SERIES 5 • ISSUE 43 • NOVEMBER 2, 2015
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS


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WSCC

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FARM CITY TOUR GOES TO HUNTSVILLE

PARTICIPANTS LEARN ABOUT FARMING, RETAIL NURSERIES AND FOOD BANK

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – On Thursday, October 28th people from all parts of Cullman County loaded Wallace State Community College's brand new bus and traveled to the Huntsville and toured three places of agricultural interest, Tate Farms, Bennett Nurseries, Inc. and the Food Bank of North Alabama. The trip was part of the 2015 Farm City Tour which celebrates north Alabama's rich agricultural heritage.

"The Farm City Tour is an annual event that the local Farm City Committee puts together," said Tony Glover, Cullman County Extension Coordinator. P10

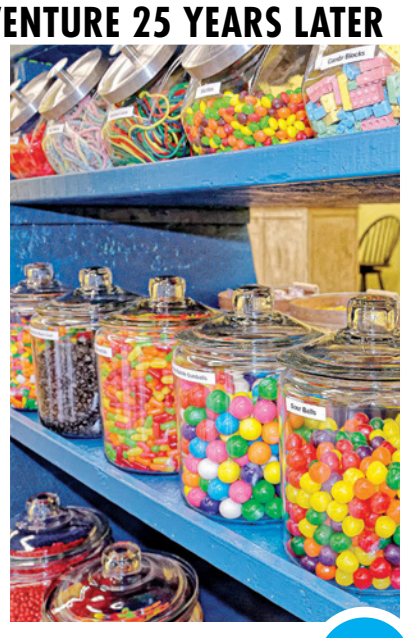

SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Participants of the 2015 Farm City Tour visit the North Alabama Food Bank.

KERNEL KULLMAN GIVES NEW TWIST ON OLD-TIME FEELING

HONEYMOON TRIP LEADS TO SWEET BUSINESS VENTURE 25 YEARS LATER




NOAH CHANDLER/CULLMANSENSE

An assortment of Watermelon, Grape, Cotton Candy and many more flavored popcorn and other snacks await eager buyers.

P7

2015 WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT EXCEEDING ECONOMISTS' PROJECTIONS

Tara Hutchison
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Fitzgerald Washington announced today that Alabama's 2015 wage and hour employment growth has surpassed earlier expectations. Wage and salary employment, which is the measure of how many jobs Alabama's economy supports, has increased by 35,500 through September.

The Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) at the University of Alabama projected in January that wage and salary employment would grow by 33,800 over the year.

"With three months left to go in the year, we are beyond excited to announce that we've already bypassed earlier expectations of job growth," said Washington.

"We've been seeing steady improvement all year long, and this news is so encouraging. We still have the holiday hiring season ahead of us, so we are hopeful this number will get even larger by the time 2015 rolls to an end."

CBER predicted a job growth percentage of 1.8%, and wage and salary's growth percentage is currently at 1.9%.

The majority of the job growth is in the construction sector and the leisure and hospitality sector.

Construction jobs have grown by 10.62%, and leisure and hospitality jobs have grown by 7.38%.

"These numbers are great news, and we are excited about them," continued Washington. P3

CULLMAN VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION EXPECTED TO BE BIGGER THAN EVER

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The annual Cullman County Veterans Day Celebration will be Saturday, November 7 from 9-2 p.m. at Sportsman's Lake Park and from 11-5 p.m. at Cullman Airport. This year's event, because of the planned events, must be in two separate locations. Keeping that in mind, the day has been planned to allow anyone who wants to fully experience everything there is to see and do at each location to be able to do just that.

"This year our event will be bigger than ever before," Colonel Ken Brown, a key agent in growing the annual Veterans Day Celebration in Cullman, said.

"It has grown year by year since the city and county built the great Veterans Park that now exists at Sportsman's Lake and since we began to pay long overdue homage to our Vietnam Veterans, who are now attending in increasing numbers," he continued. Because of the growing support of the annual event's growing local support, Brown is able to recruit more and more people and attractions to help the Veterans Day Celebration grow as well.

However, while having an enjoyable event that brings the community together is a great goal to have for any celebration, Brown's goal also has added value.

"Having an annual event like this is important, since less than one percent of our entire population is serving in the military and our citizens know less and less about what military service is all about," Brown said.

Brown's idea is melding together the traditional community event with a more significant purpose of connecting younger members of Cullman to the older veterans in the community.

"It is also important to have a family friendly event, that is no cost to the public, so that they can be persuaded to come out and thank their veterans, something most would not take the time to do, given their busy weekend schedules, shopping, and Auburn/Alabama football," Brown continued.

As far as attractions and events this year, there are a handful of additions according to Brown:

"We have a NASA Astronaut as a guest speaker for the P5

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

WELFARE CHECKUP LEADS TO METH LAB DISCOVERY AND ARREST, $1M BOND SET

Bradley Williams
Cullman County Sheriff's Office

VINEMONT — Thursday, October 29, 2015, the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), with the assistance of the Cullman Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET), arrested Stanley Leon Martin, 43 years old of Vinemont for Manufacturing 1st, Unlawful Possession of Marijuana 2nd, and Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

The arrest originated in Vinemont after a welfare check was requested on the safety of some minor children.

Once establishing probable cause to search the home deputies discovered a homemade meth lab with all the classic ingredients to produce meth as well as marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Authorities found a 'shake-and-bake' meth lab in the home of Stanley Leon Martin after a welfare check was requested on the safety of some minor children.







CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"This was a classic shake-and-bake meth lab. What is most disturbing is this individual had the meth lab around kids which is horrible on many levels", stated Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry.

"I am very glad the deputies were able to arrest this guy and more importantly get the children away from that environment," he added.

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

His bond is set at $1,000,000.00.

ATTEMPTED MURDER SUSPECT ARRESTED

Bradley Williams
Cullman County Sheriff's Office

CULLMAN – On Sunday October 24, 2015, Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) deputies arrested Gregory Scott Walker, 40 years old of Hanceville for two counts of Attempted Murder.

Deputies responded to a domestic violence call at Walker's residence on County Road 645 in the Walter Community Saturday around noon.

Deputies noticed Walker walking towards them and then without warning he brandished a rifle and fired two shots.

Deputies took cover behind their patrol vehicle and called for backup as the suspect retreated into his home. Deputies discovered the suspect's shots hit the patrol vehicle's windshield.

Over the next several hours an extensive standoff would ensue with several law enforcement agencies assisting CCSO including the Cullman Police Department, Hanceville Police Department and the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency.

Walker was taken into custody after he again fired three more shots at law enforcement officers from the window of his home and law enforcement returned one shot where he was wounded and later surrendered to law enforcement personnel.

"This incident shows why domestic incidents can be dangerous, our deputies don't know what kind of situation they are walking into" said Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry.

"I want to commend the job that the deputies did to protect the family members and the job the other agencies did in assisting us with everything today," added Gentry.

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

Bond is set at $100,000 cash.

No mug shot is available due to Walker's agitated state.

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ALA. ONE OF FIVE STATES CHOSEN FOR NO WRONG DOOR GRANT

Medicaid
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Alabama is one of five states to receive funding to make it easier for people to learn about—and access—the long term services and supports they need. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) announced in October that Alabama Medicaid would receive $2.36 million over three years to streamline access to long term services through CARES (Central Alabama Recipient Eligibility System), the state's joint eligibility system for public services and supports.

Other states or districts receiving grants for new initiatives include Colorado, the District of Columbia, Hawaii and Virginia. The grants are part of an ongoing partnership with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to support state efforts to advance system-wide changes that make it easier for people to remain living in their own homes and communities.

"This award is significant in that over the next three years the five grantee states will set the standard for streamlining public program access for the rest of the country," said Ginger Wettingfeld, Gateway to Community Living Project Director. She also noted that the grant will complement the technical development work of CARES which is now underway.

"While CARES handles financial eligibility, this grant will allow us to train and educate the individuals who help someone walk through all the public programs available to them with the overall goal of having the same experience regardless of which agency you start at—the Alabama Department of Senior Services, the Alabama Department of Public Health, Medicaid or the Alabama Department of Human Resources.

In "No Wrong Door" systems, multiple state and community agencies coordinate to ensure that regardless of which agency people go for help, they can access information and one-on-one counseling about the options available across all the agencies and in their communities. The goal is to enable people to make informed decisions based on the full range of available services. The No Wrong Door systems also provide assistance in accessing services, including help in completing applications for various public and private programs.

In addition, all grantees are taking concrete steps to fully incorporate a person-centered planning approach into everything they do. Person-centered planning is directed by the individual seeking services and shifts the role of agency staff from merely determining what services an individual qualifies for to assisting them in identifying and accessing a mix of paid and unpaid services based on their strengths, goals, preferences and needs.

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INCREASING TRANSPARENCY

INAUGURAL SHERIFF'S CITIZEN ACADEMY GIVES STUDENTS INSIDE VIEW OF DEPT.

PROGRAM GRADUATES 65 STUDENTS AT CITY HALL



FACEBOOK.COM/CULLMAN.SHERIFF

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN — On Tuesday, October 27, the Sheriff's Citizen Academy concluded its eight-week program with a graduation ceremony at Cullman City Hall. Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry, along with his deputies and office personnel, helped celebrate the event.

The night's guest speaker was Shelby County Sheriff John Samaniego. Samaniego commended Gentry and the Sheriff's Department for keeping Cullman County citizens safe.

"I want to tell each and every one of you thank you for stepping up and being a leader in our community," said Gentry.

"I think in today's time, we lack leadership within our community. This is your sheriff's office and we wanted to provide you with a unique, transparent look at what we do in law enforcement and who we are. I want to thank you for being a part of that."

The Sheriff's Citizen Academy gives Cullman County citizens an opportunity to learn about law enforcement's role in the community and how they strive to make the area safe.

The inaugural program produced 65 graduates.

"Tonight was the graduation from the Sheriff's Citizen Academy," said Cindy Stricklin, student. "I will miss it and the friends I made. It was so much fun. Everyone should get to be a part of this experience. I appreciate our wonderful Sheriff Matt Gentry and his deputies and staff – Matt Hogue, Brett Holmes, Bradley Williams, Mark Persall, Ricky Blackwood, Jeff Clemmons, and Randall Chambers to name a few," she smiled.

"I also want to thank Deputy Trevor Clemmons and Deputy Justin Bates for letting me ride with them on patrol."

"I am so proud of my wife for completing the first Citizen Academy conducted by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office," said Jeremy Brothers.

"She had such an amazing time and was able to gain firsthand knowledge and experience from some the best instructors and professionals in law enforcement. Thank you Sheriff Matt Gentry and all who had a role in bringing this training to fruition. It was awesome!" she said.

For Gentry, the program had a bittersweet conclusion.

"What I'm going to miss as we go is the nights we get to spend together every week. I'll miss that, but I value the friendships we have bonded over the weeks," he smiled.

The first Sheriff's Citizen Academy created a genuine camaraderie between the Sheriff's Department and its students.

A second Sheriff's Citizen Academy is planned for sometime after the new year.

WALMART PLANS TO HIRE 1,500 HOLIDAY WORKERS IN ALABAMA

Eddie Lard
Walmart

BIRMINGHAM – Walmart announced this week it expects to hire approximately 1,500 associates at more than 100 stores in Alabama over the next few months to help during the busy holiday shopping season. The Alabama hires are among the 60,000 seasonal workers the company estimates it will add nationwide.

Walmart is hiring for positions throughout its stores, with a focus on those jobs that will help customers during the peak shopping times. Those jobs include cashiers, stockers and sales associates. Every temporary associate will earn at least $9 an hour, with others, depending on store and job, earning more.

Current associates who want to work additional hours during the holiday season are given priority.

"Walmart will have more associates in our stores working more hours this season, all with a focus on providing service and convenience to our customers," said Judith McKenna, chief operating officer for Walmart U.S. "We will continue our 'Checkout Promise' by having more registers open during peak shopping times, helping customers save time by getting through our lines quicker."

The seasonal hiring will continue through December. Many of those hired during the holiday season will go on to permanent positions at Walmart.

"We know some of these hires are looking for a short-term opportunity to earn extra Christmas money, but for many, this could be the start of a career," McKenna said. "In fact, we have hundreds of store managers who started with the company as a seasonal associate. Last year, more than half of our seasonal associates stayed with Walmart in a permanent role after the holidays."

The company employs more than 37,000 people in Alabama at 140 Walmart and Sam's Club stores.

Individuals looking for a job at Walmart can apply online at jobs.walmart.com.

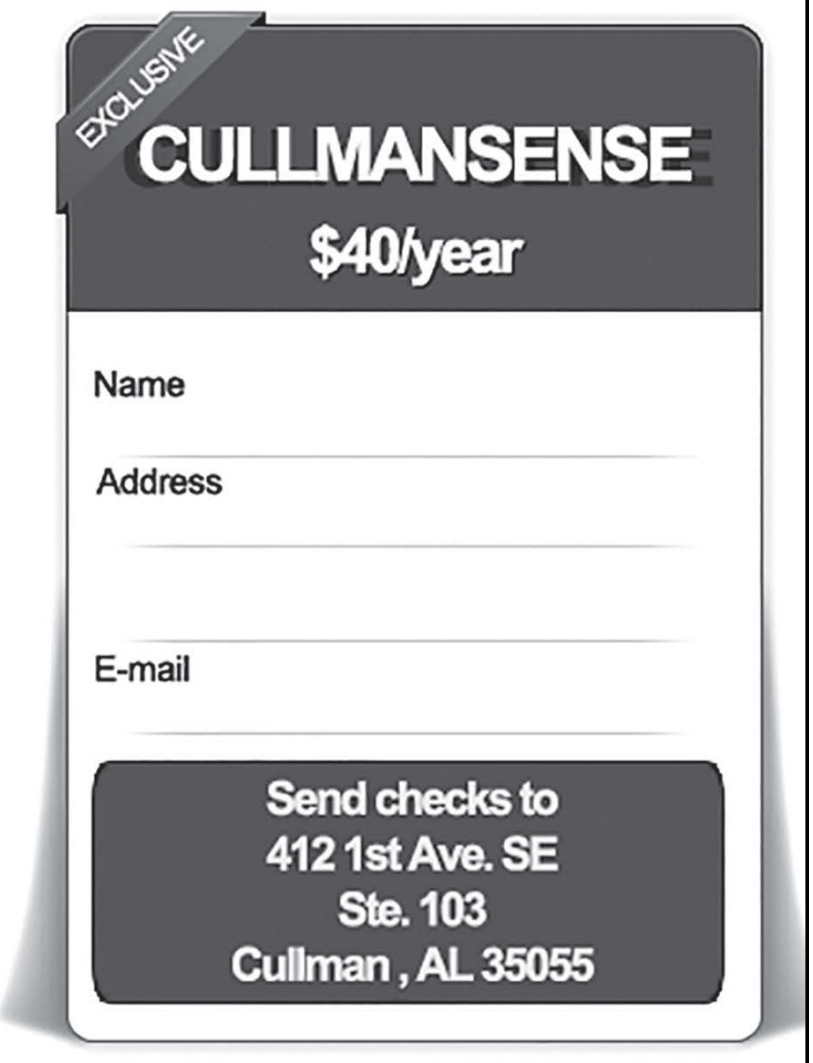
Projections (from Front)

"However, until every Alabamian who wants a job has one, our work is not finished. We will continue with our efforts to put Alabamians back to work."

"It's always a good thing when the state economy performs better than expected, so we hope that this continues through the rest of the year," said Samuel N. Addy, Ph.D., CBER Director and Research Economist.

CBER's projections were published in the 2015 Alabama Economic Outlook, which can be found online at: http://cber.cba.ua.edu/news.html#conference.

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CULLMAN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL TRADE CENTER'S FIRST FALL FESTIVAL SEES BETTER THAN EXPECTED RESULTS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com



PHOTOS: SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

VINEMONT – On Saturday, October 31st the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center held its 1st Annual Fall Festival. From 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. ghosts and goblins of all shapes and sizes met at the Ag. Center and enjoyed the day with food, games and lots of candy. Hay rides were given between rain showers and the bounce houses were helpful in burning off a lot of pent up energy from all the children hyped up on Halloween candy.

"This is our 1st Annual Fall Festival," said Sara Teichmiller, Marketing and Event Coordinator for Cullman County Parks and Rec.

"We have a lot of carnival games, hay rides, bounce houses and food for sale. I noticed that a lot of the churches did stuff on Wednesday, but nobody was really doing anything today. With the bad weather, a lot of people have not been able to get out, so thankfully we have a big indoor facility and were able to do a lot of fun stuff inside today."

"We've had a great turnout," she continued.

"I don't have an exact headcount, but it has been a lot better than we expected, so we are very happy about that. We are planning on doing this again next year with more booths and we'll definitely have a lot more help. The people who are working the booths are volunteers from Lonesome Dove Cowboy Church. They have been really good to us."

There were all kinds of games for the children to play, but one was just a little on the weird side.

"Right now I am bowling with a rotten and beat up pumpkin," giggled 9-year-old Georgia M.

"I am having a lot of fun; my favorite thing was the Velcro wall. I can't wait to come back next year."

The pumpkin guts did not keep Georgia and her friends from knocking over the carefully placed 2-liter Coke bottles.

Each time the pumpkin knocked one over, the girls would squeal and clap their hands in delight.

"We brought the grandkids because it's raining outside and too nasty to be out," said Laura Goodwin.

"We heard about this and thought we'd come out and see what's going on. The kids are having a great time; they love the bouncy stuff and the little games. They are just now getting big enough to get out and do stuff like this for Halloween," she grinned.

"It seems like it always rains on Halloween so an indoor thing is kind of nice to have."

Halloween 2015 was even better this year, thanks to Cullman County Parks and Rec. and Lonesome Dove Cowboy Church.

Rain or shine the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center had everything needed to provide loads of down home fun for everyone.

The Ag Center hosted a variety of children's activities, ran by volunteers from Lonesome Dove Cowboy Church.





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HISTORICAL PROFILE

JOHANN GOTTFRIED CULLMANN
TAKING AMERICA BY STORM

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

For two weeks we have learned about Colonel Cullmann's early years. He was born in a small village, the son German educators. He married Miss Josephine Loeb and had several children. He became a large exporter to America and accumulated his first fortune, but due to his political views which were against the government, he found himself in the midst of a short-lived revolution and his newfound fortune was in jeopardy. Cullmann and his band of compatriots blew up a train as it entered into the Frankweiler district in hopes to assassinate the Bavarian ruler, Otto von Bismarck. The plan failed because Bismarck had been delayed and was not on the destroyed train. Because of Cullmann's shenanigans, he was a wanted man. He left his home and went to London, where he stayed until the American Civil War had ended.

Johann G. Cullmann entered the United States through the port in New York City in 1866. He found work as a clerk in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he decided to stay for a while and figure out a way to get his family over to this new country. Once he found out there were lots of German people living in Cincinnati, Ohio, he moved there and began working in a bookbinding business. In his spare time, he studied law and was admitted to the bar - after just eight months! He began practicing law among the German folk in Cincinnati. As you can imagine, they were delighted to have one of their own nearby to help them with their legal problems.

Cullmann maintained contact with his wife in Germany during his travels, he continuously asked her to join him. But Josephine was a product of a wealthy and cultured family; she was not willing to leave the comforts of home for what she considered to be the wilderness of the United States. The absence of his wife and family was very disheartening to the dreamer, but he never stopped planning a better life in America for them.

His plan needed funding, so Cullmann saved his money from his law practice and by 1869, he had literally saved another small fortune. The money allowed him to go out in search of a place to fulfill his long-held dream - to bring his friends and family to the United States so they could live in freedom and flee the control of the Kaiser in Germany.

Later that year, while still in Cincinnati, he began reading about the vast unsettled lands in the south. Reconstruction had begun because the Civil War had left much of the area in shambles. So Cullmann made several trips to various southern states. He visited many areas, and was able to look past the desolation and burned fields to visualize the potential, which was an area with just the right ingredients for a new home.

While there are no known official records of Cullmann's travels, there are indications that he covered much of the U.S. territory. He visited many states, often looking at German colonies that were already established. The places he visited always seemed to come up short on what he considered to be requirements to fulfill his goal. Either the area was too cold or did not get enough rainfall or it did not have the right type of soil for farming.

Meanwhile, Cullmann's eldest son, Theodore, who was eighteen when his father left Germany, graduated from the university and completed the military training that was required in Germany. He followed his father to America, against his mother's wishes in November of 1872. He joined forces with his father in the cause for immigration to the south.

Theodore was a very handsome, capable young man. He proved to be a tremendous asset to his father. Unfortunately, after being in Cincinnati for only a short time, he contracted typhoid fever and died in January 1873. He was only twenty-six years old. His passing was less than two months after his arrival in the United States and only a couple months before his father returned to the south. Cullmann was crushed by his son's death. Theodore was buried in Cincinnati.

It was a lonely time for Cullmann. He missed his wife and children; he mourned his son terribly. But the trying times only made him stronger and more determined to make his dream come true. Once again, Cullmann turned from adversity and lost himself in his work. Just how hard was it to make his dream colony a reality? Read next week's CullmanSense to find out.



CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM

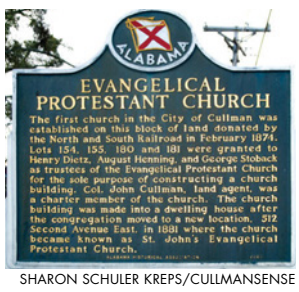
Johann Gottfried Cullmann

SIGNS OF THE TIMES: EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT CHURCH

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – The very first church in the City of Cullman once stood at the intersection of 4th Street SW and 5th Avenue SW. The Evangelical Protestant Church was attended by Colonel Cullmann and members of the first families to make Cullman their home.

In 1922, the present church sanctuary was constructed with the labor of the members and with the inspiration of God.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

It became known as St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church.

The old church building is long gone, but a historical marker stands as a reminder of the once sacred place.

EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT CHURCH

The first church in the City of Cullman was established on this block of land donated by the North and South Railroad in February 1874. Lots 154, 155, and 181 were granted to Henry Dietz, August Henning, and George Stoback as trustees of the Evangelical Protestant Church for the sole purpose of constructing a church building. Col. John Cullman, land agent, was a charter member of the church. The church building was made into a dwelling house after the congregation moved to a new location, 512 Second Avenue East, in 1881 where the church became known as St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church.

MIRRORING HISTORY: DOWNTOWN STEPPVILLE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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HANCEVILLE – The Steppville community was named after John F. Stepp who purchased 300 acres of land from the heirs of Allen Williams. He operated a wheat farm on the land.

In 1912 he sold most of the land for a town site.

The town was named Steppville in his honor. Today Steppville is consolidated with Hanceville.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE, TOP; GREG BURDEN, BOTTOM

Historic Downtown Steppville, bottom, and the current day community, top.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Blakely Grace Thornton, daughter to Adrienne Martin and Alex Thornton, was born on October 26, 2015 at 3:01 p.m. Blakely weighs 8 pounds 2 ounces and is 20 3/4 inches long.

Celebration (from Front)

first time in the history of Cullman. NASA, the Space and Rocket Center and the U S Army Missile Command will all bring displays to our event from Huntsville. A civil war band will play authentic civil war songs on vintage civil war era instruments. The World War Two Bomber, the Memphis Belle will be available for public tours at Cullman Airport, together with the Widow of the pilot and a 91 year-old Army Air Corps Member who bailed out of a B-17 in December of 1944. A drill team from the Marion Military Institute in South Alabama will be on hand to perform and Cullman's own Army National Guard Unit will be marching in to our opening ceremony at 9am at the park, hopefully to receive a warm Cullman greeting," Brown Explained.

There will be a historic gathering of veterans and representatives from many eras of America's past on display in Cullman this Veterans Day. Come out to support Veterans and to grow closer together with the community.

8TH ANNUAL LET'S PRETEND HOSPITAL

WALLACE STATE HOSTS SPECIAL EVENT FOR AREA FIRST-GRADERS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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HANCEVILLE – The Nursing Department at Wallace State Community College will hold its 8th Annual Let's Pretend Hospital Tuesday through Friday, Nov. 3rd – 6th at the School of Nursing and Center for Science building. A combination of students, faculty and staff from the nursing program will welcome more than 1,000 first-graders from both private and public schools throughout Cullman County.

The goal of the Let's Pretend Hospital is to help children understand the whole hospital setting so they will be comfortable in possible emergency hospital situations in the future. The event will also educate the children on healthy habits and safety measures.

The college's nursing building will be converted into individual mock hospital rooms. Each room will have a theme or character with a nursing instructor inside to supervise. Wallace State nursing students from 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th semester will be assigned to the rooms.

The pretend hospital rooms will be set up as:

- A Hand Washing/Bug Room where children learn about the importance of hand washing. They will talk about Good Bugs and Bad Bugs, like germs that can make you sick. Children will get to look at germs through a microscope.
- Operating Room where children get to try on surgical masks and watch a pretend operation; one volunteer child will get to be pretend operated on.
- X-ray Room where children get to see and have a pretend x-rays. They will talk about what kinds of food to eat to keep their bones strong and healthy.
- Patient Room where children get to experience what a real hospital room looks like; one child will get to be the pretend patient.
- Safety Room where children will get bicycle, water, school bus and fire safety tips
- Healthy Nutrition Room where children will learn how to choose healthy foods and snacks that is good for them.
- Emergency Room where children will learn where to go if they have an injury. They will also learn about calling 911 and tour an ambulance and fire truck provided by the City of Hanceville Fire Department.



Wallace State nursing student Karla Wynn of Cullman poses as a surgeon during "Let's Pretend Hospital" and explains certain aspects to first graders from Vinemont Elementary School.

Wallace State Community College goes above and beyond when it comes to sharing their knowledge with the community. The Let's Pretend Hospital is just one example of their commitment to excellence and helping others, in this case local first-graders, to learn and grow.

For more information, contact Gail Crutchfield, Communications & Marketing Coordinator, at 256-352-8064.



PHOTOS: KRISTEN HOLMES/WSCC

Wallace State nursing student Joseph Dunn, of Hayden, serves as a nutritionist during "Let's Pretend Hospital" and explains to Vinemont Elementary first graders the importance of a healthy eating, using a pear to demonstrate eating one's fruits.

2015
FARM CITY
CELEBRATION
Agriculture:
Sustaining Future Generations

NOVEMBER
Geocaching
throughout Cullman County

NOVEMBER 3
Sweet Potato Cook-Off
for FCCLA members
at North AL Agriplex, 4 p.m.

NOVEMBER 6
First Responders Salute
at Festhalle Market Platz 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

NOVEMBER 19
Farm-City Awards Banquet
at Cullman Civic Center, 6 p.m.
ENTERTAINMENT- Funny Dummy Show with Ken Karter
**Tickets coming soon to local banks!*

Please visit our social media pages
for more information on all of these events
and to nominate a 2016 "Farm Family of the Year"

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"To all the men and women who've sacrificed their time, individual freedom, and in some cases their lives, we honor you and the selfless gift you've given to all of us. God Bless America and God Bless Our Veterans!"
-Mayor Max A. Townson and Cullman City Council-

THANK YOU

Business (from Front)

Noah Chandler
noah@cullmansense.com



An assortment of Watermelon, Grape, Cotton Candy and many more flavored popcorn await eager buyers.

CULLMAN – A newly opened family business in the Historic Warehouse District has residents rediscovering both their sweet and savory sides.

Kernel Kullman Gourmet Popcorn & More, owned by Holly and Neal McLeod, has always been a dream for the couple.

Well the dream became official just a week ago after more than two decades of considering the concept of gourmet popcorn, old fashioned nickel candy and a vast assortment of fudge.

"We saw our first popcorn store on our honeymoon 25 years ago and have loved them ever since. A couple of years ago we decided that when our youngest daughter graduated high school, it would be time to do something different," Neal McLeod said. "We kept getting drawn back to the idea of a gourmet popcorn store, then we kept getting drawn to Cullman (where Holly grew up). So after the 2014-2015 school year, Holly left the corporate world as a human resources consultant and I retired from teaching after 26 years as a high school band director."

The Kernel, which has a feeling of a general store, is chocked full of candies from Coca-Cola gummies, candy bricks, licorice laces, homemade fudge with flavors such as Butterfinger Chocolate, Cappuccino, Chocolate Chip Mint and many old time beverages. And that's not including the multitiude of flavors of gourmet popcorn, drinks, pizza, cheeseburgers, dill pickle, and a plethora of other savory and sweet flavors.

Holly said that when walking into Kernel Kullman she would like for customers to take in the, "wide variety of gourmet popcorn and fudge (all made in-house), nostalgic candy and glass-bottled soft drinks on ice. We wanted to create a contemporary twist on the old-time general store," she said.

"Because Neal is a railroad enthusiast, people will also find a display of railroad memorabilia such as an authentic railroad crossing signal, and eventually, a model train that runs around the perimeter of the store."

Kernel Kullman is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. The popcorn, candy and fudge can be found in the Historic Warehouse Discount, located at 113 1st Avenue NE Cullman, AL 35505. For more information visit kernelkullman.com or call 256-841-6299.



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FREE EDUCATION PROGRAM
FOR PEOPLE WITH DIABETES & THEIR CARE PARTNERS

NOV. 6, 2015: HEALTH FAIR 9-10 A.M. • DR. SHARPTON 10-11 A.M. • LUNCH 11-11:30 A.M.
A1C CHAMPIONS 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. • TAMMMY CORNELIUS 12:30-1:30 P.M.

Cullman Regional Medical Center POB II, Colonel Cullman Room, 1890 Alabama Highway 157, Cullman, AL 35058

WHO

A1C Champions team - Frank Atherton, who has diabetes, and Tina, his spouse and care partner - will be delivering a free educational program at Cullman Regional Medical Center POB II to share their story about their diabetes journey together.

WHAT

Frank and Tina are members of the A1C Champions® Program, sponsered by Sanofi US, which is a patient-led approach to diabetes education. Although the person who supports someone with a chronic disease is often referred to as a caregiver, it really requires a partnership to face the challenges and sucesses of the diabetes journey together.

During the 60-minute Diabetes Together presentation, Frank and Tina will share:

- Their story about working together as a team.
- Information about diabetes and controlling blood sugar.
- Ideas for effective communication between partners
- How to work together to manage diabetes without it becoming the main focus of the relationship.

WHY

If you have diabetes, it doesn't affect just you. It touches your family and friends who want to know how they can best help you. While people with diabetes are ultimately responsible for their choices, the relationship with a care partner can have a significant impact on how someone manages his or her condition. If you or someone you care for is struggling with diabetes, the A1C Champions® team can provide education and motivation for working together to achieve better blood glucose control.

Diabetes is a chronic, widespread condition in which the body does not produce or properly use insulin, the hormone needed to transport glucose (sugar) from the blood into the cells of the body for energy. It is estimated that that 387 million people worldwide and nearly 29 million Americans have diabetes, including an estimated 8 million Americans who remain undiagnosed.[1, 2] At the same time, about 40 percent of those diagnosed are not achieving the blood sugar control target of A1C <7 percent recommended by the American Diabetes Association (ADA). The A1C test measures average blood glucose levels over the past two- to three-month period.

HOW

To register for the session or if you have any questions, contact Tammy Cornelius at 256-739-4131 or tcornelius@cpc-pc.com. Although 'teams' are encouraged to attend, individuals are always welcome.



"We partner through the successes and challenges of our diabetes journey, and we want to share our story with you."

A1C CHAMPIONS

CPC Cullman Primary Care
Multi-Specialty Group

DiabetesTogether
FOR PEOPLE WITH DIABETES & THEIR CARE PARTNERS

1. http://www.idf.org/diabetesatlas/5e/Update2012 2.http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics/2014StatisticsReport.html

Monday

Overeaters Anonymous Meeting
Overeaters Anonymous will be meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Carriage House, located behind Grace Episcopal Church. From more information contact 724-376-2124 or 256-352-1143.

Fleeting Pleasures: Japanese Wood Block Prints from Georgia Museum of Art
The Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State Community College is pleased to present "Fleeting Pleasures: Japanese Wood Block Prints from the Georgia Museum of Art" through December 3. Drawing from the outstanding collection of works on paper at the Georgia Museum of Art, this exhibition will provide a history and overview of Japanese woodblock prints or ukiyo-e, literally, pictures of the floating or fleeting world. As their name suggests, these landscapes, cityscapes and scenes of domestic life were intended to emphasize the impermanence and fleeting beauty of the world around us. The showing is taking place now through Dec. 3, 2015, with hours from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is free. Contact Donny Wilson at 256-352-8457 for more information.

American Red Cross Blood Drive
The American Red Cross will be conducting a Blood Drive on the campus of Wallace State Community College's Bailey Center Lobby from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Appointments can be made at redcrossblood.org and walk-ins are welcome! Please call Sonja at 256-734-8177 for more information.

Spirit Night
Chick-fil A will be hosting a Spirit Night to benefit Autism & Special Needs Family Support Group from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. Be sure to mention "I want to support special needs with my order."

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

Adult Luncheon
An Adult Luncheon will be held in the Atrium of Northbrook Baptist Church, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Special guests, Senior Spirit Singer from the Donald Green Center will make their appearance. For more information contact Wade at 256-734-6401.

Yoga Classes
The Cullman City Parks and Recreation Senior Spirit Program will offer free yoga classes from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. for men and women 50 years and older. The classes will held at the Donald E. Green Senior Center. Fabian Holland will conduct the class. May use mat or chair. To register, contact Angie Jochum or Catherine Hasenbein at 256-734-4803.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group
The Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group will meet beginning at 6 p.m. at Westminster Assisted Living, located at 1020 Olive St. SW. For more information please call 256-737-2033 or send an email to janeburchfield@crmchospital.com.

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

WSCC Future Foundation Student Investment Luncheon & Auction Fundraiser
The annual WSCC Future Foundation Student Investment Luncheon & Auction Fundraiser will be held from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Tom Drake Coliseum, located on the beautiful Wallace State Campus. Reservations are required. For reservation with payment: wsccfuturefoundation.org/SIL2015

Flu Shot Clinic
A Flu Shot Clinic will be held at the Cullman County Health Dept. Community Room from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. There will be a $5 charge unless you have Medicaid or Medicare but you must bring your card with you.

First Fest
A Petting Zoo, Food trucks, Trunk or Treat, inflatable, candy and tons of fun await anyone who attends the First Fest. The First Fest will be held at Cullman First Baptist Church, located at 3rd Ave SW between 6 St. SW and 5 St. SW, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

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

Annual Holiday Bazaar
Cullman First United Methodist Church will be hosting its Annual Holiday Bazaar in Hearin Hall, located at the corner of 3rd St. and Hwy. 278, from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. An assortment of items, such as homemade baked goods, candy mixes, fresh produce, floral arrangements and other items will be on sale. Both breakfast and lunch will be served. The proceeds will go to benefit local non-profit agencies.

Indoor Yard Sale
An Indoor Yard Sale will be held at Emeus Baptist Church, located at 2246 Co. Rd. 831 in Logan. A variety of items will be on sale.

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown
The Wallace State Community College Theatre will present "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," from November 5 through 8, 2015, in the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre. Showtime will be at 7 p.m. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children 12 and under. For tickets and more information, call 256-352-8277. The Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre is located in the Student Center.

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

Indoor Yard Sale
An Indoor Yard Sale will be held at Emeus Baptist Church, located at 2246 Co. Rd. 831 in Logan. A variety of items will be on sale.

Church Revival
A church revival will be held at Harmony Word of Life Church, located at 420 Co. Rd. 1204 in Vinemont, beginning at 7 p.m. Evangelist Kevin Mullins will be preaching. For more information contact Pastor Milligan at 256-739-2956 or 256-339-2372.

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Friday Night Dance at the VFW
Cullman's VFW Post 2214 invites everyone to their weekly Friday night dances at the VFW Hall from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. The cost is $5.00 per person and music by the Golden Oldies and Country with the Midnight Highway Band will be filling the air. Funds raised go toward the building rental. Get your dancing shoes on and come out for a great evening of fun and entertainment.

'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

Annual Turkey Shoot
The Annual Turkey Shoot at the Cullman Moose Lodge will be held every Saturday until Dec. 19, starting at 8 a.m. Proceeds will benefit the Cullman County Child Development Center. For more information call 256-255-5266

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Pancake Breakfast
Relay For Life of Cullman County will host a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 7:30 a.m. until 9 a.m., at Applebee's, located at 2106 Cherokee Ave. SW, Cullman. Plates are $5

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.

Sunday

Church Revival
A church revival will be held at Harmony Word of Life Church, located at 420 Co. Rd. 1204 in Vinemont, beginning at 7 p.m. Evangelist Kevin Mullins will be preaching. For more information contact Pastor Milligan at 256-739-2956 or 256-339-2372.

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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
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.

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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.

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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SWEET POTATO COOK-OFF SET FOR NOV. 3

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On November 3rd at 4 p.m. at the North Alabama Agriplex, the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America will hold its annual Sweet Potato Cook-Off.

"This is done yearly for the FCCLA members," Cherrie Haney, a representative of the event said. "It is a joint effort with the Sweet Potato Association, Cullman Farm-City and Farmers Federation, allowing students the ability to show off their cooking skills of a locally grown product."

The event, which has been active for the past 20 years, has the goal of encouraging young minds, according to Haney.

As far as the addition of Geocaching to the event, Haney says it was incorporated 3 years ago.

"Many people like to search for Geocaching, so The Cullman Farm-City Committee puts 2 to 4 around the county each year in November to encourage as many people as possible to learn about how important farming is to our existence. The main goal of Farm-City is to deepen understanding of the relationship between rural farmers and urban workers," Haney said.

Haney continued on, explaining that "Cullman Farm-City Committee tries to encourage all Cullman County and Cullman City people to learn more about where their food comes from and what it takes to get it to their tables. We would love for everyone to buy local produce and meat. Our job is to let everyone know that this is a team effort to keep Cullman County Number-1 in Agriculture Industry."

The event is free to attend, but will not have food vendors.

$215,000 RECEIVED FOR WSCC SCHOLARSHIPS

Gail Crutchfield
Wallace State

HANCEVILLE — Hundreds of Wallace State Future Foundation supporters helped make dreams come true Wednesday for multiple Wallace State Community College students by raising around $215,000 for scholarships at the 11th annual Student Investment Luncheon and Auction held at Tom Drake Coliseum.

Supporters enjoyed a catered lunch served to them by thankful students who are currently Future Foundation scholarship recipients. Supporters also viewed a video featuring Wallace State students, thanking the donors for making their dreams come true. The annual silent and live auction was also conducted at the event.

For the students helping to serve meals and manning the bidding tables, the event is a way to give back and an opportunity to see and meet the people who support the Foundation's scholarship programs from which they've benefitted.

Ashton Gaddy of Jacksonville is a member of the Lion Leaders program, a new group established through the Alumni Association and Future Foundation through which students earn scholarship money and assist the college at events like the luncheon. The $500 she received through the Lion Leader scholarship is greatly appreciated, she said, because it can pay for most of her books for one semester.

"They are a tremendous blessing," Gaddy said of the scholarships she has received. She is also the recipient of a Leadership Scholarship.
Gaddy, a freshman, is working on her Associate in Science degree in General Studies in anticipation of entering the Wallace State Diagnostic Medical Sonography program. She is also a walk-on outfielder for the Wallace State softball team.

Another Lion Leader, Matthew Bell of Cullman, is also a freshman and will enter the Wallace State Nursing program in the Spring semester. Along with the Lion Leader scholarship, Bell received an Academic Excellence scholarship. He said the scholarships give him more financial freedom and are a reward for the effort he put forth to get good grades and qualify for scholarships.

"Thank you for everything you do and all of your donations," Bell said of the donors supporting the Foundation. "Thanks for helping us out."

James Arnold is a pre-pharmacy student at Wallace State. His Lion Leader, Jeremy Young, and Academic Excellence scholarships make it possible for him to work toward his goal of being a pharmacist.

"It would be very tough for me to come to college without these scholarships," Arnold said. "I'm very thankful to the people who have donated so that I can go to college."

Wallace State dual enrollment and Holly Pond High School students Destiny Schultz and Olivia Williams are each taking a class this semester through scholarship money from the Foundation.

"I'm taking an English 101 class with the scholarship. It helps me a lot because if I didn't have it, I wouldn't be able to pay for the class. I'm the oldest child in a single-parent home, and we just wouldn't have the money," said Schultz, who hopes to one day major in education.

Williams is also currently enrolled in an English 101 class via the Foundation scholarship program.

"The Future Foundation scholarship money has helped tremendously. There are seven people living in my house, and my sister is in college, so any assistance is very much appreciated," Williams said.

Wallace State nursing student Matthew Huddleston, a 2013 Cullman High graduate, has earned the Jim D. and Mattie Moody Nursing Scholarship since he enrolled in college in August 2013. Wallace State's Melissa Arnold, now a math instructor, was instrumental in making Huddleston aware of the scholarship opportunity.

"Words can't express how thankful I am to have a scholarship like this. It makes things so manageable, which is very, very nice. Until Mrs. Arnold told me, I wasn't aware of the Foundation and how many people are involved," Huddleston said. "I'm very thankful they have believed enough in me for this scholarship."

The supporters attending the luncheon were well aware of the reason they were attending Wednesday's event. In her invocation, Foundation board member Shirley Quattlebaum expressed her thanks for "the generosity of the benefactors and educators who have changed so many students' lives and given us the community of Cullman that we enjoy now."

Foundation board Vice President Jason Spann credits the scholarships he earned to attend junior college for changing his life.

Growing up as one of three children in a blue-collar family and losing his father at 15, he didn't think college would be an option. He joined the military in hopes of paying for college after his service. But even that wasn't enough to pay for college.

"I had somebody step in my life, just like we're doing here today, and I applied for a scholarship and I got it through an association that I support today, and that changed my life," he said.

"So that's why we're here today, to change the lives of these students here at Wallace State."

"We're here today to make dreams come true,"' said Future Foundation board President Scotty Hooper. "We're going to make an investment in our future, in our kids' future, and I just thank everyone for coming today."

Hooper announced new endowed scholarships, which are scholarships that have reached $25,000 or more in contributions.
The new donations announced included:

- The Warren Family Endowed Scholarship Fund, to honor Harry, Wade, Wes and the late Whit Warren, by an anonymous donor.
- Mike Duke Memorial Endowed Scholarship, honoring longtime CFO Mike Duke, who passed away earlier this year, by Cullman Savings Bank.
- Cullman Area State Farm Agency Endowed Scholarship, by Katherine Morgan, Tonya Wilson and Shirley Quattlebaum, to be matched equally by State Farm Insurance.

Also recognized was Rep. Randall Shedd, for $5,000 toward dual enrollment scholarships for students in his district, and all of the sponsors who made the day's event possible.

Wallace State Director of Advancement Suzanne Harbin was thrilled with another great turnout at of one of the college's most successful events.

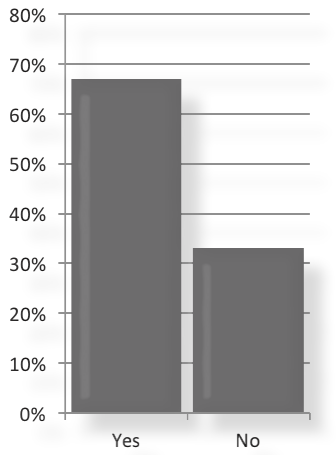
"The thing I liked the best was the video presentation, which showcased our students and allowed them to tell their story. It's really hard for us to sit up here and tell their story or what they've said to us about how appreciative they are about receiving a scholarship. The students were able to share in the video just how much the financial burden had been lifted. That's what the Foundation is here to do," Harbin said.

"We couldn't have done this without our incredible group of and faculty and staff who come over and volunteer. The Foundation board also carries a big load by making sure we have table sponsors and contributors."

A future pheasant hunt with former Auburn great Bo Jackson was the top item in the live auction. The 2-day, 1-night trip is scheduled for Chicago in 2016. The next highest purchase was a four-ticket package to the LSU-Alabama game in Tuscaloosa on Nov. 7.

Poll

Did you celebrate Back to the Future Day?



This Week's Poll

How long does Halloween candy last in your home?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

WHAT'S ONLINE



KARMA'S COFFEE HOUSE

KARMA'S COFFEE HOUSE BREWS DOUBLE SHOT OF QUALITY

Since July 22, Cullman resident Katie Nelms has been working diligently with her staff of seven baristas and cooks to give residents a unique venue to hang out, kick back and enjoy a hot cup of coffee or specialty tea with friends and... **QRNE.WS/404**



WSCC

WALLACE STATE PROFESSOR TELLS HALLOWEEN TELL ON NATIONAL TELEVISION

Fall is in full swing, and by mid-October many Cullmanites begin wondering when and where the next seasonal festival will be. The finale to the autumnal event onslaught on October 31 is Halloween for most and Reformation Day for others. Until then, Cullman is hosting a variety of activities... **QRNE.WS/405**

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Tour (from Front)

"Sometimes we stay local, but we usually try to feature something to do with agriculture and farming. Other times we focus on industry, so we kind of alternate. Every now and then we mix them up and try to get both."

"This year we decided to focus mostly on agriculture and the distribution of food," he continued.

"We opted to visit Tate Farms and then a retail nursery and finally a food bank that distributes food all over north Alabama. I thought that would be interesting to see what goes on," he smiled.

"Agriculture is a diversity, it's not just chickens and poultry like we have in Cullman, but we have a lot of agriculture in north Alabama. I hope everybody enjoyed it."

Tate Farms consists of 5,000 acres of family owned and leased land.

While the farm produces several different crops, including corn, wheat, soybeans and pumpkins, the principal crop has always been cotton.

In 1996, with 15 acres of pumpkins, Tate Farms introduced their 'Cotton Pickin' Pumpkins, as a fall farm agritainment business.

The farm brings elementary school children and introduces them to their rural lifestyle while promoting agriculture at the same time. The Tate family works together, allowing children to see for themselves how the food they eat is grown and how the cotton they wear as clothes begins on a plant.

Bennett Nurseries was started in 1965, but was originally known as Byers Nursery Center.

In 1972, George Bennett joined Byers and eventually purchased it and changed the name to Bennett Nurseries.

George's son Jeff joined his father in the family business in 1989 and continues to be a great asset to the company. The nursery grows and sells a wide range of plants, all of which is sold directly to the public at the 6 acre Huntsville location which is open year-round.

The Food Bank of North Alabama began in 1984 by a small group of volunteers and a borrowed desk at the Huntsville Madison County Senior Center.

Today they feed over 80,000 people in North Alabama through a network of over 200 partner feeding programs. They are also proud to be members of Feeding America.

"I think the tour was very educational," said Amber Adams, Director of Child Nutrition Programs for Cullman County Schools.

"The weather turned out great and made the tour enjoyable, I'm very thankful for that," she grinned.

"I thought Tate Farms was the most fun, and the food bank was more educational. It was interesting to see what they do and who they service. I also loved hearing about how it all started."

The people on the tour went for various reasons, and all of them seemed to have a great time.

"I came because I am part of the Farm City Committee and I work with local farmers and learning who they are so we can hopefully get more locally grown produce into our schools for both the breakfast and lunches," said Adams.

"I've never been on this tour before," said Mr. Sam Henson with a twinkle in his eye.

"I decided to come today because I didn't have anything else to do and I thought it would be nice - I do like tours, and I do like farming," he chuckled.

"All of it was good, but I think Tate Farms was the biggest thing. What we had to eat was the best," he added with a smile.

All in all the 2015 Farm City Tour was a success. Special thanks to Stewart McGill at Tate Farms, George and Jeff Bennett at Bennett Nurseries, Inc. and Kathryn Strickland at the North Alabama Food Bank for taking the time to make everyone feel at home.

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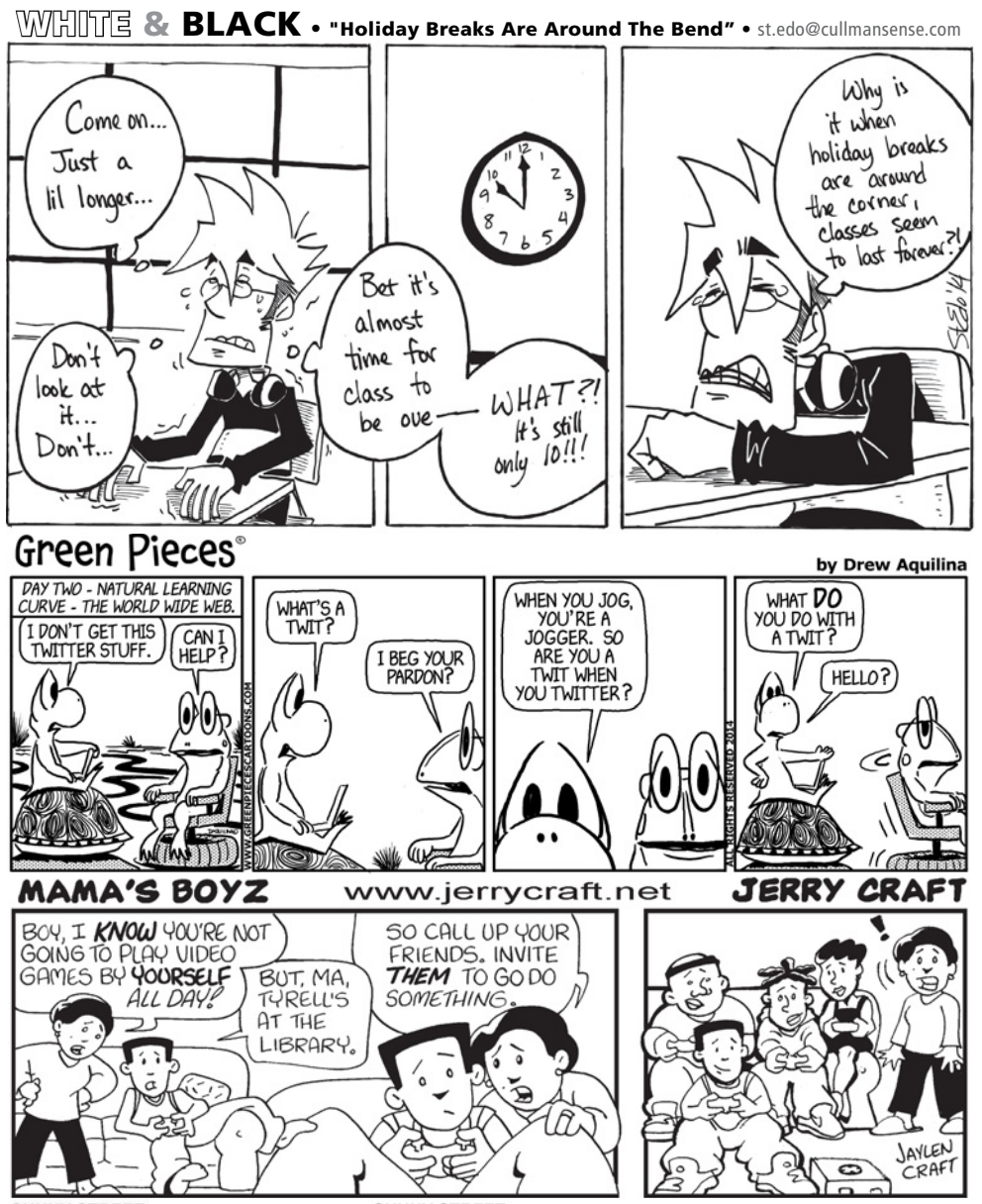
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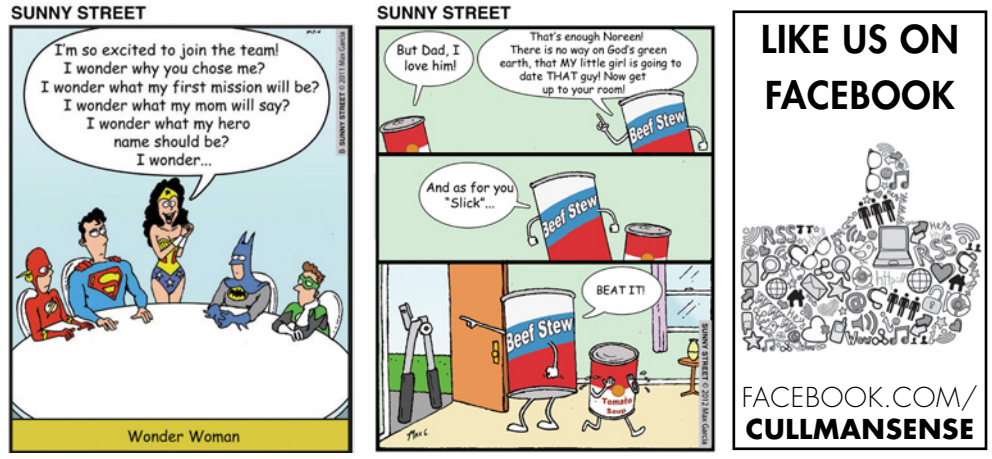
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WOODY WOODPECKER



Hello my name is Russell and I am about 4 years old. I am a Jack Russell Terrier mix and I currently weigh 22 lbs. I am a stray but if no one claims me by 11/02/15 at 3 p.m. I will be put up for adoption at that time. My adoption fee is $90 and that includes my spay/neuter, vaccines, wormer, and also covers my general exam, rabies vaccine, microchip, free 45-day health insurance, and Pet Depot will give you free food for me.

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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.

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OPINION

CONGRESS'S PROBLEMS ARE DEEP-SEATED BUT FIXABLE

Lee H. Hamilton
Contributor

A lot of ink is being spilled about the speakership drama in the U.S. House, the demands by members of the conservative Freedom Caucus, and the turmoil besetting the Republicans who run Capitol Hill. There is a pervasive sense in Washington that Congress has gone, at least temporarily, off the rails.

Even members of Congress are saying it. "I think the House is bordering on ungovernable right now," one prominent Republican told NBC earlier this month. I've been around congressional politics for over 50 years, and I can't ever remember hearing a member of Congress say such a thing.

All this attention on the crises of the moment suggests that resolving them will fix Congress. It won't. There are three deep-seated issues that have to be addressed before Congress can play a constructive role in sustaining our place in the world and tackling the tough economic and social issues we face at home.

The first sounds simple, but it is not: Congress should work its will by letting its members vote on the major issues of the day. In legislatures, whoever controls procedure usually controls results. In Congress, leaders — and sometimes followers — in both parties for years have manipulated the process to get the results they want.

Omnibus bills and continuing resolutions are part of this. Leaders try to avoid tough issues if their caucus members don't want to vote on them. The 60-vote requirement to avoid a filibuster in the Senate plays a role. So does the "Hastert Rule" in the House, under which a majority of the majority caucus has to give its approval before a measure moves forward.

These all carry a cost. Crucial issues facing the American people don't get addressed. Congress moves from crisis to crisis.

Americans give up on the institution. And members get frustrated when they can't vote on issues they know their constituents want Congress to address. Giving members of the House and the Senate a fair shot at addressing the nation's challenges would deal Congress back into the policy-making arena.

Second, Congress over the years has developed several bad habits that it needs to fix. These include huge bills that become vehicles for special-interest provisions and leadership wish-lists; bypassing the committee process; concentrating power in the leaders; curbing the participation of most members; and limiting debates and amendments.

The most pernicious of these is the practice of legislating by omnibus bills. These consist of hundreds of provisions, usually drafted in the dead of night by leadership staff — not members of Congress — brought to the floor with scant time for anyone to read them, limited time for debate, and few amendments allowed.

They're usually timed to come up just before a key deadline on a single up-or-down vote, so that the leadership can threaten a government shutdown if the bill fails.

The sad part here is that there are a lot of members who've never known anything different. An entire generation on Capitol Hill thinks that bills they had no part in shaping, are unable to debate, and have no choice but to pass are the way Congress runs.

It's not. There's another way, and it brings me to my third point. We have over 200 years of experience on Capitol Hill that have taught us how to run a legislature so that the voice of the people can be better heard, multiple viewpoints get considered, and ordinary legislators get a fair shot at influencing the results. It's called the "regular order," and it involves committees with authority holding hearings, debating issues, and reporting bills to the floor, where members get several chances to shape the legislation through amendments. The regular order requires negotiation and compromise, and gives members a fair crack at crafting policy for the nation.

The American people want Congress to work. They don't expect a solution to everything, and they certainly don't expect miracles. But they do expect a Congress that tries to make progress and that's capable of developing creative approaches to the major problems of the day. The frustration for me is that we know how to do things better with a time-tested process, but members of Congress simply ignore it.

Lee Hamilton is a Distinguished Scholar, Indiana University School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

POWER IN THE WORD: THE GOSPEL THAT WORKS!

GOD IS EVER MINDFUL OF HIS COVENANT AND HIS PEOPLE

Dr. Henry W. Roberts, II
Word of Life Community Church

There are two things the Lord is mindful of at all times. He is mindful of His covenant and of us, His people. Say to yourself, "The Lord is mindful of me."

In reviewing the covenants of God, the first covenant God cut with man is the Edemic covenant.

Go to Genesis 1:28-30. "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so."

Before Genesis 14, God said, "I am going to give you something." Tithing is a token of your covenant. God said He is going to give you every herb bearing seed. And it shall be for what? Meat.

In Malachi, God says to bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse. God gives me seed to sow into His house so there will be meat in my house. That process of sowing and reaping was implemented long before Genesis 14, long before Abraham met Melchizedek.

Now go to Genesis 2:15-17. "And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.

But what do the trees have the ability to do? Produce seed and fruit. Now say this is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But of all the other ones, you may freely eat. Go all the way down to verse 19.

So, after Adam violated and ate from that tree, God put cherubim of fire – because He already saw they were going to trend toward and walk in disobedience.

There are different kinds of angels. Cherubim protect things. God put cherubim of fire to protect the way of the tree of life.

Go to Ezekiel and you will see God had cherubim that flew around the throne. That is how the prophet saw it.

The tree of life represents Jesus. And everyone who came to the tree gets life sustained. So He had to cover that tree because sin had to run its full course. In due season, God presented His Son.

Then He says, unless ye eat of My body and drink of My blood, you have no part of Me. God preserved the tree. The communion table is a wooden table. We take what we call the articles of communion. Come on into the prophetic. On this communion table, just like on that cross, is blood and body. The wooden table represents the cross.

We put this in very ornamental containers because what we have in here is of great value. We have it covered because we don't want just anybody to have access. Now every time I receive communion, I am cutting my covenant with God afresh.

I am acknowledging I am a tither and a giver. If I have not been doing it right, I am acknowledging I have to get it right. This table goes way back to the garden of Eden. It was introduced so we could have our portion and our lot.

Dr. Henry W. Roberts, II is the Pastor/Founder of Word of Life Community Church of Mobile, AL. For teaching materials, call 251-456-2652.

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PLAYOFFS TO FEATURE 3 CULLMAN COUNTY TEAMS

Josh McBrayer
Sports Correspondent

CULLMAN – Well, it is that time of year again. The regular season wrapped up Halloween night and for most teams in the county, focus turned to basketball season which is right around the corner. However, for three teams in Cullman, they still have thier eyes firmly set on a state football title.

CULLMAN BEARCATS

It has been a season of highs and lows for the Bearcats in 2015. Cullman opened the season with an absolute drumming of Arab, 56-7, and followed up with a 31-6 victory over Etowah to open up the season 2-0. Week three saw them travel to Florence and suffer their frost loss of the season. The Cats would bounce back and rattle off three wins before dropping a heartbreaker to rival Hartselle on Homecoming.

They would then beat Decatur before losing to undefeated 6A Region 8 champion Muscle Shoals Trojans and ending the regular season finale to Russellville 6-0. Even though the Cats dropped thier final two games, their 3-3 region record was good enough to earn a playoff spot. Cullman will travel to Clay-Chalkville Friday night to take on the 6A Region 6 champions.

COLD SPRINGS

What a difference a year (or four) make. From 2008 to 2011 the Cold Springs Eagles lost 35 straight games. Fast-forward to 2015 and the Eagles are preparing for their second playoff appearance in as many years. Cold Springs took the first game of the season from Brilliant in convincing fashion, 41-14. They would then go 2-3 over their next five games before rattling off five straight wins to get into playoff contention. Their 4-2 record in 2A Region 6 play was good enough for third place. It earns the Eagles a trip to Sulligent Friday night to take on the 2A Region 8 runner-up.

WEST POINT

The road to the playoffs was a roller coaster of a ride for the West Point Warriors. The Warriors are the only playoff team to start the season with a loss, 42-26 to Hayden, but the quickly made up ground, rattling off wins against Columbia, Ardmore, Pope John Paul II and Hanceville. Unfortunately, they dropped thier next four against JO Johnson, Russellville, East Limestone and Lawrence County before sending the season with a win vs Priceville. The Warriors ended the season with a 3-4 record in 5A Region 8 play and it looked as if their season was over but then the unexpected happened. JO Johnson was forced to forfeit four games for playing an ineligible player, putting West Point in the hunt for a 5A state title. They will travel to Alexandria to take on the 5A Region 6 second place finisher.

Whether a fan of the Bearcats, Eagles, Warriors, or football in general, consider making plans to come out and support one of Cullman County's teams as they take their first step toward a state title.

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