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MIKEY TANNER

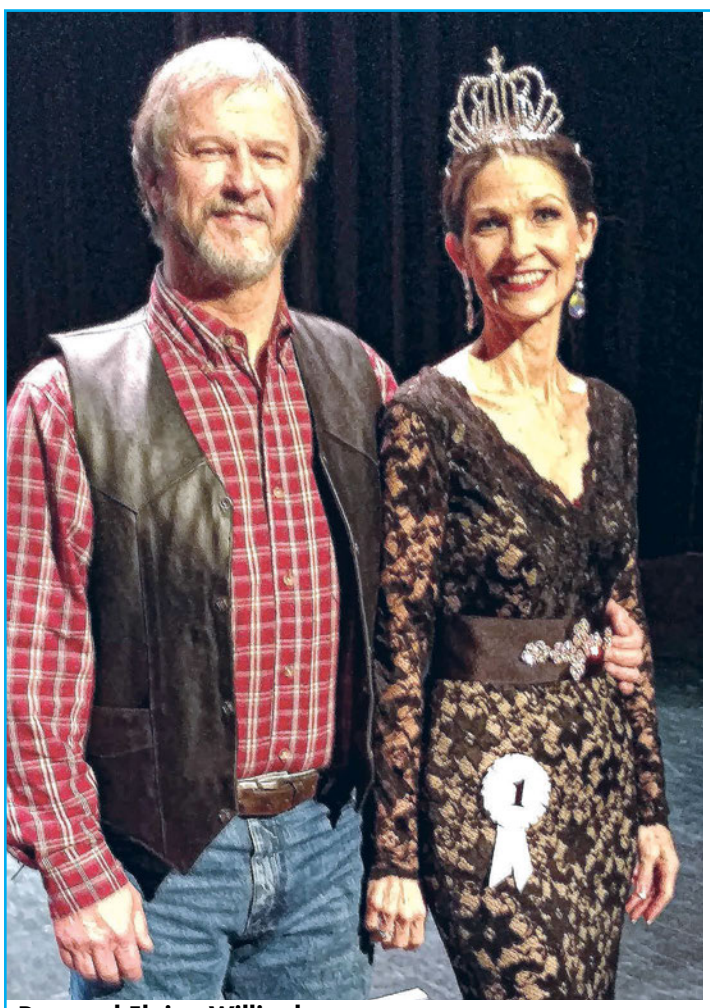
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ELAINE WILLINGHAM CROWNED 2016 MS. SENIOR CULLMAN COUNTY AT WALLACE STATE

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Couple Charged with Animal Cruelty


Edwin Emanual Brenner, left and Tangy Bodie, right CCSO

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – A couple was charged with one count each of cruelty to animals – second degree on Thursday, following complaints by neighbors, according to the Cullman County Animal Control Division.

Tim McKoy, CCACD, said both Edwin Emanuel Brenner and Tangy Bodie were arrested in connection with the alleged starvation of a dog. The incident occurred on County Road 1854.

McKoy described the dog as "very emaciated" and said, "both the male and female were charged that lived at the residence. At this time, it is still an ongoing investigation. (The) arrest was made by (the) Cullman

P3

WALK MS: CULLMAN SETS FOOT ON MARCH 19

Will Hogue
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CULLMAN – Walk MS is happening in Cullman on March 19 at 9 a.m. The annual walk, which raises funds and awareness for Multiple Sclerosis and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, will take place at Heritage Park.

According to Walk MS Marketing and Communications Director Laura Pemberton, hundreds of people are expected to raise $59,815 to stop multiple sclerosis in its tracks, restore what has been lost and end MS forever.

"Cullman friends, loved ones and co-workers will team up to change the world for everyone affected by MS. Participants can choose from 1- or 3-mile fully accessible routes. After the walk, there will be live music and activities for the whole family," Pemberton said.

Walk MS holds events all over the U.S.

"Walk MS is the rallying point for the MS movement, a time and a place for our communities to come together to raise funds and celebrate hope for the future," said Pemberton. "Funds raised during the walk support programs and services that directly benefit more than 7,000 families living with MS in Alabama and Mississippi."

P10


WALK MS: CULLMAN

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

VINEMONT TOWN HALL WILL NOT MOVE TO SCOUT HOUSE, FOR NOW

Wendy Sack
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VINEMONT – It has been a tumultuous two weeks in the town of South Vinemont, with emotions running high over the future of the town's Scout building. The issue has been settled, at least for now. At tonight's town hall meeting, ordinance 2016-01-01, which names the building as the new home of South Vinemont Town Hall and the site all municipal business and meetings, did not pass. The council vote was 3-3.

It was a full house for the meeting, with just under 30 people showing up to what many believed was going to be a showdown between concerned community members and the council.

Two Cullman County Sheriff's deputies were on-hand, as well as Cullman County Commission Chairman candidate Eric L. Parker.

The meeting was peaceful, however, with minimal back-and-forth.

Girl Scout parent John Roy stood to address the council, which prompted an emotional moment from Councilman Radginal Dodson, who spoke at length about the history of the Scout House and the hours he and others put into its construction and upkeep."I have more ideas and (know the) realities about this than most people," said Dodson, speaking to the amount of misinformation he and other council members said was being circulated in the community.

The town council presented both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts with new lease agreements prior to tonight's meeting.

Both groups are set to sign the agreements, after small changes are implemented by the town's attorney.

A Girl Scout leader took the opportunity to address the council, saying, "Our main concern is our girls."

She said that her group's fear had been that they would not have a place to meet, but that they were working to finalize the new lease agreement and had "worked through concerns with the council, and we want to stay in the building and work with the town."

Boy Scout Leader Jim Oden told the crowd (with assistance, as Oden is recovering from an illness and has speech limitations) that he was not in favor of the new lease agreement, but that he only had two concerns.

He requested a term of two years instead of one, and also wanted to make sure that the Troop's new charter organization, Oden's Auto Glass, was including in the lease instead of the Town of South Vinemont, the Troop's previous charter organization.

South Vinemont Mayor J.D. Marcum agreed to work with both groups to get the changes requested incorporated.

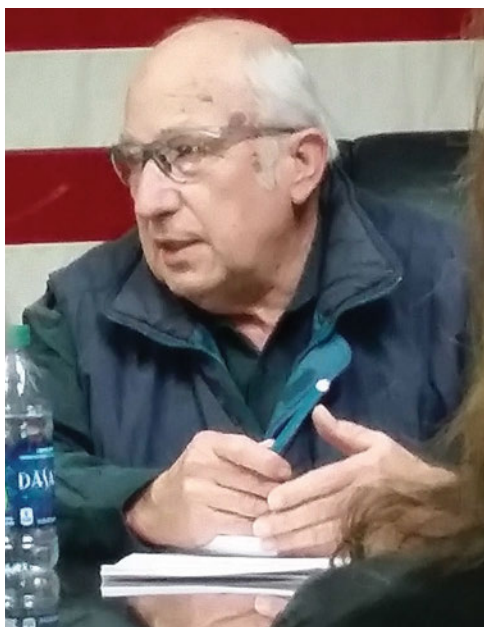
After everyone spoke and ordinance 2016-01-01 was finally put to a vote, a vote that was hotly debated in the community and on social media over the last two weeks, the ordinance did not pass.

With little fanfare, council members cast their votes and were evenly split, 3-3.

Two members who supported the move in last month's preliminary vote this month changed their minds.

The "Scout House," as it's been known in the community for more than 20 years, is located at 88 Ridgeway St. It is home to Boy Scout Troop 227, Cub Scout Pack 227 and Girl Scout Troop 10288.





DUSTIN ISOM/CULLMANSENSE

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.

Through the original agreement, the building also belongs to the town. 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. Marcum has said that the reasons behind wanting to move are that the Scout House will provide more room and is handicap-accessible, where the current town hall is not.

Marcum also said the town would then lease the current town hall in an effort to bring in money.

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 more background information, see http://qrne.ws/scouts and http://qrne.ws/scouts2.

THE LINK OF CULLMAN COUNTY TO HOLD ANNUAL EVENT & AUCTION

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – The Link of Cullman County's annual event and auction, GROW 2016, will take place on Tuesday, March 15 at 6 p.m. at Loft212, located at 212 Fourth St. SW. Doors will open and the silent auction will begin at 5 p.m., with dinner following at 6 p.m. Shane Quick, of Premier Productions and founder of Rock the South, will be the night's guest speaker.

"We can't wait to share with you all God has done this past year through the ministry of The Link of Cullman County," said The Link Founder and Executive Director, Dawn Owens.

"This year's annual event will include a review of 2015, recognizing our 2015 Dream Big award winners, a message from Shane Quick of Premier Productions and a silent auction to raise funds for all the growth happening at The Link and in our neighbors."

The Link of Cullman County is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that supports the needs of community members through goal-setting, career advising, financial counseling/literacy programs, GED classes, adult literacy programs and ESL classes.

The Link is working towards overcoming the barriers the poor and vulnerable face in Cullman County.

They believe in offering a hand up and not just a handout. In doing so, they believe that God wishes to use the body of Christ in Cullman to love and support those in need.

They are not one local church but many local churches serving together.

"We are so excited about this event," said Owens.

"Want to sponsor? Need tickets? Want to donate an auction item? Let me know. All proceeds go to support life transformation in Cullman County through The Link of Cullman County."



THE LINK

The Link of Cullman County continues to grow and serve those in need here in Cullman County, but they need help. Join them Tuesday, March 15. Tickets are $25 per person.

Tickets can be purchased online at https://goo.gl/Lgb9iY. For more information about the event, call 256-775-0028 or email info@linkingcullman.org. Visit them online at http://linkingcullman.org/ or https://www.facebook.com/TheLinkofCullmanCounty.

CHAMBER'S 73RD ANNUAL MEETING & GALA TO HAVE "DOWNTON ABBEY" THEME

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's 73rd Annual Meeting & Gala, "Good Leaders Serve," is scheduled for Thursday, March 3 at the Brown Stone Centre at Stone Bridge Farms. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 6 p.m. The Post Party will take place from 8-10 p.m.

"This year our guest speaker is Mr. Peter Good, who has spent most of his career in the hospitality industry," said Chamber President Leah Bolin.

"The main focus of his presentation will be the quality of service that great leaders provide and how one's service to their community and brand combine together to create the reputation of their business."

The event will celebrate the Chamber's accomplishments under outgoing Chamber Chair Jason Grimmett's leadership over the past year and kick off a new year of programs and activities for 2016-17.

The program will feature the presentations of the annual Emma Marie Eddleman Citizen of the Year Award, the Lucile Galin Public Service Award, the Small Business of the Year Award and the Ambassador of the Year Award.

"This year's theme will be focused around the popular British drama series, 'Downton Abbey,' set in the 1920s," said Bolin.

"Guests are encouraged to dress to coordinate with the theme - you might just win a contest! So get ready to step back in time with a vintage setting that will feature The Cigar Room and The Lotus Club!"

For more information about this year's gala, contact the Chamber at info@cullmanchamber.org or by telephone at 256-734-0454. Registration is required; please visit http://qrne.ws/gala. Tickets are $50 per person.

Visit the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/cullmanareachamber.

ADERHOLT BILL WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR STATES TO DRUG TEST SNAP RECIPIENTS

Carson Clark
Office of U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt, R-Alabama (4th District), today released a statement on introducing HR 4540, a bill that enables states to drug test SNAP/Food Stamp recipients, thereby cutting fraud with the savings going to drug treatment programs.

"Millions of hard working Americans get up to go to work in factories, on farms and other places to pay the taxes that provide welfare assistance to those that qualify," said Aderholt, chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over SNAP.

"This is meant to be temporary assistance, not a way of life. Many major employers and small businesses require applicants to pass a drug test, this bill will ensure that welfare recipients are job-ready.

"If a welfare recipient has the money to buy drugs, then they have the money to buy food. The federal government should not be enabling people to fund their drug addiction at taxpayer expense.

"This bill provides states with the ability to identify those who are gaming the system as well as those who are struggling with addiction. For those struggling, it provides funds to assist states in providing drug treatment.

"The goal is not only to break welfare recipients' dependence on government programs but also on their addiction to drugs.

"SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, is used by 46 million Americans. The number of Americans on the program has doubled during the last seven years. With this large number of people on the program, it's crucial that states have the ability to protect the integrity and purpose of the program."

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

For more information, visit www.aderholt.house.gov.

CULLMAN EMS TO HOST CHILI COOK-OFF FEB. 27

Lindsey Dossey
CRMC

CULLMAN – Cullman Regional Medical Center's CEMS Ambulance Service is hosting a new event, the 9-1-1 Chili Cook-Off, on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Ambulance Center located at 601 Second Ave. SW. All proceeds will benefit Harbor Haus shelter for victims of domestic violence.

"We have invited every fire department and law enforcement agency to bring a team with their best chili," CEMS Director James Curtis, Jr. FP-C said.

"We hope to have a good crowd come out and show their support for our local first responders."

Awards will be given for first, second and third place chili, with various door prizes as well. Chili will be $1 per bowl.

CEMS will also be accepting donations of diapers, bath towels, personal hygiene products and paper products throughout the event to benefit Harbor Haus.

To register a team or for additional questions, email dawn.holmes@crmchospital.com.

Learn more about CEMS at https://www.crmchospital.com/our_services/all_services/ambulance.aspx.

For more information about Harbor Haus, visit http://www.vsoccullman.org/domestic-violence/harbor-haus.



Bridge (from Front)

Seth Burkett
ALDOT

HUNTSVILLE – Alabama Department of Transportation geotechnical engineers have inspected the slope and retaining wall at the U.S. Highway 278 bridge over Kugler Creek in Cullman County and are in the process of gathering further information needed to recommend measures for remediation.

Current conditions pose no immediate danger to the traveling public. ALDOT personnel are monitoring the stability of all roadways, slopes and bridges in the immediate vicinity and will take action, including closure of the affected roadways and bridges, if warranted by a change in conditions.

###

The bridge is located on U.S. Highway 278 west of Cullman. It was constructed almost five years ago. Concerns over the safety of the structure have risen greatly over the past several days, as visible cracks and crumbling rocks have appeared in the huge retaining wall under the bridge, along with cracks in the hillside along the north and west sides.

When reached for comment, Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry said, "The sheriff's office is currently keeping a vigilant check on the road and the bridge to report any changes to ALDOT." According to a spokesperson for ALDOT, "(The bridge) is being monitored daily, in person by ALDOT personnel. Engineering judgment by department engineers will make the determination of any road closure need."

Cruelty (from Front)

County Animal Control Division and (the) Cullman County Sheriff's office."

Both have been charged with 13a-11-241 cruelty in the second (deprived of necessary sustenance), which is a Class A misdemeanor that carries a $1,000 property bond.

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



NO. 17 WALLACE STATE MEN OUTLAST NO. 16 MARION MILITARY INSTITUTE IN BATTLE OF NATIONALLY-RANKED TEAMS

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State's men's basketball outlasted Marion Military Institute in their nationally-ranked showdown Thursday night, gutting out a 49-46 victory at Tom Drake Coliseum.

Marcus Barham scored 14 points and Xavier Mills added 11 for the 17th-ranked Lions, who avenged their lone conference loss of the season and snapped the 16th-ranked Tigers' 15-game winning streak.

Wallace State, which commanded as much as an 11-point cushion in the second half, held off a late Marion Military surge, securing the win in the final seconds as Ronnie Baylark's potential game-tying trey from the left corner was too long for the Tigers (20-4, 8-1 Alabama Community College Conference).

"I couldn't be more proud of our guys. Our returning sophomores have battled and done what they've needed to do to get us where we are right now," said Wallace State coach John Meeks. "I knew this was going to be a grind and it was. It took an all-around team effort. I'm a firm believer in defense winning championship when it's all said and done, and we played one of our best defensive games."

Wallace State (23-4, 8-1 ACCC) is now tied atop the conference's North Division with the Tigers after limiting Marion Military leading scorer Christian Bradford to a season-low nine points. Bradford, who entered averaging 18.6 points per game, has failed to crack double digits in only two games this season, both against Wallace State on Thursday and Jan. 19.

"Bradford is the Player of the Year to me. He's very good. We knew we had to focus on him and Baylark and hold both of them to as low a number as possible," said Meeks, whose team has won six in a row and 15 of 17.

Wallace State charged out to 10-5 lead less than five minutes into the game, receiving scoring contributions from four different players. Derylton Hill's 3-point play with 9:17 to go in the first half pushed the Lions' advantage to 17-8.

Wallace State led 25-20 at the break after receiving eight points from freshman forward LaParis Hall, who has been pressed into duty in the post because of injuries on the roster.

"LaParis has been unbelievable lately. He's played more minutes the last two games than he's played all season combined. He did a great job in the first half and finished around the rim," Meeks said.

"It says a lot for a freshman to stay the course and not give up because he's not playing a lot. We've told LaParis his time was coming and it's here."

Barham opened the second half with 3s on consecutive possessions for Wallace State, extending the cushion to 31-20.

The Lions maintained a 32-22 lead with 16:35 left and 34-24 with 12:12 to go.

Marion Military used an 8-0 run over the next four minutes. A pair of Charles Tripp free throws trimmed Wallace State's edge to 34-32 with 8:03 remaining.

Barham and Mills answered with jumpers on consecutive possessions for the Lions for a 38-32 lead. Wallace State never controlled more than a six-point lead the rest of the way.

Immanuel King drained two free throws with 2:06 remaining, giving Wallace State a 46-41 advantage and a pair of Barham free throws gave the Lions a 48-43 margin with 44.9 seconds remaining.

Bradford got the Tigers within two points with 21.3 seconds left, and Marion Military had an opportunity to force overtime with its final possession.

Wallace State forced a tough 3-pointer from Baylark and corralled the loose ball as time expired.

Hall scored all eight of his points in the first half for the Lions, Barham had 10 of his 14 in the second half and Derylton Hill chipped in with nine points.

Tripp led Marion Military with a game-high 16 points. Baylark added seven.

Thursday marked Marion Military's first loss since Nov. 16.

Wallace State has lost only once since the calendar flipped to 2016.

It was the final regular-season home game for seven Wallace State sophomores: Mills, King, Barham, Hill, Kylen Butler, Darren Williams and Tyrell Clary.

The Lions wrap up the regular season with three consecutive road games, including a visit to Shelton State on Feb. 18.

"Our guys fed off the great crowd we had tonight (Thursday). It was good for the team to play in front of a big crowd in such a big game. It was the best fan support we've had in a long time, especially for a single game," Meeks said. "This win is not the destination though. We're going to enjoy it for a bit, but we still have three important games left."

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



WSCC

Wallace State sophomore point guard Xavier Mills lifts a jumper in the second half against Marion Military, scoring two of his 11 points in Thursday night's victory at Tom Drake Coliseum.

3A AREA 10 CHAMPIONSHIP

Josh McBrayer
Sports Correspondent

HOLLY POND – 24 hours removed from their semifinal games, four teams took the court at Holly Pond to determine the 3A Area 10 Championship for both boys and girls.

Holly Pond 67, Susan Moore 50 (Girls)

Despite the slow start from 3-point land, going just three for nine, the Holly Lady Broncos ended the first quarter with a flurry of points to take a 17-13 lead over the Susan Moore Lady Bulldogs in the first quarter of the area championship game.

The Lady Broncos continued to pour it on in the second quarter with good defense and transition baskets leading to a comfortable lead at the half.

Susan Moore played Holly Pond tough in the second half but could not overcome the fantastic shooting of Holly Pond, who went on to lay claim to the 3A Area 10 girls championship. Holly Pond takes the crown by a final of 67-50.

Holly Pond 78, Hanceville 72

Hanceville jumped on Holly Pond early, going on a 9-1 run and holding the Broncos scoreless for the first three minutes of the contest. Midway through the quarter, Holly Pond started to find the range and pulled to within a single point as time expired in the first.

The second was Holly Pond's turn to open with a flurry offense; however, Hanceville kept pace, helped by two Bronco technical fouls, and the two squads spent the rest of the quarter exchanging baskets. Hanceville carried their one-point lead to the locker room at the half.

Holly Pond exploded out of the locker room to immediately take the lead to start the third quarter and they never looked back. A 12-2 run, emphasized by a Matt Cahoon flush, gave the Broncos a 15-point lead going into the final stanza.

Hanceville clawed their way back into the game in the fourth and got as close as five points, but the Holly Pond lead was never in jeopardy as they claimed the 3A Area 10 title with a final score of 78-72.

All four teams will compete in the regional tournament. Stay connected to CullmanSense for times and dates as they become available.

PREP BASKETBALL SCORING WRAP-UP

It has been a busy week for local hoops. New area champions were crowned all over Cullman County as teams now prepare for the sub-regional tournament. Here are the scores from around the county.

MONDAY

1A Area 11 Boys
St. Bernard 62, Brilliant 38

4A Area 10 Girls
Good Hope 62, JB Pennington 38

5A Area 14 Girls
Fairview 56, Russellville 30
Lawrence County 74, West Point 38

TUESDAY

1A Area 11 Girls
St. Bernard 31, Meek 32
Brilliant 39, Lynn 38

WEDNESDAY

2A Area 14
Cold Springs 47, Falkville 41 Girls

3A Area 10
Holly Pond 59, Vinemont 29 Girls
Susan Moore 71, Hanceville 65 Girls
Hanceville 69, Vinemont 46 Boys
Holly Pond 86, Susan Moore 52 Boys

4A Area 10
Locust Fork 57, Good Hope 51 Boys

5A Area 14
West Point 61, Fairview 40 Boys
Russellville 55, Lawrence County 42 Boys

6A Area 15
Austin 63, Cullman 48 Girls

THURSDAY

1A Area 11
St. Bernard 64, Meek 70 OT
Boys Championship

2A Area 14
Cold Springs 93, Falkville 57

3A Area 10
Holly Pond 67, Susan Moore 50 Girls Championship

3A Area 10
Holly Pond 78, Hanceville 72 Boys Championship

4A Area 10
Good Hope 45, Locust Fork 46 Girls Championship

5A Area 15
Fairview 44, Lawrence County 53 Girls Championship

6A Area 15
Cullman 77, Decatur 71

FRIDAY

2A Area 14
Cullman 49, Tanner 57 Girls Championship

5A Area 14
Russellville 68, West Point 61 Boys Championship

SATURDAY

2A Area 14
Tanner 83, Cold Springs 81 Boys Championship

6A Area 15
Cullman 54, Austin 49 Boys Championship

HISTORICAL PROFILE

ORIGINAL SEVENTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH BELL RINGS THROUGHOUT CULLMAN ONCE MORE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Oct. 25, 2015, Seventh Street Baptist Church rededicated its original historic bell with a special Sunday morning church service. It is not known exactly when the church first secured the bell, but on May 22, 1927, the First German Baptist Church, as it was called at the time, voted to build an annex to the wood frame white church building. In pictures of that church building and annex, a bell tower can be seen.

It all began in 1877 when the Baptist Church of Christ first organized. By 1880, a church building had been constructed; it was located on Second Avenue West on a lot that was donated by the L & N Railroad Company.

"A division occurred in the fellowship in 1892," said Martha Al-Dijaili, Church Historical Committee member. "One group met on the east side of Cullman under the name 'Cullman Baptist Church,' which later became First Baptist Church. The other group became known as 'West Cullman Baptist Church' and was located on the corner of Fourth and Austin Streets where they had erected a building. Soon there were 42 church members and 68 enrolled in Sunday school."

West Cullman Baptist Church later joined with another Baptist church in the county named First German Baptist Church, which was built in 1905. The church was built on land that was donated by the L & N Railroad Company in 1883. Today, Seventh Street Baptist Church is located there.

"This brings us back to the annex and belfry that was built onto the existing church in 1927," Al-Dijaili continued. "Our church history department has a newspaper article written around1980 which states, in part, that the bell had been misplaced when the present church sanctuary was built in 1950-51. Some 27 years later the bell was located and an A-frame structure was built to hang the bell."

This bell structure was dismantled in the mid-1900s, which meant the bell had fallen silent once more. That is, until its rededication service last October.

"The rededication service was held on the church grounds near the bell," Al-Dijaili explained. "The service included an opening prayer, a devotional thought from Joshua 4:6-7, historical reflections and an acknowledgment of the present Historical Committee. Also acknowledged during the service were the constructors, Dennis Guthrie Construction, and Rick Welch, brick mason, by Pastor Eric Martin."

"The ceremonial ringing of the bell followed. Suzanne Tidwell rang the bell representing the longest continuous church member, Jeanette Gibbs. Aubrey Martin, age 9, rang the bell to represent the church youth and the pastor rang the bell to represent the congregation. The rededication service concluded with everyone singing the hymn, 'We Are Standing on Holy Ground' led by Choir Director Jethro Harbison."



MARTHA AL-DIJAILI

Standing in front of the Seventh Street Baptist Church bell and tower are members of the church's Historical Committee. They are, from left to right: Martha Al-Dijaili, Pat Heald, Shirley Holmes, Suzanne Tidwell and James Tidwell, Sr.

During the bell tower's construction, a plaque was set in and reads as follows:

The Original Church Bell
This Historic Bell Hung in the
First German Baptist
Church Which
Was Renamed Seventh
Street Baptist
Church in 1941 Due to WW11
On October 25, 2015,
by Faith, the
Church and Its Historical
Committee
Rededicated This Bell to Our
Forefathers and as a Welcome
To Worship and Praise God.
Dennis Guthrie Construction

A time capsule was placed behind the plaque consisting of a current church bulletin and a rededication announcement. The total cost of the project was approximately $6,000.

"With grateful hearts we would like to thank Cullman Marble and Granite Company, who worked tirelessly with us on the plaque's wording." said Al-Dijaili. "We would also like to thank Rick Welch, our brick mason, who did such a professional and outstanding job on the bell tower and to Dennis Guthrie, our contractor, who patiently guided us through the whole project. And last but not least, special thanks to the church congregation, who supported this project in so many ways.

"Come join us at Seventh Street Baptist Church at 708 Seventh St. SW for a Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. or 6 p.m. and see our bell project," she added.

HOLLY POND KEY CLUB HOSTS AN AFTERNOON OF BINGO FOR A GREAT CAUSE

Students Raise Funds for Children's of Alabama

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HOLLY POND – On Saturday, Feb. 13 the Holly Pond High School Key Club held an afternoon of bingo. People from throughout the community gathered at the school and enjoyed the day of fun and at the same time raised money for a great cause, Children's of Alabama.

"We did this (held a bingo fundraiser) a couple years ago and raised over $1,000 for Children's Hospital," said Bob Palys, Key Club advisor.

"My wife and I had a son that was born in 1983. He had severe medical problems, such as Spina Bifida. When he was born we were told he would only live for one day, but he lived 10 days short of his 18th birthday. We had taken him to Children's Hospital many, many times. I saw so many children that were there; it is a fantastic place. It's a place of miracles. The staff is unbelievable."

The Key Club holds a special place in Mr. Palys' heart.

Even though he is retired from teaching at Holly Pond, he continues to advise the Key Club.

"Even though I'm retired, this is my 27th year to be the advisor for the club," he smiled.

"The Key Club is a great organization. It's the largest high school service organization in the world. The members are young adults who I've seen make a difference in the world around them."

There were 20 bingo games that were played for $1.00 per card, per game. Each prize had a value of at least $20.

The 21st game cost $5 and its winning prize was worth between $100-$300.

Refreshments were available as the excitement heightened during the games.

At the end of the day, the 28 members of Holly Pond High School's Key Club were happy to donate to Children's of Alabama.



NATURAL DISASTER AWARENESS FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS
AWR-310



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.

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

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

NDPTC
NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING CENTER
at the UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I

828 Fort Street Mall • Suite 320 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 808.956.0600 • Fax: 808.536.9110
website: ndptc.hawaii.edu

As a member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium, the NDPTC is a DHS/FEMA training partner dedicated to providing critical all-hazards training throughout the United States and its territories with an emphasis on natural hazards and island and coastal communities

FEMA



EES Archery Team

BRANCH WHITLOCK

CP&R HOSTS YOUTH ARCHERY TOURNEY

Amy Leonard
amy@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Cullman City Parks and Recreation hosted a National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Archery Tournament at the Cullman Civic Center on Saturday, Feb. 13. Schools from throughout Cullman County were present in addition to competitors from Cordova, Addison and Curry. Waid Harbison of CP&R estimated over 175 students participated during the day. The team from East Elementary came out on top.

The popularity of archery has surged in recent years in the county.

Harbison shared, "The thing about archery is it's a little bit of something different, something unique. I think there's a lot of kids who are good at baseball and basketball, and more traditional sports like that, but archery is one of those sports that requires a lot of technique and skill."

That skill is clear when Makenzie Fowler, a third-grader at Welti Elementary, shoots.

Brandon Fowler, her father, said he and his daughter enjoy hunting together so archery was a good choice for her. Fowler said she likes shooting with her friends at school and is glad her dad helps her.

NASP launched in 2002, with 21 students in Kentucky participating. The program has grown exponentially since then. The program incorporates time during the students' school day for instruction.

Mandy Phillips appreciates the school time practice, stating, "It's not overwhelming because they do so much of it at school so you don't have a lot of extra practices to go to."

Phillips' daughter, Welti Elementary fourth-grader Savannah, is competing for her second year in archery and was one of many young girls involved in the tournament.

Harbison concluded, "Sometimes these guys who haven't found their niche somewhere else find it with archery and find themselves being good archers. It's a sport that you can excel at really quickly if you work hard at it. It's a new, bustling sport that's really big in this community!"

Back in January, through a local grant from the Heritage Archery Club, a Cullman chapter of the Bowhunters of Alabama, NASP archery equipment was awarded to four area schools.

This was a result of the local club working together with the city and state in support and promotion of the Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources' Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Division's community archery strategy.

West Point School, Fairview High School, East Elementary School and Welti Elementary School all applied for the grant and received the equipment, purchased with private funds.

Heritage Archery Club offered $5,000 in grant funds to area schools and partnered with the WFF Division and CP&R for distribution and promotion of the continued archery lifestyle here in Cullman and all of Cullman County.

Now is the time to sign up for CP&R's Spring Session II (March 14-April 25) Youth Archery classes.

CP&R's youth archery classes offer a challenge and fun experience for every level with classes offered throughout the week for beginners, intermediate and advanced archers.

Bows and arrows are provided for beginners, but students can also bring their own. Anthony Parker will be the course instructor. Archers will master the skills of each level and move up through the classes until they reach the advanced level.

Classes will be held at the Indoor Archery Range at the Cullman Civic Center and cost is $60 per session. Register now at the Cullman Civic Center.

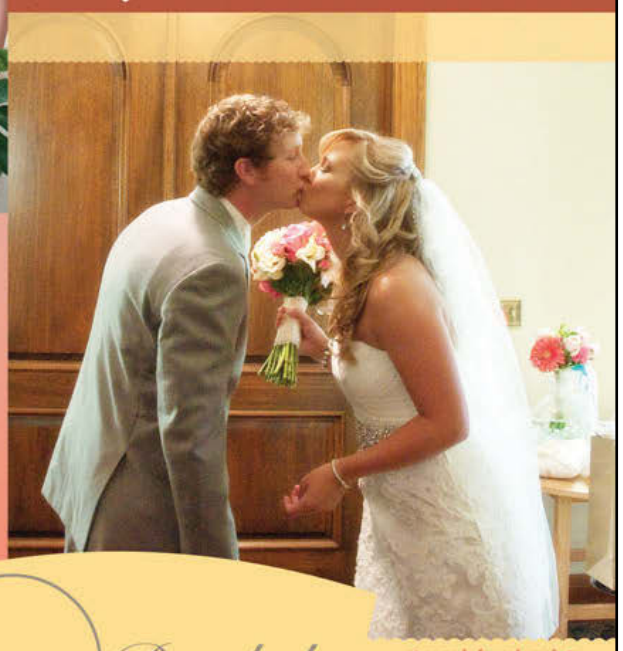
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PROFILES IN FAITH

MIKEY TANNER, CHILDREN'S PASTOR AT RENOVATION CHURCH

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

VINEMONT – At Renovation Church in Vinemont, their passion is to provide a place where people can have a life-changing experience with God. As soon as visitors step foot into the church, they find a congregation full of spirit-filled, spirit-led Pentecostal believers. The church welcomes people from all backgrounds, regardless of where they are on their spiritual journeys. The members of the congregation strive for a sort of contagious Christianity, one that can influence and encourage the entire community, one life at a time.

The seeds of faith planted into the hearts of the children at Renovation Church are cultivated by a very special person, Mikey Tanner.

Tanner grew up in Eva and graduated from Albert P. Brewer High School in 1994. His family, beautiful wife Katrina and young son Brendan, mean the world to him.

"I was called to preach in 2001 while sitting in a sound booth during a Sunday night service," he began.

"I never thought I would do anything like it. I would get terrified to get in front of my classmates in school," he chuckled, "but I knew I had to be obedient to God's calling and have been blessed ever since.

"I am currently the student and children's pastor at Renovation Church in Vinemont," he continued.

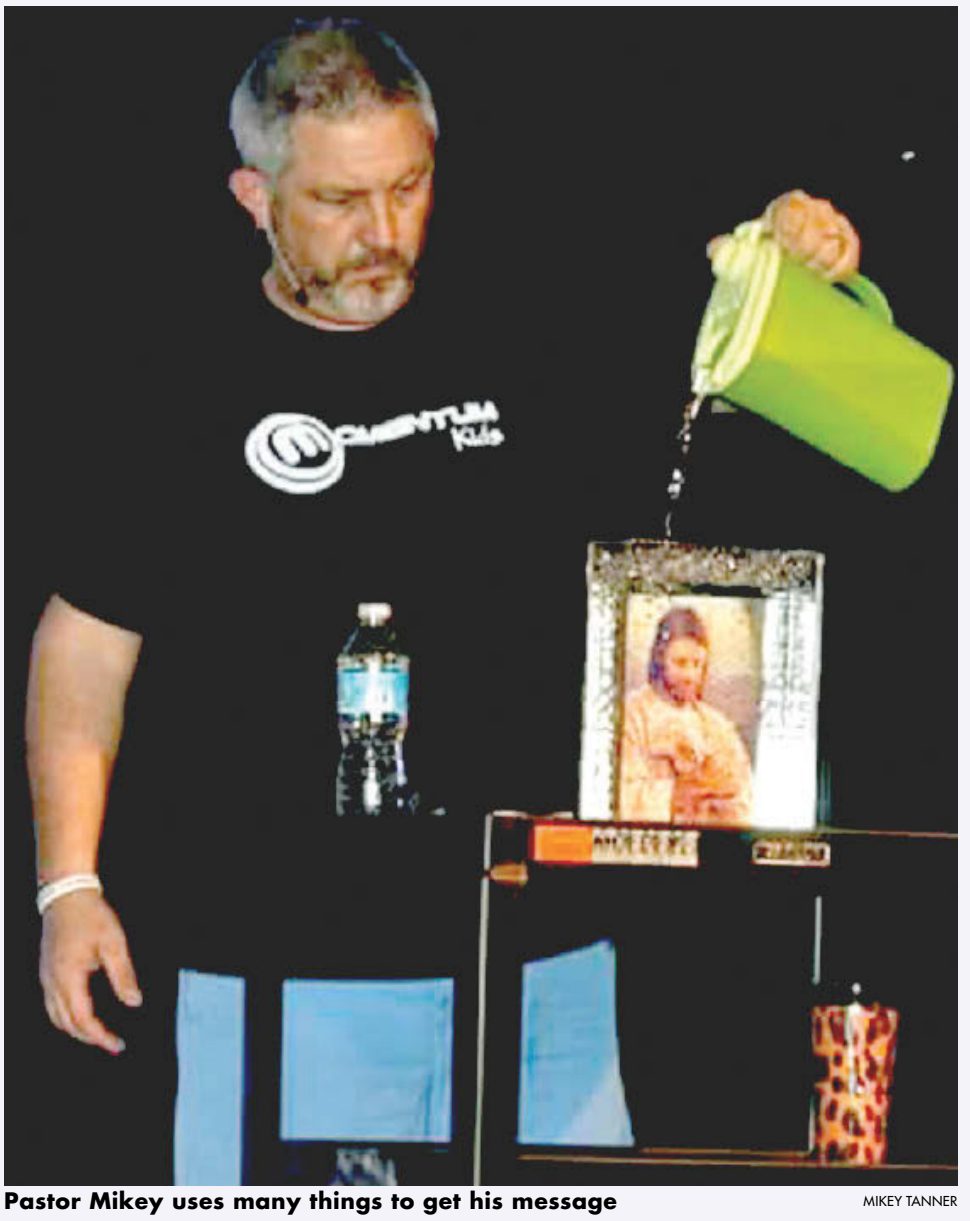
"Our church is incredible and our vision is simple: Love, Lead, Connect. We meet people right where they are just like Jesus did," he smiled.

"My greatest accomplishment as a pastor would be the times when a lost or hurting child leaves a service different, better than when they entered."

Tanner uses his talents in a way that keeps his audience captive and eager to serve the Lord.

He truly enjoys his calling and considers it an honor to bring each child at Renovation Church closer to Jesus.

Renovation Church is located at 14142 AL Highway 157 in Vinemont. For more information, call 256- 737-7291, email them at pastor@renovationchurch.today or visit them online at http://renovationchurch.today/ or https://www.facebook.com/renovationchurch.today.



Pastor Mikey uses many things to get his message across to the children of Renovation Church.

MIKEY TANNER

CPC Cullman Primary Care
Multi-Specialty Group



CULLMAN PRIMARY CARE
LUNG NODULE CLINIC

1800 Ala. Highway 157
POB 3 - Suite 100
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Open Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CPC WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME DR. SCHROEDER TO THE FAMILY!

Call 256-255-1161 to schedule an appointment
REFERRALS FROM YOUR PRIMAY CARE PHYSICIAN ARE REQUIRED

Dr. Schroeder treats a variety of pulmonary conditions including:

√ ARDS (acute respiratory distress syndrome)
√ Asthma
√ Bronchitis
√ Chronic Cough
√ COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)
√ Cystic Fibrosis
√ Emphysema
√ Hemoptysis
√ Lung Cancer
√ Pleural Effusion
√ Sarcoidosis
√ Solitary Pulmonary Nodule
√ Tuberculosis



CULLMAN PRIMARY CARE WELCOMES
DR. SCHROEDER

Dr. Schroeder has a special interest in helping catch lung-cancer early and save lives. He is proud to bring the first Lung Nodule Clinic to Cullman.

The Lung nodule clinic can biopsy small nodules found in the lung as an outpatient procedure.

Benefits of the procedure are early detection of lung cancer and to save patients from unnecessary surgery.

Monday

West Point Town Hall Meeting
6 p.m. at West Point Town Hall, 3990 County Road 1141

Garden City Town Hall Meeting
6 p.m. at Garden City Town Hall, 501 First Ave. S. in Garden City.

Cullman City Zoning Board Meeting
5:30-6:30 p.m. at City Hall Auditorium, 204 Second Ave. NE, Call 256-775-7203 for more information.

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.)

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.

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

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.

Heritage Homeschool Class: Weather
Feb. 16, 9-11 a.m. at the North Alabama Agriplex. 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

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.

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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. 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

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.

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.

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

Thursday

Dorothea Lange Documentary Screening
"Dorothea Lange: Grab a Hunk of Lightning," a documentary about the acclaimed photographer told by her filmmaker granddaughter, will be shown on Thursday, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m., in the Burrow Center Recital Hall at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville. The film is part of the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers and is free and open to the public. A question and answer session will be held with the filmmaker after the screening. www.grabahunkoflightning.com

Book Club at the North Alabama Agriplex
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

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
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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
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Military Order of the Purple Heart
Chapter 2212 meets the third Thursday of each month at Ryan's Restaurant in Cullman. Dinner at 6 p.m., meeting to follow. Contact Joey D'Andrea for more info. 256-734-4733

Friday

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.

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
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Saturday

Saving Forgotten Warriors
Organization helps area disabled Marine and Vietnam veteran Cpl. Kenneth Beasley and other area veterans in need. Clean-up days for Cpl. Beasley are each Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Beasley's home at 185 Co. Road 823. Volunteers are needed and donations are accepted. See Facebook page "Saving Forgotten Warriors" for more info or call Jeremy (352-440-4076), Tammy (256-286-3136) or Josh (256-615-5263).

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.

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

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
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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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Masonics of Cullman County Meetings
Held at 7 p.m. at the following locations: Baileyton 472 (first and third Thursday, call 256-796-6611); Cullman 421 (Mondays, call 256-734-1231); Logan 500 (second and fourth Tuesday, call 256-747-4243 or 256-747-2908); Simcoe 854 (second and fourth Thursday, call 256-796-5794 or 256-796-5018); Vinemont 562 (first and third Thursday, call 256-796-7244).

Cullman County Commission Meeting
The Cullman County Commission meets every second and fourth Tuesday, except in cases where the meeting date falls on a holiday, in which case the meeting is moved to the following day. Meetings are scheduled for 10 a.m. in the Commission office conference room, first floor, Cullman County Courthouse, unless otherwise specified. Next scheduled meeting is Feb. 23.

Cullman County Community Development Commission Meeting
The Cullman County Community Development Commission (CCCDC) will meet on April 7 at 6 p.m. at the North Alabama Agriplex,1714 Tally Ho Street SW.

Lions Club Annual Fish and Ham Dinner
Fish and Ham Dinner fundraiser Saturday, March 5 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Cullman Middle School cafeteria. Eat in or carry out, drive-thru available on north side. $10 per plate. Purchase tickets from any Lions Club member or from Rennards Gallery, The Brandin' Iron, Peek Auto Parts, Ponder Wrecker Service, Business Solutions of Cullman, Ed White Jewelers, Doug Doggett Jewelers, Cullman Veterinary Hospital or East Side Barber Shop.

Huge Rummage Sale
Sponsored by Cullman First United Methodist Church's United Methodist Women on Friday, March 4 from 7 a.m.- 2 p.m. and Saturday, March 5 from 8 a.m.-noon. Sale will be held in the church gym. Park in back of the church. Church address is 320 Third St. SE. Proceeds benefit many local agencies in Cullman County. Contact Beth Montgomery at 256-747-6438 for more information.

Senior Spirit Events

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

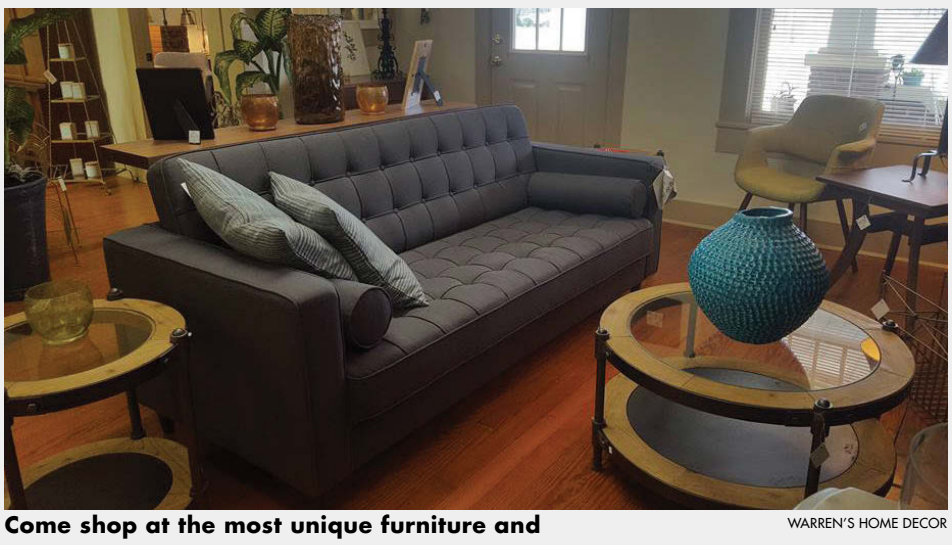
Dulcimer Classes
Take lessons to learn the Appalachian dulcimer, generally regarded as one of the easiest string instruments to learn. The traditional way to play the instrument is to lay it flat on the lap and pluck or strum the strings with the right hand, while fretting with the left.
Date: Every 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.

WARREN'S HOME DECOR SET TO OPEN FEB. 19

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com



WARREN'S HOME DECOR

Come shop at the most unique furniture and home accessories store in Cullman. Warren's Home Decor has many styles from which to select.

CULLMAN – Warren's Home Decor is a family-owned business that is new to Cullman. On Friday, Feb. 19, a ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. will officially begin the store's grand opening sale. On the following Sunday, Feb. 21, from 2-6 p.m., there will be an open house where everyone is invited to visit the store and see what amazing merchandise they have to offer.

"The shop is in a house and decorated like inside a home," said store owner Tania Warren.

"We want to give the customer a homey feel when they are in shopping," she smiled.

"We have original 1960s furniture and vintage items, along with the rustic style, modern and traditional along with some antiques. We carry everything from sofas to wall art, soy candles, picture frames, lamps, desks, dining room tables and chairs, just about any and everything you need to furnish a home."

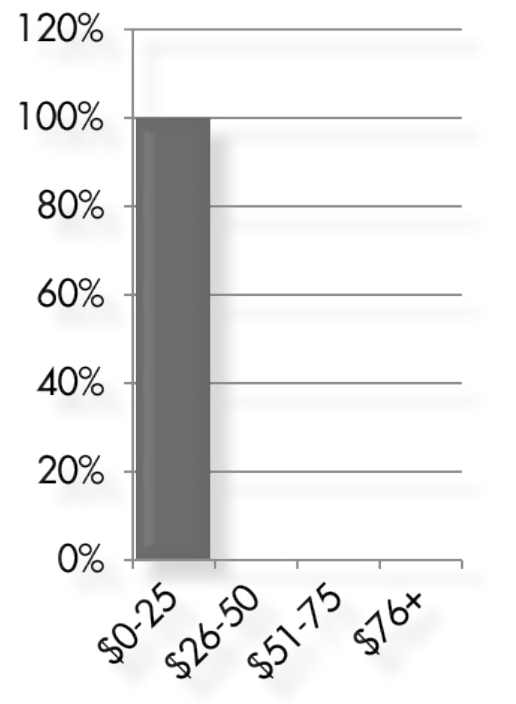
Warren's Home Decor has lots of different styles. They carry rustic, original mid-century modern, antiques and modern-style furniture and accessories.

Warren's Home Decor is located at 1622 Second Ave. NW. Store hours are Tuesday - Friday, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

For more information, call 256-735-4416, email taniawarrenhomedecor@gmail.com or visit them online at https://www.facebook.com/warrenshomedecorllc or http://www.warrenshomedecorllc.com.

Poll

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



This Week's Poll

What is your favorite type of pizza crust?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

DUCK RIVER DAM PROGRESS UPDATE



TIM SCOTT, RESERVOIR MANAGER

(2-8-16) Left abutment clay placement complete. Still have gravel to finish. Should finish this today or first thing tomorrow. Still have about 15,000 yards of clay available in the stockpile area.

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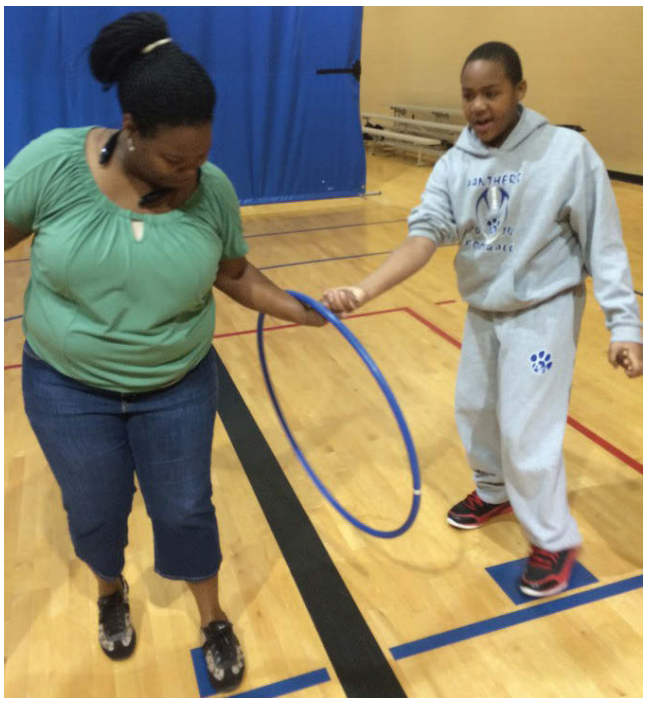
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FOURTH ANNUAL CULLMAN SPRING FAMILY FUN DAY

Camp Seale Harris Comes to Town for Annual Event

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com



JOHN LATIMER

CULLMAN – On Sunday, March 13, Camp Seale Harris, a part of the Southeastern Diabetes Education Services (SDES), will hold its annual Cullman Spring Family Fun Day at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center (CWAC).

The event, held each spring, is an opportunity for Camp Seale Harris to put its mission, which is "to educate, encourage and empower children with diabetes and their families to live well," in action.

"This is a family event," said John Latimer, camp and community project director for CSH said.

"It is an opportunity for parents of children with diabetes to meet other families like them and get that connection."

Sponsored by the Cullman Community Lions Club, the event is free to attend for all who register.

"We hold it at the Aquatic Center so the kids can play and have fun, because camp is about fun. Kids learn by doing and getting to participate. We will provide fun activities for the kids. And while the kids are learning and playing, the families get to connect and talk with each other," Latimer said.

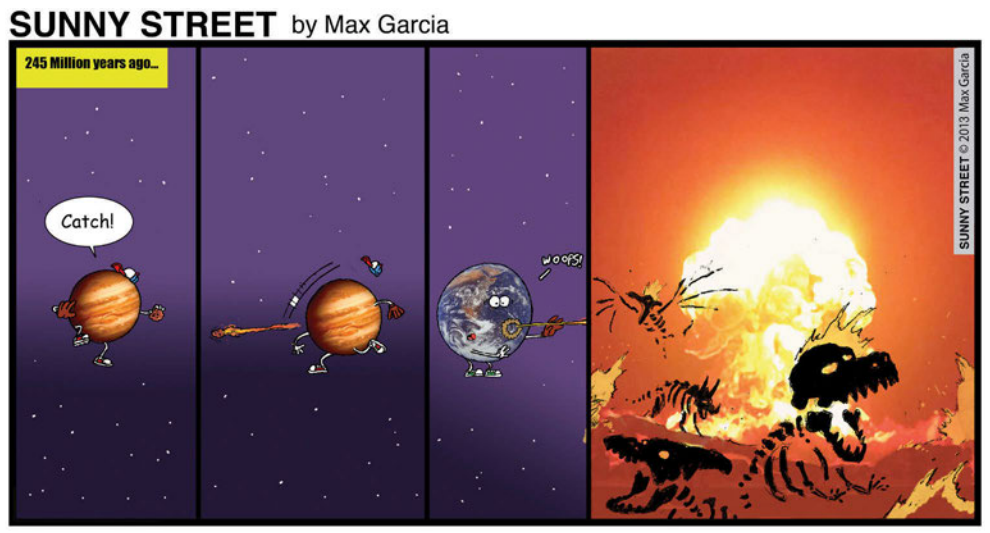
Camp Seale Harris is a camp organization with no permanent campsite.

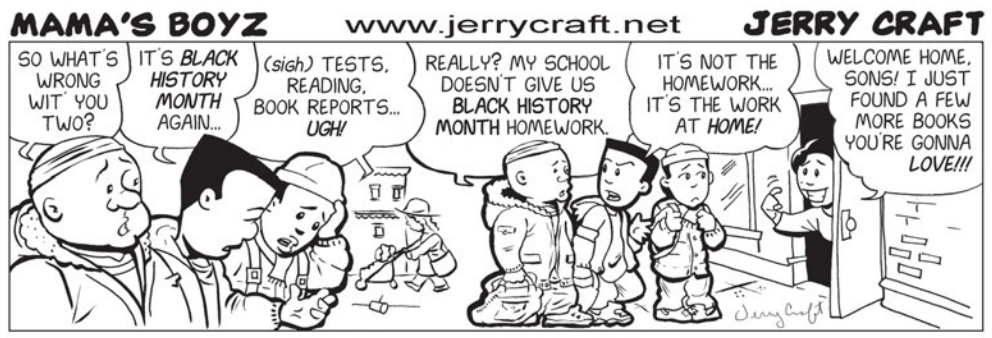
Although its main office is in Birmingham, it travels around the state for different events such as the one to be held at the CWAC.

The Fourth Annual Camp Seale Harris Cullman Spring Family Fun Day will be at CWAC from 1:30-5:30 p.m. CWAC is located at 1636 Field of Miracles Drive in Cullman.

Those interested in attending are asked to please register in advance by March 10, 2016 by emailing info@southeasterndiabetes.org or calling 205-402-0415.

COMICS







Walk (from Front)

As far as the effectiveness and impact Walk MS has had, according to Pemberton, in 2015 alone, more than 315,000 people in nearly 550 locations across the country walked to create a world free of MS, raising nearly $50 million.

Since 1988, Walk MS has raised more than $920 million to fund critical research and life-changing services to help people with MS live their best lives.

"Walk MS: Cullman allows us to stand together against a disease that affects so much of our community," said Andrew Bell, chapter president.

"It is truly a privilege to be able to raise awareness and contribute to research efforts that are so dedicated to finding a cure.

"Plus," he said, "it really is a fun event. Whether you have a personal connection to MS or not, it's a great way to spend the day with your family. Because of the committed efforts of this community, there is hope for a future free of MS."

For information on how to register for the event visit http://qrne.ws/ms, call 205-879-8546 or email debra.bower@nmss.org. Find the event on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/WalkMS.

OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEBRUARY 8 - 14

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Myra Johns Boyd
Patricia Ann Cole
Billy Ray Baker
Gene Edward Davis
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Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanSense.com/obituaries.

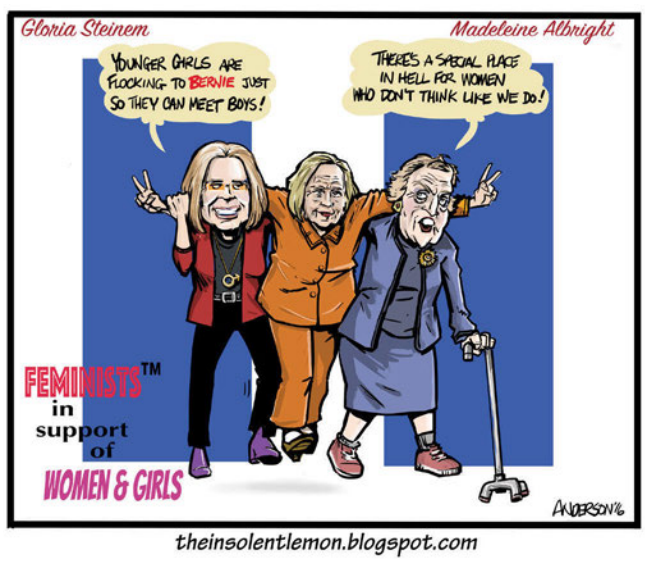
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Anthony Saint

Contributors
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OPINION

BERNIE SANDERS: THE 2016 PEACE CANDIDATE

Lawrence S. Wittner
PeaceVoice

On February 10, 2016, Peace Action—the largest peace organization in the United States—announced its endorsement of Bernie Sanders for the Democratic nomination for President.

Peace Action is the descendant of two other mass U.S. peace organizations: the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy (SANE) and the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign (the Freeze). SANE was founded in 1957 with the goal of ending nuclear weapons testing. Soon, though, it broadened its agenda to include opposing the Vietnam War and other overseas military intervention, reducing military spending, and backing nuclear disarmament treaties, as well as supporting economic conversion from military to civilian production. Among SANE's early supporters were Eleanor Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, Jr., Walter Reuther, and Dr. Benjamin Spock. The Freeze, initiated by Randy Forsberg, appeared in the late 1970s and reached a peak in the first half of the 1980s, when it led a widespread campaign to halt the Reagan administration's dramatic nuclear weapons buildup and the dangerous slide toward nuclear war. With much in common, SANE and the Freeze merged in 1987 to form Peace Action. Like its predecessors, Peace Action devoted its efforts to building a more peaceful world.

Although the three peace organizations rarely endorsed Presidential candidates, they did so on occasion. Appalled by the Vietnam War, SANE backed the peace campaigns of Eugene McCarthy in 1968 and George McGovern in 1972. In 1984, challenging the Reagan administration's bellicose approach to international affairs, SANE and the Freeze endorsed Walter Mondale. Then, in 1992, fed up with twelve years of Republican hawkishness, the newly combined organization threw its support behind Bill Clinton.

In its statement endorsing Bernie Sanders, Peace Action praised his opposition to both Iraq wars, support of legislation to reduce spending on nuclear weapons, strong backing of the Iran agreement, votes to curb military spending, and championing of diplomacy over war. According to Kevin Martin, the executive director of the peace organization, Sanders "best represents the values that Peace Action and its 200,000 supporters have espoused." And, in fact, before Peace Action's board of directors voted overwhelmingly to have the organization's Peace PAC back the Sanders campaign, an online poll of Peace Action's members revealed support for endorsement by 85 percent of the respondents.

This enthusiasm for Sanders among peace activists reflects other aspects of his record, as well. The U.S. Senator from Vermont has opposed NATO expansion into Eastern Europe, favored normalization of relations with Iran, and decried the Israeli attacks on Gaza in 2014 as "disproportionate" and "completely unacceptable."

When it comes to the war in Syria, he has opposed the establishment of a "no-fly zone" and the use of American ground troops. In a July 2015 interview, Sanders explained that, although he is not a pacifist, he believes that "war is the very, very, very last option."

Sanders' depiction as a peace candidate has inspired some grumbling. During the Presidential race, he has shied away from foreign and military policy issues, and this has disappointed some peace activists. Hard-line leftists, already irked by his benign brand of socialism, have been particularly critical. A writer in the Socialist Worker denounced Sanders' "backing of U.S. imperialism," while another, in Jacobin, charged that he was "willfully blind to the hand-in-glove relationship between capitalism and militarism."

Even so, when it comes to mainstream electoral politics, Sanders is a logical choice for peace activists. Although it's true that he has focused his campaign on economic inequality within the United States, he has not hesitated to assail the "military-industrial complex," as well as the "regime change" policies of past U.S. administrations.

Also, the attacks upon him by leftwing purists are often divorced from reality. Driven by a sectarian mindset and a fierce hatred of the Democratic Party, these firebrands distort or ignore much of his peace-oriented record. Furthermore, they overlook the unpleasant alternatives to a Sanders presidency: a hawkish Hillary Clinton or a rabidly militaristic Republican in the White House.

A more serious question is whether American voters, in 2016, will respond positively to a peace candidate. Although the answer remains unclear, there are some indications that they will.

Opinion polls reveal that most Americans do not support increasing the U.S. military budget, are wary of sending U.S. ground troops into another Mideast war, and back recent agreements that ease tensions with "enemy" nations like Iran and Cuba. Therefore, campaigning as a peace candidate might end up producing benefits for Bernie Sanders at the ballot box.

OPINION

ASSET OR LIABILITY

Dave Robison
Contributor

One of the problems with disasters is they have no soul. They don't discriminate and they don't care who they hurt. As evidenced by the recent monster blizzard on the East Coast, the only advantages you have in some instances, is your level of preparedness or your level-headed judgement.

Watching the videos of motorists stranded on freeways, I am flabbergasted at why there are miles and miles of motorists stuck out in the weather when they have had five days' warning this storm was on its way.

That's how people die! That's the reason we have weather forecasts. With computer models, satellite imaging and all kinds of technology at our disposal, weather forecasting isn't simply a guessing game anymore. There is no reason to be caught unawares with a predictable storm system.

Then after the initial event, there are two kinds of people, those who have been injured (or worse) and those who have not. The casualties are out of the game, so to speak, and the rest of us (the uninjured) fall into two categories. There are those who are equipped to handle a disaster and there are those who, for one reason or another, never thought this could happen to them and have failed to prepare.

Of the survivors, there are assets and liabilities. Those who have sought out training or set about storing up supplies, have just become assets. The survivors who have neither training nor supplies, are now liabilities. They, in many cases, are a drain on the resources, much like the injured.

The military knows when the shooting starts, soldiers don't necessarily panic, rather they perform to the level of their training. When the bullets start flying, their programming takes over and how they have been trained becomes their pattern of behavior. The more intense the training, the more "routine" the activity seems. Instead of running wildly in a circle, a trained combat soldier will get down, seek cover and concealment and hopefully live to see another day. All because of training.

For those trained in First Aid, coming across a traffic accident is simply another exercise except now the blood is real and so is the pain. These are the ones who become assets in time of disaster. We all tend to rise to the level of our training in a crisis. Maybe it's time to ask yourself: What am I trained for? When's the last time I was pushed into a crisis? How would I respond in a REAL disaster? Would I be an asset or a liability?

Why not seek out a First Aid class? Even if you don't think you could ever be used in a disaster, maybe you could be the family hero when your charge needs something slightly more than a Band-Aid. At least your training in triage gives you an understanding of what needs to go to the emergency room and what can be treated at home.

Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is held periodically and is a weekend well-spent that will equip you to be a huge asset to your community in the event of a disaster. In fact many jurisdictions won't even let would-be volunteers into the disaster area without CERT validation. The attitude of the on-scene commanders is that someone without proper credentials is simply one more liability, but a CERT member can help lessen the load of the full-time emergency responders.

So what will it be? Asset or liability? The choice is yours. As always, send your questions and comments to disasterprep.dave@gmail.com. Previous columns can be found on my blog at www.disasterprepdave.blogspot.com. Dave Robinson is the Postmaster in Bandon, Oregon, and the author of "Disaster Prep For The Rest Of Us."

PEOPLE OF CULLMAN

MEET COURTNEY FERGUSON, 21ST CENTURY MOM

Amy Leonard
amy@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – June Cleaver wore pearls, pantyhose and high heels on the beloved show "Leave It to Beaver." She was our televised ideal of motherhood in the 1950s, when only one-third of women were a part of the U.S. workforce according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Today, being a full-time mom whose sole job is to provide care for her family is no longer the norm.

Occasionally, Courtney Ferguson doesn't eat breakfast until late afternoon. This particular sunny day, her two elementary school-aged daughters, Emily and Olivia, are playing in the backyard while her son, Gavin, a senior at Cullman High School, works on homework in his room. As a friend occupies 2-month-old Norah, Ferguson finally spreads a few globs of peanut butter and jelly on some bread.

"This is my breakfast," she laughs as she eyes the clock that reads 3:30 p.m. The baby's arrival in December has thrown the usual schedule out the window.

Yet, Ferguson improvises with ease.

With a degree in elementary education, Ferguson had every intention of sending her girls to school, which was not an option when her son was young.

As she drove past the Cullman City Primary School months before her oldest daughter was to start kindergarten, Ferguson had an overwhelming feeling that, although she had been enthusiastic for her daughter to begin school, it wasn't the right choice for her.

The Fergusons did what they do when faced with indecision.

They prayed. Homeschooling became a decision they have yet to regret.

Ferguson shares, "Are my kids a little sheltered as a result of our choice to homeschool? Maybe. I don't think that's a terrible thing, though. I'm not going to omit information in my kids' education, but I get to choose, as their mom and teacher, when and how things are taught."

Brian "Cowboy" Ferguson, Courtney's husband, can usually be found being of service to those in need in his community.

Whether leading a weekly men's Bible study or being the first on scene to help his community neighbors following natural disasters, Cowboy is known for his kindness and giving.

Gavin, very much his father's son, is a member of Cullman High School's football team. The middle Ferguson girls are energetic and full of life. They explore their world with confidence as they easily make friends in gymnastics class and Girl Scout meetings. Baby Norah is comfortable with new faces, contently cooing to anyone holding her. What makes Ferguson most proud is "when I see my kids love. That's the only commandment God gave us – to love others as he had loved us. I feel proud when I see the kids loving as Jesus had loved and showing others that."

Her thick, shiny hair and makeup-free, flawless skin defy her age, but when discussing her concern for the baby's stuffy nose, Ferguson says it's because of her age that "we worry more about our kids the older we get!"

It's hard to imagine she has time in her day to worry, with her packed schedule.

In addition to her wife and mom responsibilities, Ferguson is also a talented photographer capturing priceless images at weddings, birthday celebrations and in her family's day-to-day life.

Ferguson's family is secure in their endeavors into the world because of her strength. Somehow, she makes it all look easy and effortless.



Brian, Gavin and Courtney Ferguson COURTNEY FERGUSON

With a husband preparing to travel to Africa with his mission work, a son living the life of a busy teenager and young daughters sharing joy freely with their friends, Ferguson holds down the fort. She does so with a rare and beautiful grace.

Through her actions, Ferguson teaches her family and friends lessons in humility not by her words, but by her actions.

She is our 21st century ideal of motherhood, our own June Cleaver with a well-earned peanut butter and jelly sandwich in hand.

Is there someone in the community you think we should profile? Let us know at news@cullmansense.com.

Willingham (from Front)

Amy Leonard
amy@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – The 2016 Ms. Senior Cullman County Pageant was held on Saturday, Feb. 13 at Wallace State's Betty Leeth Haynes Theater. Ms. Elaine Willingham of Cullman was crowned the winner. First Alternate was Ms. Jacqueline Schendel of Cullman, who also won Ms. Congeniality, a coveted award voted on by her fellow contestants. Ms. Judy Moon, a published poet from Vinemont, was awarded Second Alternate.

The weather outside might have been chilly, but the contestants warmed things up in the theater with their talent, beauty and words of wisdom during the festivities.

Mr. Curtis Mize, emcee of the day, kept the crowd entertained between presentations, which included Talent, Philosophy of Life and Evening Wear/Poise.

All eight contestants far exceeded the crowd's expectations in each of the categories which, as attested to by Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail, made the judges' work extremely difficult.

As an instrumental version of the classic "What a Wonderful World" played fittingly in the background, the ladies shared their thoughts during the Philosophy of Life competition.

Speaking on the importance of education, family and friendships, they communicated an insight that is only found after impactful life experiences.

"Accept yourself gratefully. Value yourself joyfully. Trust yourself completely. Express yourself radiantly and, above all, empower yourself prayerfully," shared contestant Nancy Roberson.

With her hair pinned back throughout the competition, Willingham exuded confidence and timeless beauty during the Evening Wear competition.

For her talent portion, she performed an elegant and stylish contemporary ballet.

Yet, there is far more to the new Ms. Senior Cullman County.

A leader in the community who finds fulfillment volunteering at nursing homes, Willingham founded the Cullman Ballet Society in 1995 and now is a member of the Cullman County Republican Women, Cullman Arts Council and Alabama Dance Council.

She is a married mother of three and grandmother of four.

When asked what Willingham should expect in her reigning year, Ms. Vicki Rhodes Jones (Pendergrass), 2015 Ms. Senior Cullman County, answered immediately, "A lot of fun! It's fun to meet a lot of wonderful people. It's just a fun thing to meet the seniors here in Cullman County and be a part of the functions that go on. It's just a fun time."

Willingham will represent the Cullman County area in the 2016 Ms. Senior Alabama pageant scheduled for July 23, 2016.



Elaine Willigham and her family AMY LEONARD/CULLMANSENSE

The Ms. Senior Cullman County Pageant is an annual event sponsored by the Cullman County Commission on Aging.

The COA has several senior centers throughout the county.

There are daily activities, and the centers provide lunch on weekdays to everyone in attendance. Meals can also be delivered to homebound seniors.

Visit http://www.cullmancoa.com to learn more, or call 256-734-1241.