SERIES 6 • ISSUE 6 • FEBRUARY 8, 2016

CULLMANSENSE COMMUNITY MATTERS

DUSTIN ISOM/CULLMANSENSE



TUESDAY NIGHT'S VINEMONT TOWN HALL MEETING SET TO BE A SHOWDOWN 12

WAKE UP WITH "A.M. LIVE" ON CULLMAN'S LIVE 95.5



Host Tommy Warhurst is the voice of Cullman's only live morning radio program, "a.m. LIVE."

SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

"We broadcast the Cullman Community Band and we do local charitable events. We try to put stuff on air from around town, and so part of that I wanted to bring to the morning show, too."

–Tommy Warhurst, host P10



ST. BERNARD PREP

RESTORATION UNDERWAY AT ST. BERNARD LIBRARY P10

EXECUTION OF SEARCH WARRANT LEADS TO ARREST OF NINE; METH SEIZED P2

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL REVERSE THE CYCLE SPRINT TRIATHLON P4

CRMC EMPLOYEES "GO RED" ON NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY P5

COLOR ME CULLMAN 5K, REGISTRATION OPEN NOW P3



PHOTOS COURTESY JEREMY HOGAN

Left: Cpl. Beasley with his granddaughter Braeley, now 18-years-old. Right: Jeremy Hogan is on a mission to save Cpl. Beasley by cleaning his property and making much needed repairs to his home.

SAVING CPL. KENNETH BEASLEY

Fellow Marine making sure veteran gets the help he deserves

"Cpl. Beasley has been having a rough time taking care of himself. He has gone too long without help and feels the government has failed him. Let's show him that the American people haven't failed him."

– Jeremy Hogan, Marine

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Jeremy Hogan is known for helping fellow Marines, but just recently he came across someone who needs a lot more help than he alone can give. What started out as a simple project to build a wheelchair ramp for a local Vietnam veteran has turned into a crusade for Hogan to help his brother-in-arms get everything he needs.

U.S. Marine Cpl. Kenneth Beasley has been down on his luck for quite some time. He lost his left leg to diabetes and is about to lose his right foot to gangrene. He has been having mental health issues and is not able to take care of himself. When Hogan first heard that Beasley needed a new wheelchair ramp, he went right to the man's house to see what kind of supplies he would need. When he arrived, he saw a veteran, a hero, who was in dire need of much more help than just a new ramp. He needed help to survive.

"When I found him he was living in filth and his right foot has gangrene set up in it," said Hogan. "I talked him into letting me get him some hospital care, so I contacted the VA's care advocate who helped me get him into the hospital where he is getting the healthcare he needed.

"Cpl. Beasley has been having a rough time taking care of himself," he continued. "He has gone too long without help and feels the government has failed him. Let's show him that the American people haven't failed him."

When word spread of Cpl. Beasley's situation, people from all over Cullman County began offering their help. On Saturday, Jan. 30, volunteers met at Beasley's residence and began cleaning up the property, as well as the home.

"We have started cleaning, which will take until this next weekend to finish up," Hogan explained, "then we will move to the repairs. Once we get the place clean we will then do some tree trimming and yard excavation to help with water and tree damage. Next we will build two decks, one 12x10 with a ramp and then one a 10x10 with ramp. The windows and doors might need replacing. Carpet and flooring are needed, as well as metal siding and gutters for the roof and skirt going around the outside."

"His bathroom needs to be handicap-accessible, so we need a bathtub he can get into and rails put in, along with a wider door to get to the bathroom," he continued. "His washer and dryer need replacing and P9

West Point changing its looks

Beautification and branding campaign to begin this spring

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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WEST POINT – A special planning committee met Monday, Feb. 1 at West Point Town Hall for initial planning of the town's beautification and branding campaign expected to begin in the spring. As part of the campaign, the committee plans to replace some of the older West Point signs with modern brick ones. The campaign also includes landscaping and maintenance work.

"What we plan to do is add our website's 'WP' design to the new brick signs to be consistent with the upgrades the school is doing with the football field," said West Point Mayor Kenneth Kilgo. "We will be putting brick signs out on Highway 157 and one flashing sign that will have community information on it. We'll do those at the Town Hall and on Highway 157 for a total of three signs."

Kilgo says the town plans involve the community in the project as well.

"I know this is early yet, but we will be designating a community work day in the spring where we will concentrate on all the little interchanges that need to be spruced

» STORY CONTINUES ON P6

TOWN OF WEST POINT

New West Point signs will be made of brick and have this 'WP' logo on them.

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U.S. SENATE HOPEFUL MCCONNELL, COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CANDIDATES SPEAK AT SATURDAY FORUM

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – On Saturday, Feb. 6, the Cullman County Republican Party held a breakfast meeting at the Cullman Elks Lodge, where a variety of area Republican candidates spoke in anticipation of the upcoming March 1 primary. The meeting's special guest was Jonathan McConnell, who is running against incumbent U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby. All three Cullman County Commission Chairman candidates, including incumbent Kenneth Walker and his two challengers, Darrell Hicks and Eric L. Parker, also addressed the crowd.

Each of the commission chair candidates had around two minutes to speak to the audience. Parker, new to the politics, was up first. He stated his priorities are, "to improve the county through community action groups and to improve county roads and water systems by cutting wasteful spending from the commission budget." Parker said he wants "a transparent commission with an open door policy." He promised no closed-door meetings if elected.

Former Cullman County Associate Commissioner, Place 1 Hicks spoke second. Hicks is running on a campaign of experience, and he laid out what he would like to focus on if elected. He said he would like to "increase the miles of roads paved each year and will work hard to complete the Highway 157 and St. Bernard four-lane (expansion)." Hicks also said he wants "to begin planning for a new judicial building and finish the county's first public shooting range so that it will meet standards." Hicks believes that senior centers need support.

"I promise to meet everyone with respect and in a professional manner," Hicks said.

Rounding out the commission chair forum was incumbent Walker, who was quick to remind the crowd of his accomplishments in the position and lay out his goals if re-elected. He said he wants to have a 90-day reserve in place and that the commission is currently five days away from that goal.

"When I took office," he said, "there was only a 60-day reserve."

Walker promised to continue working to improve infrastructure in Cullman County and said he plans to "explore avenues for additional revenue to supplement the road department projects with maintaining and upgrading existing roads."

Special guest McConnell, hoping to upset long-time incumbent Shelby (who has held the seat since 1987), spoke last. McConnell's plans include cutting government spending, repealing the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare"), simplifying regulations and tax codes, lowering corporate taxes and stopping the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

"I am running for U.S. Senate because I have four nieces that (sic) mean more to me than anything in this world," McConnell said.

"I cannot look down at them and say in confidence that we are leaving it (the country) better off for them, so I need four things from every single one of you in this room. They are what I call the Four I's," he said, and then began to explain.

"1. Intercession. I need your prayer because this country has a heart problem. We've got to have people who will stand up for what is right and believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

"2. Influence. Every single person in this room influences thousands of people, whether it is your family, people you work with or went to school with. If we get our message out, we win this race. This is not about beating Richard Shelby; this is about changing the direction of this country.

"3. Ideas. I may not have the best ideas in the world; I'm a Marine, so therefore I may not be the smartest guy in the world, but I promise you I will work harder than anyone you've ever seen in your life. But if you have an idea that we're not doing or someone I should be talking to, I want to hear about it. Contact us. We want to hear from you.

"4. Income. When I got into this race, I put a quarter million dollars into it. I took everything I could from my business without bankrupting it. I liquidated my savings account, and I donated it to my campaign. I did not loan it, I donated it. So I either took a stack of a quarter million dollars and I either put a fire to it or I invested in the change of our country. We cannot win this unless we get our message out. It costs us about $50,000 a week to stay up on TV. If we win this race, we change the direction of the country more so."

The primary election is on Tuesday, March 1. The deadlines for voter registration are Friday, Feb. 12 (in-person registration) and Monday, Feb. 15 (online registration).

For more information on in-person registration: http://qrne.ws/register.

To register online: http://qrne.ws/regonline.

For more information on the Cullman County Republican Party or the monthly breakfast program, visit http://www.cullmangop.com/ or contact CCRP Vice Chairman Waid Harbison at 256-708-1650.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

Guest speaker, Republican candidate for U.S. Senate, Jonathan McConnell, spoke at the Cullman County Republican Party's breakfast Saturday morning.

EXECUTION OF SEARCH WARRANT LEADS TO ARREST OF NINE; METH SEIZED

Bradley Williams
CCSO

CULLMAN – Agents with the Cullman Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET) and deputies with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) arrested nine individuals for unlawful possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia today after executing a search warrant in the 800 block of County Road 1319, also known as Basch Road.

Arrested for unlawful possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia:

- Santos Lynn Thomas, 25, Hispanic, Cleveland, AL, $5,000 bond
- Sarah Marie Milligan, 23, White, Cullman, $5,000 bond
- Omar Rivera Loyola, 24, Hispanic, Oneonta, $5,000 bond
- Tonya Lynn Wagner, 35, White, Crane Hill, $5,000 bond
- Brian Keith Bagwell, 32, White, Holly Pond, $5,000 bond
- Ricky Charles Mewbourn, 50, White, Cullman, $5,000 bond

(Mewbourn also had a warrant for unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia)

- Hugo Contreaus-Cenantes, 33, Hispanic, Altoona, $5,000 bond
- Angela Denise Stewart, 44, White, Hayden, $5,000 bond

Arrested for unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia and also had warrants for unlawful possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia:

- Santanna Marie Barnett, 25, White, Cullman, $13,000 bond

The operation that led to the arrest of the nine suspects was executed in the 800 block of County Road 1319, also known as Basch Road, on Thursday, Feb. 4. CNET and CCSO deputies made entry into the residence and arrested those suspects who had warrants.

While inside, CNET and CCSO deputies located multiple suspects, as well as meth and other drugs and drug paraphernalia.

CCSO seized approximately 10 grams of meth, syringes, glass meth pipes, straws and marijuana.

"I believe any time you can arrest a large number of drug pushers and several of them are not from our community it sends the message we don't want your drugs in Cullman County, and if you come here you will go to jail," said Sheriff Matt Gentry.

"I would also like to thank CNET and our deputies for the great job they did on this arrest," added Gentry.

WALLACE STATE SEEKING MEMBERS OF ITS FIRST GRADUATING CLASS

Kristen Holmes
WSCC

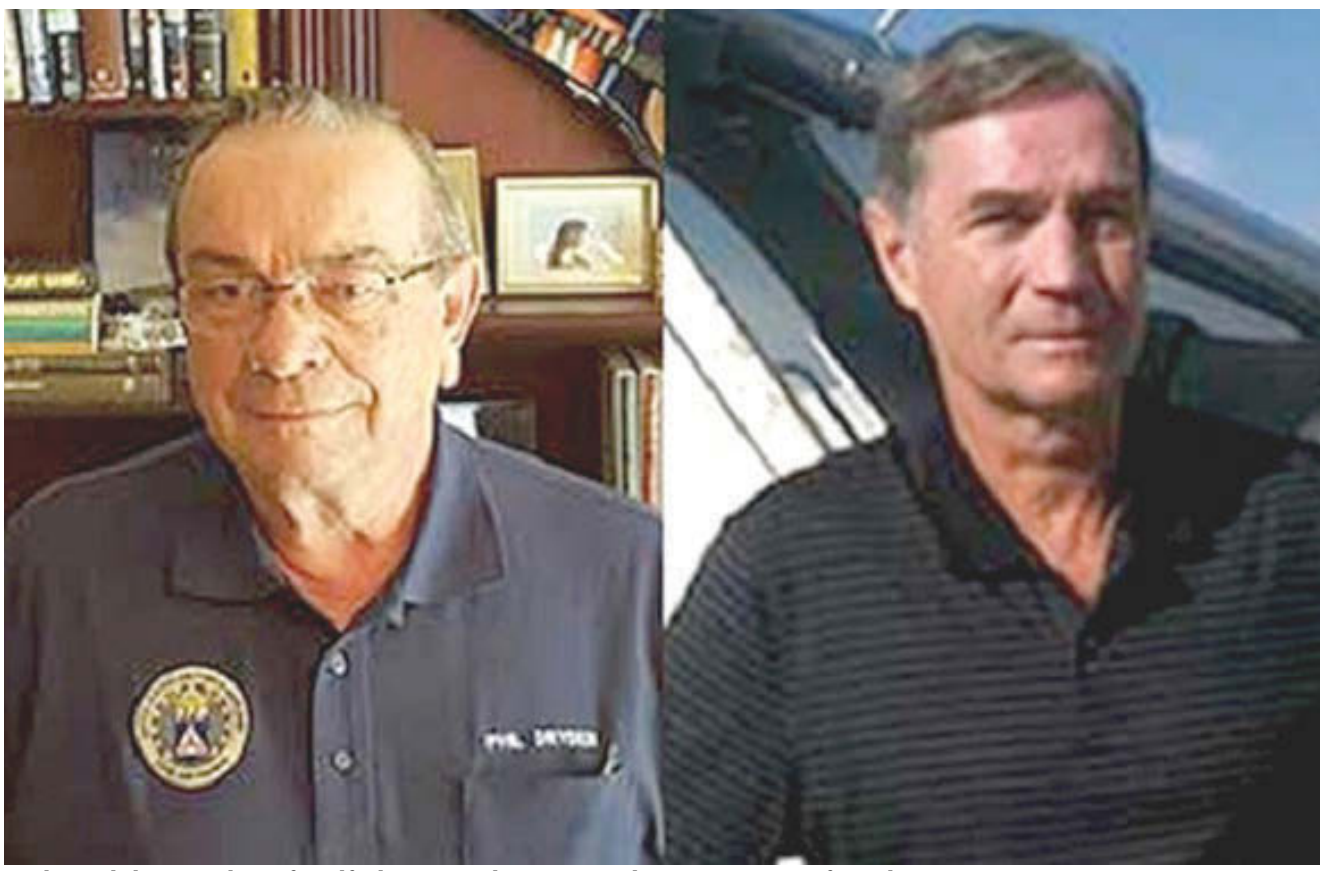
HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College in Hanceville is searching for members of the college's first graduating class in order to recognize them at its commencement ceremony in May. Members of the first graduating class can contact the WSCC Alumni Office at 256-352-8071 or Ladonna.Allen@wallacestate.edu.

The WSCC School of Nursing also wants to contact graduates of the first Practical Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing programs to honor them at the 50th Anniversary Nursing Alumni Connection in April. Members of either of those groups can contact Jennifer Dunkle at 256-352-8411 or Jennifer.dunkle@wallacestate.edu.



COMPASSION FLIGHT CRASH IN ALABAMA KILLS TWO

Julie Debardelaben
Civil Air Patrol



2nd Lt. Phil J. Dryden of Gulf Shores and Maj. David R. Mauritson of Fairhope. FOX10 NEWS MOBILE

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE – Two members of Civil Air Patrol's Alabama Wing died Monday when their single-engine plane crashed near Mobile while they were returning from a 170-mile compassion flight to southern Louisiana.

The pilot, Maj. David R. Mauritson, 67, of Fairhope, joined CAP in September 1991. Second Lt. Phil J. Dryden, 66, of Gulf Shores, a CAP member since November 2015, served as mission scanner for the flight. The two were members of the Mobile Composite Squadron.

Their CAP Cessna 182 was found 1 mile west of Mobile Regional Airport at 2 a.m. today after searchers tracked the aircraft's emergency locator transmitter to the crash site. They were returning from Louisiana Regional Airport in Gonzales, near Baton Rouge, after returning a medical caregiver and patient to her home.

Pilots perform compassion flights as a public or charitable service, often to transport patients or their family members to or from treatment in cases where ground travel would be too painful or difficult or when expediency is required.

The pilot bears the expense of the fuel, maintenance and related costs for such flights.

Mauritson flew as a volunteer pilot for Mercy Flight Southeast, based in Leesburg, Florida and for SouthWings, an aviation-oriented conservation group.

He was a Certified Flight Instructor with 50 years of flying experience.

He was chairman of the Awards Committee of the Flying Physicians Association, previously served as its president and received the group's Distinguished Service award in 2004. A lawyer as well as a physician, he also belonged to the Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association.

After joining CAP on Nov. 3, Dryden gained certification in emergency services and trained as a mission scanner. He served as the Mobile squadron's assistant operations officer.

"Dr. Maurtison was a hero to our Mercy Flight Southeast family, having signed up to fly 33 missions over the years," said Steve Purello, CEO of Mercy Flight Southeast.

"He was an admired pilot who flew over 11,000 hours and was a certified instructor. Taught to fly by his mother who was also a certified flight instructor, David passed along his passion for flying to his children and was their instructor as well. His compassion and commitment to our cause to get people to far from home medical care will be sorely missed. Our sincerest condolences go out to the Mauritson and Dryden families."

Mercy Flight Southeast's network of 650 volunteer pilots provides free air transportation to life-saving medical appointments for people who otherwise could not get there. For information about Mercy Flight Southeast, visit http://www.mercyflightse.org/.

About Civil Air Patrol

Civil Air Patrol, the longtime all-volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is the newest member of the Air Force's Total Force, which consists of regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, along with Air Force retired military and civilian employees. CAP, in its Total Force role, operates a fleet of 550 aircraft and performs about 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 78 lives annually.

Civil Air Patrol's 56,000 members nationwide also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies.

Its members additionally play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 24,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet program. Performing missions for America for the past 75 years, CAP received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit http://www.capvolunteernow.com for more information.

About Mercy Flight Southeast

Mercy Flight Southeast is a non-profit volunteer pilot organization that provides free air transportation by private aircraft to distant medical facilities when commercial air service is not available, impractical or simply not affordable.

Mercy Flight Southeast is a member of Air Charity Network, an association of charitable aviation organizations comprised of more than 7,500 pilots and who represent over 90% of all charitable non-emergency flights flown in the nation. Mercy Flight Southeast has won the seal of approval from Independent Charities of America recognizing Mercy Flight Southeast as a good steward of the funds it generates from the public.

COLOR ME CULLMAN 5K, REGISTRATION OPEN NOW

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – As winter fades away and spring is ushered in, so, too, does the overwhelming amount of pastel-colored everything. But, the Color Me Cullman 5k with bring bolder colors than pastels, and a message of happiness and healthiness to get people out of the doldrums of winter.

The 5k event will take place at Sportsman Lake Park on April 9 at 8 a.m. Registration will be available the day of the event beginning as early as 6 a.m., but register by March 23 to avoid the late fee. With registration comes a Color Me Cullman t-shirt and a color packet. The cost is $30 for adults and $15 for children ages 6-12. Children under age 6 can run for free.

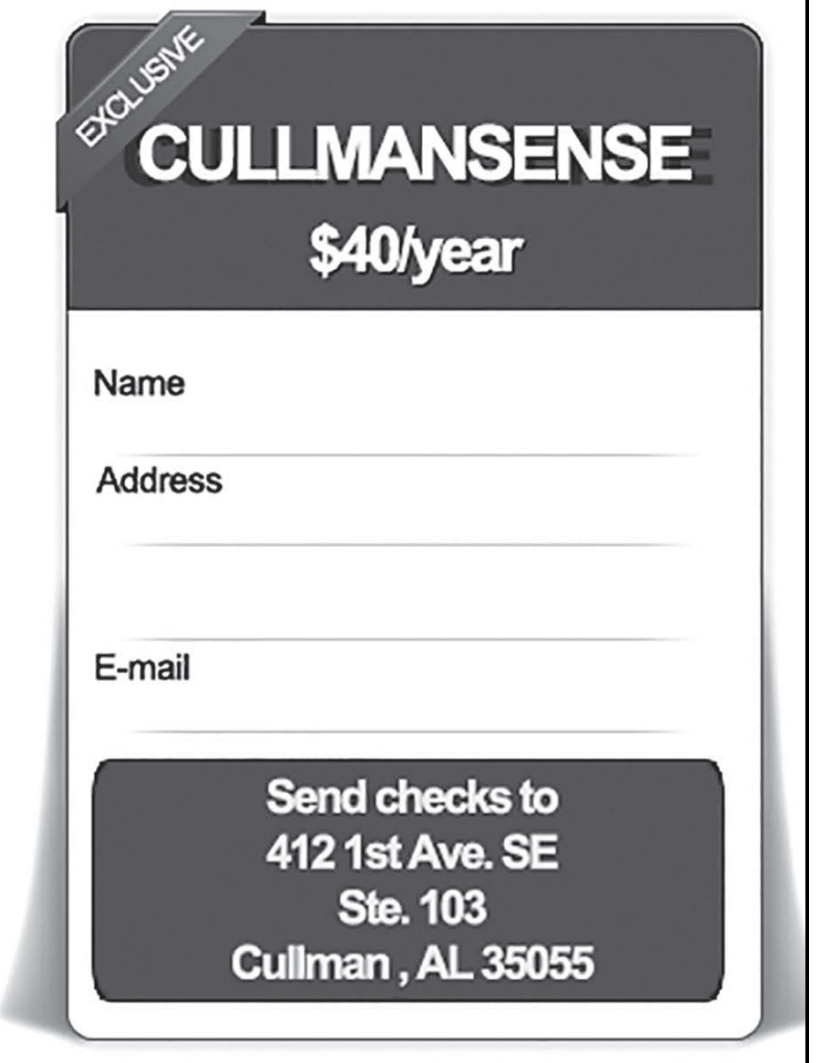
With a focus on "happiness and healthiness," the run will be untimed, and there will be four different color stations for the runners to "get plastered in color."

Concession stands will be open at Sportsman Lake Park during the event. There will also be a table set up where runners and attendees can purchase extra event t-shirts and color packets. Police will be on hand to ensure the safety of all in attendance.

"We feel that (the Color Me Cullman 5k) helps the community by giving something fun and healthy for families and people of all ages to do," said Sara Teichmiller, Cullman County Parks and Recreation director of marketing.

For more information, visit http://www.cullmancountyparks.com/color-run-5k.html.

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



SIGN UP NOW FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL REVERSE THE CYCLE SPRINT TRIATHLON

Event to Benefit The Link of Cullman County

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Registration is open now for the third annual Reverse the Cycle Sprint Triathlon, which will be held Saturday, June 18, at Smith Lake Park. All proceeds from the event will benefit The Link of Cullman County.

The Reverse the Cycle Sprint Triathlon is the only triathlon event in Cullman.

It is unique to north Alabama as the only "reverse" sprint triathlon, meaning the order is reversed for the athletes. The adult race will start with running (3.1 miles), cycling (approximately 8 miles) and finally swimming (200 yards).

The kids' race will follow the same order, with shorter distances (1-mile run, 2-mile bike ride, 50-yard swim).

"This year will be at a new venue and (on) a new date," said Race Director Nathan Graves.

"We are excited about the possibilities these changes bring. The goal for the race is to create a fun, family-oriented event geared toward first-time triathletes, but challenging enough for a seasoned veteran.

"We are planning pre- and post-race activities for athletes and spectators," Graves continued.

"There will be food trucks, music, door prizes and plenty of things for the kids to do. The name of the race gives a bit of insight into both the race and the mission of The Link. 'Reverse the Cycle Sprint Triathlon' ...The Link is dedicated to reversing the cycle of poverty in Cullman County."

The Link of Cullman County will benefit monetarily from both the entry fees and event sponsorships.

The race will bring attention to the Link's mission as well, in hopes people can find a way to plug in and help their neighbors who need it the most.

"I really believe the race can flourish at Smith Lake Park," Graves added.

"They have been great to work with and have fully supported the race from the get-go. They are excited to see what could happen for the race and the park. We really hope our local folks come out and support the event."

The children's race begins at 7:30 a.m. with the adult's race following. Awards will be given after the races are finished.

Anyone interested in signing up for the event may do so by visiting http://qrne.ws/link.

ENTRY FEES

- $40 Individual *$50 after May 21, 2016 ($60 day of race)
- $70 Team Relay *$80 after May 21, 2016 ($90 day of race)
- $25 Child (ages 7-15) *$35 after May 21, 2016 ($45 day of race)

Event organizers are actively seeking sponsorships.

The Title Sponsor is Urgent Care of Cullman, but all other sponsorships are up for grabs. For more information about becoming a sponsor, contact Nathan Graves at 256-709-5474.

For more information about the race or The Link of Cullman County, call Bo Shirey at 256-347-6136 or email him at boshirey@linkingcullman.org.

WSCC ATHLETICS INDUCTS SECOND SPORTS HALL OF FAME CLASS

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State inducted its second Sports Hall of Fame class on Sunday in conjunction with the college's 50th anniversary. The 2016 inductees are former women's coach Larry Slater, former Wallace State golfer and PGA tour pro Brett Wetterich, former Wallace State golfer and current Florida State golf coach Trey Jones, former Wallace softball player Cindy Mallard and contributor Johnny Thornton.

Wallace State plans to add a new class to the Hall of Fame every two years.

Here's a closer look at the 2016 class:

- **Larry Slater** was the long-time leader and face of the Wallace State women's basketball program, establishing the Lady Lions into a perennial state contender.

Slater coached at Wallace State from 1989-2011, compiling a 479-163 career record. Slater's teams won six conference championships, advanced to the conference title game on 15 occasions and made four NJCAA Division I national tournament appearances. Slater will also be inducted into the Morgan County Sports Hall of Fame this May.

- **Brett Wetterich** is a former Wallace State golfer and former professional golfer on the Nationwide and PGA tours. Wetterich, an Ohio native, played for Wallace State from 1992-94.

From 2000-05, he won two events on the Nationwide Tour before winning his first PGA event in 2006.

As a rookie, Wetterich earned a spot on the United States' 2006 Ryder Cup team. Wetterich compiled career earnings of more than $7 million.

He is also a member of the NJCAA Hall of Fame.

- **Trey Jones** is a former Wallace State golfer and assistant coach and currently the head golf coach at Florida State.

Jones, a Cullman native, golfed at Wallace State from 1987-1988 and served as a Wallace State assistant coach from 1992-1995.

Jones has led Florida State men's and women's golf since 2004 and guided Florida State to its most successful season in 2015, earning ACC Coach of the Year honors for the second time.

Jones, who was also the ACC Coach of the Year in 2008, has led 14 of his 19 teams at the Division I level to the NCAA Championship tournament.

- **Cindy (Barksdale) Mallard** was an integral member of the first Wallace State slow pitch softball team in 1981, which won a state tournament in its inaugural season.

Mallard was an outfielder on the 1981 team and named state tournament MVP.

She was also an all-tournament selection as a sophomore in 1982 when the team finished conference runner-up.

An employee since 1994, she remains an active supporter of Wallace State athletics.

- **Johnny Thornton,** who today broadcasts each Wallace State home basketball game on 92.1 WKUL-FM, served as Wallace State's sports information director from 1982-97, providing publicity for the college's athletics and as the statistician for the basketball, softball and volleyball teams.

Thornton was also inducted into the Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

For more information about Wallace State athletics, visit http://athletics.wallacestate.edu.

PREP BASKETBALL SCORING WRAP-UP

MONDAY
Girls

Holly Pond 57, Good Hope 42
St. Bernard 37, Whitesburg Christian 41
Cullman defeated by Arab
Fairview 66, Hayden 49
Cold Springs 72, West Point 53

BOYS

Holly Pond defeated Good Hope
St. Bernard 76, Whiteburg Christian 48
Cullman 52, Arab 40
Fairview 70, Hayden 53
Cold Springs 65, West Point 63

THURSDAY
Girls

Fairview 63, Vinemont 12
Scottsboro 52, Holly Pond 40

Boys

Hanceville 57, Mortimer Jordan 58
Fairview 55, Vinemont 43
Holly Pond 72, Scottboro 60

FRIDAY
Girls

Hanceville 31, Good Hope 28
Walker 51, Cold Springs 41
Cullman 65, West Point 49

Boys

Hanceville 58, Good Hope 38
Cold Springs 75, Walker 61
Cullman 67, West Point 57

Scores aggregated by Josh McBrayer

PREP BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

WEEK OF 02-08-16

With the regular season behind us, it is time for the post-season to begin. From 1A to 6A, here is the breakdown of the tournament action.

MONDAY

1A Area 11 @ St.Bernard (boys)
Lynn vs Meek 5:30 p.m.
St.Bernard vs Brilliant 7:00 p.m.

4A Area 10 @ Locust Fork (girls)
Locust Fork vs Oneonta 6:00 p.m.
Good Hope vs JB Pennington 7:30 p.m.

5A Area 14 @ Moulton (girls)
Fairview vs Russellville 6:00 p.m.
West Point vs Lawrence County 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

1A Area 11 @ Arley (girls)
St. Bernard vs Meek 4:30 p.m.
Lynn vs Brilliant 6:00 p.m.

2A Area 14 @ Tanner (girls)
Cold Springs vs Falkville 6:00 p.m.
Addison vs Tanner 7:30 p.m.

3A Area 10 @ Holly Pond
Hanceville vs Susan Moore (girls) 4:00 p.m.
Hanceville vs Vinemont (boys) 5:30 p.m.
Holly Pond vs Vinemont (girls) 7:00 p.m.
Holly Pond vs Susan Moore (boys) 8:30 p.m.

4A Area 10 @ Locust Fork
Good Hope vs Locust Fork 6:00 p.m.
JB Pennington vs Oneonta 7:30 p.m.

5A Area 15 @ West Point
West Point vs Fairview 6:00 p.m.
Russellville bs Locust Fork 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

6A Area 15 @ Austin (girls)
Hartselle vs Decatur 6:00 p.m.
Cullman vs Austin 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

1A Area 10 @ St. Bernard
Championship 6:30

2A Area 10 @ Cold Springs
Tanner vs Addison 6:00 p.m.
Cold Springs vs Falkville 7:30 p.m.

3A Area 10 @ Holly Pond
Championship 6:00 p.m. (girls)
Championship 7:30 p.m. (boys)

4A Area 10 @ Locust Fork
Championship 6:00 (girls)
Championship 7:30 (boys)

5A Area 14 @ Moulton
Championship 7:30 (girls)

6A Area 15 @ Austin
Hartselle vs Austin 6:00 p.m.
Cullman vs Decatur 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

2A Area 14 @ Tanner
Championship 7:00 p.m. (girls)

5A Area 14 @ West Point
Championship 7:00 p.m.

6A Area 15 @ Austin
Championship 7:00 p.m. (girls)

SATURDAY

2A Area 14 @ Cold Springs
Championship 7:00 p.m.

6A Area 15 @ Austin
Championship 7:00 p.m.

Aggregated by Josh McBrayer

CRMC EMPLOYEES "GO RED" ON NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY

Meredith Easterwood
CRMC

CULLMAN - February is National Heart Month, and Cullman Regional Medical Center employees recently joined together to raise awareness and support the fight against heart disease by wearing red on National Wear Red Day, Feb. 5, 2016.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), heart disease is the number one killer of women, causing 1 in 3 deaths each year. Heart disease causes more deaths than all forms of cancer combined. It is often a silent killer with no symptoms.

The AHA and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute began National Wear Red Day in 2003 and encourage everyone to wear red on the first Friday of every February to increase awareness and promote healthy lifestyle changes, specifically for women.

The two organizations have also been raising awareness of heart disease through their Go Red for Women program since 2004. You can "Go Red" by eating healthy, exercising, knowing the signs of a heart attack, knowing your heart score, wearing red and spreading the word about heart disease.

For more information about National Wear Red Day and Go Red for Women, visit https://www.goredforwomen.org/.

For more information about Heart Care at CRMC, visit http://www.crmchospital.com/heart.

CRMC employees show their support in the fight against heart disease on National Wear Red Day.



LOCAL DOCUMENTARY

CULLMAN BEFORE JOHN CULLMANN

Cullman's George Spear Shares the Story of Cullman's Earliest Beginnings

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – When most people around here talk about the history of Cullman County, they automatically break into big ole smiles as they look into the distance and speak of the town's beloved founder, Col. John G. Cullmann. It is true that Cullmann worked like a dog promoting the area and populated the place by using his marketing skills, convincing many German families that our rich, fertile soil and mild weather was the best place to live and farm. Heck, the town was named after him, for goodness sakes!

But there is one small detail most people don't seem to realize; those five "original" families, along with Cullmann, were not the first people to live on the land that would eventually become Cullman.

No, in reality, there had been people living in these parts for decades prior to Cullmann's arrival, and local historian George Spear has made a documentary that tells all about them.

The hour-long TV documentary "Cullman Before John Cullmann" chronicles the Georgia and Tennessee pioneers who had settled in the Cullman City area decades before the Europeans ever arrived.

It tells the undeniable truth about the men and women who endured and survived here. It is a work based on research and not myth.

"I enjoy history and genealogy," Spear said with a smile.

"I'm always curious as to where things began, so to speak. That's what got me started; I heard there was more of a story to the local settlements and original pioneers than what came here around 1873 when the Germans came in.

"While researching the pre-German history of the people living in Township 10 South, Range 3 West of the Huntsville Meridian, (AKA the Cullman City area), I discovered that there were a few current-day historians who preferred to accept common myths rather than the facts regarding early settlers," he shook his head.

"Some local historians simply refuse to believe that there were Georgians, Tennesseans and South Carolinians who lived here for decades before migrating west. After all, the early German settlers referred to the Cullman City area as a 'wilderness' and 'unsettled.'

"The fact that dozens of early deed records are missing in the Cullman County Probate Office handicaps any effort to disprove these myths," he continued.

"No one living now is responsible for these missing early deed records. These early deeds simply weren't transferred to Cullman County from Blount County when this area became a county in 1877," he smiled.

"I've counted approximately a dozen pioneers who resided in this area who sold out and moved away before the first German settlers arrived in 1873."

Here's something to think about: One out of every three men who served in the Civil War from this area was dead by the end of it and nearly half of those who survived moved out west before the Germans even arrived.

Simply put, when the soil wore out, farmers moved, and the railroad, along with Mother Nature, reclaimed the land.

"Keep in mind, there are no deed records showing who purchased their property," Spear explained.

"Conversely, early plat maps, Bureau of Land Management records and federal population and agriculture census records show clearly where they lived. Moreover, Alabama State Census records also contain their names.

"When the first German immigrants arrived, they faced terrible hardships and some perished," he added.

"One immigrant observed critically that none of the early settlers had attempted to create a town or settlement. The truth is, that without a railroad or means of getting your product to market, it would have been impractical, not to mention impossible.

"Cullman Before John Cullmann" takes you on a trip down memory lane as far as Cullman's rich history allows. You will meet our city's very first inhabitants and see their way of life.

They were courageous and dared to journey into the wilderness and become some of the first to plow the land.

The documentary also pinpoints their land and farms and shows just what is located there today.

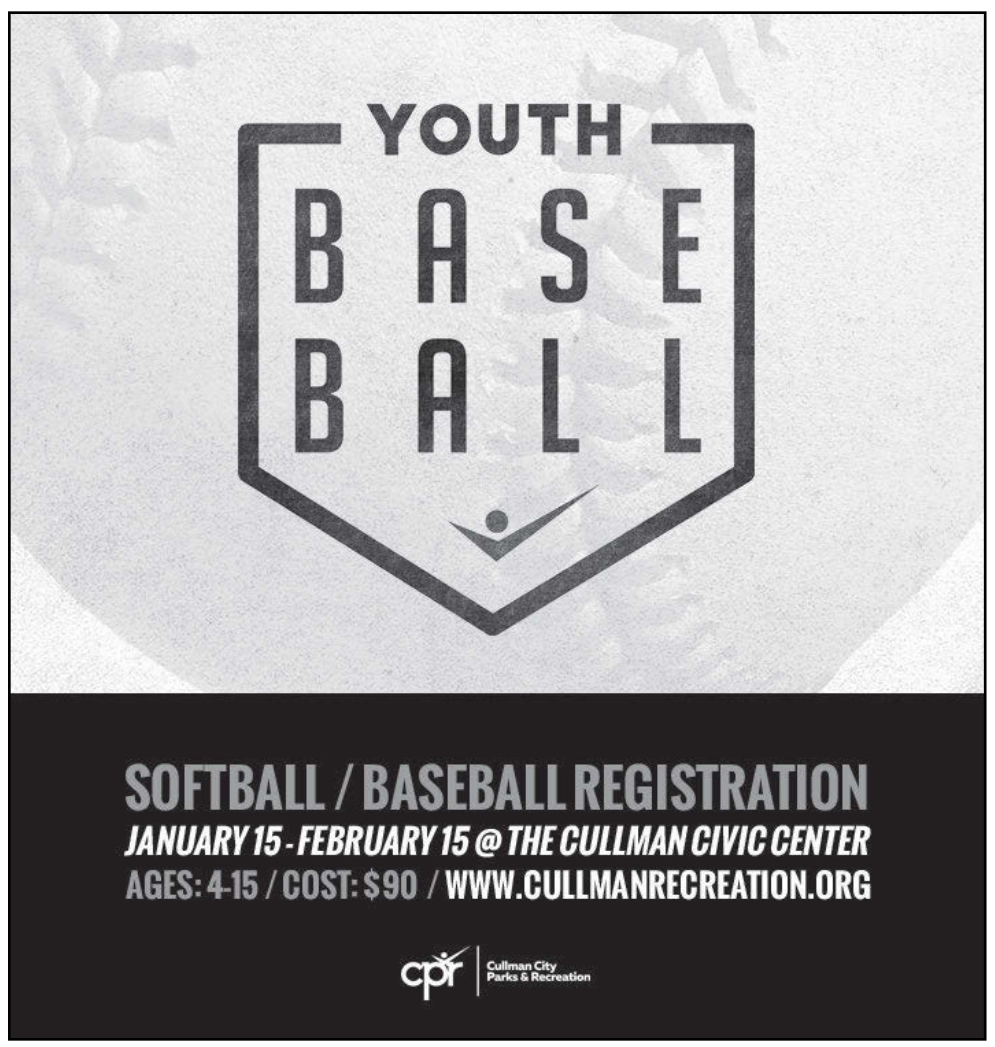
If you are a history buff, you will be entertained while learning all about life before the Cullmann arrived.

"Cullman Before John Cullmann" is available on DVD and can be purchased at Mary Carter Store and Yates-Chance Christian Book Store. For more information, visit http://qrne.ws/cullmann.

Considered to be one of the first white men to cross the Cullman City area, John Coffee surveyed this part of Cullman County before many white men had a chance to explore it. He later moved to a place near Florence and died there in 1833.



GEORGE SPEAR



County Road Dept.'s new pothole patcher 'to pay for itself in four years'



PHOTOS COURTESY FACEBOOK.COM/CULLMANCOUNTY

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Last week the Cullman County Road Department took delivery of a one-man pothole patcher.

The machine, which cost the county fund $197,000, was approved for purchase in November 2015.

"We expect it to pay for itself in four years," Cullman County Head Engineer John Lang said.

The new machine means that road projects that used to take two men and multiple pieces of equipment will now only need one man and the single pothole patcher.

"This," according to Lang, "will free up that second man to move on to other projects such as mowing, ditching, doing maintenance repair, maybe even moving on to other potholes that need to be patched."

The old system involved dump trucks or trailers being used by two-men crews alongside a pothole patcher.

Now, thanks to the new machine, that second man is free to do other work throughout the county and those dump trucks and trailers can be used elsewhere.

"We believe this will make things more efficient, faster and safer," Lang said.

The men are already getting accustomed to the new machine.

Lang said recently a crew was able to patch an entire road, which may not have been possible if they used the old method.

And, as the men get more acquainted with the patcher, the time it takes to complete patching jobs should continue to decrease.



WALLACE STATE CONTINUING EDUCATION TO OFFER PHYSICAL THERAPY AIDE PROGRAM

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE - The non-credit Workforce Skills division at Wallace State Community College has announced it will offer a comprehensive 50-hour Physical Therapy Aide Program to prepare students for the growing field of Physical Therapy.

A physical therapy aide is generally responsible for carrying out the non-technical duties of physical therapy, such as preparing treatment areas, ordering devices and supplies and transporting patients working under the direction of the physical therapist. Furthermore, these workers assist physical therapists in providing services that help improve mobility, relieve pain and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities of patients suffering from injuries or disease. Physical therapy aides may be employed in nursing homes, hospitals, sports rehabilitation centers and some orthopedic clinics. This program does not include a national or state certification as part of its overall objectives.

The class will begin March 21 and end May 9, and will meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6-9:30 p.m. Tuition is $999 (textbook included) for the 7-week course.

The non-credit Workforce Skills division is part of the Wallace State Continuing Education program, which offers numerous opportunities to earn continuing education credits, update and improve skills and learn new skills or hobbies. For more, call 256-352-7826 or visit http://www.wallacestate.edu/programs/continuing-education.

West Point (from Front)

up and all," he continued.

"I have requested through ALDOT to put a sign on the right of way on Highway 157 on both ends of the town, but that takes a while, and they will have to approve it before we can do that."

The committee is also working on a potential Thanksgiving event where the town will feed a large number of people in the community, similar to what the City of Good Hope does each year.

"We want be able to feed the community," he explained. "It will be a joint venture between the town, the school and Dewayne Harbison, the pastor at Renovation Church, who is also on our committee. We want it to be a large-scale free meal that will feed the entire community probably the Wednesday before Thanksgiving."

The next committee meeting will be Monday, Feb. 8 at 5 p.m. at the town hall. It is open to the public. Feedback and ideas about areas that need attention are welcome.

Any person, business or church that would like to be involved, but cannot be at Monday night's meeting, can contact committee members directly. Call West Point Town Hall at 256-734-0006

Committee members are:

- Wesley Laney, Park/Maintenance Director
- Heith Yearwood, Principal, West Point High School
- Rev. Dewayne Harbison, Renovation Church
- Timmy Smith
- Vivian Woods, Town Clerk
- Geraldine Eddy
- Mayor Kenneth Kilgo



WELTI'S ALIYAH RYAN NAMED 2016 CULLMAN COUNTY SPELLING BEE CHAMP

Ryan will represent Cullman County in Birmingham on March 12

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The 2016 (89th annual) Cullman County Spelling Bee was held on Monday night, Feb.1 at Temple Baptist Church in Cullman. Twenty-four third- to eighth-grade contestants from schools throughout Cullman County took the stage in hopes of taking home the title: 2016 Cullman County Spelling Bee Champion. Fifth-grader Aliyah Ryan from Welti Elementary came out on top.

During the event, four of the contestants were recognized for making their second appearance in the county-level competition.

Those students were Ella Stephenson from Cold Springs Elementary, Brady Cleek from Hanceville Elementary, Claudia Fallin from Sacred Heart School and Briana Harshman from Vinemont Elementary.

The competition Monday night alternated between spelling and vocabulary words for the first six rounds, which eliminated 18 contestants.

The next four "spelling only" rounds ended with Aliyah Ryan (Welti Elementary) and Olivia Kraft (West Elementary) battling it out through round 11 for the championship.

Audience members sat on the edge of their seats as they watched the showdown that would eventually declare the winner.

In the end, it was Ryan who correctly spelled "strategy" to stay alive in the competition.

The misspelling of "finesse" by her competitor led to the championship word in round twelve for Ryan.

"V-i-v-i-s-e-c-t-i-o-n," she said, after taking a deep breath and watching the judges in anticipation.

After spelling the word correctly, she was given the title: 2016 Cullman County Spelling Bee Champion!



No. 19 Aliyah Ryan was named 2016 Cullman County Spelling Bee Champion. DENISE SCHUMAN

Ryan advances to the state spelling bee competition to represent Cullman County in Birmingham on March 12.

What does a fifth-grader have to say about her big win?

"The key to my success would be studying a lot and working hard," she said.

CPC Cullman Primary Care
Multi-Specialty Group



CULLMAN PRIMARY CARE
CENTER FOR PAIN MANAGEMENT
1800 Ala. Highway 157, Suite 201
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Open Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CPC WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME DR. BALJINDER K. BRAR TO THE FAMILY!
"I believe successful patient care is born from collaboration, honest dialogue, and always keeping patients informed about their diagnoses and treatment options. My goal is to improve patients' health and quality of life using a personalized, multidisciplinary approach." - Dr. Baljinder K. Brar

Call **256-775-7246** to schedule an appointment
REFERRALS FROM YOUR PRIMAY CARE PHYSICIAN ARE REQUIRED

Board certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, she is expertly trained in a variety of diagnostic specialties and treatments include:

√ Occipital Nerve Blocks
√ Epidural Steroid Injections
√ Trigger Point Injections
√ Facet Joint Injections
√ Kyphoplasty
√ Joint Injections
√ Botox for migraines
√ Spinal Cord Stimulator Trial



CULLMAN PRIMARY CARE WELCOMES
BALJINDER BRAR, M.D., FAAPMR

Dr. Brar began her services at CPC Center for Pain Management in January 2016 after relocating to Cullman.

–

Dr. Brar completed her fellowship training in Interventional Pain Management at Alabama Orthopedic, Spine and Sports Medicine Associates in Birmingham, Al.

–

Dr. Brar received her Doctorate of Medicine in 2002 from Karol Marcinkowski University of Medical Sciences in Poznan, Poland.

–

Dr. Brar completed her residency training in the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. During her residency, she served as a department representative for both the Committee on Graduate Medical Education and the Committee of Interns and Residents. She interned in general surgery at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons at Harlem Hospital in New York.

–

She is an advocate for continuing education, therefore Dr. Brar dedicates considerable time to learning about advanced pain management techniques and breakthrough therapies. She has also trained in using ultrasound guidance for multiple procedures.

Monday

Good Hope City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m. at Good Hope City Hall, 135 Municipal Drive.

Cullman City Council Meeting
City Council Meeting every second and fourth Monday of each month (unless otherwise noted). 7 p.m. at City Hall Auditorium. Call 256-775-7109 for more information.

Cullman Caring for Kids- United Way Food Bank
The food bank is open every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. - noon for eligible families. Located at 402 Arnold St. NE Ste. W-1. For more information, or to make a donation, call 256-739-1111. www.cullmancaringforkids.com

Cullman Senior Center Bingo
Play Bingo at the Cullman Senior Center every Monday and Wednesday. Activities from 8 a.m. - noon. A hot meal is served at 11:30 a.m. daily. For more information, call 256-734-0145. The Cullman Senior Center is located at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW.

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

Free Online Tutoring
The Cullman County Library is offering students of all ages free one-one-one help live online from professional tutors. Sessions are offered from 3-10 p.m. For more information, visit homeworkalabama.org and click on the K-College Student Centers button. Online tutoring is available Sunday-Thursday. Visit the library's downtown branch at 200 Clark St. NE to learn more.

Kiwanis Club
The Cullman Kiwanis Club invites all local men and women who are interested in taking part in community service along with great fellowship, fun, networking, and learning to attend their weekly meeting at noon each Monday at St. John's Church Christ Hall. Come see what Kiwanis is all about and enjoy a great luncheon meal as well.

Domestic Violence Survivors' Support Group
Victim Services of Cullman's Domestic Violence Survivors' Support Group meets every Monday from 5-7 p.m. at the old County Board of Education Building (310 Third Ave. SE) Childcare is available. Call 256-775-2600 for more information. Crisis Line: 256-734-6100.

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Free English Classes
The Link of Cullman County hosts classes, 10 a.m. on Mondays and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. Beginner and Advanced classes available. Call 256-775-0028 for information.

Tuesday

South Vinemont Town Council Meeting
6 p.m. at South Vinemont Town Hall, 36 Patton Drive in Vinemont.

Colony Town Council Meeting
6 p.m. at Colony Town Hall, 65 Byars Road in Hanceville.

Cullman County School Board Candidate Forum
6 p.m. at the Cullman VFW Post 2214- the public is invited to attend a county school board candidate forum at the Cullman VFW Post, hosted by the Cullman County Republican Women. Pizza will be served. Public is invited to hear your candidates before the March 1 election. The VFW Post is located at 112 Veterans Drive.

Cullman Caring for Kids- United Way Food Bank
The food bank is open every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. - noon for eligible families. Located at 402 Arnold St. NE Ste. W-1. For more information, or to make a donation, call 256-739-1111. www.cullmancaringforkids.com

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

Free Online Tutoring
The Cullman County Library is offering students of all ages free one-one-one help live online from professional tutors. Sessions are offered from 3-10 p.m. For more information, visit homeworkalabama.org and click on the K-College Student Centers button. Online tutoring is available Sunday-Thursday. Visit the library's downtown branch at 200 Clark St. NE to learn more.

Cullman Knifty Knitters
Members of the Cullman Knifty Knitters group meet each Tuesday afternoon at 3 p.m. in the Cullman County Library. Everyone is invited to learn how to knit yarn, and needles are free. This group is open to all ages, both accomplished knitters and those wishing to learn the art form. Crocheters are also invited to take part in these weekly meetings. Please call Lesia for more information at 256-734-2720 ext. 23.

Ladies' Auxiliary VFW Dance at Post 2214
The Ladies' Auxiliary of VFW Post 2214 invites the community to their weekly Tuesday night dances at the VFW Post building. The country line dance starts at 7:00 pm each Tuesday night, with admission of only $5 per person. Concessions are available, and all proceeds benefit the Auxiliary's local projects.

Special Needs Bowling Night
Individuals with special needs and their families are invited to the Cullman Area Special Needs Bowling Nights, every Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. at the Cullman Bowling Center. Please RSVP before 12 noon the days of the events. The charge is $3 per person. For more information, contact Rhonda at 256-962-2208.

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Celebrate Recovery
Meets at Holly Pond Methodist Church on Tuesday nights. Free meal at 6 p.m. Program starts at 6:30 p.m. Two court stamps available. Open to everyone with a Hurt, Habit or Hang-up. 37851 AL Highway 91 in Holly Pond.

Addiction Recovery
The Link of Cullman County hosting Christ-centered, 12-Step Addiction Recovery meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon. 1101 Third Ave. SE in Cullman. Call 256-775-0028 for more information.

Free English Classes
The Link of Cullman County hosts classes, 10 a.m. on Mondays and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. Beginner and Advanced classes available. Call 256-775-0028 for information.

Wednesday

Cullman Senior Center Bingo
Play Bingo at the Cullman Senior Center every Monday and Wednesday. Activities from 8 a.m. - noon. A hot meal is served at 11:30 a.m. daily. For more information, call 256-734-0145. The Cullman Senior Center is located at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW.

Free Online Tutoring
The Cullman County Library is offering students of all ages free one-one-one help live online from professional tutors. Sessions are offered from 3-10 p.m. For more information, visit homeworkalabama.org and click on the K-College Student Centers button. Online tutoring is available Sunday-Thursday. Visit the library's downtown branch at 200 Clark St. NE to learn more.

Saint Monica's Group
Saint Monica's Group is for those who are addicted to drugs or alcohol. The meetings begin at 7 p.m. each week in the Rectory basement of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church. For more information, please contact either Brian at 256-595-5015 or Rita at 256-507-0358.

Wednesday Lunch Buffet at TP Country Club
Lunch Buffet at TP Country Club from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Call 256-739-0738 for more information.

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Divorce Care Support Group
The Link of Cullman County, 6 p.m. Call Denise at 256-590-3719 for more information.

Project Closet
At Longview Church of God, on the second Wednesday of each month from noon - 6 p.m., the public is welcome to come and shop for clothes at no charge. Donations of clothing are accepted, and shoppers can swap donations for any clothing in the closet. Call 256-734-2566 for more information.

Thursday

Hanceville City Council Meeting
6:30 p.m. at Hanceville City Hall, 112 Commercial St. SE in Hanceville.

Dodge City Town Council Meeting
6 p.m. at Dodge City Town Hall, 130 Howard Circle in Hanceville.

Living Landscapes- Tomato Growing
6 p.m. - North Alabama Agriplex- Living Landscapes: Tomato Growing - Learn from local farmer extraordinaire Trent Boyd all about tomatoes. This class is for everything from varieties to tips for growing the perfect tomatoes. $5 per person. 256-297-1044

2016 February Biscuits & Business
8-9 a.m. at Wallace State. Join us for a wonderful morning of biscuits and business and networking as well as a speaker. Mr. Jimmy Hodges, Dean of Applied Technologies, will speak on "Educating the Future Workforce: Our Strategic Plan." For more information, visit http://qrne.ws/biscuits.

Cullman Caring for Kids- United Way Food Bank
The food bank is open every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. - noon for eligible families. Located at 402 Arnold St. NE Ste. W-1. For more information, or to make a donation, call 256-739-1111. www.cullmancaringforkids.com

Free Online Tutoring
The Cullman County Library is offering students of all ages free one-one-one help live online from professional tutors. Sessions are offered from 3-10 p.m. For more information, visit homeworkalabama.org and click on the K-College Student Centers button. Online tutoring is available Sunday-Thursday. Visit the library's downtown branch at 200 Clark St. NE to learn more.

Overeaters Anonymous
Overeaters Anonymous will be meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the Carriage House, located behind Grace Episcopal Church. For more information, contact 724-376-2124 or 256-352-1143.

Cullman Senior Center Live Band and Karaoke
The Cullman Senior Center will have a live band or karaoke every Thursday from 8 a.m. - noon. For more information, call 256-734-0145. The Cullman Senior Center is located at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Addiction Recovery
The Link of Cullman County hosting Christ-centered, 12-Step Addiction Recovery meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon. 1101 Third Ave. SE in Cullman. Call 256-775-0028 for more information.

Friday

Cullman Caring for Kids- United Way Food Bank
The food bank is open every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. - noon for eligible families. Located at 402 Arnold St. NE Ste. W-1. For more information, or to make a donation, call 256-739-1111. www.cullmancaringforkids.com

Cullman Senior Center Gospel Singing
The Cullman Senior Center will have a Gospel Singing beginning at 9:30 a.m. every Friday. Special guests share devotions at 10:30 a.m. A hot meal is served at 11:30 a.m. daily. For more information, call 256-734-0145. The Cullman Senior Center is located at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW.

Friday Night Dance at the VFW
Cullman's VFW Post 2214 invites everyone to their weekly Friday night dances at the VFW Hall from 7-10 p.m. The cost is $5 per person and music by the Golden Oldies and Country with the Midnight Highway Band will be filling the air. Funds raised go toward the building rental. Get your dancing shoes on and come out for a great evening of fun and entertainment.

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Saturday

BINGO! at Holly Pond High School
Holly Pond High School Key Club is sponsoring an afternoon of bingo at Holly Pond High School. The fun will begin at 11:00 a.m. There will be 20 games at $1.00 per card per game. Every prize will have a value of at least $20.00. The 21st game will cost $5.00 and the winning prize will have a value of $100.00 to $300.00. Refreshments will be available. 100 percent of the money raised will go to Children's of Alabama. For more information, call Bob at 256-352-2793 or 256-338-7700.

Ms. Senior Cullman County 2016 Pageant at WSCC
The new Ms. Senior Cullman County will be crowned on Saturday, Feb. 13 at Wallace State Community College. The annual pageant, sponsored by the Cullman County Commission on Aging (COA), will be at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theater from 2 - 4 p.m. The deadline to enter is Tuesday, Jan. 19. Contestants can register at the COA office at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW in Cullman. Contestants must be age 60 or older.

West Point Youth Ball Signups
Park & Rec T-Ball, Baseball and Softball signups Feb. 6 and Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. at West Point Town Hall. $65 for one child, $60 for second child. Signups after Feb. 13 will go up to $75. Birth certificates are required.

Saturday Night Dance at the VFW
Cullman's VFW Post 2214 invites everyone to their weekly Saturday night dances which begin at 7 p.m. and last until 10 p.m. The Boogie Night Band provides music on Saturday nights. Entrance fee is $5 for each individual. Come on out and bring your dancing shoes and enjoy an evening of great music, fun and fellowship!

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Food Assistance
Every second Saturday at Harmony Word of Life Church. NEW HOURS: 1 - 3 p.m. Take Highway 157 to Battleground, turn right onto County Road 1212, go half mile to County Road 1204, turn left and drive a half mile. 256-739-2956.

Sunday

Free Online Tutoring
The Cullman County Library is offering students of all ages free one-one-one help live online from professional tutors. Sessions are offered from 3-10 p.m. For more information, visit homeworkalabama.org and click on the K-College Student Centers button. Online tutoring is available Sunday-Thursday. Visit the library's downtown branch at 200 Clark St. NE to learn more.

Sunday Brunch Buffet at TP Country Club
Sunday Brunch Buffet at TP Country Club from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call 256-739-0738 for more information.

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Announcements

WSCC Alumni Foundation 2016 Trips
The WSCC Alumni Foundation is planning a number of trips to popular tourist destinations throughout 2016. Please contact LaDonna Allen at 256-352-8071 or ladonna.allen@wallacestate.edu.

Bob's Grief Support Group
On the last Thursday of each month, Bob's Grief Support Group meets at the Chapel at Smith Lake Park. For more information, please call 256-595-7331.

Relay For Life of Cullman County: 2016 Calendar Announcements
• Relay For Life Team Spirit Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 10, First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall; contact Helen Allen, 256-709-4019; www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal
• Relay For Life Team Spirit Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 7, First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall; contact Helen Allen, 256-709-4019; www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal
• Relay For Life Team Spirit Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 28, First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall; contact Helen Allen, 256-709-4019; www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal
• Relay For Life Survivors' Breakfast, 7 a.m., Wednesday, May 4, Cullman Church of Christ; contact Helen Allen, 256-709-4019; www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal
• Relay For Life of Cullman County, 6 p.m.-midnight, Friday, May 6, Cullman County Fairgrounds; contact Helen Allen, 256-709-4019; www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal

Senior Trips
Cullman Parks and Recreation is sponsoring two trips for seniors in 2016. Destinations are Orlando, Florida in February and Santa Fe and Albuquerque, New Mexico in May. Contact Angie at 256-734-4803 for details.

Project Closet
At Longview Church of God, on the second Wednesday of each month from noon - 6 p.m., the public is welcome to come and shop for clothes at no charge. Donations of clothing are accepted, and shoppers can swap donations for any clothing in the closet. Call 256-734-2566 for more information.

Alabama Career Center
The Alabama Career Center at Wallace State offers assistance if you are looking for a job, need help with your resume or are looking for assistance to go to college. Call 256-352-5538.

Cullman Senior Center Creating Cookbook
Cookbook will be created this summer. The center is asking for seniors age 60 and older to submit their favorite recipes. You can also submit a recipe in memory of a loved one. Mail recipes to: Cullman Senior Center, 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW, Cullman, AL 35055. Please include your name and phone number.

Clothes Closet
Open as needed at Blair Congregational Methodist Church. Contact Myrl Wynn at 256-747-2483 for an appointment.

Food Assistance
Every second Saturday at Harmony Word of Life Church. NEW HOURS: 1 - 3 p.m. Take Highway 157 to Battleground, turn right onto County Road 1212, go half mile to County Road 1204, turn left and drive a half mile. 256-739-2956.

Cullman County Republican Breakfast
Everyone is invited to attend on the first Saturday of each month. Elks Lodge at 7:30 a.m.

Commission on Aging- Volunteers Needed
Volunteers are needed for community service meal deliveries. Call 256-734-1241 for more information.

Cullman Parks & Rec Community Classes at the Cullman Civic Center
Yoga- Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Ballroom, Latin and Swing Dancing - Thursdays, $10 per class; Oil Painting and Acrylics - Mondays from 6:30 - 9 p.m.; Nia Dance Fitness / Ageless Grace - Tuesdays at 9 a.m.; Rock Climbing (at Hurricane Creek Park) - Saturdays at 10 a.m., $25, call to register at 256-734-2125; Wilderness Survival Course - Sundays with reservation, call to register at 256-734-2125. For more information, contact Waid Harbison at 256-734-9157.

Pumpkin & Watermelon Meeting for Commercial and Hobby Growers
Saturday, Feb. 20, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Whether you are interested in growing pumpkins & watermelons to sell or want to try your hand at growing giant varieties for fun, everyone is invited to attend. There is no cost to attend this meeting. It will be held at the North Alabama Agriplex Heritage Center, 1714 Tally Ho St., in Cullman. https://www.smore.com/efrc5-pumpkin-watermelon-meeting

Little Black Dress Charity Bash 2016
Benefitting the WSCC Alumni Association Outstanding Women Scholarship. Will take place at the Cullman Civic Center on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 6 - 11:30 p.m. Dinner, dancing to The Flashbacks, door prizes and much more. Tickets on sale now! Visit http://www.wsccalumni.org/lbd2016 for more information.

CP&R Youth Baseball, Softball and T-Ball
Registration starts Jan. 15 at the Cullman Civic Center and ends on Feb. 15. Open to boys and girls ages 4-14. The cost is $90 and includes a hat, jersey and trophy at the end of the season. Volunteer coaches are also needed. Those interested are asked to register at the Civic Center from Jan. 15 – Feb.15 as well. Visit www.cullmanrecreation.org. Call 256-734-9157 for more information.

CRMC Surgical Symposium- 'Sewing' the Seeds of Knowledge
Cullman Regional Medical Center will host a Surgical Symposium, "'Sewing' the Seeds of Knowledge," on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 8 a.m. - noon in the Colonel Cullmann Room of Professional Office Building II. Breakfast will be provided; registration and breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. Cost for the symposium is $15 for students with a student ID, $20 for non-licensed CRMC employees, $25 for licensed CRMC employees, $40 for non-CRMC employees and $50 for registration at the door. Non-CRMC employees can register by calling 256-737-2383. For more information, contact Kim Rooks, OR Educator, at 256-737-2383 or Wendy Taylor at 256-737-2892.

Natural Disaster Awareness Training
On Tuesday, Feb. 23, from 8 a.m. - noon, the Cullman County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) will host Natural Disaster Awareness for Community Leaders at its facility at 2020 Beech Ave. SE in Cullman. While the four-hour course is free, registration is required. For more information, visit http://www.cullmanema.org or call 256-739-5410.

Red Door Coat Project
The Red Door Art Cafe's "Warm Coats for Neighbors" Project is to collect donations of new or like-new coats you may have outgrown, or are a wee bit out of style, for those in need. Drop them off at The Red Door Art Cafe, weekdays from 7 a.m.- 2 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Located at 324 Fourth Ave. SE in Cullman.

American Red Cross in Need of Volunteers
Disaster Action Team, call 256-734-0921 or visit redcross.org/Alabama for more information.

Free GED Classes
Sponsored by Wallace State Community College Adult Education Program. Call 256-352-8077 or 1-866-352-WSCC for more information.

Clothes Closet
Addington Chapel UMC in Bremen has clothes available free to those in need. No qualifications or paperwork needed. Call 256-287-1791 or 256-287-1828

North Alabama Agriplex Upcoming Activities
• Feb. 16, 9 - 11 a.m. - Heritage Homeschool: Weather - One day it's sunny and 75 degrees while the next we have a lovely snowfall. At this Heritage Homeschool class we will discuss our weather and why it changes so often. Let's talk about hail, tornados, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other possible weather phenomenon. $8 per child, maximum of $16 per family. Registration required. 256-297-1044
• Feb. 18, 6 p.m. - Book Club: Flower Confidential: The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful by Amy Stewart - Flower Confidential takes us on a round the world tour of the flower industry, including the good and bad and just plain weird. Free. Snacks and refreshments available. 256-297-1044
• Feb. 25, 6 p.m. - Heritage Skills: Sewing 101 - Jean Kessinger will teach this class on the basics of sewing. Learn the techniques to mend buttons and shirts. $5 Registration required. 256-297-1044

Renew Our Rivers Lake Cleanup
Friday, March 25, 8 a.m. - noon; Smith Lake, sites to be determined. Contact Eddie Hand at 256-287-1545.

The 13th Annual Empty Bowls Chili Dinner
Monday, Feb. 15 from 4 - 6:30 p.m. at Cullman First United Methodist Church in Hearin Hall. The event will feature delicious chili served in handcrafted pottery bowls, a silent auction and southern gospel music by local entertainers. Tickets are $10 and are available at Cullman Caring for Kids and First United Methodist Church. All proceeds from the event will go to the Cullman Caring for Kids United Way Food Bank.

Real Men United
Feb. 19-20, Cullman Civic Center, Friday 6-9 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., registration $30, or $40 after Feb. 1 or at the door, includes t-shirt, notebook, breakfast, lunch, drinks and fellowship. Visit http://edestiny.org/RealMenUnitedCullman/ for more information.

Little Miss Fairala Pageant
Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. at the Fairview High School auditorium. Open to girls ages 0-5 from any community, not in kindergarten. Proceeds benefit FHS PTO. For more information, call Sherri at 256-339-1914.

The Cullman County Commission on Education
Rescheduled February board meeting Monday, Feb.15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cullman County Schools central office board room, 402 Arnold St. NE, Cullman (work session 5:30 p.m.)

Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting & Gala
The theme this year is "Great Leaders Serve." Peter Good, who trains owners and managers of Chick-fil-A will be guest speaker. The After Party will feature "The Cigar Room" and "The Lotus Club." The Emily Joseph Band will provide the entertainment. The Gala's theme this year will be focused around the popular British drama series, "Downton Abbey." Dress to coordinate with the theme - you might win a contest! General Admission tickets are available NOW - call 256-734-0454 or email Debbie Matthews at dmatthews@cullmanchamber.org. March 3 at Stone Bridge Farms, Brown Stone Centre, 6-10 p.m.

February Morning Blend
Chamber of Commerce staff will welcome members and visitors to Karma's Coffee House to discuss the hottest topics in business and share tips, ideas and viewpoints. 8-9 a.m. on Feb. 17.

Chamber of Commerce February Community Luncheon
Feb. 26,11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., All Steak Restaurant. Candidates running for County Board of Education will introduce themselves and speak to their qualifications and objectives if elected. Candidates are: Heath Albright (Holly Pond), Sam Benefield (Holly Pond), Patrick Klein (West Point), Wayne Myrex (Cold Springs), James A. Thompson (Holly Pond), Destry Stone (Holly Pond) and Gene Sullins (West Point). Call the Chamber at 256-734-0454 to make your reservation. 48-hour cancellation policy, $15 for Chamber members

YPCullman (Young Professionals Cullman)
March 17, Karma's Coffee House at 6 p.m. YPCullman is an outlet for the next generation of leaders to channel their energy and enhance their leadership potential. This new program is designed for young professionals, ages 22-39. Over time, we envision YPCullman members to take strides in several facets of the Cullman area, including but not limited to: community awareness and concern, committee involvement, entrepreneurial roundtables, and eventually leadership roles. Employers please send this to your employees ages 22-39! If you would like to sign up, email mbartlett@cullmanchamber.org.

Children's Hospital Night at Cullman's Chick-fil-A
Tuesday, Feb. 16. A percentage of every order taken between 4-8 p.m. will be donated to Children's of Alabama or Holly Pond Key Club to allow the hospital to receive their funds. A full menu offers healthy choices of chicken sandwiches, wraps, salads, fries, desserts and drinks. Large chocolate chunk cookies will be specially priced at six for $6. 100 percent of the money raised will go to Children's of Alabama. For more information, call Bob at 256-352-2793 or 256-338-7700.

Good Hope Parks & Rec Ball Signups
Baseball and softball registration through Feb. 16 at City Hall. Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed for lunch from noon-1 p.m.); T-Ball is $60, ages 5-6; Baseball is $70, ages 7-14; Softball is $70, ages 7-14. Discounts for more than one child.

Senior Spirit

A program sponsored by the City of Cullman Parks and Recreation Department that focuses on recreational, social and leisure opportunities for individuals 50 & over. There is no membership fee and programs are offered at the Donald E. Green Senior Center.

Exercise Area
An exercise area with several types of equipment is available for seniors to use provided they have a release form signed by their physician.
Date: Mon., Tues., Wed., and Fri.
Time: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Fitness for Life
Walking and light cardio stretching classes that help boost your energy.
Date: Year-round
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
Time: 8-9:15 a.m.
Instructor: Catherine Hasenbein

Line Dancing
Date: Year-round
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
Beginners: 9:15-10 a.m.
Adv. / Kickers: 10 a.m. - noon
Instructor: Sherry Boatright
Cost: FREE

Senior Spirit Singers
Join this group that sings old time Gospel Hymns. The group is available for Special Events, Revivals, Assisted Living facilities and Nursing Homes throughout the Community.
Date: Mondays
Time: 10 a.m.
Instructor: Helen Orr
Cost: FREE

Sacred Harp Singing
(Fa-So-La)
Learn this old style of traditional singing that took root in the Southern region of the United States as a part of the larger tradition of shape note music.
Date: 1st & 3rd Wed. of each month Time: 9-11 a.m.

Monday Jam Session
Come together with other seniors to listen to pickers as they play old time country music or try your talent at picking and singing with them.
Date: Every Monday
Time: 1- 4 p.m.
Group Leader: Barbara Whitehead

Fun & Games
Bring a friend or make new ones with a fun filled day of fellowship, card playing or dominos.
Date: Tuesdays
Time: 9 a.m.-until

Bingo
Date: Tuesdays
Time: 1 p.m.
Play a minimum of 12 games

Art Classes
Art classes in oils, acrylics and other venues. This is a relaxing and rewarding activity. Seniors are responsible for furnishing their own supplies.
Date: The 1st Tues. of each month
Time: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Instructor: Nance DiPiero
Cost: $10 per class

Bunco
A parlor game played in teams with three dice.
Date: 1st Wednesday of each Month
Time: 1 p.m.

Yoga
Health benefits associated with Yoga are improved flexibility, more strength, improved posture, and relaxation. Classes can be done from a mat or in a chair.
Date: Tues. 9:30-10:30 a.m., Thurs. 4-5 p.m.
Instructor: Fabian Holland
Cost: Free

Dulcimer Classes
Take lessons to learn the Appalachian dulcimer, generally regarded as one of the easiest string instruments to learn. The traditional way to play the instrument is to lay it flat on the lap and pluck or strum the strings with the right hand, while fretting with the left.
Date: Every Friday
Time: 1 p.m.
Instructor: Craig Mann
Cost: $10 for 1 hour

Pool Table
Pool table is available for play from 8 a.m. -5 p.m. Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri.

WII Bowling
Date: Wednesday & Friday
Time: 1 p.m.
WII bowling is also available when the room is not being used for other activities.

Radio (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - There's a brand new morning radio show on the FM dial, and it's broadcast from right here in Cullman. "a.m. LIVE" hit the air for the very first time on Monday, Feb. 1 on Cullman's Live 95.5.

Show host Tommy Warhurst takes mornings by storm as he delivers Cullman's only local morning show. "a.m. LIVE" can be heard from 6-8 a.m. on Live 95.5. It features a great mix of music plus local headlines, events, guests and more - all spotlighting the Cullman County area.

Warhurst did Live 95.5's football play-by-play the year the station signed on. Later, he took over the reins as The Voice of Cullman Bearcat Football.

Insurance man by day, he gives back to the community weekday mornings by hosting the station's new radio show where he promises not to talk too much because he knows morning drivers like their music.

"Cullman (did) not have a live local radio show, it's simulcast from other places or you can listen to Huntsville or Birmingham," said Warhurst. "Live 95.5's license from the FCC is nonprofit; it is a 501c3, so part of that charter with the FCC is to be community-oriented. So we broadcast the Cullman Community Band and we do local charitable events. We try to put stuff on air from around town, and so part of that I wanted to bring to the morning show, too. "The goal is, several days a week, depending on the availability, I am going to try to have local guests on," he continued. "Next week, for example, I've got Jacqueline Schendle from the Better Business Bureau coming to talk about scams and what's going on. I'm also going to have Javon Daniel on one day next week. He is with Cullman Caring for Kids. I want to bring those kinds of things to light; that's what we are here for."

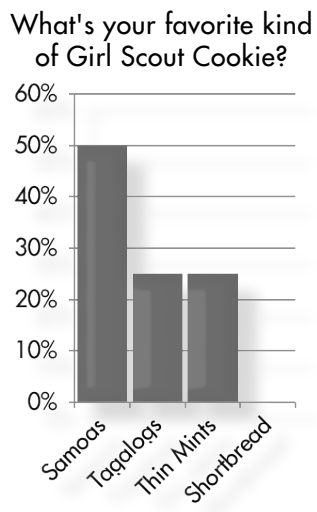
Don't miss the newest edition to the station, "a.m. LIVE" weekdays from 6-8 a.m.! Also, be sure to follow Live 95.5 on Facebook at https://facebook.com/live95cullman.

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Poll



This Week's Poll

How much money do you spend for Valentine's Day?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

Beasley (from Front)

he has little or no kitchen utensils, a garbage can, cleaning supplies, food and mattress for his queen bed. He needs living room furniture and all light fixtures replaced. The outside needs painting as well as the inside. Plumbing needs to be checked. His heating and air conditioning need to be replaced, and the driveway needs asphalt and grading work. We also need to dig a ditch around his home and driveway to give the water a place to go besides under his house and down his driveway."

Hogan hopes to have all the repairs completed before Beasley is released from the hospital.

In the meantime, he can use all the help he can get.

Below is a list of materials needed for Cpl. Beasley's home:

- Lumber for two decks with ramps and stairs
- Front and back doors for trailer (handicap-accessible)
- Interior doors x3 (handicap-accessible)
- Vinyl flooring
- Interior and exterior paint (paint colors to come soon)
- 2 exterior light fixtures
- 2 exterior flood lights
- 3 interior light fixtures
- 1 ceiling fan
- Kitchen cabinets (handicap-accessible)
- Windows for a single-wide trailer
- Sheet metal or tin to repair roof
- Gravel for his driveway
- Asphalt company for the driveway
- 6" corrugated pipe for French drain
- Feed lot panel (sheep/goat)
- Chicken wire
- Lumber for chicken coop
- Green house materials
- 8x10 storage shed
- Chicken feed
- Chickens
- Plants for landscaping (would like to plant a few fruit trees too)
- Energy efficient light bulbs
- Bathroom pedestal sink

Types of companies from which the group is hoping to get donations (need contacts):

- Prosthetics
- Wal-Mart Distribution
- Hardware
- Clothing
- Furniture
- Wheelchair / Home Health

Volunteers with the following skill sets are needed:

- Electrician
- Plumber
- Carpenters
- Painters

From one American hero to another, Hogan has chosen to do what it takes to help a fellow Marine. Humble and kind, he takes no credit for the good work he has started, but rather chooses to use his works as a way to glorify God.

"I pray to our Lord and Savior that he will guide each and every one of us in the path he so chooses and allows us to shelter this great American Veteran and his family," he smiled warmly. "I pray that God will give me the strength to keep doing what I am doing to help this man."

Those who are interested in volunteering should call Hogan directly at 352-440-4076. A work day was held Saturday.

For more information, visit http://qrne.ws/marine.

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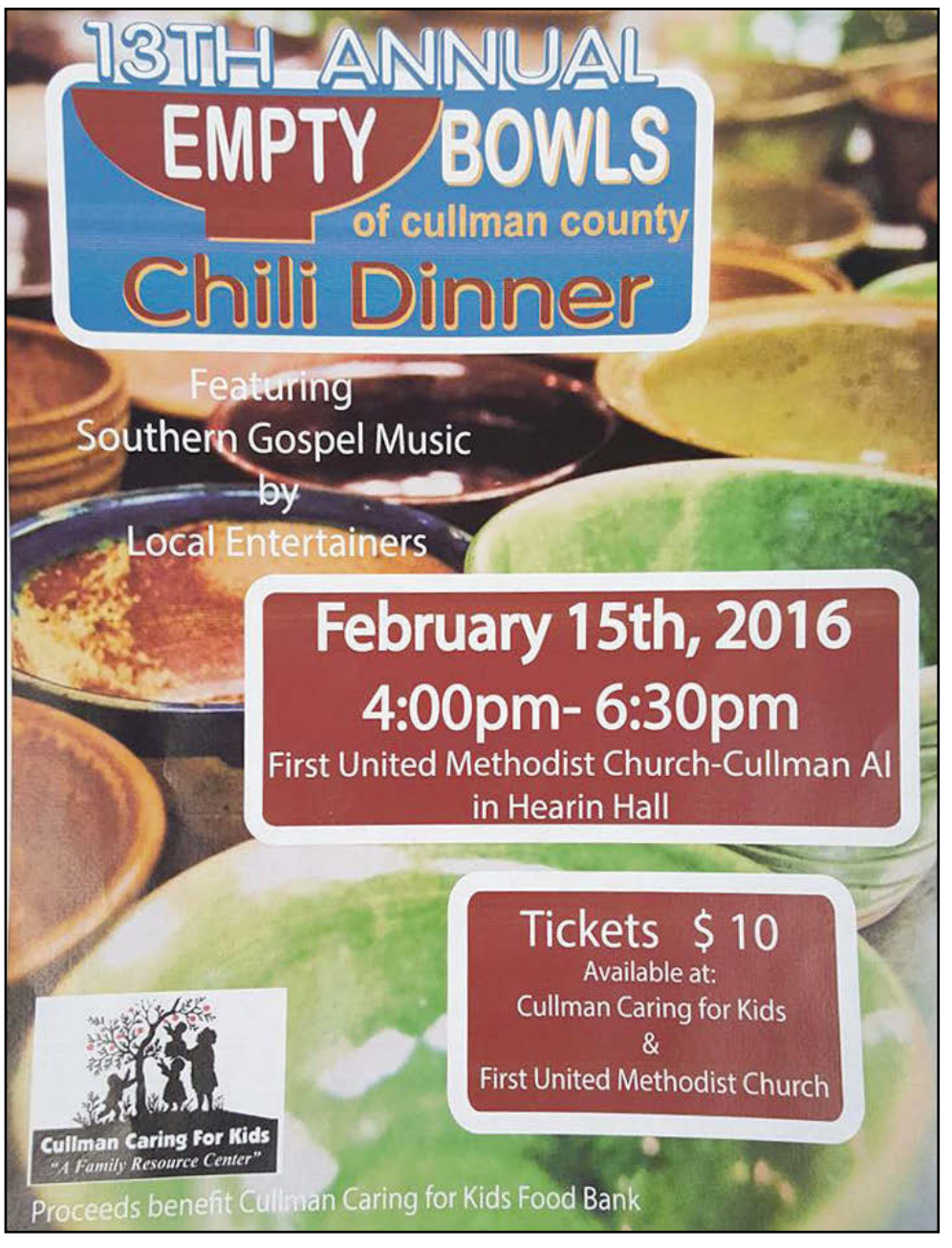


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RESTORATION UNDERWAY AT ST. BERNARD LIBRARY

Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Prep



ST. BERNARD PREP

A helicopter carries heating/ AC units to the top of the Heidrich Building as the renovation of the library continues at St. Bernard Prep.

CULLMAN – Construction crews arrived the first week of October to begin restoration of St. Bernard's main library building. Under the direction of general contractor Eidson and Associates, workers began the demolition phase on Oct. 8, 2015. With the recent completion of this phase, work has now begun on the construction phase. The 333 Club has been established to raise the remaining funds necessary for completion.

During construction, the interior of the library will undergo a complete renovation. In order for the building to meet today's codes and requirements, new electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning are required. In addition, a new roof and new thermal windows will be installed. An elevator and public bathrooms on every floor are among the new features being upgraded and added.

In the great room on the library's first floor, the cross by Fr. Timothy Harrison will be restored and a balcony on the southern wall will be constructed. Archways and a grand stairway will provide access to both the monastic and school libraries. A board room, an alumni/benefactor room and the Abbey archive will round out the features of the first floor.

The classrooms on the mezzanine and top floors will be outfitted with the latest technology needed for the education of students. An office for the faculty and the school administrator will be among the additions as well.

"It's exciting to see this library come back to life," said Fr. Marcus Voss, development director. "For over 30 years we have not had a central library. Now, with the growth in our enrollment and expanding needs of our Abbey, this building will truly become a center for the liberal arts on our campus."

To provide funds for the renovation of the library and other capital improvements at St. Bernard, the Campaign for St. Bernard began November 2012. The early donations to the campaign were used to create the Abbey Byre, a reception hall for the Abbey and the center of the drama and music programs for the school.

"The library will be completed by the end of June and our goal is to complete the campaign at the same time," said Fr. Marcus. "We have already received pledges of $4.3 million toward our $5.2 million goal. To help us close the campaign and complete the renovation of the library, we've established the 333 Club to raise the last $900,000. St. Bernard needs 300 friends and alumni to pledge $3,000 payable over the next three years. We're close, and I know with the help of our supporters we'll reach our goal."

For more information about becoming a member of the 333 Club, please contact Fr. Marcus at 256-531-2010 or frmarcus@stbernardprep.com. All donations made to the campaign and to the 333 Club are tax deductible.

COMICS

SUNNY STREET by Max Garcia



MAMA'S BOYZ www.jerrycraft.net JERRY CRAFT



Green Pieces® by Drew Aquilina



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FEBRUARY 1 - 7

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OPINION

WAAAHHHH...BUT WE DON'T WANNA GET ARRESTED!!

Mike Ferner
PeaceVoice

As the macho, gun-toting, testosterone-addled cowboys who took over the wildlife refuge in Oregon call it quits, their pitiful whine can be heard all the way to Florida: "Waaahhh...but we don't wanna get arrested..."

So much for the rugged-individualists and badass proponents of personal responsibility.

Let's see what happens as their armed insurrection winds down. How will the system treat the militant bullyboys?

Will they get pepper-sprayed in the face as did the college students peacefully sitting in a driveway at UC Davis during Occupy protests, or shot in the head with a police projectile as did Veterans For Peace member Scott Olson in Oakland?

Will they get two months in jail like Ed Kinane for stepping across a line at the School of the Americas; or six months in jail like grandmother Mary Anne Grady, for taking pictures of demonstrators outside the Reaper drone base in upstate NY; or a $20,000 fine like Kathy Kelly's peace group, for taking medicine to people in Iraq before we invaded their country in 2003; or 10 years in prison for speaking out against the madness of World War One, like Gene Debs;

Will they be clubbed in the head, set on by German shepherds, slammed up against light poles by fire hoses like the kids demonstrating for civil rights in Alabama, or killed by vigilante executioners and buried in a dike for registering voters?

If they go to jail, will they conduct a peaceful hunger strike and endure force-feeding like Alice Paul and Rose Winslow did for demanding women get the right to vote?

If they are arrested, chances are very good that nothing like the above will happen to any of the massively-armed, good 'ol boys in Oregon who would be the first to tell you they were only making a statement of conscience against government gone amuck.

But when the students at UC Davis, or Kathy Kelly, or Ed Kinane, or Gene Debs, or the civil rights protesters, or the suffragists, all unarmed and committed to nonviolence, conducted their protests they did so with the understanding they may well suffer serious bodily harm and at the very least be arrested and sentenced.

They treated the police, the prosecutors and the judges with utmost respect. They did not plead to lesser charges but underwent trials in hopes of educating more people about the evils against which they fought.

So let's see how the Rambo wannabes of Eastern Oregon handle themselves. Seems they could use a few lessons in toughness from nonviolent peace and justice activists.

Mike Ferner served as a hospital corpsman during the Vietnam war. In 2006 he participated in a five-week, water-only fast with Kathy Kelly and Ed Kinane to protest the war in Iraq and was also convicted of two felonies for painting "Troops Out Now" on a highway overpass, which cost him two months house arrest and $5,000.

OPINION

HOW TO TELL IF CONGRESS IS WORKING AGAIN

Lee H. Hamilton
Contributed

There have been encouraging signs that the Republican leadership on Capitol Hill wants to make Congress function again. They've talked about using conference committees more, allowing a more open process for rank-and-file members, enacting separate appropriation bills rather than using omnibus bills, and letting committees lead on legislation rather than hoarding all power in the leadership offices. Perhaps most important, they've acknowledged that Congress has many bad habits, and insist that they want to restore a healthy legislative process.

This has to be heartening to any American concerned about the level of dysfunction to which Congress had sunk. The question is, how can we tell if Congress is actually fixing itself? For as promising as the rhetoric might be, there's a long way to go before words and reality meet on Capitol Hill. Here's what you should keep your eye on:

First, differences in emphasis separate the leaders of the two houses, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan. Ryan is intent on pressing forward with key policy proposals that would anchor a bold Republican legislative agenda. But that's because the Republican majority in the House is not generally believed to be at risk. Over in the Senate, things are different: control of that body next year is up for grabs, and McConnell seems to be focused on maintaining his party's majority. For his members, boldness is a risk. This difference could lead to slim production.

So look to see how many and which issues the two leaders really push forward. Will they advance the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal in some version, or let it slide until the elections are past? Will they tackle tax reform? How about authorizing support for the war against ISIS? Ryan has already removed one key matter — immigration reform — from the table. Will other pressing issues also bite the dust?

The second big indicator is whether Congress has the political will to fix itself. Most members say publicly that they don't want gridlock and are dedicated to making the institution function smoothly. The key measure of whether they really mean it is the attitude they take toward their political adversaries. If what you hear on Capitol Hill is nothing but distrust, then they're not serious. If they're willing to negotiate and compromise with one another — as happened at the end of last year, with the passage of an omnibus spending package — then there's hope.

Third is what you might think of as the rolled-up-sleeves test. How hard are members of Congress willing to work at addressing the key issues facing the country? So far, the evidence is disappointing. The legislative schedule put out by the congressional leadership is, to be blunt, lax. On average, members of Congress will be working about nine days a month. They've given themselves four stretches of ten days off at a time. They'll be off for 52 straight days in July, August and September, and then another 39 days in a row in October and November. Yes, it's an election year and they want to campaign. But you cannot run a government that is not in session. The best we can hope for is an obvious sense of urgency when members of Congress are in Washington. Look for it. If you don't see it, little will get done on Capitol Hill.

I should say that not all the responsibility for restoring Congress rests at the federal level. The states, too, have a key role to play. Will they get serious about how they draw congressional districts, so that politicians no longer have the luxury of picking their voters rather than the other way around? Will some states continue to pursue efforts to make voting harder — which, like gerrymandering, has the effect of shoring up the extremes in Congress? Will states make the effort to modernize their voting systems, so that the democratic process has a chance of working with minimal friction? In the end, good intentions and fine rhetoric don't accomplish much. I hope you'll keep an eye on Congress and cheer for its members to act in accord with their own advice. If they do, Congress will take a giant stride toward improved performance.

Lee Hamilton is a Distinguished Scholar, Indiana Uni. 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.

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TUESDAY NIGHT'S VINEMONT TOWN HALL MEETING SET TO BE A SHOWDOWN

Scouts, Town Clash Over Future of Town's Scout Building

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VINEMONT – Since January's South Vinemont town hall meeting, tension and emotions have been on a slow boil, with town leaders and community members, particularly Scout leaders, disagreeing over the future of Vinemont's Scout building, located at 88 Ridgeway St. At issue is ordinance 2016-01-01, which names the building as the new home of South Vinemont Town Hall and the site of all municipal business and meetings. The ordinance will go to a final vote at this month's town hall meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m.

The town has presented both the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts with new lease documents; however, they are not yet available to the public.

When asked to provide copies, South Vinemont Town Hall responded, "Any proposed lease would be available if discussed at the meeting after the meeting (next day – reasonable time to enter into the public record first)."

The Town of South Vinemont has some points to remember for anyone who plans to attend Tuesday's meeting:

• Regarding how many people will be allowed in town hall for the meeting: "The fire marshal capacity is 35, which includes council and staff, which allows 26 visitors."

• Regarding community members who wish to address the town council: "The procedure for addressing the council is to be placed on the agenda. The presiding officer sets the agenda. A request does not have to be granted to get on the agenda. A person may also raise their hand and if given the floor by the presiding officer or a majority of a vote by the town council, may address the body for the specified period given (usually three minutes). A request in this manner, again, does not have to be granted. Any person addressing the body may not use or include any personal or other comments addressed at any member of the council, mayor or town employee. There shall be no debate with the council. Any person not conforming to the order of the meeting shall be, if necessary, removed from the meeting to preserve order to conduct the business of the town. THE COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BUT ARE NOT PUBLIC FORUMS."

• Regarding what the public should know about town hall meetings: "The meetings are for the council to conduct business of the town. Unless a person other than the council is given the floor, they must remain silent. Visitors may not participate in the meeting, only observe. The use of recording, video, tripods may be limited if it takes up space for other visitors or is disruptive to the meeting. The presiding officer may require all such equipment to be limited to a particular space such as the backside of the room or removed altogether. Once the meeting is commenced, the person who does the video recording of the proceedings may leave the room, but no one after the meeting starts may enter and begin recording (recording must be set up before the meeting and in an area approved by the presiding officer)."

The town has already removed one wall to enlarge the only room that South Vinemont Mayor J.D. Marcum said will be off limits to the Scouts and locked. They have also taken one-half of the storage space in the building and removed a number of Boy Scout signs and markings. Scout leaders contend that the town is kicking them out of the building that was built solely for their use. Marcum says that the Scouts are free to use any of the rooms in the building, outside of the one locked room.

"We had to remove everything off the walls Scout-related. We even had to cut the emblems off the inside doors," said one Boy Scout leader.

A Girl Scout leader said, "The Girl Scout room was torn down two days after we were told about this. Any pictures or posters or anything with the Scout logo has been removed. No history whatsoever has been preserved."

The "Scout House," as it's been known in the community for more than 20 years, has up until very recently been home to Boy Scout Troop 227, Cub Scout Pack 227 and Girl Scout Troop 10288. It is a large, log cabin-type structure that was built by Scout volunteers with purchased and donated materials on property belonging to the Town of South Vinemont. Its official name is the Cary C. Montgomery Scout Community Center. It is named in honor of long-time Troop 227 former Scoutmaster and current Committee Chair Cary Montgomery.

Montgomery and Jim Oden, Troop 227's current Scoutmaster, have declined to comment.

Marcum said that the reasons behind the move are that the Scout House will provide more room and is handicap-accessible, where the current town hall is not. He said, "I don't see why we can't share it. The town paid for the building to be built. The boys use it four times per month and the girls two times per month. Rather than building a new building and putting the city in debt...I think it will be better for them (the Scouts). We are trying to make the best decisions we can based on the facts we have. That's how we operate."

Marcum said the town plans to lease the current town hall after the move, in an effort to bring in money.

He says that the town pays for all of the maintenance at the Scout House, from cleaning up after Scout activities to taking care of the grounds, which are approximately 2 acres. He stated that the town also pays for all of the utilities.

"We are trying to avoid raising taxes," said Marcum. "This will save the town money. I'd love to meet with them, the (Scout) leaders, and walk through this building. We'd also like to use the building for senior citizen meetings sometime in the future."

"Last night (Jan. 12) in the town meeting, we were told that the Boy Scouts would be allowed to continue to meet there and that no one was "kicking" them out. The Girl Scouts had a spokesperson, and he presented a request to the council to continue to meet there, but nothing was approved or even discussed among the council about the status of the Girl Scouts in that facility," said concerned resident Katie Loyd.

Loyd continued, "My son did use the Vinemont Scout Center from about 5 or 6 years old until he was 18. He began as a Tiger Cub Scout and went on to obtain Eagle. I have not ever seen the original documents, but I was told that (former Mayor) Mr. Elton A. Hall, that assisted with getting this built, had a contract that stated the Scouts could use the building for 99 years for $1 a year. Now, the Town of South Vinemont cannot find the documents and are wanting to move the Town Hall into the Scout building. The girls have already been made to vacate their room."

CullmanSense obtained the original lease on file at Vinemont Town Hall, a notarized document that was signed on April 11, 1991 by then-Mayor Elton A. Hall and Troop 227 Scoutmaster Gary N. Powell.

This document states:

This lease is for a period of ten years commencing on March 1, 1991, with the first yearly payment of $10.00 and other valuable considerations, due on or before March 1, 1991, and nine consecutive yearly payments thereafter beginning March 1, 1992, in the amount of $10.00 and other valuable considerations, with the final payment due on March 1, 2000.

"I am not angry at the mayor or the town council, but more than anything I am ashamed of them and their attorney (Roy Williams) for how the decision was made, legal or not," said John Roy, who was appointed to speak to the media by Girl Scout Troop 10288 on its behalf. "Cary Montgomery and the Scouts built that house, not (Mayor) J.D. Marcum or any member of the town council. I will end with this: I have never had a Scout lie to me. It used to be that a Scout's honor was all they needed. A politician, on the other hand, always has an agenda. The Scout House is just that. The name says it all. The town should be investing in the future of these young citizens rather than pushing them away, but I suppose you learn far more from poor leadership than you do good leadership, for it is then that you see exactly how not to lead people."

> **"Cary Montgomery and the Scouts built that house, not (Mayor) J.D. Marcum or any member of the town council."**
> - John Roy, spokesman for Girl Scout Troop 10288

The Town of South Vinemont was the charter organization for the Scouts up until Nov. 10, 2015, when, after 22 years, the council passed Resolution No. 2015-11-10-01, severing ties with both the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, effective Dec. 31, 2015. Oden's Glass is the new charter organization.

For a full background of this story, visit http://qrne.ws/scouts.



This 4-hour course will also provide community leaders with an understanding of the necessary plans and tools needed in planning for natural disasters, and will help them to better understand and identify personnel best equipped to address response and recovery requirements in the case of an actual disaster. This course will assist community leaders to identify and define the roles and responsibilities they may be expected to assume in the event of a natural disaster given their leadership positions, as well as those of the first responders and support personnel in the response and recovery phase.

February 23, 2016
8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Cullman, AL

LOCATION AND DETAILS:
Cullman County EMA Training Room (Basement)
2020 Beech Avenue SE
Cullman, AL 35055

FOR REGISTRATION: https://ndptc.hawaii.edu/training/delivery/1265

FOR REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE:
Herman Utoafili • 808-725-5237 • utoafili@hawaii.edu

MODULES
✓ Hazards Overview
✓ Community Preparedness and Mitigation
✓ Value of Partnerships
✓ Preparation of an Emergency Operations Plan

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