SERIES 5 • ISSUE 47 • NOVEMBER 30, 2015
CULLMANSENSE
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PATRICK KLEIN ANNOUNCES RUN FOR CCBOE SEAT

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Patrick Klein is running for a seat on the Cullman County Board of Education (CCBOE).

Klein's stated motivation for running for the position is that, along with having a passion for children, he has a pragmatic mindset.

"I am the chairman of the board at VAW Water Systems," he said.

"Through that I have a lot of organizational skills."

Klein is currently serving his third term as chairman of the board of VAW, and since there are term limits there, he does not have to worry about splitting time between the two positions if elected to the CCBOE.

"I do not think it would be a good idea anyway," Klein said.

"I don't think it is good to split your time like that."

Klein said that his main goal, if elected, is to push forward the One-on-One initiative.

The initiative's P9


CONTRIBUTED

Patrick Klein, Cullman County Board of Education candidate.

SURGERY UPDATE

ENERGIZED, EXERCISED AND READY TO HELP OTHERS

HUMANITARIAN CONTINUES MISSION AFTER WINNING WEIGHT-LOSS PROCEDURE

"I want to thank everyone in our community for supporting me and helping me win the Humanitarian Award. There's absolutely no way I would have received that award and been granted weight-loss surgery if it weren't for you!"

Sara Linkous, National Obesity Foundation's Humanitarian Award recipient



SARAH LINKOUS

As of Nov. 25, Linkous has lost 65 pounds.

P9


CONTRIBUTED

Williams will be on the March 1 Republican ballot as a delegate for the 4th Congressional District.

TRUMP PICKS UP LOCAL DELEGATE

Bradley Williams becomes 4th Congressional District Delegate candidate for Donald Trump for President

Noah Chandler
noah@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – It's not every day that one is approached by a presidential candidate, especially one as charismatic as Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump, but when the opportunity to run as a delegate for Mr. Trump arose, Bradley Williams stepped forward, just before the deadline.

Williams said he will be on the March 1 Republican ballot as a delegate for the 4th Congressional District. The district encompasses the northern portion of the state and includes Colbert, Cullman, Dekalb, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lawrence, Marion, Marshall, Tuscaloosa, Walker and Winston P5

WSCC THEATRE PRESENTING 'A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS'

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE — Wallace State Community College's Theatre department is paying homage to Peanuts creator Charles M. Schulz and the 50th anniversary of the debut of "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

Fresh off their presentation of "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown," the cast is preparing for perfor- P12


WSCC

Cast members for "A Charlie Brown Christmas" include from left, Duke Cleghorn, Magan Melton, Trey Moody, River Shadix, Hannah Stringer and Austin Barnett.

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

CCBOE RECEIVES $100,000 TO EXPAND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Larry Childers
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Gov. Robert Bentley has announced two Appalachian Regional Commission grants to expand programs that help high school students in Cullman and Lawrence counties prepare for college and potential careers.

A $100,000 grant will enable the Cullman County Board of Education to expand a program that exposes high school students to careers in the health-care industry.

With a $75,000 grant, the Lawrence County Board of Education will offer more Advanced Placement classes to help students earn college credits while still in high school.

"The skills and knowledge learned in high school serve as a strong foundation for future success in college and in a career," Bentley said. "I commend the Cullman County and Lawrence County school systems for offering these advanced programs."

The Cullman County school system will expand the Health Care Science program by adding teachers, purchasing simulation mannequins that enable students to practice common medical procedures and offering the program at a central location at the Cullman Area Career Center.

School system officials say that placing the program at a central location with more faculty will enable students from all seven high schools in the county to participate, increasing enrollment from 68 to more than 150.

The program is a partnership with Wallace State Community College. The school board is contributing matching funds of $100,000 to the program.

Congress established the ARC in 1965 as a supplemental grant program to raise the standard of living, improve the quality of life and promote economic development in the Appalachian mountain region. The region includes 37 Alabama counties.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs administers the ARC program in Alabama along with a wide range of other programs that support law enforcement, economic development, recreation, energy conservation and water resource management.

CULLMAN CITY COUNCIL HOLDS NOV. 23 MEETING

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

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

The meeting began with roll call, and the minutes from the Nov. 9 council meeting were approved.

Additions and deletions to the agenda:

• Delete X. 7: Resolution 2016-25: Amend position control

• Add X.15: Resolution 2016-31: Apply for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields grant

Next were reports from standing committees by council members:

• General Government - Council Member Jenny Folsom - None

• Public Works - Council Member Johnny Cook - None

• Public Safety - Council Member Andy Page - Recognition of Lt. Billy Handley and Sgt. Rex Chambers for 25 years of service to the Cullman City Police Department

• Tourism - Council Member Clint Hollingsworth – None

• Utilities - Council Member Garlan Gudger – None

Reports from the mayor:

• Mayor Townson wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

There were no comments from anyone not on the agenda.

Public hearings:

• Resolution 2016-07: Vacate portion of Sixth Avenue Southwest, Fourth Street to Third Street

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

• Request from Waid Harbison of Cullman City Parks and Recreation for a special event permit to hold the annual Christmas in Cullman and Christmas Parade in the downtown area, Depot Park and Festhalle Market Platz on Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. with various activities and vendors - APPROVED

• Request from Waid Harbison of Cullman City Parks and Recreation for a special event permit to hold the annual Christmas in Cullman in the historic downtown area on Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - APPROVED

• Request from Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Superintendent Jeff Adams to purchase two 24,000 BTU heat pumps from Christian and Son, LLC for the budgeted amount of $8,575 - APPROVED

• Request from Traffic Superintendent Jeff Adams to purchase 10 preempt kits from Temple, Inc. for the budgeted amount of $40,069.80 - APPROVED

• Request from Fire Chief Edward Reinhardt to purchase a core combination tool for Fire Engine One from NAFECO for the budgeted amount of $4,880 - APPROVED

• Request from Fire Chief Edward Reinhardt to purchase a strut kit for Fire Engine One from NAFECO for the budgeted amount of $4,295 - APPROVED

• Request from Fire Chief Edward Reinhardt to purchase a cribbing kit for Fire Engine One from Sunbelt Fire for the budgeted amount of $2,015.49 - APPROVED

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

• Resolution 2016 - 07 – To vacate and surplus a portion of Sixth Avenue Southwest from Fourth Street Southwest to Third Street Southwest, subject to the necessary easements, which received a favorable recommendation from the City Planning Commission - ADOPTED

• Resolution 2016 - 20 – To authorize the mayor to sign the amended grant agreement accepting $269,728.29 in grant funds to compete the Eightmile Creek Sewer Replacement Project - ADOPTED

• Resolution 2016 - 21 – To enter into a professional services agreement with Skipper Consulting, Inc. for the budgeted amount of $12,400 for upgrading the existing traffic signal at the intersection of First Avenue Southeast and Fourth Street Southeast - ADOPTED

• Resolution 2016 - 22 – To award bid 1733 for the one-ton four-wheel-drive single cab truck for the WWTP to the lowest responsible bidder, Eckenrod Ford of Cullman, for the budgeted amount of $44,304.90 - ADOPTED

• Resolution 2016 - 23 – To award bid 1734 for the half-ton four-wheel-drive crew cab truck for the WWTP to the lowest responsible bidder, Eckenrod Ford of Cullman, for the budgeted amount of $32,575 - ADOPTED

• Resolution 2016 - 24 – To approve the structure and sale of general obligation warrants - ADOPTED

• Resolution 2016 - 26 – To enter into an agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) to install new welcome signs in the city - ADOPTED

• Resolution 2016 - 27 – To enter into a professional engineering services agreement with Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood related to the design and construction of Fire Station No. Three for the budgeted amount not to exceed $163,000 - ADOPTED

• Resolution 2016 - 28 – To enter into a professional engineering services agreement with Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood related to the design and construction of the water and sewer facility and the street facility for the budgeted amount not to exceed $166,000 - TABLED

• Resolution 2016 - 29 – To enter into a professional engineering services agreement with Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood related to the City of Cullman parking deck for the budgeted amount not to exceed $15,000 - TABLED

• Resolution 2016 - 30 – To enter into a professional branding and marketing services agreement with 24 Communications for the budgeted amount not to exceed $33,500 - ADOPTED

• The second reading of Ordinance 2016 - 03 – To annex the property owned by David J. Below located at 314 Quail Run Drive into the city limits as an R-1 Residential District - ADOPTED

There were no board appointments.

Resolution 2016-31: Apply for EPA Brownfields grant - ADOPTED

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UNITED WAY PARTNERS WITH CULLMAN CARING FOR KIDS FOR FOOD DRIVE

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The United Way of Cullman County is partnering with Cullman Caring for Kids (CCK) this holiday season in hopes of boosting donations to CCK's food bank. The initiative, sponsored by United Way, is called Fill Santa's Sleigh.

"That name came from Michele Dingler, our new programs volunteer coordinator," said United Way's Marketing and Communications Coordinator Stephanie Wood.

The Fill Santa's Sleigh campaign will run from Dec. 1-18. There will be barrels around town for donation drop-offs. United Way is asking for donations of canned food to help fill CCK's food bank.

According to Wood, the CCK food bank serves 570 families a month.

"And that number only gets bigger during the holidays," Wood said.

CCK is one of the United Way's partner agencies, meaning that the United Way sponsors them and utilizes its influence to help raise funds so that CCK can keep caring for kids.

Although Fill Santa's Sleigh does not officially start until December, United Way thought the best way to get the campaign off the ground was to use a Thanksgiving event as a jumpstart, and Holly Pond High School's annual Thanksgiving basketball tournament was the perfect fit.

"We talked with Holly Pond and they were gracious enough to say yes," Wood said about the partnership with Holly Pond.

United Way suggested three cans per family for donations.

"That is easy enough to just grab out of your pantry, right?" Wood said.

For the duration of the campaign there will be a handcrafted sleigh in front of the United Way building downtown. Donations will be dropped off in the barrels.

"The idea is that you don't even have to get out of your car," Wood said. "Just drop the cans off."

The cans will be collected daily and given to Cullman Caring for Kids.

"We will keep track of the weight of the donations and how much the sleigh is able to hold, and we'll fill Santa's sleigh that way, even though the donations themselves aren't actually going in the sleigh," Wood explained.

While Wood said that donations made during work hours will be safely collected and given to CCK, any donations made after hours while most likely have to wait until the next morning to be collected.

The United Way accepts cash donations year-round, and is still working towards its 2015 goal of $425,000.

There are also many volunteer opportunities. To learn more, about United Way visit uwaycc.org. To learn more about CCK, visit cullmancaringforkids.com.

The United Way of Cullman County is located at 304 First Ave. N.E. in Cullman.



UNITED WAY OF CULLMAN COUNTY

Barrels will be distributed around town asking for canned food donations as part of the United Way of Cullman County and Cullman Caring for Kids' Fill Santa's Sleigh initiative.

26TH ANNUAL CULLMAN COUNTY CHRISTMAS PARADE SET FOR HANCEVILLE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – The 26th Annual Cullman County Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. The parade will begin at Wallace State Community College and end at Hanceville Fire Hall. Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail has been named grand marshal.

This year's parade promises to be lots of fun for the whole family. The theme is Christ – the Joy of Christmas.

"We are still taking applications for entries in the parade," said Joann Walls, Civitan Club member. "The parade starts at Wallace State and will end at the Hanceville Fire Hall. Hot dogs, hot chocolate, coffee, cotton candy and peanuts will be for sale along the parade route. Mr. and Mrs. Santa (Claus) will be at the fire hall to greet the children and have their pictures made with them. Also, Mr. America will be there so the children can have their pictures taken with him as well," she smiled.

This year's grand marshal is a man of many accomplishments. Nail served on the Hanceville City Council for eight years and is now in his seventh year as mayor of Hanceville.

He was a Cullman police officer for 24 years and was selected as Police Officer of the Year in 1991. He has served as chairman of the Cullman County Community Development Commission, president of the Mayors' Association and board member of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Cullman County 911 Board and the Cullman County Health Board.

"Kenneth was chosen this year's grand marshal because over the years he has supported the parade by showing support and love for the City of Hanceville," said Walls. "He has dedicated his life to the betterment of Hanceville and Cullman County."

Mayor Nail has lived in Hanceville for 50 years. He and his wife Sabrina have three children, and the family is members of Laodicea Freewill Baptist Church.

"I was very honored and humbled when I found out I was going to be the grand marshal of the parade this year," Mayor Nail smiled. "I am really looking forward to filling my duties and having a good time that day. I hope everyone can come on out and have a great time, and I'm sure the kids will get lots of candy.

"I know the Civitans are doing something a little different this year," he added. "The parade is actually going to turn to the right in front of City Hall and go down by the fire station. Last I was told, there will be some food vendors down there so I'm hoping folks would come on over and buy something to eat from them."

There is no entry fee for the parade. If you or someone you know would like to participate, contact Joann Walls at 256-352-9799 or Deb Earl at Hanceville City Hall at 256-352-9830 ext. 10.

The start point of the parade, Wallace State Community College, is located at 801 Main St. N.W. in Hanceville.



FILE PHOTO

Hanceville High School cheerleaders showcase their talent in last year's parade.

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CULLMAN'S OWN ROCK THE SOUTH IS PREPPING FOR A BIGGER 2016 FESTIVAL

MUSIC FESTIVAL SLATED FOR JUNE 3 AND 4

Noah Chandler
noah@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Since the concert series begin in 2012 as a day to remember the tornados of April 2011 which tore through most of Alabama, Rock The South has quickly become the largest Country music festival in the nation bringing in big acts year after year. And according to RTS producer Nathan Baugh the festival has no plans on moving from Cullman anytime soon.

"Cullman is our home and we have no plans to leave," Baugh said.

"We have a great relationship with Nathan Anderson and Christy Turner from Cullman Park and Recreation and the support of the City Council and the Mayor."

Baugh said the festival organizers enjoy each year as they grow with the community and the festival.

He said making a positive impact is something that is rewarding to him.

"Our favorite part of Rock the South is the impact on the community," he said.

"Whether it is money given to The Link which goes directly into this community or the economic impact in just two days, it is so rewarding to see the festivals impact on this area."

While the dates for the show have already been announced via RTS Facebook page, country music fans can mark down June 3 and 4 as the days the return to Cullman to hear some of the best artists that country music has to offer.

Baugh said artists announcements will begin on January 25, 2016 through the festival's social media feeds.

"People will be shocked at some of the names coming to Rock the South in 2016," said RTS producer Nathan Baugh.

"In 2016, we are spending over 40% back into the talent to make 2016 the biggest RTS ever. People will be shocked at some of the names coming to Rock the South in 2016."

Baugh continued to stress that the coming year's RTS will be one for the history books... at least the RTS history books.

"We love being a part of this community. Rock the South is a labor of love for us and we love to see our area impacted positively by it," he said.

"Keep checking our website and social media as we gear up for the biggest Rock the South ever!"

Check back with CullmanSense as we bring you unprecedented giveaways to Rock The South 2016. Who knows, you may just meet your favorite artist.



FILE PHOTO

Alan Jackson plays at Rock the South 2015.

PREP BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

WEEK OF NOV. 30

All girls games slated to start at 6 p.m. followed by the boys at 7:30 p.m. unless noted

MONDAY
Cold Springs vs Addison

TUESDAY
Cullman @ Arab
Fairview @ Russellville
Good Hope @ West Point (girls 6:30pm, boys 8:00 p.m.)
Hanceville @ Holly Pond
St Bernard @ Athens Bible
Vinemont @ Susan Moore (girls 5 p.m., boys 6:30 p.m.)

THURSDAY
Cullman @ Lawrence County

FRIDAY
Cold Springs @ Holly Pond
Cullman vs Brewer
Fairview vs Vinemont (girls 5:30 p.m., boys 7:00 p.m.)
Good Hope vs Pennington
Hanceville vs Oakman
St Bernard vs Lynn (girls 5 p.m., boys 6:30 p.m.)
West Point @ Russellville (girls 5 p.m., boys 6:30 p.m.)

PREP BASKETBALL SCORING WRAP-UP

SATURDAY
Girls
Danville Thanksgiving Tournament
Day One
Lawrence County 65 – Good Hope 32
Decatur 65 – Holly Pond 64
Fairview 47 – Hatton 25
Danville 56 – West Point 35
Cold Springs 50 – Russellville 30
Brewer 58 – Brindlee Mountain 49
Athens 49 – Falkville 13
Danville 57 Carbon Hill 42

WEDNESDAY
Girls
Danville Thanksgiving Tournament
Day Two
Brindlee Mountain 67 – Russellville 50
West Point 67 – Carbon Hill 33
Holly Pond 61 – Hatton 30
Good Hope 28 – Falkville 32
Athens 62 – Lawrence County 58
Cold Springs – 41 Brewer 49
Falkville 48 – Decatur 39

Boys
Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament
Day One
Cullman 67 – Brindlee Mountain 54
West Point 41 – Arab 53
Fairview 51 – Pennington 56
Holly Pond 72 – Hartselle 45

THURSDAY
Boys
Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament
Day Two
Fairview 36 – Hartselle 75
West Point 54 – Brindlee Mountain 36
Holly Pond 79 – Pennington 56
Cullman 54 – Arab 50

FRIDAY
Girls
Danville Thanksgiving Tournament
Day Three
Decatur 57 – Cold Springs 32
Lawrence County 62 – West Point 42
Cold Springs 64 – Lawrence County 59
Decatur 48 – West Point 35
Brewer 54 – Danville 44
Athens 66 – Brewer 58
Fairview 66 – Danville 35
Athens 49 – Fairview 33
(Championship)

Boys
Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament
Day Three
West Point 66 – Hartselle 69
Arab 54 – Pennington 52
Holly Pond 73 – Cullman 75 (Championship)

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



MARIE'S GOLDEN HEART: PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

FAIRVIEW – In Alabama, many people go without food, shelter or other necessities, especially during the holidays. If it weren't for the kindness of strangers, many would spend their days miserable and hungry. Thankfully, there are people out there who go above and beyond to help others in need, like those who make up Marie's Golden Heart.

Marie's Golden Heart is a community funded nonprofit organization. It's not a part of one specific church, but is made up of various churches in the Fairview and Gold Ridge areas. Its members reach out to their communities in order to provide help wherever they can.

"We are looking to help others in need," said Stephanie Giancatarino, founder. "Whether it is providing a hot meal, a helping hand or just an ear to listen, we want to do all in our power to help our neighbors, the way God intended for us to help one another."

In 2014, through donations, Marie's Golden Heart was blessed with the opportunity to provide just over 300 warm meals to the community for Thanksgiving. This year they had enough food for 900 meals.

They served those meals at the Gold Ridge Volunteer Fire Department on Wednesday, Nov. 24. It was a great way for neighbors to visit with each other and share a common meal.

"It's all about bringing this community together," Giancatarino explained. "It's about teaching each other how to help one another and how to be there for each other the way God intended us to be. It's about answering a call and giving people what they need. It's a very humbling experience. We don't want anything in return; we just want to do what he calls us to do."

Marie's Golden Heart is a very unique name for an organization. When asked about the name's origin, Giancatarino lit up and smiled.

"A lot of people have asked me who Marie was," she began. "Marie was my grandmother, but she is gone now. She used to tell me I had a heart of gold (just like hers)," she added. "I don't see it, but you know," she chuckled.

"We kind of pieced the name together. Marie was for her. Golden was for Gold Ridge and Heart because this came from my heart. There are a couple meanings to the name. I brought Grandma's picture with us tonight because I know she is here with me and I know she is tickled pink by what I am doing."

Giancatarino hopes to reach out and help even more people in need as time goes by. Marie's Golden Heart has recently joined forces with the Lion's Club in Fairview to reach further into the community and to let people know they are available and willing to help. But in order to help others they must first obtain the funds. They need your help.

"We understand that times are tough. We can only hope that you will support our mission and help us reach our goal. Donate – Any donation would be greatly appreciated. Volunteer – We can always use help with anything we do. Pray – Your prayers are greatly appreciated as we set out to serve our Lord. Pray for his ultimate guidance and for strong hearts to carry out his calling."

Music soothes the soul, and there are people who would love to either learn the fundamentals of music or how to sing. Marie's Ascending Voices is a brand new community choir under the direction of Danny Love.

It is a part of Marie's Golden Heart. It is open to everyone, especially those that have a passion and calling for music.

"God can use more than just our hands to help others," said Love, choir director. "He can use our voices. We have some exciting things coming up and I can't wait to see where the Good Lord takes us. If you have any questions I will be happy to answer. I know we can make our corner of the world a better place one step at a time."

Clearly the Lord is working with this small group. Great things are happening and lots of people are receiving much needed help through them.

To join Marie's Golden Heart or for more information, contact Stephanie Giancatarino at mariesgoldenheart@gmail.com and 256-735-9398 or call Myra Walker at 256-727-3571. For questions about Marie's Ascending Voices, call Danny Love at 256-962-1677.

For more, visit facebook.com/Maries-Golden-Heart.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

David Love and Stephanie Giancatarino pose with a picture of Marie, Stephanie's grandmother and the group's namesake.

Williams (from Front)

counties. "Alabama has 50 delegates to the Republican National Convention. They are elected at the statewide and congressional district level," Williams explained. "When people vote for a delegate, they are actually voting to give the delegate the right to vote for their presidential candidate on the convention floor."

Williams said that as a voter, "you are effectively giving the delegate your vote to cast on your behalf for the presidential candidate on the floor of the national convention. It is similar to the Electoral College as we do not have direct elections for president. That is a bit of a civics lesson."

While most political positions carry with them a wage, being a delegate does not. Despite not being a paying role in the government and facing one other candidate from Tuscaloosa, Williams said he is proud to serve if elected.

"I would first like to say that I have great respect for all the Republican candidates running for president. I am running specifically as a Donald Trump delegate because I think we need a president who will get tough on illegal immigration and border security and help stop the amount of drugs coming into this country, make fair trade deals around the world and also bring jobs back (to) this country," he said. "I also think people respect that Mr. Trump calls it like he sees it in a time with political correctness has taken over our politics."

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.

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LIVING BREAD FOOD BANK CHANGES SCHEDULE FOR HOLIDAY SEASON

Adjusted hours to ensure families get food faster







Volunteers of all ages help feed the hungry at the Living Bread Food Bank at Hanceville First United Methodist Church. PHOTOS BY HANCEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – For the months of November and December, the Living Bread Food Bank, located at Hanceville First United Methodist Church, will be open to the public on the second Saturday of the month, instead of the third, from 9-11 a.m. The food bank is in the church's annex building, which is the small house in the church parking lot.

"We changed the days for the holiday season," said Tonia Camardella, food bank director. "Over the years, we have noticed that the third Saturday of the month occurs after Thanksgiving or it's the weekend of Christmas. We have really struggled with that. We changed November and December to the second Saturday so that we are sure that everybody gets their food in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. That way we are able to help more."

Camardella said that, historically, November and December are the food bank's biggest months. That is when people really need help the most.

This November, they were able to help over 90 families. Their normal monthly average is around 52. With so many mouths to feed, Living Bread needs all the food they can get.

"We get donations from people and we are members of the Food Bank of North Alabama," Camardella explained.

"We also get a lot of donations from much smaller churches that aren't big enough to have food banks of their own. We always welcome donations.

"Right now we are working on collecting Christmas food so we need things like dressing, cranberry sauce, potatoes, yams, green beans. You know, Christmas food," she smiled.

"We always accept monetary donations as well. All donations can be taken to the church during normal business hours. They can be dropped off at the church's daycare. Tax receipts are available if needed; just notify us at the time you drop the donation off."

Living Bread opened its doors more than 10 years ago. They have fed a lot of people in that time. Today they continue to grow, taking on other challenges along the way.

"The church is really reevaluating its ministries and outreach," said Camardella. "We really want to meet the spiritual needs of our community. Now we are looking at ways to get outside the church to do that.

"We are going to have some changes to the food pantry, but we haven't exactly set those yet. We are going to start offering a worship service for those that (sic) want to go to a worship service. There are so many people that are unchurched, so we would like to offer that as a service. Lots of times people have to work on Sundays, so if we have a service on Saturday afternoon there may be more people that can come. We are trying to figure out the exact logistics of that."

The Living Bread Food Bank and Hanceville First United Methodist Church are located at 704 Commercial St. in Hanceville. For more information, call 256-352-5536 or visit www.hancevillefumc.org or facebook.com/HancevilleFUMC.





CITY OF GOOD HOPE HOSTS SEVENTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL AT HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com





The City of Good Hope fed people from all over Cullman County on Wednesday in celebration of Thanksgiving. SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

GOOD HOPE – For the seventh straight year, Thanksgiving came a day early in Good Hope. On Wednesday, the whole town worked together to feed people from all over Cullman County. Served in the Good Hope High School cafeteria, the traditional meal of turkey and dressing was made possible by volunteers from throughout the community who worked as cooks and servers for the day. The meal was free.

"We started doing this several years ago, feeding 250 people," said Sonya Stafford, volunteer.

"This year we have made enough food to serve 2,000. We want anybody from anywhere to come and grab a plate – for free. We even have a drive-through for take-out plates. It's just a great community service that Good Hope gives back to everybody.

"We have four gold sponsors that have really helped us with the meal," she continued.

"They are Pepsi, Grandma's Car Wash, Good Hope Contracting and Premier Bank. We have also had a lot of community donations that helped us get all the food. The students and people from all over the community donate their time and help us serve and get it all out."

The lunchroom was filled with families and friends sitting together and enjoying their meals. Multiple cars lined up in the take-out line outside where Boy Scouts presented the drivers with boxed lunches.

"The food was really good, except I didn't like the carrot (sweet potato)," said 7-year-old Cicily Adcock. "We come here every year," she smiled shyly and looked at her family.

"I love coming here to eat and spending time with my family," she added. "The people who work here are very nice. Everyone should come and eat here."

The City of Good Hope plans to continue serving the annual Thanksgiving meal, on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, for years to come and invites all to next year's celebration.



Christmas Wagon Rides

Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament

3222 County Road 548, Hanceville AL 35077

Enjoy a horse wagon ride around the Shrine property with your family and friends! Rides begin at Castle San Miguel. While you are waiting, please enjoy complimentary coffee and hot chocolate in the downstairs dining area. **All rides are free!**

Dates Available:

(Evening rides include viewing of our Christmas lights)

December 12th 10:00AM-4:00PM
December 14th-18th 1:00-2:30 PM & 4:00-8:00 PM
December 21st-23rd 1:00-2:30 PM & 4:00-8:00 PM
December 28th-30th 1:00-2:30 PM & 4:00-8:00 PM



RSVP at 205-795-5722 to reserve your seats. (Rides book fast!)

Rides are 20-25 minutes long. Wagon can seat 8 Adults per ride
(if there are children, we can seat more)

If severe/rainy weather, we will have to cancel the rides, and you will be notified.
Since seating is limited, we **cannot guarentee that we will be able to reschedule your ride.**

For more information: *www.olamshrine.com*



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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.

Entertainment at 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.

Northbrook Luncheon
An adult luncheon will be held in the Atrium of Northbrook Baptist Church, beginning at 10 a.m. Guest speaker will be Paul Hicks. For more information please call Wade at 256-734-6401

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.

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Wednesday

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Thursday

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.

Dr. Herman C. Ensor Lights of Love Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
The annual Dr. Herman C. Ensor Lights of Love Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the Col. Cullmann Room of POB II at CRMC. Giving a gift of $20, $40, $60, or more, places a light on the Christmas tree as a tribute to someone special to you. Your tax deductible gift will help support the CRMC Foundation. For more information call 256-737-2565.

Friday

Singing 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.

Sensory Friendly Movie
A sensory friendly showing of The Good Dinosaur will begin at 4 p.m. at the Cullman Carmike 10. The event is sponsored by Cullman Area Autism & Special Needs Family Support Group. The cost is $5 per person for those with reserved seating, which is available until 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3. The cost is $6 per person at the door.

Saturday

Cancer Benefit Singing
A benefit singing for Lexie York, 14, will take place at St. John Baptist Church, located at 6797 Hwy. 31 in Hanceville, at 5 p.m. Greater Purpose Quartet and Joyful Hearts will be on hand to lift spirits as they help raise money for Lexie, who suffers from cancer.

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.

Operation Go Free Give Away
Operation Go Free Give Away will be held at Simcoe Worship Center, located at 4442 Co. Rd. 1635, beginning at 9 a.m. Free food, clothes, jackets, shoes, toys and bicycles to all those in need. For more information call 256-796-1184.

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.

26th Annual Cullman County Christmas Parade
The 26th Annual Cullman County Christmas Parade will be held in Hanceville beginning at 2 p.m. This year's theme is Christ, the Joy of Christmas. There is no entry fee. Lineups will begin at noon at Frances Dodd Drive, located at the WSCC campus. Pictures with dSanta and Mrs. Claus and Captain America will be available at the Hanceville Fire Station following the parade. For more information contact JoAnn at 256-352-9799 or Nancy at 256-352-9186.

Santa's Workshop
This month's Farm Kid's Club will feature Santa's Workshop and will be held from 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. at the North Alabama Agriplex Heritage Center, located at 1714 Talley Ho St. This event is for children ages 5 and up with an adult and cost is $5 per child and $10 maximum per family. For more information please call 256-297-1044.

Grapevine Wreath Making Class
A Grapevine Wreath Making Class will be held at 2 p.m. at the North Alabama Agriplex Heritage Center, located at 1714 Talley Ho St. The cost is $5. Participants will need to bring gloves and clippers but everything else is provided. Registration is required so contact 256-297-1044.

Sunday

Share Club of Cullman Christmas Tour of Homes
The Share Club of Cullman Christmas Tour of Homes will be held from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., with 5 homes being on the tour. The cost is $15 per person and proceeds benefits the Good Samaritan Clinic. Tickets may be purchased at Hagan Real Estate, J Drake Salon, and Facebook/Share Club of Cullman. For more information contact Jackie at 205-908-3555.

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

Special Needs Bowling Night
Individuals with special needs and their families are invited to the Cullman Area Special Needs bowling nights, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Cullman Bowling Center. Please RSVP before 12 noon the day of the events, which are Dec. 8, 15, 22, and 29. The charge is $3 per person. For more information contact Rhonda at 256-962-2208.

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.

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TIS THE SEASON, FOR PARKING ACCIDENTS

State Farm
Contributor

BIRMINGHAM – As Alabama shoppers head out to find the best holiday deals, State Farm, the state's largest auto insurer, urges caution as parking lots overflow with impatient drivers.

During the holidays, parking lots at malls and supermarkets are packed, increasing the possibility of a fender bender. About 20 percent of all vehicle accidents happen in parking lots, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Though rarely serious, they can be costly, time consuming, and aggravating.

State Farm reminds drivers that if you hit, scrape or otherwise damage a parked car—or if you're the victim of such an accident—There are steps you can take to make life easier for yourself and the victim:

If You Hit A Parked Car

• **Own up:** Don't drive away—if another customer or a surveillance camera spots you, you could be punished for a hit-and-run.

• **Track down the other car's owner:** Head into the store and speak to someone at the customer service desk. Describe the car to the employee, and have him or her announce it over the store's loudspeaker.

• **Leave a note:** If you're unable to find the other driver, jot down basic information—your name, phone number and a brief explanation of the accident—and place it in a secure spot on the car.

Write down the license plate number and take a photo of the damage if you have a camera with you.

• **Call the police:** Depending on how extensive the damage is, you may want to involve the police. They'll document the accident and they can help you find the other car's owner.

If You're The Victim

• **Contact your insurance agent:** Let him or her know what happened as soon as possible. Your agent will help you determine the next steps.

• **Take notes and record evidence:** If the other driver is still around, jot down his or her name, address, phone number, driver's license number and insurance company. Take pictures of the damage with your phone or a camera, if you have one on hand.

Avoiding Accidents In The First Place

• **Buy Time to React:** Parking lots are filled with obstacles and hazards, but often the biggest danger is other drivers.

The best way to deal with these drivers is simple: Slow down. This buys you time to react and avoid a collision.

• **Expect Pedestrians:** Parking lots are full of people coming from and going to their cars. Though pedestrians may not be looking out for you, it's still your responsibility to look out for them.

• **Distance Yourself:** Door dings and scratches are aggravating and hard to avoid. One way to reduce the risk of door damage is to park away from other vehicles.

Remember that accidents will happen but it's never too early to study up on safety.

Driving slowly and being aware of your surroundings while in a parking lot are two of the biggest steps to keeping your holiday shopping safe and enjoyable.

Klein (from Front)

goal is for every student to have his or her own personal computer.

This would allow students to learn vital computer skills. Although some suggest that most elementary students have already mastered whatever technical skills they are likely to be taught in computer classes in fifth grade, Klein believes this is an important project.

"It will be a huge project, but it is important that each student gets his or her own computer so they can start learning skills on the computer," Klein said.

Klein explained that because of the overhaul-like nature of the initiative, the implementation will not be overnight.

"It will have to be in phases," he said. "Setting up Wi-Fi in each of the classrooms, all the expenses for which funds need to be secured."

Regardless of the challenges, Klein thinks he is the right man for the job and a good fit for the CCBOE.

"I would bring a lot to the table," he said. "I know how to bring something, a project, forward."

For more about the Cullman County Board of Education, visit www.ccboe.org.

Linkous (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On April 16, the National Obesity Foundation (NOF) awarded Sara Linkous of Cullman the NOF Humanitarian Award, which included a free bariatric procedure. After her weight loss surgery, she is slimming down, living healthy and helping others.

"After years of trying to lose weight on my own through diet and exercise, I began researching weight-loss surgeries," Linkous explained. "I found out quickly that my health insurance plan did not cover weight-loss surgery. A family member found out about the National Obesity Foundation and their Humanitarian Award, which was free weight loss surgery. She asked if I was okay with her nominating me, and I gladly accepted her offer."

The Humanitarian Award was determined entirely through Facebook voting by the community. After receiving thousands of votes, Linkous was notified that she had won and plans were made for her procedure.

"I had surgery on June 5, 2015, in Orange County, California," she smiled. "The National Obesity Foundation covered all cost (sic) for me and my mother, who was able to accompany me on the trip. The surgery went as well as could be expected; it was actually my first surgery," she added. "Dr. Bobby Bhasker-Rao and his staff did a phenomenal job caring for me."

As of Nov. 25, Linkous has lost 65 pounds. Her lifestyle has definitely changed and she is enjoying her new-found health.

"I feel amazing," she giggled. "My eating and exercise habits have improved. I am much more aware of the food I'll put into my mouth, and what I use to fuel my body. I have to be sure to have protein close by and drink plenty of water. I also have a variety of vitamins that I take daily. Prior to surgery I would take at least a two-hour nap every day; since surgery I can go 7 to 10 days without needing to take a nap. My energy levels are more normal."

Linkous says she still maintains monthly contact with Dr. Bhasker-Rao's office staff. She also sends them her weight loss numbers and updated photos. She says they are very pleased with her progress.

For anyone considering weight loss surgery, Linkous suggests meeting with a physician and a counselor to make sure it's the right decision for you. She says to keep in mind that surgery shouldn't be your first weight loss option. You should make sure you have exhausted all other options first.

"I want to thank everyone in our community for supporting me and helping me win the Humanitarian Award," she said. "There's absolutely no way I would have received that award and been granted weight-loss surgery if it weren't for you!

"I continue to volunteer with my church, Desperation Church. We currently have two campuses, one in Cullman and one in Jasper. We are hoping to launch a new campus in 2016. Since surgery I have been able to spend more time volunteering, due to the fact that I have more energy and over all feel better about myself. I also continue to work in the field of substance abuse, as a counselor. I'm also pursuing a master's degree in counseling, so I can be able to help more people."

For more about the NOF, visit nofusa.org.

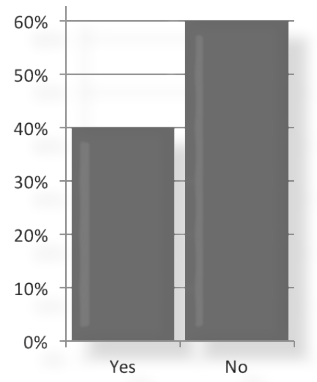
LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

The City of Cullman's Alcohol Review Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 1st, 2015 at 4:00 p.m., in the Administrative Conference Room of City Hall, located at 204 Second Avenue NE. Comments will be received on the proposed approval for the sale of alcohol in the City of Cullman by the following applicants:

Brian's Oyster Shack
451 Lincoln Avenue SW
Restaurant Retail Liquor
Alcohol License

Poll

Do you think Alabama should accept Syrian refugees?

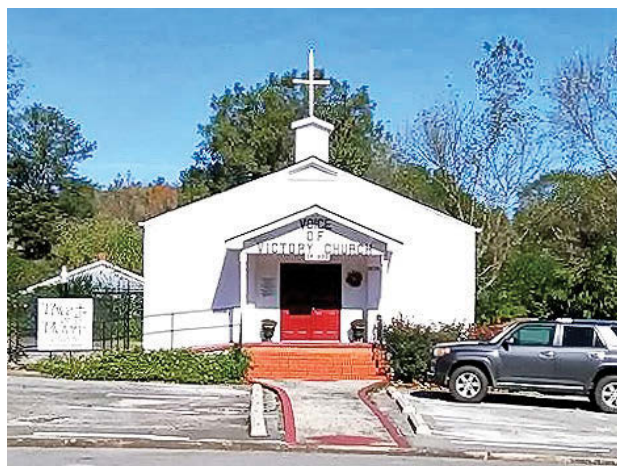


This Week's Poll

Should President Obama put soldiers on the ground in Syria?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

WHAT'S ONLINE



EMILY SPARKS

LOCAL CHURCH IN NEED OF PIANO PLAYER
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... **QRNE.WS/412**



NOAH CHANDLER/CULLMANSENSE

WEST POINT'S STEVE AND LISA LAKE NAMED 2016 FARM FAMILY
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... **QRNE.WS/413**

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RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT

FAITHFLO: MINISTERING THROUGH YOGA

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com



Debbie Leopard spreads the Word of God through her yoga ministry. DEBBIE LEOPARD

CULLMAN – Christians believe that Christianity is more than just attending church services on Sundays. True followers of Christ take the Word of God to heart and live their lives as they feel God instructed them through scripture. They take Christ into the world and spread the good news of his love to those around them. Mrs. Debbie Leopard is one such person. Through her FAITHFLO ministry, she uses yoga as a way to minister to the community and in the local detention center.

Leopard has lived in Cullman County her whole life. A graduate of Hanceville High School, she and her high school sweetheart, Randy, have been married for 34 years.

They have two grown children, Jason and Meghan, and one grandson named Christian. Leopard started practicing yoga in 1997 and began teaching it in 2012. In 2014, she opened her studio, Santosha Yoga, with her business partner Megan Steele.

"I was brought up in church, the daughter of a Southern Baptist deacon," she began. "At some point after the death of my father, I strayed away from God; I was 23 years old. But on Aug. 10, 2014 I rededicated my life to the Lord," she smiled warmly.

"At that time I had just opened the yoga studio. It was just that, a yoga studio."

Debbie began to feel the Lord leading her in a different direction, and in November 2014, she transitioned it into a Christ-based yoga studio.

"The FAITHFLO ministry came to me on the road to work one day," she said.

"The name was given to me by the Father. Later, I began to feel like God wanted me to take my ministry out into the community somehow. Then he showed me the (Cullman County) Detention Center.

"I called Sheriff (Matt) Gentry and he was very receptive to the idea," she continued. "Santosha Yoga offers free membership to the ladies after they leave the detention center. My hope is to take my FAITHFLO ministry as far as God allows."

Just like any ministry, there are plenty of ups and downs.

"The biggest challenge for me, I think, is the stigmas that surround yoga," said Leopard. "However, one step into the studio and you can actually feel God's love!

"My most rewarding moment came a week ago while I was at the detention center," she said excitedly. "At the end of yoga classes there is a final asana which is Savasana, or relaxation.

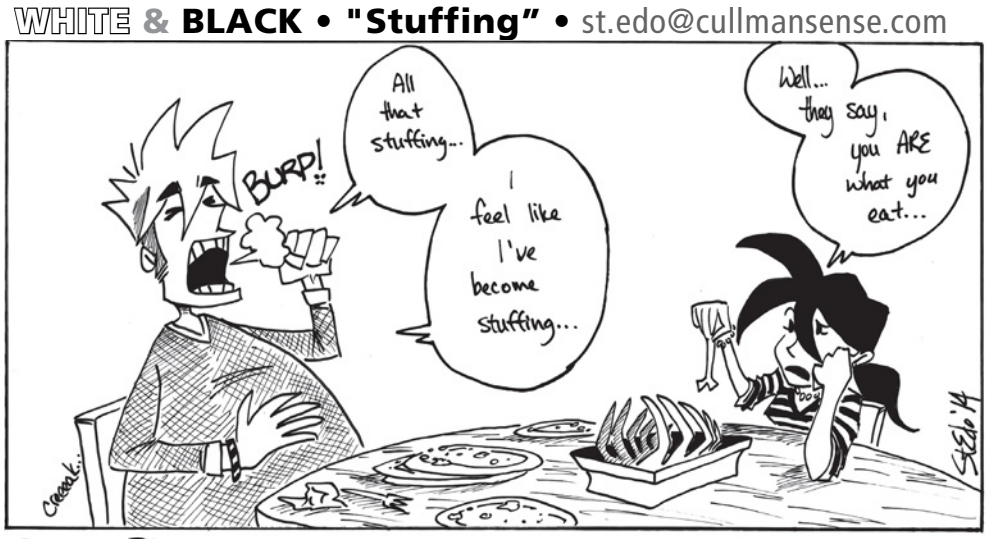
Well, as the ladies lay on that cold cement floor at the jail, I started the Savasana song which was 'Covered' by the group Planetshakers. One by one, the women started singing, 'covered by your grace...' I felt my eyes fill with tears and I knew then that God was showing me that I was just where I was supposed to be."

Santosha Yoga is open Monday through Friday and every other Saturday. The studio offers classes to support most fitness levels and schedules. They also offer a free community FAITHFLO class every Monday at 9:30 a.m.

The studio is located at 1702 Tally Ho St. N.W. Cullman. For more information call 256-339-2504. Find Santosha on Facebook at facebook.com/SantoshaYogaLLC.

COMICS

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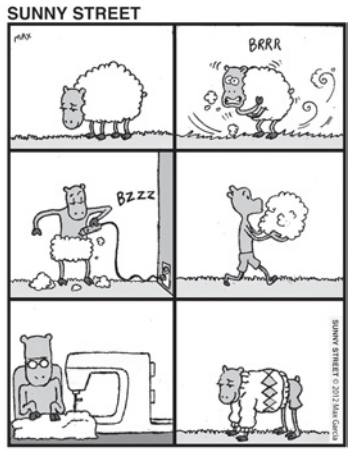
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OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOVEMBER 23 - 29

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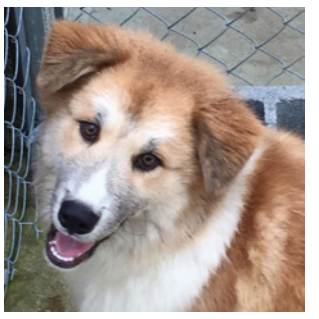
David McGilvary Moore
Elbert Wood England
Steven Roger Ray
Billie Purol
Harold E. Nix
Joseph "Big Joe" Johnson
John Parnell Worsham, Jr.
Willie B. "Buddy" Mickle, Sr.
Robert Eugene Bender
Hanley Woodard
Johnny Clarence "J.C." Cook
Gertie Bright
Matthew Steven Stewart
Donald Ray "Donny" Graves
Cynthia Lea Witcher
Kasi Leeann Reagan
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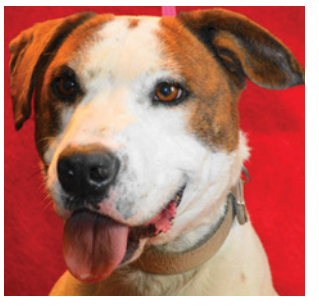
PETS OF THE WEEK

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



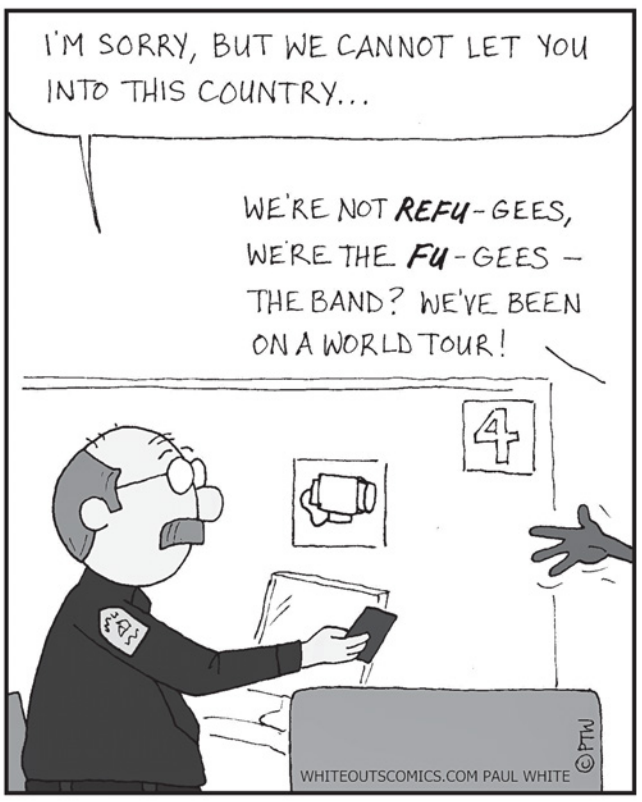
Hello my name is Roxie and I am about 5 years old. I am a Jack Russell Terrier Mix and I currently weigh 40 lbs. My adoption fee is $25 because I came to the Shelter already spayed. That also covers my microchip, free 45 day health insurance policy and our local Pet Depot will give you a free bag of 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



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OPINION

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS NEED TO SPEND MORE TIME ON CAPITOL HILL

Lee H. Hamilton
Contributor

When Paul Ryan became House Speaker a few weeks ago, he made it clear that he has no intention of spending too much time in Washington. His wife and children are in Wisconsin, he pointed out, and he plans to commute, as he's done since he got elected to Congress. "I just work here," he told CNN, "I don't live here."

I have great sympathy for Ryan's urge to strike a balance between family and work. It is very, very tough for every member, let alone the Speaker, to live and work far from home, and to weigh constantly whether to be in Washington or back in the district.

I remember that when I served in Congress, I felt I was in the wrong place wherever I happened to be.

If I was home in Indiana, I missed important meetings on Capitol Hill.

When I was in Washington, the calendar in Indiana was filled with events I should have been attending.

Yet while we should sympathize with the compromises members of Congress have to make between their duties in Washington and their responsibilities back home, there's no question where they must be to discharge their public responsibilities. If we want a well-functioning Congress, they need to be in Washington more.

When I first got elected to Congress in 1964, members didn't have to split time between their colleagues on Capitol Hill and their families back in the district, because most of us moved our families to Washington.

But over the years, the politics of the country have grown strongly anti-Washington. Members of Congress do not want to be associated with the city.

They want to show they haven't been seduced by the lifestyle of the Nation's Capital or adopted an "inside-the-beltway" mindset.

They take pride in rejecting the elitism of Washington. Today's politics make it hard to argue that members should be spending more time on Capitol Hill.

Yet as Washington Post writer Dana Milbank noted recently in an insightful column on the topic, "It's no mere coincidence that in the time this trend has taken hold, much of what had previously existed in Washington disappeared: civility, budget discipline, big bipartisan legislation and just general competence.

In place of this have come bickering, showdowns, shutdowns and the endless targeting of each other for defeat in the next election."

Expanding the Capitol Hill workweek, in other words, isn't just a symbolic gesture. It's one of the keys to reversing congressional dysfunction.

For starters, you have to get to know your colleagues in order to do business with them. The amenities are crucial in politics, even more than in most spheres of working life.

In any legislature, whether it's on Capitol Hill or in a state capital or in City Hall, the very nature of the job is going to involve disagreement.

Yet everyone there is there to solve problems together; they have no choice but to work together. It's hard to attack a person you know well, but even more important, getting to know one another — and one another's families — is an essential lubricant for resolving the issues you confront together.

Second, drafting legislation is highly demanding, because the core of it involves building consensus. This takes time. It can't be forced.

Members have to have the time and room to consider the options, look for common ground, and think through alternatives. Politicians, in other words, need sufficient time to be good politicians and good legislators.

The array of tough issues that face Congress can't be dealt with by part-time legislators.

Which is what they are right now. Members of Congress work hard, but they do not work hard at legislating. They work hard at constituent relations and raising money and campaigning.

Legislating, whether we like it or not, takes a five-day week, not the three they put in at the moment.

What I'm arguing for here will not be popular with members of Congress, and it certainly won't get a warm reception from their families. But they are elected to do the job of legislating.

For the good of the institution they serve and the work product they owe the nation, members need to spend more time in Washington.

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.

OPINION

VALUES OF JESUS

James A. Haught
PeaceVoice

Jesus sided with underdogs. He championed little people, not the privileged and powerful. "Blessed are the poor" was one of his maxims. He told a noble: "Sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor."

Christ's teachings were virtually a prescription for the compassionate "safety net" upholding people and families in modern democracies.

"For I was hungered, and ye gave me meat. I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink. I was a stranger, and ye took me in. Naked and ye clothed me. I was sick, and ye visited me. I was in prison, and ye came unto me.... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

He also said: "When thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: and thou shalt be blessed, for they cannot recompense thee."

His parable of the Good Samaritan spotlighted the nobility of caring for those who suffer misfortune.

Jesus didn't support harsh punishments. When the law demanded stoning of an adultress, he famously said: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."

Jesus advocated separation of church and state. "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's."

Jesus wasn't a militarist. "Blessed are the peacemakers" was another of his maxims.

Clearly, Jesus espoused values generally aligned with the modern political left and peace movement. Sometimes, this facet of religion is called the "social gospel."

So it's strange that America's white evangelicals and fundamentalists are the bedrock of the Republican Party -- a party that favors the rich, undercuts the safety net, backs militarism and demands harsher justice and the death penalty. Oddly, these conservative believers contradict the values of Jesus.

When George W. Bush was governor of Texas, he signed execution warrants for a record-breaking 135 inmates, including 11 who were juveniles at the time of the crimes.

Many cases involved questionable evidence.

Bush was renowned as a born-again believer and declared on national television that his favorite philosopher was Jesus.

The contrast between the two sets off clanging bells of cognitive dissonance.

Meanwhile, secular Americans who don't attend church have become the largest group in the base of the Democratic Party, which supports the safety net for average folks.

How odd that often churchless people are closer to the social principles of Jesus than many churchgoers are.

New Pope Francis has gained immense worldwide popularity because he pushes the humane liberal ideas of Jesus, not the sexual taboos and hidebound Puritanism that dominated his church in the past.

"Inequality is the root of social evil," Francis declares. All poor families deserve "land, lodging, labor," he preaches.

He says capitalism rests on "unfettered pursuit of money" and discards "unproductive people" like the poor, elderly and less-educated.

The prelate rattles conservatives. Republican figure Pat Buchanan accused him of preaching "socialist sermons."

But the pope is merely voicing the values of Jesus. He is underscoring what should be obvious to every thinking person: that Jesus was a liberal.

James Haught, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is editor emeritus of West Virginia's largest newspaper, The Charleston Gazette-Mail.

CULLMANSENSE.COM
November 30, 2015

CULLMAN WINS HOLLY POND THANKSGIVING TOURNAMENT

Josh McBrayer
Sports Correspondent



The Cullman Bearcats accept their championship trophy after a hard-fought victory against Holly Pond. JOSH MCBRAYER/CULLMANSENSE

GAME ONE
West Point 66 - Hartselle 69
It was an offensive explosion in the fifth-place game between the West Point Warriors and the Hartselle Tigers. The Warriors got it going early thanks in part to Cameron Moors who had eight of the 26 Warriors first quarter points.

Hartselle responded well in the second pushing their first half total to 40, one better than the West Point 39 at the end of the first half.

Tobias Mitchell opened the third quarter with a rim rocking dunk but Tanner Rusk responded with a three from the corner to tie the game. Points were easy to come by but the advantage wasn't. Momentum swung from side to side the entire quarter. The game remained tied for the majority of the quarter but a deep three from Kyle Edde and another two handed jam from Mitchell led to a 5-2 run, ending the quarter with Hartselle on top 55-52 going to the fourth.

Hartselle started the last quarter with a flurry, leading to a 10-4 run and a nine point lead three minutes into the quarter. The run didn't seem to phase the Warriors as they went on an offensive barrage of their own to cut the Tiger lead to just three with 2:34 left to play, but this was as close as the Warriors would come, as Hartselle closed out the game with strong defense and didn't allow West Point a clean look at the basket and took the game 69-66.

GAME TWO
Arab 54 - Pennington 52
The third place game was a tight, back and forth affair and it took overtime to decide thier championship game against the host Holly Pond Broncos. The green and white responded with some good the winner. With 0.4 seconds left on the clock, Pennington barely missed a desperation, half-court three and fell to Arab 54-52.

GAME THREE (CHAMPIONSHIP)
Holly Pond 73 - Cullman 75
Cullman jumped out to a quick lead thanks to 9-2 run early looks at the bucket but could not get them to fall. The result was a healthy 24-11 lead for Cullman after one quarter of play.

Holly Pond came fighting back in the second, rattling off an 8-0 run cut the Bearcat lead to five.

Back and forth went the action for the rest of the quarter with each team hitting key shots. At the end of two, Cullman held the 37-34 advantage.

The Broncos were on fire to open the third, snapping off a 9-2 run that gave them their first lead of the night 43-39. Cullman fought back late in the quarter, sparked by Seth Swalve lay up and one to give Cullman the lead back. Matt Cahoon quickly responded for Holly Pond hitting a three from the top of the key to pull the Broncos back even. Swalve hit the final bucket of the quarter and the Bearcats took a 56-53 lead to the final quarter in a thrilling championship contest. The lead was pushed to eight two minutes into the final frame, putting the Broncos' back to the wall. Cullman continued to shoot the ball well the entire quarter, pulling ahead by as much as 15 but Holly Pond was not done.

A 10-2 run stunned Cullman and forced a time out to slow down the Bronco momentum. The break in the action worked as Cullman was able to hold on and take the title 75-73.

Theatre (from Front)

mances of "A Charlie Brown Christmas," which first aired on CBS on Dec. 9, 1965.

Quickly becoming a holiday tradition, the classic 30-minute program has been broadcast every year since its premiere.

"Charles M. Schulz characters strike a chord with so many people, and since we're celebrating Wallace State's 50th anniversary as well, we thought a celebration of "A Charlie Brown Christmas would be appropriate," said Lauren Cantrell Salerno, director of the Wallace State Theatre program.

"The students went straight into rehearsals for this show after wrapping up 'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown,' and they can't wait to perform for a live audience."

"A Charlie Brown Christmas" will be shown on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 10-11, at 7 p.m., in the Recital Hall of the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children under 12. Seating is limited, so reservations are needed. Call 256-352-8277 to make a reservation.

Along with the production, audience members will get to enjoy treats after the performance, hear live Christmas music and can take photos with the Peanuts characters.

Each child attendee will receive a Charlie Brown Christmas tree cookie while supplies last.

The cast includes River Shadix of Somerville, as Charlie Brown; Megan Melton of Hayden, as Sally Brown; Hannah Stringer of Cullman, as Lucy Van Pelt; Trey Moody of Hartselle, as Snoopy; Duke Cleghorn of Cullman, as Schroeder; and Austin Barnett of Hanceville, as Linus Van Pelt.

Other supporting players include Zach Lindsey of Hartselle, as Pig Pen; Missy Hargove, of Gurley, as Frieda; Emma Denson of Decatur, as Violet; Teryn Simmons of Lawrenceville, Ga., as Patty; Cliff Emond as Shermy; Marissa Hilton of Mount Olive, as Marcie; Julie Newton of Hanceville, as Woodstock; and ensemble actors Hannah Ward, Gabby Grace, and Zack Jackson.

For more information about Wallace State Theatre and all programs at Wallace State Community College, visit www.wallacestate.edu or call 256-352-8000.

