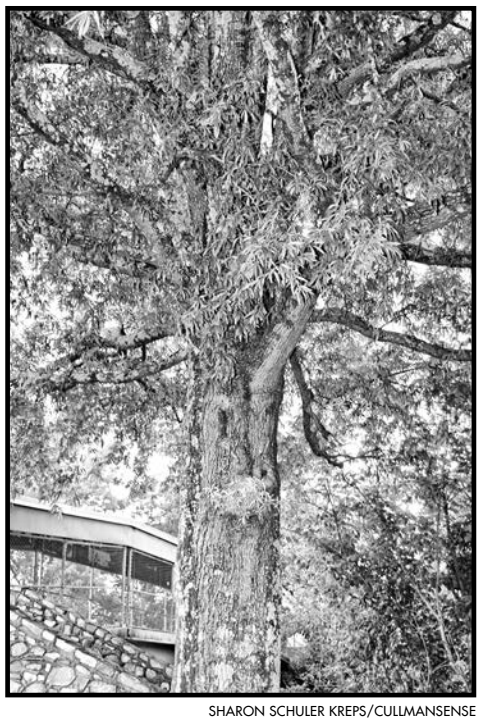
"Cullman's Liberty Tree – Dedicated on May 10, 1976, by the Cullman Federation of Garden Clubs to the past 200 years of American Liberty, with the hope that as the future unfolds, the freedom of our great country will grow stronger year by year."

In the grassy area under the Liberty Tree's leafy branches there is another slice of history, the "Patio of Patriots".

The Patio of Patriots is an area, or "patio" made from large flat rocks that have been pieced together to make a nice smooth sitting area.

There is a cement bench just behind the patio for anyone who needs to sit down to rest and reflect. The patio was built and dedicated by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution in 1976.

Just like the Liberty Tree, there is a lovely plaque at the base of the patio. The marker is attached to one of the flat rocks and has the NSDAR symbol at the top. Under the symbol, it says:



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The Liberty Tree was dedicated by the Cullman Federation of Garden Clubs in honor of America's liberty.

"Patio of Patriots – Dedicated to the Revolutionary War ancestors of the Dripping Springs Chapter NSDAR 1976"

The Liberty Tree and the Patio of Patriots are just two of Cullman's many landmarks. Most anyone that walks through town will see dozens of the old landmarks. It is beneficial to be aware of the rich history of these icons. Each one tells a story and has significant meaning. Embrace our past and use these little reminders to help make our future better.

To *suggest a favorite or forgotten historical marker to be featured in CullmanSense, e-mail sharon@cullmansense.com.*

MIRRORING HISTORY: ALABAMA STATE TROOPER CARS

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CULLMAN – Alabama State Trooper cars have come a long way in the past forty-three years. The older car is a 1972 Javelin SST State Trooper. The car is the real deal, and it was featured at a recent car show in Cullman. The lights are still functional, and the car looks just like it did back in its day. The car belongs to Mr. Vince Kolb. Today, modern State Trooper cars feature such things as additional lights, a computer system, and other modern gadgets.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

A 1972 Javelin SST State Trooper was spotted at a recent car show in Cullman.



CONTRIBUTED

Alabama State Troopers can do a lot in their cars thanks to modern technology.

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 home-schoolers 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.

ROCK THE SOUTH WRAP-UP

4TH ANNUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL HAS FANS SINGING A HIGH NOTE

Hannah Ward
ward@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Country music wafted through the humid atmosphere during the inaugural day of the Rock the South music festival. Starting at noon and stretching late into night, Cullman residents and out of town guests packed into Heritage Park to experience an assorted group of talented musicians.

Jordan Hailes and girlfriend Brittany Beaird drove all the way from Gadsden, Ala. to see Brantley Gilbert. "I love country music and beer," Hailes said. "This is my second year, it always improves." "It's always a lot of fun!" Beaird claimed.

James Cheeat from Florence, Ala. was at the festival with his daughter Anna Grace. "This is our first time ever to come to Rock the South. I'm very excited about seeing all the musicians," Cheeats said. "My daughter is excited about seeing Brantley Gilbert, and I'm excited about seeing living legend Alan Jackson. And seeing Travis Tritt and Sarah Evans tomorrow. We're staying at Smith Lake campground park and staying all weekend! Everybody come to Cullman, have a great time, roll tide and God bless."

Tom and Kim Helsper from Decatur, Ala. expressed their reasons for being at Rock the South, "To see the artists, Alan Jackson, mainly. Just all the music, all the artists really, Sarah Evans too. This is our first time, so we didn't know what to expect."

Annabeth Alexander, Scarlett Johnson, and Bailey Vandiver from Muscle Shoals, Ala. were enjoying the Rock the South festivities. They stated, "We came to party and have fun." All three girls will be here the whole weekend and claimed they were looking forward to hearing Brantley Gilbert and Alan Jackson the most.

Julee Butts, a Cullman native, said, "We have been coming to Rock the South for three years now. We gradually moved up all the way from the Platinum to the Ultimate VIP so our kids could meet Brantley Gilbert." Butts was there with her husband and two children. She also stated, "We're just proud we have this in Cullman. We look forward to it someday being a three-day event. The recognition coming to our town, I think that'll help our town grow." Butts and her husband own Alabama Contracting services and are considering sponsoring Rock the South next year.

Dillon Daseur from Huntsville, Ala. stated, "A bunch of my buddies asked me to come and have a good time. So I said I'd come and hang out. This is my first time at Rock the South. I look forward to meeting some new people. Some new friends and having a good time this weekend."

Jennifer and Kent Clements from Biloxi Mississippi stated, "We drove two and a half hours." Pointing at her husband, Jennifer claimed, "He likes Big Smo and Tyler Farr."

In addition to music, there were also several informational tents, including the United States Marine Corp. The Corp presented a pull-up bar and offered any passerby the chance to see just how strong they thought they were. Jasper resident, Nathan Alexander, tried his hand at it and managed 13 pull ups. "A buddy of mine I graduated high school with is in the Marines," Alexander said. "I just thought it was cool to do something for the Marines and represent it."

Gunnery Sergeant, Field, stated, "It's for a pull-up challenge for public awareness about what the Marine Corp. has to offer. We're giving away some incentive items like T-shirts, banners, and water bottles. This is our first time; I like the event; the weather's great, a nice crowd of people. To join the Marines you can go to marines.com or call 1-800-Marines. You can put in your information, and a recruiter will contact you."



ELIZABETH WATWOOD

Some of the most popular country acts performed at the two-day music festival.



ELIZABETH WATWOOD

Fans from across the state came to see their favorite country artists.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND VENDORS SHARE PERSPECTIVE OF ROCK THE SOUTH

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Many different local businesses were involved in this year's Rock the South, from entertainment to food vendors. This was Frogg Toggs' first year at RTS, while Luna's BBQ and Double B returned to RTS.

Luna's BBQ owner, Jimmy Lynn, proudly had a booth at Rock the South for third straight year. Lynn said that he and his restaurant were part of the "BBQ-Row" during the first year Rock the South allowed vendors. "They keep inviting us back," Lynn said. "We get to choose our little spot, so it's nice."

Lynn also mentioned that people attending the event who have stopped by Luna's a past year's RTS stopped by this year to thank them for returning.

"Some people who're [at Rock the South] from out of town come back to Luna's weeks or months after Rock the South because they liked the food so much," Lynn added.

Frogg Toggs, an innovative local company from Arab, was a sponsor for the first time this year.

"We are a perfect fit for this type of audience," said Megan Harburn, owner of Frogg Toggs. Harburn also added that the main objective for sponsoring this year's Rock the South was to "raise local awareness about [Frogg Toggs]."

Triple B, a company providing entertainment in the form of a mechanical bull, returned to Rock the South for its second year at the event last weekend. The company, started three years ago as a side business, "has become a full time job," according to the owner, Paul Chamblee.

Early on in the day on Friday Triple B was having fewer customers than the owner anticipated.

"But," the owner said, "once the alcohol kicks in they'll be lining up." And he was right. Chamblee had to restructure the boundary around his bull, and he had to hire a police officer for Saturday night.

The Chamblee said that the entire cost of the machinery was $28k.

"It has more than paid for itself," the he said. Adding, "we have fun with it, we do."

One thing is sure, Triple B and Chamblee add a lot to the party atmosphere of Rock the South.

MAYOR TOWNSON AND THE LINK'S DAWN OWENS SPEAK AT ROCK THE SOUTH

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – In a press conference last Thursday Mayor Max Townson spoke about Rock the South and its impact on Cullman.

"Rock the South started as a tribute to the way we reacted after the storm, the tornados that came through here [in] 2011," said Mayor Townson.

"Since then," the Mayor added, "it has steadily grown and grown. It's a huge, huge economic boom for the city and for people who like to follow country music."

The Mayor was a slightly less political on the following Friday night as he addressed the crowd at Rock the South from the stage.

"Are you happy to have Rock the South in Cullman, Alabama? Do you want it back next year?" He asked.

"We're happy to have Rock the South in Cullman, Alabama," the Mayor stated. "They are an outstanding crew, they do a wonderful job and they bring wonderful acts," he continued.

The Mayor was on stage last Friday night to congratulate and present The Link of Cullman County with a $15k check from Rock the South. The Link is an organization that helps "break the cycle of poverty through encouragement and education."

Dawn Owens, Director at The Link, was on stage to accept the donation from Rock the South.

Owens said that the contribution will help The Link to "provide programming for those who have been challenged by life circumstances."

Owens continued by saying that the money given by Rock the South will allow The Link "to expand programs moving forward" and will help people to "move forward with employment, with basic life skills, and to move forward spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically."

Through acts like the donation of $15k on Friday night, Rock the South has shown that it benefits the Cullman community more than just bringing an annual weekend-long party to Heritage Park. Rock the South, because of the massive economic impact act it has, is capable of improving establishments around Cullman.

"SECRET MEALS FOR HUNGRY CHILDREN" BENEFITS FROM LOCAL CAR SHOW

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Thursday, June 18, 2015, Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and the Pentastar South Car Club presented a check for $2,608 to Alabama Credit Union's "Secret Meals for Hungry Children" fund. The money was raised during the 8th Annual Mopars on the Street Car Show that was held on Saturday, June 13, 2015.

"If it weren't for the generosity of Scott Spitzer and the Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Dealership, the car show could not happen," said Brenda Allison with the Pentastar South Car Club.

"Thanks to Scott we were able to donate all the moneys raised to our charity and did not have to keep any to pay show expenses. They cleared the car lot and put up with us all day as we invaded their space," she smiled.

"Everyone at the dealership was instrumental in helping the show be successful," Brenda continued.

"We are so grateful for the support that the club gets from the dealership for 'Secret Meals for Hungry Children'."



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Laurie Legg, Alabama Credit Union receives a check for "Secret Meals for Hungry Children" from Brenda Allison, Pentastar South Car Club and Scott Spitzer of Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram.

AQUATIC CENTER OFFERS FREE THERAPEUTIC SWIMS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS PEOPLE

Mary Standifer
mary@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman Aquatic Center will be offering free therapeutic swims to special needs people June-July from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

People may come individually, or with a group or family to enjoy the facilities.

This program is made possible by the Miracle League who is responsible for a variety of activities in the Cullman area designed for special needs people.

Although Monday is the official day for free swims, the program is available at anytime during normal operating hours during the week.

Swimmers need only to sign in at the front desk to enjoy the aquatic facilities during these hot summer months.







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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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
- 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
- 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.

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

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E-mail calendar@cullmansense.com

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Living Well Natural Store
124 7th Street, S.W.
256-734-4933
"Serving Cullman Families for over 50 Years!"
SUSAN SKINNER ADKISON, R.P.H.
Living Well natural store
Rx Health Mart PHARMACY

Farms (from Front)

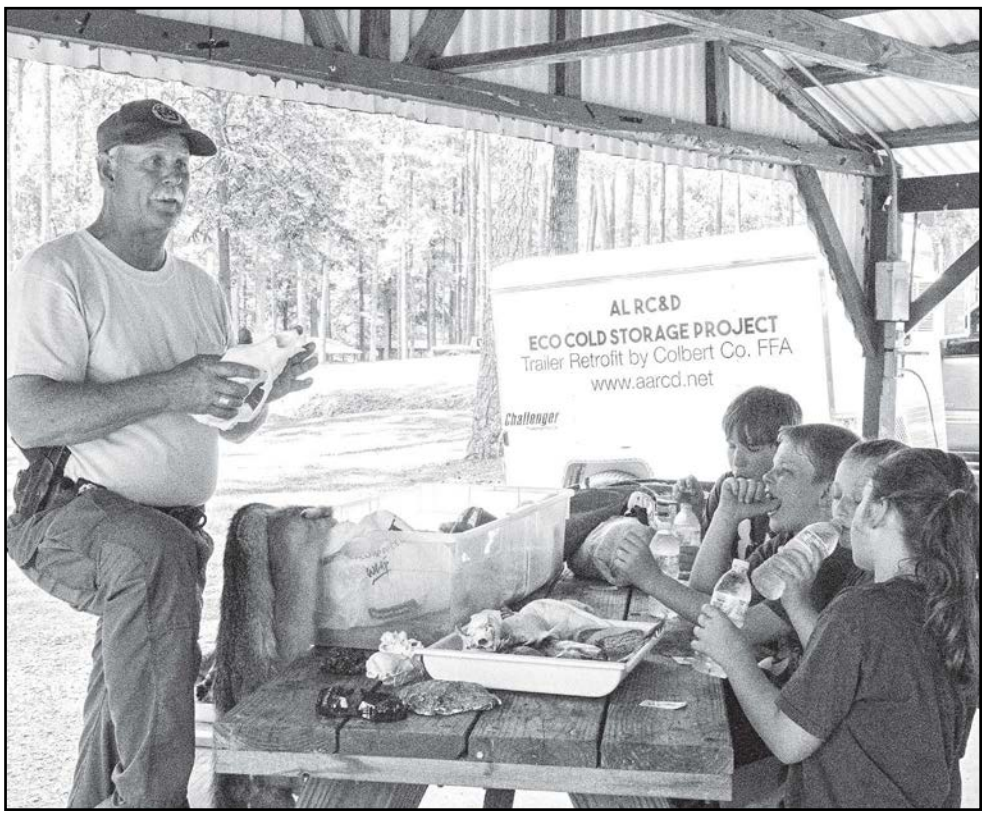
about plants, and wild animals. The children were taught basic ways to care for a garden such as watering techniques and healthy soil.

They were also treated to all sorts of fresh, local fruits to see all that is produced in Cullman County. Many Cullman organizations participated in the event. Some of which were; HOPE, Alabama 4h, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, and the Alabama Extension System.

The West Point Fire and Rescue had their smoke trailer there for the kids, and the Wildflower Club gave them a special tour of the wildflower garden. The Cattlemen and Cattlewomen cooked a much appreciated lunch for the kids the first day.

Jay Conway, a 4H agent in Cullman and Winston Counties, brought out an assortment of farm animals to show to the children. "I realize a lot of these kids may not raise animals, but you can still talk to them about basic things they may need to know if they ever did want to get into it," Conway said. "Like if you're keeping an animal in the cage it has gotta be well fed, well watered and clean. It doesn't matter what kind of animal it is, if you're going to raise anything there are some basic rules you need to follow."

Rachel Dawsey, director of the North Alabama Agriplex, stated, "When the North Alabama Agriplex board became an agency in 2000. They started Touring Farms for Kids in 2001. I think it is important for the kids to actually see the farmers and the animals and know where there food is coming from."



HANNAH WARD/CULLMANSENSE

The Touring Farms for Kids program gave children the opportunity to see the farmers and animals responsible for their food.

The name Touring Farms for Kids pretty much sums up the mission statement of the North Alabama Agriplex. Though it is the special event of the year, for the people at the Agriplex like Rachel Dawsey and Dr. Tom Williamson, this is not a once a year event but a daily fight for awareness of the importance of agriculture.

Stuart Goldsby, from Alabama division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, stated, "I appreciate them inviting me. I think passing on our natural resource traditions here in Alabama much like the wildlife, much like the wild plantings; the wild flowers we have here in Alabama its a positive thing for these kids because we have so many kids getting away from the natural world. We need to get them back outside, in this natural setting like this, it's a good thing."

Dr. Tom Williamson the Chairman of the Agriplex board and who is also a strong advocate for Touring Farms for Kids claimed, "The big thing is being able to teach these young people that farming is important and being able to have the chance to show them what Cullman has done and how it affects their lives and the future generation's lives. Every opportunity we can we should get people involved. It's just a lifetime commitment on our part and this is just one of the things we're able to do. If we don't make people aware and promote agriculture we'll be starving and there's so many people that don't understand all it takes to produce food."

Touring Farms for Kids furthered the youth of Cullman County's agricultural education through many different programs and sites around Cullman.

Barrels (from Front)

Hannah Ward
ward@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – North Alabama Agriplex hosted a Water Wheels presentation by Alabama Cooperative Extension Systems last Tuesday night. The presentation was a part of North Alabama Agriplex's Living Landscape's program.

The adult education series is a monthly program that is taught by experts on gardening and animal conservation. The Agriplex utilizes the rain collecting techniques by having a water collecting system they use for their garden.

Alabama Extension associate, Rhonda Britton, taught the class. She explained the many uses of a rain barrel and why it is something everyone should consider implementing at his or her own home.

The Water Wheels program Britton works with is a water conservation learning lab. Their impressive trailer has a model water collection system as well as a 3d conservation game that teaches children the process of collecting water.

Water Wheels does monthly workshops around Alabama. "We do programs for schools and we'll be at Farm Y'all in Cullman. I'll be there with Water Wheels," Britton stated.

Britton has worked with Alabama Extension Cooperative Systems for 13 years and is an expert on rainwater collection. The hands-on class taught each member how to build their rain barrel.

A natural resource almost everyone can harvest is rain water. It is free and quite easy to collect and has many practical uses.

A great use for rain collection is the rain catchment system for toilets. Britton has owned a rain catchment system at her house since 2008. She claimed, "I save about 1,100 gallons a month just flushing."

The collected rainwater can also be used to water plants or wash a vehicle.

A basic rain barrel can be made out of almost anything. The Cooperative purchases 65-gallon food grade olive barrels by the truckload and sells them for $40. Another option is a garbage can that also works as a barrel.

The parts needed to build a rain barrel can be bought from almost any local hardware store. For step-by-step instructions on assembling one visit aces.edu/waterwheels.

It is important to put the barrel up high and secure it to the building so children and animals cannot knock it over. Britton claimed it did not matter what the water is caught off of; any roof will work.

Alabama is one of the richest rain states, but that could change. California is currently in a drought, and it has crucially affected their farms; which in turn affects the amount and price of produce. With rainwater collection systems, the state may have been able to reduce the impact of the drought.

"I love what I do, and it's good for our environment," Britton said. "I like the fact we need to think about even though we have so much water, we need to think about a drought. Because that's when people worry about it."

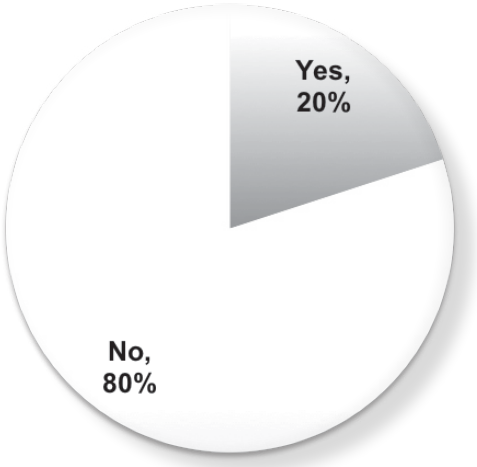
Installing a rain barrel is a practical way of utilizing earth's natural resources and saving money that could be spent somewhere else.

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

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Poll

Are you excited about Rock the South?



This Week's Poll

Do you wear a helmet when riding a bike?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

WHAT'S ONLINE



CCSO

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS PROTECT CULLMAN COUNTY'S YOUNGEST CITIZENS

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... **QRNE.WS/367**



FACEBOOK.COM/RESCUECAAWA

CAAWA SUPERHEROES RESCUE LOCAL ANIMALS

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 entirely non-profit, and all its members are volunteers. They consider themselves to be a 'no kill'... **QRNE.WS/368**

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LELDON MAXCY

Leldon Maxcy's 12 foot by eight-foot vintage wood Alabama cut out made for the Southern Makers Show.

LELDON MAXCY
SCROLL SAWING ARTIST

Mary Standifer
mary@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Local artist Leldon Maxcy is a wood worker in a unique division of the trade: Scroll sawing. A scroll saw is an electric saw that can produce small, intricate curves and angles in wood. Skilled craftsman can make intricate designs and ornamentation; Maxcy has certainly mastered the art.

Maxcy first began scroll sawing in 1997 as a young teenager. "It was by chance that I even found a scroll saw," explained Maxcy, "My grandfather and I had went to Big Lots and they had one on close out. It was a cheap saw, about $40. Once I got home with it, I took it out and turned it on and I really enjoyed it. That saw only lasted about a month before I got a 'better' saw." Maxcy has been through many saws since his first; today, he uses the Excalibur ex-21 by General Machinery.

In 2000, the craftsman's parents took him to a large-scale picnic gathering of fellow scroll saw-ers that he had heard about online. "When I first started scroll sawing, I was really young. I was shy and kept to myself most of the time. After I got involved with scroll sawing, I found out about some groups on line and I got a lot of help from some people that had been scroll sawing for years. My parents took me to one of the picnics that was in TN," explains Maxcy, "I met many of the people that I had been talking to on line for a couple years. They allowed me to be myself and ask questions about all the things I needed to know about scroll sawing. I still talk to some of those people today."

Maxcy makes everything from detailed plaques, ornaments and lettering, to picture frames, cutting boards, and projects made from repurposed wood.

"Recently I have been working with a lot of reclaimed wood. I enjoy the freedom the reclaimed wood gives you. The more you knock it around, the better it looks," says Maxcy, "You have an endless supply of ideas that look great in wood. I rarely paint any of my projects. I love using different hardwoods and letting the beauty of the wood show through the protective finish."

Maxcy has been featured in a number of wood working magazines. His first article was published in 2001 in Scroll Saw Woodworking and Crafts.

"Since then I have been pubished in Creative Woodworks and Crafts with my designs. I also still do work for Scroll Saw Woodworking and Crafts...Besides having my designs published, I also test cut patterns from other designers for them," said Maxcy. The magazines editor sends him the scroll sawing patterns and information about the woods that are to be used for the project. Maxcy then mails the finished project to their head quarters where it is photographed for the issue. They then send his piece back to him.

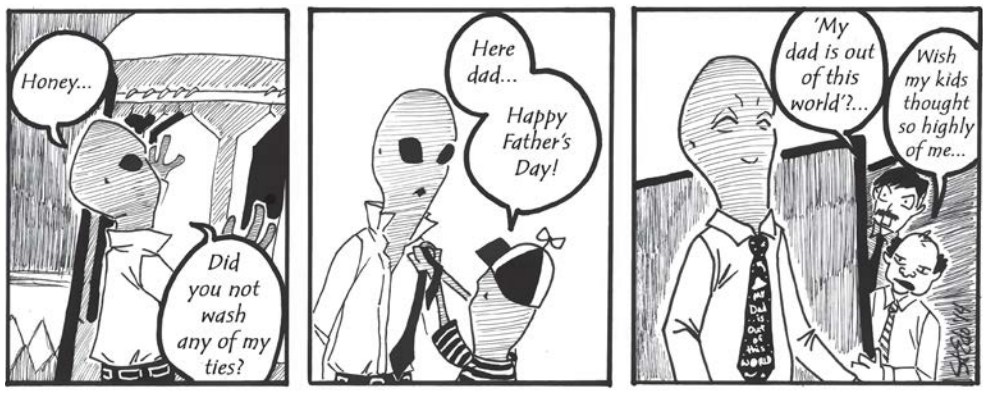
Recently, Maxcy finished the biggest and, in his opinion, most interesting piece he has ever completed.

"I recently was asked by Southern Accents to make a 12 feet tall by 8 feet cut out of Alabama. Every one of the 67 counties was cut out separately," continued Maxcy. "It was all mad of reclaimed wood. That project took about 80 hours to complete. It was used as part of the back drop to the stage at the Southern Makers show held in Montgomery on May 2-3."

To see more of Leldon Maxcy's work, visit Southern Accents in Cullman, or visit leldonsscrollsawing.com. Follow him on Facebook at facebook.com/leldonsscrollsawing or follow his Instagram, @leldonsscrollsawing.

COMICS

WHITE & BLACK • "A Dad from Out of this World" • st.edo@cullmansense.com











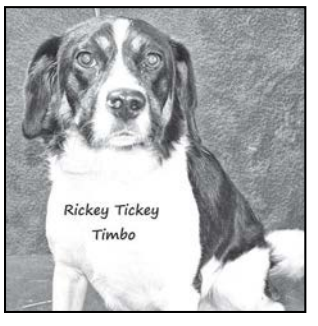
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PETS OF THE WEEK

RICKEY TICKEY TIMBO



Hello my name is Rickey Tickey Timbo and I am about 3 year old. I am a Spaniel mix. I am full of life and I love to play. My adoption fee is $90 and that covers my first set of vaccines and wormer at the Shelter. It also covers my general exam at the Vet, rabies vaccine, spay, microchip, free 45 day health insurance policy and our local Pet Depot will give you a free bag of food (you pay the taxes) in support of you adopting a Shelter animal. That is an incredible deal. Consider meeting me today!

WAFFLES



Hello my name is Waffles and I am about 1 years old. I am a Chihuahua/Dachshund mix and I currently weigh 11 lbs. I am now up for adoption. My adoption fee is $90 and that includes my spay/neuter, vaccines, wormer, and also covers my general exam at the Vet, rabies vaccine, microchip, free 45 day health insurance policy and our local Pet Depot will give you a free bag of food (you pay the taxes) in support of you adopting me.

ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

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

If you know the owner of either dog or if you are interested in adopting one of the dogs, please call 256-734-5448 or come by the Animal Shelter.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

The City of Cullman's Alcohol Review Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, June 25th, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., in the Administrative Conference Room of City Hall, located at 204 Second Avenue NE.

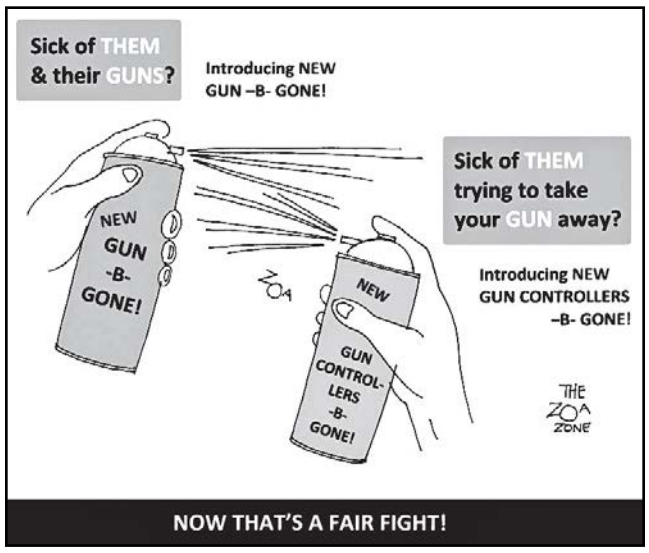
Comments will be received on the proposed approval for the sale of alcohol in the City of Cullman by the following applicants:

Buffalo Wild Wings
1700B Second Avenue SW
Restaurant On-Premises Alcohol License

ALS Cebollitas
1310 Second Avenue NW
Restaurant On-Premises Alcohol License

EDITORIAL CARTOONS





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OPINION

HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION: A CIA HABIT

David Swanson
PeaceVoice

The Guardian recently made public a CIA document allowing the agency's director to "approve, modify, or disapprove all proposals pertaining to human subject research."

Human what? At Guantanamo, the CIA gave huge doses of the terror-inducing drug mefloquine to prisoners without their consent, as well as the supposed truth serum scopolamine. Former Guantanamo guard Joseph Hickman has documented the CIA's torturing people, sometimes to death, and can find no explanation other than research:

"[Why] were men of little or no value kept under these conditions, and even repeatedly interrogated, months or years after they'd been taken into custody? Even if they'd had any intelligence when they came in, what relevance would it have years later? . . . One answer seemed to lie in the description that Major Generals [Michael] Dunlavey and [Geoffrey] Miller both applied to Gitmo. They called it 'America's battle lab.'"

Non-consensual experimentation on institutionalized children and adults was common in the United States before, during, and even more so after the U.S. and its allies prosecuted Nazis for the practice in 1947, sentencing many to prison and seven to be hanged. The tribunal created the Nuremberg Code, standards for medical practice that were immediately ignored back home. Some American doctors considered it "a good code for barbarians."

The code begins: "Required is the voluntary, well-informed, understanding consent of the human subject in a full legal capacity." A similar requirement is included in the CIA's rules, but has not been followed, even as doctors have assisted with such torture techniques as waterboarding.

Thus far, the United States has never really accepted the Nuremberg Code. While the code was being created, the U.S. was giving people syphilis in Guatemala. It did the same at Tuskegee. Also during the Nuremberg trial, children at the Pennhurst school in Pennsylvania were given hepatitis-laced feces to eat.

Other sites of experimentation scandals have included the Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital in Brooklyn, the Willowbrook State School on Staten Island, and Holmesburg Prison in Philadelphia. And, of course, the CIA's Project MKUltra (1953-1973) was a smorgasbord of human experimentation. Forced sterilizations of women in California prisons have not ended. Torture by Chicago police has for the first time recently resulted in compensation for victims.

If we are, at long last, to put such contemptible behavior behind us, it will require breaking some bad habits.

Congress has busily rebanned torture a number of times in recent years. Now it must drop that charade and instead demand that the Attorney General enforce the anti-torture statute.

It's good of John Oliver to denounce torture. And he's right to go after the lies told about torture in popular entertainment. But he's also spreading the false idea that it's legal. "We checked," he says, reporting that his crack team of investigators discovered that the only ban on torture is found in an executive order written by President Obama. This is dangerous nonsense. The U.S. was a party to the Anti-Torture Convention and had made torture a felony under the anti-torture statute and the war-crimes statute before George W. Bush ever became president.

Since then, Congress has repeatedly "banned" torture. But, just as the U.N. Charter's ban on war actually legalized certain wars, purporting to replace the total ban in the Kellogg-Briand Pact with a partial ban, these Congressional efforts (such as the Military Commissions Act of 2006) have actually legalized certain cases of torture, replacing (at least in everyone's mind) the total ban already existing in the U.S. Code and in a treaty to which the U.S. is party.

The latest "ban" proposal from Senator McCain and friends, would create exceptions in the form of those in the Army Field Manual. Advocates maintain that step number two would be to reform that manual. But if you skip both steps and acknowledge the existence of the anti-torture statute in the U.S. Code, you're done. The proper task is to press for its enforcement, not for new laws that accomplish less.

Oliver's mistake, like virtually everyone else's, is based on two myths. One, torture began with Bush. Two, torture ended with Bush. On the contrary, torture has been around in the United States and elsewhere for a very long time. So has the practice of banning it. Torture is prohibited by the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In fact, under international law, torture can never be legalized and is always banned.

Myth number two is also wrong. Torture has not ended and won't as long as it's not punished. An Attorney General can be questioned and threatened with impeachment until our laws are enforced. A new website lets you e-mail Congress to demand that it do just that: http://qrne.ws/366.

OPINION

CORPORATIONS OVER PEOPLE

Laura Finley
PeaceVoice

Here we go again. Another court decision favoring businesses over human rights. Sadly, it is no shock that the Supreme Court is friendlier to business more than anything or anyone else. From its 2010 Citizens United blunder that allowed even greater corporate influence on our political process to the 2014 Hobby Lobby case affirming the "religious beliefs" of private corporations, the court's continual siding with corporate entities over individual rights is maddening and ludicrous, but not surprising. Now, we learn that the Colorado Supreme Court has ruled in favor of employers in a case that addressed whether persons with lawful medical marijuana cards can be fired for testing positive for the substance.

In a 6-0 decision, Colorado's highest court ruled that an employer's zero tolerance law trumped the state's medical marijuana legislation. The court held that employers can fire employees for testing positive for the substance even if usage was lawful under state law and occurred when the individual was off duty.

Brandon Coats, a quadriplegic after a car accident, has been lawfully using medical marijuana to control leg spasms. Dish Network, his employer, fired him in 2010 after he tested positive on a random drug test. Coats had informed his employer before the test about his use of medical marijuana and displayed his state-certified medical marijuana card.

The issue, according to the court, was the state's Lawful Off-Duty Activities Statute, which they determined covered only activity that is lawful under both state and federal law. Since federal law still considers marijuana to be a Schedule 1 controlled substance, use of it is not protected even though state law allows it, said the court. The Supreme Courts of California, Montana and Washington—all states that have legalized medical marijuana—have ruled similarly in past. Spokespersons for Dish Network commented, "As a national employer, Dish remains committed to a drug-free workplace and compliance with federal law." So, Coats was told that he could cease using the only legal substance that actually helped him or he could find an employer that didn't have a zero tolerance policy. Great choices.

The Denver Post has reported that when Colorado legalized recreational marijuana last years, employers responded by expanding drug testing.

So, essentially corporations determined that they would exploit the discrepancy between state and federal law. Rife with problems, workplace testing has not been found to deter illicit drug use, nor to increase workplace productivity.

It doesn't reduce absenteeism nor on-site accidents, as is often claimed. Instead, like Coats, many positive tests simply detect drug use, typically marijuana, that occurred days or even weeks ago and that has no impact on the individual's abilities.

In fact, research has shown that very tired or distracted workers are a greater risk to the workplace than are those who smoked marijuana five days prior, but no such test is administered to assess sleepiness or distractibility.

Coats is a Colorado resident. He, like the residents of the 22 other states in which medical marijuana is legal, should be confident that he won't be arrested, fired, or otherwise face sanctions for behavior that is consistent with state law.

There is no evidence that he was anything less than a good employee. Not only should all state laws be consistent on issues like this, but the federal government should take cases like that of Brandon Coats as yet even more reason to revamp its antiquated designation of marijuana. Here's hoping that Coats' case can further propel that movement.

pepsi

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