SERIES 5 • ISSUE 46 • NOVEMBER 23, 2015
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS



EMILY SPARKS

LOCAL CHURCH IN NEED OF PIANO PLAYER P6

REGISTER FOR SPRING SEMESTER NOW AT
WALLACESTATE.EDU
BE ONE OF US


CONTRIBUTED

ERIC L. PARKER ANNOUNCES RUN FOR CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION P2

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER WORKSHOP HELD: CITIZENS STEP UP TO FILL SUBSTITUTE SHORTAGE P3



BRENDA SCOTT

HOLLY POND HISTORICAL SOCIETY UNVEILS NEW HISTORICAL MARKER P5

CULLMAN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY OFFERS FREE ONLINE TUTORING AND HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE P7

FAIRVIEW, COLD SPRINGS WIN IN FIRST ROUND OF DANVILLE GIRLS THANKSGIVING TOURNEY P4

LOCAL NON-PROFIT HELPS BABIES BORN TO DRUG-ADDICTED MOMS



CONTRIBUTED

Volunteers collect donations from the community for The King's Cradle.

P12

THANKSGIVING DAY CLOSINGS

- City offices will be CLOSED Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26 - 27
- Thursday's residential sanitation routes will run on Friday
- Commercial sanitation routes will run as normal Thurs. and Fri.

VINEMONT BAND BOOSTERS HOST ANNUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW




SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

There were lots of unique crafts to choose from at the Vinemont Band Boosters' annual arts and crafts show.

P6

ST. BERNARD PREP HOSTS ALL STATE CHOIR AUDITIONS

Joyce Nix
Contributor

CULLMAN – St. Bernard Prep School recently hosted auditions for the Alabama Vocal Association. Choral students from at least 30 different schools around north Alabama auditioned for the Alabama All-State Choir on November 13-14, 2015.

In order for students to participate in AVA festivals, they must be enrolled in a choral class in the state of Alabama and their choral director must be a member of the National Association for Music Educators (NAfME) and the Alabama Vocal Association.

To qualify for auditions students choose to audition for ONE of the following choirs:

• High School (Soprano, alto, tenor, bass) SATB Choir: open

P6


ST. BERNARD

A student from one of at least 30 schools auditions.

SENATOR MARCO RUBIO IN ALA. FOR CAMPAIGN STOP

Kayla Farnon
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – On Monday, Secretary of State John Merrill confirmed that Florida Senator and Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio will be in the state of Alabama for a campaign stop.

On December 1, 2015, Senator Rubio will hold a campaign rally in Guntersville, Ala., from 4:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Guntersville Recreation Center. The rally will be open to the public. Senator Rubio is also planning to hold two private fundraisers, one at Dream Ranch in Guntersville and a second at the home of state Senator Slade Blackwell (R-Mountain Brook). Details on the fundraisers will be released as updates are received.

The Secretary of State commented on Senator Rubio's visit to Alabama: "Senator Rubio has energized the electorate during his recent debate performances, and there is no doubt that he will be very well received in our state!" said Secretary Merrill.

"We are very pleased with the way the SEC Primary has developed and what it means for our people to have personal interaction with these candidates. With the assistance and full support of the Alabama Legislature, one of the most significant things we have done in the Secretary of State's Office is change the primary date to March 1. Since the March primary legislation passed, the top two Democratic candidates and eight of the top Republican candidates

P6

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

CULLMAN COUNTY CANDIDATES

ERIC L. PARKER ANNOUNCES RUN FOR CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Eric L. Parker is running for Chairman of the Cullman County Commission.

Parker cites his time as a business owner, as well as working in human resources for a different company as experience he can use to be the chairman of the Commission.

Parker said that he believes too much money is being spent on extraneous expenses, and not enough of the budget is being used for the infrastructure of the county.

"I was speaking with a county engineer," Parker said, "and he said that the roads in Cullman County have reached a critical mass. They're falling apart, basically.

"I have spoken with residents in the county who say that in the summer they can go two or three days without water," Parker continued. "And when they do have water, there is basically no water pressure."

Parker admits that he is not a scientist or an engineer, but he says that his experience in owning his own business has given him the skills to delegate tasks to those who are best fit to handle them.

Parker also agrees that, although Cullman has grown significantly in the past few years, all of that growth means nothing if the architectural infrastructure of the county is not upheld.

"Did you know it costs $800,000 to maintain the courthouse a year?" Parker asked. He referenced that number, along with the salary of the current chairman of the commission, which, according to Parker, is $60,000 a year. "That is ridiculous," Parker said.

"Each part of Cullman has its own set of problems," Parker said. "But what we want to do is leave all of Cullman better than we found it. And I say 'we' because I'm including my wife, who supports me 100 percent."

As far as Parker's experience in holding public office, he has a distinct and direct message to anyone who challenges him as being inexperienced. "I might be new to this ball game, but they were too," he said.



CONTRIBUTED

Parker believes owning a business has given him the skills to delegate tasks to those who are best fit to handle them.

CRMC EARNS 'TOP PERFORMER ON KEY QUALITY MEASURES' RECOGNITION FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION

Lindsey Dossey
CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN — Cullman Regional Medical Center (CRMC) announced today that it has been recognized as a 2014 Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of healthcare organizations in the United States.

CRMC was recognized as part of The Joint Commission's 2015 annual report "America's Hospitals: Improving Quality and Safety," for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, surgical care, VTE, and Stroke.

CRMC is one of only 1,043 hospitals out of more than 3,300 eligible hospitals in the United States to achieve the 2014 Top Performer distinction. This is the second year in a row CRMC has been recognized as a Top Performer. CRMC was recognized in 2014 for its performance on accountability measure data for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, and surgical care in 2013.

To be a 2014 Top Performer, hospitals had to meet three performance criteria based on 2014 accountability measure data, including:

• Achieve cumulative performance of 95 percent or above across all reported accountability measures

• Achieve performance of 95 percent or above on each and every reported accountability measure with at least 30 denominator cases

• Have at least one core measure set that had a composite rate of 95 percent or above, and within that measure set, achieve a performance rate of 95 percent or above on all applicable individual accountability measures

"Delivering the right treatment in the right way at the right time is a cornerstone of high-quality healthcare. I commend the efforts of Cullman Regional Medical Center for their excellent performance on the use of evidence-based interventions," said Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH, president and CEO, The Joint Commission. "We understand what matters most to patients at CRMC is the quality and safety of the care they receive. That is why we have made it a top priority to improve positive patient outcomes through evidence-based care processes," said Dr. Bill Smith, Chief of the Medical Staff, Cullman Regional Medical Center.

"CRMC is proud to be named a Top Performer as it recognizes the knowledge, teamwork and dedication of our entire hospital staff."

For more information about the Top Performer program, visit www.jointcommission.org/accreditation/top_performers.aspx.

TWENTY SIXTH ANNUAL CULLMAN COUNTY CHRISTMAS PARADE

Saturday, December 5, 2015 – 2:00 P.M.

THEME: "Christ, The Joy of Christmas"

No Entry Fee

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (C) _____ Email _____

Contact Person _____

Entry Classifications: Bands, Floats, Queens, Churches, Civic Organizations, Business, Tractors, Horses etc._____

Float Division: Please circle one - THEME OR NON-THEME

(All theme entries must have the theme displayed somewhere on the float)

Please mail the form to: Hanceville Civitan Club

P.O. Box 665

Hanceville, AL 35077

If you have questions, contact Joann Walls at 256-352-9799 or 256-590-2759. Email walls747234@bellsouth.net or call Deb at Hanceville City Hall at 256-352-9830 Ext 10.

Cut along this line _____

Keep this portion for future reference.

Drive down Hwy 31 to France Dodd Drive then turn and enter Wallace State Campus. Go pass the Nursing Training Building and continue until you reach College Drive NW. The parade will assemble on College Drive NW. From College Drive NW the parade will enter through the traffic light at the intersection of HWY 31 across from Hardees and proceed south on Hwy 31. Tentative plans are to turn into the Hanceville Nursing Home and loop through the parking lot. The parade will re-enter Hwy 31 and continue down Hwy 31 and turn right at James Auto Parts where the parade will disband at the Hanceville Fire Station. The line-up will begin at 12:00 noon.

Your protection is personal.

Get a quote today from:



Martha A Burchell
Burchell Ins Agency Inc
(256)737-7450
burchem@nationwide.com

Auto. Home. Life. Business.

Nationwide®
is on your side

Products underwritten by Nationwide Mutual Company and Affiliated Companies, Columbus, Ohio. Subject to underwriting guidelines, review and approval. Nationwide and the Nationwide N and Eagle are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. NPO-0194M1.1 (09/14)

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER WORKSHOP HELD

Citizens step up to fill substitute shortage

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Cullman City Schools is experiencing a shortage of substitute teachers and lunchroom staff. Last Thursday, a substitute teacher and lunchroom training was held at the Cullman Board of Education central office. School officials hope that the training will result in the added personnel needed to fill any vacancies.

"This was our second substitute training so far for this school year," said Terri Abbott, Child Nutrition Program director.

"In July, we had approximately 35 people show up with only about 10 following through with requirements to actually sub. Last night we had 52 people show up and estimate maybe 20 will return all the paperwork and complete all the requirements."

Abbot also stressed the dire need for lunchroom workers.

To be eligible for employment as a substitute teacher in the city school system, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Have at least a high school diploma or GED
- Have a valid Alabama Substitute License or have a valid Alabama Teacher Certificate
- Be at least 21 years of age or have completed at least two years of college
- Have the aptitude for the work to be performed
- Pass a criminal background check
- Complete the Cullman City Schools substitute teacher orientation course

"I am here tonight because I heard they needed substitute teachers for East Elementary," said Allison Carmichael, workshop attendee.

"I love our school and I'm happy to serve in any way I can. I have been so impressed with East Elementary, the faculty and the principal. I'd love to be a part of that any way I can."



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

More than 50 gathered at the Cullman City Board of Education on Thursday night to learn more about substitute teaching and other opportunities.

Reasons for the shortage are unknown; however, some speculate that wages paid for these positions or a general lack of interest in performing these jobs are to blame.

Citizens interested in becoming substitute teachers or lunchroom workers are urged to contact Cullman City Schools at 256-734-2233. For more information about Cullman City Schools visit cullmancats.net.

PROTECT PERSONAL TAX DATA WITH TIPS FROM ADOR, IRS, TAX INDUSTRY

Frank Miles
Contributor

MONTGOMERY — Taxpayers can fight cybercriminals by taking a few simple steps to protect their personal and tax data online, the Alabama Department of Revenue announced today. ADOR joined with the Internal Revenue Service and the private-sector tax industry this year to create new safeguards for 2016, and the partnership wants to let taxpayers know how they can protect themselves.

"Criminals have access to excessive amounts of personal data, which they use to file fraudulent tax returns," said Revenue Commissioner Julie Magee.

"Our message today is we need your help. We all have a role to play. We want you to be aware of the security steps you can take – online and at home – to better protect your data from cybercriminals."

Magee joined IRS Commissioner John Koskinen and other state and industry leaders today to unveil the "Taxes. Security. Together." campaign at an event hosted by the Federation of Tax Administrators in Washington, D.C.

The campaign is a product of the Security Summit, a collaborative effort started in March between the states, the IRS and the tax industry to combat tax fraud.

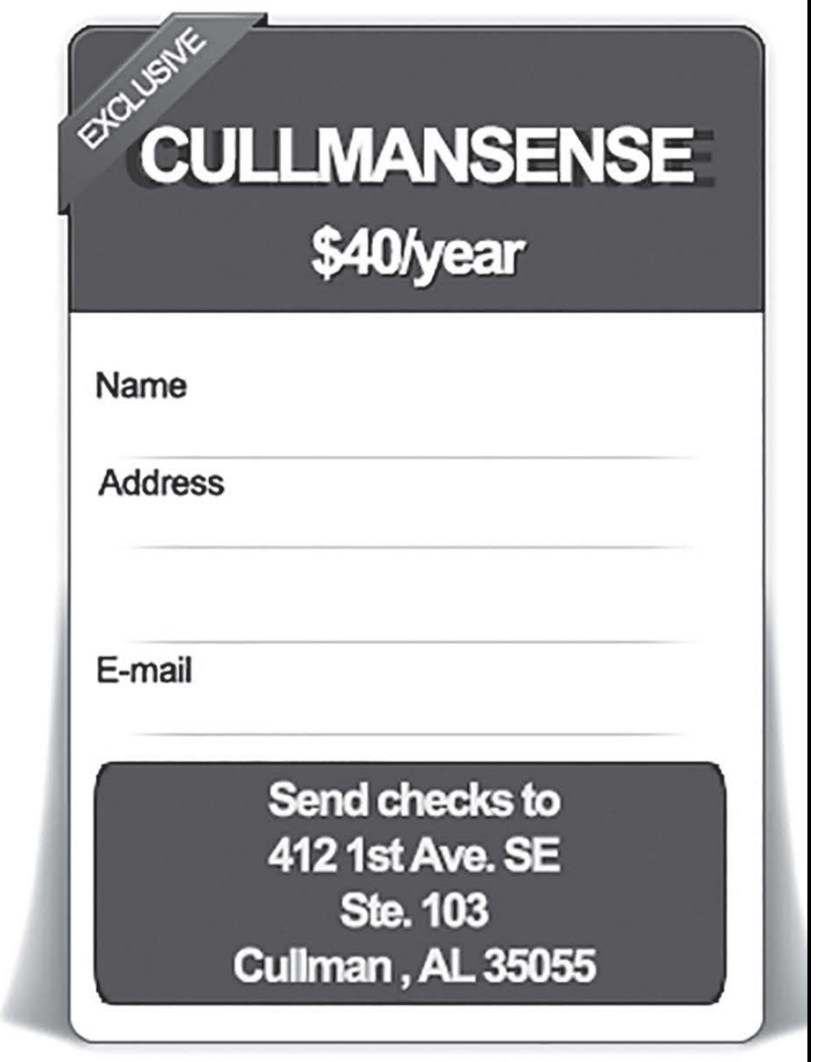
Magee serves on the Security Summit's Authentication and Financial Services workgroups.

"Taxes. Security. Together." is designed to raise public awareness that even routine actions on the Internet and personal devices can affect the safety of taxpayers' financial and tax data.

A few ways to better protect oneself:

- Use security software with firewall and anti-virus protections.
- Use automatic updates. Encrypt your tax returns and other sensitive data. Use strong passwords.
- Beware of phishing emails. A link may take you to a fake website that is designed to steal your login information. The attachment you open may include a program that allows a thief to get into your sensitive files.
- Beware of phone scams. If you get a call from an aggressive or belligerent person who says you will be sued or jailed if you don't make an immediate payment, know this: that person is a fraud. If you need to make sure a call is legitimate, hang up, and dial the Alabama Department of Revenue.
- Protect your personal information. Treat your Social Security number, your driver's license number and other personal data as you would cash – don't leave it lying around. Don't overshare on social media.
- Shred your old tax returns and documents with your name, address, bank account numbers and credit card information. Proper shredding cuts on a diagonal and creates tiny pieces, not long, easy-to-reassemble strips.
- Check your credit reports and Social Security Administration accounts regularly. In addition to refund fraud, thieves can take out loans using your credit or your children's credit.
- Know your tax preparer. If you like to file your return online, start at revenue.alabama.gov or at IRS.gov – they're legitimate. If you like to file using installed software, buy your software from a trusted retailer, or by going directly (not clicking a link) to your preferred software company's website. If you use an accountant, make sure it's someone you know will be available after April 15. Don't let any preparer take your refund and then pay you directly.
- And finally, when you see new questions, lockout features and password requirements for logging in to tax preparation products, feel good about it. Know that these new features are in place for your protection, and that the requirements are in place for every single tax preparation company.

Subscribe to CullmanSense today and have it delivered to your door for only $40 a year.



FAIRVIEW, COLD SPRINGS WIN IN FIRST ROUND OF DANVILLE GIRLS THANKSGIVING TOURNEY

Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

DANVILLE – Two teams that faced each other Friday evening, invaded Morgan County Saturday and came back victorious in the first day of the 8th annual Danville Girls Thanksgiving Tournament.

Fairview and Cold Springs took the banner of Cullman County to a high level, entering the event with combined records of five wins against two losses.

Fairview defeated Hatton in its first assignment 47-25 and later in the afternoon at Wayne Bowling Gymnasium, Cold Springs knocked off Russellville 50-30.

Three other teams had assignments, but were unsuccessful. Good Hope fell to Lawrence County 65-32, Holly Pond was edged by Decatur 65-64 and West Point suffered a 56-35 loss to Danville.

Fairview, who upset Cold Springs Friday 47-45, began its battle with Hatton by keeping the Lady Hornets scoreless for the first quarter. Fairview was ahead 12-0 when the period ended and led 27-4 at halftime.

Hatton closed to 36-17 at the end of the third and was unable to make the margin any closer. Taylor Yeager pumped in 16 to lead Fairview who is now 3-1 on the season with a three-game winning streak.

The loss to Fairview inspired Cold Springs to take the lead early in its matchup with Russellville, who was playing its season opener. The Lady Eagles grabbed a 13-9 lead after the first and was ahead 24-18 by halftime.

Cold Springs gave up six points to Hatton in the third and fourth period with the offense getting 13 per quarter. That enabled the Lady Eagles to pull away and improve to 4-1 on the season. Emme Willoughby was hot for Cold Springs scoring a game-high 20 points with 13 coming from Camryn Crider.

Good Hope got outscored 38-10 by Lawrence County in the second half after the Lady Raiders trailed at the break 27-22. Lawrence County controlled the fourth period by a 20-3 margin. Kaylee Maddox netted 14 for the Lady Raiders, now 2-3.

Ruth Horton got a game-high 26 for Holly Pond, but Decatur took the lead for good midway in the fourth and held on for a one-point victory. Melissa Clingman supported Horton with 19 as Holly Pond dropped to 3-3 overall.

West Point trailed 20-11 to Danville following the first then watched the Lady Hawks run the lead to 43-22 at halftime and keep the Lady Warriors off stride in the final 16:00. Jeri Beasley tossed in 14 with Bailee Yearwood scoring nine and Tess Hembree eight for the 1-5 Lady Warriors.

The tournament resumes Wednesday. Good Hope plays Falkville at 10 a.m., Holly Pond meets Hatton at 11:20 and West Point getting Carbon Hill at 12:40 p.m.

In the winner's bracket, Fairview and Decatur tangle at 4:40 p.m. with Cold Springs to face defending tournament champion Brewer at 6 p.m.

PREP BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

WEEK OF NOV. 23

MONDAY
Good Hope @ Winston County
Girls 6 p.m. and Boys 7:30 p.m.

St. Bernard @ Altamont Girls
4 p.m. and Boys 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY
West Point vs Hartselle Girls
5:45 p.m. and Boys 7 p.m.

Vinemont vs Falkville Girls
6:30 p.m. and Boys 8 p.m.

Hanceville vs Dora 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament
Play starts at 4 p.m.

THURSDAY
Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament
Play starts at 4 p.m.

FRIDAY
Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament
Play starts at 4 p.m.

PREP BASKETBALL SCORING WRAP-UP

TUESDAY
Boys
Cullman 56, Brewer 44
Vinemont 43, Good Hope 45
Arab 59, Fairview 42

Girls
Cullman 39, Brewer 51
Vinemont 18, Good Hope 55
Arab 63, Fairview 37

THURSDAY
Boys
West Point 47, Cullman 66
St. Bernard 55, Meek 42
Cold Springs 75, Walker 44
Good Hope 36, Fairview 46
Holly Pond 80, Darlington 63
Hanceville 71, Dora 85

Girls
Cullman 71, West Point 42
St. Bernard 16, Meek 46
Cold Springs 63, Walker 55
Good Hope 38, Fairview 44
Holly Pond 47, Darlington 53
Hanceville 61, Dora 56

FRIDAY
Boys
Holly Pond 60, Good Hope 43
Fairview 54, Cold Springs 72
Hanceville 68, West Point 57
St Bernard 57, JB Pennington 49

Girls
Holly Pond 68, Good Hope 49
Fairview 47, Cold Springs 45
Hanceville 37, West Point 31
St. Bernard 18, J.B. Pennington 54

SATURDAY
Danville Thanksgiving Tournament
Girls
Fairview 47, Hatton 25
Cold Springs 50, Russellville 30
Good Hope 32, Lawrence County 65
Holly Pond 64, Decatur 65
West Point 35, Danville 56

CULLMAN FIRE RESCUE

Application Process and Job Requirements for a City of Cullman Firefighter/Advanced EMT Position

A. Submit an application to the City of Cullman Human Resources Department

Applicant Requirements:
- Must be at least 20 years of age
- High school diploma or GED
- Valid Alabama driver's license

B. Successfully complete firefighter written exam with a passing score of 70%

C. Provide written confirmation of successful completion of Alabama Fire College approved Candidate Physical Agility Test (CPAT) or State of Alabama Firefighter I/II certification. *(Information relating to CPAT and other prerequisites for Firefighter I/II certification can be found at www.alabamafirecollege.net)*

D. Dependent upon qualifications and/or eligibility list placement may be called for a panel interview

If recommended by the Fire Chief for potential employment must successfully accomplish:

F. Interview with the Mayor

G. Drug and Alcohol Testing

H. NFPA 1582 Physical Exam

I. Employment Background Screening

The following requirements must be successfully accomplished and maintained in order to retain permanent employment:

J. Annual NFPA 1582 Physical Exam and Physical Agility Test

K. Random Drug and Alcohol Testing

L. State of Alabama Firefighter I/II certification within 1 year of employment (Approximately 10 weeks)

M. Emergency Medical Technician certification within 1 year of employment - (EMS certification in Alabama is granted by the Alabama Department of Public Health and administered through various community colleges (Approximately 1 college semester)

N. Emergency Medical Technician-(Advanced) within 3 years of employment- (Approximately 1 college semester)

O. Hazardous Materials Technician certification (40 hour course)

P. Be or become a resident of Cullman County within one year

CPC Cullman Primary Care
Multi-Specialty Group

Busy Psychiatry Practice in Cullman, AL seeking a
PSYCHIATRIC CERTIFIED NURSE PRACTITIONER
Excellent Compensation and Benefits
Monday-Friday, Outpatient Practice Only
SEND RESUMES BY EMAIL TO SHICE@CPC-PC.COM OR FAX TO 256-739-0027



HOLLY POND HISTORICAL SOCIETY UNVEILS NEW HISTORICAL MARKER

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HOLLY POND RECEIVES HONOR AFTER 130 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HOLLY POND – On Sunday, Nov. 15, the Holly Pond Historical Society dedicated a historical marker at First Baptist Church in Holly Pond, with many from the community gathering to celebrate the event.

"My family has attended First Baptist Church Holly Pond since the beginning, as my ancestors were charter members," said Robin Henderson, church and Holly Pond Historical Society member. "The Church celebrated 130 years of ministry in this community. It is my prayer that [the] church with continue to thrive and share the Gospel for generation[s] to come."

The marker reads:

First Baptist Church
Holly Pond

First Baptist Church of Holly Pond was organized in 1885 as Holly Pond Missionary Baptist Church. Charter members included the families of P. R. Tennison, William Jefferson Hazelwood, Bill House, Seaborn Shaw, and Isaac Barnett.

Over the course of the church's life, the congregation worshipped in three different locations and five different sanctuaries.

The first, destroyed by fire in 1895, was a wood-framed structure located in the triangle formed by HWY 278 and Blountsville Road.

The second, destroyed by a wind storm in 1914, was a wood-framed building located 1/10 mile west of the first site. The third sanctuary was white, wood-framed, and located at the triangle formed by HWY 278 and New Hope Road, as was the fourth, a brick, Georgia Colonial structure built in 1939.

The last was built on this site in 1978, the same year the church's name was changed to First Baptist. Many preachers and missionaries have been sent from here to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Dedicated October 2015 on the occasion of the church's 130th anniversary.

Sponsored by the Holly Pond Historical Society
ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION 2015

"I have attended this church all my life. So have my parents and grandparents," smiled church member Melissa Roberts. "I did not realize all the history of the church until now," she chuckled.

The Holly Pond Historical Society is an active group, with big plans for the future. So far, they have:

• Published a book of early Holly Pond family histories in 2008

• Participated in Founders Day activities

• Published five calendars: 2011 Historic Holly Pond School, 2012 Centennial of Town of Holly Pond, 2014 Community Schools, 2015 Historic Homes and 2016 Historic Churches



Holly Pond residents celebrate the unveiling of the town's newest historical marker. BRENDA SCOTT

• Secured placement on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register for Holly Pond Cemetery

• Placed three historical markers: one at Guy Hunt Library and Museum, one at Holly Pond Cemetery and now First Baptist Church Holly Pond. A fourth marker, for the Holly Pond Methodist Church, is next.

• Sponsored four cemetery walks to tell stories of early citizens of the Holly Pond area who are buried here

The Holly Pond Historical Society collects and preserves materials of a historical nature, including genealogies, newspapers, letters, journals, store ledgers, church records, photographs, family stories, relics and anything that relates to the history of the Holly Pond area.

The group holds monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Guy Hunt Library and Museum, located at 60 Lions Park Road in Holly Pond. The meetings are open to the public.

A GREAT TIME WITH "THE WORST HARD TIME"

AGRIPLEX'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB DISCUSSES PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR'S NEW WORK

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Tuesday, Nov. 17, a group of citizens gathered at the North Alabama Agriplex to discuss dust storms and the Great Depression. Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times journalist and author Timothy Egan's book, "The Worst Hard Time," was the subject of the new book club's meeting, one of the first of many to come.

"We are focusing more on agriculture, food and nature," Rachael Wiser, Agriplex VISTA worker explained. "The subjects of our books are very broad."

Egan's book tells a story of endurance and heroism against the backdrop of the Great Depression.

He followed six families as they went from sod homes to new framed houses to hudding in their basements with windows sealed by damp sheets to keep the dust out.

The book describes the families' desperate attempts to carry on through blinding black blizzards, crop failures and the deaths of loved ones.

"The premise of the story is that in the late 1800s, the government had removed the Indians and people had shot all the buffalo," said book club member Jane Teeter.

"There was [sic], like, 25 million buffalo that were shot just for sport from the back of a train. They were just left there when they died. When the settlers moved into the area at the turn of the century, they began the great plow-up. They started to try to grow crops there."

"For a few good years they had wet weather, so they plowed up the plains and planted corn and wheat, both of which need a lot of water," she continued.

"People got rich; they bought a lot of equipment and luxury type items. Then the Depression hit in 1929, and in 1931 they begin [sic] to have dry weather there. Some people left and went to California. In the book it says that there were about 3 million people and about 1 million had [sic] left. This is the story of the people who stayed."

The book club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

The group's next meeting will be on December 15 and will feature the book "Mothers of the South" by Anne Firor Scott.

"Everyone is welcome to come and visit; you don't have to actually join," said member Shannon McBride.

"You don't have to do a book report, and no tests," she chuckled.



Jane Teeter shows the other members of the club a picture of Bam White, a cowboy in the featured book. SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

"I think book clubs are important; it's a way to connect with others with similar interests," member Pat Sharpton added.

The North Alabama Agriplex is located at 1714 Talley Ho St. in Cullman. For more information call 256-297-1044 or visit them online at agriplex.org.

the VINTAGE BEVERAGE CO.
ICE 99¢ EVERYDAY
1627 Main Ave.
Next to Fun Zone

JOHNNY'S since 1949
We'll Serve No Swine Before Its Time
BAR-B-Q
OPEN TUESDAY - SATURDAY 10 A.M. - 9 P.M.
CALL-IN / FAMILY DINING / PICK-UP WINDOW
AWARDED "BEST OF THE BEST BBQ IN AMERICA" BY NATIONAL BARBECUE NEWS
• 1401 4th St. SW Cullman, AL 35055 • 256-734-8539 • johnnysbarbq.com

LOCAL CHURCH IN NEED OF PIANO PLAYER

VOICE OF VICTORY CHURCH OF GOD SEEKING PLAYER FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – According to Emily Sparks, the Voice of Victory Church of God needs a little help from the community. She should know. She is the pastor of the little church on the northwest side of town. The congregation is searching for a piano player for their Sunday morning and evening worship services.

"I need someone that can help me with the music," Sparks explained.

Sparks said that the church has had piano players in the past, but they didn't work out.

The current player only comes "every now and then." There is a guitar player.

Voice of Victory may be a small church, but Sparks says it's a place where "God saves, heals and still sets the captive free."

As a matter of fact, it was literally her dream come true.

"I was a pastor at a church in Hanceville when the Lord gave me a dream of buying the building we are in now," said Sparks.

"I woke up arguing with the Lord. I said, 'Lord, there's no parking, do ya hear me? There's no parking!'" she giggled.

"Well I drove around and thought, 'Well I guess there are more buildings out there.' So I took it to my church; I let them vote. I wouldn't let them raise their hands; they had to write their answers on a piece of paper. I needed 100 percent. I said, 'Lord, just give me one person to say no.' But He didn't. We bought the building.

"We didn't have but $3,000 in the bank, so I borrowed $13,000 against my car for the down payment," she continued.

"We paid that off the first year. We still owe on the church, but God still blessed it. We are up and down, but God is still in control," she smiled.

"We've been in that building for four years now. You see, we're a small church. We're like a country church inside the city."



Voice of Victory Church of God is located on the northwest side of Cullman. EMILY SPARKS

Sparks is a woman of deep faith and says she is sure that the Lord will send her church a piano player in time.

Anyone interested in playing piano for Voice of Victory Church of God on Sundays should call 256-734-9861.

Sunday services begin at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday school. Worship follows at 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The church is located at 1515 St. Joseph St. N.W. in Cullman.

Show (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Vinemont Band Boosters held their annual arts and crafts show this weekend at the Cullman Civic Center. More than 65 vendors participated in the show, which has been sponsored by the Boosters for more than 20 years. Band members were also on hand to help sell all of the unique crafts and specialty products.

"We feel privileged to unite wonderfully talented individuals under one roof to share their ideas and display their many talents to the general public," said Kim Smith, Band Booster treasurer.

"We take pride in our hospitality and aim to please not only the shoppers and observers but our vendors as well."

In addition to homemade crafts, shoppers enjoyed homemade soups, hot dogs, hamburgers and lots of other goodies.

"This has been a very special event," Smith smiled.

"Our vendor booth spaces were sold out and we have more vendors on a waiting list. It has been very successful. The vendors have been really happy; they have all had a great show this time."

Like most high school band programs, Vinemont's relies on dedicated parents and others to help raise the money needed to keep the band up and running, and the Band Boosters are notorious for their hard work and support.

"All money we raise from the craft show will be used for the band," Smith explained.

"Most of the money will go to purchase new band equipment. We are trying to replace some of our really old instruments. A few years ago we started replacing and updating our percussion section. Now we are trying to work on replacing some of our concert instruments. We just purchased a couple new French horns and want to replenish some of the old school instruments that we have."

Live entertainment was provided by the Scared Harp Singers and the band Chimney Branch.

The hard work of the band students, Band Boosters and vendors helped ensure another year of music and fun and gave the community a chance to purchase variety of unique items.

Learn more about this year's event at facebook.com/vinemontbandbooster craftshow.com.

Auditions (from Front)

to female and male students in grades 10-12.

• High School (Soprano I, Soprano II, and Alto) SSA Choir: open to female students in grades 9-12

• High School (Tenor I, Tenor II, Bass I, Bass II) TTBB Choir: open to male students in grades 9-12

• Middle School Mixed Choir: open to male students in grades 7-8 and to female students in grade 8. Male students may audition for any voice part of Middle School MIXED Choir.

• Middle School TREBLE Choir (higher voices only): open to female students in grades 7-8.

Approximately 1,000 middle and high school students from public, private and home schools took part in auditioning for the Alabama All-State Choir from the North Alabama region alone.

St. Bernard Prep in Cullman is one of five sites in Alabama where auditions were held.

St. Bernard Prep's Director of Fine Arts, Joshua Agnew said these students chose a choir to audition for and prepared the music that will be performed at the festival.

"They had to sing segments of the music by themselves to demonstrate their abilities. The judges then scored the student using a detailed rubric. The top scores will make the choir in each section. "

Everyone seemed to be pleased with the location.

"The Judges stayed for the two days in our retreat center and were quite satisfied. They enjoyed the quiet," Agnew said.

He continued by saying, "They will now hear auditions in Florence, Gadsden, Montgomery, and Mobile."

Once the remaining auditions have been completed, the judges will compile the results, and notify the Directors.

Annually, All-State Choral Festival, a three-day event that culminates in a professionally recorded concert, is an opportunity for students with outstanding ability and initiative to receive public recognition, to sing under the direction of nationally recognized choral clinicians, and to perform choral literature of the highest quality.

Three High School choirs and two Middle School choirs will perform at the All-State Festival at Samford University in March 2016.

Rubio (from Front)

have made campaign stops in Alabama, which is unheard of for our state. As Secretary of State, I will continue to position Alabama and the South as a place where Presidential candidates are willing to make an effort to visit and meet our remarkable people."

Alabama recently saw visits from former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, Dr. Ben Carson, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Senator Ted Cruz, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, Ohio Governor John Kasich, Senator Rand Paul, Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Bernie Sanders, Donald Trump and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker.

For more information on meeting the candidates call the Office of the Secretary of State at 334-242-7200.

This communication is not an endorsement of any particular candidate or political party but an effort to encourage voter participation and registration, as well as participation in the SEC Primary, which will be held on March 1, 2016.

LET'S GO TO THE LIBRARY

FREE HOMEWORK HELP FROM THE LIBRARY

Cullman County Public Library offers free online tutoring and homework assistance

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Did you know that there's a place in town where your children can get free tutoring and help with their homework? The Cullman County Public Library, a part of the Alabama Public Library Service, offers the no-cost program, called Homework Alabama, and it's available to all children from kindergarten through college.

"It's like one-on-one help," said Sharon Townson, Cullman County Public Library director.

"If you are in tenth grade and you need help with science, or if you had [sic] to write a paper, you can actually go online and it will connect you to an English teacher. They will critique your paper, not do your homework or write your paper for you, but they can help you write it," she smiled.

"It is for Alabama residents from kindergarten students through college and GED studies, which is huge."

Homework Alabama's math, science, English, social studies and writing tutors are available live at lhh.tutor.com from 3-10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday.

The online SkillsCenter Resource Library is available 24/7.

Students don't have to be at the library to take advantage of this program; the online tutoring can also be accessed from any computer or mobile device. Just go to homeworkalabama.org and click on the K-College Student Centers button.

"It's one of the best things around," Townson continued.

"You just go to homeworkalabama.org, log on and tell them what you need. You may have to wait a minute to get a connection, but it will connect you with an actual certified teacher or a graduate student. It is really cool and it's free," she grinned.

"If you are doing this from home, you have to have an internet connection, but we have a lot of people who come here and use it."

Homework Alabama also offers programs for job seekers, who can receive help navigating job sites, completing employment applications, interviewing and writing resumes and cover letters.

Career assessments, a job search and resume samples and templates are also available.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Area students enjoy doing their homework at the downtown branch of the Cullman County Public Library

Visit homeworkalabama.org and click on the Adult Education and Career Center button to learn more.

For more information about the Homework Alabama program, go to homeworkalabama.org or stop by the Cullman County Public Library and check it out. The library's main branch is located at 200 Clark St. NE downtown. Visit them online at ccpls.com.



Shopping for a mortgage?

Katherine Morgan, Agent
State Farm Agent
909 Fisher Street SW
Cullman, AL 35055
Bus: 256-734-4640
NMLS #139716, NMLS MLO #1286073
MLO License #1286073

We have a great selection.
As life changes, so do your needs. Let State Farm Bank® help with a mortgage that fits your life and your budget. Let us help you make the right move.
Bank with a Good Neighbor®.
CALL ME TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

StateFarmBank®

Some products and services not available in all areas.
1001306.1 State Farm Bank, F.S.B., Bloomington, IL
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Cullman FARM-CITY
www.cullmanfarmcity.org

www.cullmanfarmcity.org

Thank You, 2015 Sponsors!

Alabama Farm Credit
ALFA, Buddy Kelly
American Proteins
Birmingham Fastener & Supply Inc.
Coca Cola
Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce
Cullman Civitan Club
Cullman County Economic Development
Cullman County Farmers Federation
Cullman County Industrial Development Authority
Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District
Cullman County Water Department
Cullman Electric Cooperative
Cullman Farmers Co-op, Holly Pond
Cullman Jefferson Gas District
Cullman Lions Club
Cullman Power Board
Cullman Regional Medical Center
Cullman Rotary
Cullman Savings Bank
Cullman Stockyard
Edward Jones-Greg Picagna's Office
Eva Bank
Farmers Poultry Supply, Inc.
Festhalle Market Platz/Farmers Market Committee
First Community Bank
First South Farm Credit
Freedom Insurance Agency - Gloria Williams
HH Technology
Industrial Development Board City of Cullman
J&R Feed Service
Jet Pep Incorporated
Listerhill Credit Union
Merchants Bank of Alabama
Mitch Smith Chevrolet
Peoples Bank of the South
Pepsi Cola Distributing Company
Premier Bank of the South
Regions Bank
Traditions Bank
Walker Brothers
Wallace State Community College

ALABAMA'S #1 CULLMAN GROWN AGRICULTURE

Monday

Overeaters Anonymous
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.

Free Online Tutoring
The Cullman County Library is offering to students of all ages free one-one-one help live online from professional tutors. Sessions are offered from 3 p.m. until 10 p.m. For more information visit homeworkalabama.org.

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.

Tuesday

Board Games at the Library
Each Tuesday the Cullman County Public Library will host a gaming program from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. A variety of board games, cards and dominoes are available for play at the library for teens and adults.

Cullman Senior Center
The Cullman Senior Center will have a live band or karaoke beginning at 8 a.m. until noon every Tuesday. A hot meal is served at 11:30 a.m. daily. For more information call 256-734-0145. Cullman Senior Center is located by Sportsman Lake Park.

Free Online Tutoring
The Cullman County Library is offering to students of all ages free one-one-one help live online from professional tutors. Sessions are offered from 3 p.m. until 10 p.m. For more information visit homeworkalabama.org.

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.

Wednesday

Free Online Tutoring
The Cullman County Library is offering to students of all ages free one-one-one help live online from professional tutors. Sessions are offered from 3 p.m. until 10 p.m. For more information visit homeworkalabama.org.

7th Annual Community Thanksgiving Meal
The 7th annual Community Thanksgiving Meal will beign at 11 a.m. at the Good Hope High School Gym. The community meal will be served for free, with takeout plates available, to close to 1,500 people.

Thursday

Thanksgiving
All City and County offices are closed for the holiday.

Pilgrims Trail-5K Trail Run
The Pilgrims Trail-5K Trail Run will be held at St. Bernard Abbey & School, with registration from 6 a.m. until 6:30 a.m. The run will begin at 7 p.m. and the event is sponsored by the Pilot Club.

Free Online Tutoring
The Cullman County Library is offering to students of all ages free one-one-one help live online from professional tutors. Sessions are offered from 3 p.m. until 10 p.m. For more information visit homeworkalabama.org.

Turkey Shoot at Mission Grove
A turkey shoot will be held at Mission Grove Church, located on Co. Rd. 1605 – also known as Shaffer Road – in Cullman. The shoot will begin at 7 a.m.

Turkey Shoot in Dodge City
The Royal Blue Band Turkey shoot, which will be held next door to the Texaco in Dodge City, will begin at 8 a.m. There will be a children's round. This shoot is sponsored by Cold Springs High School. For additional information please call 256-736-3632.

Turkey Shoot in Fairview
A turkey shoot will be held at the old pool field, located at 1337 Wesley Ave. N, in Fairview. Tickets will be sold for a chance at a 12 gauge shotgun with case. Proceeds will go to the Lions Club project Fund. For more information contact William at 256-385-5596 or LaQuita at 256-796-7455.

Friday

Cullman Senior Center
The Cullman Senior Center will have Gospel Singing beginning at 9:30 a.m. every Friday. Special guests bring a devotion at 10:30 a.m. A hot meal is served at 11:30 a.m. daily. For more information call 256-734-0145. Cullman Senior Center is located by Sportsman Lake Park.

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.

Sunday

Free Online Tutoring
The Cullman County Library is offering to students of all ages free one-one-one help live online from professional tutors. Sessions are offered from 3 p.m. until 10 p.m. For more information visit homeworkalabama.org.

Announcements

Piano Player Needed
Voice of Victory Church, located at 1515 St. Joseph St, is searching for a piano player for Sunday morning and evening services. For more information please call 256-734-9861.

Living Bread Food Bank
The Living Bread Food Bank, located at Hanceville 1st United Methodist Church has changed its food bank opening to the second Saturday throughout November and December. For more information please call 256-352-5536.

WSCC Alumni Foundation 2016 Trips
The WSCC Alumni Foundation is planning a number of trips to popular tourist destinations throughout 2016. Please contact Gail at 256-352-8604 or by email at gailcrutchfield@wallacestate.edu.

Church's New Gathering Place
East Battleground Baptist Church will now be hosting services in a mobile chapel on the home site. Members and visitors will be in this location until the new church is completed.

Baby Bottle Blast
The Baby Bottle Blast is a project to benefit substance exposed newborns. It is a great program for schools, workplaces, civic groups and churches. You simply purchase baby bottles and fill them with change then donate to The King's Cradle. For more information call 1-888-722-2426.

Church's New Gathering Place
Due to a fire in the Bread of Life Church in Holly Pond, members will now attend services in the old New Life Worship Center building, located at 721 Brooklyn Rd., Holly Pond, until further notice. Please contact Brenda at 256-507-2650.

Bob's Grief Support Group
The last Thursday of each month Bob's Grief Support Group meets at the Chapel at Smith Lake Park. For more information please call 2556-595-7331.

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
Sponsored by Busy Bee Café

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

TUESDAY
- Tuesday Night Trivia at Augusta's Sports Grill beginning at 7 p.m. 1st place receives $50 gift card.
- 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
- Trivia at the Busy Bee Cafe beginning at 7 p.m. 1st place receives a $25 gift certificate.
- 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.

IF THIS CAUGHT YOUR EYE, WHY AREN'T YOU ADVERTISING HERE?
NOAH@CULLMANSENSE.COM

BUSY BEE CAFÉ HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS
Wine Wednesdays • Thirsty Thursdays
Fill'er Up Fridays • Sudsy Saturdays
LIVE TRIVIA EACH THURSDAY 6-8 P.M.

SUBMIT YOUR *FREE* CALENDAR LISTING
Church Events • Club Meetings
E-mail calendar@cullmansense.com

Medical Arts Apothecary
Living Well Natural Store
124 7th Street, S.W.
256-734-4933
"Serving Cullman Families for over 50 Years!"
SUSAN SKINNER ADKISON, R.P.H.
Living Well natural store
Rx HealthMart PHARMACY

ALABAMA SWEET POTATOES ARE A THANKSGIVING FAVORITE

Debra Davis
Contributor

As Thanksgiving approaches, whether you're serving a delicious sweet potato pie or a simple baked sweet potato topped with butter, it was likely grown by an Alabama farmer.

From cornbread to casseroles, there's a place for sweet potatoes on every Thanksgiving table.

Farmers like Joel Sirmon of Baldwin County and Casey Smith of Cullman County want to remind consumers there are no better sweet potatoes than those grown in Alabama.

"We were blessed with a good crop of sweet potatoes this year," said Sirmon, who grew 700 acres of the sweet potatoes. "It was better than expected."

Smith said his crop was turning out well, too.

"We've still got about 25 acres left to harvest," he said.

"The recent rain put us a little behind, but the weather is supposed to be good for the next few days, so we should be able to finish up by the end of Thanksgiving week."

Planting and harvesting sweet potatoes is labor-intensive, and much of the work is done by hand.

Alabama ranks sixth nationally in sweet potato production, bringing in more than $9 million to the state annually.

Planted in the spring, sweet potato harvest typically begins in early fall.

The sweet potatoes are turned up with a tractor and disc, and gathered by hand in 40-pound crates before being hauled from the fields by trucks.

After curing in the Alabama heat and humidity for about two weeks, sweet potatoes make their way to grocery stores throughout the Southeast.

Sirmon and Smith said their biggest customer is Walmart, although both sell to other brokers and to local residents.

Sirmon said there are few things better than a baked sweet potato, while Smith said he prefers a good sweet potato pie over most other ways they're prepared.

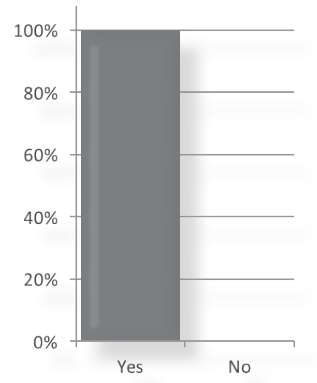
While their taste buds differ, both men say they like growing a crop families enjoy at special gatherings and casual weeknight meals.

"The biggest demand for sweet potatoes is at Thanksgiving, followed by Christmas and Easter," Sirmon said.

"But I want people to enjoy them all year long," he added.

Poll

Are you concerned about an attack from ISIS following Friday evenings massacre in Paris, France?



This Week's Poll

Do you think Alabama should accept Syrian refugees?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

TRUCK DRIVERS AND REGISTERED NURSES CONTINUE TO BE MOST SOUGHT AFTER EMPLOYEES ACCORDING TO HWOL DATA

Tara Hutchison
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Data collected and analyzed by the Alabama Department of Labor's Labor Market Information Division shows that the most online wanted ads were for truck drivers, registered nurses, and retail salespersons, with more than 10,000 ads placed for those occupations in October. Overall ads were up over the year by 10.2 percent.

The Help Wanted Online (HWOL) data is compiled from all online job postings in the state, including those posted on the state's free online jobs database, www.joblink.alabama.gov, and other sources; such as traditional job boards, corporate boards, and social media sites.

There were 51,380 online ads this month, 25,849 of those were new ads.

Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers earn a mean wage of $20.15 per hour, registered nurses earn a mean wage of $27.82 per hour, and first-line retail salespersons earn a mean wage of $12.62 per hour.

Wages for Top 10 Occupations with Most Online Ads Posted

Occupation/Wages (per hour):

- Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers - $20.15
- Registered Nurses - $27.82
- Retail Salespersons - $12.62
- First-Line Supervisors of Retails Sales Workers - $19.79
- Customer Service Representatives - $14.68
- First-Line Supervisors of Office and Admin. Support - $24.70
- Maintenance & Repair Workers, General - $18.23

SUPPORT THE ANNUAL
Childhaven
THANKSGIVING APPEAL
WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT CHILDHAVEN
"I have a better life because of Childhaven and the people I met there. I gained a family there in my 4 year stay, A family I still have today."
"Childhaven gave me a faith, taught me to work, and provided me the values that guide me each day."
"You do amazing things for kids!"
MAKE A GIFT TODAY AND CHANGE A LIFE!
CHILDHAVEN • 1816 CHILDHAVEN ROAD • PO BOX 2070
CULLMAN, AL 35056 • 256-734-6720 • CHILDHAVEN.COM

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

FACEBOOK.COM/
CULLMANSENSE

WHAT'S ONLINE



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

AGRIPLEX TEACHES RESIDENTS THE LOST ART OF STOOL MAKING

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, the North Alabama Agriplexinfo-icon hosted a special class. Dr. Bill Peinhardt, board member and class instructor, held a captive audience as he demonstrated the art of constructing rustic three-legged stools using old fashioned... **QRNE.WS/410**



PREP BASKETBALL: HOLLY POND WINS BIG ON THE ROAD

Holly Pond came out like a house of fire Friday night as they visited the campus of Good Hope to take on the Raiders. Great defense and superb shooting led to an 8-0 that started the game and forced a time-out from the Raiders. Following the time-out, Good Hope got on the board with a three-pointer... **QRNE.WS/411**

DOWNLOAD
CULLMANSENSE NOW
FOR IOS AND ANDROID
QRNE.WS/CSNOW

WALLACE STATE VOLLEYBALL ELIMINATED AT NJCAA DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM CLOSES SEASON WITH 39-8 RECORD

Russell Moore
WSCC Contributor

CASPER, WYO. – Wallace State volleyball had its season come to an end Friday, losing to Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I consolation round at the Casper Events Center.

The Lions, seeded 12th, close the season with a 39-8 record after falling to the 13th-seeded Blue Dragons, 14-25, 28-30, 22-25.

Wallace State sophomore CeCe Hall had 10 kills and a pair of blocks, Kheala Roberts had seven kills and freshman Cierra Davis contributed seven digs and six kills for the Lions, who made their seventh straight national tournament appearance and state-best 15th overall. Wallace State advanced to the tournament after winning its seventh consecutive Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) championship.

Hutchinson, who lost to Wallace State in the regular season, swept the match, which featured 16 ties and seven lead changes throughout.

"Our Achilles' heel all season has been ball control and discipline on defense when we play a good team. It sounds like a broken record, but it got us again," said Wallace State coach Randy Daniel.

Wallace State nearly pulled out the second set after trailing 17-8 and 19-11. The Lions charged back to tie things up at 24-all and led three times before the set was complete. However, Hutchinson was the first to score consecutive points down the stretch, winning 30-28.

Wallace State trailed by no more than five points in the final set and got within a point at 24-23, but Hutchinson prevented the Lions from rallying with a 25-23 victory. There were seven ties and four lead changes in the third set.

Freshman Kelsea Bivins finished with eight kills for the Lions, Tara Miller had a team-high 25 assists, August Newberry collected 12 digs and Sidney Cooper had 11 digs.

Jai Chapman led Hutchinson with 14 kills and eight digs and Petra Silic, a 6-foot-4 Croatian, had 10 kills. McKenzie Steele added 15 digs and four aces. It was the final Wallace State match for six sophomores: Hall, Roberts, Cooper, Alexandra Gamble, Savanna Tidwell and Stephanie Eckerd.

"They are great people on and off the court. They've meant a lot to the program academically and on the court," said Daniel, the 2015 ACCC/District 0 Coach of the Year. "This is a great group, and I've been fortunate enough to have a lot of good ones. They've added to the program's history, and that's what you ask for from a group of sophomores."

The sophomores were a part of 74 victories over two seasons and a pair of conference championships.

Hall, an Alabama commitment, was named the ACCC Player of the Year after leading the conference in hitting percentage, kills, kills per set, blocks and blocks per set. She was also the conference tournament MVP, a three-time ACCC Player of the Week and the NJCAA Player of the Week in September.

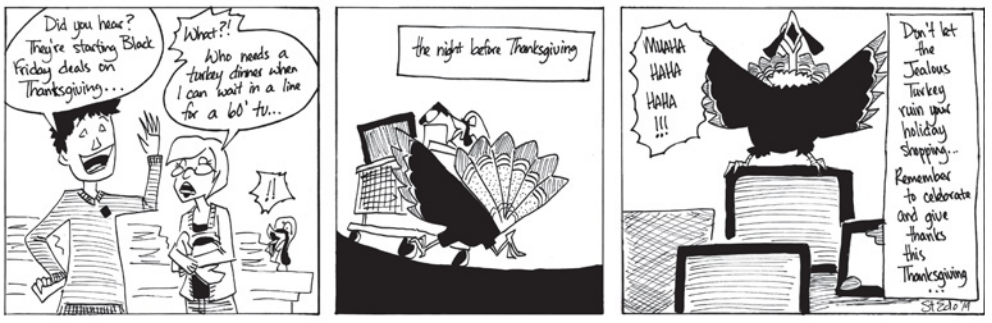
Roberts and Gamble were also first-team ACCC All-Region selections and all-tournament selections for Wallace State. Bivins, Davis and Newberry were each named to the 2nd-team ACCC All-Region team. Other members of Wallace State's 2015 team not previously mentioned are Jamie Pittman, Beth Maples, MaKenzie Bearden, Latresia Williams and Mallory Patterson.

Daniel now has 332 career victories after nine seasons with the Lions.

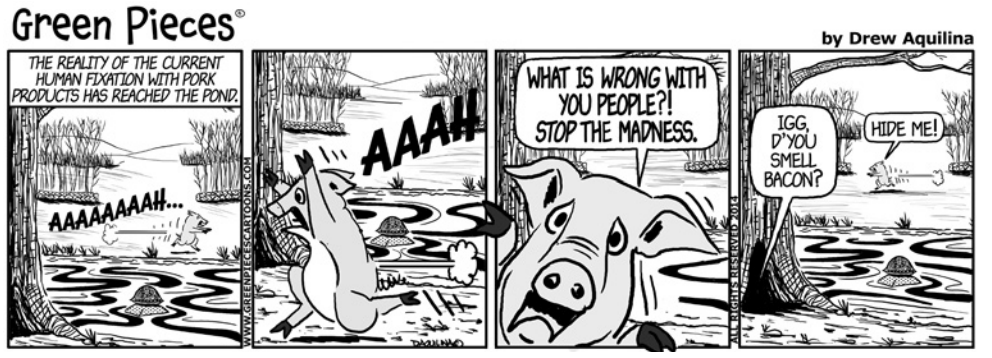
For more about Wallace State athletics, visit athletics.wallacestate.edu.

COMICS

WHITE & BLACK • **"Black Friday Thanksgiving"** • st.edo@cullmansense.com



Green Pieces® by Drew Aquilina



MAMA'S BOYZ www.jerrycraft.net **JERRY CRAFT**



SUNNY STREET



SUNNY STREET



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



FACEBOOK.COM/**CULLMANSENSE**

OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOVEMBER 16 - 22

SPONSORED BY CULLMAN FUNERAL HOME

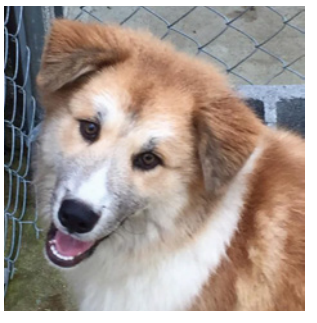
Walter Wano DeMonia
Gina Teresa Bryant Bagwell
Donald Wayne Sanders
Lonnie Glenn Morgan
James Brett Frank
Rusty Howse McGuire
Roy Milford Burgess
Ruby Ann Blake
Arthur Lloyd Summers
Mary Lois Ramsey Guthrie
Aranda Nicole Wilson
Janet Marie Christie
William Jackson "Bill" Lindley
Theda Nelson Hayes
Raymond William Parker
Kenneth Roy Ball
Cheryl Kay Sharp
Joyce Hendrix Wood
Betty Ruth Alexander

Cullman Funeral Home
461 U.S. Hwy. 278 E. Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-3144 • CullmanFuneralHome.com
Sincere Compassionate Care

Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanSense.com/obituaries.

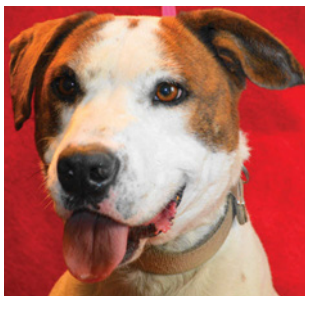
PETS OF THE WEEK

RIDDLE



Hello my name is Riddle and I am about 1 years old. I am a Collie mix and I currently weigh 42 lbs. I am a stray but if no one claims me by 11/10/15 at 9:30 a.m. I will be put up for adoption at that time. My adoption fee is $90 and that includes my spay/neuter, vaccines, wormer, and also covers my general exam at the Vet, the rabies vaccine, microchip, free 45-day health insurance policy and our local Pet Depot will give you a free bag of food (you pay the taxes) in support of adopting me.

ROXIE



Hello my name is Roxie and I am about 5 years old. I am a Jack Russell Terrier Mix and I currently weigh 40 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 a great deal and I will give you a lifetime of love and loyalty.

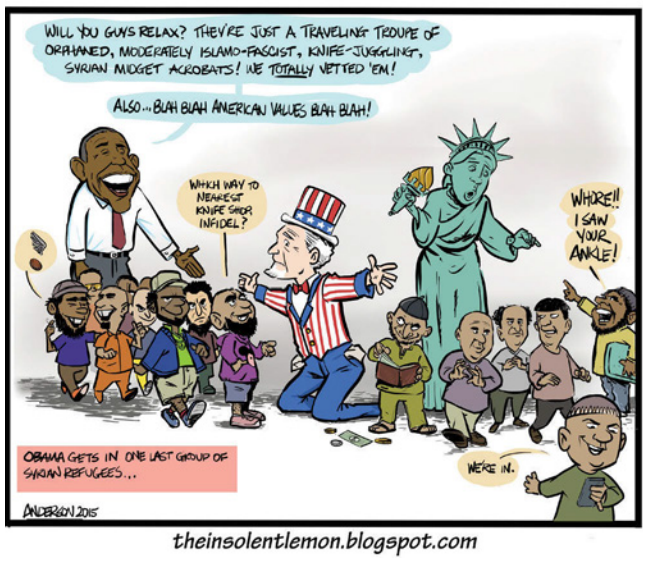
ADOPT THESE PETS TODAY

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.

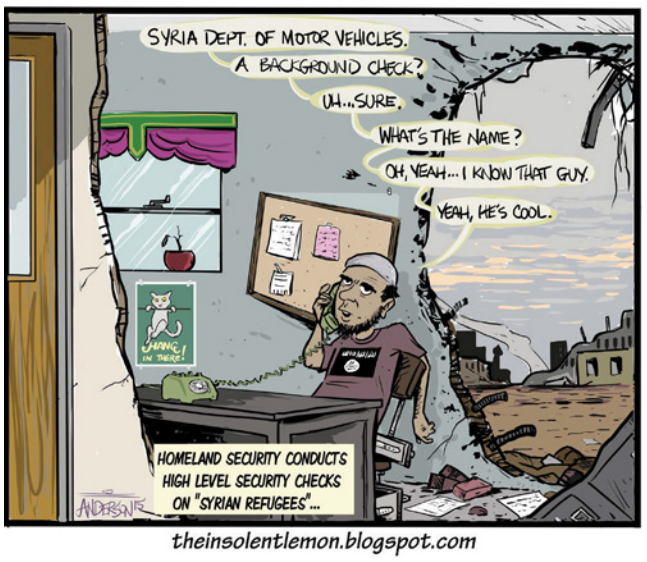
If you know the owner of either dog or if you are interested in adopting one of the dogs, please call 256-734-5448 or come by the Animal Shelter.

EDITORIAL CARTOONS





theinsolentlemon.blogspot.com



theinsolentlemon.blogspot.com

Follow us on Twitter
@CullmanSense

CULLMANSENSE
Community Matters

Founder
Noah Chandler

Editor
Dustin Isom

Tips
news@cullmansense.com or 256-297-1847

Visit
cullmanstore.com for our full digital archives.

Reporters
Hannah Ward
Sharon Schuler Kreps

Sports
Josh McBrayer
Johnny Thornton

Address
412 1st Ave. SE, Ste. 103, Cullman, AL 35055

Back Issues
issues@cullmansense.com

Cartoonist
Anthony Saint

Contributors
Will Hogue

OPINION

THE AFTERMATH OF PARIS

Robert C. Koehler
PeaceVoice

I'm sitting in the aftermath of Paris, feeling emotions tear me apart. One of the emotions is joy. My daughter, who lives there, is safe.

Has "joy" ever felt so troubling?

The aftermath of Paris seems likely to be intensified ("pitiless") bombing raids in Syria, closed borders, heightened fear-based security and the deletion of "the gray zones of coexistence" across the planet.

Oh, it's so nice to have an enemy who is truly evil! The logic of war is so seductive. It simplifies all these complex emotions. Just watch the news.

The news is that terror wins. Indeed, terror is the cornerstone of civilization.

I couldn't get that notion out of my head. That's because I couldn't stop thinking about an act of extraordinary terror that took place a little more than a dozen years ago, and its relevance to the world's current state of shock and chaos.

Doing so made it impossible to contemplate the raw savagery of the ISIS killings in Paris and Beirut and everywhere else — the "my God!" of it all, as innocent lives are cut short with such indifference — in a simplistic context of us vs. them.

In March of 2003, the U.S. launched its invasion of Iraq with a bombing campaign called "Shock and Awe," consisting of some 1,700 air sorties over the country that killed, according to Iraq Body Count, more than 7,400 civilians.

We launched our war on Iraq with the intent to commit terror on a scale ISIS could only dream of.

The relevance of this is inescapable, not simply because it makes the United States and NATO brothers in terror with ISIS, but also because the war shattered Iraq and caused the death and displacement of millions more people and, ultimately, created the conditions in which ISIS was able to come to power.

What's haunting to me is the absence of this shockingly relevant recent history from most mainstream coverage of the Paris killings — or more to the point, the absence of almost any sort of trans-war consciousness, you might say, from the discussion of what we ought to do next.

Considering that bombing campaigns, and war itself, are not only the equivalent of terror ("writ large") but also wildly ineffective and counterproductive, producing, in the long term, pretty much the opposite of what rational, non-war-mongers crave, the failure of politicians and mainstream media types to reach beyond a riled militarism in their reaction to the Dark Ages terror in which ISIS specializes bodes poorly, I fear, for the future of humanity.

My daughter, who last Friday night had been at a rehearsal for an upcoming poetry event, found herself, at 10 p.m., as she was leaving a tavern called Les Caves St.-Sabin, in the middle of the chaos.

As she and her friends stepped into the street, someone came running past warning people to get back inside. They only learned, in bits and pieces, the enormity of what was still happening in their city. She spent the night at the tavern, a decorated basement that felt, she said, like a "medieval fallout shelter."

In the morning, the Metro was running again, and she returned to her apartment. Only then did the horror hit her with full ferocity. She sat and cried, then got up and went to work.

However, the tears continue, if only in silence. The Paris tears are a small tributary to a worldwide River of Sorrow that swells beyond Paris and beyond Europe and the West to the broken, bombed, war-ravaged nations of the Third and Fourth World, the source of the planet's 60 million refugees.

This is the world of ISIS. Instead of continuing to bomb this world, in our fear and anger, we could try to understand it.

"ISIS is the first group since Al Qaeda to offer these young men a way to defend their dignity, family, and tribe."

So wrote Lydia Wilson, a research fellow at the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict at Oxford University, in a recent piece for The Nation.

She and her colleagues, in an attempt to do just that — understand those who have given over their lives to ISIS — recently interviewed ISIS prisoners of war in Iraq and, in the process, found their humanity.

Mostly they were young men in their 20s who grew up in the wake of the American occupation of Iraq; that is to say, in the midst of brutal civil war.

"The Americans came," one of them told her. "They took away Saddam, but they also took away our security. I didn't like Saddam, we were starving then, but at least we didn't have war. When you came here, the civil war started."

Violence begets violence; war begets war. Knowing this is the starting place. It is time to start over.

Robert Koehler, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is a Chicago award-winning journalist and editor.

OPINION

ISIS AND CHANGING THE GAME

Tom H. Hastings
PeaceVoice

Even some of my favorite doves are advocating a mixed military response to ISIS. I can't agree. The history of our violent response to terrorism began as a trickle, then a stream, then a torrent into Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen, Pakistan, and Syria. Each and every time we "won" (deposed the Taliban in Afghanistan, "Mission Accomplished" by knocking over Saddam, the surge), the response from the terror side has gotten worse. Now, for pity's sake, we see a genocidal terror caliphate. Our game of violence is a loser.

What are the elements of an alternative response?

Take in refugees from the wars we helped create and/or offer a great deal of compensation to them wherever they are finally welcomed.

End arms transfers of any sort to the region and work to build an international, global coalition to agree to that ban. Establish serious sanctions for any violators. Sanctions work when designed properly. Bush the Elder's administration actually helped lead a model of that with the Montreal Protocols that succeeded in radically reducing HFCs that were destroying the Earth's ozone layer. Those sanctions were entirely economic and worked very well.

Worry much more about creating an economy with less and less inequality. If a top executive can't survive on 10 times what a full-time line worker makes, shame on them and shame on us for allowing greed to produce so much poverty and desperation here and abroad.

Understand that the people of the Middle East (or anywhere that was colonized by any European power during that era) will draw their own boundaries, practice their own cultures, choose their own forms of governance, and all we can do is engage with them productively or boycott them if they violate human rights.

Focus on intelligence, not on any armed reaction. Since Charlie Hebdo, France was quite heavily militarized, especially Paris, but clearly they failed to pick up signals that might have foiled the terror attacks.

Use heuristics, not identity profiling. A hard-working Syrian refugee father should not be a target of investigation unless he is associating with ISIS or some other violent group. Stop alienating decent people.

Someone with the name Mohammed should never be targeted for that reason alone any more than someone named Michael should be spied on for his name. Arrests, investigations of crimes, charges, trials, imprisonment of those found guilty, and a restorative, rehabilitative approach to justice will never seem unreasonable to any objective society.

Hellfire missiles into wedding parties, divisions of foreign tanks roaring across one's homeland, or 6,000 bombing runs on one's territory (what the US has done in the past year just in ISIS areas) will not win hearts and minds.

Losing hearts and minds is becoming a US specialty. It is due to our Big Violence, our mighty military, the strongest violent force on Earth and the weakest way to slow recruitment into the Taliban, ISIS, al Qa'ida, Boko Haram, al Shabab, al-Nusra Front, and all of their growing affiliates.

The correlation between our mass violence and the proliferation of terrorism from small cells to territorial hegemons is no coincidence, it is cause and effect.

Means and ends are inseparable. We, and the terrorists, sow violence and we are all reaping it. Terrorism needs a recruitment base and far too much of what we do is granting them exactly that.

We may not get a cathartic kick out of alternative, humane, nonviolent methods, but they will halt and reverse the raging river of terror instead of adding to it.

Dr. Tom H. Hastings is core faculty in the Conflict Resolution Department at Portland State University and is Founding Director of PeaceVoice.

WEST POINT'S STEVE AND LISA LAKE NAMED 2016 FARM FAMILY

BANQUET KICKS OFF FARM-CITY WEEK

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Thursday, Nov. 19, Steve and Lisa Lake from West Point were named Cullman's 2016 Farm Family at the annual Farm-City Banquet, with special recognition given to 2015's outgoing Farm Family, Dr. Bill and Carolyn Peinhardt of Cullman. The banquet is a part of Farm-City Week, which is celebrated each year beginning on the Friday prior to and ending on Thanksgiving Day.

The banquet also featured a youth poster contest, awards and live entertainment.

"When I think of all the families that have stood here before us, it makes me feel awful small because there have been some great families that have stood here from the farm and city alike," said Steve Lake. "Every [sic] since I was a little boy playing with my tractors in the dirt, all I've ever wanted to do was farm. God has blessed me with that opportunity and I am thankful for that tonight.

"One other thing I'd like to say is God has blessed me because of where he placed me," Lake continued. "You don't have to go very far to realize that Cullman is a very special place. It's no coincidence that we lead the state in so many categories in agriculture."

Farm-City Co-Chair Denise Schuman shared that the theme for 2015 is Agriculture: Sustaining Future Generations. She said it's not only about where we're going, but where we've been.

"Tonight is not just our Farm-City Banquet, but it's a time for us to give thanks for the many blessings that have been bestowed upon us. This is the perfect opportunity for us to gather together and do that," said Schuman.

2015's Farm Family, Bill and Carolyn Peinhardt, was presented with a beautiful portrait by Photography by Theresa.

"Thank you to all the Farm-City Committee," Dr. Peinhardt said.

"I did notice the portrait has been touched up a little bit," he teased. "We are very proud to be able to serve this year. Carolyn and I are really thankful to have grown up here in Cullman. She was a city girl and I was a farm boy. We were able to come back to Cullman, we raised our children here and now we have five grandchildren growing up here. We are just blessed by all the good things that Cullman has to offer."

The youth poster contest played a big part in the Farm-City celebration. Cullman County Farm-City awards prizes to the local winners. State winners will be featured in the Alabama Farm-City Committee's 2017 Farm-City calendar. Children from all over Cullman County participated in the event.

"We had a total of 475 posters submitted for this contest," Shuman explained. "In the K-3 division there were 352 posters and in the 4-6 division there were 123. Unfortunately, out of all 475, we had to narrow it down to 50 that will be judged for tonight's contest," she winced. "The winner of tonight's contest will go on to compete at the state level. Cullman County has always done very well. I can't remember a year that we didn't have someone whose poster was featured in the calendar."

The kindergarten through third grade poster winners were: (first place) Mattie Wix of Good Hope Elementary; (second place) Ashley Tello of Hanceville Elementary and (third place) Johanna Wisener of Fairview Elementary.



NOAH CHANDLER/CULLMANSENSE

Steve and Lisa Lake are presented with the 2016 Farm Family award as part of Farm-City Week.

The fourth through sixth grade poster winners were: (first place) Carson Smith of Good Hope Elementary; (second place) Abigail Roy of West Point Intermediate and (third place) Wil McCollum of Fairview Elementary.

Other youth awards included: Outstanding Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Member- Cold Springs' Macy Hinds; Outstanding 4-H Member- homeschool and Wallace State Community College Fast Track student Lacy Barrett; and Outstanding Future Farmers of America (FFA) Member- Shelby Martinez of Holly Pond.

The night's entertainment was Nashville ventriloquist Ken Karter's "Funny Dummy Show".

The purpose of Farm-City Week is to bring about a better understanding between rural and urban people by increasing their knowledge and appreciation of each other as partners in progress. For more information on Cullman's Farm-City program, visit cullmanfarmcity.org. For the state program, see alabamafarmcity.org.

Babies (from Front)

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Eileen Dover, founder and president of the non-profit The King's Cradle (TKC), started the organization after working at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and seeing newborn babies and infants go through withdrawal because their mothers abused drugs while pregnant.

"That's when I learned of the need for this sort of practice," Dover said. "And that was a long, long time ago. Twenty years."

In their own words, TKC reaches out to pregnant substance-abusing mothers before and after birth, provides education to parents, caregivers, health care professionals and the community and participates in research to understand the effects of prenatal substance exposure on the newborn, families, caregivers and the community.

Dover started the TKC in and around the Baileyton area, and it is now based in Cullman and Arab.

"We had our own building and everything," Dover said, "but then the storms of 2011 came through, and that, coupled with all of last year me being sick, have [sic] put us off track."

TKC's current goal is to open a residential facility offering professional medical care to infants going through withdrawal.

Dover also wants TKC to offer education on the consequences of drug use, issues about which the mothers of these infants are mostly unaware.

According to Dover, there is only one other place in the United States currently doing what she hopes to do for Cullman.

It's called the Pediatric Interim Care Center and is located in Kent, Washington.

As far as assistance, TKC welcomes donations yearround. The organization's ongoing fundraiser is the Baby Bottle Blast, a fun way to collect funds.

Simply buy a baby bottle, fill it with loose change and turn it in. TKC also raises funds by doing DNA testing.

TKC is also looking for board members and volunteers.

"We're looking for people who are professionals, really," Dover said. "People who have experience. But also people who are not afraid of commitment, because this really will be a big commitment for anyone."

For more information about TKC or to inquire about turning in change-filled baby bottles and other donations or volunteer opportunities, call 888-722-2426 or message them through their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/The-Kings-Cradle-142586642462674.

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

NOAH@
CULLMANSENSE.COM

