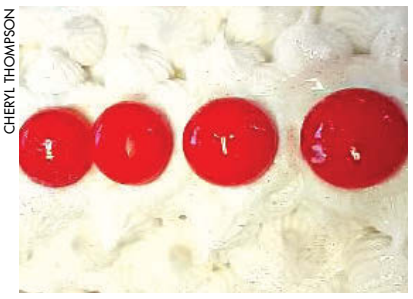
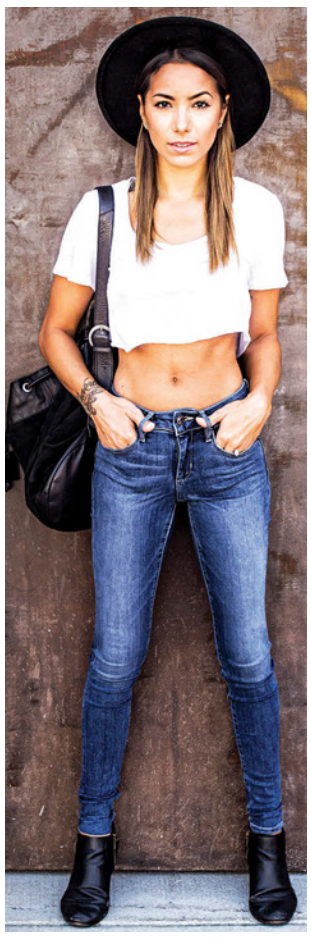
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CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS



CHERYL THOMPSON

HEAVENLY DAYS HANDCRAFTED SOAPS

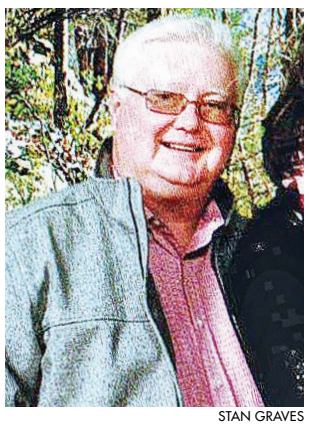
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CONTRIBUTED

ARTIST PROFILE

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STAN GRAVES

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MEET 2015'S CULLMAN COUNTY FAIR QUEEN PAGEANT ENTRANTS



2015 Cullman County Fair Queen Pageant entrants: Amanda Hyjeck, Vinemont HS; Tess Hembree, West Point HS; Ciara Parker, Cold Springs HS; Laura Ellard, Cullman HS; Ivy Box, Hanceville HS; Lizzie Mae Garrison, Fairview HS; Elizabeth Thompson, Holly Pond HS; Hannah Dillashaw, Good Hope HS

THERESA BURNS

P4

MONKS ON A MISSION

ST. BERNARD MONKS WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S IN SUPPORT OF FELLOW BROTHER, SET $2,000 GOAL FOR OCTOBER EVENT



ST. BERNARD ABBEY

St. Bernard Abbey's Brother Anselm Kuehler has been battling Alzheimer's four years.

P2

REGISTRATION UNDER WAY FOR 2016 CULLMAN RELAY FOR LIFE

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC Contributor

CULLMAN – As the seasons change and as the holidays pass by, it's easy to miss those loved ones who are no longer with us. If those facing a health crisis, it's easy for them and their family to tone down or skip those celebrations and annual events as they concentrate on getting well.

This year, the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Cullman County wants to offer "A Cure for Every Season" as the theme of its 2016 event to encourage area residents to support the fight to allow more celebrations, more ballgames, more festivals, more holidays and more birthdays for everyone.

"I know with each holiday that passes, I still miss the family members I've lost to cancer," said Helen Allen, a longtime volunteer with Relay For Life of Cullman County. "I also appreciate the loved ones I still have around me, and it's for them that I've volunteered for more than 20 years with Relay For Life to support the American Cancer Society's research efforts.

"The American Cancer Society has funded research for more than 65 years, finding answers that have saved the lives of my own family and friends as well as people all over the world," Allen added. "In fact, no other single, nongovernmental, not-for-

P3

A LOCAL LIFECHANGER

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL LIFECHANGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Paula Kibbe
Contributor

WEST POINT – West Point Intermediate School special education teacher Beverly Jenkins has been nominated for the 2015-2016 national LifeChanger of the Year award.

Sponsored by the National Life Group Foundation, the national LifeChanger of the Year program recognizes and rewards the very best K-12 public and private school educators and employees across the United States who are making a difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence and leadership.

Mrs. Jenkins was nominated by colleague Shane Barnette.

"Mrs. Jenkins works with teachers, administrators, parents, and local businesses and leaders to assure that our students are the best prepared for not only school but also life in general," said Barnette.

"She inspires her students to achieve their full potential, helping them to understand and learn the curriculum, and works with the students' families to improve the learning environment. She is an excellent leader and most definitely a LifeChanger."

Outside of the classroom, Jenkins mentors and encourages many students, even those not enrolled in her classes, during and after school.



CONTRIBUTED

Beverly Jenkins

She also coaches volley-

P12

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WALLACE STATE STREAMLINES ACT PREP COURSES

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE — High school students who are looking to brush up on skills before taking the ACT tests can now choose to take the English and reading portion, the math and science portion, or both.

The Wallace State Community College Alumni Association have split the workshops into two different sessions — one for the English and reading portion and one for the math and science sections.

By doing so, it demands less time. In the past, the workshops have required a four-hour commitment on the part of the student.

"We decided it was best to split the workshops into two components," said LaDonna Allen, Alumni and Special Projects Coordinator.

"One for math and science and a second for English and reading."

"The test-taking skills instruction, which offers wonderful advice on how to break down what the test questions are actually asking, will remain an integral part of each workshop," Allen added.

The schedule for upcoming workshops is October 6th, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., for English and reading, and October 15th, from 4:30 to 8 p.m., for math and science reasoning.

Other workshops on the schedule include January 28th, March 15th and June 16th for English and reading and February 4th, March 10th and June 16th for math and science reasoning.

For the June dates, the English and reading workshop will be held from noon to 2:30 p.m., and 3 p.m. to 6:30 for math and science reasoning.

The workshops are $35 each or $55 with the "Princeton Review Cracking the ACT" workbook, which only needs to be purchased once.

Session topics include:

- How to prepare for the test
- What to expect on test day
- Practice exercises
- Test-taking time management
- Ways to make a "best guess"

The ACT is a curriculum, and standards-based, educational and career planning tool that assesses students' academic readiness for college. Colleges and universities use the scores to determine admission, course placement, and advising.

The scores may also be used by scholarship and loan agencies to identify qualified candidates.

To register for the workshops or for further information about the Wallace State ACT workshops, visit wsccalumni.org or contact La Donna Allen at 256-352-8071 or e-mail ladonna.allen@wallacestate.edu.

BENTLEY ISSUES SPECIAL PROCLAMATION

Andy Palys
Contributor

CULLMAN – Governor Robert Bentley visited Cullman on July 15th to present a special proclamation. Governor Bentley has designated October 10th, 2015, to be called "Walkin' And Runnin' For Children Day". Alabama State Representative Randall Shedd approached Governor Bentley with the idea for this Official Proclamation after Representative Shedd was approached by the Alabama District Key Club.

Alabama District Key Club is a statewide high school service organization that includes 180 Key Clubs with almost 8,000 members. A few years ago Children's Hospital of Alabama approached Alabama Key Club inviting them to become a partner in a five year commitment to raise $150,000.00 for the newly constructed Benjamin Russell Hospital for Children.

Alabama District Key Club was successful in raising over $160,000.00 in the five year period.

For their efforts Children's of Alabama honored Alabama Key Club by naming two rooms in their new hospital after the organization. Today, two rooms on the 9th floor of the hospital are dedicated to the Alabama District; the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Family Room and the Teen Room. Key Club was the only high school organization to receive this honor.

In April Children's Of Alabama once again approached the Alabama Key Club District asking if the organization would consider another commitment to raise funds for the newly opened Pediatric Renal Unit, a department dedicated to caring for children with kidney illnesses.

The Alabama District Key Club Board Of Directors agreed to raise $150,000.00 in another five year period. When the Key Club succeeds the Renal Family Waiting Room will be named in honor of the Alabama District.

Bob Palys, an Adult Board Member of Alabama District Key Club, suggested a statewide event to raise funds for Children's Of Alabama.

With the prestige of Governor Bentley's Official Proclamation, Alabama Key Clubs are scheduling a One Mile Fun Walk and a 5K Race to take place on Saturday, October 10th.

There should be 18 to 20 sites hosting the event. Palys states "With sponsorships and entry fees we are hoping to raise at least $30,000.00. This should be a lot of fun."

The Walk and 5K race will be held at Wallace State Community College. The Walk will take place at the Wallace State track while the 5K will be run on a certified 5K venue. A donation of $15.00 is requested for the Walk or the 5K or $25.00 for both events.

Certificates of Appreciation will be given to all participants; first place medals will be provided to the male and female 5K runners in various age categories.

Special T-Shirts will be given to at least the first 100 registrants.

Pre-registration or questions can be made by calling 256-352-2793 or fax 256-737-8796 or e-mail to kiwanianbob@gmail.com.

Registration will also open at 8 a.m. on October 10th at the Wallace State Community College - Hanceville track. Palys added, "We are hoping to have entrees from every school in the Cullman area and many Church groups. I believe that almost everybody knows of a Children's Hospital story. We are so fortunate to have this great hospital in Birmingham, Alabama."

Anselm (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The monks of St. Bernard Abbey and the family of Br. Anselm Kuehler are humbly asking for the community's help with a destructive disease. On October 3rd, a team of six monks, Br. Leo, Fr. Joel, Br. Raphael, Br. Dominic, Br. Paschal, and Br. Pachomius, will lace up their walking shoes for the 2015 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Decatur, Alabama. The "Men in Black," as the monks call themselves, will walk for their fellow monk, Br. Anselm Kuehler, O.S.B., who suffers from the disease. Their goal is to raise $2,000 toward discovering a cure for Alzheimer's.

"I'm walking to help reclaim the future for millions," said Br. Leo Borelli. "By participating in the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's, I'm committed to raising awareness and funds for Alzheimer's research, care and support."

The money raised by the monks and other participants will help advance research into methods of treatment, prevention and ultimately a cure for Alzheimer's.

Additionally, the Association offers care, education, support and resources for the millions of people already affected by the disease.

Kuehler realized his vocation a little later than most.

He served as a successful and respected instructor of theology at St. Bernard Preparatory School. He was also the socius to the novices and archivist to the community.

It was during the early months of his seminary studies in 2011 that the symptoms of Alzheimer's were first noticed.

As a result, he returned to the Abbey to receive the medical attention and fraternal support he would need.

Over the last four years, Kuehler's disease has progressed rapidly.

Through the years of his affliction, Kuehler has remained faithful to his monastic identity. He makes every effort to engage in the daily life of the community. As the monks of St. Bernard continue to pray and care for Kuehler daily, they are determined to help raise awareness of and find a cure for Alzheimer's disease.

To donate in support of one of the monks on the team visit act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2015/TN-MidSouth?pg=team&fr_id=7799&team_id=303243.







FAIR ENTRY DEADLINES APPROACHING

Kate Biermeier
Contributor

CULLMAN – Since 1954, the Cullman County Fair has been delighting the community with thrilling rides, tasty food, and marvelous displays. Citizens show off their talents by competing in various exhibition competitions. Whether an aficionado of art, a master in the kitchen, or a livestock expert, the Cullman County Fair has a contest for everyone. Deadlines for entries are coming up soon, so those interested should register soon.

CULLMAN COUNTY FAIR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

• 12:00 p.m. Livestock exhibitor entry deadline to County County Extension Office

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

• 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Receive Handicraft, Sewing, Canning and Art entries in the Exhibit Building

• 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Cullman County Fair Parade forms at 1st Baptist Church

• 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Cullman County Fair Parade

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

• 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Receive Photography and Art entries in the Exhibit Building

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

• 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Set up Exhibit Booths for 4-H, FCCLA, FFA in the Exhibit Building

• Set up Exhibit Booths for Commercial and Community Clubs in Buildings 3 and 4

• 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Receive Handicraft, Sewing, Canning and Art entries in the Exhibit Building

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

• 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Set up Exhibit Booths - 4-H, FCCLA, FFA in the Exhibit Building

• Set up Exhibit Booths for Commercial and Community Clubs in Buildings 3 and 4

• 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Receive Handicraft, Sewing, Canning and Art entries in the Exhibit Building

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

• 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Receive Field Crops, Vegetables, Fruit and Honey entries in the Agricultural Exhibit Building

• 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Tiny and Petite Fair Princess rehearsals in the Coca ColaTheatre

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

• 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Receive Baked Goods entries in Exhibit Building

• 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Receive Potted Plants in Agricultural Building

• 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Receive FCCLA Baked Goods, Sewing and Handicraft in the Exhibit Building

• 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Judging of Exhibits [Closed to Public]

• 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Receive Dogs in Tri Green Barn

• 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.+ Ribbon Cutting and Flag Raising Ceremony

• Gates Open to the Fairground - on the Midway, North American Midway and Entertainment.

• 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 4H Dog Show in the Tri Green Barn

• 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Tiny and Petite Fair Princess Pageants in the Coca ColaTheatre

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

• 5:00 p.m. King/Queen of the Kitchen announced

• 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Gates Open to the Fairgrounds

• 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Peinhardt Farm Animals in the Tri Green Barn

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

• 2:00 p.m. - Completion "Live 95" Battle of the Bands in the Coca Cola Theatre

• 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Receive Beef Cattle in the Tri Green Barn

• 2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Gates Open to the Fairgrounds

• 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Open Cattle Show in the Tri Green Arena

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

• 2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.+ Gates Open to the Fairgrounds

• 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Peinhardt Farm Animals in the Tri Green Barn

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

• Student Day, Sponsored by Peoples Bank

• 12:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.+ Gates Open to the Fairgrounds.

• 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Receive and weigh Market Lamb, Breeding Sheep, Junior Meat Goat and Breeding Goat entries in the Tri Green Barn

• 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Junior Market Lamb and Breeding Sheep Show and Junior Meat Goat and Breeding Goat Show in the Tri Green Arena

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

• 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Feeder Steer and Junior Heifer receiving and weighing in theTri Green Agricultural Barn

• 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.+ Gates Open to the Fairgrounds

• 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Youth Cattle Judging and in the Tri Green Arena

• 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Youth Cattle Shows in the Tri Green Arena

• 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. "Miss Cullman County Fair" Pageant in the Coca Cola Theatre

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

• 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Senior Citizens Day

• 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Receive Junior Horse Show entries in the Tri GreenAgricultural Barn

• 5:00p.m. - 10:00 p.m.+ Gates Open to the Fairgrounds

• 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Junior Horse Show Tri Green Arena

• 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Community Wide Praise and Worship Night in the Coca ColaTheatre

THURSDAY OCTOBER 1

• 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Receive Rabbit entries (Open and Youth) in the Tri GreenBarn

• 5:00 p.m. - 10 p.m.+ Gates Open to the Fairground

• 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Combined Rabbit Show in the Tri Green Arena

• 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Little, Junior and Teen Fair Princess Pageants in the Coca Cola Theatre

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

• 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.+ Gates Open to the Fairgrounds

• 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Peinhardt Farm Animals in the Tri Green Agricultural Barn

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

• 2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.+ Gates Open to the Fairgrounds - Last day of the Fair

• 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Peinhardt Farm Animals in the Tri Green Barn

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

• 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Pick up Exhibits in assorted buildings.

• Pick up Award Checks at Fair Office - Checks not picked up will be mailed to the exhibitor address of record

For entry forms and more information, visit cullmanfair.com.

Relay (from Front)

ed States has invested more to find the causes and cures of cancer."

Allen said she takes comfort in the fact that when researchers funded by the ACS find new treatments or cures for cancer, those findings will be shared the world over so that she and her family and friends will benefit from those findings.

"We're blessed in Cullman County to have many churches and organizations that can provide assistance to families in need," Allen said. "But if we don't also support the research that will help find better treatments, more preventative measures, early detection and, I pray, a cure for cancer all of those organizations could be swamped with even more people in need."

Along with research, the ACS does provide services to cancer patients and their families. Through its website and toll free service, people have 24/7 access to support, information and resources. Through programs like Reach to Recover, Road to Recovery, TLC (Hair and Mastectomy Products) and Look Good Feel Better, cancer patients have access to support and services. Through its Hope Lodges and Hotel Partners Programs, it offers accommodations for free or greatly reduced rates in many cities where patients are taking treatments.

"Our goal as Relay For Life volunteers is to provide the funds for the ACS to continue to provides these services for those who need them and fund the research that will help us all," Allen said.

Relay For Life of Cullman County is currently signing up teams for the 2016 fundraising season. Any group (church, school, family, etc.), business, industry, or individual is welcome.

Teams, volunteers and cancer survivors can sign up at relayforlife.org/cullmanal.

Contact Allen at 256-709-4019 or helen@weltimail.com for assistance or for any questions about Relay For Life.

A Kickoff Rally will be held at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016, in the Fellowship Hall at First Baptist Church of Cullman. Relay For Life of Cullman County will be held 6 p.m.-midnight, Friday, May 6, 2016, at Cullman County Fairgrounds.

Visit relayforlife.org/cullmanal for more information, form or join a team or make a donation. Follow Relay For Life of Cullman County on Facebook at facebook.com/RFLCullmanAL.

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RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT: DR. STAN GRAVES, PASTOR OF ONE NEW MAN CHURCH

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Dr. Stan and Myra Graves of Cullman currently serve as pastors for one of Cullman's newest churches, One New Man Church. The husband and wife team have been married for 34 years and together they have two grown children, Aaron and Erica. Stan has lived in Cullman County, for the most part, since he was 13 years old. He attended Cold Springs High School where he met the love of his life, Myra.

After graduating from high school, Stan received his Bachelor's of Science degree from UAB and then married Myra in 1981.

Three years later they relocated to New Orleans and attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary together where they began their ministry full time.

Stan and Myra moved back to Cullman in 1986 where they have lived and served as pastors of a church every since.

Stan received his Doctorate in Christian Psychology and Counseling in 1998 and Myra accomplished her Master's degree in Counseling. The duo have served in a counseling ministry ever since.

"I became a Christian at a very young age," Stan explained. "I was raised in church and always had a connection to ministry. I felt the passion and call to preach at the age of 13. I preached my first sermon at that age," he grinned.

"I began to preach revivals then and had many revivals a year from the age of 14 until I got married and became a pastor."

"I met my wife when I preached revivals at her church," he continued. "We were friends for years. She was as 'called' to the ministry as I was. I can't talk about my ministry apart from her. We have ministered together throughout our marriage," he smiled warmly.

"We then founded an interdenominational church called Legacy Church. While there my wife founded a private practice counseling ministry called Grace Life Ministries. I began to work for the Jimmie Hale Mission's Royal Pines Recovery Center part time in 2001. My desire was to get outside the walls of the church and minister in the world. I work full time as a drug and alcohol counselor at Royal Pines now."



STAN GRAVES

Stan and Myra Graves enjoy spending time with their family.

"One of the things that my wife and I have discovered is that the greatest rewards in ministry started when we stopped focusing on building a ministry and started focusing on building people through relationships."

Dr. Stan Graves, Minister

In 2010, Stan and Myra retired from being pastors and started a Bible study in their home with three ex-drug addicts. The Bible study was a big success and it grew by leaps and bounds.

"God's presence blessed us so much that it grew into what is now One New Man Church," Stan explained.

"We officially became a church in January 2012. One New Man Church is built on relationships with each other as a spiritual family. Each week you will find an energizing and electric atmosphere with passionate praise and worship accompanied by God's message being presented through the free flowing operation of the Gifts of the Spirit."

Just like any leadership position in a church, there are always challenges. Thankfully, the blessings far outweigh them.

"One of the things that my wife and I have discovered is that the greatest rewards in ministry started when we stopped focusing on building a ministry and started focusing on building people through relationships," Stan spoke.

"The most rewarding moments in ministry is when we see people's lives change by their relationship with Jesus Christ. Our desire is to see people reach their spiritual potential. When people learn to live in their purposes and destiny that is when my wife and I find our greatest joy."

The work this couple has done during their marriage and their lives is outstanding. They have been a blessing to many and plan to continue their work for years to come.

One New Man Church is located at 2030 Main Ave. SW, Cullman, AL. They meet on Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. and Sundays at 11 a.m. They recently began a school of discipleship that meets on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. For more information, follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/1NewManChurch.

Pageant (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman County Fair will take place between September 24th and October 3rd this year. Citizens from across the county are getting things ready for the big event.

The Lions Club has been busy getting everything cleaned up and looking good around the fairgrounds.

Area farmers have been out in the fields, working on cultivating the perfect produce – and their best animals for the event.

Residents have been sewing, canning and cooking up their finest recipes in order to take home first place ribbons – and bragging rights for the coming year.

There's another, much smaller group of people who are also looking forward to this year's fair. It's a group of high school girls that will be competing in the Fair Queen Pageant.

Each of the young ladies have been shopping for the perfect dresses and practicing their individual talents for months; each hoping to win the coveted title of 2015 Cullman County Fair Queen.

Each girl represents one of the eight high schools in Cullman County. They will compete for a $1,500 scholarship award given by the Fair Association.

The scholarship will be paid directly to the school in which she enrolls. The winner will also receive a hand-finished, natural-color portrait awarded by "Photography By Theresa Burns" of Cullman, and a diamond pendant from Doug Doggett Jewelers of Cullman.

The first runner up will receive a $1,000 scholarship from the Fair Association. In the event the winner is unable to fulfill any of her duties, the first runner-up will serve in lieu of the Queen.

Second runner-up will receive a $500 scholarship given by Cullman Lions Club.

Wallace State Community College will give a one year scholarship in the field of performing arts to the winner of the Talent portion of the contest.

Cullman Lioness Club will award $200 toward a Scholarship for Miss Congeniality.

Last year's Cullman County Fair Queen was Miss Josie Oliver, the representative from Cullman High School. Josie is the daughter of Tom and Jamie Oliver. She will be crowning the 2015 Cullman County Fair Queen on Tuesday, September 29 at the Coca Cola Theatre.

Now for a glimpse of the 2015 Fair Queen hopefuls.

Representing Cold Springs is Miss Ciara Parker. Ciara is the daughter of Timmi & Brad Parker.

Representing Holly Pond is Miss Elizabeth Thompson. Elizabeth is the daughter of Theresa & James Thompson.

Representing Good Hope is Miss Hannah Dillashaw. Hannah is the daughter of Brenda & Taft Dillashaw.

Representing Hanceville is Miss Ivey Box. Ivey is the daughter of Lisa & Herman Cunningham.

Representing Cullman is Miss Laura Ellard. Laura is the daughter of Mark & Lisa Ellard.

Representing Fairview is Miss Lizzie Mae Garrison. Lizzie is the daughter of Priscilla & Derrick Garrison.

Representing West Point is Miss Tess Hembree. Tess is the daughter of Heath & Leslie Hembree.

Representing Vinemont is Miss Amanda Hyjek. Amanda is the daughter of Freda & John Hyjek.

The pageant is a major part of the Cullman County Fair and there will be lots of people to support the girls and cheer for their school.

The pageant starts at 7:00 p.m. on September 29, and the crowning will take place at approximately 9:00 p.m. Thomas Warhurst will emcee the pageant.

For information about the 2015 Cullman County Fair, visit the fair's website at cullmanfair.com or follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/Cullman-County-Fair-139306606083529.

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"THE ALABAMA TORNADO"

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

Unfortunately, many of us remember the tornado outbreak of 2011 that ripped through the south and destroyed much of our town. Funny how history has a way of repeating itself; this wasn't the first time Alabama was ravished by deadly tornadoes. The same thing happened back in 1932.

Much like 2011, a deadly tornado outbreak struck the southern United States on March 21–22, 1932. At least 36 tornadoes - including 27 killers and several long-lived tornadoes struck the Deep South, killing more than 330 people and injuring 2,141.

The tornadoes affected areas from Mississippi north to Illinois and east to South Carolina, but Alabama was hardest hit with 268 fatalities.

There were 18 fatalities here in Cullman County. Homes were leveled in up to four rural communities—Phelan, Bolte, Berlin, and Fairview - where the tornado destroyed 74 homes. Among the deaths was a teacher who had dismissed her students an hour before the tornado arrived.

Many of the fatalities occurred in a box factory south of the Berlin community.

The tornado outbreak inspired people to help each other rebuild their lives.

Cullman County citizens came together in ways they had never done before; they mourned together, they shared what they had with those that had nothing left.

New friends were made and community bonds were strengthened – Sound familiar?

Lewis Marston, also known as "Uncle Bud" wrote a song about the tornados shortly after.

He had planned to come to Cullman and perform it under the sponsorship of The Missionary Society of the Methodist Church.

"The Alabama Tornado"
Words and Music by Lewis Marston "Uncle Bud"

In the state of Alabama on March the twenty first,
A great and mighty cyclone, of all it was the worst:
Came and took the lives of hundreds, they had no time to pray,
They knew not the tornado that was coming their peaceful way.

The dreadful news was broadcast and taken from the air
The people of the nation were told right then and there,
How the victims of the cyclone were suffering with great pain
And workers all got busy in the lightning and the rain.

Down in the town of Northport, in Sylacauga too,
At Thorsby and in Cullman, there was nothing they could do
To escape this strong tornado, the the people all did try,
Good fortune smiled on some of them but many had to die.

Now we should all take pity, and lend a helping hand
To the homeless and the suffering all o'er the stricken land,
There were many towns and counties, some large and some were small
'Twould take much time and talking to tell you of them all.

'Twas the work of the Almighty that spared both me and you,
Our Maker sent this warning to show what He could do.
Many happy homes and loved ones never thought of such a fate.
We know they will be waiting within the Golden Gate.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The Dunn children from the Bolte community play among the ruble that was once their home.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES: SHADY GROVE METHODIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

LOGAN – Historic Shady Grove Methodist Episcopal Church is a wooden church that was built around 1892 in the Ruby community, just west of Logan. The building stands today pretty much as it did when it was first completed.

There are no electric lights, indoor plumbing or running water.

Air conditioning is provided - by opening the tall windows.

The Church and its cemetery were listed in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage on February 25, 1999 and The National Register of Historic Places on October 3, 2002.



TIM CARR/HMDB.ORG

The church's historical marker is near Logan on County Road 846 north of County Road 844.

SHADY GROVE METHODIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY

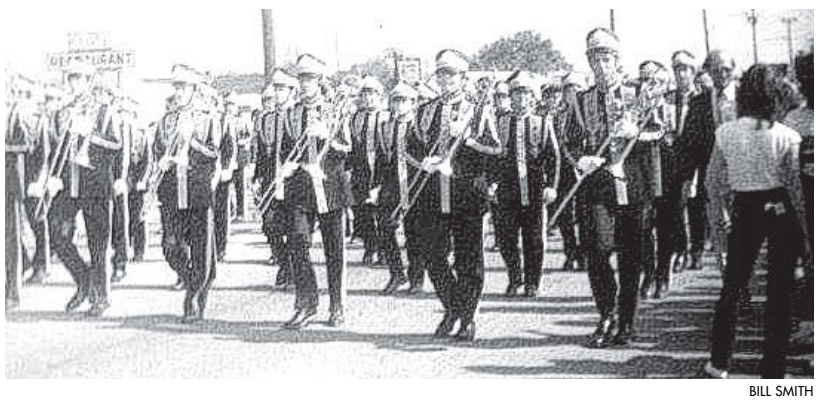
Early settlers to Cullman County established Shady Grove Methodist Episcopal Church as a brush arbor in the 1870s on land homesteaded and donated by Richard McCain. Trustees, J. J. McKissack, W. H. Martin, J. C. Vickery, J. W. Kilgo, together with volunteers replaced the brush arbor with a log church that also served as the community school three months of the year. Around 1888, Reverend D. C. Beltz of Cincinnati, Ohio, arrived and drew up the blueprints for a new church. G. W. Kilgo selected a spot for the church and suggested the name Shady Grove. Sammy Leak and other members donated labor toward the construction of the present church building in 1892. Regular services began at Shady Grove in 1893 and continued to about 1920. The cemetery, located across the road from the church, contains hundreds of both marked and unmarked burials. One of the oldest graves with a burial date of 1876 belongs to Susana McCain, mother of the original property owner. An annual memorial service is held the first Sunday in May to honor those early settlers.

MIRRORING HISTORY: CULLMAN COUNTY FAIR PARADE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The 2015 Cullman County Fair Parade will be held on Saturday, September 19 at 2:00 p.m. The parade welcomes the annual Cullman County Fair and nearly the whole county comes out to participate. Each year the parade goes through the middle of town and many happy memories are made.

The two pictures are from past fair parades. One picture was taken in 1985 and the other was taken in 2014. The bands play a tremendous part of the parade.



BILL SMITH

Cullman County Fair Parade 1985



ASHLEY TANKERSLEY

Cullman County Fair Parade 2014

cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Clucknbrew 2015:** CP&R's wing and brew fest is back for the third year! Clucknbrew 2015 will be held Saturday, September 19 at Depot Park in downtown Cullman featuring a wing cook off contest with plenty of wings to sample as well as a free kid's zone, contests, and games. A game-day tent will also be on-site playing the Alabama and Auburn football games as well as other big college football games of the week. For more information, visit us online at www.cullmanrecreation.org
- **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.
- **Mommy & Me Art Class:** CP&R will be offering a Mommy & Me Pre-school art class at the Cullman Civic Center for children ages 5 & under and their mothers; cost is $50 per month and classes will be held starting September 29.

PREMIER PRODUCTIONS MOVES TO DOWNTOWN CULLMAN

Noah Chandler
noah@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Shane Quick had a simple dream growing up, as he often tells those who ask for his story, to where he just wanted to put on a concert. Years later, now with thousands of bands and countless venues seen, Quick has always kept his roots in Cullman.

In 2015 alone, Premier Productions will produce over 400 shows and are slated to exceed 500 shows produced in 2016. They try handle almost all items in-house, which is rare.

"Premier is a very diverse company. We produce over 300 concert tour dates, 20 conferences, 15 festivals (including Rock the South) on an annual basis," Quick said.

"We started our own ticketing company in 2014 ran by Cullman native Krista DeBruhl. Premier really handles all aspects of live events."

Quick said Premier was founded in 1998 out of High Point, NC by Roy Morgan and Gary Gentry, both of which would become his partner just eight short years later.

"The Cullman office began in 2006 when I joined the company as a partner. Combined we have over 30 employees in four states," he said.

The previous office, located between Cullman and West Point, served as home base for nine local Premier employees for almost 10 years.

He said the switch to the new downtown location will help better serve the company, community and future efforts to keep talented musicians coming to Cullman.

"We wanted to join in on the excitement of the growth of the city," he said.

"Our team loves the environment of downtown and feel it will help us recruit employees in the future who want to work in a creative / lively part of the city."

The new location for the ever growing musical enterprise is located in downtown Cullman, however, it will not serve as an open air office.

"Our new apace is a little over 100 years old and for the most part is still in the same layout as is it was when it was built. From the beautiful brick walls to the ornate tin ceiling," he said.

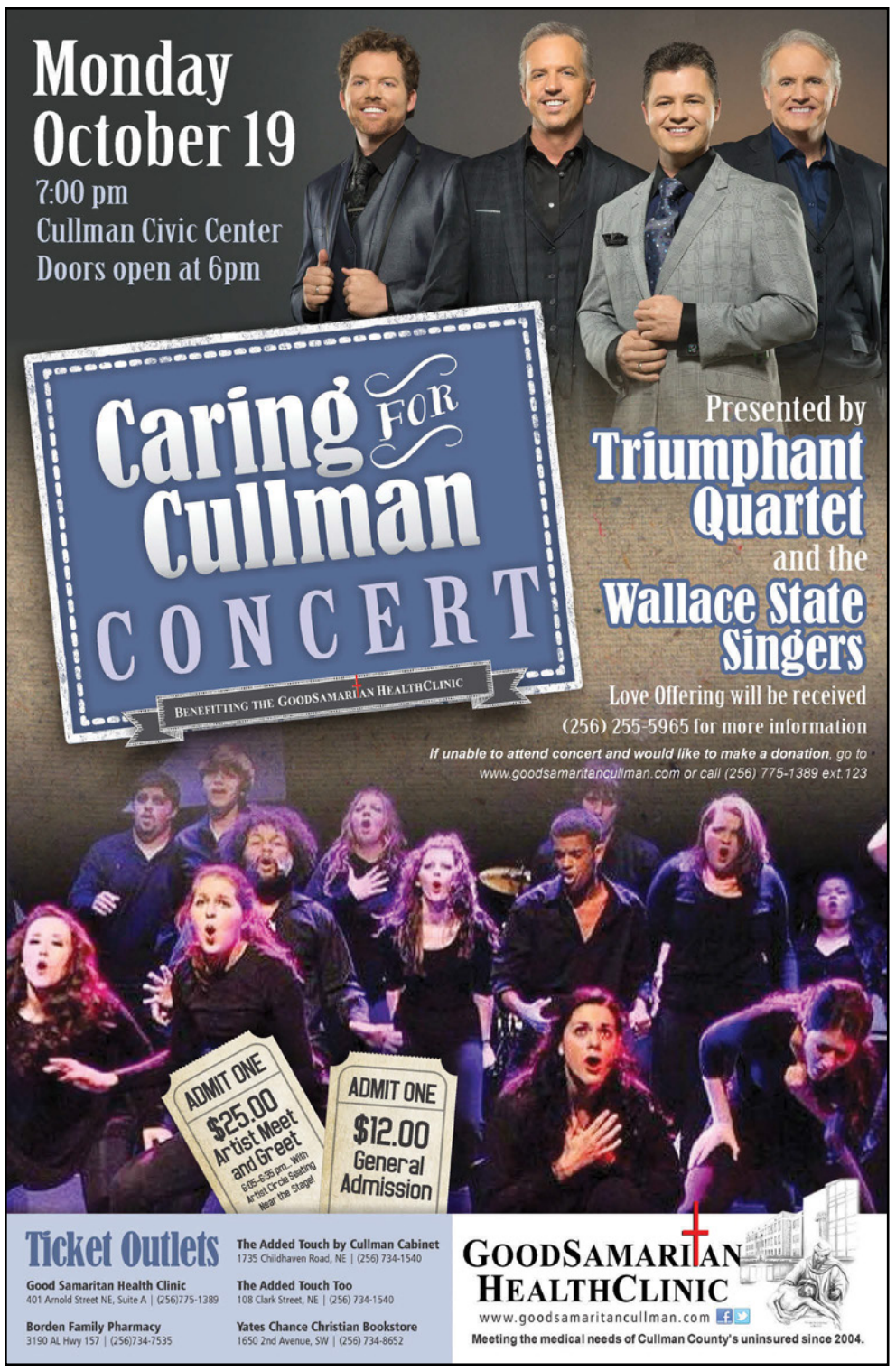
"Gene Green and his wife did an amazing job making this building a beautiful space to work in. They worked hard to persevere the building."





PREMIER PRODUCTIONS

The company hopes the new downtown location will help better serve the community.





FROM MOTHER-DAUGHTER PROJECT TO FULL-TIME BUSINESS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – There is a little bit of Heaven in Hanceville. The heavenly scented, beautifully crafted handmade soaps being created by Cheryl Thompson and her mother, Lynn Whitaker started as a mother-daughter project, but are fast becoming a staple in homes across Cullman County.

"Heavenly Days Handcrafted Soaps became a reality because of my precious mother," Cheryl explained.

"After my brother passed, she came to stay with us for a few months. While she was living with us, she told me that she had always wanted to make soap, but didn't know how. So, together we began this journey. Mom thought of it as a way of honoring our loved ones, who have passed on. She had dreamed of something that we could do together, as a family. " she smiled.

The ladies got busy and took soap making classes together. The soaps were incredibly wonderful.

Before long, the two began experimenting with different colors and scents. The results were out of this world.

"We use only the highest quality of ingredients in our soap. Most of the soaps contain oils such as olive oil, coconut oil and rice bran oil - all of which are beneficial to our skin," she said.

"While the majority of our soaps contain some type of skin safe colorant and fragrances, we also make soap that does not contain anything but natural colorant, such as carrot, spirulina, turmeric and annatto."

The soaps were originally just for family and friends, but word of mouth has taken over and eventually everyone around just had to have some of their soap.

Their soap has also been discovered by a local business who wants to offer the soaps to people who are battling cancer.

"There is a shop in town called Options that caters to people who have been diagnosed with cancer," she began.

"It's a wonderful place with so many nice things. The owner, Judy Grissom, is one of the sweetest ladies I know and has a heart for people that are battling, and have survived this illness."

"Because some of our soap does not contain fragrances or colorants, which can be irritating to people who may be undergoing chemo or radiation, she contacted us," she continued.

"Now we have created soaps that contain goat's milk and natural colorants. Together we are going to offer them to her clientele."

Heavenly Days Handcrafted Soaps are slowly becoming a part of what makes Hanceville – and the rest of Cullman County – so special.

They cater to everyone, young and old and offer a little slice of heaven in every single bar.

Heavenly Days Handcrafted Soaps can be found at:

- Options, located at 2201 2nd Ave., NW in Cullman (Approx 1/4 mile after crossing over 157.)
- Mann's Home and Garden, located at 204 Blountsville Street, Hanceville, AL 35077.
- Trader Bob's, located at 1311 2nd Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055.

Follow Heavenly Days Handcrafted Soaps on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/heavenlydayssoaps.



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Katherine Morgan, Agent
State Farm Agent
909 Fisher Street SW
Cullman, AL 35055
Bus: 256-734-4640
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CULLMAN KIWANIS CLUB K-9'S - 4 - A KAUSE

OCTOBER 10TH, 2015

CULLMAN DEPOT PARK

THE CULLMAN KIWANIS WALK OF FLAGS

9 A.M. TO 3 P.M. ~ REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:30 A.M.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
MELISSA HENDERSON @ 256.735.2507, ADAM SHEDD @ 256.338.5536, OR MATT TOWNSON @ 256.338.6599

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WORK WITH AN EXPEIENCED TRAINER ON YOUR DOGS OBEDIENCE AND BEHAVIORAL ISSUES.

K-9 ESCAPADES

PUBLIC COMPETITIONS FOR:

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- BEST TRICK
- BEST COSTUME
- MOST HANDSOME DOG
- WORSE HAIR DAY
- BEST VOCAL
- CELEBRITY LOOK-A-LIKE
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WEINER DOG RACE

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- LONGEST DOG
- SHORTEST DOG
- LARGEST DOG
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AGILITY
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RALLY
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AGILITY
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DOG WASH

SHAMPOO
CONDITION
BRUSH
NAIL TRIM

ALL DOGS MUST BE ON A 6' LEASH & UNDER CONTROL AT ALL TIMES.
OWNERS MUST PICK UP AFTER THEIR DOGS.

CULLMAN KIWANIS CLUB K-9'S - 4 - A KAUSE

Saturday, October 10, 2015 Hundsfest Event

SITTIN' PRETTY – EVENT SPONSOR • Large logo/company name on promotional materials before & during event • Special recognition during event & for Best in Show & First place winner announcements • Name on back of Program Flyer • Large Ad on back of T-shirt • Complimentary 12' x 12' sponsorship booth • Complimentary T-Shirt & 5 raffle tickets	**$1,000**
WAG'S EVENT SPONSORS • Logo/company name on promotional materials before and during event • Special recognition during event & for Second place winner announcements • Name on back of Program Flyer • Medium size ad on back of T-Shirt • Complimentary 12' x 12' sponsorship booth • Complimentary T-Shirt & 2 raffle tickets	**$500**
WOOF'S EVENT SPONSOR • Logo/company name on promotional materials before and during event • Special recognition during event & for Third place winner announcements • Name on back of Program flyer • Small size ad on back of T-Shirt	**$250**
SHAKE EVENT SPONSOR • Logo/company name on promotional materials before and during event • Special recognition during event & for Honorable mention winner announcements • Name on back of Program flyer	**Prize Donation**

Company Name_____
Contact Person_____
Phone No._____ Email_____
Address_____
*Check $_____Cash $_____Donation_____
Date item or money collected or date to be delivered_____
*Make checks payable to Cullman Kiwanis
Thank you for supporting our efforts to help the needs of our local children.

CULLMAN KIWANIS CLUB K-9'S – 4 – A KAUSE RECEIPT
Amount Contributed:$_____ Date:_____ Kiwanis Member's Name_____
Please save this portion for your tax records. Thank you for your Contribution!

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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LINK OF CULLMAN COUNTY BEGINS NEW FALL GROUPS AND CLASSES

Hannah Ward
ward@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Link of Cullman County has a busy schedule this fall. They are starting an abundance of new classes that are both helpful and interesting.

Starting Tuesday, September 15 at 6 p.m. the Link of Cullman County will be leading L.I.F.E. (Living In Freedom Everyday), a Bible study that will address issues like identity, spiritual order, surrender, purpose and worship. At the end of the 13-week class a retreat will be held at the Good Hope Campus of Daystar Church on December 11 and 12. The cost for the retreat is $50 and will include cost for meals.

"To help equip believers to live the abundant life that Christ promised them. It (L.I.F.E.) gives you tools and understanding to face life. Jesus came to set the captive free, and all of us is captive to something. This curriculum helps any person who is in bondage to get free and stay free. So from the people who are already firm believers and have been believers for a long time to the new believers, everyone has something. And this curriculum is for everyone." Julie Hall, lead encourager at the Link, said.

The material is Living in Freedom Every Day and was started by The Church of Highlands in Birmingham. The workbook for the study can be purchased for $12.00.

Beginning Sunday at 3 p.m. "When helping hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor and Yourself." The book itself is $11.

"The study itself really looks at a biblical view of how we can relationally support, love and encourage the needs of those who are materially poor, but it'll help all of us understand a little bit more about our relationship with God, our self, others, and creation," Founder and Executive Director of The Link of Cullman County, Dawn Owens stated. "A lot of people around here are very passionate about that, but sometimes don't always know what to do. So if you're in that place where you're going 'I want to help but I'm not sure how.' This is a great study to get a better perspective on how God set up what it looks like to minister to the poor."

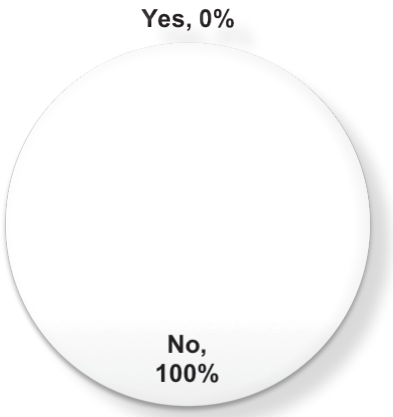
An anger management class will be commencing on Mondays at 6 p.m. on how to better deal with anger. "Whether you blow up or keep it all inside, everyone has anger issues," Dawn Owens said.

"We are also offering "Divorce Care" from a biblical standard. Divorce happens in the church. How do we navigate through that?" Hall said. The group starts at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16. "Boundaries," a class on how to have fences with gates; let good people in, let bad people out. The study begins Thursday at 6 p.m.

For more information call 256-775-0028 or e-mail info@linkingcullman.org. The Link Center is located at 1101 3rd Ave. SE Cullman, AL 35055.

Poll

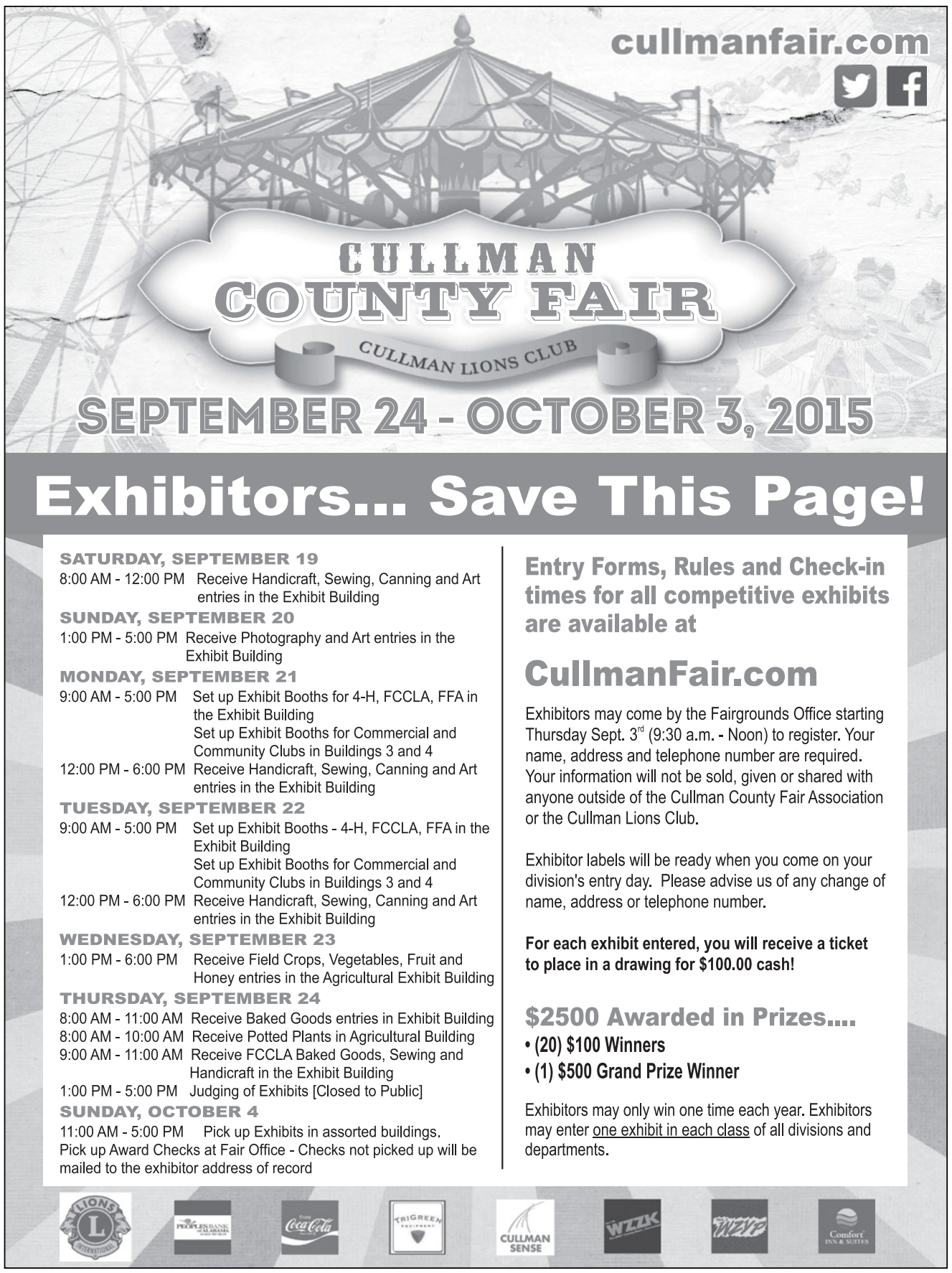
Will you go to the Cullman County Fair?



This Week's Poll

Have you ever participated in a walk/run for a charity?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll



WHAT'S ONLINE



CCBOE

CCBOE EXPANDS HEALTH SCIENCE PROGRAM

The Cullman Area Technology Academy (CATA), formerly known as the Cullman Area Career Center, is pleased to announce the expansion of its Health Science Program. This program expansion will meet the growing needs of students pursuing careers in health or medical related fields of study. **QRNE.WS/390**



MEREDITH EASTERWOOD

CULLMAN PRIMARY CARE HIRES NEW DOCTOR, DAVID SHUPE

Dr. David Shupe has recently begun working at Cullman Primary Care. Shupe, 30, left Atlanta for the small-town atmosphere of Cullman. "Also my wife is from the north Alabama area, too," he said. Shupe's specialty lies in all-inclusive family care. "I don't want to send you to anyone else if I can... **QRNE.WS/391**

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ARTIST PROFILE

E MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY

Kate Biermeier
Contributor



CONTRIBUTED

This photo, part of a collection that promotes Sutton's Sweets, was featured in the VSCO smartphone application.

CULLMAN – Her name is Kelsey Crawford, but her identity is E Marie. This Huntsville conceptual artist creates pieces that takes minds through a journey of emotion, beauty, and reflection.

Crawford is a freelance artist whose endless creativity matches her expertise. She offers a variety of services ranging from photography, prints, and mixed media to logos, brochures, ads, business cards, flyers, and more.

"Whatever your artistic dream is- whether it be for engagement photos or giving your business a creative presence, I am confident that I can make it happen," stated Crawford. "Give me your vision and I'll create the rest!"

Crawford grew up in Cullman and is now a student at the University of Alabama in Huntsville with one semester to go before graduation. She launched her website, emariegraphy.wix.com/emarie, earlier this summer in pursuit of turning her passions into a career.

Crawford's art carries the viewer into a dark and beautiful fantasy world. She uses muted colors as well as eyes and faces to portray human expression. But she hopes her work will inspire viewers to think much deeper than what they see at first glance. The meaning behind each of her pieces has a greater impact than the physical art itself.

"Everything I create is due to some deep feeling inside of me that is dying to get out," Crawford said, "whether that feeling be immense joy, pain, suffering, depression, or anxiety."

Earlier this year, Crawford created a mixed media piece called "It's Fine". It was chosen to be in the student art show at UAH and was later purchased by Target to display in their store.

"It's Fine" features a mask and is meant to illustrate the way people hide their truths in order to avoid judgement. This is one of Crawford's favorite pieces.

"The piece is a voice for depression and anxiety, conditions that society often looks over because of their inability to understand it," she said.

Crawford also shot a gallery of portrait photos in Melrose, Hollywood, Venice Beach, and Santa Monica Pier in Los Angeles.

These pictures were for PR group called The Fame Group LA featuring Hidden Jeans. This LA Street Style photoshoot will be featured on UK Glam's website this month.

Her models were fashion blogger Elaine of www.fashionlane.com, E Network host Shae Wilbur, and famous Youtuber Lynette Cenee.

She has also found success with one of her photos from a photo series promoting Sutton's Sweets featuring model Maggie Warren.

The photo was chosen by VSCO, an iPhone and iPod Touch camera app with elegant, minimal processing options, to be curated to VSCO Selects: a showcase of exception images from around the globe.

In the midst of her recent success, Crawford hopes to reach people in a way that only art can.

"Maybe my art could help someone along their journey the way art has always helped mine. Maybe my piece could help someone to understand their own self or the emotions of others."

And her goal is simple: "to make people unafraid of living their own truth and accepting the truths of those around them."

The art of E Marie inspires expression, truthfulness, and acceptance.

She creates beauty from nothing and evokes deep thought and positivity even in the worst of circumstances.

"To me, art is a way to come to terms with your past and make your present and future more beautiful."

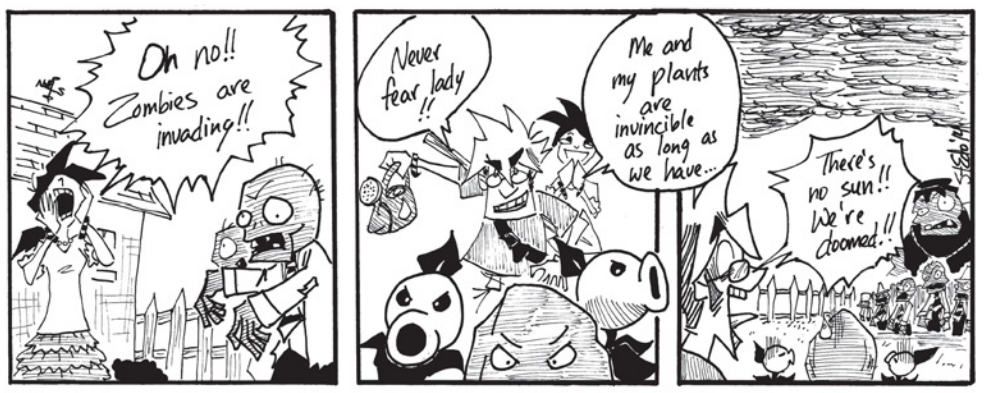
Anyone that need portraits, prints, or to simply watch their creative ideas come to life, contact E Marie. E-mail her at emariegraphy@gmail.com, or call 256-590-6412.

Check out her portfolio at emariegraphy.wix.com/emarie or on Facebook at E Marie. Follow her on Instagram @ emariegraphy.



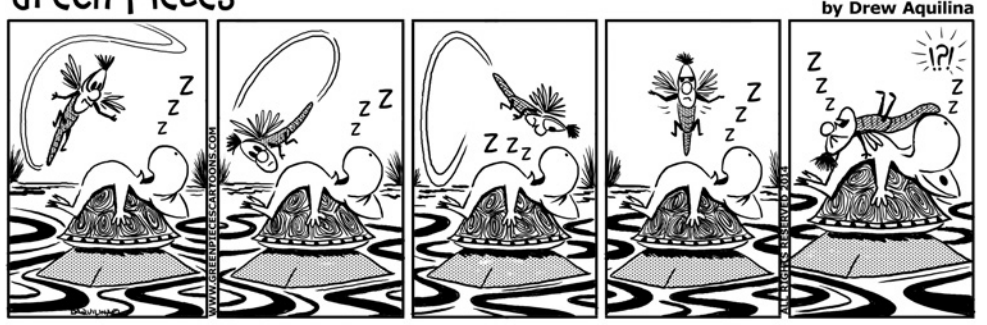
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PETS OF THE WEEK

LITTLE SALLY WATERS



Hello my name is Little Sally Waters and I am about 8 year old. I am a Chihuahua and I currently weigh 8 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, in support of you adopting a Shelter animal.

TRIXIE



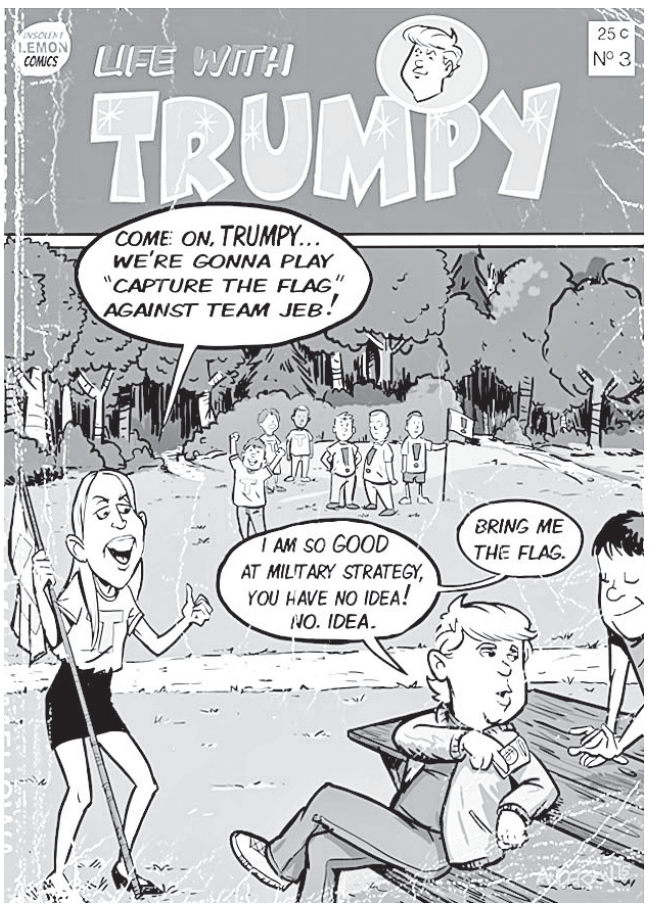
Hello my name is Trixie and I am about 1 year old. I am a Chihuahua and currently weigh 8 lbs. I was a stray but no one claimed so now I am up for adoption. My adoption fee is $90 and that includes my spay/neuter, vaccines, wormer, and also covers my general exam at the Vet, the rabies vaccine, microchip, free 45 day health insurance policy and our local Pet Depot will give you a free bag of food, you pay the taxes.

ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

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

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

EDITORIAL CARTOONS





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OPINION

STOP A WAR BEFORE IT STARTS

Tom H. Hastings
PeaceVoice

Everyone knows that diplomacy is the weakest way to deal with insurgencies and civil wars, tough sanctions are next, and if you really want to end a civil war, sorry, you need the military.

Well, everyone thinks that. OK, not everyone.

Turns out, that order of effectiveness is precisely backward. Three political scientists conducted a historical metastudy of all the movements for self-determination that looked like or actually became civil wars between 1960-2005 that resulted in resolutions by the United Nations Security Council.

The outcomes were clear. Using the UN troops had almost no effect on stopping civil war.

Sanctions were better, but diplomatic initiatives succeeded far more often than either of the other approaches.

Is this always true? Of course not, but if you want to go with your best bet to prevent wars, trot out the Ban Ki-Moonies and his coterie of helpers. We in the US generally ignore or chuckle at a Kofi Annan, or a Boutrus Boutrus-Ghali. Ineffectual wimps! Send in the Marines.

Another myth bites the dust.

Think about the cost/benefit matrix. What if we would have sent then-US Secretary of State James Baker or perhaps then-UN Secretary General Javier Pèrez de Cuèllar to deal with Saddam Hussein in August of 1990 instead of instantly mobilizing to go to war? That was a made-for-diplomacy moment that could have avoided 383 US dead, 467 US wounded, $102 billion in US expenses and the lowest estimates are about 20,000 Iraqis killed, half of them civilians.

Instead, George Bush the Elder first suckerpunched Saddam by the April Glaspie bumble, giving Saddam a US green light to invade Kuwait and then instantly declaiming "This will not stand," beginning the buildup and then attacking. All very likely completely avoidable.

This is one of the least costly US wars, in blood and treasure. What if diplomacy could have prevented even one war? Isn't that worth a very serious effort indeed?

Are human lives and the massive energy/money/resource costs worth some serious effort by diplomats, by mediators, by professional interlocutors?

In my field of Conflict Transformation we always believe that, and the research is increasingly proving our methods are vastly superior (unless you are a war profiteer, an elite class of people who help shape the media message that we don't have a clue, that talk is weak, and that only bombing and invading works).

Am I dissenting from US war policy? Yes, I'd say so, and that makes me a traitor and a lawful target for a drone attack, according to a West Point law professor.

Should I warn my housemates? Wait—he only says legal scholars who dissent are legitimate targets.

I'm a peace and nonviolence scholar, so my dissent isn't yet qualified as targetable, apparently, or perhaps he simply assumes that activist scholars like me have been lawful targets all along.

I should probably inquire to see if I can get a little help from the UN on this one. My chances would be improved, at least according to the science.

OPINION

RETHINKING SYRIA

Mel Gurtov
PeaceVoice

The horrifying images from central Europe of tens of thousands of Syrian and other refugees seeking new homes in the West underscore several conclusions about the human interest these days. One is the extent of the refugee crisis and the failure of the global community to respond to it over recent decades. That crisis long precedes today's focus on Europe. As I've noted before, we're talking about 45 million people who are on the run, crossing international borders or fleeing to a safer part of their home country in search of a better life and freedom from violence.

A second conclusion, which applies universally, is that mass immigration spawns the ugliest sort of racism. Potential host countries for refugees and migrants will say that they simply cannot accommodate so many new arrivals. But we know better: White-run governments often don't want dark-skinned, non-Christian others.

That's the message that has been openly sent by Donald Trump and Viktor Orban, Hungary's president.

Trump would simply deport people, no questions asked. Orban wrote for a German newspaper: "Those arriving have been raised in another religion and represent a radically different culture. Most of them are not Christians, but Muslims. This is an important question because Europe and European identity is rooted in Christianity." Is there any doubt that many other national leaders privately believe the same?

Third is the imperative of a negotiated settlement of the Syrian civil war. There is, after all, a limit to how many new arrivals from the Middle East can be accommodated by European Union countries.

The EU and others, including Russia and the U.S., must focus on Syria, from which an estimated 49 percent of the current mass exodus originates.

As one authority has put it, "The migrant crisis in Europe is essentially self-inflicted." Lina Khatib, a research associate at the University of London and until recently the head of the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut states, "Had European countries sought serious solutions to political conflicts like the one in Syria and dedicated enough time and resources to humanitarian assistance abroad, Europe would not be in this position today."

The nuclear agreement with Iran may help in that regard by initiating a movement toward an international deal on Syria that would refocus the conflict there on ISIS. Discussions that reportedly include Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the U.S. are considering how to consolidate the anti-Assad opposition and create a transitional government in order to present a unified front against ISIS, which already controls substantial territory in Syria and Iraq.

Sadly, the roadblocks to a cooperative approach to the Syrian civil war are many and formidable, including the future political role (if any) of Bashar al-Assad, the state of U.S.–Iran and U.S.–Russia relations, Russian aims in Syria (amidst reports of increased Russian military aid to the Assad regime), the extent and purposes of each party's military operations in Syria, and the fractured and ineffective opposition to Assad.

How these roadblocks can be overcome in order to cobble together a legitimate new Syrian government is anyone's guess, but the very fact of discussions about Syria's future is one of the few hopeful signs in the Middle East.

Russia and Iran have been Assad's principal backers and if any parties are going to convince Assad that he must loosen his iron grip on power it is they.

The alternative is seeing ISIS and its terrorist companion, the Nusra Front, continue to gain ground to the point where Syria shrinks to nothing more than greater Damascus.

Iran has made a proposal on Syria that I think is worth considering.

The plan calls for a cease-fire, formation of a national unity government, a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the rights of all ethnic and religious groups, and elections under international supervision.

How a cease-fire and eventual elections can be arranged are, of course, enormous challenges; but again, the fact that the Saudis and the Iranians, deadly adversaries on just about every other Middle East issue, are giving thought to a common position is striking. Saudi Arabia and Russia are also in conversation, which adds substance to the possibility of cooperation against ISIS.

There was a time not long ago when the Syrian situation was all about getting rid of Assad by supporting the armed resistance.

That possibility is dead. The resistance is divided and largely ineffective, despite U.S. arms and training of so-called moderates.

Meantime, ISIS grows stronger. The only practical alternative to the U.S. eventually putting boots on the ground—an option no one other than Donald Trump dares mention—is a deal that would define Syria's immediate political future and put the focus on stopping the advance of ISIS.

This does not amount to engaging Assad, but it would have to mean accepting a place for him in an initial period of political transition. The current U.S. policy of simultaneously seeking to overthrow Assad and push back ISIS is simply unworkable.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.

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

CULLMANSENSE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



TEAM OF THE WEEK

WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL



The West Point High School football team holds up their Team of the Week shirts, sponsored by Traditions Bank, Bill Smith Buick GMC and CullmanSense.



Cold Springs' Christian Crandall #20 Week 3 and Nic Rollo #4 from Week 1 were presented with awards from Traditions Bank Rep Vickie Williams and Bill Smith Buick GMC Sales Rep David Runge



Hanceville's Jose Orozco #3 from Week 3 and Branen Hurst #7 from Week 2 were presented with awards from Traditions Bank Rep Rhonda Nuss and Bill Smith Buick GMC Rep Kyle Hagg

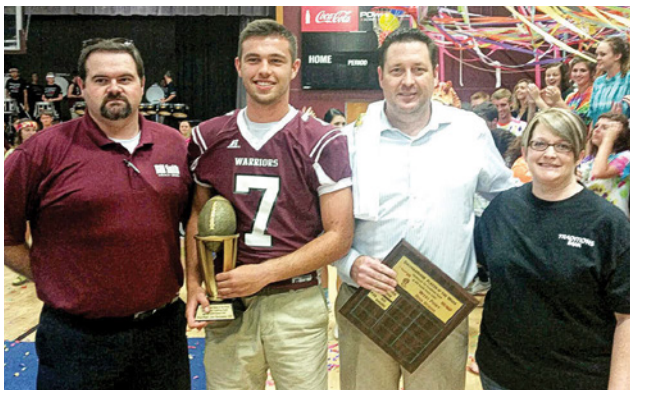




Good Hope's Riley Eisner #11 from Week 3 and Kainan Smith #12 from Week 2 (Kainan tore ACL while playing in Week 2 and was not able to accept his award) were presented with awards from Traditions Bank Rep and Bill Smith Buick GMC Sales Rep Aaron Coffee



West Point's Alex Hernandez #29 from Week 3 was presented with awards from Traditions Bank Rep Jennifer Simms and Bill Smith Buick GMC Rep Nathan Shedd



West Point's Tanner Rusk #7 from Week 2 was presented with awards from Traditions Bank Rep Jennifer Simms and Bill Smith Buick GMC Rep Nathan Shedd (left) and Rod Wynn (Right)

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LifeChanger (from Front)

ball and leads the cheerleading squad.

Each school year, the LifeChanger of the Year program receives hundreds of nominations.

For 2015-2016 five additional awards will be given, for a total of 15 winners.

Winners will be chosen by the selection committee to receive cash awards that are split between the individual winner and their school.

The national Grand Prize award is $10,000. The top three winners are also honored at a national awards ceremony.

Nominees must be full-time school employees. Award winners are selected based on the following criteria:

- A proven ability to make a beneficial difference in the lives of students
- An ability to positively add to the development of the school's atmosphere
- Is involved in leadership activities at the school and/or community level
- A demonstrative record of excellent performance at the professional level
- A commitment to producing a nurturing atmosphere
- Adherence to high moral and ethical standards

Nominations for the program will be accepted through January 15, 2016 with winners to be announced in spring 2016.

One of the five new awards this year is the "LifeChanger Spirit Award" which will be given to the nominee whose community demonstrates the most support for his or her nomination.

For example, support can be demonstrated through positive comments on the nominee's profile page, social media posts, and school and community recognition activities.

A resource page with ideas for how to celebrate nominees can be found at lifechangeroftheyearnominees.com/showspirit.

To view Jenkins' LifeChanger of the Year nominee profile, or to nominate someone from the local school community, visit LifeChangeroftheYear.com.

