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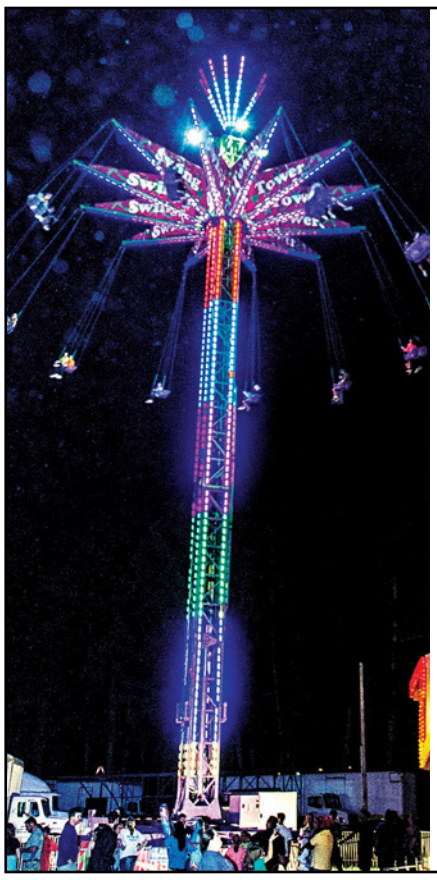
243 POUND WATERMELON

CULLMAN MAN SETS ALABAMA RECORD


FACEBOOK/CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA EXTENSION OFFICE

Daniel White poses with his 243 pound watermelon that set the new record in Alabama.

P10




PHOTOS BY NOAH CHANDLER/CULLMANSENSE

Fried foods are a fair favorite of many residents.

61ST ANNUAL COUNTY FAIR CONTINUES TRADITION

P12

CULLMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

STUDENTS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS MEET AT FLAG POLE TO PRAY TOGETHER


SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Parents, teachers and students gathered around the flag pole to pray together on Wednesday morning before school started.

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Wednesday, September 23, students, teachers and parents from Cullman Primary School participated in the 2015 'See You at the Pole' event. The group gathered together at the flag pole in front of the school and prayed for their teachers, their students and their school.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength," Keith Varden, one of the parents, read from the Bible.

"Love your neighbor as you love yourself," he continued. "There is no other thing greater than these. The Bible talks about loving God and loving people. We're showing people that we love God because we are going to

P3

CHARITY BASKETBALL CLINIC TO HELP VINEMONT BOY GET DIABETIC ALERT DOG

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN — On Saturday, October 24th, there will be a one-day basketball clinic for boys and girls in kindergarten through 8th grade. Directed by former Vinemont High School players, Josh, Jared and Jay Hembree, the clinic will feature past and present players and coaches from Cullman County. All money raised from the event will help purchase a Diabetic Service Alert Dog for 5-year-old Lucas Hembree who was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in April

P10


CHARITY TAYLOR

After being diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in April of 2015, 5-year-old Lucas Hembree, his family, friends, and the community have been raising money to purchase him a Diabetic Alert Dog.

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

BURGLARY SUSPECT ARRESTED; PROPERTY RECOVERED

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Thursday September 25th, 2015, Cullman County Sheriff's Office deputies arrested Jeffrey Wayne Miller, 26 years old of Vinemont, for Theft of Property 1st, Two counts of Burglary 3rd, Receiving Stolen Property 1st, Receiving Stolen Property 2nd and Attempting to Elude.

Miller was first sited after a BOLO had been placed on a recent vehicle that had been stolen from a business in Cullman County.

After Miller eluded deputies and wrecked the vehicle he was located the next day and placed under arrest.

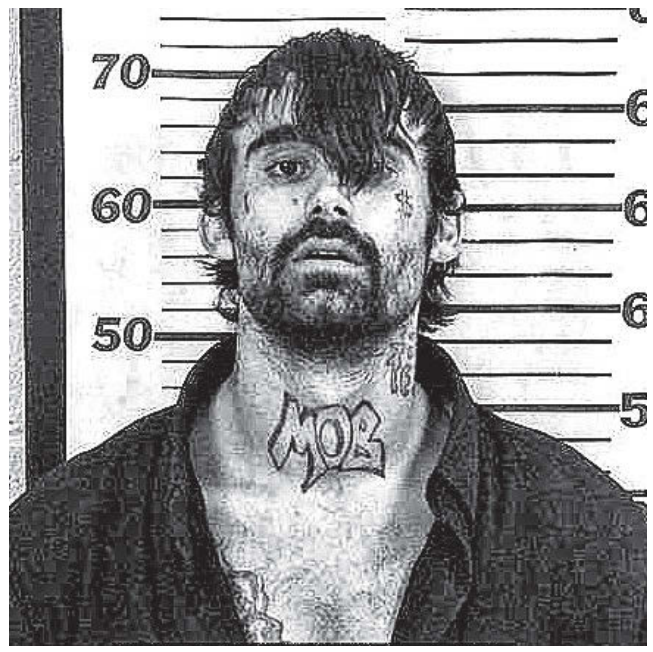
All items Miller had stolen have been recovered by CCSO investigators which include the stolen pickup truck, Samsung Galaxy Tablet, New England .410 Shotgun, .243 Rifle, and other miscellaneous items.

"No one dislikes a thief more than me," said Sheriff Matt Gentry.

"I am proud of the job the deputies and investigators have done in locating and arresting the suspect in such a quick manner and recovering all the property he has stolen so that we can get it back to the owners," added Sheriff Matt Gentry.

Miller is currently being held in the Cullman County Detention Center.

Bond is set at $40,000 cash and $13,000 property bond. The total bond is $53,000.



Jeffrey Wayne Miller CCSO

WELTI ELEMENTARY AND WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL AWARDED ACTION FOR HEALTHY KIDS GRANT

Sabrina Husain
Contributor

CHICAGO – Action for Healthy Kids® (AFHK) announced the 292 recipients of School Grants for Healthy Kids for the 2015-2016 school year, provided through funding by CSX Corporation. Awarded in 13 states, the grants aim to improve student knowledge, attitudes and behaviors around physical activity, while also engaging parents to support physical activity at home. Grants may also include a healthy eating component.

The grants, which range from $500 to $2,500, can be used to provide in-school assistance, funding for physical education and active recess, refurbishing of play spaces, classroom energizers and brain breaks, support for walking and running clubs, and before- and after-school programs that introduce students to the value of an active lifestyle.

"We are inspired by the accomplishments that schools have made as a result of the ongoing partnership between CSX and AFHK," said Tori Kaplan, assistant vice president, corporate social responsibility, CSX. "CSX works to give back in the community 'Beyond Our Rails,' and one of our focus areas is supporting the health and wellness of our communities and employees. We are thrilled to join AFHK in helping ensure more students get access to physical activity programs during the 2015-2016 school year as a result of these grants."

Schools funded this year will be among the first to utilize AFHK's new online portal featuring the 2014 School Health Index (SHI), an online assessment tool developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to guide school-based obesity prevention and health promotion efforts. AFHK has worked closely with the CDC to offer an abbreviated online version of the SHI that addresses two health topics: nutrition and physical activity. It also includes resources, reporting options, an online action plan, and a USDA Healthier US School Challenge readiness estimate.

As outlined in "The Case for Physical Activity" impact report recently released by AFHK, research shows that students who are physically active perform better on tests, show fewer symptoms of ADHD, and have improved ability to organize thoughts and make decisions. However, a 2014 U.S. report card on physical activity for children and youth, released by the National Physical Activity Plan Alliance and the American College of Sports Medicine, found that only 25 percent of children ages 6 to 15 meet the national recommendation of 60 minutes of physical activity per day.

"Schools receiving grants are getting a leg up on creating healthier school environments where kids get to be physically active every day without compromising, and in fact enhancing, educational instruction," said Rob Bisceglie, CEO, Action for Healthy Kids. "The funding from CSX connects schools with much-needed resources for their wellness initiatives and acknowledges the impact of physical activity and good nutrition on children's health and learning."

The School Grants for Healthy Kids are part of more than $1.4 million in school breakfast and physical activity grants awarded by Action for Healthy Kids in the 2015-2016 school year. For a complete list of schools funded by CSX Transportation, visit actionforhealthykids.org/CSX. To learn more about AFHK's impact on physical activity in schools, visit actionforhealthykids.org/reports.

SACRED HEART OF JESUS ALTAR SOCIETY TO HOLD GERMAN DINNER FOR COMMUNITY OCT. 7

Barbara Ragsdale
Contributor

CULLMAN – The women of Sacred Heart Altar Society, Cullman, will prepare and serve a traditional German dinner on Wednesday, October 7. This annual event will take place in the Family Life Center of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church with meals served from 5 to 7 p.m.

This traditional German plate will include bratwurst from Frankenmuth, Michigan, German potato salad, country style kraut, applesauce, green beans, dessert and drinks. Plates are $12.00 for adults and $5.00 for children. Drinks are not included with the take-out line plates.

Visitors are invited to eat in the dining hall while listening to the German-based music by Wolfgang Moritz.

He might even play the 'Chicken Dance', and children and any enthusiastic adults can take to the dance floor for this exciting and silly and fun exhibit as well as dance to numerous polkas.

All funds raised from the dinner go to maintain the Altar and sanctuary of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Cullman.

The beautiful downtown Church will turn 100 years old in 2016.

The evening of fun and fellowship, not to mention delicious food, is part of the unique celebration of both Sacred Heart and Cullman's distinct German Heritage.

Oktoberfest Week in Cullman runs from Sunday, October 4, the date of the afternoon's longtime free Community Choir Concert at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church.

Major events during the week will begin on Wednesday, October 7, date of the German meal at Sacred Heart and will continue through Saturday, October 10, with Sacred Heart School's annual 'Street Sale' (open at 6 a.m.) and festival starting at 10 a.m. on school grounds. Other gatherings and events will run throughout the later part of the week.

For additional information please contact cullmanoktoberfest.com or call 800-533-1258.

Everyone is invited to visit Sacred Heart of Jesus for any of these events and check out the rest of Cullman's unique community at the same time.

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ADERHOLT ISSUES STATEMENT ON CULLMAN FIRE DEPARTMENT'S SAFER GRANT

Carson Clark
Contributor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Robert Aderholt (AL-04) today released the following statement on the Cullman Fire Department receiving a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant.

"I am very pleased to announce that the Cullman Fire Department will receive this grant. The grant is in the amount of $1,137,816. This money will be used to hire additional firefighters for the city."

"While I know everyone at the Cullman Fire Department and in the Mayor's office is excited to hear about this grant, they, like myself, realize it will be the people of Cullman who will benefit. This money will be used to hire and train a new generation of firefighters who will protect life and property for decades to come. In those terms, $1,137,816 is a bargain."

"I am glad that our office was able to offer assistance in Cullman obtaining this grant and look forward to seeing how it will help our area.

In Washington Congressman Aderholt serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the powerful House Appropriations Committee; he is also a member of the Committee's Defense Subcommittee, the Committee's Commerce, Justice, and Science Subcommittee, and the Helsinki Commission.

For more information about Aderholt's work in Congress visit aderholt.house.gov.

STATE TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Ala. Law Enforcement Agency
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) and Office of Information Technology are joining with the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the National Cyber Security Alliance, and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center in celebrating October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) 2015.

"Cyber threats present a real danger in the safety and security of the citizens of Alabama. We want to encourage Alabamians to stop and think before they connect to the Internet," said Secretary of Law Enforcement Spencer Collier.

"Technology plays an essential role in today's society and the future of our State," said Secretary of Information Technology Brunson White.

"Because of this, Governor Bentley has proclaimed October 2015 Cyber Security Awareness Month. During this month we will partner with local, state, and federal agencies to promote awareness, as well as, tips for private companies, nonprofits, government organizations and citizens. "

Online security is a shared responsibility and National Cyber Security Awareness Month is an opportunity to engage all members of the community in a dialogue about emerging cybersecurity issues.

NCSAM 2015 will include a series of events across the country hosted by local governments, businesses, nonprofits, and academic organizations aimed at increasing each community's cybersecurity awareness.

Now in its 12th year, NCSAM is designed to engage and educate public and private sector partners through events and initiatives with the goal of raising awareness about cybersecurity in order to increase the resiliency of the nation in the event of a cyber incident.

Since the first presidential proclamation in 2004, NCSAM has been formally recognized by Congress; federal, state and local governments, as well as leaders from industry and academia.

This united effort is necessary to maintain a cyberspace that is safer, more resilient and remains a source of tremendous opportunity and growth for years to come.

Visit dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month for more information about NCSAM.

9 PLACES IN NORTH ALABAMA TO TAKE A SELFIE

Ala. Law Enforcement Agency
Contributor

Selfies: love them or hate them, they're not going away any time soon. And face it (pun intended) we love to take a good selfie with a cool backdrop. North Alabama has many awesome places to do just that.

How about taking a selfie...
1. with Little Falls at Little River Canyon National Preserve in the background
2. with the Jesse Owens monument at the Jesse Owens Memorial Park and Museum
3. with a rocket at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center
4. in front of the sign at Unclaimed Baggage Center in Scottsboro
5. with a goat at Belle Chevre
6. on a hike at one of North Alabama's beautiful state parks
7. with the Helen Keller statue at Ivy Green in Tuscumbia
8. with gorgeous flowers at Huntsville Botanical Garden
9. with DeSoto Falls in the background
10. near a tiger at Tigers for Tomorrow in Attalla
11. inside the cave at Cathedral Caverns State Park
12. in the canyon at Dismals Canyon in Phil Campbell
13. with miniature sculptures at Ave Maria Grotto in Cullman
14. on the Ferris wheel at the county fair
15. at the balloon glow at the Alabama Jubilee in May
16. on the band Alabama's tour bus at Alabama Music Hall of Fame
17. with the waterfall and statue of Noccalula at Noccalula Falls Park
18. inside a covered bridge in Blount County
19. with a face jug at Jerry Brown Pottery in Hamilton
20. at Cherokee Rock Village in Leesburg
21. at Tom's Wall in Florence
22. in Bankhead National Forest

The Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association (AMLA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion and development of the travel industry within the 16 northernmost counties of the state.

It is supported by 500-plus members consisting of chambers of commerce, Convention & Visitors Bureaus, attractions, campgrounds, festivals, communities, counties, golf courses, restaurants, tour operators, accommodations, vendors, financial institutions, and individuals.

Counties included within the AMLA region are Blount, Cherokee, Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, and Winston.

Additional information on North Alabama destinations, accommodations and special events is available from the AMLA by calling 800-648-5381 or by visiting their web site at NorthAlabama.org.

Prayer (from Front)

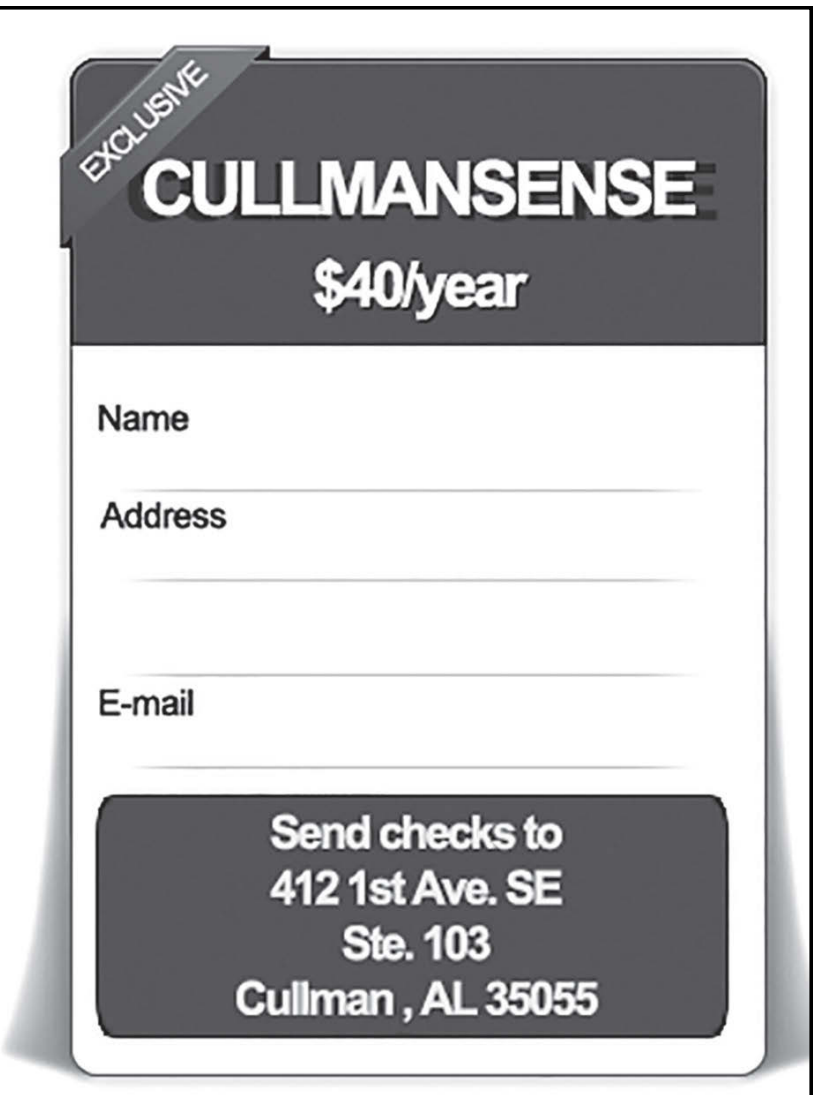
stand out here and pray for our school, our families and our friends. We are going to ask God to bless us."

"We've only been here two years, my daughter is in 1st grade," said Keri Bates. "We didn't know about it last year, but we heard about it this year and wanted to be a part of it," she smiled.

"I think it is a good idea," six year old Madelyn smiled shyly.

'See You at the Pole' is a worldwide campaign of prayer. It is student-initiated, student-organized, and student-led. It is based on students praying together on the fourth Wednesday in September. It normally takes place before school and usually at the school's flag pole. It involves students in elementary schools, middle/junior high schools, high schools, and colleges/universities across the globe. Children throughout Cullman County rose to the challenge. They took the time to get to school early and to pray together as one; not only for themselves but for their schools, their teachers and our nation.

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RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT:

KENNETH TERRY, PASTOR OF SOUL'S HARBOR FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

VINEMONT — Growing one's faith in the Lord can be very rewarding, especially when that growth is lead by a faithful pastor. The congregation at Soul's Harbor Free Will Baptist Church has one such person, Reverend Kenneth Terry. Terry strives to bring lost souls to the Lord by delivering faith inspiring sermons each Sunday. He leads by example, showing his flock the Christian way in his daily life.

"By all accounts I should not be in the ministry if you consider my lowly beginning," Terry began. "But God knew all the time his plan for my life," he smiled.

"My mother and father divorced before I was old enough to remember my father," he continued.

"My mother died of complications from surgery and left my brother and me without parents; we were 5 and 7 years old at the time. We had three grown sisters, my middle sister and her husband provided us a home until we were adopted by members of my brother-in-laws' distant family. While Joe and Earnestine Terry were never able to have children of their own, they adopted us and provided a loving caring home. We were blessed to have the foster parents that God provided to rear us."

At the age of 16, Terry was saved during a Revival at Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Blount County.

He joined the church and was baptized soon thereafter. During his senior year of high school, he met his beautiful wife to be, Marie Aaron.

The two married shortly after they graduated high school and since then the couple has been blessed with three sons, 11 grandchildren and one great-grandson due in December of this year.

"I accepted God's call to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus at the age of 20 and I was licensed that same year. One year later I was ordained into the Ministry," he smiled.

"Some may ask, 'Have you always known that you would be a preacher?' In my case, no - but God knew!" he chuckled.

"It took a while for me to surrender to the call to preach. The burden of the call became so heavy upon heart that I could no longer resist," he reminisced.

"I was so burdened with conviction and ran from God's will for my life," he shook his head.

"One day I surrendered to the call while working at my job in Cullman. I went to a fellow worker who was a pastor and confessed for the first time publicly. His advice was for me to go to my church and acknowledge my calling, which is what I did that very night. It was a glorious time I will never forget!"

Brother Terry has served as pastor for several area churches throughout the years, but he has found his home at Soul's Harbor Free Will Baptist Church. He considers his position there to be a true blessing.

"They have loved me and my family for over 30 years. They have given me the opportunity to be their Pastor and I count it a privilege and honor to serve them," he said graciously.

From the humblest beginnings, Terry has grown into a genuine leader of his church. Filled with humility and faith, many come to him on their journey to discover Jesus Christ.

Soul's Harbor Free Will Baptist Church is located at 21325 U.S. Highway 31, Vinemont, AL 35179.

For more information call 256-734-2882, e-mail soulsharborpastor@att.net and visit soulsharborfwbchurch.com.

Follow the church on Facebook at facebook.com/Souls-Harbor-Free-Will-Baptist-Church-and-Vinemont-Christian-Academy-118933934798597.



SOUL'S HARBOR CHURCH

Brother Kenneth Terry has pastored at Soul's Harbor Free Will Baptist Church for 30 years.

"By all accounts I should not be in the ministry if you consider my lowly beginning — But God knew all the time his plan for my life!"

Kenneth Terry, Pastor of Soul's Harbor Free Will Baptist Church



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THE HISTORY OF CULLMAN'S HAY PEOPLE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Every year, around the end of September, one of Cullman's most beloved couple comes out to greet the community. The large German couple, located at several places throughout town, adds a festive touch to the Oktoberfest celebration. That couple, of course, is the infamous Hay People. Each year, Nancy Moore and her many happy helpers spend countless hours creating these larger than life duos in order to give a little something special back to the community.

The gigantic Hay People have been coming to Cullman for about 20 years now and each year they seem to get a little better, a little more detailed. But what brought them here in the first place? How did Cullman become home to such a special couple?

"My parents, Phillip and Patricia Clemmons, were in Germany on a business trip back in the mid 1990s. That's when my mother saw Hay People for the first time," Nancy Moore began. "They were members of St. John's Church and had always helped with their Oktoberfest dinner and were also on the Oktoberfest committee. Mother liked to add to Cullman, so it was her idea to bring the Hay People."

It was one thing to want to bring Hay People to town, but it was a totally different thing to actually make it happen. Patricia was a little trooper and with the help of family and friends, she was able to do it.

"My uncle, Terry Clemons, had a sewing plant in Athens called Westwood Manufacturing," Nancy explained. "Mother called him and said, 'Terry I have an idea, I want to make some of the Hay People like I saw in Germany. I'd like you to make their clothes.' He agreed, not knowing what he was getting himself into," she chuckled. "So she and a couple of her friends came up with a pattern and he was able to sew their outfits for her. After that, Mother started contacting people who had hay."

Each Hay Person consists of three round bales of hay. It takes twelve yards of fabric to make the woman's dress and seventeen yards of fabric for the man's outfit which includes his suspenders.

"The lady's hair takes seventeen yards of fabric," Nancy added. "We get the stuffing for her hair at C & U Upholstery Shop in Garden City. It takes about seventy-five pounds of stuffing per hair-do. There's always lots of white cushion stuffing all over the place," she laughed.

"My mother had an infectious laugh and personality. It was easy for her to get people to donate their time and to be involved. She made it fun, even though it's a lot of work," Nancy reminisced. "My parents believed in helping others in the community. It was one of their big things. They believed that people could make a difference. If you give people an opportunity, they are able to grow and flourish. Mother hired people from the women's shelter to come and work. She believed in giving people a second chance."

Phillip and Patricia Clemmons died unexpectedly in 2008. Nancy chose to continue making the Hay People each year after their death as a way to honor their memory. She has the whole operation down to a science.

These days, Nancy and her husband Steve use their own hay. Uncle Terry continues to make their large clothes. Just like her sweet mother, Nancy is able to get plenty of people to help out and continues to work with the assistance of those in need of a second chance.

"This year I had Carol Berry and some of the ladies from Restoring Women Outreach come out and help me make the hats," she beamed. "RWO is a halfway house here in Cullman. If it wasn't for those girls, I don't know what I would have done. Many thanks to my husband Steve, Lynda and Fred Hankey, Ellen Fulmer, Cathie Drake, Hunter Moore, and the ladies from RWO for all their help. From stuffing the hair, painting the aprons, making new hats, putting the hay bales up, painting the faces and dressing them, I couldn't have done it without them. Also, thank you to Terry Clemmons and his employees at Westwood Manufacturing for making the clothes and hair!"

2015 is the first year the Hay People have been put up at St. John's Church. They will also make a special appearance around Christmastime when they reappear at the church as part of its Christmas Village.

"I just know my parents are smiling and laughing about this because St. John's was their church," she giggled happily.

"It makes me giddy to think about. Every day in Heaven, they are extremely happy there are Hay People at St. Johns. They loved the Little Lambs School and now the children can stop and enjoy the Hay People every day."

Even though the Hay People have been visiting Cullman for 20 years, they are not named. Moore agreed they need a name and says she may have a naming contest for them sometime in the near future. Hay People are located at St. John's Church, Depot Park and along Highway 31 in downtown Cullman.



NANCY CLEMMONS MOORE

The Hay People have been visiting Cullman during Oktoberfest for 20 years.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

HANCEVILLE'S GENERAL FORREST HISTORICAL MARKER

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Located on U.S. Highway 31 South of Day Gap Road in Hanceville stands a historical marker dedicated to Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest.



LAT34NORTH.COM/HISTORICMARKERSAL

General Forrest's Pursuit and Union Col. Streight's defense, from Battle Ground (26M. - NW) to capture at Lawrence (80 M. - East) - said to be greatest cavalry fight in modern warfare. It passed here May 1, 1863.

Alabama Historical Association – 1950

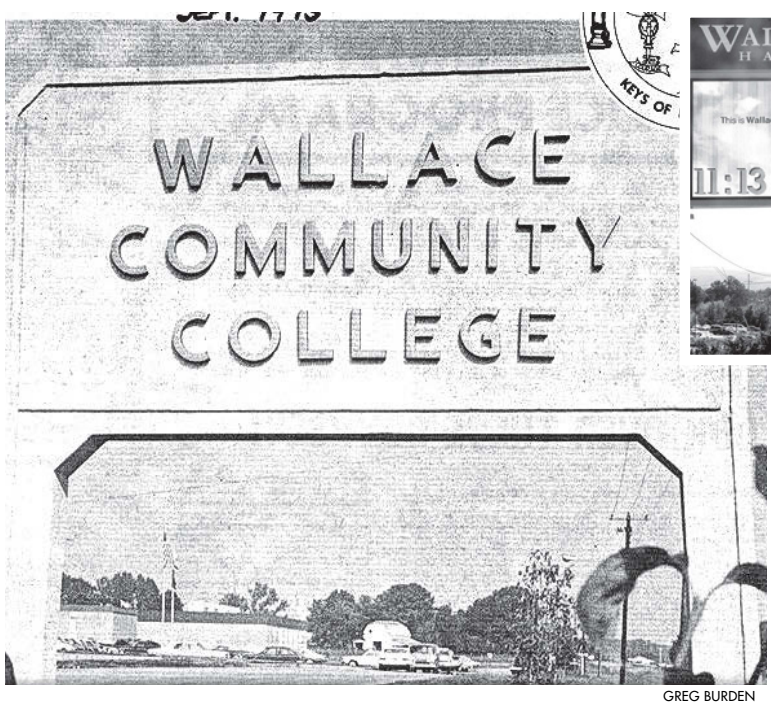
MIRRORING HISTORY: WSCC'S SIGN

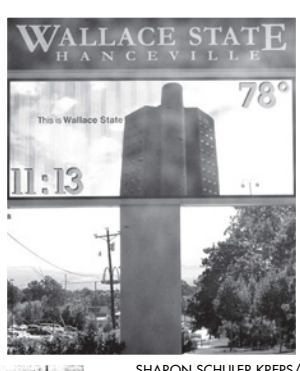
Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College was founded in 1966. It is named for former Alabama governor George C. Wallace, who greatly expanded Alabama's community college system.

Just like the sign that stands along Highway 31 in Hanceville, Wallace State continues to grow.

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SHARON SCHULER KREPS/ CULLMANSENSE

Wallace State's sign in 1975, left, and today.

GREG BURDEN

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **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
- **Community Yard Sale & Craft Fair:** Heritage Park will be hosting a community wide craft fair and yard sale featuring several dozen vendors on Saturday, September 26 from 7am-2pm. Vendor spaces are still available for just $10; call 256-739-9931 to book your space.
- **FREE Exercise in the Park:** Held each week on Thursday night at 6pm in Depot Park, this program is offered to the general public and will feature a free fitness class each week by an instructor from the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic 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.
- **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.
- **Basketball Registration** will begin at the Cullman Civic Center on October 1 and continue through October 25. Cost is $90 which includes the entire season of play, jersey, and a trophy at the end of the season. Games will be held at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center and Ingle Park.
- **Photography Classes** will be held at the Cullman Civic Center for a 6 week session starting October 5 on Mondays and Thursdays at 6pm. Cost is $50 which includes all instruction; a digital camera with automatic controls is required for this class. Register at the Cullman Civic Center.
- **Monster Dash 5K & Halloween Festival** will be held at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center on Saturday, October 24 from 9am-2pm with the 5K beginning at 9am. Runners will be encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes for the race. A festival will also take place at the center with kids games, a floating pumpkin patch, and other activities. Visit our website for more details.

GOOD HOPE DEFENSE PROPELS HOMECOMING WIN

Jim Stinson
Contributor



JIM STINSON/CULLMANSENSE

Matt Dixon breaks free for a 39 yard touchdown.

GOOD HOPE – The Raider defense forced 7 turnovers and recovered 2 onside kicks to lead the Good Hope to a 47-6 Homecoming victory over Curry.

After forcing 3 interceptions and a fumble recovery in the 1st half Good Hope only lead 7-0 on a Riley Eisner 6 yard run for the touchdown, Damian Rodriguez added the point after, and the Raiders would wonder if the missed chances would come back to haunt them.

The Raiders would recover the onside kick to start the 2nd half and Good Hope went straight to the ground game and Lee Whisenant would take it in from 7 yards out, Rodriguez made the PAT and Good Hope led 14-0.

On the Raiders next possession it was back to whisenant as he carried the Raiders down the field and scoring from the 1 yard line his time, Rodriguez once again was good for the extra point.

Whisenant Then recovered a fumble on the Good Hope 39 yard line, this time Matt Dixon broke free and took it the distance for the score, Rodriguez made the pat and Good Hope took a 28-0 lead.

After Matt Cofer intercepted the Yellow jackets, Matt Dixon went to work again this time from 5 yard out, the pat was good and the 3rd quarter would come to an end with Good Hope up 35-0.

Will Dickerson kept the running attack going in the 4th frame scoring from 1 yard and from 37 yards, both Pat's failed. Curry only score came late in the 4th quarter when William Woodley took it 61 yards to the end zone, The extra point failed as Good Hope would take the 47-6 win.

Austin Eakes,Riley Eisner had 1 interception each, Matt Cofer 2 interception, Wesley Kelley, Lee Whisenant, and an unidentified Raider (#58) had a fumble recovery apiece, Preston Bagwell had 2 onside kick recoveries.

Hannah Dillashaw was named Homecoming queen.

Good Hope returns to region play next week when they host Locust Fork.

MUD CREEK
Arts & Crafts Festival
Historic Downtown Hanceville
6th ANNUAL
Saturday, October 17th
9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Downtown Historical Hanceville, Alabama
All Proceeds to Benefit Hanceville Schools
FREE ADMISSION
KID'S ACTIVITIES
JUDGED ART SHOW
ARTS & CRAFTS LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE
ENTERTAINMENT BRING LAWN CHAIR TO STAY ALL DAY
HISTORICAL CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT
HISTORICAL TOUR RIDES ON HANCEVILLE'S FIRST FIRE TRUCK
GERMAN LUNCH AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH STARTING AT 10:30 A.M.
HISTORICAL CHARACTERS PORTRAYED BY STUDENTS
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Please contact Michele Allen if you would like to:
*Participate as a Vendor ($25 Donation)
*Submit Art for Judging (Deadline October 6th)
*Volunteer
Phone (256) 352-1214 Ext. 20 - Fax: (256) 352-1203
Email: Hanceville251@yahoo.com
203 Bangor Avenue NE, Hanceville, AL 35077

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CULLMAN COUNTY FAIR
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FREE PARKING!
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 3, 2015
MONDAY 9/28
STUDENT DAY!
Sponsored by Peoples Bank
Fairgrounds Opens at Noon
Lamb, Sheep and Goat Show, 6PM
TUESDAY 9/29
Fairgrounds Open at 5PM
Cattle Show, 6:30PM
Miss Cullman County Fair Pageant, 7PM
WEDNESDAY 9/30
SENIOR CITIZEN DAY! (10am-1pm)
Sponsored by Comfort Care
Fairgrounds Opens at 5PM
Horse Show, 6:30PM
Praise & Worship Night, 7PM
THURSDAY 10/1
Fairgrounds Opens at 5PM
Rabbit Show, 6:PM
Little, Junior & Teen Princess Pageants, 7PM
FRIDAY 10/2
Fairgrounds Opens at 5PM
Peinhardt Farm Animals, 5PM
WKUL Talent Show, 7:30PM
SATURDAY 10/3
LAST DAY!
Fairgrounds Opens at 2PM
Antique Tractor Show, 2PM
Granpa Cratchet Says:
"DON'T MISS ALABAMA'S #1 FAIR!"
Meet Granpa Cratchet As He Drives Around The Fairgrounds!
CULLMAN SENSE
ComfortCare
TRACTOR SUPPLY CO
WZZK
Comfort INN & SUITES

Monday
October 19
7:00 pm
Cullman Civic Center
Doors open at 6pm
Caring FOR Cullman CONCERT
BENEFITTING THE GOODSAMARITAN HEALTHCLINIC
Presented by
Triumphant Quartet
and the
Wallace State Singers
Love Offering will be received
(256) 255-5965 for more information
If unable to attend concert and would like to make a donation, go to www.goodsamaritancullman.com or call (256) 775-1389 ext.123
ADMIT ONE $25.00 Artist Meet and Greet 6:05-6:35 pm... With Artist Circle Seating Near the Stage!
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Ticket Outlets
Good Samaritan Health Clinic
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Borden Family Pharmacy
3190 AL Hwy 157 | (256)734-7535
The Added Touch by Cullman Cabinet
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GOODSAMARITAN HEALTHCLINIC
www.goodsamaritancullman.com
Meeting the medical needs of Cullman County's uninsured since 2004.

BEARCATS CLAW FAYETTE

Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com



JOSH MCBRAYER/CULLMANSENSE

The Bearcats edged out Fayette County 34-6.

CULLMAN – It was near perfect night for the Cullman Bearcats as they dispatched the Fayette County Tigers 34-6 Friday night at Oliver Woodard Stadium.

It was a bend but not break philosophy for the Cats early in the game. Fayette County started their first drive from their own 20. They proceeded to move down the field like a machine, rattling off 14 plays down to the Cullman 3. However, on the 15th play of the drive, Cullman held strong and knocked down a pass in the end zone to force a turnover on downs.

Cullman would start their next drive in the shadow of their goal line and were able to move the ball out to the 46 but no further as they punted the ball back to the Tigers.

Early in the second, Cullman found themselves with the ball again following a Fayette County punt. Starting from their own 35, Ezra Burks busted through the defense line of Fayette County and rumbled for 15 yards to start the drive. QB Ross Crocker followed suit by scrambling for 16 on the next play. The Cats were aided by an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for a late hit, moving the ball down to the Tiger 18. Crocker would hit receiver Reece Harbison who was just short of the goal line.

Justin Patterson would clean it up and score the first points of the game, crashing up the middle for the one yard touchdown.

Fayette County would immediately give the ball back to Cullman as Dalton Yurby would intercept the Tiger pass of a deflection to set Cullman up first and ten at the Tiger 43. Five plays later Cullman found themselves in the end zone for the second time in just over a minute when Dawson Drake scored from 12 yards out. A rare PAT miss made the score 13-0 in favor of the Cats.

Fayette County would finally find the end zone on their next possession, taking advantage of a Cullman personal foul to make the score 13-6 with 6:08 left in the half.

Cullman would answer right back on the strength of Coker's arm and the legs of Josh Skinner who carried the ball three straight times in the red zone for 20 yards including the one hard touchdown run.

After forcing a three and out, Cullman would dent the scoreboard once again before the half when Crocker connected with Harbison from 26 yards out with triple zero on the clock to make the score 27-6 at the half.

Cullman continued their dominance in the second half, sealing the win on thier first possession of the second half when Ethan McMinn scored from a yard out to make the score 34-6. The two teams would play between the 20's for the rest of the game as Cullman cruised to the 34-6 victory.



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Their first car.
Their first day of college.

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

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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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K-9 ESCAPADES

PUBLIC COMPETITIONS FOR:

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SHAMPOO
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BRUSH
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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).

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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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NURSING FACILITY PRIVILEGE TAX INCREASE EFFECTIVE OCT. 1

Amanda Collier
Contributor

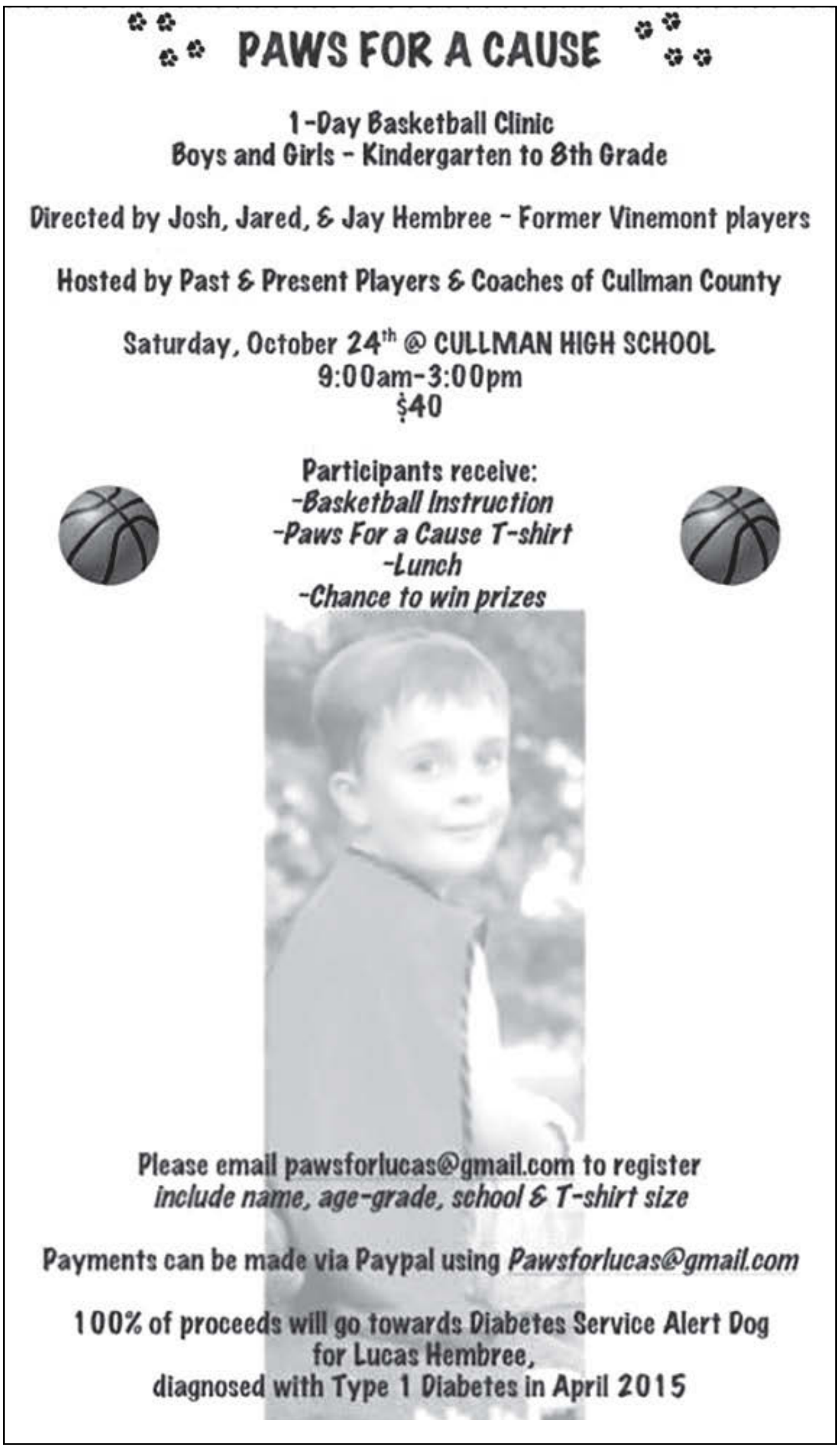
MONTGOMERY – During the second special session the state Legislature passed and Gov. Bentley signed Act No. 2015-536, which will increase the annual rate for nursing facilities.

This Act imposes a secondary supplemental privilege assessment at an annual rate of $401.28 or $33.44 a month for each bed in the nursing facility.

This amount will increase the total annual nursing facility rate from $4,028.04 to $4,429.32 or $369.11 per month per bed. This change will be effective on Oct. 1, 2015.

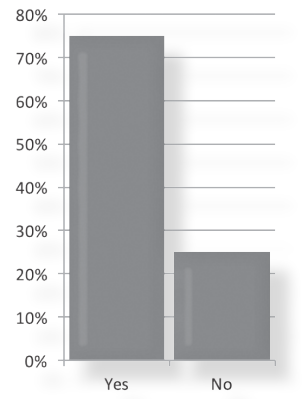
The first tax return on which the changes will be valid is the nursing facility tax return for the month of October 2015, which is due on or before Nov. 20, 2015. Returns are required to be filed and paid electronically using the My Alabama Taxes Filing system.

For more information contact the Sales and Use Tax Division at 334-353-9350.



Poll

Do you think Facebook adding a dislike button is a good idea?



This Week's Poll

Should the U.S. intervene with the Syrian refugee crisis?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

WHAT'S ONLINE



THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

MEET PATTIE MILLER: CULLMAN COUNTY'S FIRST FAIR QUEEN

The 2015 Cullman County Fair will be in town soon and my curiosity about the fair's history has had me researching. In the midst of my quest for the fair's history, I was contacted by a very special lady. Her name is Mrs. Pattie (Swann) Miller... **QRNE.WS/394**



SOUL'S HARBOR FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT KENNETH TERRY, PASTOR OF SOUL'S HARBOR FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

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. October 3, a team of six monks, Br. Leo, Fr. Joel, Br. Raphael, Br. Dominic, Br. Paschal, and Br. Pachomius, will... **QRNE.WS/395**

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HOW TO CONDUCT A DIY HOME ENERGY AUDIT

(StatePoint) This fall, why not consider making needed home improvements to help increase energy efficiency and save big in the long run?

Here is a short checklist for a DIY home energy audit.

Seal Air Leaks

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, sealing air leaks around the house can save up to 30 percent of energy costs annually.

To find leaks, conduct a thorough visual inspection for gaps and cracks by baseboards, where the walls and ceiling meet, around door frames, and near cable and phone line wall plates.

Spot a gap? Caulk it. Use painter's tape for a cleaner job. Hold the caulking gun at an angle for best results, and apply in a continuous stream.

Improve insulation around windows and doors with weather-stripping.

Measure the gap you need to fill to identify the width of weather-stripping needed and determine whether you should apply it from the inside or outside.

Before starting, read the package instructions to ensure you're using the right materials. Cut to size and install.

Lastly, check if your fireplace flue is open. If so, close it when not in use for additional savings.

Make Smart Upgrades

One quick way to check your windows for inefficiencies is to look for condensation, frost and other moisture. The Department of Energy also recommends closing your windows on a dollar bill. If you can easily pull the bill out, the window might be losing substantial energy and may require repair or replacement.

Additionally, Energy Star reports that homeowners who choose windows that have earned the Energy Star save an average $101-$538 a year when replacing single-pane windows.

If it's time for an upgrade, look for Energy Star qualified windows that offer innovative technologies and improve energy efficiency.

Exterior remodeling companies like Window World, an Energy Star partner, offer more high-performance options featuring technologies like a Warm-Edge Spacer System, which blocks escaping heat between glass layers.

Additionally, the company sells windows made with high-performance Low Emissivity Glass, featuring a microscopic silver coating that actively blocks heat gain during the summer and heat loss during the winter.

To further improve efficiency, Window World's replacement windows also contain Argon gas between their glass layers. Because Argon is denser than air, it acts as an ideal insulator.

For information about innovative and cost-saving energy efficiency options, visit-WindowWorld.com.

Change Behavior

Do an audit of not only your home's features, but of the occupants as well. Are lights left on in empty rooms? Is the television on when no one is watching it?

From switching to cold water laundry cycles to taking advantage of sunlight for warmth and light; modifications of energy and cost-saving resources don't need to be a sacrifice.

To save energy, improve the comfort of your home and do your part to be more environmentally conscientious, conduct a do-it-yourself energy audit. You'll likely discover many areas in your home that should be improved.

Watermelon (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Cullman is now home to Alabama's largest watermelon. As of September 24th Daniel White's mammoth watermelon has set the new state record weighing in at 243 pounds. As a result of all his hard work, he was awarded a blue ribbon at the Cullman County Fair, along with praise and pats on the back.

Before Daniel's watermelon took the top spot, the state record came from Bessemer's Spencer Glasgow whose watermelon topped the scales at 241.5 pounds.

An enormous amount of hard work and dedication went in to growing a watermelonsof this size. A watermelon that size has to be moved using a forklift and can feed approximately 638 people.

Clinic (from Front)

of 2015.

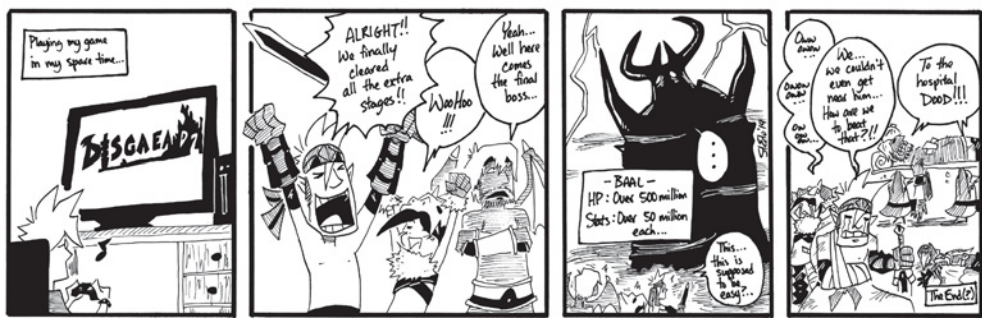
The clinic will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2015, at Cullman High School from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. For $40, participants will receive basketball instruction, a 'Paws For a Cause' T-shirt, lunch and a chance to win prizes.

To register for the clinic or for more information, e-mail pawsforlucas@gmail.com. Registration e-mails should include the child's name, age, grade, school and T-shirt size. Payment may be sent via PayPal to pawsforlucas@gmail.com.



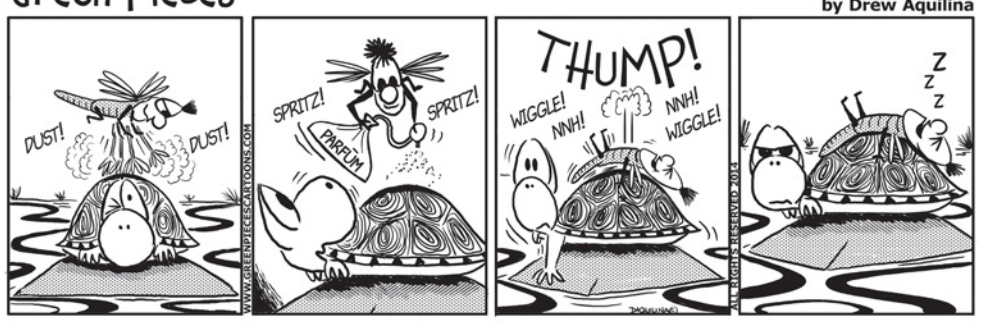
COMICS

WHITE & BLACK • "Final Boss Dood" • st.edo@cullmansense.com



Green Pieces®

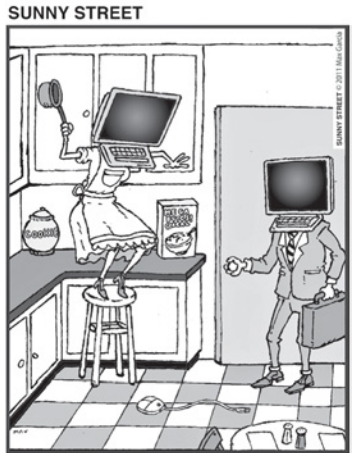
by Drew Aquilina



MAMA'S BOYZ www.jerrycraft.net JERRY CRAFT



SUNNY STREET



SUNNY STREET



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FACEBOOK.COM/ CULLMANSENSE

PETS OF THE WEEK

LITTLE SALLY WATERS



Hello my name is Little Sally Waters and I am about 8 years old. I am a Chihuahua and I currently weigh 8 lbs. My adoption fee is $25 because I came to the Shelter already spayed. That also covers my microchip, free 45 day health insurance policy and our local Pet Depot will give you a free bag of food (you pay the taxes) in support of you adopting a Shelter animal. That is an incredible deal and I will give you a lifetime of love and loyalty. Please consider coming to meet me today!

WOODY WOODPECKER



I'm Woody Woodpecker and I am about 2 years old. I am a Boxer and I currently weigh 61 lbs. My adoption fee is $25 because I came to the Shelter already neutered. That also covers my microchip, free 45 day health insurance policy and our local Pet Depot will give you a free bag of food (you pay the taxes) in support of you adopting a Shelter animal. That is an incredible deal and I will give you a lifetime of love and loyalty.

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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OPINION

"DO UNTO OTHERS": POPE FRANCIS' CALL TO ACTION

Rev. John Dear
PeacVoice

Pope Francis called us to "Hope and healing, peace and justice" as he addressed Congress. "Summon the courage and the intelligence to resolve today's many geopolitical and economic crises," he said. "Our efforts must aim at restoring hope, righting wrongs, maintaining commitments, and thus promoting the well-being of individuals and of peoples. We must move forward together, as one, in a renewed spirit of fraternity and solidarity, cooperating generously for the common good."

With his address to Congress, Pope Francis gave a call to action with a specific "to do" list: End the death penalty, poverty, hunger, rampant capitalism, the exclusion of immigrants, war, the arms trade, environmental destruction.

He offered his call to action by invoking four great Americans: Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton.

With Lincoln, he invoked the great liberator who ended slavery. With King, he invoked the great dreamer who imagined what we could be--more just, respectful, equitable and nonviolent. With Dorothy Day, he called us to end poverty and hunger and pursue social justice and peace. With Thomas Merton, the monk and author, he invited us to the life of contemplative peace, oneness with creation, and the search for God.

In a gentle way, he asked us to use the Golden Rule as our guide. The Golden Rule is mentioned in every religion and cited by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

"Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated," he said. "Let us seek for others the same possibilities which we seek for ourselves. Let us help others to grow, as we would like to be helped ourselves. In a word, if we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities. The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us. The Golden Rule also reminds us of our responsibility to protect and defend life at every stage of its development."

Then he got down to business. End the death penalty, he said emphatically. "I am convinced that this way is the best, since every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity, and society can only benefit from the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes."

Invoking Dorothy Day of New York, he said we need to continue the fight to end poverty and hunger. "I would encourage you to keep in mind all those people around us who are trapped in a cycle of poverty. The fight against poverty and hunger must be fought constantly and on many fronts, especially in its causes."

"I call for a courageous and responsible effort to 'redirect our steps,' and to avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity," he said urging us to end environmental destruction. "I am convinced that we can make a difference."

Then Pope Francis invoked Thomas Merton. Merton calls us all to be peacemakers, to make peace with ourselves and with one another. Merton spoke against racism, nuclear weapons, the Vietnam War, and all forms of violence, and he often did this by dialoguing with others.

Invoking Merton's way of dialogue and peace, the Pope invited world leaders to end war. "Being at the service of dialogue and peace also means being truly determined to minimize and, in the long term, to end the many armed conflicts throughout our world. Here we have to ask ourselves: Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society? Sadly, the answer is simply for money. In the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to stop the arms trade.

"To imitate the hatred and violence of tyrants and murderers is the best way to take their place," he said. Francis wants us to refuse the money made from war and become peacemakers.

Pope Francis calls each one of us to rise above ourselves and get to work with the task at hand. He urges us to do what we can to end the death penalty, poverty, hunger, exclusion of immigrants, war, greed, the arms trade, and environmental destruction. He calls us to be like Jesus and St. Francis, people of the Golden Rule.

We need a new national and global grassroots movement for peace, justice and nonviolence and that means we all need to get involved. We must rise to the occasion as he has, to take a stand, speak out, take to the streets, and keep moving forward toward a more nonviolent world. My hope and prayer is that all Americans, religious and secular, heed the call and do our part for "hope and healing, peace and justice."

OPINION

THE GRASS ISN'T GREENER

Laura Finley
PeaceVoice

The old adage "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence" refers to the common belief that things must be better elsewhere. While sometimes that is true, in reality the belief that somewhere else is preferable can result in dissatisfaction with what one has and can dissuade initiatives to improve one's own situation. I see this mentality played out in many ways, but one that has bothered me a lot in recent years is the way that community and campus groups—both of which I am integrally involved—seem to always believe that the "experts" from outside are an improvement on the ones they have among their ranks.

Campuses and community organizations often pay these so-called experts exorbitant fees to impart their words of wit. Honoraria of up to $10,000 is not uncommon at universities who bring in renowned speakers to discuss important topics. Likewise, community groups who are often struggling to fund their daily work, have been known to cough up significant sums to speakers or trainers. Typically, these sessions are one-time only, and, as amazing as some of these presenters are, data is clear that one-off presentations are unlikely to be impactful beyond the very short term. Bullying and sexual violence seem to be the two topics in which campuses and community organizations insist on relying on a grass is greener mentality.

Further, bringing in a national speaker to talk about a local problem often fails to inspire attendees to see how they can take action in their communities. It suggests that there is actually nothing going on locally so organizers had to look outside of the region to find an appropriate presenter. This is hardly the message we want to send to students, social service providers, and other community organizations.

Oftentimes campus groups or community organizations hire outsiders in order to draw down a budget or grant funds, out of fear they will lose them in future if excesses remain at the end of the year. One has to wonder, however, how else those funds could have been devoted should organizers instead have employed a community "expert" who would likely present for free or a very minimal fee? Instead of hiring a sexual assault speaker at several thousand dollars, a university could utilize one of the many faculty members on every campus that has expertise in these areas. I know I have long offered my services at my campus and in my community, only to learn sometimes that an outsider was hired already. Those funds that would have been saved by using me, for free, could instead provide scholarships to survivors or seed money to student groups to engage in prevention campaigns, for example.

Similarly, instead of hiring a bullying "expert," a nonprofit organization could look at what exists in their community already and couple with that group to engage in a collaborative initiative that would reach more people, be more sustainable, less duplicative, and inevitably more impactful. For instance, where I live in South Florida, The Humanity Project has been offering high quality, free, arts-based bullying prevention programs in schools and the community for ten years. For more information about this wonderful group, see thehumanityproject.com.

Sometimes, there's no need to search for greener grass, especially when your own backyard is lush and plentiful.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Program Facilitator needed for local domestic violence intervention program.

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

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SAVING AND SPENDING TIPS FOR MILLENNIALS

(StatePoint) Nearly half of Americans describe themselves as "good savers," according to the TD Bank Saving and Spending Survey, and Millennials are leading the charge. Fifty-six percent of Millennials report they are good savers, compared with 43 percent of Gen Xers and 48 percent of Baby Boomers.

Although encouraging, there is always room for improvement. Ryan Bailey, Head of Deposit Products, Payments and Non-Real Estate Lending at TD Bank, recommends the following smart saving tips for Millennials:

• Nearly seven in 10 Millennials admit to indulging on impulse purchases. Create a budget to help curtail impulse spending to ensure you have money for your rainy day fund.

• Use banking and financial apps to track and control spending, as well as to manage savings at home or on-the-go.

• Take advantage of company retirement savings plans, contributing up to your company's matching policy. Remember, even small contributions could make a big difference down the line.

• View salary increases as an opportunity to boost savings. Allocate a portion of raises to savings, setting up a direct deposit into savings accounts.

Saving for the future may seem like a distant issue for young professionals already saddled with high costs of living and student loans. But by establishing good saving habits today, Millennials can ensure a lifetime of financial health.

Fair (from Front)

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The 61st Annual Cullman County Fair kicked off on Thursday, September 24.

According to Jerry Bonner, manager of the Cullman County Fair, attendance is down a little bit from last year.

"But we hope to make that hope to make that up this weekend," Bonner said.

"But last year we had one of the biggest years we'd ever had."

Bonner also remarked that there seem to be more children's rides at the fair than last year, but couldn't say definitively.

All in all, the fair is going great according to Bonner.

Bonner's favorite part of the fair this year is the new attraction, Grandpa Cratchet. Cratchet is a puppeteer who runs a production company.

"The kids are loving him," Bonner said.

The Cullman County Fair is more than just an annual event with funnel cake and a talent show.

Through the funds raised by the Cullman County Fair, the Cullman Lions Club is able to donate to community projects and Cullman charities.

"We appreciate the folks of Cullman County supporting us in this endeavor because we're not able to support all the charities and do all that we do without them," Bonner said.

Among the local Cullman charities that the Lions Club donate to is Cullman Caring for Kids.

The Cullman County Fair ends October 3.