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COMMUNITY MATTERS


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GREG LEONARD

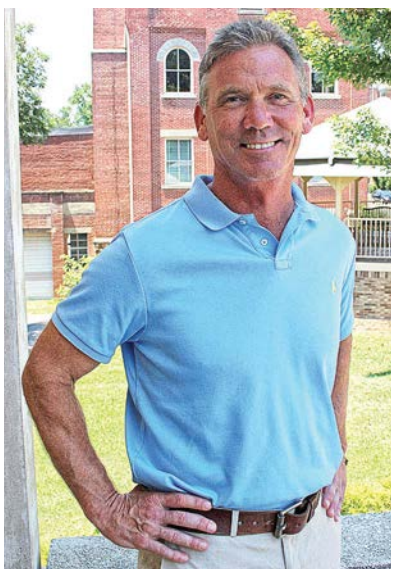
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Investigator Scott McDonald maneuvers through Skidcar course. CONTRIBUTED

HANCEVILLE POLICE, FIRE AND PUBLIC WORKS RECEIVE SKIDCAR TRAINING P9


ST. BERNARD

FARM Y'ALL CELEBRATES CULLMAN AGRICULTURE




PHOTOS BY SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Residents attended this year's Farm Y'all festival to see what local farmers produce for the area. P9

CITIZEN OF THE WEEK
TRACY MORRISON

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – Tracy Morrison has the special ability to great everyone she meets with a big ole smile and a sincere hello. Her fun-loving spirit is contagious and just being around her, even for a little while, is considered a treat. She never meets a stranger and will happily tell you all about her granddaughter Brookelynn if given half a second.

Morrison is a graduate of Cullman High School and has been married to Commissioner Neal Morrison since 1990. They have two beautiful girls, Kalah, who is a nurse and Haley who is finishing up a Marketing degree. The couple are the proud grandparents of one very special little girl, 3 year old Brookelynn. P4


TRACY MORRISON

Tracy and granddaughter Brookelynn having fun at their favorite place in the world – Disney.

JOHNNY BURKS JOINS THE FACULTY AT ST. BERNARD PREP

Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Contributor

CULLMAN – St. Bernard Prep School is pleased to welcome Johnny Burks to the faculty and to offer a new science elective – Forensics to compliment the science department.

A resident of Arab, Alabama, and Mr. Burks is a graduate of Delta State University, Cleveland, MS and earned his Master's in Biology from the University of Alabama. He is a National Board Certified teacher and was voted the 2015 Cullman Times Best -of –the-Best High School Teacher. The USPTA – Professional Tennis Instructor has taught 27 years as a tennis coach and instructor at Cullman High School.

Coming from the public school system, Burks is very complimentary of the students at St. Bernard Prep School.

"St. Bernard offers many unique qualities. The students are so respectful and take their academics seriously. I have noticed a greater sense of accountability with regards to their school work." Burks said.

Burk enjoys his career as a teacher, and the many extracurricular activities involved with his students. "I explain the expected (goals, etc.) and then offer assistance in achieving the desired outcome. "

In addition to forensics, he teaches anatomy and physiology, biology, and algebra II as well as heads up the tennis program.

"I'm really excited about bringing my knowledge of tennis to the program. I love working with players and building their skills and together I know we can expand the program," Burks said. P2

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ALDOT DEEMS REPLACEMENT TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT INTERSECTION OF US-31 AND 1ST ST NW UNNECESSARY

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CULLMAN – Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson recently made a request to the ALDOT to have the traffic signal, which was damaged, at the intersection of US-31 and 1st St NW replaced. However, this will not occur as it has been deemed by ALDOT unnecessary.

"The Federal Highway Administration has published research that shows traffic signals that do not meet the warrant criteria found in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) can increase driver delay and crashes. It is for this reason we conducted a study to examine the need to reinstall the signal," A.R. Camp, PE Area Operations Engineer, stated in a letter to Mayor Townson.

Camp stated a lack of traffic accidents in the area was a factor in not reinstalling the traffic signal.

"Traffic counts were taken for the side street approaches and analyzed against the warrants for signalization found in the MUTCD. The intersection does not meet the warrant criteria for signalization. Our records show that a study previously conducted showed that no warrants were met," he stated.

"Crash data from 2010-2014 show that approximately 80% of crashes at the intersection can be attributed to the presence of the traffic signal."

Camp explained besides the lack of accidents the traffic light would be too closely bunched with others in the area, potentially causing a backup in traffic along Hwy. 31.

"In addition, current standards call for a minimum spacing of 1600 feet between traffic signals. The distance between the US-278 intersection and Arnold Street intersection is approximately this distance. The signal at the intersection at 1st Street was in between this spacing and added to the congestion on US-31 and made the optimization of signal timing on the corridor more difficult," he stated.

Although ALDOT has deemed the traffic signal unnecessary, Camp said they will continue to monitor the situation and make improvements as needed.

"At this time, we recommend that the traffic signal NOT be reinstalled and for the intersection to operate with side street stop control. State forces will install permanent stop signs and make the needed changes to the striping," he said.

"We will continue to monitor the intersection and perform further studies if deemed necessary."

Mayor Townson said, "That street is a state highway so they made their decision. Unless they change their minds we will adhere to their decision."

AUGUST 2015 CULLMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – A regular Cullman City Council meeting was held last Monday night in the Lucille N. Galin Auditorium in City Hall at 7:00 p.m.

First the meeting was called to order with an invocation and roll call. Next, the minutes from the August 10, 2015, meeting were approved.

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

Next were reports of standing committees by council members. The following reports were given:

1. General Government - Council Member Jenny Folsom - None

2. Public Works - Council Member Johnny Cook - None

3. Public Safety - Council Member Andy Page recognized Engineer Larry Nelson

4. Tourism - Council Member Clint Hollingsworth - None

5. Utilities - Council Member Garlan Gudger – None

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

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

1. A request from Drennon and Wendy Smithson to build and maintain a driveway through a 50' right-of-way on Seven Bark Drive NW in Cullman, Alabama. It was referred to the Planning Commission

2. A request from Sue Turner for a special event permit to hold the 11th Annual Cullman Life Chain on October 24th, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. on the sidewalks along US Highway 31 from the Cullman County Courthouse to US Highway 278. It was approved.

3. A request from Mark Aderhold of the Cullman Lions Club for a special event permit to hold the Annual Cullman County Fair Parade on September 19th, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. along US Highway 31 from the Cullman County Courthouse to Arnold Street NW. It was approved.

4. A request from Dawn Owens of The Link of Cullman County for a special event permit to hold the Annual Reverse the Cycle Sprint Triathlon on September 12th, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. starting beside the Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center. It was approved.

5. A request from Karen Hassell of St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church for a special event permit to hold the Annual Christmas Market and Open Air Festival on December 12th, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the downtown area around the Church. It was approved.

6. A request from Police Chief Kenny Culpepper to purchase tactical team firearm equipment from Optics Planet, Inc. in the budgeted amount of $2,325. It was approved.

7. A request from Fire Chief Edward Reinhardt to purchase a traffic pre-emption control unit for the rescue unit from Temple, Inc. in the budgeted amount of $3,325. It was approved.

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

1. Resolution No. 2015 - 65 – To reschedule the Council Meeting on Monday, September 14th, 2015 as Thursday, September 17th, 2015. It was adopted.

2. Resolution No. 2015 - 70 – To enter into contract with Community Consultants, Inc. to perform CDBG project administrative services required to implement the CDBG Economic Development project extending St. Joseph Street NW. It was adopted.

3. Resolution No. 2015 - 71 – To approve a copier lease with Office Equipment Company, Inc. on the US Communities bid list in the budgeted amount of $200 per month for the City of Cullman Sanitation Department. It was adopted.

4. Resolution No. 2015 - 72 – To award the Eva Road and 13th Street NE Traffic Signal bid to the lowest responsible bidder, Shoals Electric, in the budgeted amount of $55,500. It was adopted.

5. Resolution No. 2015 - 73 – To award the Second Avenue SE and 4th Street SE Traffic Signal bid to the lowest responsible bidder, Shoals Electric, in the budgeted amount of $92,600. It was adopted.

6. Resolution No. 2015 - 74 – To approve a change order in the amount not to exceed $12,718.61 to the professional engineering contract with St. John and Associates, Inc. related to the utilities relocation at the County Road 222 Interchange. It was adopted.

7. Resolution No. 2015 - 75 – To authorize the City Attorney to negotiate the purchase of a water line subject to the approval of the Mayor and City Council. It was adopted.

8. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2015 - 42 – To annex the property owned by Johnny and Amy Kampis located at 951 County Road 1332 into the city limits of Cullman, Alabama. This request received a favorable recommendation from the City of Cullman Planning Commission. It was adopted.

9. First Reading of Ordinance No. 2015 - 45 – To annex the property owned by Jonathan R. Bentley located at 1500 Catoma Lane NE into the city limits of Cullman, Alabama. It was referred to the Planning Commission.

10. First Reading of Ordinance No. 2015 - 46 – To annex the property owned by Doug and Kay Whaley located on Catoma Lane NE into the city limits of Cullman, Alabama. It was referred to the Planning Commission.

11. There were no Board appointments

The meeting was the adjourned.

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT FOR MEDICAID LIVING AT HOME WAIVER RENEWAL

Medicaid
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Medicaid Agency is seeking public comment on its proposal to renew the Alabama Home and Community-Based Living At Home Waiver for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LAH Waiver), including the submission of a Transition Plan.

The waiver supports Alabama citizens who have a diagnosis of Intellectual Disabilities and who would otherwise require the level of care offered in an ICF/IID institution to remain in the community. The waiver provides services such as day services and in-home supports.

The Transition Plan is designed to ensure that individuals receiving long-term services and supports through home and community-based services programs have full access to benefits of community living and the opportunity to receive services in the most integrated setting that is appropriate. These changes are being made in accordance with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Final Rule.

A copy of the proposed changes can be found on the Alabama Medicaid Agency website.

The comment period is open until September 26, 2015. Written comments regarding the proposed waiver are welcome and should be mailed to Samantha McLeod, Associate Director via mail to: Alabama Medicaid Agency, Long Term Care Division, P.O. Box 5624, Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624 or via e-mail to samantha.mcleod@medicaid.alabama.gov. Comments will be available for public review at medicaid.alabama.gov/ in the Program Section under Long Term Care Services.

Burks (from Front)

"The opportunity to teach at St. Bernard is wonderful! I would encourage anyone interested in the school to check into the program offered here. St. Bernard offers an extraordinary environment for learning where challenges are accepted, and met. But most importantly, St. Bernard is a place where learning and faith coexist."

Outside the classroom, Burks enjoys working in his yard and playing with his dogs. Just this past summer, he travelled with his family to Amsterdam, Luxembourg, and Paris.

"I'm a family oriented person, so we are always together doing fun things," smiled Burks.

Johnny and his wife, Alana Trimble-Burks have one daughter; Abby, who is a junior nursing student and tennis player at UAH. They are members of St. Mary's of the Visitation Church in Huntsville, Ala.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.

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

HANCEVILLE CITY CLERK TANIA WILCOX EARNS DESIGNATION AS AN ALA. CERTIFIED PAYROLL SPECIALIST

Dr. Don-Terry Veal
Contributor

AUBURN – The Alabama Public Personnel Administrators Association (AAPPA) and the Center for Governmental Services at Auburn University are delighted to announce that Tania Wilcox, City Clerk for the City of Hanceville, has met all the requirements to be designated an Alabama Certified Payroll Specialist.

Wilcox joins a select group of 56 Alabama payroll administrators throughout the State with this distinction.

Mr. Donald Dees, President of the Alabama Public Personnel Association, said, "Municipal leaders are to be commended for supporting Ms. Wilcox's efforts to complete this structured and tested professional development program. They recognize that all of the citizens of the City of Hanceville benefit from quality services provided by highly motivated and well trained municipal employees like Tania Wilcox."

Graduates of the program must complete four courses of detailed practical and applied tested course work involving all aspects of payroll administration.

According to Dr. Don-Terry Veal, Director of the Center for Governmental Services at Auburn University and administrator of the program, "Ms. Wilcox's achievement underscores a strong commitment and dedication to public service in our State and the commitment of the City of Hanceville to the betterment and improvement of local government in Alabama."

The Certificate will be presented to Ms. Wilcox on October 22, 2015, at a special ceremony held during the annual conference of the Association in Guntersville, Alabama.

ALA. SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN MERRILL SELECTED AS CSG TOLL FELLOW

Kayla Farnon
Contributor

LEXINGTON, KY – Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill is one of 48 state policymakers from across the country selected as a Council of State Governments' (CSG) Henry Toll Fellow for the Class of 2015.

The Toll Fellowship Class of 2015 represents 33 states and Puerto Rico, with 35 serving in the legislative branch, four serving in the judiciary and nine from the executive.

A nine-member committee of state leaders, many who are Toll Fellows themselves, reviewed a record number of applications to select the class.

Named after CSG founder Henry Wolcott Toll, the Toll Fellowship is one of the nation's premier leadership development programs for state government officials. Each year, the program brings 48 of the nation's top officials from all three branches of state government to Lexington, Kentucky for an intensive six-day, five-night intellectual boot camp.

"There is always more than one way to solve a problem, and I am eager to learn from my 47 classmates," said Secretary of State John Merrill.

"I look forward to taking their examples back to my state and introducing their success stories to our people for consideration. My involvement with the Fellowship program will also allow me to expand my ideas and vision for the future of Alabama. As a state leader, with experience in both the legislative and executive branches of state government, I am hopeful my participation will be valuable to the other participants. Thank you to Governor Robert Bentley for his nomination and support, and to Representative Mike Jones, Jr., and former Congressman Glen Browder for their unconditional recommendations."

The program's agenda includes a lineup of dynamic speakers and sessions designed to stimulate personal assessment and growth, while providing priceless networking and relationship-building opportunities.

While each year's program is unique, previous programs have included sessions on leadership personality assessment, media training, crisis management, appreciative inquiry, adaptive leadership and much more.

"The Toll Fellowship remains the oldest and most prestigious of all leadership development programs for elected officials," said David Adkins, CSG's executive director/CEO.

"Its impact is profound and its quality is renowned. As a Toll Fellow from 1993, I know first-hand the impact the program has on elected officials."

Adkins was a 1993 Toll Fellow when he served as a Kansas state representative.

Alabama Toll Fellows alumni include former Congressman Glen Browder, former Senator Tom Butler, Brenda Emfinger, College Savings Program Director, Robert McCurley, former Director of the Alabama Law Institute, former Representative Ken Guin, Sue Bell Cobb, former Supreme Court Chief Justice, former Representative Paul DeMarco, former Senator Kim Benefield, Senior Judge Deborah Bell Paseur, Beth Chapman, former Secretary of State, Senator Arthur Orr, Representative Jack Williams and Senator William Holtzclaw.

Merrill said programs like Toll Fellows provide opportunities for state policymakers to continue growing as leaders.

"We should all strive to be lifelong learners, continuing to challenge ourselves to learn more about the problems we face and to be keenly aware of how others have worked to resolve similar challenges," he said.

"In order to effectively lead all people, you must strengthen your leadership skills at all times."

This year's program will be held Aug. 28-Sept. 2 in Lexington.

ADOR PARTNERS WITH IRS, TAX INDUSTRY TO BETTER PROTECT TAXPAYERS

Frank Miles
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Department of Revenue is continually working to protect the identities of Alabama taxpayers and prevent tax refund fraud. The department took yet another step toward enhancing the security of the tax return process on Wednesday when Revenue Commissioner Julie P. Magee signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service, other state revenue departments, and companies and trade associations in the tax and financial services industries.

"We are working with the IRS and the tax industry to establish stronger security measures, particularly in e-filing, including validation of identity and return information at the time of filing," Magee said.

"These security measures, combined with our established efforts to protect taxpayers here in Alabama through the ID Quiz and a second authentication protocol on My Alabama Taxes (MAT), will provide taxpayers with a safer and more secure filing experience."

The public-private partnership formed through the MOU stems from a security summit convened by the IRS in March, where tax administrators and industry leaders met to discuss emerging threats and expand existing collaborative efforts to stop fraud.

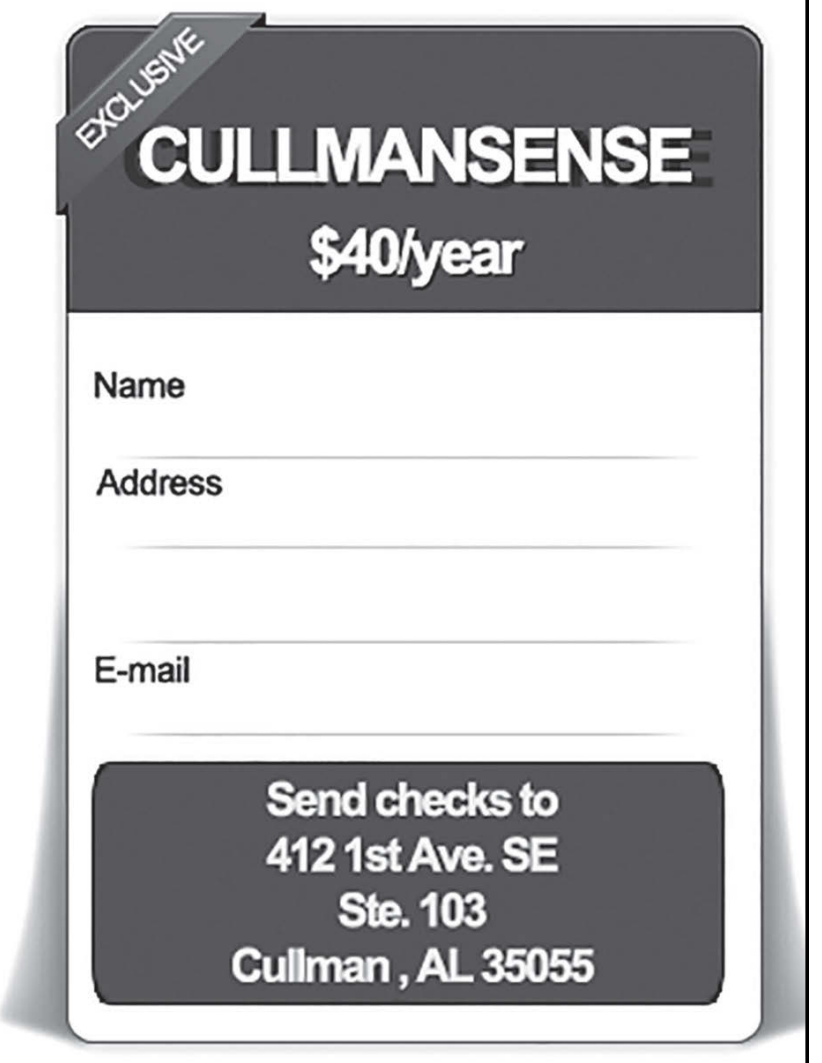
IRS Commissioner John Koskinen hailed "a new era of cooperation and collaboration... that will help combat identity theft and protect taxpayers against tax refund fraud" when the IRS announced the new partnership in June.

The enhanced communication and information sharing agreed to at the summit and in the MOU will better protect taxpayers in a number of ways, including:

- Unmasking criminal schemes and reducing identity theft tax refund fraud;
- Improving methods of verifying taxpayers' identities;
- Better analyzing return transmission information (Such as numerous returns being transmitted from the same IP address) and return preparation times;
- Identifying standard technology practices and innovation for uncovering emerging threats; and
- Educating taxpayers on their roles in protecting sensitive personal, tax and financial data.

The MOU has been endorsed by the Federation of Tax Administrators, the Council for Electronic Revenue Communication Advancement, the American Coalition for Taxpayer Rights, Free File Inc., and the National Association of Computerized Tax Processors.

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RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT: GREG LEONARD, PASTOR OF JONES CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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JONES CHAPEL – There's been some big news in Jones Chapel this month. Jones Chapel United Methodist Church has been revamped and is taking the small community by storm. God is working in many great ways at the small, historic church, and its new pastor, Greg Leonard, along with his family, are following God's leadership and working hard to do their part. After preaching in various churches throughout Alabama, Leonard was given the opportunity of a lifetime: the Jones Chapel community needed him.

"In June of 2015, our family was called to Jones Chapel United Methodist Church as a restart," he began. "This beautiful little country church, with its rich history became our family's new passion. We started by cleaning around the grounds and worked our way inside. Each week we did a little more in the building and in the community. Our first service was August 2nd 2015 with 41 in attendance," he beamed.

"Jones Chapel UMC now has new life with passionate members who wish to know Jesus in a meaningful relationship, praising God with their whole hearts, and led by the Spirit," he continued

"Our goal is to connect with each other, tear down barriers by offering love and compassion while never judging; having discernment and offering accountability."

Leonard has been married to his high school sweetheart, Christina, for nineteen years. Together they have four daughters that span in age from college years to second grade.

He started his Christian education at Southeastern Bible College where he received a certificate in Biblical Studies.

"At that time, I was working with the youth of our home church and filling in for Wednesday and Sunday nights in the pulpit. Then I was called to preach and serve as a pastor. I decided to start back to school at Liberty University to receive my Bachelors Degree in Religion and a Minor in Christian Counseling during my second appointment. I am scheduled to graduate around May of 2016. I hope to attend Memphis Theological to obtain a Masters in Theology," he smiled.

Leonard has accepted his calling as an adult, but growing up he also played around with it. Thankfully, he grew into his position as preacher.

"My mother says when we moved from McComb, Mississippi to Hoover, Alabama in the late 1980s, I would sit on the steps outside our apartment and share the Sunday school lesson with other children at the apartments," he chuckled.

"By my teens, I really struggled with who I was in Christ. It was after I married my beautiful wife that I started to step up my role as a godly man. Wow! I struggled," he shook his head. "What grace that God has for us all!"

When speaking of Jones Chapel United Methodist Church, it is easy to see how Leonard feels.

It is quite dear to his heart and he is proud to call it his home. The small congregation is proud of their place of worship and will continue to grow with time.

"Being a new church with old roots is wonderful," he added. "We have a history, but better yet, we have a future that will be built on God's Word alone. We have a mixed group that attends, ages ranging from Pre-K to the elderly. It does not take much for us to meet to fellowship and eat; we love being together as a church," he grinned.

"A children's church is held after worship and taught by my wife, Christina. The worship team does a lot of contemporary music but also some beloved hymns. In time, we are looking to add Sunday school classes and mid-week fellowship as well as activities to reach the community around us. We are growing, and every gift can be used for the kingdom."

Service at Jones Chapel United Methodist Church begins at 10:30 a.m. with the ringing of the church bell at 10:15 a.m. The church is located at 101 County Road 1082, Cullman AL, 35057.

For more information, follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/pages/Jones-Chapel-United-Methodist-Church/927759027286415 or e-mail jones.chapel.umc.cullman@gmail.com.



GREG LEONARD

Pastor Greg Leonard and his wife Christina have worked hard to restart the Jones Chapel United Methodist Church.

"This beautiful little country church, with its rich history, became our family's new passion. We started by cleaning around the grounds and worked our way inside. Each week we did a little more in the building and in the community."

Pastor Greg Leonard, Jones Chapel United Methodist Church

Morrison (from Front)

Although she successfully completed the Phlebotomy program, she has never held a job as a phlebotomist. Instead, she spends her days with Brookelynn, which is something she truly loves.

"I don't have a lot of spare time," she grinned happily. "My days are spent entertaining a 3 year old. We love swimming, going on walks, playing outside, and travelling. Spending time with her is my favorite thing to do and our favorite places to go are Disney World and the beach."

Spending time with children has always been fun for Tracy. She worked for St. Andrews Preschool for 8 years until it closed when they built their new building at the church.

As a result, young adults from all over Cullman County wave excitedly and holler, "Hey Miss Tracy!" each time they see her in town.

"That was the best job ever," she mused. "Teaching 3 and 4 year olds about Jesus, how to write their names and tie shoes - Can't beat that! It is really rewarding to see all of the children now. Watching them grow up, graduate high school and having babies of their own."

Something that makes Morrison different than most of the women in town is the fact that she is married to a former Representative and now Commissioner, Mr. Neal Morrison.

When asked about her role as Commissioner's wife, she just chuckled and began talking.

"Being married to Neal is... Interesting," she grinned. "He has, for the most part, kept his political life separate from his family life. There have been times that we were able to do things that we wouldn't have done had Neal not been in the position he was in," she explained.

"We have met some very nice and interesting people. There were delegations from the Philippines, Japan and China that we were able to interact with. There have been 'important' people from the State of Alabama, and even a few national and international people that we have had the pleasure of meeting."

"Yes, sometimes I have to watch what I say, but for the most part, I can just be me - which isn't always a good thing," she laughed mischievously.

"We have travelled to several places (on our dime) when Neal has had to go to places such as Quebec, San Diego, Florida, and of course DC. But the best part of Neal's jobs though is getting to meet so many great people from our area and the state."

When asked if there was anything else she wanted to share, her eyes lit up and she grinned once again.

"There's not really anything else to know about me, except my bucket list includes operating heavy equipment."

Her bucket list includes operating heavy equipment. Witty and fun, Morrison truly enjoys her life. Her family means the world to her and it shows. She is just another example of the wonderful, down to earth people that happily call Cullman their home.

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HISTORIC C. F. PENN HAMBURGERS

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CULLMAN – Those that have lived in Cullman for a long time, especially the older folks, probably have happy memories of eating at places like Johnny's Bar-B-Q, the Busy Bee Café and All Steak over the years. There have been a lot of restaurants that have come and gone, each of them were unique and special in their own ways. One such restaurant, which is no longer in Cullman, is C. F. Penn Hamburgers.

C. F. Penn Hamburgers had been in a couple different locations during its time here in Cullman. The last place they resided was where Downtown Grill is today.

Walking into the old restaurant was like walking back in time and the hamburgers had a flavor all their own. Each visitor to the restaurant left with a full belly and a smile on their face.

"Went there from the time I could remember anything until it closed. Since the 60's it was in the same building that Downtown Grill is in now," said Jimmy Stapler. "I have many great memories of my granddaddy taking me there when we went to town."

Charles Franklin Penn first opened his hamburger restaurant in Hartselle way back in 1927. Several years later he opened another restaurant in Decatur in 1939. He later opened restaurants in both Cullman and Birmingham.

When Penn first started the business, the only condiments that were available were mustard and onions. He strongly believed that just like the meat, the onions should be fresh every day. He'd buy onions by the 50 pound bag, and would peel and dice them right there in the store.

Much later, in the 1950s, ketchup was added as a condiment. And then a little later, cheese was added. Eventually a red pepper mix was prepared and placed on each of the tables.

Sadly, Mr. C. F. Penn died in 1958 and that's when his son Hugh took over the business. Because the hamburgers were so unique, Hugh actually had the term "Penn Burger" copyrighted. Unfortunately, he never divulged what the famous Penn Burger was made of.

Hugh Penn successfully ran the business until his death in 1997. That's when his two sons and daughter took over. Dr. Franklin Penn, Hugh's oldest son, ran the company until 2010 when Mr. William Vandiver purchased it.

"I loved those burgers," Patrinka Witcher smiled. "I have fond memories of going there with my Grandparents James and Nell Guthery when I was younger. They would order theirs, 'all the way'."

"When I was growing up my Paw Paw always had to go there while he was in town to get a burger," Joshua White said with a big ole grin across his face. "I have his cap he got from there."

C. F. Penn Hamburgers has been gone from Cullman for many years now. Gone but not forgotten, as you can imagine. As a kid, I remember walking over there from my mother's store, Mary's Gift Shop, which was located on the Steifelmeyer block next to the radio station. My sister and I would always order corn dogs and they were scrumptious! As an adult, I traveled to Decatur and fell in love with the Penn Burgers just like everyone else.

Thankfully the C. F. Penn in Decatur is still open and going strong. Just like the one here in Cullman, it has an old fashioned atmosphere and the same unforgettable Penn Burgers. The store is located at 121 Moulton St E, Decatur, AL 35601. The restaurant only accept cash as payment.

To keep up with C. F. Penn Hamburgers, follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/pages/C-F-Penn-Hamburgers/189401257741637.



FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/C-F-PENN-HAMBURGERS/189401257741637

Decatur's C. F. Penn Hamburgers is much like the C. F. Penn that was located in Cullman.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES: THE BETZ ADDITION HISTORIC DISTRICT

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CULLMAN – Located to the north of Highway 278 East, the Betz Addition Historic District, also known as "Quality Hill", was named in honor of Cullman's first mayor, Fred Betz.

The area was made up of 72 residential buildings dating from the late 19th century through the mid 20th century. It covers approximately 12 blocks.

The Downtown Commercial Historic District, including First, Second, and Third Avenues, NE and SE, as well as Third and Fourth Streets, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

BETZ ADDITION – HISTORIC DISTRICT "QUALITY HILL"

The Betz Addition Historic District, also known as "Quality Hill", lies to the north of Highway 278 East and is named in honor of Cullman's first mayor, Fred Betz. The district is listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. Composed of 72 residential structures dating from the late nineteenth through the mid 20th century, the district covers approximately 12 blocks.



HMDB.ORG

The Cullman Downtown Commercial Historic District, which includes First, Second, and Third Avenues, NE and SE, as well as Third and Fourth Streets, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

MIRRORING HISTORY: FROM JERRY'S GIANT FOODS TO DESPERATION CHURCH

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The building located at 202 Elizabeth Street NE in Cullman has been around for quite some time.

In the older picture, the building was a friendly neighborhood grocery store, Jerry's Giant Foods.

It was owned and operated by Jerry Loegler.

Loegler was loved and well respected by his employees and the store's many repeat customers.

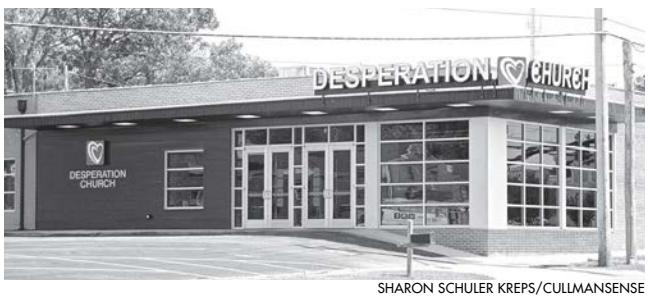
After the grocery store closed, the building became a Sports Fit gym.

Today it is home to Desperation Church and serves many people in the community.



CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM

Jerry's Giant Foods was owned and operated by Jerry Loegler.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Today the building houses Desperation Church.

cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Fall Youth Baseball Registration:** August 1—28 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.
- **CP&R New Youth Volleyball League** registering NOW at the Cullman Civic Center. Cost is just $50 and includes a players clinic, 2 weeks of practice, and 6 weeks of game play. Girls ages 7-12 will be eligible to play. Call for details.
- **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
- **CP&R Youth Archery Classes** for beginners, intermediate, and advanced archers will begin on Monday, September 7. Cost is $40 per month; register ahead of time at the Cullman Civic Center.
- **Kid's Create Art Class**: CP&R will be offering an after school art program at the new art studio located at the Cullman Civic Center starting September 10. Classes are registering now and are limited to 15 per class, so signup today!
- **Youth Outdoor Adventure:** CP&R is hosting a fall outdoor adventure session for 6 weeks on Saturdays starting September 12. Activities include hiking, rock climbing, rappelling, kayaking, & more. $75 for class, signup at the Civic Center.
- **Youth Tennis Program Fall Session** registering now at the Cullman Civic Center. The 8 week session will include 2 weeks of practice and 6 weeks of play; athletes will be grouped by skill level. Cost is $95, and the session begins Sept. 14.
- **Home School Art Class:** CP&R is offering a home-school art class starting on Tuesday, September 8. Classes will be held at the Cullman Civic Center for ages 6-14 and cost is $40 per month. Register now at the Civic Center.

WSCC RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM MARKS 100 PERCENT PASS RATE FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College's Respiratory Therapy program continues to prove itself as a top-notch program, with all of the students in the 2015 graduating class successfully completing the National Certification Exam.

2015 is the second consecutive year for a 100 percent pass rate from the program. It also holds the highest pass rate in the state and is one of only 12 in the nation with a 100 percent pass rate for programs that graduate 15 or more students per cohort.

Dr. Paul Taylor, chair of the WSCC Respiratory Therapy program, credited his faculty for preparing their students. "Dr. Ken Crow and Matt Maples do a wonderful job," Dr. Taylor said. "We would not be as successful as we are without these two excellent faculty members." The students also get credit. "We have a great student population here at Wallace State, and that is why we do what we do with so much compassion."

Wallace State's Respiratory Therapy program prepares its students to work in a branch of the healthcare field that aids patients during what can be stressful and in some instances life-threatening situations. From helping to treat asthma patients, to newborn infants with underdeveloped lungs, to emergency care, respiratory therapists help patients of all ages breathe easier.

The program also boasts high marks for job placement, with 100 percent rankings for overall employment and in-field employment of its graduates from the 2013-2014 academic year. The program is affiliated with about 30 healthcare institutions that play a major role in the success of its students.

According to U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of respiratory therapists is projected to grow 19 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than average for all occupations. The median annual wage for respiratory therapists was $55,870 in May 2012, with the lowest 10 percent earning less than $40,980 and the top 10 percent earning more than $75,430.

For more information on the program, contact Dr. Paul Taylor at 256-352-8310 or visit wallacestate.edu.

ALEA ANNOUNCES POSSIBLE DRIVER LICENSE OFFICE CLOSURES

ALEA
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) has announced a phased approach for the closure of driver license offices throughout the state should the Legislature not level fund the agency.

During transition and the first two quarters of 2015, ALEA examined the core functions of each legacy agency and determined the Driver License system was inefficient and archaic.

In July, Secretary of Law Enforcement Spencer Collier announced a series of technology-based improvements which will result in more efficient service and shorter wait times for citizens of Alabama including Online scheduling,

Online driver license renewals, Self-serve kiosks, Digital licensing for smart phones, and Statewide equipment upgrades.

"Currently, ALEA maintains 75 Driver License district and field offices across the state but budget allocations do not cover costs and we operate with an $8.2 million deficit," said Secretary of Law Enforcement Spencer Collier.

"During the 2015 Regular and First Special Sessions, the Legislature proposed General Fund budget cuts ranging from 22% to 47% cut from ALEA's Fiscal Year 2015 appropriation. Should the Legislature pass devastating budget cuts, it will be necessary for the Licensing Division to close Driver License district and field offices statewide."

- **Phase 1:** Close 33 field offices on October 1, 2015. Field offices are in rural areas and operate on a part-time basis where a DL examiner travels from a DL office to a field office a couple of days a week for limited hours. These offices represent 5% of all ALEA DL transactions each year.
- **Phase 2:** On January 1, 2016, District Offices will close leaving only 12 offices statewide. Average drive times to reach an open office for citizens will increase to more than an hour. Current average wait times for services is approximately 1.5 hours; with fewer locations, the wait time for services will substantially increase and most functions will require an appointment.
- **Phase 3:** On March 1, 2016, we would have to move all operations to four offices which would be located in Huntsville, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Mobile Secretary Collier continued, "Public safety is the core mission of state government. We are facing a looming budget crises in government services and this is a statewide problem that will affect each of us. Governor Bentley's solution is an easy, workable and fair proposal that will raise $300 million in revenue and help the state continue to provide these services to Alabama citizens. Please contact your Legislator and ask them to support Governor Bentley's solution to the budget crisis and put our state on a strong path forward."

BENTLEY AWARDS GRANT TO AID PLANT EXPANSION IN WALKER, CREATE NEW JOBS

Larry Childers
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Gov. Robert Bentley has awarded a $200,000 grant to assist with infrastructure required for a $12 million enlargement of a Jasper poultry business that intends to hire 50 additional workers once the expansion is complete.

The expansion by Mar-Jac Poultry Inc. is part of the Gainesville, Georgia-based company's plans to increase operations at several of its poultry-related businesses in Alabama.

"Agriculture is a vital component in Alabama's economy and employs many Alabamians," Bentley said.

"The expansion is important to Mar-Jac's investment in our state."

With assistance from the grant, Jasper will expand its Town Creek wastewater treatment plant to increase intake capacity to 500,000 gallons of wastewater daily.

The increased capacity is crucial to the expansion of the plant, which will generate about 1.6 million gallons of wastewater per week from its location on Second Avenue.

Mar-Jac also broke ground in April on a feed mill operation near Phil Campbell that will employ 100 people, and the company plans to work with poultry farmers in northwest Alabama to build chicken houses.

Overall, Mar-Jac employs about 1,000 people at its Alabama facilities.

Bentley notified Mayor V.L. "Sonny" Posey that the grant had been approved.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is administering the grant from funds made available to the state by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ADECA administers a wide range of programs that support law enforcement, economic development, infrastructure upgrades, recreation, energy, water resources, job training and career development.





FAIRVIEW'S ALS 'WASHOUT' BENEFITS ALABAMA CHAPTER

Hannah Ward
ward@cullmansense.com

FAIRVIEW – In April of 2011, Danny Harris's life changed, when he was diagnosed with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's Disease. Since then, his wife, Diane, and his family have done all they can to raise awareness and funding to find a cure. Saturday they hosted an ALS "washout" to accomplish both. The event included music, food and refreshments.

"It is a motor neuron disease, it is fatal, there's no treatment, there's no cure. The average length of time a person lives is three and a half years. Doctors won't give you much hope at all when you're diagnosed," said Diane Harris.

A variation on the ice bucket challenge, the washout consisted of participants getting soaked by a fire truck.

"We formed our own nonprofit 'Fishing for a Cure for ALS.' We have had two bass tournaments," Harris explained. "So our president of our LLC came up with this idea, instead of the ice bucket challenge, let's do an ALS washout and just have a fun day."

Sponsors helped create event T-shirts and volunteers donated more than just their time. The Harris' son and vice president of Fishing for a Cure, Marc Harris, stated "Honestly we're just happy for all the support we do get, we have a huge family. We also have a great community!"



HANNAH WARD/CULLMANSENSE

All money raised from the event benefits the Alabama chapter of the ALS association.

All the money donated goes directly to the Alabama chapter of the ALS association.

"They fund research, they advocate for us on a state, local, and federal level and they also provide services to ALS patients," said Diane Harris.

To donate to help ALS victims, visit the Alabama chapter of the ALS Association at webal.alsa.org or mail a check to: The ALS Association Alabama Chapter PO Box 2888, Huntsville, AL 35804.

"My husband can't speak and has trouble swallowing. It affects people in different ways and that's the crazy thing about it. It might start with your hand, it might start with your leg, it might start with you voice, and so it's a very difficult disease to diagnose because there's no test you can take that says 'yes you have it.' It's a matter of eliminating other diseases. It took us almost two years to get diagnosed, so Danny has probably had it at least six years. I call him a walking miracle, because he is still walking around," Harris said.

"One thing I like to tell people is that God gives everybody the power to make a difference and that's what we're doing. We're trying to make a difference."



DIANE HARRIS

Taking cues from the Ice Bucket Challenge, the Washout drenched participants with a firehose.



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Katherine Morgan, Agent
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DAVID SHUPE, DO
FAMILY MEDICINE

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- B.S. in Biology
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Monday

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

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

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

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

Tuesday

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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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.

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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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

CULLMAN TROUNCES ETOWAH

Josh McBrayer
Sports Correspondent

CULLMAN – For the second consecutive week, Cullman flexed thier collective muscle and displayed football dominance as they drummed the Etowah Blue Devils 31-6.

Ross Crocker set the tone for the game, hitting a 43 yard pass down the sideline to help set up the left foot of Sophomore place kicker Isaac Rodriguez who put the Bearcats on the board first with a booming 43 yard field goal.

Cullman forced Etowah into a three and out on their first possession but could not capitalize on a sack on third and ten which forced a punt from the Bearcats.

Etowah started their next drive from thier own 28 but three straight penalties negated big plays and put the Blue Devils first and fifteen.

However, Senior Stacy Williams bailed his team out with a blazing 73 yard rush down to the Cullman six.

Two plays later he capped the drive with a seven yard TD run, the only Blue Devil score, but the PAT was no good. Etowah took the 6-3 lead after one.

Cullman would take the lead back just under two minutes into the second quarter.

Crocker hooked up with Dawson Drake twice on the drive. The first time for 12 and the second time for 28 and the touchdown.

Rodriguez nailed the PAT and the Bearcats found themselves on top 10-6 and never looked back.

The Cats would score one more time before the half, on an Ethan McMinn 10 yard TD run.

Etowah started the second half with the ball and looked to mount some offense. QB Andy Noles connected with Emil Smith for 10 yards to the Cullman 41.

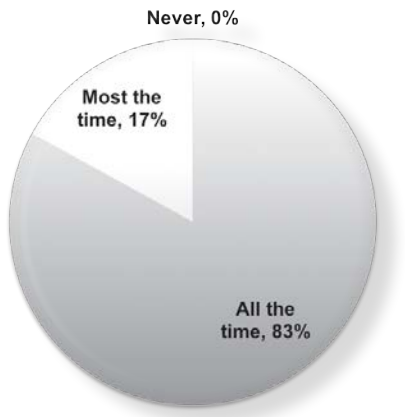
Three plays later, Darius Moore rumbled 32 yards to the Cullman 40 but Etowah was stopped there as Noles' pass sailed into the arms of Cullman defender Tyler Taunton.

The Cats quickly turned the miscue into points as Justin Patterson, normally a linebacker for the Bearcats, bowled over defenders from one yard out to put Cullman up 24-6 with 4:56 left in the third.

Cullman would add the final points of the game when Crocker hooked up with Drake again, this time from 20 yards out to cap the scoring. Cullman improved to 2-0 on the season with the 31-6 thumping off the Blue Devils.

Poll

Are you ready for summer to end?



This Week's Poll

How often do you wear a life jacket while on the water?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

Y'all (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Cullman's amazing agriculture was once again celebrated at the 2015 Farm Y'all Festival which was held all day Saturday, August 29th at Depot Park and Festhalle. The celebration was put together by the Cullman Chamber of Commerce. The event was filled with loads of fun for all ages. This year marks Farm Y'all's 3rd anniversary, and it is celebrated as a way of honoring local farmers. Hundreds of people came out and spent the day by purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables, admiring creative crafts and playing with the animals in the petting zoo.

"Today we are here to promote agricultural heritage here in Cullman County," said Nicole Willoughby, with the North Alabama Agriplex.

"At the Agriplex we offer agriculture education to both children and adults. There's a lot of agriculture in Cullman County and if you visit the Agriplex there's a lot you can learn about how to sustain your own farm and garden."

Big fat pumpkins and watermelons were driven in by the truck load by farmers all morning.

The farmers and their families were anxious to compete in "The Great Pumpkin Weigh Off" at 2:00 in the afternoon.

At the end of the day, one of the massive pumpkins was dropped from a crane. It made a humongous mess as it hit the ground and spectators squealed and clapped in excitement as they watched.

Tons of exhibits scattered the park and lots of information was given out to those who wanted it.

This year there was a horseshoe area set up with some pretty big names giving advice and demonstrations to those who were interested in stepping up their game.

"Lisa from Alabama Farm Credit looked me up and called me. She asked if I would be interested in coming down doing some demonstrations," said Keith Poston, Two-Time World Class Horseshoe Champion from Muscle Shoals.

"I jumped at the opportunity to come – I brought a couple guys with me, along with my family. They put up some posters around that tell where we pitch at in the state of Alabama. Also, we will be hosting the World Tournament next year in Montgomery."

Regional and nationally celebrated chefs stood in front of crowds of people and prepared their own unique dishes featuring locally grown Cullman County food for people to sample.

The chefs this year were Randall Baldwin with Dyron's Low Country, "Artistic Fruit Carving" with Rosie Hartley of Stonebridge Farms, Carrie's Kitchen, "Backyard Bees & Honey Treats" with

Phillip and Nancy Garrison of GoldVine Farms and Matt Heim from the All Steak. This part of the festival is always a huge hit with the crowds.

"Today has been great," said Derek Lane, Director-Small Business & Workforce Solutions at the Cullman Chamber of Commerce.

"The weather has been very cooperative and the folks that have come out in droves, as you can see," he chuckled.

"There have been several records broken over at the weigh-in station. We've had a number of great demonstrations over at the chef's table and everyone is loving it! This year's event is bigger than last year's and we've had to expand to anticipate the crowd we thought we would have," he smiled warmly.

Each year the Farm Y'all Festival has grown and hopefully it will continue to expand. For more information on Farm Y'all, follow the event on Facebook at facebook.com/FarmYall.

Skidcar (from Front)

Hannah Ward
ward@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Hanceville Police, Fire and Public Works Departments participated in Skidcar training last Tuesday and Wednesday. The two day class was organized by Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation at City Hall.

The Skidcar System is a computer-controlled driver training vehicle. The participants learn the fastest and safest ways to react to an array of dangerous driving circumstances.

Hanceville Chief of Police, Bob Long explained, "It's an excellent program that allows participants to experience a vehicle skidding, in a controlled environment. Hopefully safer. If a vehicle starts to skid, it may help them know how to recover."

According to Long, 32 officials participated including police, fire, public works, and other municipalities from the city of Hanceville.

Long said the program might help the city with insurance by reducing accidents and claims.



WHAT'S ONLINE



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SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

MIRRORING HISTORY: MOSS FUNERAL HOME

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... **QRNE.WS/387**

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"REVERSE THE CYCLE" TRIATHLON BENEFITS THE LINK OF CULLMAN COUNTY

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com



FACEBOOK.COM/REVERSETHECYCLESPRINTTRIATHLON

Previously raising approximately $20,000, the Reverse the Cycle Sprint Triathlon event is one of The Link's largest fundraisers.

CULLMAN – On Saturday, September 12 The Link of Cullman County will hold its second annual triathlon, with a novel twist.

According to director of The Link, Dawn Owens, the triathlon has been altered to fit the "reversing the cycle" motif of The Link's mission.

A traditional triathlon is comprised of swimming, cycling, and running, in that order.

The Link's rendition of the event is running, cycling, and swimming, "Which makes for some tired athletes in the pool," Owens laughingly said.

The Reverse the Cycle Sprint Triathlon is one of The Link's two biggest fundraisers of the year, each event, according to Owens, raises about $20,000 for the organization.

"The Link of Cullman County is a faith-based nonprofit that is working toward helping the poor and vulnerable in our community overcome the barriers to poverty," reads the description of the organization on its website, LinkingCullman.org.

The inspiration for the athletic event came from The Link board member, Bo Shirey. "Bo had wanted to bring a triathlon to Cullman, and we decided to put this together," Owens said.

Owens explained that festivals and fairs are popular events, but because The Link supports holistic recovery, encouraging people to be active and lead healthy lives, a triathlon was deemed a more appropriate event.

Although the event began only last year, Owens said that many of the competitors and athletes complimented the way it was run.

"We had several people from out of state that said our event was well done and much better than other triathlons they'd been to before," she said.

"If you're a big swimmer, but don't like to run, find a friend that likes to run and one that likes to bike and do the relay," Owens said. "We can always use more relay teams."

One of the most positive memories Owens had from last year's event was the energy level, and not just from the competitors.

"There were spectators watching and especially at the end, when everyone was in the pool, people were all around and cheering. It was a wonderful atmosphere."

The event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center, with runners trekking into the city, cyclists pushing further into the county, and swimmers swimming at the Aquatic Center.

"Even if you're not competing come and support people who are. We want people all along the route, cheering the runners on when they get to those points, you know. You really need that motivation when you've been running or biking," Owens said.

Early registration for the event will cost $35 for children, $50 for adults, and $80 for groups of three adults. Prices will increase the day of the triathlon.

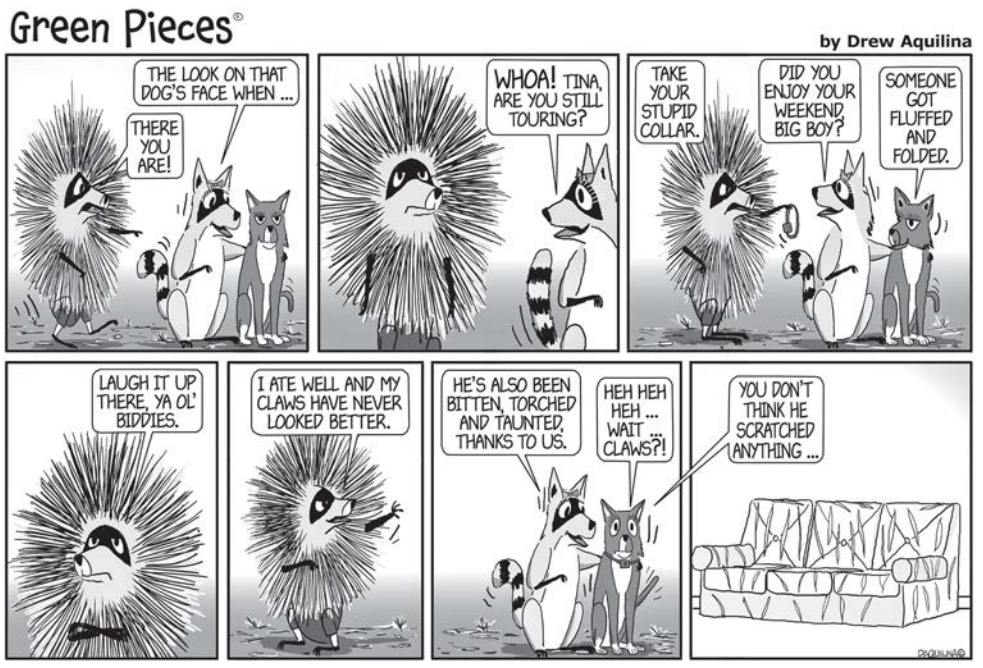
To register early for the event visit active.com/cullman-al/triathlon/races/reverse-the-cycle-sprint-triathlon-2015.

For more information on the Reverse the Cycle Sprint Triathlon visit facebook.com/reversethecyclesprinttriathlon.

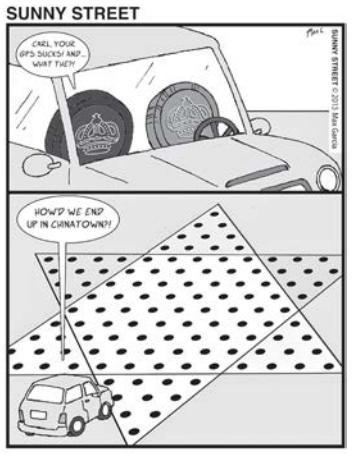
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COMICS









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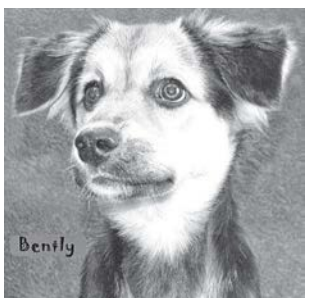
PETS OF THE WEEK

DIXIE



Hello my name is Dixie and I am about 8+ years old. I am a Labrador mix and I currently weigh 49 lbs. I am a stray but if no one claims me by 8/31/15 at 1 p.m. I will be put 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) for adopting me.

BENTLY



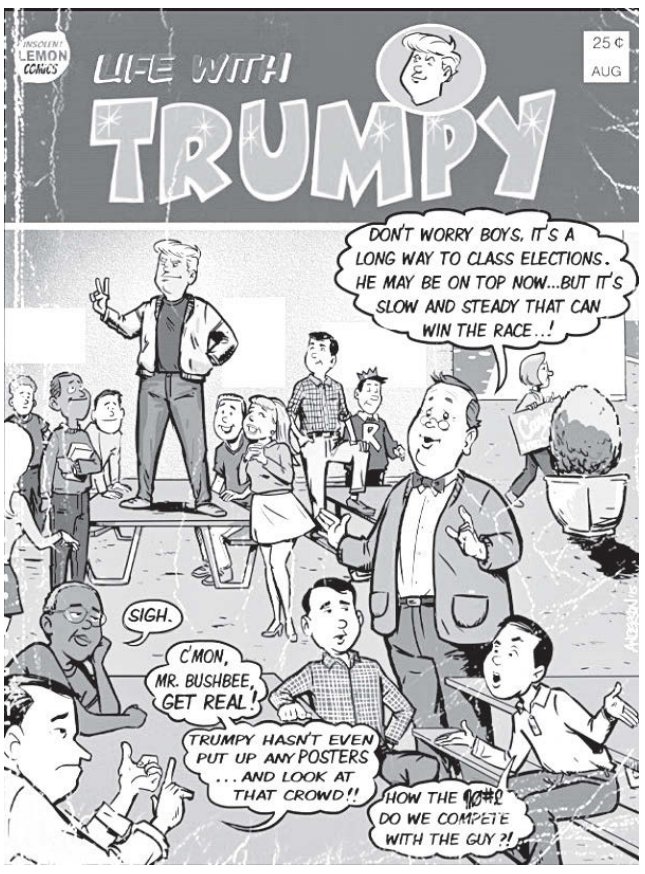
Hello my name is Bently and I am about 6 months old. I am a Shepherd mix and I currently weigh 25 lbs. I am full of life and I love to play. My adoption fee is $90 and that covers my first set of vaccines and wormer at the Shelter. It also covers my general exam at the Vet, the rabies vaccine, spay, 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 CARTOON



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POWER IN THE WORD: THE GOSPEL THAT WORKS

UNDERSTANDING THE MECHANICS OF FAITH

Dr. Henry W. Roberts, II
Contributor

In order for us to operate in faith, we must understand two primary things about faith: (1) Faith is spiritual and (2) Faith must be applied.

Faith is spiritual. Things are more real in the spirit realm than in this realm where we see, hear, smell, taste and touch. God is a Spirit. Everything God does, He does it by, through and with His Spirit and then it manifests in the natural.

God moves by His Spirit. The Bible talks about three kinds of mankind: the natural man, the carnal man and the spiritual man. Faith comes by hearing. Prosperity, success and the fruit of the Word will come into your life through meditation, but faith comes by hearing. Read out loud because what you hear, you will get faith to believe. Faith comes from the same Greek word as metamorphosis, which means, "to be transformed."

We go from glory to glory. Glory is translated, "kabod," which means, "heavily-weighted with substance." God wants to load me down with some stuff, but it's going to be appropriated and pulled in by faith. Many believers get frustrated with the things of God because they don't see things working for them.

God wants this Word to be applicable for your daily living. He doesn't want you to just go to church to feel good. He wants that Word to be imparted in you so that when you get outside, you begin to operate in faith and when you pray you start seeing results.

That should motivate you to want to get more of God and get more in God's face. What happens is not going to be through my education (although education is good), my job skills, or my physical or mental strength.

But when God begins to bless me, it's going to be by His Spirit. I cannot afford to be a "natural" man. A natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God. The "carnal" man is someone who has confessed Christ, but they only want to go just so far.

They go to church sometimes; they pray sometimes, they read their Bibles sometimes. To be carnal-minded is death. Everything we do in the Kingdom of God is spiritual.

You've got to make up in your mind to be spiritual. I'm not talking about where you're so deep and so spiritual that you are goofy and you're no earthly good and instead of drawing people, your spirituality repels them; they can't even have a decent conversation with you.

Whatever is not of faith is sin. So, when I get involved with God, I've got to make up my mind to be in faith and spiritual. You must maintain a spiritual attitude. If you get in the flesh, your flesh will talk you out of everything God has provided for you.

Faith must be applied. To say you have faith and not use your faith is nothing. People have categorized faith as a denomination or a religious position: Catholic, Baptist, Episcopalian, A.O.H. or Church of God in Christ.

These are reflections of faith. You need an impartation and it is God's desire to meet every need. He's not going to provide for you just because you have a need. He will provide for you only if you've started developing your faith and operating in faith.

Faith is not arrogance. People that live in and operate in faith are often misunderstood as their actions are misinterpreted because they're confident. Faith is confidence in God's ability to perform His Word.

God has already given me my measure of faith. What I have to do in the confines of my measure is to start working out where I am.

We must learn how to operate in the Spirit. Your crying, belly-aching, and complaining will not make God move for you. When God moves for you, it's going to be in response to your faith. We like to get someone around us who's going to break out the violins with us. Shake yourself, and gird up your loins and let's get ready to fight!

Too many saints don't want to fight. You just want to lie down and let someone else do your praising, your confessing and your praying. You tell everybody and their Grandmama to pray for you and some of them don't even know the Word of prayer. God is a God of divine order.

Some of the folks you're asking to pray for you may be the ones helping you to mess up. They don't even know how to pray. Don't pray for me if you don't know what the will of God is.

The weapons of my warfare are not carnal. I have to even think "faith." I don't care what it looks like because I am in the Spirit. Faith works in the Spirit realm, but it manifests in the natural. I already have it.

God has given me the measure of faith that I need to meet every need, every situation, every circumstance, every trick, every tactic, every scheme and every snare of the devil. I'm already equipped to overcome! This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith!

Scriptures: Genesis 1:1-3; 1:27; John 4:24; Hebrews 1:11; I Corinthians 2:14; II Corinthians 3:1-8; 10:4, 5; Romans 14:23; Romans 12: 3; Psalm 23:4; I John 5:4; Matthew 7:22; John 1:1-3.

Dr. Henry W. Roberts, II is the Founding Pastor/Teacher of Word of Life Community Church of Whistler and Chickasaw, AL. For teaching materials, call 251-456-2652.

OPINION

ON VOTING ... AND NOT

Lee H. Hamilton
Contributor

The campaigning for next year's elections is starting to draw more attention, and with it comes a focus on voters and their mood. Which is all well and good, but it leaves out of the equation one large bloc of citizens: people who are eligible to vote, but don't.

They give a multitude of reasons: they're too busy, or voting takes too much time, or they're turned off by politics and the money game. Sometimes they're ill or disabled. Sometimes they ran into ID requirements that stymied them.

Although there are plenty of policy-makers whose chief concern is to protect the integrity of the ballot and reduce fraud, others are deeply worried about falling rates of voter participation. They're concerned because voting doesn't just put office-holders in place and push policy in one direction or another. It also affirms the electoral system. The vigor of our system depends on the vote of each citizen.

So what do we do about it? Generally speaking, Democrats have emphasized making ballot access easier; Republicans have focused on ballot integrity. Both need to be addressed. We have to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat.

We also need to modernize the system. Ours is fragile and uneven. We've already had one presidential election decided by courts on a question of failed infrastructure. More embarrassing cases will certainly occur.

And the days are long past when it was okay to place election administration in the hands of partisan state or local politicians. It's time for election management across the country to be in non-partisan hands.

The aim of reforming the system is to make voting convenient, efficient, and pleasant, to make sure the mechanics work as they ought, and to ensure that disputes are handled fairly. State governments, not localities, should be responsible for the accuracy and quality of voter lists.

Finally, there's the question of voter ID. It's legitimate to ensure that a person presenting himself or herself at the voting site is the same one named on the voting list. But requiring an ID needs to be accompanied by aggressive efforts to find voters and provide free access to the voting booth. Instead, a lot of states that have instituted ID requirements have dismissed the idea that this imposes a responsibility to reach out to voters and make IDs available to those who can't afford it. They're subverting representative democracy.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University; Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and Prof. of Practice, IU School of Public and Enviro. Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Reps. for 34 years.

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IT'S A, ROBOT? WSCC'S BIRTHING ROBOTS PREPARE NURSING STUDENTS FOR CLINICALS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College Nursing Department utilizes a live birthing robot in their state of the art Simulation Center. The life-like robot is a valuable asset to Wallace instructors when teaching OB/GYN students. The multiple real life circumstances the robot can simulate can prepare students for birthing better than any lecture or video.

Mary Medendorp MSN RN, Wallace's Simulation Lab Coordinator, explained, "The baby has an umbilical cord and it has a top layer that you could do a C-section on. We haven't done a C-section yet, but we're hoping to. Her cervix dilates just like a real person, and a lot of the OB nurses say it does feel real."

Wallace now has two birthing manikins. The newest one was bought when the new nursing building was built.

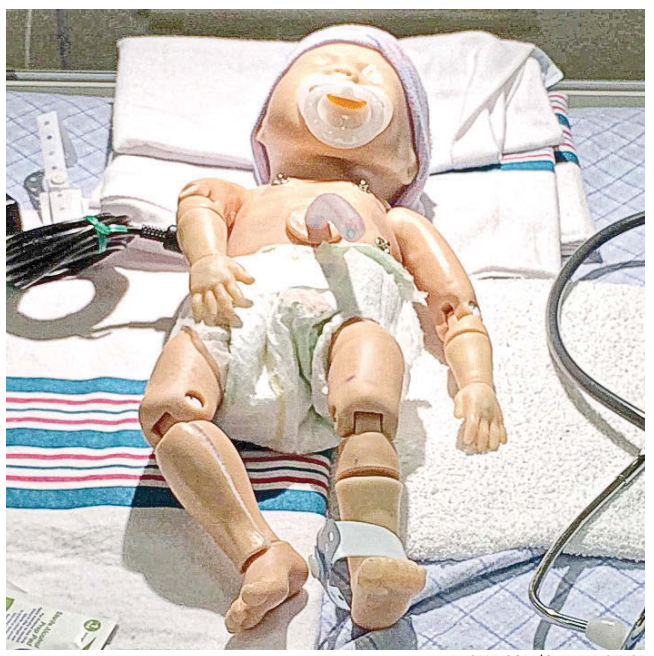


DUSTIN ISOM/CULLMANSENSE

The birthing robot can simulate a variety of life-like conditions.

The new building houses a nine bed Simulation Center with two OB rooms, two child rooms, and four adult rooms.

"It gets them (students), I would think, a little more prepared. In an OB setting you can't control the baby coming out, the baby's gonna come out when it wants to. So sometimes the nurses don't have time to explain to the students, but if you're in the Sim Center you can explain what's going on, it's definitely at a slower pace and you can control what she's doing," Medendorp said.



DUSTIN ISOM/CULLMANSENSE

Newborn manikins are capable of changing colors and moving their chests.

"We can control the manikin to do anything. Not just the birthing manikin, but also this newborn manikin. Newborn care, after the baby is delivered. This baby's chest will rise, you can put an IV in the umbilical cord. Make the baby turn blue or pink if they are doing it right."

Each student performs at least two simulations before they enter a clinical. One is a preeclamptic, and the other a normal delivery.

TWENTY-SEVEN ALA. HOSPITALS JOIN BREASTFEEDING INITIATIVE

ADPH
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – In 2011, the U.S. Surgeon General issued a national Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding. The report recommended widespread community efforts to create a supportive environment for new mothers in order to increase breastfeeding rates and improve the health of the nation.

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials awarded a two-year grant to the Alabama Department of Public Health to increase practices supportive of breastfeeding in birthing facilities. As a result, 27 of the 48 Alabama hospitals that deliver babies have signed an agreement to participate in the Alabama Breastfeeding Initiative. This initiative will have an impact on 65 percent of all births in Alabama and will address improving breastfeeding rates by assisting hospitals to align policies and practices with the "Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding."

"Breastfeeding is the natural way to feed an infant and provides the healthiest start in life," State Perinatal Program Director Amy R. Stratton said. "In addition to nutritional benefits, breastfeeding promotes a unique emotional connection between mother and baby and helps reduce illness."

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends exclusive breastfeeding for at least the first six months of a baby's life and then continuing to breastfeed while also introducing complementary foods. Evidence shows that babies who are breastfed exclusively have fewer infections and respiratory illnesses, a decreased risk of allergies, and are less likely to die of SIDS.

From 2002-2011, the percentage of Alabama mothers who initiated breastfeeding increased six out of the 10 years. In 2014, 67.3 percent of Alabama mothers reported initiating breastfeeding. However, Alabama still falls behind the national rate of 79.2 percent and below the Healthy People 2020 objective of 81.9 percent.

Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Center and East Alabama Medical Center, the state's two certified Baby-Friendly USA facilities, along with Baptist Health South and UAB, recipients of the Best Fed Beginnings grants from the National Institute for Children's Health Quality, have agreed to be "mentor" facilities for the other hospitals during the initiative.

At this time, 22 delivering hospitals in Alabama have made commitments to pursue Baby-Friendly USA status. Through the grant, the State Perinatal Program in collaboration with the Alabama Hospital Association and the Alabama Breastfeeding Committee are partnering with delivering hospitals to provide breastfeeding education and resources.

In June 2015, 30 nurses and educators attended 40 hours of training and completed a nationally recognized certification exam to become Certified Lactation Counselors. The initiative has worked to build and collect monthly breastfeeding data.

"It is our responsibility to provide education and support to mothers, infants and their families to enable them to have the best possible start in life," Ms. Stratton said. Year two will focus on supporting providers in efforts to improve breastfeeding practices and education in clinic settings.

For more information about breastfeeding and the Alabama Breastfeeding Initiative please visit:

- adph.org/perinatal
- babyfriendlyusa.org/about-us/baby-friendly-hospital-initiative/the-ten-steps
- cdc.gov/breastfeeding/resources/guide.htm
- www2.aap.org/breastfeeding.

