FINAL ISSUE
SERIES 6 • ISSUE 13 • MARCH 28, 2016
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS


SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

## CULLMAN TRIBUNE OWNER SET TO RETIRE, NEWSPAPER TO CHANGE HANDS P5

REGISTER FOR SPRING SEMESTER NOW AT
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AMY LEONARD/CULLMANSENSE

## SHANE BARNETTE NAMED SUPERINTENDENT OF CULLMAN CO. SCHOOLS P2

## CRMC TO BE 100% SMOKE- AND TOBACCO-FREE IN 2017 P2

## "MR. SMITH LAKE" JUSTIN DYAR TO BE FEATURED ON HGTV IN APRIL P7


CHARLES COGGINS

## JOIN LOCAL CYCLIST CHARLES COGGINS AS HE REACHES 100,000 MILES P5

## SPRING HAS SPRUNG AT 4D FARM: EASTER WEEKEND FUN DOWN ON THE FAMILY FARM P6

FAITH

# MOTHER ANGELICA PASSES ON EASTER SUNDAY

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmansense.com

**HANCEVILLE** – The Catholic Church as well as many others are mourning today the loss of Mother Mary Angelica of the Annunciation, foundress of the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN). Mother Angelica, 92, passed away in Hanceville on Easter Sunday, March 27, after a long struggle with the aftereffects of a stroke.

Since 1999, Mother Angelica resided at the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration (PCPA) Our Lady of the Angels Monastery (OLAM) in Hanceville.

The monastery was moved from Irondale, Alabama at that time. "Mother decided to move the community to a more rural place, conducive to the contemplative way of life.

The inspiration for the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament adjacent to OLAM, received its beginning from the request of the Divine Child while Mother was traveling in Bogota, Columbia for an EWTN promotion.

P10


EWTN

OUTDOOR SPORTS

# ROUGH AND TUMBLE

## STONY LONESOME- CAN YOU HANDLE IT?

County park caters to the adventurous

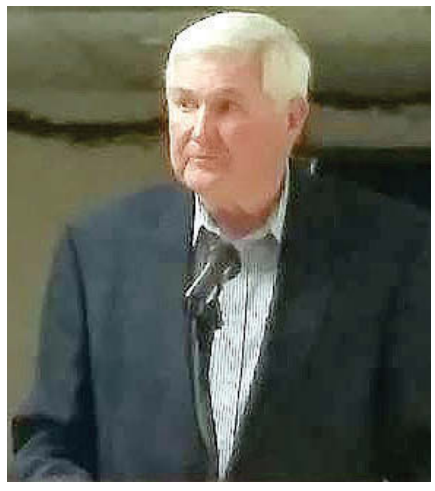

AMY LEONARD/CULLMANSENSE

**Park Manager Tyler Lindsey offers advice to a driver on how to make it up Donkey Punch.**

P5

POLITICS

# A CUP OF COFFEE WITH DARRELL HICKS


AMY LEONARD/CULLMANSENSE

Amy Leonard
amy@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** - Having a cup of coffee with Darrell Hicks is much like sitting down with your dad or grandpa, depending on your age. As he made his way to the booth for a recent interview, Hicks was stopped by a diner patron who was in Hicks' classroom decades ago. The young man lives out of state while serving in the military and was in town visiting his kin. He thanked Hicks for the lessons he taught years ago while Hicks shook the man's hand and thanked him for his service to our country. Thanks to his three decades-long career as an educator in the Cullman County School System and awareness of public issues, a conversation with Hicks leaves you feeling smarter, more patriotic and like you just made a lifelong friend.

P7

SPORTS

# LAURA BROCK BECOMES FIRST WOMAN IN ALABAMA TO CONQUER THE DOUBLE IRONMAN

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – Laura Brock only started running because she was not being tested.

"I wasn't being challenged by aerobics; I wanted a more challenging thing," she said.

The first day she ran she said it was awful and difficult; in other words, this is what she wanted.

That was back in 2009. Since then Brock has discovered over and over again the hidden joy that runners insist exists within their sport.

Brock, who is a nurse and also an athletic trainer

P3


LAURA BROCK

**Laura Brock, of Cullman, is the first woman in the state of Alabama to complete a Double Ironman.**

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

# SHANE BARNETTE NAMED SUPERINTENDENT OF CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

**Amy Leonard**
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**CULLMAN** – Shane Barnette, current principal of Cullman County's West Point Intermediate School, tonight was named the new superintendent of Cullman County Schools. The appointment was announced tonight at a special meeting of the Cullman County Commission on Education.

At 5:45 p.m., the Barnette family made their way into the meeting room, greeting friends along the way. Seemingly eager to get started, the members of the board were seated and ready to begin five minutes before the 6 p.m. start time.

Barnette was one of four finalists vying for the position. The three other candidates were Dr. Donald Snow, principal of Austin High School in the Decatur City School District, Dr. Elizabeth Swinford, consultant/superintendent of Tuscaloosa County Schools, and Dr. Rick Carter, director of virtual programs for the Athens City School District.

Barnette was the only finalist with direct ties to the school system and has cited the County's need for consistency and emphasized the position would not be a stepping stone to ready him for greener pastures.

Beginning with a prayer by Mark Sanford of Cornerstone Church of the Nazarene, the Barnette family's home church, the meeting lasted a mere ten minutes and hosted little discussion.

Nominated by Kenny Brockman of District 4, which covers the Hanceville schools, Barnette was seconded by Wendy Crider of District 5 in Cold Springs.

Dr. Donald Snow was nominated by Chris Carter of District 2 in Fairview, but no second was received.

Crider thanked the four finalists, sharing, "I was very impressed with the conversations that I had with each one, the observations that were noted in my visits, and it makes me feel good to know that we've got some great hearted people out there from this system as well as from outside this system that have a heart for kids.

"It's really tough being in this position because you see the hearts of those top four and great things that they've done in their systems and my prayer for them is that, God willing, that they will have the opportunity to be a superintendent in a system in God's timing," continued Crider.

"It's just great to know that we've got people who love children like that and want to make a difference in their lives and we've all got to continue to work together."

No date was set for Barnette's contract review before the meeting was adjourned, although it is expected to be next week at the earliest.

Barnette was clear last week during the public interviews that the Cullman County School System is where he plans to stay indefinitely, stating that "This is where my heart is. This is where I want to be. I believe our school system right now is in need of long-term stability and I think I can provide that. I bring stability but with gradual, strategic innovation."

Barnette said he "felt like God was calling me to be an educator" and is currently attending Samford University to complete his doctorate.

Last week, he said that if chosen for superintendent, he plans to "listen, listen, listen" to the needs of all of the schools and their students.

"Each day as an instructional leader and a principal I feel like I do everything I can for my teachers and my students to be the very best that they can be, to be the best leaders that they can be."

The County Schools superintendent seat was vacated by Dr. Craig Ross in November of last year.

Interim Superintendent, Dr. Brandon Payne, will be leaving his role when Barnette comes on board. Payne, who was previously CCBOE's assistant superintendent under Ross and longtime principal of Vinemont High School, has accepted a position with LEAN Frog in Huntsville.

**For background, please see:**
http://cullmansense.com/articles/2016/03/16/one-step-closer-new-county-schools-superintendent

http://cullmansense.com/articles/2016/03/04/ccboe-superintendent-position-search-narrows-four-applicants-brandon-payne-step

http://cullmansense.com/articles/2015/11/19/cullman-county-boe-accepts-superintendents-resignation

# CRMC ANNOUNCES BREATHE BETTER CAMPAIGN- WILL GO 100% SMOKE- AND TOBACCO-FREE ON JAN. 1, 2017

**Sharon Schuler Kreps**
sharon@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN**– Cullman Regional Medical Center will become 100 percent smoke- and tobacco-free effective Jan. 1, 2017. The goal of the program, called Breathe Better, is to create a healing environment for patients — both inside and outside the facility.

The new policy will prohibit smoking and the use of all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes or vaporizers, on all CRMC properties and adjacent grounds. It will apply to all patients, visitors, employees and anyone providing or receiving services on the CRMC campus.

"As the area's healthcare leader, one of its largest employers and a strong community member, CRMC is committed to providing a safe, healthy environment for patients, employees and visitors. And we have an obligation to serve as a model of health promotion to the communities we serve," said CRMC CEO James Clements. "We have a significant responsibility to provide a safe, healthy and positive patient experience at CRMC. By becoming smoke- and tobacco-free, we are furthering this goal while maintaining our community leadership role as the source for health and healing."

Tobacco use is universally recognized as a bad health habit that leads to negative health consequences. Smoking is the leading preventable reason for premature death and illness in the U.S. and is the leading contributor to heart disease, lung cancer, stroke and emphysema. Smokers have increased gastrointestinal, prenatal and orthopedic complications. Patients who are tobacco users have twice the risk of wound infection and are slower to heal after surgery or trauma. Smoking is the major cause of hospital admissions and readmissions. Cullman County has one of the highest incidences of smoking in Alabama, at 23.7 percent, compared to the state average of 22.3 percent, according to statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

According to CRMC Chief Medical Officer William Smith, M.D., creating a smoke-free campus is the culmination of an initiative which started 10 years ago. In 2006, under the leadership of then Medical Staff President Steve Seidel, M.D., the medical staff embraced and supported a 100 percent smoke-free campus. Achieving this goal is an indication of the medical staff's and hospital's commitment to the health of our community.

"I regularly tell my patients that deciding to quit is the single most important choice they can make that gives them complete control over their health," said Smith. "Smoking is a conscious choice and there are consequences associated with making this choice. It is not a critique or a judgment. It is unhealthy — and if you stop now, you will decrease your chances for greater health risks in the future."

**Creating a healing environment**

CRMC is dedicated to creating a smoke-free and tobacco-free environment that supports healing and eliminates exposure to secondhand smoke while on the CRMC Campus.

"The care we provide every day focuses on our patients by delivering compassionate, high-quality care," said Cheryl Bailey, R.N., chief nursing officer for CRMC.

"While work is already being done at CRMC to create a healing environment - including efforts in noise reduction, call-light response, the treatment of pain and other areas, eliminating the use of tobacco products and promoting smoking cessation efforts for our patients are important steps in this process."

CRMC is dedicated to raising public awareness of the health risks associated with smoking and secondhand smoke. CRMC Wellness Services is offering a Tobacco Treatment Support Program for all CRMC employees who are tobacco users. "We hope to be able to open up this program to members of our community in the near future," Clements said.

"During the past three years CRMC has actively discussed concerns about smoking in our communities and, more specifically, at our facilities," said Clements. "Our Breathe Better campaign hopes to eliminate smoking and tobacco use at our sites and increase public awareness of this issue by making our facilities become 100 percent smoke- and tobacco-free in January 2017."

For more information on CRMC's 100 percent smoke- and tobacco-free policy, visit online at: www.crmchospital.com/tobaccofree.

# RELAY FOR LIFE TEAMS ROLLING OUT FUNDRAISERS IN ADVANCE OF MAY 6 EVENT

**Gail Crutchfield**
Relay for Life of Cullman Co.

**CULLMAN** – Teams participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Cullman County are rolling out fundraisers in advance of the May 6 event at the Cullman County Fairgrounds. Over the next several weeks, teams are hosting meals, painting classes and more as they raise funds for research, education and patient support and services.

The team from Seventh Street Baptist Church is hosting a Swamp John's meal on Wednesday, March 30 in their fellowship hall.

Meals are $11 and include fish, shrimp or chicken or a combination, slaw, french fries, hush puppies and a drink. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the church or at the door.

Patrons can dine in or carry out. The meal will be held from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Cullman Primary Care P.C.'s team is hosting a Sips N Strokes painting class on Friday, April 8, at 6 p.m., at the Cullman Sips N Strokes location, 111 First St. NW, Cullman.

Attendees choose their painting and colors. The class is $30, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting Relay For Life of Cullman County. Seating is limited to the first 30 people to register. Email cullman@sipsnstrokes.com to register for the class.

Relay For Life of Cullman County is hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 9, from 7-9:30 a.m., at Applebee's of Cullman on Cherokee Avenue.

Plates are $5 each and include pancakes and sausage with coffee, hot chocolate, tea, water or Coke products to drink.

After breakfast on April 9, head to Werner's Trading Co. on Highway 278 West for lunch at the 11th annual Colton's Cookout for a CURE from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Plates are $7 (suggested donation) and choices are BBQ sandwich and chips or deep fried hot dogs and fries.

All plates are served with slaw, baked beans, drink and dessert.

All Relay For Life teams have access to fundraisers for luminaries, torches of hope, Relay quilt and Dollywood passes. Some teams have their own team and individual fundraisers as well.

Donations to the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life go toward research, education and patient support and services. For more information about Relay For Life of Cullman County, visit www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal or contact Helen Allen at 256-709-4019 or helen@weltimail.com.

Visit www.cancer.org or call 800-227-2345 for 24/7 access to information and support.

Relay For Life of Cullman County will be held from 6 p.m. to midnight on Friday, May 6, at Cullman County Fairgrounds.

A survivors' dinner will be held at 5 p.m. that night, and the Survivors' Breakfast will be held at 7 a.m., Wednesday, May 4 at Cullman Church of Christ.

# STATE AUDITOR FILES ETHICS COMPLAINT AGAINST GOVERNOR BENTLEY, SENIOR POLITICAL ADVISOR

**Wendy Sack**
wendy@cullmansense.com

**MONTGOMERY** – On Friday, March 25, State Auditor Jim Zeigler filed a formal ethics complaint against Gov. Robert Bentley and his Senior Political Advisor Rebekah Caldwell Mason. The report to the Alabama Ethics Commission will initiate a formal legal investigation into the alleged misuse of state property, as well as the legality of Mason's status as a public official or lobbyist.

In Zeigler's complaint, addressed to Honorable Thomas B. Albritton, the executive director of the Alabama Ethics Commission, Zeigler stated, "It has come to my attention, in my official capacity as State Auditor, that Governor Robert Bentley and his 'Senior Political Advisor,' Rebekah Caldwell Mason, have violated the Alabama Ethics Law.

Ziegler laid out his claims in four points.

First, that "Mason has been receiving funds from a nongovernmental entity, the Alabama Council for Excellent Government, with the understanding that she acts in furtherance of that entity's agenda."

Second, Zeigler said, "it is apparent that Mrs. Mason and Governor Bentley have been using State property and resources in furtherance of their personal relationship. The physical and personal nature of the relationship is made clear by well-publicized audiotape in which Bentley speaks about groping Mrs. Mason's breasts and locking the door while engaging in physical activity. That it occurred on state property is demonstrated by the fact that Bentley referred to moving 'Wanda's desk' down the hall."

Third, "based on her activities in influencing state government, while being paid by a private entity, Mrs. Mason was required to register as a lobbyist and file disclosures pursuant to Alabama Code sections 36-25-1 et seq. She has failed to do so, and still has not registered as a lobbyist to this day. Either Mrs. Mason is a lobbyist or she is a government official. If she is lobbyist, she has violated the law by failing to register and file reports. If she is government official, she has violated the law by improperly receiving private funds."

Lastly, said Zeigler, "Governor Bentley and Mrs. Mason have used their position to interfere with an Attorney General investigation or to improperly influence testimony in an Attorney General investigation."

To read Zeigler's full letter and report, visit https://localtvwhnt.files.wordpress.com/2016/03/zeigler-report-to-the-alabama-ethics-commission.pdf.

This comes on the heels of a tumultuous few days in Montgomery.

On Wednesday, March 23, dismissed ALEA Secretary Spencer Collier held a press conference in which he spoke about Bentley's alleged affair with Mason. Collier said that Mason "has so much influence over Bentley that she is the 'de facto governor' of the state."

Bentley fired back that same afternoon, holding a conference of his own where he denied having a physical relationship with Mason, but didn't deny being in love with her.

On March 21, Zeigler released a statement about a bill that had been "quietly introduced" to allow Bentley to appoint the state's auditor and ag commissioner.

As CullmanSense reported then, "a bill that would stop voters from electing the state auditor, as well as the state agriculture commissioner, and instead give the power to appoint both to the governor, has been introduced into the Alabama House of Representatives. HB432, sponsored by Rep. Paul Beckman, R- Prattville, had its first reading March 17. It was referred to the Constitution, Campaign and Elections Committee."

To read the full article, see http://cullmansense.com/articles/2016/03/21/bill-quietly-introduced-allow-governor-appoint-state-auditor-ag-commissioner.

# CONSERVE ALABAMA - EFFORT TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION, SMALL AND URBAN FARMS IN ALABAMA LAUNCHED

**Katy Sulhoff**
Alab. Assoc. of Conservation Districts

**MONTGOMERY** – Against the backdrop of the Alabama River at the Union Station Train Shed, the Alabama Soil & Water Conservation Committee (SWCC) launched a new initiative to continue its mission of conserving Alabama's natural resources: Conserve Alabama.

Conserve Alabama is a campaign to increase awareness and engage a greater audience of those who believe in the noble endeavor of conserving our natural resources so future generations can enjoy the same Alabama the Beautiful we know and love.

"Whether you live in rural or urban Alabama, you rely on natural resources and you play an important role in their future," said Frank Nalty, SWCC chairman.

For 76 years, SWCC has promoted healthy soil, sustainable forests, drinkable and fishable water and clean air by connecting those who use and work the land to education, technical know-how, and resources that assist in conservation efforts and enhance their stewardship.

"Ninety-three percent of the land in Alabama is privately owned, so the greatest responsibility of stewardship is on farmers and landowners," said Charles Holmes, SWCC board member and Perry County farmer.

Conserve Alabama seeks to increase support for conservation efforts on private land, conservation education, small and urban farms and the farm-to-table movement across Alabama.

"As a timberland owner, I've always been conscious about how what I do on my land impacts all Alabamians, but we're facing a new and pressing challenge. As farm land shrinks, urbanization spreads and our population grows, we have to be even better stewards of our resources. It's going to take all of us supporting conservation efforts so we can provide for future generations," said Nalty.

Alabama used to boast about 8 million acres of cropland. Today, that number has dwindled to about 3 million.

"We're fortunate in recent years to see a reignited interest in knowing where your food comes from and how it was grown. Through Conserve Alabama, we want to tap into that interest and help people become more aware of how conservation impacts us all," said Dr. William Puckett, SWCC executive director.

"Without healthy soil, we couldn't grow food and fiber, Alabama's agriculture industry would not be the $70 billion economic driver it is and we would not be able to sustain a population. Conservation is truly at the foundation of it all," said Puckett.

SWCC is organized into 67 conservation districts, one in every county, governed by a guiding principle of conservation from the ground up and a board of five volunteer supervisors who assess and direct conservation efforts in their districts.

A district administrative coordinator in each district serves as the connection between the land user and the services and resources available.

Conservation districts work hand-in-hand with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to secure funding and technical assistance for landowners and farmers.

The Conserve Alabama launch event included a dozen educational displays, including an Ag in Action trailer, Soil Tunnel and Rainfall Simulator demonstrating proper conservation practices and educating about natural resources. E.A.T. South from Montgomery, Oakview Farm from Wetumpka and Eastaboga Bee Company also set up displays.

Sixty students from Reeltown and Horseshoe Bend Elementary Schools attended the event along with many others from across Alabama.

Alabama Agriculture Commissioner John McMillan and Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange delivered welcoming remarks.

Support local conservation efforts by visiting conservealabama.gov.

## Ironman (from Front)

at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center, started doing Ironman Triathlons in 2011.

An Ironman Triathlon is a particularly grueling event which consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bicycle ride and a 26.2-mile run, done in that order and without a break.

Brock has the Ironman in her belt of accomplishments. Put differently, Laura Brock has completed infinitely more Ironman Triathlons than most humans who've ever lived.

The Ironman seems like a particularly athletically challenging event, formed in order to give the most well-prepared a formidable test of endurance.

Built for those who are willing to give money for their run, and get a solid run for their money.

Now take that competition and double it.

This month, Brock completed the Florida Double ANVIL Double Ironman in Clermont, Florida, becoming the first woman in the history of the state of Alabama to complete a Double Ironman race. It was a punishing 281.2 miles over 28 hours and 38 minutes.

With 4.8 miles of swimming, 224 miles of cycling and 52.4 miles of running, the Double Ironman is a competition with such a dearth of those interested in participating that only three states offer it: Virginia, Oregon and Florida.

However, for Brock, it is pretty much the athletic mountaintop.

"Everything was leading up to last weekend," she said. "It was very painful, and even though I train 35 hours a week, you cannot prepare to be uncomfortable."

Brock's humility was evident when asked if she would consider herself one of the most distinguished athletes in the world.

"I wouldn't say that," she said. "Not like the Olympians or anything."

Brock has completed something greater than a simple marathon, although she's completed many of those.

The word "marathon" comes from an ancient legend of a Greek messenger. The legend states that he was sent from the battlefield of Marathon to Athens to announce that the Greeks had won the Battle of Marathon. It is said that he ran the entire distance (which is about 26 miles long) without stopping, and burst into the assembly, exclaiming the news before collapsing and dying.

By this reporter's calculations, anyone who can complete a Double Ironman is twice as legendary as a legend.

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# JOIN LOCAL CYCLIST CHARLES COGGINS AS HE REACHES 100,000 MILES

**Will Hogue**
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**CULLMAN** – On Saturday, April 23 at 11 a.m., local cyclist Charles Coggins is asking that the community join him in a ride around the trail which encircles the water at Sportsman Lake Park.

"We're meeting at pavilion 10," said friend of Coggins and fellow cyclist Paul Levering.

"This is going to be a celebration of Charles reaching 100,000 miles, but it will also be a celebration of the value of cycling, of community health."

Coggins, who started cycling back in 1986 when he was 45 years old, has kept a record of all of his cycling journeys for 30 years.

Now, he is nearing an impressive benchmark: 100,000 miles ridden on his bicycle.

"I have ridden all over Alabama, in Missouri, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, in the Netherlands and in Belgium," Coggins said.

Looking back on his journeys, he said he would call the transcontinental trip his favorite of them all.

"I really enjoyed the cross-country one," he said.

"We rode 25 out of the 27 days."

Coggins has 400 miles to go before he reaches 100,000.

He will ride enough between now and April 23 to get one mile away from the benchmark that he needs before the big celebration and his final lap around Sportsman Lake.

Everyone who hopes to join Coggins should get there early and bring a helmet.

"I wore a helmet the first time I got on the bicycle. I have been in six wrecks. Wearing a helmet is critical. But, no wreck could have stopped me," Coggins said.



**Local cyclist Charles Coggins to celebrate his 100,000th mile at Sportsman Lake Park.** CHARLES COGGINS

# GAME, SET, MATCH: CULLMAN HIGH TENNIS TEAM TEARING UP THE HARDCOURT

**Josh McBrayer**
Sports Correspondent

**CULLMAN** – When most people think of Cullman High School sports, they probably think of the baseball team, a perennial powerhouse with three state championships under their belt, perhaps followed by football, basketball and soccer. But there are a couple of teams on campus looking to vault their names to the forefront of that conversation. The boys' and girls' tennis teams.

The Bearcats have been tearing it up on the hardcourt, dominating matches and running the gauntlet in tournaments.

"All team members wrote down goals before the season started," said Tennis Coach Jerry Mason.

"Get better every day, win each match, win our section and win state."

Both squads are off to a fantastic start, winning every dual match they have played.

The boys have had an impressive showing in tournament play thus far.

They won the Alex City Tournament. took second in the Dothan Shootout and placed third in the Decatur Tournament.

The girls took second at Dothan and third in both the Florence and Decatur tournaments.

"We are very experienced on the boys' side and fairly experienced on the girls' side," said Mason.

The boys are led by seniors Donnie Camp, Conner Boresin and Hunter Manley. Jacob Lambert, Chester Freeman and Parker Adams also lend their experienced racquets to the team.

When they take to the hard surface for doubles action, Camp and Boresin anchor the squad as one of the best doubles teams in the state. They are followed by Lambert and Manley and Freeman and Adams.

The girls' team includes Lilli Watson, Kacie Donaldson, Gentry Bussman, Kate Hood, Emily Graves and Nikki Rakestraw.

"Probably the most improved player is freshman Blake Spradlin, who has really pushed the guys in front of him to improve," stated Mason. "Nikki Rakestraw has had a great singles season, as have all the guys and girls."

As well as the Bearcats have done in tournament play, they have done even better in regional play, with both teams having a perfect record thus far. "I am extremely proud of all of our players and coaches," beamed Mason, "All of our goals are still attainable."

For more information or to see schedules, visit http://chs.cullmancats.net/departments/athletics/tennis.

# CULLMAN TAKES 5TH PLACE IN IMG BASEBALL CLASSIC

**Johnny Thornton**
Sports Correspondent

**BRADENTON, Fla.** – Two good things happened to the Cullman Bearcats on Thursday. Before they went to the diamond to close out participating in the IMG Baseball Classic, the Bearcats learned they had been moved to No. 3 in the latest 6A state baseball poll. That was due to a 7-0 record last week and Decatur falling to seventh after losing twice in important area games to No. 2 Hartselle.

Then during the afternoon, the 'Cats rode the solid pitching of Carter Bowen and a stout defense to take down IMG Academy 3-2 and claim fifth place in this national invitational.

Three of the four games for the Bearcats were decided by a single run. Cullman lost Monday in 17 innings to Osceola, Florida 2-1 and Tuesday by a 7-6 score to Christian Brothers, Tennessee.

Bowen was very much in cruise control for the 'Cats. The right-hander allowed the Ascenders six hits and struck out five. Three times a strikeout from Bowen ended the inning, including the final out of the game.

Cullman gave Bowen a 2-run lead after the top half of the first. Noah Fondren was struck by a pitch to lead off and would leave the game. His condition following the contest was undetermined.

Kolby Robinson cracked a triple and an Owen Lovell single scored Robinson for the early momentum that would carry the Bearcats throughout the rest of the affair.

Lovell had a single against IMG's Chris Messer in leading off the third, was sacrificed to second on a bunt by Wheeler Eastman and came in when Jacob Heatherly grounded deep to second base. Cullman had a 3-0 lead and would keep IMG off the scoreboard until the fourth.

The Ascenders got a single against Bowen to lead off the frame with the runner coming in later on a wild pitch.

Bowen was able to get out of further trouble and took a 3-1 lead to the fifth.

Zac Goens relieved Messer and allowed the 'Cats one hit through the final three innings.

IMG pushed in a run in the sixth to make it 3-2, but the turning point of the game came when a runner heading home following another single was gunned down by a fine Cullman relay.

Chayton Grimmett fielded the ball in left, fired back to Levi Thomas who threw to Ben Smith at the plate. Smith applied the tag and the inning was over.

Bowen was aggressive in his final inning. He retired IMG in order with the game ending on a strikeout.

Bowen bounced back in fine fashion after being charged with the loss in relief on Tuesday to Christian Brothers due to an unearned run being the game winner.

The Bearcats gained a 2-2 split to finish fifth in this 14-team national field. The 'Cats are now 22-6 and come back to Alabama to play two in Hoover Saturday.

Cullman and Hoover meet at noon, with the Bearcats to take on Hillcrest-Tuscaloosa at 2 p.m.

# COUNTY SPORTS SCHEDULE

## WEEK OF MARCH 28

**MONDAY**
**Baseball**
Vinemont @ Susan Moore 4:30, 6:30 p.m.
Cold Springs @ Addison 5:00 p.m.

**Softball**
Cold Springs @ Addison 5:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY**
**Baseball**
West Point vs Lawrence County 4:00 p.m.
Fairview @ Russellville 6:30 p.m.
Vinemont vs Susan Moore 4:30 p.m.

**Softball**
West Point vs Brewer 4;30 p.m.
Fairview vs Holly Pond 4:30, 6:00 p.m.
Vinemont @ Hanceville 4:00 p.m.
Good Hope @ Westminster
Christian 5:00 p.m.

**Soccer**
Cullman vs James Clemens 4:00, 5:30 p.m.
Fairview @ Guntersville 5:00, 7:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY**
**Baseball**
West Point @ Lawrence County
4:30, 6:00 p.m.
Holly Pond @ Hanceville 4:00 p.m.

**Softball**
Cullman @ Hartselle 4:30 p.m.
Vinemont vs Hanceville 4:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY**
**Softball**
Good Hope @ Hanceville 4:00 p.m.

**Soccer**
West Point vs Fairview 5:30, 7:00 p.m.

*Compiled by Josh McBrayer*

# PREP BASKETBALL SCORING WRAP-UP

**MONDAY**
**Baseball**
Cullman 1, Osceda 2
Good Hope 3, Pennington 9

**Softball**
Cullman 7, Greenbrier 0
Cullman 13, Jefferson Davis 0
West Point 14, John Paul II 1
Fairview 9, Cordova 2

**TUESDAY**
**Softball**
Cullman 8, Marbury 0
Cullman 7, Walker Valley 5
Good Hope 3, Pennington 8
Good Hope 1, Pennington 12

**FRIDAY**
**Softball**
Cold Springs 3, Carbon Hill 7

*Compiled by Josh McBrayer*

# DELTON BLALOCK, CULLMAN TRIBUNE EDITOR AND OWNER FOR 26 YEARS, SET TO RETIRE

## Historic newspaper to change hands

**Sharon Schuler Kreps**
sharon@cullmansense.com

**"I would like to express my deep gratitude to hundreds of Tribune readers, advertisers, columnists and supporters. This has been the most rewarding, as well as challenging, experience of my professional career."**

– Delton Blalock



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

**Delton Blalock stands among Cullman Tribune issues dating back to the 1870s as he awaits his upcoming retirement.**

**CULLMAN** – The Cullman Tribune has seen many historic milestones over the years and soon it will see yet another one; Delton Blalock, the newspaper's owner and editor for the past 26 years, has announced his retirement. Blalock and his late wife Barbara purchased the Tribune from Wallace State Community College's first president, Dr. Ben Johnson, on Jan.1, 1990. The historic newspaper was the perfect way for Blalock to finish out his lengthy career in media.

"I have been in journalism, book publishing and all that kind of thing for most of my life," Blalock began. "I started out as editor of my high school newspaper in Hanceville. From there I worked on the University of Alabama's newspaper in college. I have edited different newsletters, one for the family and another for the community where I lived in Virginia. When I moved back to Alabama after 20 years in Virginia, I did editing and proofing for the Alabama Department of Education when they would evaluate school systems, superintendents and so forth.

"I don't have a journalism degree, but I've dabbled in it all that time," he chuckled. "I did have a certification to teach English, so I did have some background on the subject."

After the Blaylocks acquired the Tribune, it took on a new life and grew from an eight-page newspaper to a much larger twenty-two-page publication. New writers were added, each with a special knack for creating. The group became more of a family than just coworkers.

"Everybody that has written for the paper has been volunteers," said Blalock. "We have never paid our staff for writing. They do it because they wish to. Of course they get all kinds of recognition for it; we provide a free subscription to them and we have an annual get-together with a pot-luck lunch and that kind of thing."

Like a proud papa, Blalock likes to boast about his newspaper. With a smile he tells of all the 'firsts' the paper has accomplished here in Cullman.

"We established a number of things; we were the first to do a high school band edition, a Farm City edition and many other things. We try to inform the public on what's going on and we've been in the midst of a few fights on occasion," he grinned.

"Like that biomass project where they were going to build an incinerator on Golf Course Road and bring in trash from all over north Alabama and pollute us, is what it boiled down to. We are the ones who would have had to breathe that air!

"I did the research on that project. It turns out there was a similar plant in Nashville and all the cars and houses around it were just filled with soot. Well, Marsha Folsom, whose husband was lieutenant governor at that time, got involved helping us. Then Dr. Warner and some others joined us and we organized a march to protest it; the City and County were about to implement this thing. Finally, two out of the three county commissioners backed off and that's when the new landfill came about. It was state-of-the-art and the first one in Alabama that met the new environmental standards. About a year later, after we managed to get this thing to rest, the EPA banned those biomass things."

Blalock has enjoyed his time with the Tribune. He has done many exciting things with the newspaper over the years, but now he feels it's time to pass it on to someone else to grow and nurture. Noah Galilee and Dustin Isom, owners and publishers of CullmanSense, are the new owners of The Cullman Tribune. They plan to combine the two publications under the banner, Cullman Tribune. All current subscribers will continue to be served with expanded coverage.

"They are listing me as editor emeritus, so I will probably write some articles and do some features every now and then," he smiled warmly.

When speaking of the new owners, Blalock wished them the best and asked the community to support them and pray for their success.

"You know, I have 26 years invested in this newspaper. I want to see them succeed as much as they want to succeed. I'm fairly optimistic they are going to be able to do some things they weren't able to before."

The Tribune will definitely see some historic changes in the near future. Thankfully, Blalock will be around to contribute to those special moments after the newspaper changes hands. With sad eyes and a hopeful heart, Blalock expressed his thanks to the people of Cullman County for their part in the Tribune's success.

"I would like to express my deep gratitude to hundreds of Tribune readers, advertisers, columnists and supporters. This has been the most rewarding, as well as challenging, experience of my professional career."

From high school newspaper to Cullman Tribune owner and editor, Blalock has seen his fair share of newspaper action over the years. The CullmanSense staff wishes him all the best in his upcoming retirement and hopes he will continue to be a part of the Tribune team for many years to come.

# Park (from Front)

**Amy Leonard**
amy@cullmansense.com

**BREMEN** – "It's like a roller coaster with a steering wheel," laughed Tyler Lindsey, manager of Stony Lonesome OHV Park, as he drives through one of the advanced trails on the 1,400+ acre park. Lindsey stops at the bottom of a hill named Donkey Punch to offer pointers to several riders from Shelby County who are talking about the best way to make it up the nasty hill climb. It's all in a day's work for Lindsey.

First up, let's define 'OHV.' An OHV is an off-road vehicle designed for recreational use. Think juiced-up dune buggies or ATVs.

Located only 10 miles off of the interstate in Bremen, Stony Lonesome opened in October 2008. The park has already made a name for itself in the racing community having been tapped by the Southern Rock Racing Series (SRRS) to be their season opener again next year.

SRRS features UTV and Rock Bouncer classes and held this year's season opener on March 11-12, bringing in more than 3,000 fans representing nine states to Stony Lonesome. Some participants and spectators traveled from as far away as Maine and Canada.

With the success of SRRS and other events, the park expects to be 100 percent self-sufficient this year. Lindsey has been busy clearing out brush to make additional parking spaces available which is considered to be a quality problem. More than 3,000 people coming in to Cullman County over one weekend means lots of revenue for the area easily found on Highway 69 off of the I-65 Dodge City exit. That number is just a fraction of the 40,000 annual visitors in years' past.

But, that's not the only racing that goes on at the park. The Stony Lonesome Mud Run 5K will be held on Saturday, May 14 at 8 a.m. and the only guarantee is that the adventurous runners will get dirty! The 5K will feature mud crawls, wall climbs and lots of stomping through the mud. The race is open now for pre-registration and will be open to ages 13 and up.

Spots for the night rides, held once or twice a month, fill up quickly and allow riders to stay past the usual 5 p.m. closing bell. During night rides, visitors are allowed to ride until 11 p.m. which allows them to see the park through the narrow lens of their headlights. With RV spots, modular units, cabins and unlimited tent camping spots available, it isn't necessary to try to fit all of your riding into one day. Extensive trails of over 150 miles mean families can easily spend several days exploring the park.

When asked what was key to the park's increase in popularity, Cullman County Parks and Rec Director Doug Davenport didn't hesitate to give credit where credit is due. "Having some good staff down there has been so important. They interact with the people. Cassie and Hayley are on a first-name basis with probably 90 percent of the people that come in down there. Tyler does as well. Somebody was trying to pat me on the back for our success the other day and I had to tell them that it's not me, it's our staff. I'm just behind the scenes."

The park was built with funds from the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP), which is administered by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. The program is funded by the Federal Highway Trust Fund and fuel taxes from non-highway fuel use in each state.

Stony Lonesome OHV Park is located at 10075 Highway 69, Bremen, AL 35033. Hours are 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m. Thursday – Monday. The front desk can be reached at 256-287-1133. Visit the park online at www.stonylonesomeohv.us.

# SPRING HAS SPRUNG AT 4D FARM

## Easter Weekend Fun Down on the Family Farm

**Sharon Schuler Kreps**
sharon@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – On Friday and Saturday, March 25-26, 4D Family Farm was open to the public for its Spring Celebration. For the fourth year in a row, the family-run farm held multiple egg hunts, visits from the Easter Bunny and many other exciting games and activities.

"Everything is going great," said Beth Daniel, farm owner. "The kids are having fun and the weather is just beautiful. We have been doing the Easter Celebration ever since we opened up the farm. We've always had the egg hunts and the Easter Bunny, but this year we added the hay ride to the egg hunt so the kids would be able to go on a hay ride," she smiled.

The farm had many other things for kids to enjoy, like flying by the seat of their pants down an 80-ft slide and speeding down a 250-ft zipline. The gigantic jumping pillow proved to be one of the children's favorites; they hopped and bounced from one end to the other. Pony rides were also available for an additional charge and several goats and sheep were there to pet and enjoy.

"A lot of places have the animals brought in for events, but our critters have been desensitized by my three boys so they are fine and roam around all over the place. The extra people don't bother them a bit," Daniel chuckled.

4D Farm is a great place for children to romp around in the fresh air. The family-friendly atmosphere makes it a nice getaway for people of all ages.

> **"It's a family place that brings out the kid in everyone."**
> – local parent Kayron Edwards

"It's a family place that brings out the kid in everyone," said Kayron Edwards. "The admission price is great for the amount of activities they have there. My girls, nieces and nephew loved it."

"I finally found a chair big enough for all my grands and myself," chuckled Jellithia Dye as she sat in a gigantic chair with her grandchildren at the farm. "I had a great time at the 4D Farm today."

"I liked the pony ride and the jumping pillow the best," said 2-year-old Sydney. "The egg hunt was fun too. I found a lot of them!"

Fun at the farm will continue next Saturday, April 2. There won't be any egg hunts or visits from the Easter Bunny, but all of the other activities and animals will be available to enjoy.

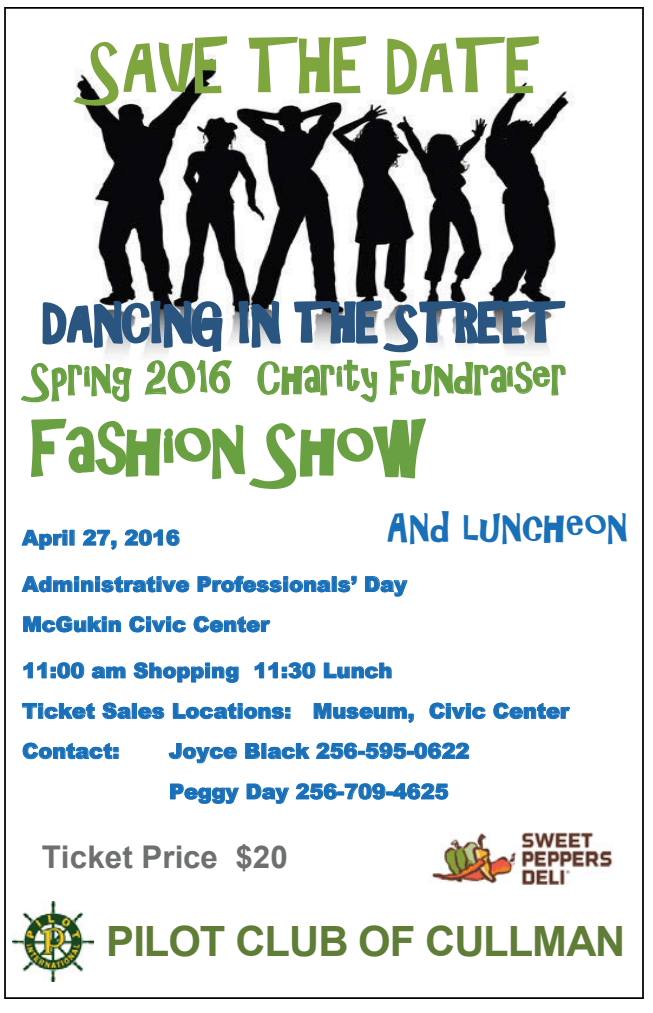
4D Farm is located at 7182 County Road 703. For more information, visit www.4dfamilyfarm.com or follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/4DFarm.



**Kids of all ages enjoyed the beautiful weather and Easter fun at 4D Farm.** SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE








# "MR. SMITH LAKE" JUSTIN DYAR TO BE FEATURED ON HGTV IN APRIL

**Amy Leonard**
amy@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – Be sure to set your DVR or be watching HGTV on Sunday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. or Monday, April 25 at 2:30 p.m. for an episode of "Lakefront Bargain Hunt" which will feature our very own Smith Lake as a family seeks a weekend getaway from city living.

Filmed last year in May, the episode, titled "Take a Break on Smith Lake, Alabama," follows a Birmingham couple, Joseph and Leslie, as they search for a relaxing sanctuary, under $350,000, not far from home where they can travel with their two children.

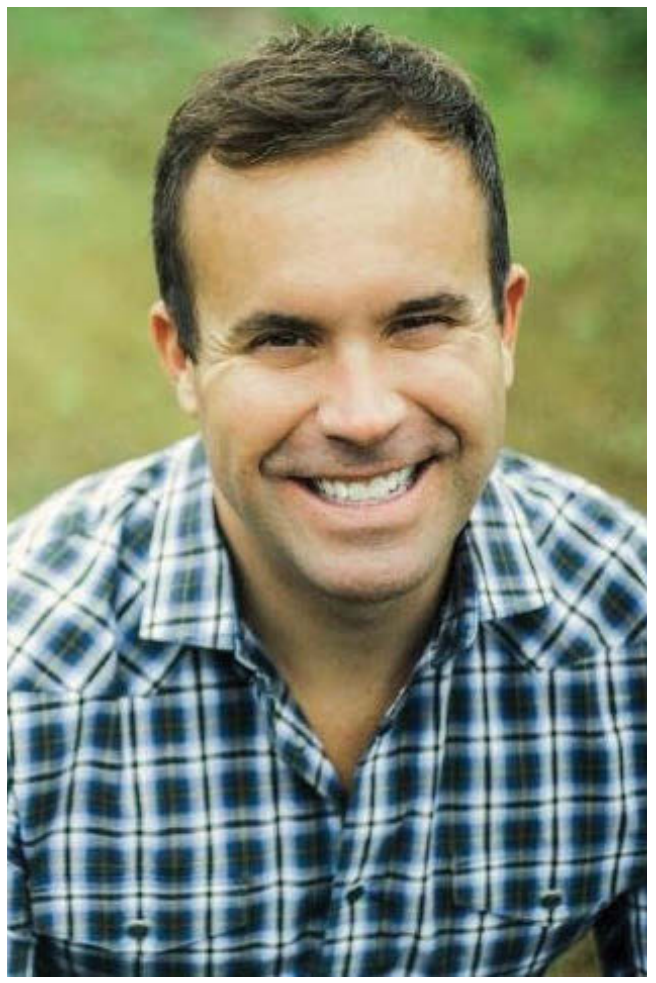
The family was shown several lake properties in Cullman, Winston and Walker Counties by their realtor, Justin Dyar, of Lake Homes Realty, who shared, "They are a busy professional family that was looking for a getaway from the city. They live in Birmingham and have visited friends on Smith Lake for years. They were attracted to Smith Lake due to the short drive time, reasonable pricing and crystal clear water."

When asked about the changes seen on Smith Lake over the past couple of decades, Dyar said, "The homes on Smith Lake have become larger and more extravagant. The small fishing camps are slowly fading away and are being replaced with stunning homes with custom architectural designs including fabulous outdoor areas, and most importantly, an amazing dock sitting on the water. The floating docks have become more of a living space as opposed to just a place to park your boat. The docks can cost from $25,000 to over $100,000. The boats have gotten larger and the new trend has moved to wake surfing and wakeboarding in lieu of water skiing. All in all, the lake has become more of a recreational playground for busy professionals and retirees looking to spend quality time with their friends and family."

Not only was the family impressed with all that Smith Lake has to offer, but the episode's producers were as well. Hailing from New York, the producers appreciated the peaceful beauty of the landscape of the area and were surprised by the Southern hospitality they experienced. Perhaps Mr. Smith Lake, Justin Dyar, can help find the producers their very own lakefront getaway!

For more on the upcoming episode, visit http://www.hgtv.com/shows/lakefront-bargain-hunt/episodes/take-a-break-on-smith-lake-alabama.

To learn more about Dyar, visit https://www.facebook.com/Smith-Lake-Real-Estate-by-Justin-Dyar-373511837928 or http://justindyar.com.



CONTRIBUTED

# Hicks (from Front)

Hicks will be on the ballot on April 12 for the Cullman County Commission Chairman runoff election, facing incumbent Kenneth Walker. Expecting a light turnout for the runoff, Hicks shared his thoughts on our duty to vote, as evidenced by a friend of his who recently passed.

"I went to the funeral home on Saturday night to honor a friend of mine. He was 92 and a WWII veteran. He won the Purple Heart in the war. Well, this man who was running the election where my friend has always voted said that, on March 1, my friend's wife got him in the car and carried him to the polls where he voted. He was sick and still voted less than three weeks before he died."

Hicks served as Cullman County Commissioner, Place 1, from 2010 until 2014, winning that election in a 73 percent landslide vote. As a proponent of the Duck River Reservoir and its more economical water solution than the county-proposed alternative at the time, Hicks was an integral part of the commission during the 2011 tornadoes and the cleanup and rebuilding efforts afterward.

Additionally, when asked by the county engineer which county roads should be considered for the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (ATRIP) during his time on the commission, Hicks responded, "Apply for every road that's qualified for the program!"

The federally funded program is administered by ALDOT and provides funding up to 80 percent for road improvement projects.

Applying for all of the qualified roads sounds like common sense. That's the key to Hicks. He sees what needs to be done, does some research and makes a plan. Then he puts the plan into action and sees it through.

"I want the (Highway) 157 overpass to get done. I went with the mayor of Cullman and met with ALDOT when I was on the commission. We asked what the delay was on the bridges and they said the railroads required more insurance than the state is allowed to pay. We asked how much money, and he said $3,000. I told the mayor that the county had $1,500 if the city had $1,500. We sent that $3,000 check and nothing has been done on the work. But, I don't know if there's been a concerted effort to put pressure on ALDOT to complete the project. To me, the bridges are there and the utilities have already been moved. The county, the city and our legislative delegation need to be on the same page. What's the response time at certain times of the day to the hospital now with the traffic?"

I think we need more money put into our farm-to-market roads and secondary roads. I'm in favor of this gasoline tax if they can divert a big portion of that to farm-to-market roads and not send it to ALDOT. The legislators tell me they're for the tax, too, so maybe they'll fight for it. We have the second most secondary roads in the state of Alabama, but we're 15th in funding because the funding is based on population and not the miles of road. Morgan County gets about $8,000 a mile to maintain their roads and Cullman County gets only about $2,000 per mile. It's kind of an unfair formula."

Hicks sees a need for renovations in many of the county's senior and community centers, especially in the smaller communities, to make them a source of local pride for the citizens.

"We've got a lot of old community centers out in the county that need repair. Instead of being an eyesore they need to be something the community is proud of. I feel more of an obligation to help these unincorporated areas that have community centers that don't have a tax base to support these centers. Places like Simcoe, Brushy Pond, Walter and Crane Hill. The community needs something more than just a place for the seniors to meet. I helped build the Cold Springs community center while I was in office and they rent that place out for family reunions, wedding receptions and other events. The community needed that building space and that center really adds to the community."

A native of Cullman and graduate of Holly Pond High School, Hicks and his wife raised their daughter in the community that he called home.

Talk of his daughter and her accomplishments brings an instant smile to Hicks' face.

It's the unmistakable pride of a father who is happy with his daughter's accomplishments, even though they have taken her far from home to upstate New York where she lives with her husband and children.

A graduate of Holly Pond High School and Auburn University, his daughter works as a county extension livestock educator which follows along with Hicks' career as an ag teacher in both the West Point and Holly Pond schools.

Even though they live far away, the grandkids come down to Hicks' home place in Walter to stay for a few weeks each summer. And, the grandparents always attend the Junior Nationals where the grandchildren show cattle for a week at a time.

Hicks and his wife will be visiting their 11-year-old grandson and 9-year-old granddaughter over the Easter weekend "in the middle of this campaign, but it's family" and, for Hicks, family comes first.

In addition to roads and senior centers, Hicks wants to move forward and complete the public gun range in Bremen.

"Gun sales are at an all-time high. I have a farm so I can take my grandson down in the pasture and I can teach him gun safety and we can shoot, but how many people have a house on a lot and nowhere to shoot? Where are they going to shoot? There was a shooting range started down at Bremen, and after we went out of office, it's just been sitting there. We got most of the work done. Sheds are up. Tables are up. Restrooms. Berms are built. A place for rifles. Sidewalks poured for handicap accessibility. The gravel is even there for the parking lot. They put up a sign that says 'closed to the public' since then and that's it. The only thing that has been done is the sign put up telling people to keep out when all it needs is a septic tank.

"It just wasn't the present administration's idea so it's sat there," Hicks continued.

"They've come up with several excuses saying it's at the old county dump. But, where this thing is built there was never any garbage put there. The man that was there when the first dirt was pushed said it was just strip-mined land and they build houses on strip mines now. I want to see that finally finished."

There's little flash or insincere toothy grins in Hicks' campaign. His platform and agenda are based on community leaders working together to get projects seen to completion.

"I'm looking forward to the election. I just think the county needs some new leadership to bring the county commission together. We need to come together and set some long-range goals and priorities and work together as a commission to get things done."



# Monday

**Cullman City Council Meeting**
Cullman City Hall, 7 p.m., Monday, March 28

**Good Hope City Council Meeting**
Good Hope City Hall, 6:30 p.m., Monday, March 28

**CP&R Therapeutic Recreation Program Free Swim**
The program uses recreational activities, leisure and play to enhance the quality of life for individuals with physical, mental, social or emotional limitations or abilities. Every Monday night is FREE swim from 6-8 p.m. at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center's indoor pool.

**Storytime at the Library**
Storytime at the library every Monday and Tuesday at 10 a.m. Join us for fun! Listen to stories, learn songs and make crafts. Contact 256-734-1068 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.

**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

**National Crochet Month Meet & Greet at Cullman County Public Library**
March is National Crochet Month and the Cullman County Public Library is ready to celebrate. Everyone who enjoys crocheting is invited to a Meet and Greet Gathering on Tuesday, March 29, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Cullman County Public Library's main branch. Make sure to bring your work to show off and crochet ideas and patterns to share with others. There will be light refreshments served.

**Heritage Skills: Natural Body Care at the North Alabama Agriplex**
March 29, 6 p.m., we have a Heritage Skills class on natural body care taught by our own VISTA Nicole. You can register on our website at agriplex.org under the registration tab. Please register and share!

**Wallace State Horticulture Department's Spring Plant Sale**
Begins on Tuesday, March 29. Easter lilies, vegetables, flowers, annuals, hanging baskets, shrubs and more will be for sale from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., each weekday, while supplies last. The horticulture department is located on the southwest portion of the Wallace State campus. From Highway 31, enter the campus at the College Drive entrance (the entrance across from Hardee's) and drive to the back of campus toward Tom Drake Coliseum. Turn left onto Industrial Drive and then right onto Lions Lane, crossing over the bridge next to the lake. At the stop sign turn left; the horticulture building will be on the right.

**Lunch at VFW Post 2214**
Everyone come to Tuesday's lunch at the VFW Post in Cullman. Starts at 11:30, $5 per plate. We have carryout if you can't stay and eat with us. We always have a great time. Love to see new folks and enjoy the usual group. See you on Tuesday.

**Storytime at the Library**
Storytime at the library every Monday and Tuesday at 10 a.m. Join us for fun! Listen to stories, learn songs and make crafts. Contact 256-734-1068 for more information.

**Dodge City Senior Citizen Luncheon**
Every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. Come enjoy fun, food and games at Dodge City Town Hall.

**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.

**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.

**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

**Relay For Life Swamp John's Dinner**
The team from Seventh Street Baptist Church is hosting a Swamp John's meal on Wednesday, March 30 in their fellowship hall. Meals are $11 and include fish, shrimp or chicken or a combination, slaw, french fries, hush puppies and a drink. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the church or at the door. Patrons can dine in or carry out. The meal will be held from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

**Good Hope Senior Center Meeting**
Seniors meet every Wednesday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Pot Luck Lunch at 11 a.m., games, crafts, special speakers and more Contact Gene Bradford at 256-636-2100 or Jackie Gentry at 256-739-0403.

**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.

**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.

# Thursday

**Internet Safety Training**
Thursday, March 31 at 6 p.m. Daystar Church Good Hope Campus. FREE event. Presented by Assistant U.S. District Attorney Jackie Hutzell, this Internet Safety presentation will include discussion on: Cyber Bullying, Cyber Security, Social Networking, Dangers of Sexting, Social and Legal Consequences. This event is sponsored by: Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force, Judge Kim Chaney, Cullman Children's Policy Council and the U.S. Attorney's Office Northern District of Alabama.

**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.

**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

**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 City Schools Foundation Distinguished Alumni Awards Luncheon**
On Friday, April 1 the Cullman City Schools Foundation will hold its Seventh Annual Distinguished Alumni Awards event. The luncheon will take place at St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Doors will open at 11 a.m. Tickets can be purchased individually for $25 or groups can reserve tables of eight for $200. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Businesses may purchase sponsorships of $100-$1,000. For additional details or to buy tickets, visit http://qrne.ws/ccsf or visit the central office at Cullman High School.

**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.

**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

**Cullman Rescue Squad Car Wash**
Auto Zone on April 2, from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

**Fishing 4 a Cure 4ALS, LLC Inside Yard Sale**
April 2 from 7a.m.-noon at 15281 Co. Rd. 222, Crane Hill-across from Dowling Park. Barbie collection, Troll collection, Bosson wall ornaments, Pyrex, quilts, furniture and lots more. All proceeds benefit the Alabama chapter of the ALS Association.

**Hanceville Fire Department Swamp John's Dinner**
Swamp John's dinner at the Hanceville Fire Department on April 2 from 4-7 p.m.

**Community Yard Sale at Smith Lake Park**
April 2, 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Smith Lake Park, 416 County Road 385, Cullman, AL 35057.

**Dancing for a Cause**
April 2 at 6 p.m. in the Cullman High School auditorium. Join us for the inaugural Dancing for a Cause charity event hosted by The Factory Dance Productions! Set up like a local version of Dancing with the Stars, Cullman County and City favorites will compete to raise money for various charities. Each set of contestants will represent the charity of their choice. Out of town judges will score the contestants on overall entertainment value, not dance technique. The winners will receive a large donation towards the charity of their choice! The runner-up and our "People's Choice" winners as voted on by the audience will get donations towards their charities as well! Remaining money will be distributed amongst our Company dancers to help pay for regional and national traveling expenses! Please check our website for a list of sponsors and contestants! www.thefactorydance.com

**Colors of Cancer Day by Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation**
April 2; We will start off the day with a 5K at the Fairgrounds. Registration is at 7 a.m., 5K run will start at 8 a.m., and awards will be handed out at 9 a.m. The parade will begin at 10 a.m. in the North Shopping Center and be lead up Highway 31 by Cindy, the pink firetruck, to the Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds will host a drum line competition between area high schools at noon. Vendor booths, food and a bounce house will be available during the afternoon. There will be a Balloon Release at 2 p.m. to end the day. More info: Amanda Rogers at amanda.rogers@crmchospital.com or Becky Richardson at brichardson1957@yahoo.com.

**4D Farm Spring Celebration**
Enjoy all the exciting farm activities that we have to offer. You can zoom down our 80-ft slide, take a ride on our 250-ft zipline and jump on our HUGE jumping pillow! See you on the farm!! 7182 County Road 703.

**War Recovery**
From 1-2 p.m. at Redemption Assembly of God. 516 Shaeffel Rd. Cullman. We have court refer. in Cullman Co. Call Susan, 256-620-6966 for more info.

**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).

**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.

# Sunday

**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 and Upcoming Events

**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, 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.

**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 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.

**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

**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 Meetings**
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.

**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.

**2016 Strawberry Festival**
May 6-7, 2016, at Depot Park, a host of local farmers will offer strawberries to purchase both days of the event. Strawberry-themed foods, ice cream, drinks and more will also be a part of the festival. Huge lineup of music to be announced on April 1, free kids' games and rides, dozens of craft vendors and a car show. Food trucks will also be on-site both days. The event will kick off during the day Friday with Senior Day from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; the festival will run from 4-10 p.m. on Friday, and 8 a.m.-10 p.m. on Saturday. For more information on CP&R's 2016 Strawberry Festival, visit www.cullmanrecreation.org or call 256-734-9157.

**Cullman Pilot Club Spring 2016 Charity Fundraiser**
The Pilot Club of Cullman will host its spring 2016 charity fundraiser, Professional Women's Fashion Show and Luncheon: "Dancing in the Street," on Wednesday, April 27 at the Cullman Civic Center. The event will be "a way of celebrating Administrative Professional's Day." Doors will open at 11 a.m. so attendees can shop the booths set up by area businesses. Boxed lunches provided by Sweet Peppers Deli will be served at 11:30 a.m., with a fashion show beginning soon thereafter. Door prizes will be given away during the show. Tickets for the event are $20 and can be purchased at the Cullman County Museum or the Cullman Civic Center.

**Color Me Cullman 5K**
April 9 at 8 a.m. at Sportsman Lake Park; The Color Me Cullman 5K is a colorful experience where we promote healthiness and happiness. Our event is all about people of all different speeds, ages, shapes, and sizes ready to get COLORFUL! Come on out to Sportsman Lake wearing a white T-shirt as your blank canvas and get ready to become a piece of artwork!

**2016 Bloomin' Festival Arts & Crafts Fair**
Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The 32nd Annual Bloomin' Festival Arts and Crafts Fair to be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17, 2016. St. Bernard has been recognized by the Southeast Tourism Society consistently in the past nine years as a "Top Twenty Event in the Southeast."

**"Arts in April Celebration" 2016 at WSCC**
Wallace State Community College is seeking artists to participate in an exhibition of local community artworks Monday, April 4 - Saturday, April 30 as part of the annual 2016 Arts in April Celebration. In conjunction with WSCC's Earth Week Celebration, participants for this year's Arts in April Community Exhibition "Spring Upcycle" are invited to create artworks based on general themes of nature, its beauty and its conservation. More specifically this year participants are encouraged to use repurposed, recycled and found materials to create "upcycled" artworks which will become creative, imaginative, and lasting reminders of our everyday roles as recyclers and partners in conservation. The deadline for submitting is March 18. All entries should be ready and suitable for display when submitted. Contact Adrian Scott at 245-352-8145 or adrian.scott@wallacestate.edu for complete rules and guidelines or the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts front desk at 256-352-8277.

**"Althea" at WSCC**
The Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State Community College presents "Althea" as part of the South Arts Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts on Thursday, April 14 at 9:30 a.m. Following a screening of the film, the filmmaker will engage the audience in a discussion about the film and their work as filmmakers. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

**"Beauty and the Beast" Presented by Cullman High School**
On Friday and Saturday, April 8-9, the Cullman High School drama and choral departments will present their rendition of Disney's Broadway musical "Beauty and the Beast." CHS Theater Director Wayne Cook and CHS Choir Director Sarah Driskell will lead the production. Opening night is Friday, April 8, at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 9, showtimes are 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are priced at $10 for adults and $5 for children under the age of 12. Senior citizens and children under the age of 12 will receive $3 tickets at Saturday's 12:30 p.m. show. For any more information, call 256- 734-3923 or visit http://chs.cullmancats.net/.

**Cullman City Head Start**
Now accepting applications for the 2016-17 school year. Must live in city limits and be 3-4 years-old on or before Sep. 2 and meet qualifications. Call 256-734-0234 for more info.

**Rock the South**
June 3-4 at Heritage Park. Check out www.rockthesouth.com for more details.

**Cullman County Democrats**
The Cullman County Democrats meet on the second Saturday of each month at 8 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 9 at 8 a.m. in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room. April's meeting will feature special guest Ron Crumpton, who is running for U.S. Senate against longtime incumbent, Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Alabama.

**CRMC Foundation Gala XV**
Saturday, April 16 at 6 p.m. at the Cullman Civic Center. Gala will honor Mr. Del Brock and Dr. Jim Hoover. For more information, contact the CRMC Foundation at 256-737-2565.

**CP&R Art in the Park**
CP&R's FREE Art in the Park event will take place April 9, 2016, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Heritage Park! Dozens of craft vendors will be on site as well as an art show, sidewalk chalk contest, free crafts for the kids, & more!

**Cullman Community Lions Club Meetings**
First and third Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Cullman Civic Center

**Tornado Awareness Training**
June 10 from 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. in the Cullman County EMA training room (basement) located at 2020 Beech Avenue SE. For more information about the event, call 256-739-5410, email cullmancountyema@gmail.com or visit www.cullmanema.org. Find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CullmanCountyEMA/.

**Cullman Farmers Market - Festhalle**
Opens April 16

**11th Annual Colton's Cookout for a CURE (in memory of Colton Evans)**
Will be held from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 9, at Werner's Trading Co. on Hwy. 278 W in Cullman. BBQ & Chips or Deep Fried Hot Dogs and French Fries. All plates served with slaw, baked beans, dessert & drink. $7 per plate (suggested donation) Sponsored by Comfort Care Hospice, Werner's Trading Co., Ted Calvert State Farm Insurance and Mitch Smith Chevrolet.

**Cullman County People Against a Littered State (PALS) Community Cleanup**
PALS Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 23 from 8a.m.-noon. http://www.co.cullman.al.us/pals/pals.html. Dumpster Locations are as follows: West Elementary, East Elementary, Cullman High School, Cold Springs School, Baileyton Town Hall, Colony Community Center, Crane Hill Sulphur Springs, Dodge City Fire Station, Fairview Community Park (Across from Fairview Superette), Garden City maintenance area, Good Hope City Hall, Hanceville behind City Hall, Holly Pond – Lions Club Park, Jones Chapel School, Vinemont First Baptist Church and West Point Town Hall. Items that cannot be taken are tires, paint and chemicals. 55 gallon drums must have multiple punched holes or they are not allowed. Citizens should contact their local town or city hall for bags (furnished by State PALS). Community members are being asked to pick up around their homes as far as possible in each direction. Filled bags should be placed with normal weekly garbage.

**Cullman Caring for Kids Yard Sale**
June 1-4, all proceeds go to Cullman Caring for Kids. Our yard sale will be held at the Cullman County Fairgrounds. If you have anything you would like to donate to be sold at the yard sale you can contact us at our office 256-739-1111. We are a nonprofit organization, and receipts will be given at the time of donation.

**Cullman County Alabama Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics**
The more people who participate in the Torch Run, the more fun the event will be. Get your T-Shirt for $10 from Rex Sorrow at the CCSO or Adam Walker with the CCPD. Can't wait to see everyone at our BIGGEST FUNDRAISER of the year at the Cullman Wal-Mart on Olive Street April 29-30, from 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. The local Torch Run is Tuesday, May 3. The State Torch Run (TBA) Stay up-to-date at http://qrne.ws/so.

**Meet and Greet with Local Authors**
The Cullman County Public Library is hosting a Meet and Greet the Author event on Tuesday, April 12, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in honor of National Library Week. The event is free and a great opportunity for the community to get to know local writers and hear their stories.

**Relay For Life Sips N Strokes Painting Class**
Cullman Primary Care P.C.'s team is hosting a Sips N Strokes painting class on Friday, April 8, at 6 p.m., at the Cullman Sips N Strokes location, 111 First St. NW, Cullman. Attendees choose their painting and colors. The class is $30, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Relay For Life of Cullman County. Seating is limited to the first 30 people to register. Email cullman@sipsnstrokes.com to register for the class.

**Relay For Life Pancake Breakfast**
Relay For Life of Cullman County is hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 9, from 7-9:30 a.m., at Applebee's of Cullman on Cherokee Avenue. Plates are $5 each and include pancakes and sausage with coffee, hot chocolate, tea, water or Coke products to drink.

**Join Local Cyclist Charles Coggins as He Reaches 100,000 Miles!**
On Saturday, April 23 at 11 a.m., local cyclist Charles Coggins is asking that the community join him in a ride around the trail which encircles the water at Sportsman Lake Park. "We're meeting at pavilion 10," said friend of Coggins and fellow cyclist Paul Levering. "This is going to be a celebration of Charles reaching 100,000 miles, but it will also be a celebration of the value of cycling, of community health."

**The Stony Lonesome 5K Mud Run**
May 14 at 8 a.m. Where mud and mayhem come together. Runners will grind their way through the challenging course which will feature: crawling through grimy mud, climb over high walls, splash across a wooden bridge, and traverse through obstacles packed throughout this muddy course. With spectators cheering, this event will surely be a memorable experience for anyone daring to take on the Stony Lonesome Mud Run! Registration is $30, 13 and up only!

**Cullman Rescue Squad Car Show**
On Saturday, April 30, the Cullman Rescue Squad will hold a car show at the Cullman County Fairgrounds. The squad hopes to make the show an annual event. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m., and the event itself will be going by 9 a.m. The judges will begin their assessment of the cars at 1 p.m. To pre-register an automobile or to be a vendor, call 256-739-0786 or 256-595-7814 to get more information.

**CP&R Therapeutic Recreation Program Events**
The program uses recreational activities, leisure and play to enhance the quality of life for individuals with physical, mental, social or emotional limitations or abilities. The program targets more than play and uses the power of recreation and leisure activities to support the rehabilitation process and promote overall wellness. Activities are targeted at education, teaching, playing and participation in a number of meaningful activities. The program offers several events, activities, and ongoing programs throughout the year. It is open to all ages of anyone with special needs of varying levels. The program's activities are free to attend and are supported by the efforts of the Cullman City Parks and Recreation Department. For any questions regarding the program contact Kelly Pulliam at 256-734-9157 or kpulliam@cullmanrecreation.org.
Upcoming Events:
• Miracle League Baseball begins April 4 and games will be on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday each week.
• The Cullman 5K Race to Solve the Puzzle is scheduled for April 9 at Wallace State Community College
• Barn Party / April 30 / HOPE Facility
• No Limits Dance Class / July & August / Civic Center
• Swim Night & Cook Out / August 2 / 6 p.m. / CWAC
• Pizza & Bingo Night / September 8 / 5:30 p.m. / Civic Center

# 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.

# MIRACLE LEAGUE EASTER EGG HUNT HELD AT FIELD OF MIRACLES

**Sharon Schuler Kreps**
sharon@cullmansense.com



**Members of the Miracle League had a blast at Wednesday night's Easter Egg Hunt at the Field of Miracles.** SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

**CULLMAN** - On Wednesday evening, March 23, the Easter Bunny stopped by the Field of Miracles and scattered a thousand colorful Easter eggs throughout the baseball field. The eggs were filled with all kinds of goodies for members of the Cullman Miracle League, Cullman's special needs league, to find. More than 70 members of the group showed up with their Easter baskets in hand, ready to grab as many eggs as they could. The event was part of the Therapeutic Recreation Program through Cullman City Parks and Recreation.

"There are 100 gold eggs on the field, each with special prizes inside them," said Shelby Williams, Heritage Park manager. "The gold eggs have actual gifts in them; some of them have rings, some have money and some have other neat things like coupons to our concession stand. After all the eggs are picked up, we award prizes for things like who found the most eggs, who got the most gold eggs and that kind of stuff."

After the hunt, guests enjoyed hot dogs, drinks and a little Easter party.

"It's always fun," said Williams. "This is one of their favorite activities; they really look forward to it."

Wednesday night's Easter Egg Hunt was a blast! Thankfully it was just the beginning of many great activities for the Therapeutic Recreation Program this year.

**Other upcoming events:**

- Every Monday night is FREE swim from 6-8 p.m. at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center's indoor pool.
- Walk for Autism / April 2 / Heritage Park
- Miracle League Baseball begins April 4; games will be on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday each week.
- Barn Party / April 30 / HOPE Facility
- No Limits Dance Class / July & August / Civic Center
- Swim Night & Cook Out / August 2 / 6 p.m. / Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center
- Pizza & Bingo Night / Sep. 8 / 5:30 p.m. / Civic Center

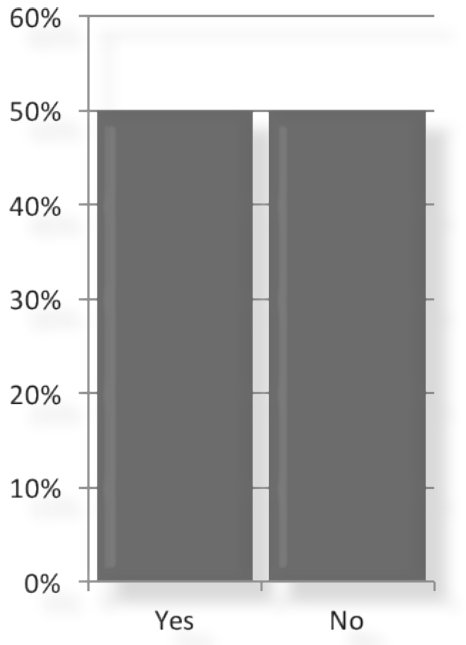
"We are always looking for volunteers for our Miracle League," Williams said.

"We need people to be buddies, to coach and people just to come out and join in on the fun with us. Any church groups or people who are looking for a community project to be involved in, you will not find a better one than this. Miracle League Baseball begins April 4, and we really need volunteers. For those who are interested in helping out, give me a call at 256-739-9931."

For more information about the Therapeutic Recreation Program or the Miracle League, contact Kelly Pulliam at 256-734-9157 or kpulliam@cullmanrecreation.org.

## Poll

Do you suffer from spring allergies?




**This Week's Poll**

How much did you spend on Easter candy?

**Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll**

# CP&R'S YOUTH OUTDOOR ADVENTURE, BEGINNER KAYAKING TO BEGIN APRIL 9

**Waid Harbison**
CP&R

**CULLMAN** – Hiking, kayaking, rock climbing, archery, wilderness survival and everything outdoors. Cullman City Parks and Recreation's Youth Outdoor Adventure program kicks off April 9, and registration is now open at the Cullman Civic Center and online.

The Youth Outdoor Adventure program will take place on Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. Trips will include guided hiking, climbing, kayaking, archery and wilderness survival at different destinations each week including Hurricane Creek Park, the new Duck River Reservoir and other local outdoor locations.

The cost is $75 for the 6-week session, which starts April 9 and ends May 14. All supplies are included. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. Registration is also now open for CP&R's Beginner Kayaking class.

Learn to whitewater kayak for the experience of your life! Classes are registering now at the Civic Center for the spring Beginner Kayaking class to be held at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center.

The Beginner Kayaking class will take place on Saturdays from April 9-23 at noon. The cost is $100, which includes all instruction, usage of CP&R's boats, gear and paddles, etc. The class will be led by ACA-certified instructor Matt Huddleston and will focus on paddling techniques, bracing and a whitewater roll. Classes will be held in the indoor pool at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center. Following the class, participants will be taken on a trip down a class I-III whitewater river.

For more information or to register for the Youth Outdoor Adventure program or the Beginner Kayaking class, visit www.cullmanrecreation.org or call 256-734-9157.

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## Light a Candle, Spread HOPE

RELAY FOR LIFE American Cancer Society

Join your community in the fight against cancer! At Relay For Life, teams take turns walking or running around the track. Teams consist of people representing companies, churches, clubs, organizations and families. During Relay For Life, team members enjoy games, food, music and camaraderie while camping out on the surrounding grounds.

Participants also share in a special luminaria ceremony to remember those individuals who have been affected by cancer. Candles are lit in honor or memory of those touched by cancer and placed around the track. You are invited to support this effort by making a luminaria donation and having a candle lit in honor of a loved one who has been touched by cancer. Simply fill out the back of this form and return to a team member, team captain or mail your order to the address listed on the reverse side.

Thank you for your support. For more information, call 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

## Luminaria Order Form

Minimum donation: $10.00 each

*Yes, I would like to make a luminaria donation in honor of or in memory of the following:*

In Memory/Honor of: (*circle one*)
_____

In Memory/Honor of: (*circle one*)
_____

In Memory/Honor of: (*circle one*)
_____

Total amount enclosed: $_____
Payment method: Check ____ Cash ____

Thank you for your donation. Please make checks payable to the **American Cancer Society**. Return to:

Attn: Tess Kimbrough
1024 County Road 730
Cullman, Al 35055

# Angelica (from Front)

His promise to 'help those who help you' in building a Temple in His honor, has been kept these many years. Dedicated in 1999, the monastery and Shrine (are) a testimony and instrument of God's Love."

**Her sisters from OLAM released the following statement:**

"Mother Mary Angelica of the Annunciation, PCPA passed peacefully from this life at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery on March 27, in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, surrounded by the prayers and love of her spiritual daughters, sons and dear friends.

Throughout these past five decades, Mother has counseled and exhorted millions of souls to do what she sought to do so faithfully; live with God in the present moment and to spend herself entirely in His service.

Thank you for your prayers for this courageous daughter of the Church and your support of our community.

May our beloved Mother Angelica, Abbess Emerita, foundress of EWTN and Our Lady of the Angels Monastery and spouse of Jesus Christ, enter through the Mercy of God into the eternal glory prepared for those who love Him."

In 1981, Mother Angelica launched EWTN, in the garage at the OLAM with only $200. Today, the channel transmits 24-hour-a-day programming to more than 264 million homes in 144 countries.

"It was hardly foreseeable that this new missionary endeavor that had begun in the OLAM garage with only $200.00, would become the great media apostolate that it is today. The nuns supported the network from the beginning, taking calls at the telethons, giving tours to visitors, opening mail, printing programs and most of all praying for the work God had surprisingly entrusted to these cloistered nuns!" (olamnuns.com)

EWTN employs about 400 people today and broadcasts radio around the world. The network also publishes the National Catholic Register and Catholic News Agency, among others.

"Mother has always and will always personify EWTN, the network that God asked her to found," said EWTN Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Michael Warsaw.

"Her accomplishments and legacies in evangelization throughout the world are nothing short of miraculous and can only be attributed to divine Providence and her unwavering faithfulness to Our Lord."

Words of condolence, heartbreak, rejoicing, grief and gratitude have been flooding the internet.

One such post, from author Raymond Arroyo, read:

My heart breaks over the passing of EWTN's Foundress and my dear friend, Mother Mary Angelica. It is not lost on me that she was taken home on Easter Sunday. The woman who lived her life in one long Good Friday--riddled by pain and suffering--found God's embrace on the day of resurrection. It is as it should be.

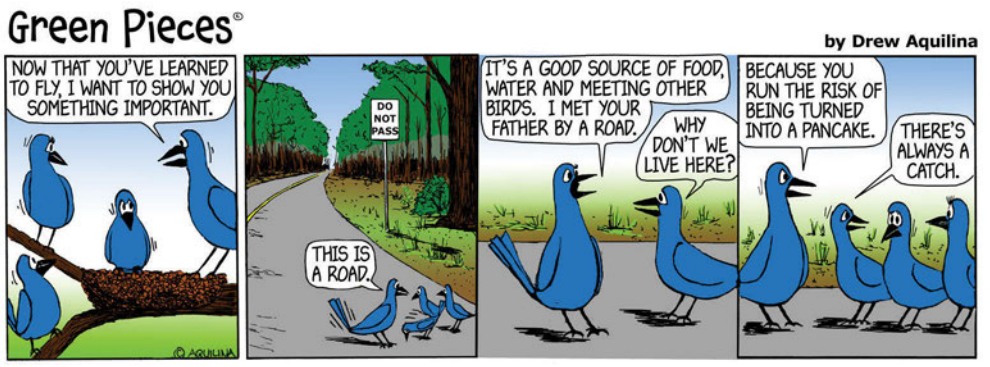
In 2001, after the severe stroke that nearly took her life I asked Mother if she was aware of anything before she fell.

She told me: "Yes I was aware, aware---Jesus came and testified to me...that I would suffer much and suffer plenty.... suffer anguish for Jesus' sake."

She did suffer much, hidden from public view. But her mission of prayer continued. It was an honor to know her, to be her biographer, to be her friend. May Mother now rest with the angels and in the perpetual company of the One she served with abandon. There is laughter in heaven this day.

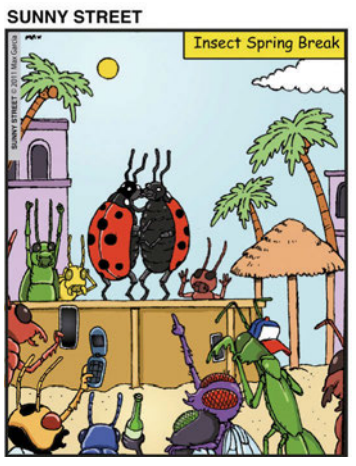
But I miss you Mother. We all do. Indeed.

# COMICS













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## OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH 21 - 27

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**Lydia Hyatt Guthrie**
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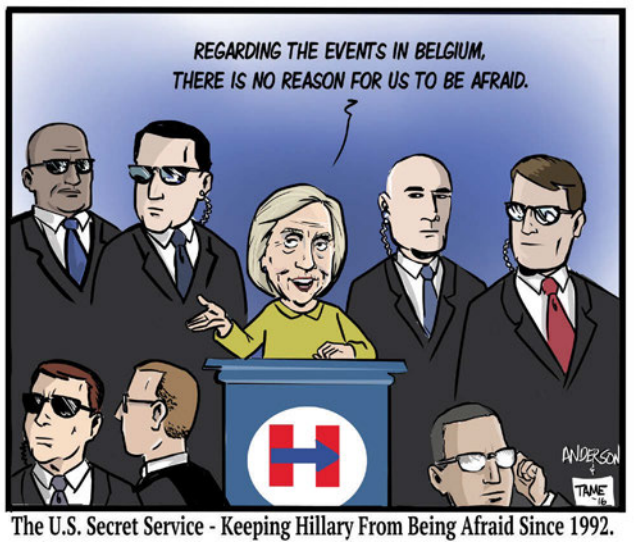
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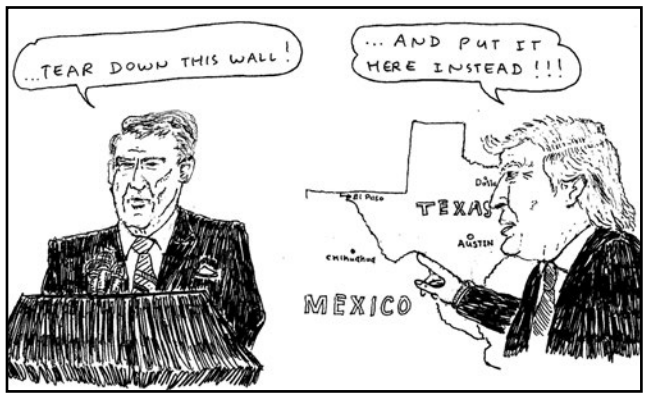


# EDITORIAL CARTOONS




The U.S. Secret Service - Keeping Hillary From Being Afraid Since 1992.




## HOW ARE WE DOING?

**Tell us what we're doing right and how we can do better.**

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***Making history since 2011***

LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

# AND THEY SAID WE COULDN'T DO IT... WE APPRECIATE THE MOTIVATION

## Goodbye to our beloved CullmanSense print edition, hello history books

**Noah Galilee**
noah@cullmansense.com

What started out back in 2010 as just two guys in a room with a MacBook Pro, $16 bucks, a domain name and nearly three full months to launch an online newspaper has become history. On April 1, 2016, we will formally acquire The Cullman Tribune, Cullman's oldest business and the oldest continuous weekly publication in the state of Alabama.

Now we move on, leaving just two newspapers in Cullman County.

Our first year we weren't taken seriously by anyone, that is until we printed our first issue back in November 2011.

It was right before my 30th birthday, in certain cultures the age one passes into true manhood, so it was an important time.

Sometimes becoming a man means taking over the family business, but my dad was, well, dead, therefore I had to choose my own path.

News became my outlet and CullmanSense has become the vessel which has helped many in the community.

It has helped our employees provide for themselves and their families.

It also gives my partner Dustin Isom (The Brains) and myself a much needed paycheck on a consistent basis.

This was something we never thought would happen back on our "launch day" of January 1, 2011; owning The Cullman Tribune!

Seems unfathomable to most, especially those in the newspaper business, as the Tribune has catered to a slightly older generation, while CullmanSense has focused on a younger crowd and young professionals.

As a child I figured I would own one of the newspapers in Cullman.

As of now I am happy and busy enough multitasking with the oldest and youngest publications in the region, but we do have a couple surprise projects we've been preparing for everyone.

This will be the last print edition bearing CullmanSense as the primary name on the banner.

As of April 4, 2016 the banner of this publication will read: "The Cullman Tribune" and down below "A printed publication of CullmanSense: 1874, 2011 so now add 2016 to the list."

We will be keeping all of the current CullmanSense crew and contributors.

We will also absorb several of the Tribune contributors along with Robin Winton, who will act as newsroom manager.

She will handle most of your calls, subscription renewals and legals for both government and private practice.

The Cullman Tribune will be a sister publication of CullmanSense, printing some of the online stories CS is known for and adding in some new sections in print in order to reach a broader audience. Trust us, we've done the research and are ready to change print and online news reporting.

Not bad for a just a couple of bloggers, right Trent? I figured, it's the last issue, why not call everyone out by name instead of hiding behind a digital curtain, or in this case a paper one.

And remember that ocean you spoke of years ago? Yeah, we found our way to it as well.

Thanks for the direction! But on a serious note, I do sincerely thank you for motivating me each day to get up and work until I pass out with the computer in my lap and something melodic playing in the background some 22 hours later.

Now it's time to get moving to the next venture, so that's all I've got to say.

But download our app, first released in early 2011, updated in mid-2015, to keep track of all the current, breaking news with CullmanSense, then on that leisurely, lazy afternoon, kick back and enjoy the print version of The Cullman Tribune.

EDITORIAL

# A Message from Outgoing Cullman County Economic Development Project Coordinator Matt Kinsland

Over the past three years, I have served in the role of Project Coordinator at Cullman County Economic Development. My main responsibility has been writing grants for our local governments, fire departments and nonprofit organizations. This position has allowed me to interact with my community and hopefully make it a better place. With that said, I have been offered a tremendous opportunity to transition into a new career with the Tennessee Department of Transportation in Nashville.

I am sending this email to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for your influence on my life over the past three years.

You have truly helped to shape me into the person I am today.

Many of you have become not just colleagues, but friends. I hope that our paths will one day cross again.

Tanya Sears will be transitioning into my position as Project Coordinator. I have had the privilege of working with Tanya over the past six months. I can assure you that she is a great asset to our community and will be attentive to your every need.

Should you need any assistance in the future, you may reach Tanya at tanyacced@gmail.com or 256-736-2434.

Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve in this community.

This position has taught me the importance of doing work that matters and that makes a difference. My last official day of employment with Cullman County will be Thursday, March 24.

Sincerely,
Matt Kinsland



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