SERIES 5 • ISSUE 27 • JULY 6, 2015
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS


SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

ARCHERY CAMP TEACHES CHILDREN TIPS AND TRICKS P6

CULLMAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Will Hogue
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CULLMAN – On Tuesday, July 7, at 10 a.m. there will be a celebration honoring the 50th anniversary of the Cullman County Courthouse's dedication back in 1965.

The celebration will be carried out by the city's elected officials, including the chairman of the Cullman County Commission, Gary Marchman.

There will be an invocation, led by pastor Samuel Tucker of Grace Community Church. The national anthem will be led by The Cullman Brass.

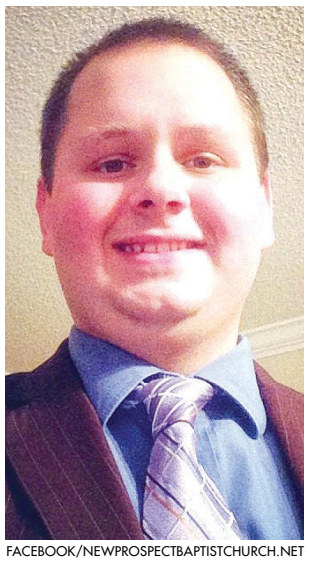
Everyone from the community is invited to attend the ceremony, which, according to a representative from the Cullman County Commissioner's office, should not last longer than 30 minutes.

A time capsule, which was initially discovered during renovation of the courthouse, and included items from 1912 when the capsule was initially buried, will be reinterred along with some additions from 2015. This may occur at the ceremony on July 7, but has not been finalized and put into the official plans for the event.


CONTRIBUTED

DAYSPRING DAIRY: FIRST LICENSED SHEEP DAIRY FARM IN ALABAMA P7

PROBATE JUDGE NOW ISSUING MARRIAGE LICENSES TO SAME-SEX COUPLES P2


FACEBOOK/NEWPROSPECTBAPTISTCHURCH.NET

RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT

NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH'S BROTHER KYLE ELLISON P4

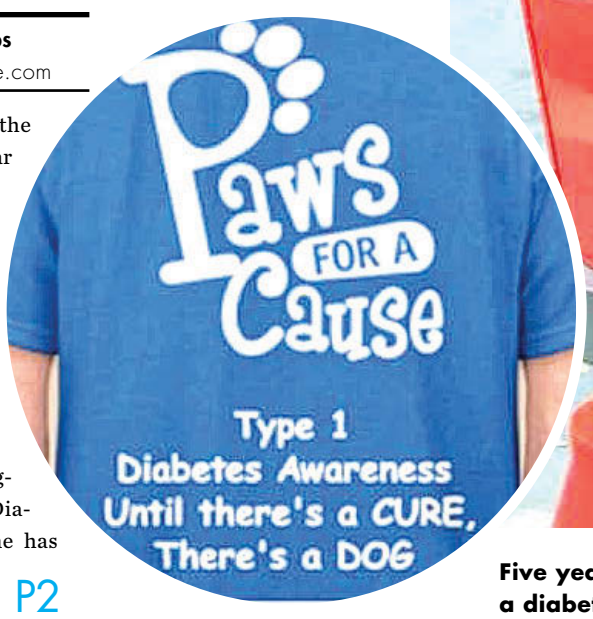
ELIJAH MOORE: CREATING BIRDHOUSES FROM CIGAR BOXES P6

MUSIC FILLS SMITH LAKE FESTIVAL P10

CHILD RAISES MONEY FOR DIABETIC ALERT DOG

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – Meet the adorable five year old Lucas Hembree. He may look like your typical little brown-eyed boy, but there is something very, very different about him. On April 21, 2015, Lucas was diagnosed with diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. As a result he has to be constantly monitored, which P2




IMAGES BY CHARITY TAYLOR

Five year old Lucas Hembree is selling T-shirts to assist in purchasing a diabetic alert dog to help him manage his Type 1 Diabetes.

FOLK-ART CRAFTSMAN, ERNIE PANNELL

"I just design them for the kids, and I love kids, so it's what I do for them."

Mary Standifer
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CULLMAN – In a tiny lot on the side of Highway 278 West often sits a gentleman selling wooden furniture and fixtures out of a specialty, home-made trailer pulled by a gray pick-up truck. This man is craftsman, Ernie Pannell.

Pannell is known by locals mainly for his handcrafted, child's rocking chairs. The chairs come in two sizes and often feature hand-painted artwork on the seat. "My wife does all the artwork; her name's Linda Pannell," P10


MARY STANDIFER/CULLMANSENSE

Ernie Pannell has been making and selling child's rocking chairs for two years.

CITIZEN OF THE WEEK

SCOTT WARNER


SCOTT WARNER

Scott Warner is a member of Cullman Fire Rescue, Law enforcement, and a physician. P4

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SMITH LAKE PARK CANCELS FIREWORKS SHOW, POSSIBLE LABOR DAY MAKE-UP SHOW IN THE WORKS

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TRIMBLE – Smith Lake Park's firework show was cut short due to unsafe conditions. At approximately 9:10 p.m., a firework appeared to launch close to the ground. All pyrotechnics immediately ceased.

Park officials announced to the crowd that the fire department would spend approximately 15 minutes evaluating the equipment, with hopes of continuing the final half of the show.

Unfortunately, the program was not able to continue as park officials hoped.

"What had happened is the main tube, the big tube, blew. When that tube blew, it laid a lot of the fireworks [and] the stands and stuff over. We went in and made entry and deemed it unsafe, and had to cancel the show," said Captain of Tremble Fire Department, John Calvert.

At approximately 9:50 p.m., the fire department began the process of deactivating and removing the remaining fireworks.

"What they're doing is all the ones that have fallen over and all the ones that are still live, they're going in and making sure that they're safe and then they're deactivating them, and then they're taking them out," explained one anonymous firefighter on the scene.

The ordeal caused some confusion to park goers.

"The fireworks were shooting; I guess something fell over. It shot across the ground. They were trying to get it fixed; they told us it would be about 15 more minutes, and then nobody told us it was over, but apparently it is," explained eye-witness Amber Walls, "Nobody told anybody it was over. They didn't tell anybody down here that it was over."

Although some park goers were disappointed, Captain Calvert had some good news to share. "I can tell you that the lady that's in charge of this company has offered a Labor Day make-up show, so maybe we can make that happen."

Video of the incident is available at cullmansense.com.

PROBATE JUDGE NOW ISSUING MARRIAGE LICENSES TO SAME-SEX COUPLES

Will Hogue
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CULLMAN – Though the Supreme Court's decision for every state to award marriage licenses to same-sex couples was announced last Friday, Cullman, along with all of Alabama, was unable to issue licenses until this Monday, when an injunction barring the issuing of marriage licenses to same-sex couples was lifted.

Cullman Probate Judge Tammy Brown had not issued marriage licenses to any same-sex couples as of Monday.

"We will be issuing marriage licenses to all couples, both same-sex and traditional," Brown said on Monday.

Obtaining a marriage license is the same as it has been, with the fee remaining $41 for the license itself.

When the Supreme Court issued its decision on June 26, Brown and her colleagues had a choice to make: they could conform to the ruling or fight it.

"I don't want to put Cullman County through any more litigation," Brown said.

"We decided the best decision was to just go along with what the Supreme Court of the United States laid down." Brown said that she arrived at this decision with her colleagues, although she said it was a "very complicated decision."

Brown and those working in her office have decided to approach this as any other part of their job.

"It's our job to issue licenses, that includes marriage licenses," Brown said.

With that Brown and those in her office are moving forward with their jobs.

> **"We decided the best decision was to just go along with what the Supreme Court of the United States laid down."**
>
> Tammy Brown, Cullman Probate Judge

CULLMAN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MOVES TO AG CENTER

Hannah Ward
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CULLMAN – Cullman County Parks and Recreation department has recently moved their office from Sportsman Lake Park to the Cullman County Agriculture Center. Located at 17465 US Highway 31 Cullman, AL 35058. They will be open 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Their weekend hours vary.

The new space is now easily accessible and has better parking.

The new offices have twice the storage space, which can be used for special event items.

Parks and Recreation director, Doug Davenport explained, "For about two and half years been trying to find a location that would better serve our community, and that would give us a little more space trying to do this in the most frugal way."

The much needed offices were built by Parks and Recreation employees and county workers.

"We hope that we can better serve the people," Doug Davenport stated, "Making it a safer location, more parking and easier place to find even if you're not from Cullman. Plus it gives us a staff member at the Cullman County Ag Center during most business hours."

The new office space offers twice the storage space and enhanced parking.



HANNAH WARD/CULLMANSENSE

Dog (from Front)

can be difficult for this active little guy.

His mother worries about him every minute of every day. To help keep little Lucas safe and his blood sugar under control, the family are hoping to purchase a Diabetic Alert Dog or DAD.

"He has to do a finger stick to check his blood sugar 8-12 times per day - if not more," explained Charity Taylor, Lucas' mother.

"He is now taking insulin shots every time he eats which is at least 6 or 7 times a day. He must have his sugar checked at 2:00 a.m. and every 2 hours and treated if necessary with insulin or juice. He has to be awakened every night for this because people with diabetes can experience low glucose levels very quickly and have seizures, go into a diabetic coma, or worse, possibly die."

"Activity, excitement, heat and anxiety all cause big changes in the body's blood sugar," she continued, "which are things that happen to a five year old all the time so he has to be constantly monitored. Lucas does not notice or recognize when he has symptoms of a fluctuation, which is why he has to be checked so often. This is where a DAD will make so much of a difference," she smiled wistfully.

"His sugar readings go anywhere from the 30's to the 600's! On top of this, Lucas has asthma which oftentimes needs to be treated with steroids. Steroids make blood sugar go significantly high which requires a large amount of insulin."

Not only would the DAD be a buddy to Lucas, but it will also be trained to recognize from Lucas's scent when he is having an extreme high or low episode and will alert someone that treatment is needed. The DAD will also protect him during the night when his blood sugar can drop drastically.

His family feels the DAD will provide better control of his blood sugar and give them some peace of mind while he is at school.

It will definitely help him to live a normal five year old's life.

The DADs can alert to high and low blood sugars up to 45 minutes before the reading on a glucose monitor would show, retrieve third party support and retrieve food and medicine, insulin or juice before it is too late. This will be a huge help to Lucas and everyone around him.

The family has already started the long, expensive process to get Lucas a DAD, but it takes $4,000 just to be placed on the active waiting list. The total cost for the DAD will be $25,000 and as one can imagine, the family needs all the help they can get.

Their first fundraiser is a T-shirt sale. The T-shirts are $15 and will be available to pick up at Cullman Primary Care at POB 3 on the 1st floor of the CRMC campus in 1-2 weeks.

Those interested in purchasing a T-shirt, e-mail Charity Taylor at chembree@cpc-pc.com or Cindy McReath at cmcreath@cpc-pc.com.

There will be other fundraisers later on to help with the cost. In the meantime, donations can be made online by visiting gofundme.com/ycmqj9h.





COFFEE WITH A COP: CULLMAN PD SITS DOWN AND TALKS WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS

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CULLMAN – Wednesday Morning at 7 a.m. the Red Door Café hosted Coffee with a Cop. The community was invited to come and drink coffee with the Cullman Police Department.

The purpose of the event was for citizens to get to know their local law enforcement and state any complaints or issues they may have had in a comfortable environment.

Officer Adam Clark has headed up the event for the last three years. A different venue hosts it every year. The department expressed their deep gratitude to the Red Door Café for hosting this year.

Adam Clark claimed, "The community and the police officers need to have a relationship to avoid problems. And plus it gives people a place to come and talk about any kind of problems they're having whereas they might not feel comfortable coming up to the police station. This kind of gives us a neutral place for people to come and express their feelings. A lot of people just want to meet. Also, the police department is changing a lot. There's a lot of new officers and some of the older people in the community don't know any of these people. This is a place for them to come and meet some of the new officers. Of course, we have burglaries and everything else, somebody might be able to come in here and give us new information to help us out. So we need them just as much as they need us."

Bill McCartney, owner of the Red Door Café, stated, "Great having an opportunity for the police department and public just to sit down, have a cup of coffee together, get to know each other, build some relationships. It's much harder to think about 'them' and 'us' when you've sat down, had a conversation and a cup of coffee with somebody. I think that is probably the biggest plus for doing Coffee with a Cop. Especially for younger folks, it really makes a difference in your perception of who the police are."

"I got to hear a lot of good stories and we've told a lot of good stories. So it was just a really good chance for us to get out and be with the public," stated Cullman Police Department Chief Kenny Culpepper.

There were numerous people attending; some had complaints and some offered really good ideas for improving the department.

Ben Johnson, a Cullman resident, talked to the Chief about ways to help officers destress off the job. "This was an opportunity to get them when they're not busy. The purpose to be here is to share ideas," Johnson explained.

Coffee with a Cop is not just a casual time to meet local police officers, it's an important part in building a community and keeping crime out of Cullman.



HANNAH WARD/CULLMANSENSE

Coffee with a Cop gives residents an opportunity to get to know their local law enforcement and talk about any complaints or issues.

ALABAMA RECEIVES $1.2 MILLION TO EXPAND ONE-ON-ONE RE-EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO THE UNEMPLOYED

Tara Hutchison
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Fitzgerald Washington announced today that Alabama has received a grant in the amount of $1,236,154 from the U.S. Department of Labor in order to expand a program that offers one-on-one re-employment services for unemployment compensation (UC) claimants.

This program is known as the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments program. This is the first year the grant has been awarded to Alabama.

Over the last 12 months, approximately 6,800 UC claimants were randomly selected to receive one-on-one, intensive counseling services in order to help them rejoin the workforce.

With the funds provided by this grant, that number will increase to 10,000.

As a provision of the grant, ADOL will begin serving claimants who are identified as most likely to exhaust their UC benefits and those claimants receiving unemployment compensation for Ex-Service members.

The services will be conducted at Career Centers located throughout the state.

"We are extremely grateful to be a recipient of this grant," said Washington.

"By providing focused, intensive, and direct counseling to these recipients, we believe we can help them land a job in a much shorter amount of time. In some cases, the unemployed may face barriers in going back to work, such as lacking in vocational training or not having the recommended education. By providing these services, we can identify these problems and work to get them corrected so that these people can get back to work and provide for their families."

Services provided under the grant include:

- Development of an individual re-employment plan
- Access to labor market information specific to the individual's location, job skills, and employment prospects
- One-on-one counseling sessions
- A complete review of the claimant's eligibility for unemployment compensation benefits
- Referrals to re-employment services or training

Recent evaluations of Reemployment Assessment programs have shown that claimants who participate reduce the number of weeks that they receive unemployment compensation benefits.

For a listing of Career Centers visit joblink.alabama.gov and click on "Contact Us".

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.

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

FAIRVIEW JULY 4TH FIREWORK CELEBRATION AND CAR SHOW RESCHEDULED

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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FAIRVIEW – The 4th of July firework display at Fairview has been rescheduled for Labor Day, due to inclement weather.

Fairview Band's Car Show, originally set for July 4th has also been postponed. It will take place on August 1st.

"We decided to call off the fireworks for tonight around 4:00 this afternoon," said Dale Seals, Fairview's Mayor.

"The park is extremely saturated with water from the recent rain, and we are expecting more rain tonight. We found it best to postpone the fireworks until Labor Day."

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RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT: NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH'S BROTHER KYLE ELLISON

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The people at New Prospect Baptist Church are very lucky to have such a nice young man as their pastor. Brother Kyle Ellison is a well-respected man of God and has dedicated his life to helping others know, love, and serve Him. But when Brother Kyle isn't preaching and caring for the church, he works as a firefighter/EMT for the city of Tuscaloosa. He has an incredible family that fully supports his preaching and ministry.

Brother Kyle has been preaching at New Prospect Baptist Church for nearly two years.

Prior to that, he served as interim youth minister at Gethsemane Baptist Church and has also served as pastor at Elvester Baptist Church.

"I preached my first message at 14 and my first revival at 16," he grinned shyly.

"I knew from my conversion that preaching was where I belonged. It was a call of God that sent me preaching and a call that keeps me preaching," he straightened in his chair. "I knew as I fell more in love with God's Word, and His people that it's where I belonged."

Even though Brother Kyle started preaching at an early age, he still encounters his share of challenges.

"One of the biggest challenges is reaching those around us, in an unsure world," he explained.

"People are confused, and it's hard to earn their trust, but we do all within our power to give the Gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone. At New Prospect we never seek to change the message, but we do change the means in which we present it at times."

Brother Kyle went on to discuss the most gratifying moments of his ministry.

"The most rewarding part of being a pastor is the times I can lead someone to the Lord Jesus in salvation," he smiled.

"I can also be there for major moments in a member's life, and I get to baptize my dear friends."

"Our church is a congregation of approximately 50 or so people," he continued.

"We believe in the Lord Jesus as the only means of salvation and The Bible as the perfect book for all matters of faith and practice. We have great ministries to become involved in, such as Children's Church, Men's Brotherhood, Sunday School, and this week, Vacation Bible School," he said. "We are constantly working to preach the Gospel to a lost world in order to win souls for Jesus Christ."

Brother Kyle is a blessing to New Prospect. Through him, God is doing great things.

New Prospect Church is located at 5805 County Road 38, Cullman, AL 35057. For more information call 205-514-3819 or e-mail newprospectchurch@yahoo.com.

Follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/newprospectbaptistchurch.net.



FACEBOOK.COM/NEWPROSPECTBAPTISTCHURCH.NET

Brother Kyle Ellison of New Prospect Church enjoys preaching to and caring for his church family.

"People are confused, and it's hard to earn their trust, but we do all within our power to give the Gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone."

Brother Kyle Ellison, New Prospect Church

Warner (from Front)

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – In case of emergency, Scott Warner doesn't have to be called, he's most likely a member of whatever team shows up. Warner is a member of Cullman Fire Rescue, Law enforcement, and is a nationally respected physician.

After finishing college in Georgia and medical school in Florida, Warner moved to Birmingham and met who would become his wife, Tina Warner. He and his wife moved to Cullman in 1996 and that is the same year he and his wife had their first child, Raley.

Although working as an EMT while he was in college in Florida, Warner was spurred to join "military or civil service" following the 9/11 attacks in 2001.

"I became active in establishing and pursuing certification as a key player on the national level in brand-new specialties that had emerged after the 9/11 attacks," Warner explained.

He joined the Department of Homeland Security, where he still serves, attending to both natural and manmade disasters.

"I became one of the first physicians in the country to be board certified in Disaster Medicine," Warner went on to say.

This achievement moved Warner closer to what he truly wanted to do, which was merge the aspects of law enforcement and emergency medical response into a singular profession.

"Military medics are as much a soldier as they are a medic and the two are not mutually exclusive," Warner said. He also said that this philosophy has carried over into law enforcement and that he "was fortunate enough to in the very first group of physicians in the country who were eligible to sit for and successfully complete certification in Tactical medicine and in EMS medicine."

Warner went on to explain that he has been fortunate enough to be involved with helping Cullman EMS and Cullman Fire Rescue become "some of the most well-trained and forward-thinking agencies providing emergency care in the state of Alabama, if not the entire Southeast."

He does not take credit for this accomplishment, but his vision for merging two services that often work together has helped Cullman to, in Warner's words, "pioneer techniques and procedures that later become standard of care throughout the state and nation."

Warner now has four children, all of which are teenagers, and he says the communication skills he's gained through family life have served him well in his professional life.

"This helped me on many occasions to de-escalate situations by helping explain or phrase things in a way that people can understand."

Warner has raised all four of his children in Cullman, and says that Cullman initially attracted him because of the religious aspect of living here.

"I was attracted to Cullman because of the Christian influence here. I saw a vibrant evangelical community. I felt I could have a job and a family, and be encouraged to live out my faith here," Warner said.

He went on to say, however, that the unique things about Cullman, such as the religious influence and distinct German heritage seem to be fading in the last few years.

"I hope that younger generations also attempt to preserve that and not lose sight of the past while embracing the future," he said.

Warner also is wary of all the expansion and growth in Cullman lately.

"Certainly it's nice to have new stores, particularly restaurants and other shopping available locally. I hate for Cullman, however to become so much like other places that we lose the uniqueness that first attracted me to this community," Warner said.

Although he's served many jobs, Warner says his favorite role in life has been that of a husband and a father.

"All else pales in comparison to the impact one makes on one's family and the pleasure it brings."

Although, since all his kids are teenagers, Warner says his favorite job right now is law enforcement tactical operations and EMS/prehospital care.

"As all these new fields are emerging and I get to be on the ground-level it's very exciting."

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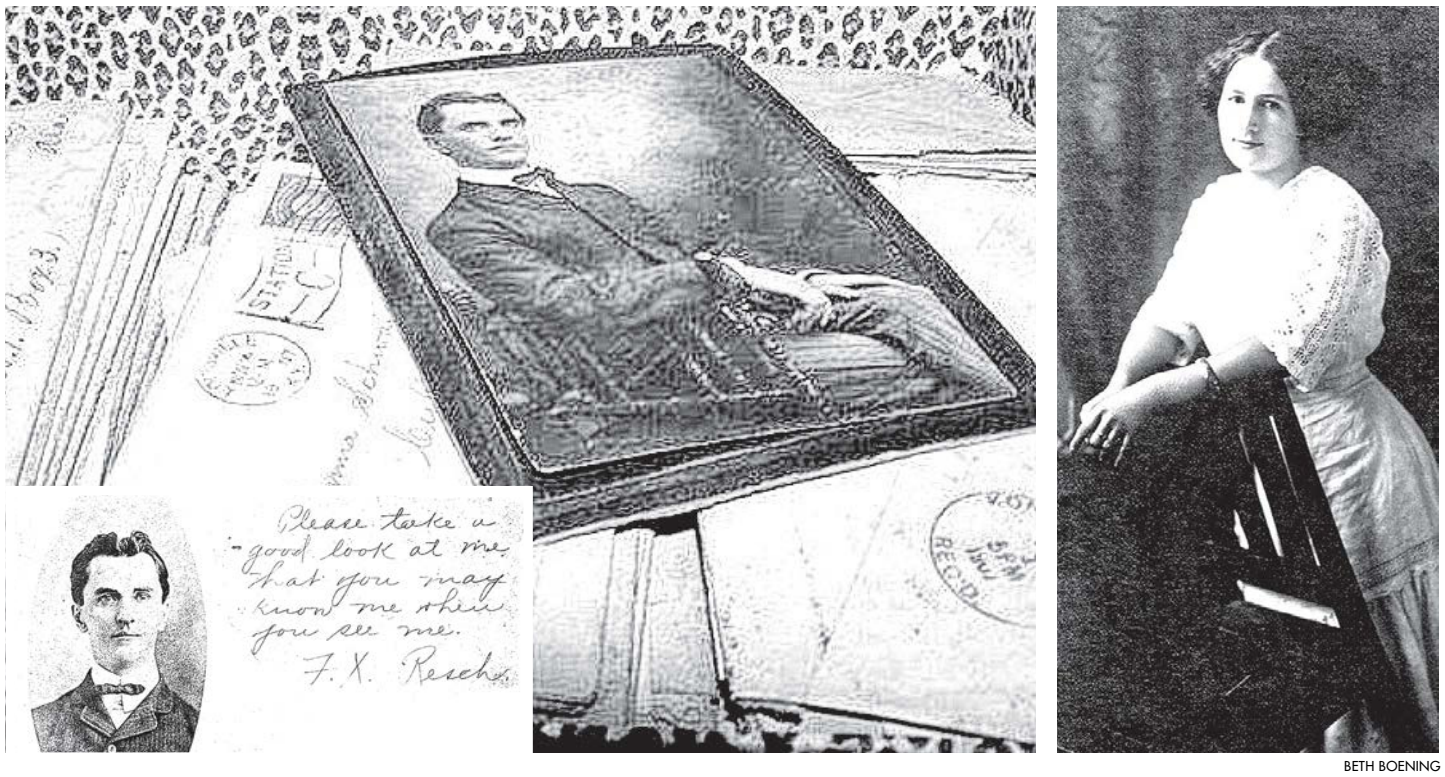
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EARLY 1900S LOVE LETTERS IN A BOX: CULLMAN WOMAN LEAVES MEMENTOS OF FIRST LOVE



BETH BOENING

The box of old letters chronicles the communication between Francis Resch and Emma Schwaiger.

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CULLMAN – May 29, 2011 began as a typical day for Eva resident, Beth Boening. To celebrate the Memorial Day weekend, she and her husband drove to Cullman to spend the day with friends. Once everyone had arrived, the group settled down with their lawn chairs and coolers; the ladies chattered away as the men gathered up broken tree limbs that were scattered during a recent thunderstorm and piled them up for a bonfire.

Once the women discussed the latest happenings, Beth's friend Jan began to talk about a batch of old love letters she had found.

The letters had belonged to her husband's grandmother and dated back to the early 1900s.

The more she talked about them, the more excited she got and before long, she scuttled up to the house to retrieve them. When she returned, box in hand, she sat down and got comfortable. What was inside that box would change Beth's life forever.

"It was a good size box and had leopard print and flowers on it," Beth explained.

"When Jan opened the box, everyone gasped at the same time," she giggled.

"On the top was an old black and white picture of a very handsome man. Under his picture was about forty handwritten letters; the first one I could focus on was dated 1907. I remember my brain finding it hard to process the fact that the letters were over a hundred years old!"

The letters were from a young man named Francis X Resch to his sweetheart Miss Emma Marie Schwaiger.

Francis was born around 1880 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and somehow landed in Cullman in 1899 to attend college at Saint Bernard. In 1903 he established The Southern Tribune newspaper in Oneonta, Alabama. It is not known how long he lived in Oneonta, but by 1906 he was in Kansas working as a teacher.

Miss Emma is the daughter of Joseph and Annie (Bauer) Schwaiger. She was born in 1887 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and later moved with her family to Cullman.

Because her parents had been friends with the Resch family in South Dakota, the friendship had continued long after their move south.

Although Francis originally had eyes for Emma's sister Anna, it didn't take long for him to discover young Emma and by June 21, 1906 a steamy romance – through letters had blossomed.

"The old style handwriting is just amazing to me considering that the children now don't even use cursive writing," Beth said as she shook her head a little. "Since I can read his handwriting, I've scanned and typed – word for word – every letter in the box."

Once she finished with the box, Beth was thrilled to find out that there was another box of love letters that carried the sweet relationship to 1912.

The letters were just as beautiful and romantic as the previous letters. It didn't take her long to get to work on the new batch and before long the additional letters had been scanned and typed.

"By the middle of June I was on the phone begging Jan and her husband Buck to let me write a book with the letters," Beth giggled.

"Thankfully they thought it would be alright. And before long Jan began to tell me all kinds of things about the family's past, after the letters, and oh how I wished I had a tape recorder at the time!"

From the moment Beth touched that first romantic letter from Francis she has been fascinated with the sweet young couple and their long love story. She often finds her thoughts turning to Emma and what she might think of how things are this day and age.

Whatever happened to the two love birds? Did Emma and Francis ever marry and have a family?

The answer is in Beth's book, 'Love Letters in a Box' and hopefully soon all can purchase a copy and see.

Until then, visit Facebook and read some of the letters and see some of the family photos and mementos that have been saved and scanned. Contact Beth through the book's Facebook page at facebook.com/elizabeth.boening.

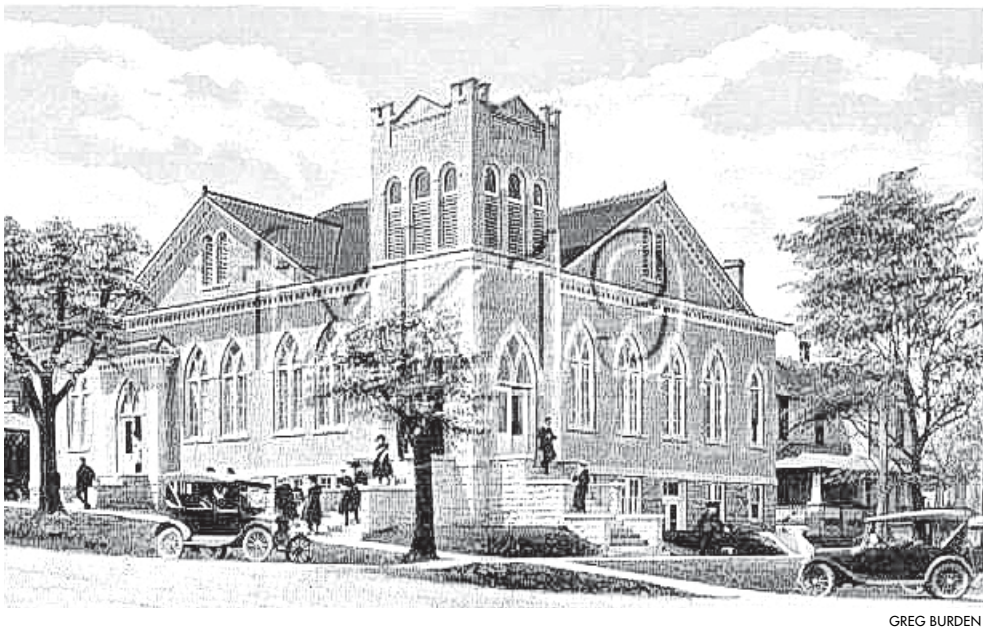
MIRRORING HISTORY: CULLMAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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CULLMAN – The beautiful church perched on a corner and located at 321 3rd St SE, Cullman, Ala. has been used as a place of worship for many years. It is currently home to Cornerstone Church of the Nazarene. Before it became a Nazarene Church, the building had been Cullman Christian Church.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE



GREG BURDEN

Cornerstone Church of the Nazarene, left, and Cullman Christian Church, right.

cullman city parks & recreation cp&r

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.

CULLMAN PARKS AND RECREATION'S ARCHERY CAMP TEACHES CHILDREN TIPS AND TRICKS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Cullman Parks and Recreation held their first Archery Camp for the summer on June 29, 30 and June 1 for boys and girls ages 7 -14. The event was held at the Cullman Archery Park, located across from the Cullman Golf Course. The camp focused on archery skills as well as safety, wildlife education, games and competitions.

"Our 3 day camp is more of a beginning camp, we just teach them the basics, going through the string bow process," said Branch Whitlock, Instructor. "We work with the Genesis bows in the school programs and we really try to build them up for that program so they can go back to their schools and really get a jump on the archery programs and tryouts."

"It's a great way for kids to get involved in archery," he continued. "Archery is something you can do for a lifetime. It's something you can take with you forever. Handicap students and those with special needs all the way up to your most athletic children can really participate in archery. That is one reason we love the archery program."

Not only did the campers shoot their bow and arrows during their stay, but they also got to listen to representatives from Vans Sporting Goods who gave an interesting archery presentation on Tuesday. On Wednesday the group took a field trip to the JOAD Archery Jr. Olympic program at the Jack Allen Recreation Complex in Decatur. The kids got to talk to some professional archers about some intricate details on how to shoot. The kids had a blast and learned a lot about the sport.

"We like camp a lot," said 7 year old Willa Smith. "We learned the eleven steps to archery. I like shooting a lot and I usually do pretty good," she smiled proudly.

"We shoot arrows," smiled 8 year old Ally Stewart. "So far it's been okay. On the first day we had to learn the string bows and at the end we got to shoot."

"The camp was pretty good. I got a lot of stuff like a water bottle and some free stuff. I learned a lot or things and had fun the whole time," said 10 year old John Rhodes.

Archery is a lot of fun and is taught in most schools in the county. The Archery Camp proved to be an excellent tool in preparing the children to use their bow and arrows properly. It also introduced them to the wonderful world of archery in hopes they will continue the sport as they grow older.

For more information about Cullman Archery Camp, contact Cullman Parks and Recreation at 256-734-9157 or wharbison@cullmanrecreation.org.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The boys had a great time shooting their bow and arrows while the girls got to play in the woods. The group would eventually change places and let the girls shoot their bows next.

ELIJAH MOORE: CREATING BIRDHOUSES FROM CIGAR BOXES

Mary Standifer
mary@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Handcrafted, locally made, artwork is bountiful in the community if one only knows where to look. 13 year-old Elijah Moore creates quality birdhouses from cigar boxes. The pieces of art feature metal roofs, perches made from unique objects, and the ability to open for easy cleaning. The houses even feature a polyurethane coating to protect the boxes from the weather.

"I wanted my bird houses to be different, with a unique touch...," explains Moore, "I use different items for the perch, anything from an old fence insulator, spark plug, spoons, or even an old wooden thread spool, just anything we can find."

Moore has built at least 40 birdhouses since he began, and each design is completely different from the next.

The pieces range from $20-$25; Moore has so far sold his creations to people on Facebook yard sales, fellow church members and employees at his dentist's office.

Moore began his small business after brainstorming with his parents to find a way to make extra money.

He and his father had recently bought a large amount of cigar boxes to store their Magic the Gathering card decks.

Moore first started selling the cigar boxes un-modified to other Magic the Gathering players as deck boxes. He soon came across multiple Pinterest posts of cigar box bird houses.

Moore has been designing and building his own artistic bird houses ever since.

The young craftsman recently started his own Facebook page to promote his work.

To learn more about Moore's creations, visit facebook.com/profile.php?id=438251479715572. To purchase a bird house, send a message to his father, Tim Moore.



TIM MOORE

Moore's creativity allows him to find and use untraditional materials in his one of a kind designs.



DAYSPRING DAIRY: FIRST LICENSED SHEEP DAIRY FARM IN ALABAMA

Hannah Ward
ward@cullmansense.com

GALLANT – Nestled in a valley in the piedmont of north-east Alabama with lush rolling pastures is Dayspring dairy farm. The family owned and operated farm was the first licensed sheep dairy and producer of sheep milk cheeses in Alabama.

Although a sheep farm does not produce as much milk as a cow farm, it does produce richer, creamier milk. That is exactly what Dayspring is all about with a focus on quality over quantity.

All of their cheeses are made from milk from their flock. The owner, Greg Kelly, shepherds eighty dairy sheep. The family affectionately names each one of their sheep and refers to them as their "girls".

Kelly's wife, Ana, is the head cheesemaker and culinary mastermind. Their two children also enjoy contributing to the farm.

Their sheep are pasture raised and consume large amounts of grass.

They do get some feed when they go into the parlor for milking. The cheeses and caramels are all 100% gluten free.

Greg Kelly stated, "Our goal is to produce unique, delicious, safe, and healthy cheeses for our customers. Dayspring Dairy cheeses start with the highest quality milk. Our sheep graze on our lush native pastures year round producing milk with unique flavor profiles. We never use pesticides or commercial fertilizer on our pastures. Likewise, our sheep are never given hormones. All of these factors help us produce cheeses that are one-of-a kind."

The family's faith plays a big part in their business. In fact, the name "Dayspring" means sunrise and is a biblical reference to Jesus.

"We know God has led us to do this endeavor which is why we have named it Dayspring Dairy, to give Him the honor and glory," Claimed Greg Kelly.

The farm produces a wide variety of cheeses and milk caramel spreads including:

- Pecora Fresca – A soft spreadable cheese flavored with sea salt.
- Pimento Garlic Fresca
- Poblano Lime Fresca
- Basil Peppercorn Fresca
- Chocolate Fresca (yes chocolate cheese!)
- Raw 100% Sheep Milk Feta
- Marinated Feta - marinated with olive oil and herbs
- Tipsy Farmer - Feta marinated in local blueberry wine
- Ewetopia – Raw milk aged gouda
- Halloumi - Mediterranean cheese that can be grilled or fried without melting
- Sheep Milk Caramel - a dulce de leche spread made from sheep milk and raw sugar cooked for four hours until creamy, available in vanilla bean and bourbon flavors

They currently sell their products at Pepper Place, Festhalle Market Platz, and Madison City farmers markets. They are also available for purchase at their farm in Gallant.

Their caramels have recently gone into distribution with Bamawise and they have more planned as they increase their production capabilities.

Greg Kelly stated, "The idea of Dayspring Dairy was born while we had professional careers but felt led to do something different with our lives. After visiting a sheep dairy in Tennessee in 2010, we knew right away that this is where God was leading us. In 2011, we purchased a beautiful farm in Gallant, Alabama. After months of research, including visiting several sheep dairies across the country, construction on our dairy and creamery began in 2012 with a focus on sustainability and agritourism."

Dayspring Dairy is located at 212 Dogwood Drive Gallant, AL 35972.



CONTRIBUTED

Dayspring Dairy owner Greg Kelly shepherds eighty dairy sheep.



CONTRIBUTED

The entire Kelly family contributes to the farm.



Their first steps.
Their first car.
Their first day of college.

Katherine Morgan, Agent
909 Fisher Street SW
Cullman, AL 35055
Bus: 256-734-4640
katherine.morgan.fc5a@statefarm.com

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The Stony Lonesome OHV Park Presents:

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(July 11th, 2015 8:30am – 11:00pm)

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Activities Include:

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Muddiest Award
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Mud Bog
Night Riding
& More



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Visit our website: www.stonylonesomeohv.us
Like us on facebook for more up to date information and photos!
*** This information is subject to change

Prices
Gate Fee- $3.00 per person (Ages 13 and up)
Day (only) 8a-6p - $10.00 adult, $5.00 child
Night (only) 6p-11p - $15.00 adult, $ 10.00 child
Day and Night - 8a-11p - $20.00 adult, $15.00 child
**Children 5 and under are free

Monday

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

Domestic Violence Survivor Support Group
Victim Services of Cullman sponsors a Domestic Violence Survivor Support Group meeting every Monday evening from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the old County Board of Education Building with childcare available. For additional information please call 256-775-2600. CRISIS HOTLINE - 256-734-6100.

Overeaters Anonymous Gather at Grace Episcopal
Members of Overeaters Anonymous meet every Monday, at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in the Carriage House located on Church premises. Further information is available at 256-747-6218 or 256-352-1143. Everyone is invited to attend these gatherings.

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

Tuesday

Cullman Caring for Kids in Need of Donations
If you are able to contribute to Cullman County's Community Food Band, the 'Caring for Kids' organization, they would be grateful. 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

American Legion And Auxiliary Meetings
The American Legion Cullman Post 0004 and Auxiliary, Cullman Unit 4, located at Veterans Hall, 112 Veterans Drive, S.E., will meet Thursday, July 9th, at 6:00 p.m. If you served in the military during wartime in any capacity, you are cordially invited to attend. Please come and enjoy dinner out compliments of the Auxiliary.

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

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

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

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

Friday

'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

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

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Fill'er Up Fridays • Sudsy Saturdays
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DAVID BROCK

Brown recluse spider bite victims are often unaware of when the incident occurs.

SUMMER MONTHS BRING OUT SNAKES AND SPIDERS AROUND CULLMAN COUNTY

Hannah Ward
ward@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – As the summer months roll on gardening and adventures in the woods become a pastime. Unfortunately this also means a higher likelihood of coming into contact with dangerous snakes and insects. Insects such as spiders are especially dangerous.

According to Neil Schamban, MD, FACEP Chief Executive Officer at Island Medical Management, "Spider bites overall are more frequent but generally less severe. However, there are certain spiders such as black widows that can be more severe. Also, certain spiders, such as the brown recluse can have delayed tissue destruction which can be significant. The overall message is the same, however, with a spider bite, you may consider your primary care physician or an urgent care before coming to an emergency department. If there are any symptoms that are rapid, then coming to the closest emergency room is paramount."

Most of the people that are bit by a brown recluse do not know when they get bit.

David Brock, a victim of a brown recluse spider, told his story, "Monday, May 4, I got up and held my arm up in the mirror and thought I had bruised myself. The night before, the sheets rubbed across my arm and I felt like I had been cut across somewhere. I got bit across my triceps so I couldn't really see it. My wife thought I had been bit and wanted me to go to the doctor."

After going to Urgent care, Brock was sent to a surgeon. Brock had to wear a wound V.A.C. which is a small, portable device that has a tube keeping constant pressure on the wound.

It was kept on for about two weeks. Home health came in every other day for weeks. It took him almost six weeks to recover from the bite. The whole experience was not only painful, but also quite expensive.

Snakes are even more harmful. Schamban claimed, "Spider bites are more common and occur regularly. Snake bites are less common but still an expected emergency to recognize and treat."

The number of deaths due to spider and snake bites cannot be released since that is HIPPA protected information.

The common occurrence of snakes in the summer is mainly due to their revulsion to heat. They prefer to stay cool and concealed.

Matt Brock, a Wildlife Biologist for the Alabama division of wildlife and freshwater fisheries, stated, "Many of the snakes like to crawl around when it's not during the hottest time of the day. So early morning, late afternoon or at night is generally when they are out. Just watch your step. Copperheads and rattlesnakes blend in very well. They're often times very hard to see."

Brock claimed the most common venomous snakes in Cullman County are the Copperhead and Timber rattlesnake. He suggested ways to keep snakes away from your house.

"As far as being around the house, I generally tell people to cleanup clutter if you are worried about snakes. If you have wood piles, or piles of junk in your yard just clean those up," Brock said.

"Get them away from the house, they come to those type of things and the rodents that are there. Which is their food source."

Brock manages wildlife habitats in Winston County and has great experience with snakes in this area. Brock warned about the dangers surrounding gardens and children.

"The main thing, in flower gardens and things like that, don't put your hands in places you cannot see. Especially make sure you can see everything because snakes like to stay hidden," Brock said.

"So if you're working in your garden just be careful where you place your hand. So kids and pets; I have three kids myself, and I generally tell them to stay close to the house and don't go wandering in the woods since they're so young."

"The existing number of different species is very broad and rarely do people actually see what bit them. They come to the ED because of the symptoms of the bite," Schamban stated.

"That is how we recognize the fact that there was an envenomation. Regionally, there are differences and certain bites such as a black widow has more telltale symptoms. Many bites by either snakes or insects produce symptoms which include local swelling, edema, pain and tissue destruction."

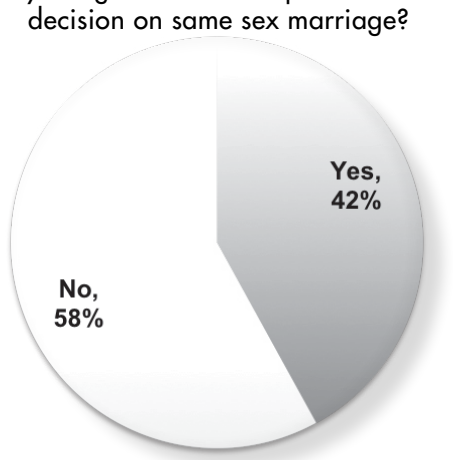
Schamban explained, "First, they should not panic. They should then find the fastest method of coming to the closest emergency department. Some snake bites require immediate treatment with antivenin. Some do not. Observation, supportive care, antivenin, hospital admission, antibiotics can all play a role in the care of a snake bite. Placing a tourniquet is not advised because if it is placed incorrectly, left on too long, or placed too tightly, the damage can be greater than the actual bite itself."

Simple ways to help stay safe:

- Wear long pants
- Apply insect repellant
- Keep grass cut
- Take care when reaching into dark areas such as a canoe or under a dock

Poll

Do you agree with the Supreme Court's decision on same sex marriage?



This Week's Poll

Should the Confederate flag be banned from NASCAR events?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

WHAT'S ONLINE



NOAH CHANDLER/CULLMANSENSE

TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD CONDUCTING TRAINING EXERCISES AT CULLMAN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL TRADE CENTER

A multitude of rumors, text alerts and other forms of social media began swarming Friday night as a National Guard convoy was spotted entering Cullman County. **QRNE.WS/371**



CCSO

WINSTON COUNTY ESCAPEE ARRESTED

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) located and arrested Bradford Seth Burney, 19 years old of Hanceville, after he escaped from a Winston County Sheriff's Office patrol car. On June 29th, 2015, Winston County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) had detained Mr. Burney in the Addison community in connection to a burglary. After escaping the... **QRNE.WS/372**

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PHOTOS BY MARY STANDIFER/CULLMANSENSE

EveryDay But Friday enjoying time to mix covers with their original music.

MUSIC FILLS THE AIR AT SMITH LAKE FESTIVAL

Mary Standifer
mary@cullmansense.com

TRIMBLE – Smith Lake Park's Independence Day Festival hosted a number of talented live musical performances.

Friday's event kicked off with Bama Country playing at 5:00 p.m. The band played country and southern rock, and garnered a positive crowd response after making comments in support of the recently controversial confederate flag. "That's the way we are out here," said one band member from the stage.

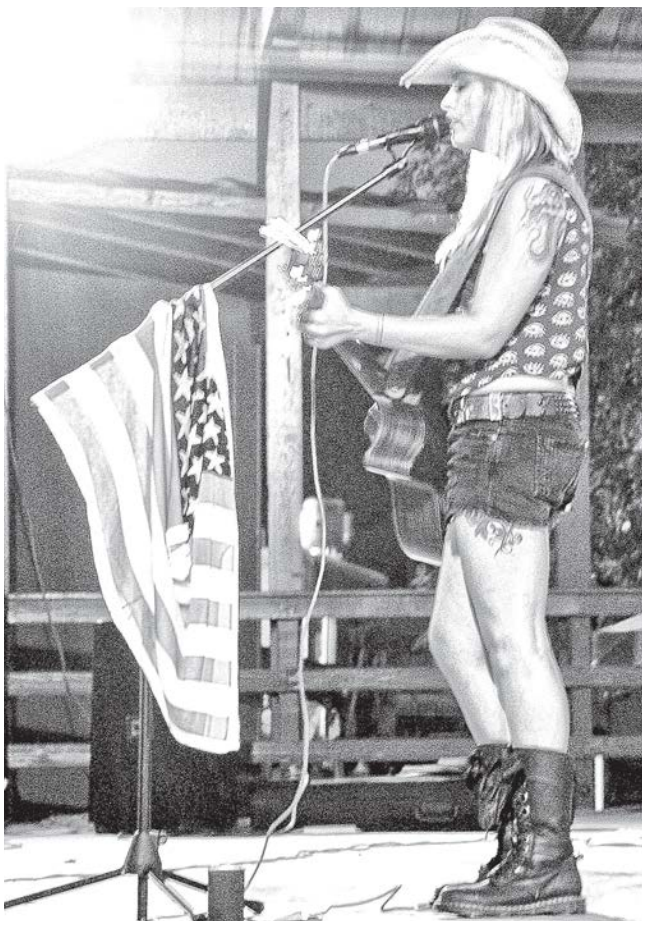
At 8:00 p.m, Thad Company took the stage. The band comes from Huntsville, Alabama and plays what they like to call "rockin' blues".

Their set consisted of many impressive classic rock covers that set a relaxed, enjoyable tone for the rest of the evening.

Saturday's musical acts began with Giants and Toys at 1:00 p.m. The Birmingham based Rock/Indie/Blues band just released a completely DIY ep entitled Cinema which is available for download.

The Overtones took the stage at 3:00 p.m. and played incredibly full sounding covers of music from a variety of genres.

The band is from Cullman and consists of four members. Their set consisted mostly pop and rock covers; their rendition of Kay Perry's Dark Horse took many in the crowd by surprise.



Jess Meuse performs before the firework display.

With a strong alternative rock sound, Birmingham's EveryDay but Friday began their set at 5:00 p.m.

"Any other show but this one, we would be playing all originals. This is the kind of one show that we get...once or twice a year where we can kind of have fun with it and play the covers that we want to play. It was a fun time getting to play our favorite songs and all the while getting to play the originals that we've written," said lead guitarist Joe Ellis. The band played a particularly tasteful cover of Come Together by the Beatles.

At 7:00 p.m, former American Idol contestant, Jess Meuse, took the stage, but unfortunately, so did the rain. Many dedicated fans simply opened umbrellas and continued watching the show. Despite the weather set back from the beginning of the show, the rain ceased later during Meuse's set which allowed many fans to gather close to the stage. Meuse's set ended with the singing of the National Anthem during the beginning of the fireworks display.

Craftsman (from Front)

said Pannell.

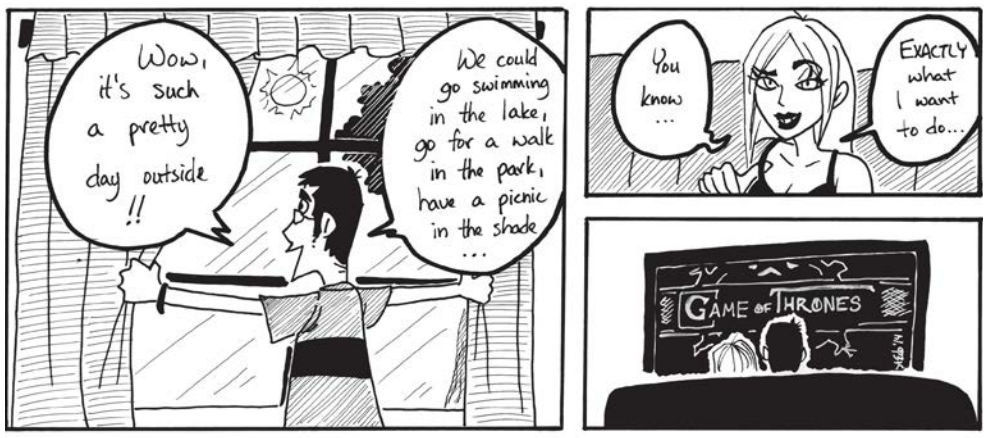
The artwork often features classic Disney cartoon characters and college football mascots. Aside from rocking chairs, Pannell also offers handmade bird houses, bird feeders, plaques, and porch swings.

"I set up about two years ago. I've got six great-grand babies; one of them has Leukemia, and she wanted a rocking chair, so I built her one, and I've been building them ever since," explains Pannell, "Other people wanted them, so I started building them for other people. I don't make that much. I just design them for the kids, and I love kids, so it's what I do for them."

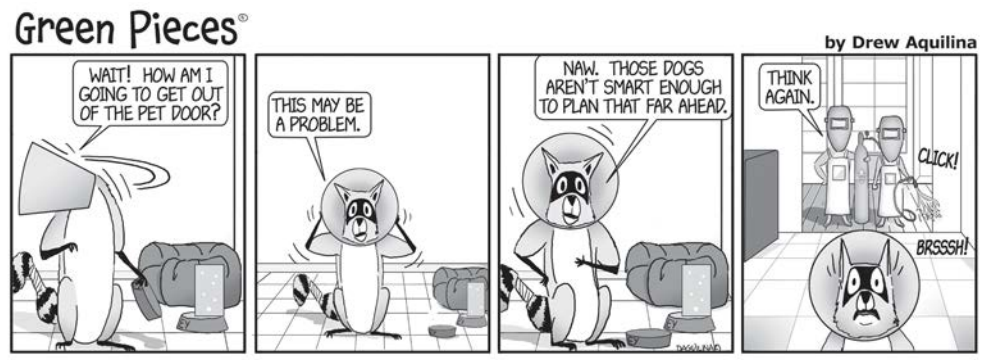
Pannell's work is an example of underground folk available in Cullman. To look at and purchase Pannell's work, find him most days on the side of Highway 278 across the street from Johnny's Barbecue. "I'm here when it's pretty; when the sun's shining I'm here. When it rains I go home," laughs Pannell.

COMICS

WHITE & BLACK • **"Winter is Coming"** • st.edo@cullmansense.com









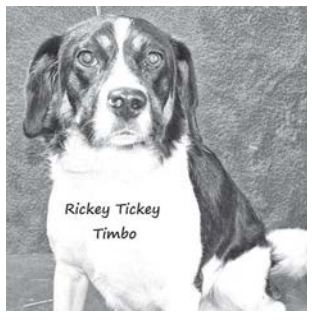


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PETS OF THE WEEK

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



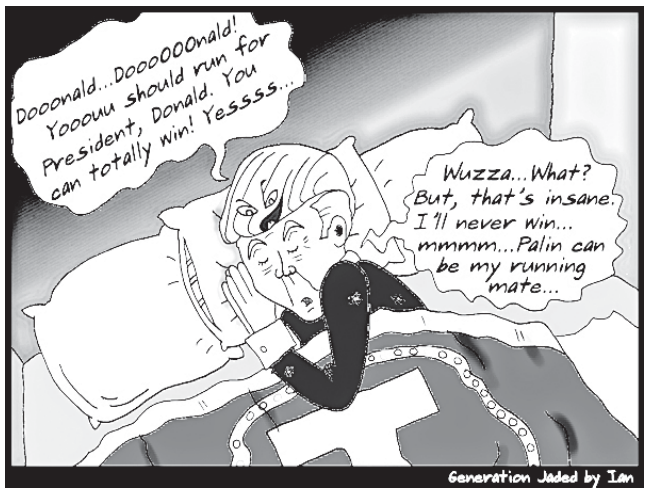
Hello my name is Waffles and I am about 1 years old. I am a Chihuahua/Dachshund mix and I currently weigh 11 lbs. I am now up for adoption. My adoption fee is $90 and that includes my spay/neuter, vaccines, wormer, and also covers my general exam at the Vet, rabies vaccine, microchip, free 45 day health 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.

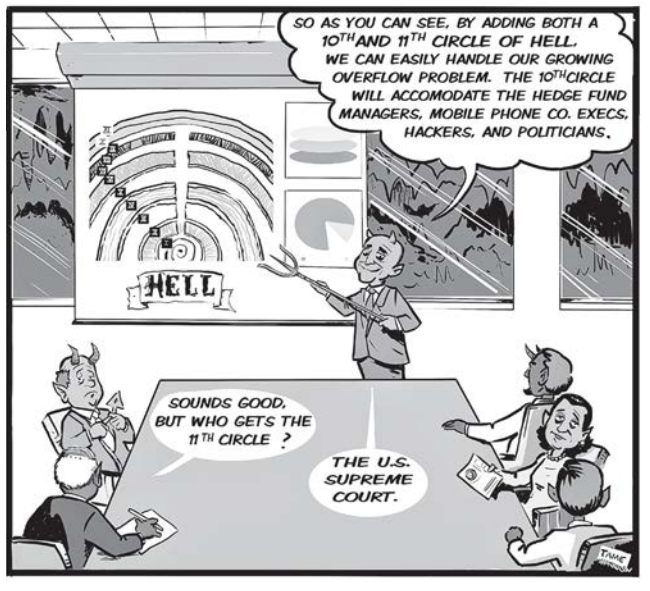
ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

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.

EDITORIAL CARTOONS





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OPINION

DISPARATE IMPACT CLAIMS ESSENTIAL FOR JUSTICE

Laura Finley
PeaceVoice

Like many other progressives, I was very excited about some of the Supreme Court decisions this term (healthcare, gay marriage) and deeply disturbed about others (Facebook threats should not be judged on a "reasonable person" standard, executions using new drugs can continue). One decision that did not receive as much attention but that is tremendously important, I think, is the Court's ruling in Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project, Inc. In that decision, the Court held 5-4 that housing segregation, even if done unintentionally, violates the Fair Housing Act. In doing so, the Court affirmed that "disparate impact claims" about housing are legitimate. Although it is not clear that this will be the case, I hope that the decision paved the way for greater use of social science data by courts on other issues.

The Supreme Court has often rejected statistical evidence in support of disparate impact claims. For instance, in McKleskey v. Kemp, held that the significant body of research showing the racially disproportionate impact of Georgia's death penalty was inadequate to overturn that state's system of capital punishment. The court held that the ownership for proving that someone was a victim of discrimination fell on the petitioner, who must provide "exceptionally clear proof" of discrimination in his or her case. Likewise, in civil law, the court ruled in Washington v. Davis that laws that have a racially discriminatory effect, but which the plaintiff cannot demonstrate were enacted with the intent to discriminate, are not unconstitutional.

It is nearly impossible to prove someone meant to discriminate against you, barring obvious statements of intent to which petitioners generally do not have access.

Legal scholars have named McKleskey one of the worst Supreme Court decisions post World War II, and others call it "the Dred Scott of our time." Michelle Alexander, author of The New Jim Crow, maintains that the refusal to recognize statistical data as evidence of discrimination has inoculated the criminal justice system from both judicial and public scrutiny. It has essentially affirmed that racial discrimination in the courts is inevitable and thus acceptable. In fact, in McKleskey several justices admitted they were fearful of accepting the statistical evidence, lest it open the door for other claims of racial discrimination in criminal justice, or what Justice Brennan claimed in his dissent...the Court was afraid of "too much justice."

In its recent decision the Court did limit disparate-impact claims to cases where a law or policy raises "artificial, arbitrary, and unnecessary barriers."

Lower courts thus have a lot of leeway to interpret whether disparate impact is the result of those barriers or other factors.

Further, the Court held that statistical evidence alone is not enough—plaintiffs must also be able to prove that it was the specific law or policy that was the cause of the impact.

Nonetheless, this ruling potentially sets a precedent for using disparate impact claims to address discrimination outside of housing. Advocates hope that it can be used in employment discrimination cases, in cases in which someone was discriminated against based on their genetic data, and in cases involving the effects, or "collateral consequences" of incarceration on women, who often suffer disproportionately from policies that denied formerly incarcerated persons food stamps or certain types of jobs.

I hope it now reopens the door for hearing disparate impact claims about the death penalty, as even more research studies have been conducted since the decision in McKleskey that show a racially discriminatory effect. For instance, a 2014 study by Katherine Beckett of the University of Washington found that jurors in that state were three times more likely to recommend death sentences for black defendants than for white ones, and Amnesty International has pointed out that more than 20 percent of black defendants who were executed were convicted by all-white juries.

The Court may finally be recognizing that parsing out intent and effect are not so easy, and may not be at all what is required for justice to prevail.

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

OPINION

GUN CONTROL AND THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

A RESPONSE TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA CHURCH SHOOTING

Joe Bialek
Contributor

The second amendment of the United States Constitution states: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Obviously the need for a state militia has been replaced by the National Guard and Coast Guard whereby trained military personnel are entrusted with the defense of this country against domestic enemies. Their weapons are tightly controlled and safeguarded.

The only two reasons for a citizen to own a firearm are for hunting or defense of the household from intruders. In either case, ownership of a handgun, shotgun or rifle is more than adequate to satisfy these purposes.

There is absolutely no need for any U.S. civilian to own any weapon more powerful or sophisticated than these.

Accordingly, all handguns, shotguns and rifles must be licensed and registered to the degree necessary to match weapon to owner at the click of a computer key.

Furthermore, we must guarantee that the mentally ill do not gain access to them under any circumstances.

Finally, if we had prohibited the purchase of more sophisticated weapons several innocent victims would not have died or been harmed at shopping malls, college campuses, Congressional meetings and now churches.

As for the Confederate Flag I agree that it should be removed from all government buildings because it is neither a national nor state flag.

But the outpouring of yanking it, no pun intended, from everywhere else seems a bit extreme.

Neither the flag used by the Army of Northern Virginia nor the official flag of the Confederacy had anything to do with being a symbol of pro slavery but rather was the colors adopted by men who chose to fight for the preservation of state's rights against what was perceived as the growing encroachment of the Federal Government.

Slavery may have been the straw that finally broke the Union's back but it was the wealthy plantation owners who stood to lose most from the loss of their "peculiar institution."

Instead of following the North's industrial push they left themselves behind only to be crushed by a more powerful enemy.

Billy Yank and Johnny Reb did not enlist, or get drafted, into their respective armies to aid or oppose slavery; they did it because from each side's point of view it was the right thing to do.

The ending of slavery was just a positive result stemming from the outcome of America's second revolutionary war.

Everyone is certainly entitled to their own opinion of the Civil War but fortunately they are not entitled to their own facts.

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Desperation Church held its fourth annual fireworks show at Heritage Park.

PHOTOS BY HANNAH WARD/CULLMANSENSE

ANNUAL FIREWORKS FESTIVAL AT HERITAGE PARK BRINGS FAMILIES TOGETHER

Hannah Ward
ward@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Saturday, July 4th, 2015 Desperation Church in Cullman presented its fourth annual Fireworks Festival at Heritage Park. Although, it rained on and off throughout the evening, a couple of hundred people showed up to celebrate Independence Day.

The family-friendly event gave residents and their children a safe place to observe a fireworks display.

Desperation Church's Pastor Andy Heis stated, "We love to bring the entire community together for one purpose; we love to see families come together. It brings excitement to our people and honestly another reason is if there is anyone out there that doesn't have a church home and maybe they come to this, maybe they'll come try it out, give their life to Christ, have a complete life change. We've seen it happen several times. I love America too, I want to celebrate America; it's not just about us."

According to Auston Neal a member of Desperation Church, "We're out here to provide the community with a really fun, safe way to celebrate the Fourth of July and to serve people and show them the love of Jesus."

The church set up bounce castles and slides for children along with a variety of games for all ages. Music played throughout the day and created a fun outdoor atmosphere.

Melissa Prudhome, who had three children with her, stated, "It's mainly for the kids and to see them have a good time."

"It's just a good family experience, this is our third year. We enjoy it," claimed Jeremiah Smith. Smith enjoyed the festivities with his daughter and dog.

Tanya Beard, a Fairview resident, stated, "It's my first time, we usually go to Fairview, but they canceled that tonight. So we had an opportunity to go here, some of our family attends Desperation so we're really excited to be able to come and still have fireworks on the Fourth."

The student department of Desperation Church set up a tent for attendees to learn more about the church and its activities.

"The tent is for our students, we have this youth weekend coming up. We're calling it Tribal Wars Weekend," Neal said. "We have these different tribes, like Cullman City, Vinemont, Wallace, Fairview and Jasper. A bunch of different groups and we're gonna have all these cool, fun competitions. So really it's just a more fun way to share the gospel is what it comes down to. We're looking to reach students so anyway that we can do that we're in for it."

The day ended with a bang as people covered the Heritage Park grounds and admired the fireworks. Thanks to Desperation Church, Cullman residents and those from surrounding areas were able to enjoy the holiday with their families once again.

Desperation Church is located at 202 Elizabeth St NE, Cullman, AL 35055. Visit them at desperationchurch.tv. Follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/DCcampusnews.



Though rain dampended the show, several hundred viewed the display.



