SERIES 5 • ISSUE 32 • AUGUST 17, 2015
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS


SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

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CONTRIBUTED

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TIM COLLIER

RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT

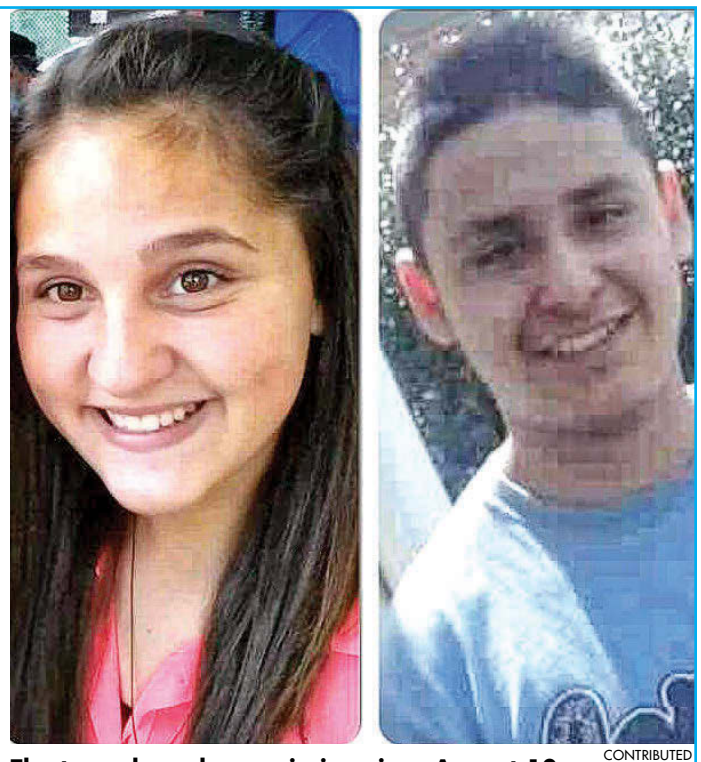
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HANCEVILLE TEEN'S MOTHER SPEAKS OUT ON MISSING DAUGHTER

See story, p12


CONTRIBUTED

The teens have been missing since August 10.

"We are a very close family. Please help us bring our kids home"
DONNA FLORES

CULLMAN TRAIN DEPOT GETS NEEDED RENOVATIONS

Improvements include replacement of rotting wood on baseboards, new windows, and paint touch-ups P6



WILL HOGUE/CULLMANSENSE

The total cost of the renovations were approximately $20,000.

LIGHTHOUSE HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN POW WOW

Will Hogue
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CULLMAN – Larry Cox, director of The Lighthouse of Cullman, looked over the pow wow and proclaimed it "a success."

For an event that has had minimal advertising leading up to it, the fundraiser was a homerun for an organization in need of an influx of cash.

In light of recent government budget cuts, organizations such as The Lighthouse will be strapped for cash from here on out and be forced to hold fundraisers such as the charity pow wow held on August 15 and 16.

Vendors, drummers, and dancers all arrived at Sportsman Lake Park to celebrate their heritage and support a worthy cause.

George "White Wolf" Teague was responsible for organizing the event. Many with Native American heritage celebrated that on Saturday, with some just coming for the cultural exposure.

Yellow Bird, and his wife, also named Yellow Bird were one of the vendors at the event. They P10

ANNUAL EVA BANK MIDNIGHT RUN ADDS SPLASH OF COLOR

Will Hogue
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CULLMAN – Eva Bank held it's annual 5k Midnight Run on Friday night. The overall and male winner was 20-year-old Donny Barnes finishing the race in 16:57, while the female winner was 28-year-old Lauren Philbrook with a time of 17:14.

"This is my first time competing in [the Midnight Run]," Philbrook said. "I just moved here from Massachusetts, so I'm still getting used to the humidity. I figured a midnight run might be good for my first race here."

While Philbrook competed in the Midnight Run for the first time on Friday, overall winner Donny Barnes had added incentive.

"Last year [in the Midnight Run] I came in second, but I was also disqualified," Barnes said. "Because I ran off course. I got back on the course, but by the time I did, it was too late." Barnes rectified last year's victory with an impressive time, averaging 5 minutes and 33 seconds per mile. Barnes will be a junior at the University of Montevallo this fall.

Although there P4


WILL HOGUE/CULLMANSENSE

This year's Midnight Run added neon powder.

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THREE ARRESTED FOR METH

Bradley Williams
CCSO

CULLMAN – On Thursday August 13, 2015, Agents with the Cullman Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET) arrested Brandon Dewayne Rollo, 31 years old of Bremen, Jessica Diane Rollo, 23 years old of Bremen, and James Calvin Boone III, 46 years old of Hanceville for Unlawful Possession of Control Substance, Unlawful Possession of Marijuana 2nd, and Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

The Department of Human Resources (DHR) and CNET agents went to the residence of the suspects after the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) received information from citizens about possible drug activity and children being left unattended.

After obtaining a search warrant agents discovered 3 grams of crystal meth, Marijuana, and drug paraphernalia.

It was later discovered the unattended children at the residence did not belong to the suspects, however, DHR will still monitor the children for a period of time for their safety.

"I want to commend the citizens whose information lead to the arrest of the three individuals," said Sheriff Matt Gentry.

"This is a great example of citizens working with law enforcement to help clean up their community and we will always actively investigate citizen-driven information," added Gentry.

The CCSO secret witness number is 256-734-0210 for any citizen to call who wishes to report criminal activity.

Mr. Rollo is currently being held in the Cullman County Detention Center with no Bond.

Mr. Boone is currently being held in the Cullman County Detention Center. Bond is set at $8,000.00

Ms. Rollo has made bond.



Brandon Dewayne Rollo, James Calvin Boone III, Jessica Diane Rollo CCSO

TWO ARRESTS MADE IN CONNECTION TO THEFT CASES

Bradley Williams
CCSO

CULLMAN – On Saturday, August 8, 2015, The Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) arrested James Nicholas Davis, 32 years old of Bremen. Shandale Renae Cox, 22 of Cullman, was arrested by Hanceville Police Department (HPD). Both were arrested in connection to several thefts, and that occurred that day.

HPD got into a car chase with Ms. Cox midday Saturday and CCSO Investigators and Deputies assisted after a report of a motorcycle theft in the Hanceville area. Just as Ms. Cox was being taken into custody CCSO was notified of a possible location of Mr. Davis in the Dodge City area. The CCSO investigator met Mr. Davis on the stolen motorcycle and immediately pursued him on County Road 490/Golf Course Road until the suspect went up a logging road, abandoned the motorcycle and continued on foot in a wooded area where the investigator lost track of him.

Just a short time later CCSO got two separate phone calls about burglaries. The first being of a home that had been broken into where a suspect had gotten some juice from the refrigerator, an ice cream from the freezer and placed some electronics in the middle of the floor before fleeing the residence.

The second call was from a second residence just a few minutes later to report their 1972 Chevrolet truck was stolen from their garage plus some power tools were also missing.

Shortly after deputies made contact with Mr. Davis on County Road 573 driving another stolen motorcycle and pursued him in a field.

Mr. Davis abandoned the motorcycle in the field and fled on foot and was later apprehended by multiple deputies a few minutes later.

"It was a very good thing to get them off the streets and in jail," said Sheriff Matt Gentry.

"This is a prime example of deputies and investigators working with the other agencies like HPD and ALEA for the good of our community," added Gentry.

Mr. Davis is being charged with Theft of Property 1st, D.U.I, Attempting to Elude, Reckless Driving, Driving While Revoked, Running Stop Sign and Fail to Yield Turn Signal. Other charges are may be pending.



James Nicholas Davis, Shandale Renae Cox CCSO

Ms. Cox is being charged with Attempting to Elude, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Receiving Stolen Property, and Unlawful Possession Controlled Substance. Other charges may be pending.

Mr. Davis and Ms. Cox are currently being held in the Cullman County Detention Center on no bond.

CAR & MOTORCYCLE SHOW AT BROTHER'S POURHOUSE TO BENEFIT CULLMAN CARING FOR KIDS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – On Saturday, August 22nd there will be a Car & Motorcycle Show at Brother's Pourhouse. The event will be sponsored by both Brothers Pourhouse the Jack Aces Riding Club. All proceeds will go to Cullman Caring for Kids.

There is a $25 entry fee and trophies will be presented to the best custom car, custom truck and rat rod. There will also be trophies for the best vintage bike, metric bike, bagger and rat bike.

Additionally there will be a trophy for best of show in the bike category as well as automobile. There will be live music and plenty of fun for everyone.

Registration begins at 4:00 p.m. and the event starts at 5:00 p.m. Admission is free but donations will be accepted and given to Cullman Caring for Kids.

"The car show is obviously for a good cause and we are happy to help out," said Will Dowdy, owner of Brother's Pourhouse. "I'm happy to do anything that is good for our town."

For more information call Jonathan Collett at 256-507-4128 or Derrick Barton at 256-590-8769.

Brother's Pourhouse is located at 216 1st Ave SE Cullman, Ala. 35055 (Two doors down from Dutchess Bakery).





ST. BERNARD PREP HIRES DIRECTOR OF FINE ARTS

Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Contributor

CULLMAN – St. Bernard President, Fr. Joel Martin is pleased to announce Joshua Agnew will be the Director of Fine Arts, a newly created position at St. Bernard Prep School.

Agnew comes to St. Bernard with aspirations of building and revitalizing the Fine Arts Department to include such things as an orchestra, choir, and band for middle and high school students.

At the early age of 12 years old, Agnew developed a love of music through his middle band program in Lincoln Park, New Jersey. Jokingly he said he started in band where it was cool to play drums and not sing. In 7th grade his choir teacher encouraged him to take band and choir; so, he gave it a shot and really enjoyed singing. From high school Agnew earned his Bachelor of Music in Sacred Music and Voice from the highly acclaimed Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ and completed his Master's Degree in Music Education at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

During his college years, he performed at such prestigious venues as New York's Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center, NYC, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, and the Kennedy Center, in Washington, D.C., Agnew has proven to be a man of many talents. He sings in Latin, German, Italian, French and other languages.

While Josh still considers himself a transplant to the Cullman area, he considers it his home. Josh came to Cullman with his wife in 2006 where he worked construction and third shift at a local plant. He realized he needed to follow his dream of music and decided to become proactive in the community. His voiced landed him a position at Cullman High School where he has spent the past eight years following his passion for teaching music, while encouraging students to gain a sense of community through their own love of music.

His enthusiasm is contagious. Agnew said he is thankful for the opportunity to share his faith with his students. Helping them to grow in their faith through the fine arts is very important to him.

"I look forward to getting to know the students personally and to show them the value of what it means to become a well- rounded person which includes study in the fine arts. Nothing encompasses the whole person; mind, body, and spirit more than the fine arts. Our faith is a pillar of education, and in music you can experience the faith. It's more than just words. It is my hope students will grow in faith just by their exposure to great music, and through creating that same music."

"Add to that the beautiful Abbey Church where sound resonates. I can't wait to get started," smiled Agnew.

Students new to singing who are just willing to make a sound are the beginning of developing a good choir. Shaking his head, Agnew said, "I don't believe in tone deafness. If one is willing to work, I am willing to teach. Add to that the students who already have developed abilities and we will have an amazing choral program! There is a level of humility involved, but at the same time I can recognize their abilities and know what I can do for them if they are willing to go for it!

St. Bernard promotes a love of learning and a life of virtue to students through academics and scholarship. "We want to be the performing arts center of Cullman and are very excited to host the SATB Choir Auditions at St. Bernard Prep for the Alabama Vocal Association on November 13-14."

Agnew and his wife, Corrie have five children and reside in Hanceville. They currently attend church at Christ the King Monastery in Simcoe where he cantors in Latin, teaches choir, and sings at Mass every week.



ST. BERNARD

Agnew hopes to revitalize St. Bernard's Fine Arts Department to include things such as an orchestra, choir, and band for middle and high school students.

CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM FIRST IN STATE TO TRAIN STAFF IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Hannah Ward
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CULLMAN – The Cullman County Schools recently certified all of their school resource Officers, and their Safety Director, in a program called ALICE. ALICE is a crisis prevention and management program. It is becoming a widely popular crisis prevention program being used in other states. The Cullman County Safety Resource Officers (SRO's) will go to their own schools to train and certify all school personnel.

The ALICE Acronym is developed from the following:

- Alert
- Lockdown
- Inform
- Counter
- Evacuate

"This training program will give teachers, faculty, and staff, the tools, knowledge, and training in how to handle crisis situations in our schools," Dan Sheets, Director of Communications at Cullman County Board of Education, stated.

Sheets explained ALICE training accepts the premise that the teacher is always the person on the front line in a crisis situation. Teachers are the ones in the best position to have a chance at protecting students. Superintendent of the Cullman County Board of Education, Dr. Craig Ross, wants to give all personnel every tool and training necessary to enable them to carry out this enormous responsibility. Jeff Harper was nominated by Dr. Ross to be the new Safety Director of Cullman County Schools. Cullman County Schools say they will accept nothing short of perfection when it pertains to the safety of the children. Dr. Ross stated, "We need to be on the leading edge of methods in dealing with crisis."

This year Mr. Harper met a teacher at Sandy Hook where she not only lost several of her students, but also lost one of her own children.

Harper also met with a college student from Virginia Tech that was shot three times and survived a tragic shooting in which a total of thirty-two students were killed and 17 others wounded.

In both interviews, Mr. Harper noted that they were speaking of changes that had occurred "AFTER" the crisis. Mr. Harper does not want to be talking about things "AFTER" they happen."

"We need to be proactive and change things before they happen," Harper said.

Staff training is scheduled for September 28th at the schools.

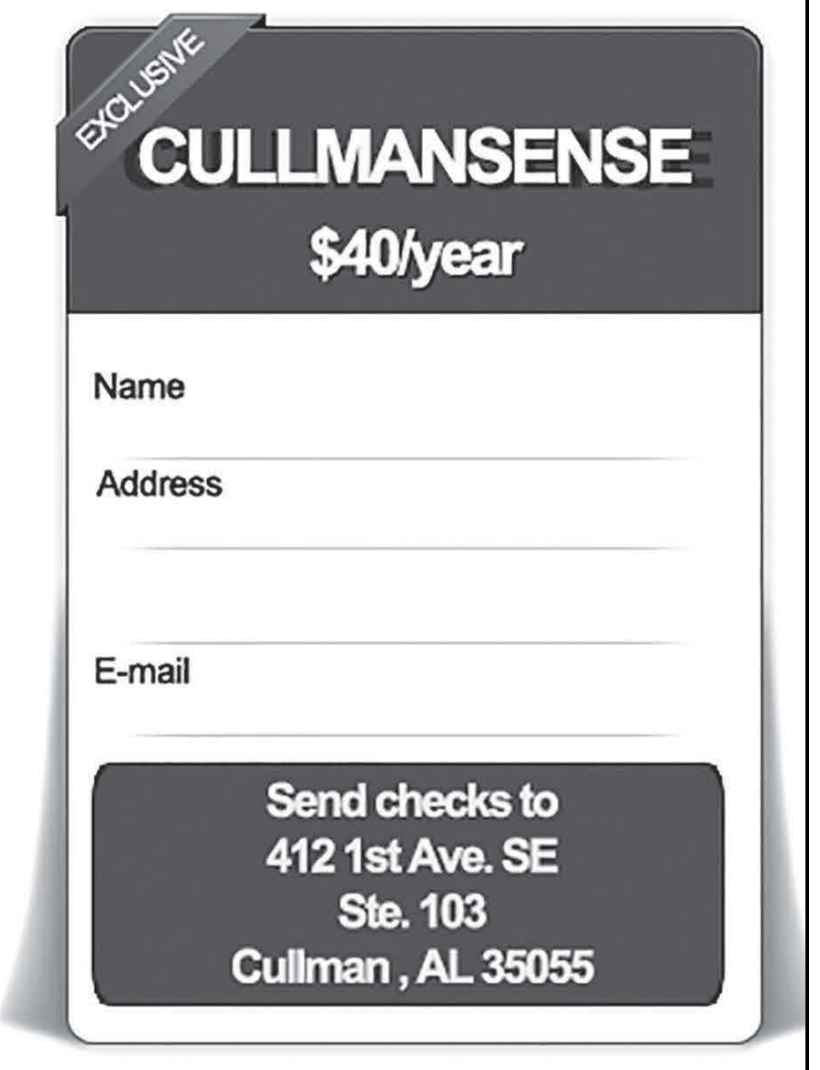
The Sheriff's Dept. and Cullman Police Dept. will be assisting the SRO's in training and certifying all of the personnel on that day.

The Cullman County School system will be the first public school system in the state of Alabama to have all of their faculty and staff certified in a crisis management program.

"Mr. Harper says that he is inspired by the resolve of Dr. Ross to do whatever it takes to keep our children and personnel safe," Sheets said.

"The main goal of Cullman County Schools is to ensure that at the end of the day our most precious gift, our students, will return home safely."

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RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT: TIM COLLIER – PASTOR OF LONESOME DOVE COWBOY CHURCH

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Cullman County is home to a variety of unique churches, but there is one that is different from any other. Lonesome Dove Cowboy Church believes in sharing God's love by using their Western and cowboy heritage so that all may come to know God's love and receive the gift of eternal life.

Pastor Tim Collier has dedicated his life to the call of Christ. Each Sunday he comes to church wearing a pair of blue jeans and a pearl snap shirt while keeping a tight grip on his well-worn Bible. Wearing his cowboy hat and boots, he uses Western and rural culture to help explain the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Collier has been married to his lovely wife Tammy for 25 years, and together they have two daughters, Skylar and Savannah.

When Collier is not preaching, he is working at CSX Transportation where he has been employed for the past 25 years.

"I haven't always been in church and certainly not a preacher," said Collier.

"I was lost and in need of a savior. I ran crazy for a long time. I got saved when I was dating my wife, so you might say she lead me to the Lord."

"I felt God's call to preach when I was serving as Sunday School Superintendent at a local Baptist church," he continued.

"I was 28 years old and I had no idea what God wanted me to do. I knew it was something great, so I answered His call," he smiled warmly. "I am so thankful for all God has allowed me to be part of and share with so many people."

Not only did the Lord call Collier to preach, but He also called him to start a different kind of church, a cowboy church.

"God, myself and a few friends started Lonesome Dove Church on June 5, 2011," he explained.

"I have been the pastor there from day one. I wanted to see all my friends come to know Christ, and I knew they would not go to a traditional type church. Cowboy Church is a come as you are church. You might say we are church for the unchurched. It is in a nonjudgmental atmosphere. Church is actually held in a barn," he grinned.

"We have air conditioning, and that's about as fancy as we get. We serve and praise God every time we gather together. But don't worry, you don't have to be a cowboy to come - but you might be one when you leave!"



TIM COLLIER

Pastor Tim carries his trusty Bible with him as he preaches the Word of God.

"May God bless the trails you ride."

Tim Collier, Pastor at Lonesome Dove Cowboy Church

Since Collier began preaching, he has not stopped. Just like a comfortable saddle, his cowboy ways fit perfectly with his rugged church.

He is clearly one of God's humble servants and enjoys seeing how the Lord works miracles in people's lives.

"The greatest reward, for me, is when you see God start moving and working in someone's life that everyone else has given up on," he said.

"They might have been an addict and came to know Christ or some old cowboy that's just rough and tough. God takes that heart and a new creation comes forth. It's an awesome feeling to see what God does," he chuckled.

God has done awesome and amazing things at Lonesome Dove Cowboy Church through their arena ministry, youth activities, and outreach ministries. Collier will tell anyone that he has been blessed to be a small part of God's ministry.

Lonesome Dove Cowboy Church is located at 97 Co Rd 1677, Cullman, AL 35058.

For more information call 256-736-3681, e-mail LoneSomeDoveCowboyChurch@gmail.com, or visit lonesomedovecc.org.

Follow the church on Facebook at facebook.com/pages/LoneSome-Dove-Cowboy-Church/184956811562390.

Run (from Front)

was plenty of room for serious runners, this year's Midnight Run was revamped to benefit the majority of those participating in it.

Before the race, runners were able to dance to popular music queued by a DJ on a stage in the parking lot in front of the Cullman Civic Center.

Neon color powder and glow sticks were thrown into the crowd.

Serious runners started at the front of the pack at the beginning of the race and had the option to forego various color stations; spots where people with more colored powder threw it on those who wanted.

The casual runners jogged or walked through the course, soaking in all the new additions to the race.

Though there were grumbles from some veteran runners about the colored powder addition, overall the changes added a liveliness to the event.

There were over 440 registered and bibbed contestants, but many more ran the course and participated in the before and after dance parties. For all those who ran, there were just as many watching from the sidewalks.

For one night of the year, each year, the streets of Cullman come alive and people are able to celebrate summer, appropriately reflecting Cullman Parks and Recreation's new program urging people to "Get Out And Live."

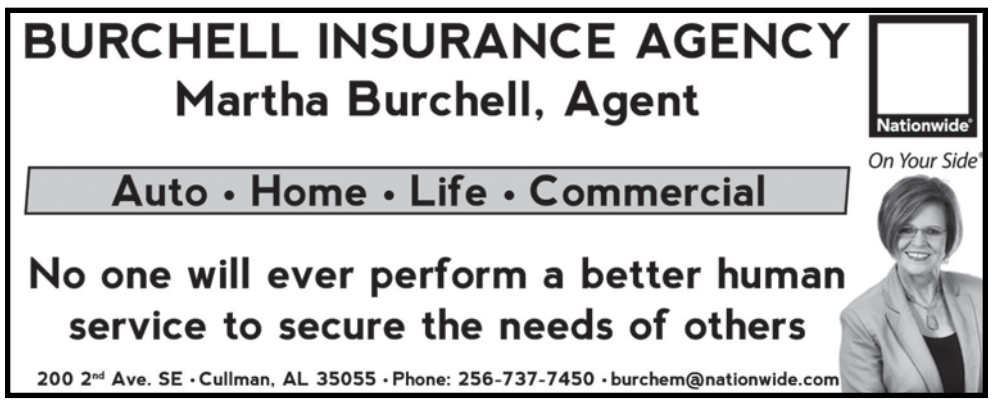
IF THIS CAUGHT YOUR EYE, WHY AREN'T YOU ADVERTISING HERE?

NOAH@
CULLMANSENSE.COM









REID COUPLE SHARE CIRCUIT CLERK POSITION

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The year was 1946 and at the age of 32, United States Army Captain Glenn Ray Reid of Cullman qualified and ran for the position of Cullman County Circuit Court Clerk. By the time Mr. Reid made the decision to run for office, he had proudly served 57 months in the Army by supervising and assisting over 17,000 men in various training centers throughout the United States, Japan and bases around the Pacific area during World War II.

Mr. Reid, a democrat, was born and raised in the Good Hope community. He graduated from Cullman County High School in 1936. Prior to joining the Army, he worked for the Federal and State Inspection Service.

He was elected to the position Circuit Court Clerk that year, defeating Republican candidate, Carl Woodard. True to nature, he went to work right away and served the community in this capacity for over three years. Keep in mind, during the time; he also maintained his position as National Guard Captain.

In 1951, Captain Reid's unit was called to active duty and soon he was headed overseas with the 31st "Dixie" Infantry Division. This posed a major problem though – Who would fill his position as Circuit Court Clerk while he was gone? Why, his wife Mavis would, that's who.

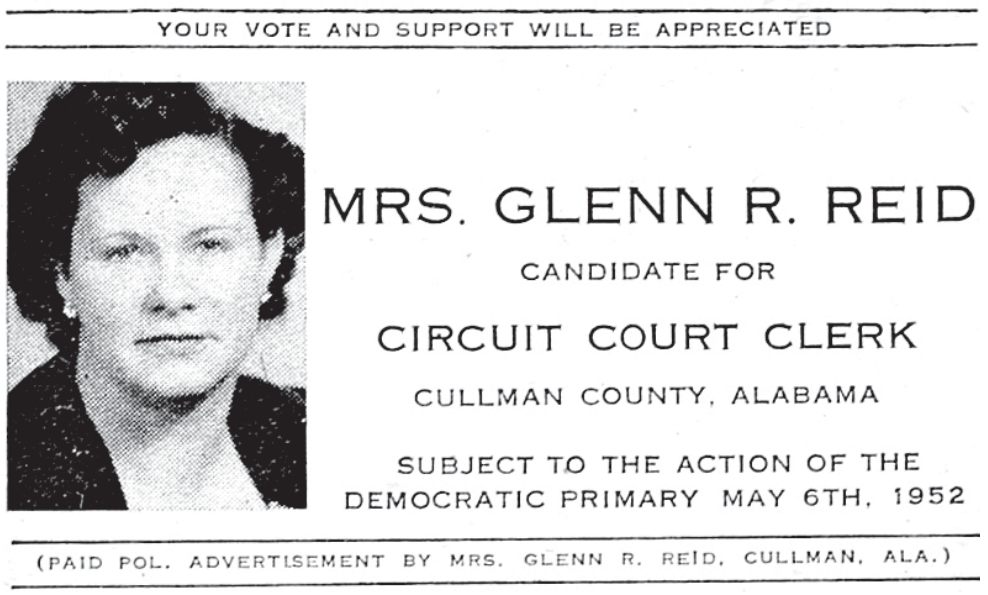
Brilliant woman, Mrs. Mavis (Hendrix) Reid also grew up in the Good Hope community. She graduated from Cullman County High School in 1933, attended Alverson Business College in Birmingham and graduated in 1938. She then went to work at the Cullman County Courthouse in the County Agent's office.

After eight years of courting Mr. Reid, the two married in April 1942 and she became the wife of an Army soldier. She soon became the doting mother to three children, Mary-Glenn, Benny, and Nancy, and later became Cullman's official acting Circuit Court Clerk on January 17, 1951.

"I like my job here as court clerk, but I'm anxious for my husband to get back so I can get back to my housework and can devote more time to our children," Mrs. Reid said not long after taking on her new task at the courthouse.

Mrs. Reid did a fine job as Circuit Court Clerk which both surprised and encouraged her. As the end of her term approached, she decided to run for the office for another term in 1952. Business cards were given out to the public and the local newspaper ran ads asking the Cullman community to vote for her in the democratic primary. It was an exciting time in the Reid household, even though Mr. Reid was still stationed overseas.

Mrs. Reid lost the election and when her husband retired from the army, the husband and wife team joined forces and learned the real estate business, and formed Reid Realty Co. "We don't sell to you. We help you buy" was their motto and together they helped many people in the Cullman area become happy homeowners.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

After serving during her husband's term, Mrs. Reid created business cards and ran on her own.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES: CULLMAN RAILROAD DEPOT

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – Across the street from Festhalle is the first train depot. It had to be moved in 1912, when the L&N Railroad began lowering the train tracks to below grade level.

After the tracks were lowered and bridges were built across the track, the area where the tracks used to be was turned into parking lots and parks.

Located at 301 1st Ave. NE, Cullman, AL 35055, this historical marker proudly stands.

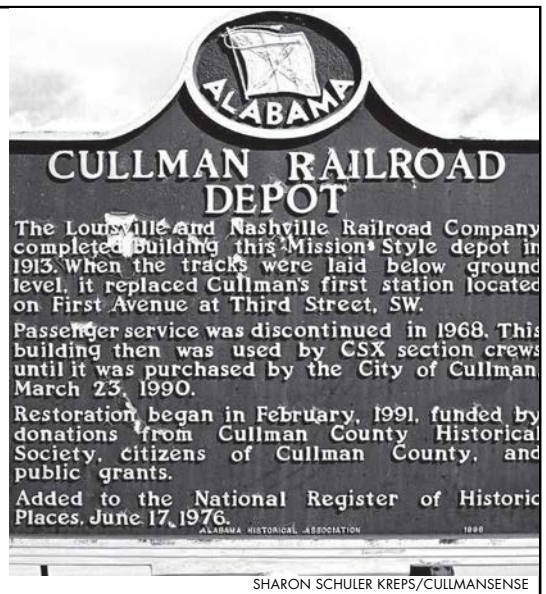
CULLMAN RAILROAD DEPOT

The Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company completed building the Mission Style depot in 1913. When the tracks were laid below ground level, it replaced Cullman's first station located on First Avenue at Third Street, SW.

Passenger service was discontinued in 1968. This building then was used by CSX section crews until it was purchased by the City of Cullman, March 23, 1990.

Restoration began in February, 1991, funded by donations from Cullman County Historical Society, citizens of Cullman County, and public grants.

Added to the National Register of Historic Places, June 17, 1976.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The Cullman Railroad Depot Historical Marker stands across the street from Festhalle Farmers market.

MIRRORING HISTORY: MOSS FUNERAL HOME

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

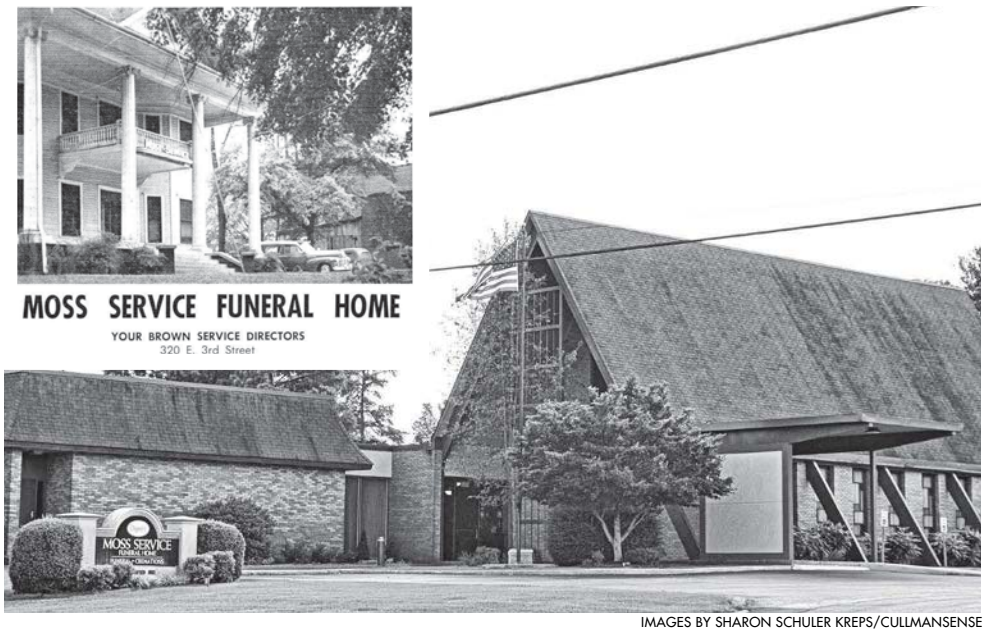
CULLMAN – Moss Service Funeral Home was founded in 1882 by Mr. C.D. Scheuing. Scheuing was one of Cullman's first embalmers.

In 1936 he sold the business to Mr. J. Grady Moss who operated the funeral home under the name of Moss Scheuing Funeral Home until 1938.

At that time the funeral home's name was changed to Moss-Service Funeral Home.

The funeral home was once located on 3rd Avenue.

Today it can be found atop the hill at 1901 2nd Ave NW, Cullman, AL 35055.



IMAGES BY SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

From one side of town to the other, Moss Service Funeral Home has been taking care of Cullman's needs since 1882.

cullman city parks & recreation
cp&r

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **EvaBank Midnight Run:** Come join us for the 23rd Annual Midnight Run on Friday, August 14, 2015 at 11:59pm at the Cullman Civic Center! This year's race will feature black lights, neon color powder, and a glow party before and after the race. More serious runners will also have the opportunity to by-pass the color stations on the course, and the race will be timed with overall winners receiving $250 as well as medals to the top 3 in every age division. Registration is open now at the Cullman Civic Center, Active.com, and any EvaBank location. Cost is $25.
- **Friday Night at Festhalle:** CP&R will host its last Friday Night at Festhalle on Friday, August 7, 2015 from 4-9pm. Live bands will be playing in addition to the farmer's market staying open during the entire event. Free kids' games and inflatables will also be on site.
- **Dive-in Movie:** The Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center will be playing a movie by the pool on Thursday, August 6 at 8:30pm The Pirates! Band of Misfits will play with gates opening at 6pm for $5 day passes (members will get in for free).
- **Fall Youth Baseball Registration:** August 1—20 at the Cullman Civic Center; age groups will be 7-8 and 9-12. Cost is $400 per team or $90 for individual people to register.
- **Fall Men's League Softball Registration** is open now at the Heritage Park. Cost is $400 per team. Call 256-739-9931 for more information.
- **Fall Coed League Softball Registration** is now open at Heritage Park. Cost is $400 per team. Call 256-739-9931 for more information.
- **FREE Concerts in the Park** at Heritage Park will take place every Thursday in September at the recognition gardens at 6pm. Concerts will feature Heaton Bros. Band on Sept. 3, Ally & the Alley Katz on Sept. 10, Cullman County Bluegrass Band on Sept. 17, and an Elvis Impersonator on Sept. 24
- **Cullman Gymnastics & Cheer Registration** for fall classes is open this week. This includes tumble, cheer, recreation gymnastics, and more. For more info, call 256-739-6762 for cheer/tumble classes or 256-739-5567 for gymnastics classes.
- **CP&R's Fall Programs, Events, & Activities lineup is now on our website NOW at www.cullmanrecreation.org**

SHERIFF SPEAKS TO AMERICAN LEGION ON FUNDRAISING OPTIONS FOR NEW BUILDING

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Thursday, Cullman County's 19th Sheriff, Matt Gentry was the guest speaker at American Legion's monthly meeting. He spoke to the group about Bingo and other fundraising options available. The American Legion is currently in the process of building a new building and is in need of funding to help complete the project.

"When you offer Bingo, what you have to remember is that the house cannot take a cut," Gentry explained.

"You can do Bingo and you can give away gifts and prizes, you just have to watch for the house taking a cut. People can make donations to play, and you can give away door prizes, you can do that."

"There's still a big thing with the (gambling) machines," he continued.

"If you play a machine, there has to be a skill to it. You have to have some kind of skill when you play a machine and you cannot pay over $5 in cash to play. If all you have to do is mash a button, they say that's not a skill, you have to be able to maneuver or do something with the machine in order to call it a skill."

Before Gentry spoke, he shared a delicious meal with the group.

After his talk, the regular meetings were held by both the American Legion and the Auxiliary.

Those that served in the military during wartime in any capacity are invited to attend the American Legion meetings and events.

Dinner is served before each meeting courtesy of the Auxiliary. Meetings are on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at 112 Veterans Dr. SW, Cullman, Ala 35055.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISER

The American Legion Post 4 will host a Swamp John's Fundraiser on Monday, September 21st from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The cost is $11.00 per plate and there will be a choice of Fish, Shrimp, Chicken or Combo Plate. Each plate is served with hush puppies, fries, slaw and a drink. For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact Mary Reid at 256-636-1916.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Sheriff Matt Gentry provided a variety of useful information to the members of the American Legion and Auxiliary during their August 2015 meeting.

Depot (from Front)

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The city of Cullman, with the help of a monetary grant, was able to perform renovations to the Cullman Train Depot that were "long overdue," according to United Way of Cullman Executive Sammie Danford.

United Way rents space in the Cullman Train Depot, and for the two years that Danford has been with United Way of Cullman the renovations have been needed.

"[The city] replaced rotting wood on baseboards, replaced windows, did painting touch-ups, all of which were long overdue," Danford said.

"I've been trying to get them to repaint the caboose," Danford said, pointing to the red train car that sits in front of the Train Depot.

"I've been a squeaky wheel about it, and we [at United Way of Cullman] have determined that is the most photographed place in Cullman."

According to Danford the grant given to the city to perform these renovations was $7,000. Danford also said that she estimates the improvements made total over or around $20,000.

"The grant paid for $7,000 of the cost and the city absorbed the rest," she said.

"But they've added murals and display cases with wonderful things in them."

The red caboose was not repainted as of Thursday, August 13.



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DAVID SHUPE, DO
FAMILY MEDICINE

- Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine
  Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia Campus, 2012
- B.S. in Biology
  University of Georgia, 2007

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CULLMAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL WINS FIRST GAME OF SEASON

Will Hogue
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WILL HOGUE/CULLMANSENSE

The Cullman Christian School football team: 13 Grant Wideman; 3 Sam Vermillion; 8 Greg LeBlanc; 14 Cameron Hudson; 11 Jarett Anders; 15 Will Siegenthaler; 18 Nolan Warner; 1 Aaron Perry; 4 Luke Barlow; 2 Brett Perry; 12 Jackson Holbrook; and Coach Chase Cantrell.

CULLMAN – Cullman Christian School held it's first bit of competitive football on Thursday at the Cullman Youth Football Complex near West Elementary.

Playing a scrimmage against long-time basketball and volleyball rival Cornerstone Christian Cougars from Decatur, Ala, the CCS Lions were the epitome of dominant; winning the 'jamboree' by an unofficial score of 84-0.

The Lions compete in a six-man Christian Football league comprised of teams representing private schools from the state of Alabama.

Cantrell has only 11 players at his disposal, but he has something Cornerstone, and many teams the Lions will face lack: speed.

Six-man football is a different game compared to 11-man football.

Cornerstone had many large, hefty players, which would normally be an asset in 11-man high school football, but in 6-man football, the name of the game is quickness and agility, something CCS has spent the previous three years mastering.

Comprised of mostly seniors, Cullman Christian's roster is full of leaders. That experience and rapport is key when fielding a team.

Luke Barlow is the Lions' starting running back, and a key offensive weapon.

For an example of how potent he is and how nearly nonexistent Cornerstone's defense was, Barlow carried the ball 3 times for 102 years and 3 touchdowns.

Will Siegenthaler is starting at quarterback for the Lions for the third-straight year. Both young men are seniors.

CCS reached the state championship game last season, but fell to Victory Christian School from Millbrook, Ala.

When asked what this auspicious start meant for his team, Coach Cantrell said simply, "undefeated, all the way through the rest of the season."

Will Siegenthaler was slightly more low-key with his take-away from the game,

"This is encouraging for the rest of the season. We played well, and I think we can do that for the rest of the season."

Cantrell wasn't attempting to run the score up, nor was he being a poor sport, but his players kept scoring.

The Lions attempted only one pass: it went for a 69-yard touchdown.

Cantrell was calling running plays, giving the ball to offensive linemen and young, undersized players. It didn't matter who had the ball, the Lions couldn't stop finding the endzone.

Now the Lions face their first real test as they face the Meadowbrook Trojans at home in the season-opener on Friday, August 21.

Divino Niño Weekend
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Saturday & Sunday, September 5-6, 2015
Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament
3222 County Rd. 548 Hanceville, AL 35077 ~ olamshrine.com ~ 205-795-5717

Saturday
8:00 am Gift Shop of El Niño Opens (Castle)
9:00-11:00 am Confessions (English/Spanish-Main Church & Lower Church)
9:00-11:00 am John Paul II Eucharistic Center Open House (English/Spanish)
9:30-10:00 am History of the Shrine Talk (English-Castle / Spanish-Main Tent)
10:30-11:00 am Spiritual Talk (English-Castle / Spanish-Lower Church)
11:30 am Holy Mass (Main Church & Lower Church)
1:30-3:30 pm Lunch (Main Tent & Castle Dining Area)
2:15-3:15 pm John Paul II Eucharistic Center Open House (English/Spanish)
2:15-3:15 pm Confessions (English/Spanish-Main Church)
3:30-4:45 pm Eucharistic Healing Service with Rosary Procession (Lourdes Grotto)
5:00-6:00 pm Mariachi Band & Cake (Main Tent)
5:45 pm Gift Shop of El Niño Closes (Castle)
9:00 pm Shrine Closes

Lunch Chick-fil-A Chicken Sandwich $5 or Hot Dog $3 (chips & drink included)
*Meal tickets will be available for purchase upon your arrival. Feel free to bring your own lunch.
Kids & Youth The Alliance Sisters will be providing a variety of games and activities for ages 6 and up.



Sunday, September 6, 2015
Solemnity of the Divine Child Jesus
7:00 am Holy Mass with the Nuns 5:00 pm Benediction Service

The Nuns request that everyone dress in modest attire while at this event. Also, while in the Main Church & Lower Church, out of reverence for Jesus truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, please observe SILENCE, DO NOT wear shorts, sleeveless tops, skirts above the knees, and NO photography or video recording is allowed.





Monday

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

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

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

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

Tuesday

Cullman Caring for Kids in Need of Donations
If you are able to contribute to Cullman County's Community Food Band, the 'Caring for Kids' organization, they would be grateful. Non-perishable food items are needed, and of course cash enables them to purchase needed products to fill their empty shelves. Please call 256-739-1111 to see how to help or mail checks or money orders to Cullman Caring for Kids, P. O. Box 698, Cullman, Alabama 35056-0698. Thanks in advance for anything you can do.

Knifty Knitters Weekly Meeting
Members of the Cullman Knifty Knitters group meet each Tuesday afternoon at 3 p.m. in the Cullman County Library. Everyone is invited to come learn how to knit yarn and needles are free. This group is open to all ages, both accomplished knitters and those wishing to learn the art form. Crocheters also are invited to take part in these weekly meetings. Please call Lesia for more info 256-734-2720, ext. 23.

Emotions Anonymous Support Group Meeting
An Emotions Anonymous Support Group meets each Tuesday at noon at Grace Episcopal Church Carriage House. Those interested are invited to attend these group sessions. Further information is available through the Group Director's office at 256-734-3605 or 256-796-8440.

Wednesday

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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- 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.

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

FRIDAY
- Live Music at Brothers
- Live Music at Moe's
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-6 p.m.

SATURDAY
- Live Music at Brothers
- Live Music at Moe's
- Happy Hour at Moe's from 3-6 p.m.

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

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PREP TEAMS GETTING READY FOR 2015 FOOTBALL SEASON

Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

CULLMAN – Anticipation of success for prep football teams in Cullman County is at a high atmosphere for the 2015 season.

Three teams last season reached the Alabama High School Athletic Association playoffs. Three teams that had been postseason bound on a regular basis didn't qualify while two others went through passes of ups and downs.

Now with the new season in front, the eight schools from the county are working on getting the winning formula down, especially when it comes to punching a ticket into the postseason.

Preparation time is short for Cullman and Cold Springs than everyone else. The Bearcats and Eagles kick off the campaign on August 21 while the six other schools will officially begin on the 28th.

Cullman has Arab at Oliver Woodard Stadium in the opener. The Bearcats are coming off a 5-5 season that ended on Halloween and not in November. Cullman missed the playoffs for the first time since 2004.

Mark Britton, the coach with the longest active tenure in the county at 18 years, 15 with his alma mater Cullman, feels the 'Cats are ready for the challenges this year in their second season in Class 6A of the AHSAA.

A young Cullman team went through growing pains last season, having a sophomore and freshman to take control of the quarterback position. Ross Crocker and Fletcher Jennings are mature and have experience around them.

Cullman is lined up in Region 8, one of the toughest of any region in any classification. The 'Cats have Florence, Muscle Shoals, Decatur, Hartselle, Athens and Austin to deal with. Florence, Muscle Shoals and Decatur had deep runs into the playoffs. The 'Cats were just 2-4 in regional play.

Cold Springs had the best record of all schools, winning eight of 10 regular season games. The Eagles were in the playoffs for the first time since 2004 and just lost to Gaston in round one by the score of 27-26.

Rod Elliott and his Eagles head to Brilliant on August 21 for the first time ever. The Eagles have a three-game winning streak from the regular season that serves as momentum going into 2015.

Cayde Elliott is the Eagles' signal-caller in his junior season. Experience is behind him in the backfield and along the line of scrimmage.

Cold Springs must contend with Tanner and Addison, the front runners from Class 2A, Region 6. Both come to Cranford Stricklin Stadium this season. The Rattlers and Bulldogs were victorious over the Eagles last year that dropped Cold Springs to third in the region.

Going 4-2 in the region, Cold Springs has to travel to Southeastern, Falkville and Tarrant for regional games while playing Sumiton Christian at home along with Tanner and Addison.

When the Eagles face Danville at Stricklin Stadium August 28, Cold Springs has a 7-game winning streak on the home field.

The other teams will play next week with jamboree sessions before getting under the lights on the final Friday of August.

Hanceville gets Fairview at Ray Talley Stadium, West Point entertains Hayden, Vinemont rolls out the welcome mat for Addison, Holly Pond hosts Brindlee Mountain and Good Hope journeys into Walker County for a game with Cordova.

Hanceville wants to put a 2-8 slate from 2014 out of its mind. The positive was the Bulldogs ended the tough season winning at Good Hope 22-21. It was Hanceville's first time of not playing in the postseason since 2010 for coach Danny Miller.

The Bulldogs return Brenan Hurst at quarterback and have young personnel to run the ball. Issac Weissend and Jose Orozco give the team experience as wideouts along with a mixture of youth and experience up front.

Hanceville shares 3A, Region 5 with county foes Holly Pond and Vinemont while trying to be better than Oakman, Winfield and Winston County to gain a playoff berth.

This is Fairview's second consecutive season battling it out in 5A, following a run of playing in 4A for three decades.

The Aggies are matched in Region 7, having Randolph, Boaz, Etowah, Madison County, Guntersville, and Douglas.

Butler High School in Huntsville closed after May, leaving Fairview tih just nine games on the season and six in regional play. The AHSAA has ruled the Butler game will be treated as a forfeit if all schools in Region 7 couldn't find a new opponent.

George Redding has to encounter another season of playing home games at Cullman High School. The bleachers at Dafford Smith Stadium remain unsafe with the community and school doing what is possible to raise funds for a new seating system at the stadium.

Fairview's games on the Cullman campus will be with Randolph September 4, Madison County October 2, Guntersville October 10, Douglas October 16 and Vinemont October 30.

The Aggies will have a new quarterback with Reagan Ashley rotating with Austin Moore. A strength for Fairview is the return of leading rusher Austin Harris.

West Point has to replace 16 seniors from a 7-4 team that made the playoffs for the first time in Class 5A competition. Don Farley does have one of the top running backs in the county to show leadership with a younger team in senior Kobe Smith.

Smith will get plenty of touches as the Warriors put Tanner Rusk as quarterback. It's a different look with Bryant Farley gone following four seasons taking the snaps.

The Warriors believe their success in 5A, Region 8 will carry on as motivation. West Point posted regional wins with Columbia, Ardmore, St. John Paul and Lawrence County. The tough side of this region is defending champion East Limestone along with J.O. Johnson and Russellville.

West Point has home field advantage to start the season with Hayden, followed by Columbia and Ardmore. The challenge for the Warriors will be the second half with only one home game opposite of trips to Johnson, Russellville, Lawrence County and Priceville.

Vinemont is one of two schools with a new leader. Last season's defensive coordinator Matt Norris, took over leading the Eagles in the spring.

The Eagles said goodbye to 13 seniors from last year, but the team does have quarterback Garrett Boland and running back John Michael Dye to key the movement under Norris.

For Holly Pond, the opportunity to break a 20-game losing streak and to give Mike Bates his first victory as Broncos' coach is what awaits this team when they face Brindlee Mountain on opening night.

The Broncos are experienced with 16 starters returning. A majority of these kids played as freshmen, now they come back as juniors and show optimism in turning things around on the east side of the county.

Good Hope got Alan Scott from Vinemont to replace Chris Moss following 10 years commanding the Raiders. Scott is a Good Hope alum and delighted of the opportunity to return where he played the game as a youth.

Scott has a style of running the football. Good Hope was a spread team last season with Riley Eisner throwing for 2,500 yards in 2014.

The Raiders have 16 people who started last year that makes it easier for Scott to blend in his philosophy with on the field experience.

Good Hope had some success last year in 4A, Region 7. The Raiders were 3-4 in the region, knocking off J.B. Pennington, Priceville and DAR. The losses in the region were to Westminster Christian, Oneonta, Locust Fork, and North Jackson.

The Raiders have Oneonta, Locust Fork and North Jackson visiting James Shabel Stadium this fall. Good Hope will go through the last Friday of September and the first two weeks of October at home.

To have a chance at making the playoffs, the Raiders need to win the regional opener September 4 at Westminster in Huntsville.

The hard work teams are going through right now is what the coaches of these programs pays off when the regular season ends on Halloween weekend. Those who succeed will have time on the practice field for the first round of the AHSAA playoffs in November.

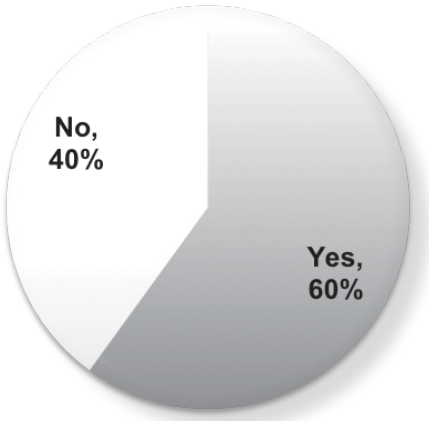
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Poll

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This Week's Poll

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WHAT'S ONLINE



CHRIST CONVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MIRRORING HISTORY: FROM HIGDON FUNERAL HOME TO CHRIST COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Higdon Funeral Home, located on St. Joseph Drive in Cullman, was established in 1976 by Mr. Raymond Higdon. The funeral home was a success for many years. Raymond Higdon died... **QRNE.WS/382**



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

GRAVES MARATHON TO BUILD NEW STORE

Cullman is growing by leaps and bounds, but there are still many places around that continue to maintain a bit of small town Southern charm. One of those places is Graves Marathon Gas Station. Since the mid-1950s Graves Marathon Gas Station has delivered more than its fair share of friendly service, top quality merchandise and a few tall tales... **QRNE.WS/383**

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DIVINO NIÑO WEEKEND TO BE HELD AT SHRINE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – The Nuns of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery and the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament invite the public to join them on Saturday and Sunday, September 5th and 6th, as they celebrate Divino Niño, which is also known as the Divine Child Jesus.

Mother Angelica, who founded Our Lady of the Angels Monastery and the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, has a deep love for the Child Jesus, for He was the one who asked Mother Angelica to 'Build Me a Temple.'

Saturday will be filled with activities for the whole family including Mass, spiritual talks, confessions, activities for the children and youth, a Eucharistic Healing Service with a Rosary Procession, and a Mariachi Band.

On Sunday, the Solemnity of the Divine Child Jesus, there will be a Mass at 7:00 a.m. in the Main Church and a 5:00 p.m. Benediction Service.

"This is our biggest event and the second year for it, so we are very excited," said Jennifer Prybyla, Assistant Director of Pilgrimages. The events are free and all faiths are welcome to attend. Each activity will be available in both English and Spanish. Lunch will be available for purchase.

For more information, please call 205-795-5717 or visit olamshrine.com. The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament is located at 3222 County Road 548, Hanceville Ala. 35077.

CULLMAN CITY COUNCIL APPROVES GOAT ISLAND BREWERY APPLICATION

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Goat Island Brewery recently received approval on its submitted application to manufacture beer in Cullman.

According to Mike Mullaney of Goat Island Brewery, the application also allows the company to serve beer in its tasting room.

The brewery now has to move onto the next step in the bureaucratic process, which is receiving state and federal permits to brew beer. Until that occurs, the company is still unable to legally brew beer in Cullman.

Cullman has experienced a relative explosion in growth in the recent years, and Goat Island Brewery is indicative of that growth. Just a few short years ago it was illegal to sell alcohol in Cullman, and now it will have its own domestic brewery.

Mullaney said that he expects to have the state and federal permits needed to begin brewing beer by September.

"At that point," he said, "we will be able to brew beer legally, but will still not have all of our equipment in place. We still have a lot to build out on our facility and installation of brewing equipment before we are in business."

"We expect to be up and running in full production by 2016," he said.

Pow Wow (from Front)

sold T-shirts with wolf designs in brilliant colors and bead necklaces at the pow wow.

"I work over on 157," Yellow Bird (the man) said. "I usually have to travel six hours to go to these things. It's nice to have an event close to home."

The heat of the summer didn't discourage the dancers, nor did it discourage Cox, who, only 30 minutes into the event was assured that the decision to have the pow wow was a good one.

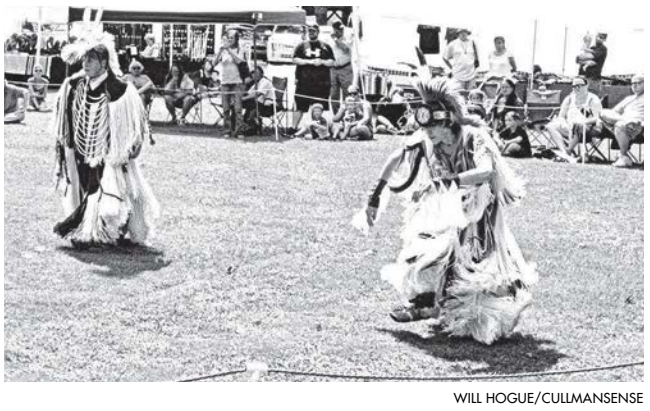
"It's going surprisingly well," Cox said.

"I don't see any reason we can't have this event again next year."

According to Cox, the plan to have the event was one born from conversations between he and Teague.

"We got to thinking, 'why don't we have one of these [a pow wow].' So we got started, letting people know at other pow wows that we were planning on having one in Cullman," Cox said. From there it snowballed.

"People were willing to help out with it, and when they found out it was for a good cause, well, that just made it way easier for them," Cox explained.



WILL HOGUE/CULLMANSENSE

Dancers perform to the beat of a drum.



WILL HOGUE/CULLMANSENSE

Drummers provided a rhythm for the dancers.

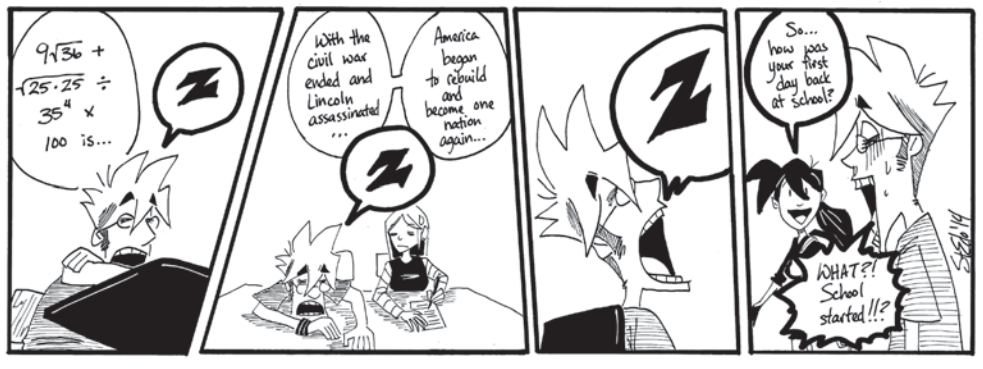
The center of the event was roped off for the dancers and flag bearers, while on stage the drummers sang and provided a rhythm for the dancers.

Around the circle the vendors were situated with items such as beads, shirts, and bows and arrows.

Cox hopes to have the event at Sportsman Lake Park once more next year.

COMICS

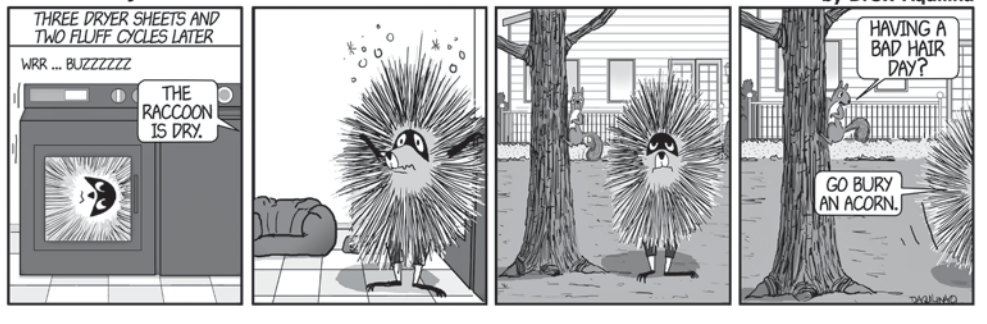
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SUNNY STREET



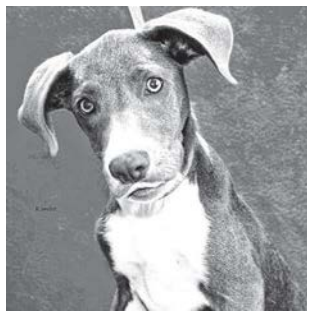
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PETS OF THE WEEK

KIMBO



Hello my name is Kimbo and I am about 4 months old. I am a Pit Bull Terrier mix and I currently weigh 24 lbs. I was a stray but no one claimed me so I am up for adoption at that time. My adoption fee is $90 and that includes my spay/neuter, vaccines, wormer, and also covers my general exam at the Vet, the 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 a Shelter animal.

HAPPI



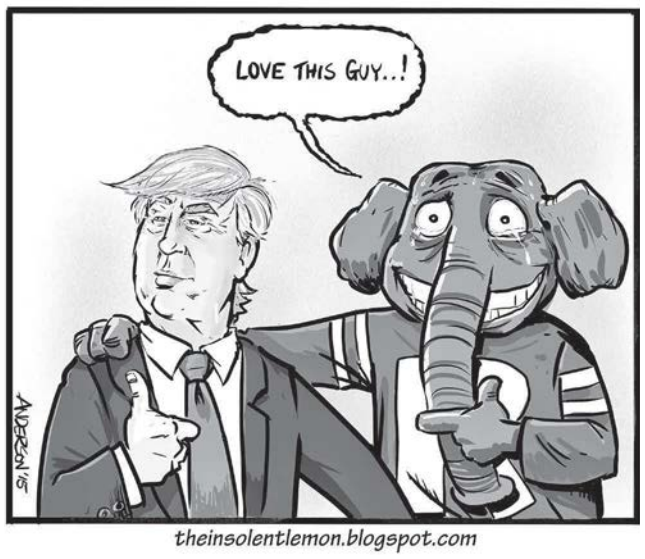
Hello my name is Happi and I am about 9 months old. I am a Pit Bull mix and I currently weigh 38 lbs. I am full of life and I love to play. My adoption fee is $90 and that covers my first set of vaccines and wormer at the Shelter. It also covers my general exam at the Vet, the rabies vaccine, spay, microchip, free 45 day health insurance policy and our local Pet Depot will give you a free bag of food (you pay the taxes) for adopting me.

ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

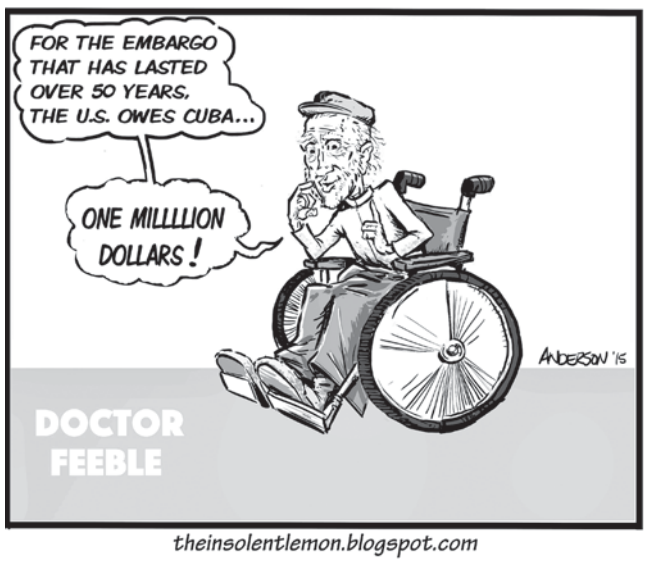
Both of these dogs have an adoption fee of $90 that will include their general exam at the Vet, vaccines, wormer, rabies shot, microchip, spay/neuter, and free 45 days of pet health insurance. Pet Depot will give you a bag of food (you pay taxes) as their way of supporting adoption.

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



theinsolentlemon.blogspot.com



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OPINION

WHY I OPPOSE UNEARMARKING

Randall Shedd
State Representative

As I talk to people in my legislative district, most people tell me they would pay "a little more" in taxes if they knew what it was going for. Earmarking taxes does just that.

But, in Montgomery the plan is just the opposite - unearmarking.

It sounds good. It makes a good bumper sticker. It's good "party" politics. But, let's think for minute, it hasn't worked in Washington.

Do we really want to send our tax dollars to Montgomery politicians without any restrictions? I don't.

I serve in the legislature in Montgomery and I can tell you, I don't want to send the legislature a blank check, do you?

My favorite way of taxing is volunteer taxes. This past regular session, Senator Gerald Dial (R-Lineville) and I worked together to pass a Mega-Tag Bill, which raises $5 million in voluntary revenue for the state.

You can now buy a host of specialty tags if you want to but you don't have to.

Volunteer taxes help, but won't solve the problem.

I have identified entire layers of government with budgets totaling over $1/2 billion dollars annually that I think could be eliminated without hurting services - regional government. But, so far cutting has fallen on deaf political ears.

Senator Marsh says in the Senate there isn't an appetite for raising taxes. Well, I haven't found much of an appetite for eliminating regional government either. Too many buddies connected.

I have been saying publicly for months that I believe the solution to the budget crisis is a combination of cuts and new revenue streams.

Again, the people in my district tell me they would pay a little more in taxes if they knew how it was spent.

So, if we have new revenue streams let's tell the people how we will spend it. Let's earmark it.

Let's earmark it for:

• **Public Health** - I want the restaurants where I eat to be inspected.

• **Hospitals** - I want Children's Hospital to be open and thriving if one of my grandchildren or any child needs medical attention. And, I want a hospital close by, even in rural areas ready to respond to any medical need.

• **Public sSfety** - I want law enforcement and first responders to be ready when the "crazies" of society today harm innocent people.

• **Forensic Science and Courts** - I want swift justice for those who prey against innocent people of any age, but especially children and senior citizens. In my home county, a beautiful innocent child named Hoss died on his first birthday from 36 hours of torture documented by the state's forensic science department, but it took 17 months to get the autopsy report.

• **Veterans Services** - I want my state to meet the needs of the men and women fought for my freedom. They shouldn't have to wait in long lines or find the door closed at at Veterans Affairs offices.

• **Senior Citizens** - I want to take care of senior citizens in my state who paid taxes for a lifetime and established the infrastructure we enjoy today. If they need a hot meal delivered to their home we should do it. If a nursing home bed is their only way to survive, we should make sure they have it.

• **Parks and Leisure** - Not everyone can afford a country club membership. I want state parks and public recreation available to everyone.

• **Agribusiness** - I want our state to continue to meet the needs of our number one industry (agriculture). I want the poultry diagnostic centers to be able to help contain things like bird flu.

• **Tourism** - I want people from other states spending their money in Alabama. The tourism industry brings in millions of dollars from other states and a robust component of our state economy.

• **Education** - And, most importantly, I want my grandchildren and their generation to have the best education possible to be able to compete worldwide throughout their lifetime. Remember the old adage, "If you give me fish, you feed me today. If you teach me to fish, you feed me for a lifetime".

Earmarking tax dollars is setting priorities. That's why I voted against unearmaking.

OPINION

THIS TIME WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DIFFERENT

Lee H. Hamilton
Contributor

The most important function Congress serves is to debate and pass the federal budget. I know— it also levies taxes, imposes or relaxes regulations, and once in a while nudges our social, economic or political order in a meaningful way. But the budget tells the government what to do and makes it possible to do it. Everything else follows from that.

Even at the best of times, passing a budget is a test of Congress's abilities. And these aren't the best of times. Its two houses are controlled by Republicans who don't see eye to eye. The White House is in the hands of a Democratic president who really doesn't agree with them.

So to get a budget enacted into law, everyone involved has to negotiate seriously. They have to make realistic political judgments about what's possible. They have to compromise. Given our divided government, you'd think that everyone would step up to these challenges.

Early in the year, following the GOP's takeover of the Senate, it seemed as though they might. Gone, at least in rhetoric, were the days of shutdowns, sequestration, and the fiscal cliff. The "regular order" of committee hearings and duly marked-up appropriations bills would be restored.

In the House, Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers accomplished something that hasn't been managed for years: all 12 appropriations bills made it out of his committee.

But that's where the good news ended. For the bills themselves were largely political statements that had no chance of being enacted, as they contained provisions that were anathema to Democrats — including President Obama, who made it clear he had no intention of signing them.

What provisions? The appropriators voted to reverse the Affordable Care Act. They zeroed out family planning. They imposed strict rules on for-profit universities. They pulled back regulations on the environment. They resorted to long-practiced budget gimmicks: planning for faster economic growth than is defensible so they could increase projected revenues; boosting military spending then moving it off-budget, which allowed them to claim to support defense spending without actually counting it as spending.

So now Congress is headed for partisan gridlock, and the result is predictable, because we've seen all this play out before. Instead of the regular order, we're once again pointed toward fiscal showdowns.

Last week, Congress gave up on securing a new round of transportation funding for the states — at the height of the summer construction season — instead announcing a three-month extension that saves the hard negotiating for the fall.

A vote to raise the debt ceiling also looms in the fall. And, given the state of play, it seems inevitable that once again Congress will resort to the travesty known as a continuing resolution, which relinquishes Congress's power of the purse by basically extending fiscal policy as it was the year before.

No member defends this way of budgeting, but they end up doing it year after year anyway, as if held hostage by their own worst inclinations. There are no serious negotiations at this point.

Which is a problem. Because to prepare a budget thoughtfully — especially when it requires negotiation with the other party — demands working through literally thousands of details. Yet we're approaching adjournment with no serious talks to make mutually acceptable headway on the budget — though somehow Congress has found the time to take a recess, shutting down for the remainder of the summer.

So with Congress having left Washington and roughly a dozen working days once it returns to put a budget together, the delay we're seeing means that Congress won't actually be able to resolve the issues it faces.

Congressional leaders seem fine with this. They rejected early negotiations, preferring a last-minute confrontation, which will lead to another fiscal impasse. In other words, they're punting. I can't predict how long they'll make their continuing resolution last, but with presidential elections looming, it may be longer rather than shorter. Instead of turning over a new leaf, as Congress promised it would do just seven months ago, it's once again consigning us to fiscal chaos.

You should be angry. It's a lousy way to do business.

HANCEVILLE ELEMENTARY TEACHERS DISCUSS HOPES FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR, WELCOME GARDEN CITY STUDENTS

Hannah Ward
ward@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Ashley Miller a third grade teacher at Hanceville Elementary school, stated, "My hopes for the upcoming school year are for all HES students to come to school excited to learn. I hope we as teachers are able to help all students reach their highest potential in everything they do. I know the upcoming year will be very successful!"

According to Miller the 2015-2016 school year will be different since Hanceville is gaining many students from Garden City Elementary.

"I hope all the students and parents feel welcome because we are very excited to have them at our school. We also have a new assistant principal whom is highly motivated and ready to help make a difference," Miller said.

"I am very excited to begin the year and can't wait to celebrate all the success in our future."

Michelle Pender, a First Grade Teacher at Hanceville Elementary, explained, "My hopes for this school year are that the students and I will build a strong and supportive classroom community; the students will develop vital skill sets necessary to achieve success; and that there will be lots of fun learning and fond memories created every day."

Pender reported one thing for students to look forward to this year is the new technology Hanceville will be using. "I'm so thankful and excited about implementing it in a meaningful and purposeful way for my students. I am grateful for the training and support I have already received and am looking forward to more training this coming year," she said.

According to Pender, "To prepare for this year, students need to have a positive 'can-do' attitude. Our class motto is, 'Be Prepared. Be Patient. Be Positive. Be Persistent. Be Polite.' Michael Jordan said, 'You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them.' Students should expect the best and do their best."

Pender said she is anticipating a great year and is confident in the leadership at Hanceville Elementary School.



CONTRIBUTED

Michelle Pender teaches first grade at Hanceville Elementary.

"I am thankful for the honor and privilege of working alongside such kind, caring, supportive, committed, and excellent educators and support staff. HES is one team, one school, one goal: helping everyone succeed. It takes an entire community to help everyone succeed, and this upcoming year we hope to continue to expand the involvement of our community's citizens, businesses, and service organizations. Special thanks to those who already set aside time and energy to invest in our students' lives. I invite more to join us in raising up this next generation."

Missing (from Front)

Hannah Ward
ward@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Monday, August 10, around 4 a.m. Amber Menendez Behan and Edgar Medina were reported missing. They were last seen at a party at a friend's house on Helen Warren Vogel Circle in Hanceville, Al. Edgar was supposed to be spending the night with this friend.

Amber lives in Hanceville, Ala. and attended Hanceville middle school. She is 14 years old. Amber is 5'3, weighs 160, and has brown eyes and brown hair.

Edgar is originally from Hanceville, but recently moved to Cullman. The 15 year old is 5'9, and weighs 165. Edgar has brown eyes and brown hair.

According to Amber's mother, Donna Flores, Amber left her phone and purse at home. She also left with no shoes on and was in her pajamas at the time. Edgar's now defunct phone GPS coordinates last put him near Helen Warren Vogel. The family assumes his phone battery depleted. A friend of Amber's said at the party Amber wanted to go home. The two teenagers headed home and have not been reported being seen since.

Flores stated, "These are really good kids and have never been in trouble. We combed through all their text and they had plans for the upcoming school year. They both play sports, football and softball. Amber is on the Junior Honor Society and Math Team, she is an A student. We don't believe they are runaways, we think something happened to them on their way home. We have canvassed the entire area and have distributed tens of thousands of flyers. We (as in my family) have conducted, aerial, ground and K9 searches without any tangible leads."

Cullman Police Department, Cullman County Sheriff's Department and the State Troopers have been active in assisting Hanceville Police Department in the search. The investigators continue looking into it.

Police Chief, Bob Long, reported there is no evidence of foul play. Long believes they are likely staying in someone's backyard or with a friend. "It is likely they are receiving some type of assistance. Anyone with information where these two might be, please contact your local law enforcement," Long said. "Amber and Edgar please come home."

Currently, there is a $600 reward for anyone with credible information that might help in finding them. Worried family and friends have been searching throughout the week and continue to comb Cullman County.

"We are desperate, it has been too long. Amber is very close to her siblings and her little sister's birthday is Tuesday. She wouldn't miss her birthday," Flores claimed. "We are a very close family. Please help us bring our kids home."

To submit information on the disappearance of these two teenagers call 256-352-9811, post on facebook.com/groups/missingamberandedgar, or call 256-595-3244. To stay anonymous dial #67 before the number.

August 28th 2015 The Beech Center
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Guest Speakers
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