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Letter from the President – Father Knows Best

Happy Independence Day! As we celebrate our country's birthday, I am reminded of the great men and women who founded America. To them, America would be a land of freedom and opportunity, that would protect the people and maintain a safe environment for them to pursue happiness in any way they saw fit. They helped to create the entrepreneurial environment that ultimately gave birth to one of the greatest nations in the world. As we celebrate our freedom, I would like to share a few inspiring quotes from some of our founding fathers:

"The purpose of money is to purchase the freedom to pursue that which was useful and interesting." – Benjamin Franklin

"If a man empties his purse into his head, no one can take it from him." – Benjamin Franklin

"Energy and persistence conquer all things." – Benjamin Franklin

"Those who stand for nothing fall for anything." – Alexander Hamilton

"By failing to prepare you are preparing to fail." – Benjamin Franklin

I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past." – Thomas Jefferson

"We have it in our power to begin the world over again." – Thomas Paine



LEAH BOLIN
CHAMBER PRESIDENT

"Perseverance and spirit have done wonders in all ages." – George Washington

"Well done is better than well said." – Benjamin Franklin

"To be good and to do good is all we have to do." – John Adams

"Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." – Benjamin Franklin

"A people...who are possessed of the spirit of commerce, who see and who will pursue their advantages may achieve almost anything." – George Washington

"Beware of rashness, but with energy, and sleepless vigilance, go forward, and give us victories." – Abraham Lincoln

"Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee." – Benjamin Franklin

"Determine never to be idle. No person will have occasion to complain of the want of time who never loses any. It is wonderful how much may be done if we are always doing." – Thomas Jefferson

"I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it." – Thomas Jefferson

"We should not look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from past errors, and for the purpose of profiting by dearly bought experience." – George Washington

"Whenever you do something, act as if all the world were watching." – Thomas Jefferson

"Early to bed, early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise." – Benjamin Franklin

"Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph." – Thomas Paine

"I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience." – Patrick Henry

"Fear is the passion of slaves." – Patrick Henry

"The circulation of confidence is better than the circulation of money." – James Madison

"Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle." – Abraham Lincoln

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." – Benjamin Franklin

"Lost time is never found again." – Benjamin Franklin

"Diligence is the mother of good luck." – Benjamin Franklin

July Community Luncheon

Join us on the fourth Friday of this month, July 22, 2016 for our July Community Luncheon, which will be held at the All Steak Restaurant in the Banquet Room from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will be holding a Municipal Forum featuring the candidates running for Cullman City Mayor, where incumbent Mayor Max Townson and challenger Woody Jacobs will discuss related topics. Tickets are \$15 for Chamber Members and \$20 for future members. Call 256-734-0454 or email info@cullmanchamber.org to reserve your seat. Thank you to our 2016 Presenting Sponsor Shirley Quattlebaum – State Farm and to our Monthly Premier Sponsor *The Cullman Times*.

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2016 2nd Quarter Intern Insight – Katie Noriega

Where are you attending school? What is your major? Why?

I am currently a junior at The University of Alabama. I am a double major in both Marketing and Management, along with a double specialization in Sales and Global Business, and a minor in Spanish. A part from this, I am also in the Honors College and in the Business Honors Program. The reason I am studying all that I am is because I have always had a love for the business world!

What business skills have you acquired at the Chamber?

Throughout the course of my internship, I have developed and strengthened new and existing skills. Database up-keep, mass communication, and time-management are just some of the skills that I have been able to develop even further since my internship. I have been able to strengthen my communication skills as well. I have learned how important it is, whether verbal or written, to communicate with everyone to ensure they know exactly what is going on.

What have you learned about the



Katie Noriega is the Chamber Area Chamber of Commerce 2016 2nd quarter intern.

Chamber and its position in the community?

I have always known that the Chamber played a huge role in the community, however I was unaware to what extent that actually was. After two internships here at the Chamber, I have realized the Chamber is the heart and soul of Cullman. From uniting the community to helping visitors, the cham-

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ber does so much. The Chamber is very involved with their members and always improving Cullman by the minute.

How will this intern-

ship affect your future plans?

Growing up in Cullman my whole life, it was a dream of mine to pack up and leave to

see what else the world had to offer. However, after my first internship, and especially after this internship, I want nothing more than to return to Cullman. With my internships that I have had here at the Chamber, I have grown to love Cullman more than ever. With this said, I have full

intentions of returning to Cullman and working in the area to show others how great Cullman truly is.

What can you take away from having interned at the Chamber that you can apply to your career of choice?

I will be able to take away all my experiences, skills I have acquired, and relationships I have made. Whether my experience was good or bad, I was able to always take something away from it. Based on my experiences, I will be able to make better decisions down the road and in any career I pursue. The skills I have developed will help in both my personal and professional life: ensuring that I always communicate with those around me, understanding the way to make professional phone calls, and ensuring I keep everything organized in the beginning will continue to help me with whatever I do. Lastly, no matter where I am, I will never lose the relationships I have built with those here in Cullman, and I will continue to build and strengthen the ones I already have.

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Jesse Newsom Interview – New Tourism Director

Tell us a little about yourself – where are you from, what are your hobbies, etc.?

I'm a military kid, but I consider Jacksonville, NC home. That's where I've spent the majority of my life. Hobbies are anything sports related – big into fishing and turkey hunting. I am married to Natalie Newsom from Franklin, TN and we have two kids: Jackson, 4, and Jenna Kate, 19 months.

How did you get involved in the tourism industry? What drew you to this field of interest?

I have been involved with the tourism industry since college. At MTSU (Middle Tennessee State University), I worked with Campus Recreation, and we would put on NIRSA tournaments that would bring in teams from other colleges across the southeast.

But the main interest is when I was hired by the Jacksonville Onslow Sports Commission. I talked to a former coach of mine and he enlightened me about the position saying, "You'll travel and talk about sports with other people with the same interests." I thought, "This is the best job ever." And I still believe Tourism is.

How do you like the Cullman Area? What has been your favorite thing to learn about or do in the area?

I am in awe of the area. Cullman has a charm that is long for-



Jesse Newsom

gotten. Just meeting new people every day is exciting. I am currently trying to learn about everything in Cullman County.

To be an advocate in Tourism, I believe you have to know everything in the county. So right now I'm focusing on that.

What are some goals/plans you have in mind to grow the tourism industry for the Cullman Area?

An angle we are looking at is enhancement of our festivals to draw overnight attendees. So I am touching

base with those event planners and festival POCs (point of contacts) and seeing how things were done and what can be done to make it better.

I envision more events out on Smith Lake, as that is a diamond for the area. Also I would like to see more group tours in the area. So I think we may plan on talking to Motor Coach Tour companies and see how to get them here.

What do you feel is Cullman's major thing it's "got going on"?

Of course, Rock the South is a huge draw. That is a signature event for the area, but after that, I think it has got to be the festivals. In the Tourism industry, this has been a paradigm shift.

More people are wanting that nostalgic feel. And I think what we "got going on" is that. Again it's going to be finding a way to get people here and want to stay. By staying, the visitor contributes a lot to the local area.

Summer Samplers in the Breezeway

Our 2nd Quarter Business After Hours event, Summer Samplers in the Breezeway, was held on Thursday, June 16th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. The Cullman Area's premier business networking event enjoyed a warm summer night sampling a showcase of the fantastic local flavors that the Cullman area has to offer. Plenty of contacts and new friends were made as everyone mingled, enjoying their time tasting new dishes and talking with one another. Thank you to all of our attendees and participating restaurants: Alabama Italian Ice & Beverage LLC (D.B.A. Repicci's Trio, Augusta's Sports Grill, Brandin' Iron Steakhouse, Buffalo Wild Wings, Carlton's



Todd Self, HH Technologies with Lisa Dickinson, winner of a PolarCool.

Italian Restaurant, Bake Pizza, Southern Chick-fil-A of Cullman, Grumpy's Italian Grill, Cullman Brewers Guild, Guthrie's, Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q, Johnny's Bar-B-Q, Karma's Coffee House, Kernel Kullman, Lawler's Barbecue, Lombardo's Pasta Bar, Papa Murphy's Take 'n Eats - Meals to Go, Sweet Peppers Deli, Wallace State and the All Steak Restaurant. Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor HH Technologies, Inc. and our Entertainment Sponsor Lamar Advertising.

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June Small Business of the Month

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The Chamber's Retail Committee would like to congratulate Katherine Morgan - State Farm Insurance & Financial Services as June's Small Business of the Month, sponsored by Burks Brothers Pools & Spas. Katherine and her team strive to meet the needs of their customers by providing quality insurance and financial services, managing the risks of everyday life, and providing customer service that exceeds expectations.

Katherine Morgan, the firm's owner and agent has been able to accomplish this by building a team of six professionals designed to address any need their customers may present. Agency roles include - Katherine Morgan,



Agent; Sonja Freeman, Office Manager/Sales; Tesha Brewer, Life/Bank/Health Specialist; Megan Watter, Retention Specialist; Lisa Buchanan, Customer Service Specialist; Lydia Ring, Sales Staff.

Katherine and her agency remain extremely active throughout the community as members of the Rotary Club

of Cullman, The Pilot Club of Cullman, Cullman Chamber Ambassadors, and as volunteers for The Link. Again, congratulations to Katherine, and her entire team for their contribution to Cullman and our community!

Each month, a sponsoring business helps celebrate and acknowledge the Small Business of the Month winner.

If you have a local business you would like to nominate for their outstanding service, please contact Ben Smith at bsmith@cullmanchamber.org. Monthly winners will be entered into the nominations for the annual Small Business of the Year award, which is presented at the Chamber's Annual Meeting & Gala.

May Small Business of the Month

SPONSOR - BURKS BROTHERS
POOLS & SPAS



The Chamber's Retail Committee would like to congratulate Stone Bridge Farms as May's Small Business of the Month, sponsored by Burks Brothers Pools & Spas. Stone Bridge Farms is owned and operated by Ron Foust, a fourth generation decedent of Reverend V. L. Foust who had, for over 50 years, presided weddings for numerous couples throughout the Cullman county area. Ron has taken this family tradition and created a grand vision on their 75-acre estate which includes 10 breathtaking venues, expansive grounds, and personalized services for weddings, receptions, din-



ners, concerts, and events.

Shortly after opening, Stone Bridge Farms menu and culinary experience quickly built a name for itself. In addition to providing catering services, both on and off location, Stone Bridge offers an award winning southern buffet every Thursday at both lunch and dinner - indoor

and outdoor seating available (given weather permits). You can view their weekly menu by visiting www.facebook.com/stonebridgewedding.

Stone Bridge Farm's philosophy is to provide personal attention for each job, encourage client participation for ensure satisfaction, foster creativity for any event,

and retain an elevated level of professionalism. Whether your event is large or small, Stone Bridge has the facilities and experience to accommodate your needs. You may call 256-734-9765 for an appointment to tour the grounds and customize your wedding or special event.

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ing business helps celebrate and acknowledge the Small Business of the Month winner. If you have a local business you would like to nominate for their outstanding service, please contact Ben Smith at bsmith@cullmanchamber.org. Monthly winners will be entered into the nominations for the annual Small Business of the Year award, which is presented at the Chamber's Annual Meeting & Gala.

YPCullman to Meet for 3rd Quarter Session in August



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The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Group (YPCullman) is a professional development program that encourages YPs to take ownership in the community and provides opportunities to grow so these young individuals are inspired to lead with enthusiasm, determination and passion. YPCullman is an outlet for the next generation of leaders to channel their energy and enhance their leadership potential. This new program is

designed for young professionals, ages 22-39. Over time, we envision YP Cullman members to take strides in several facets of the Cullman area, including but not limited to: community awareness and concern, committee involvement, entrepreneurial roundtables and leadership roles.

The Chamber's 3rd Quarter YPCullman event will take place on Tuesday, August 31, 2016 at TP Country Club from 5:00-800 p.m. The guest speaker will be Barry McGriff of

McGriff Industries. Light hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be available to attendees. Come out for a great night of fun, discussion and networking as we get to know one another and discuss the future of the Cullman area. Tickets are \$15. For more information, please call the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or email info@cullman-chamber.org. Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor Zeb Little Law and to our Quarterly Sponsor Willoughby Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.

Total Resource Campaign Kicks Off

The Chamber's Total Resource Campaign (TRC) for 2016-17 has a very fun theme this year – the Olympics – with a tagline of "Going for the Goal!" The Total Resource Campaign is a membership and sponsorship drive. This provides opportunities for Chamber Members to market at cost. We offer a variety of programs and events for every area of business no matter what your budget! Sponsorship renewals will be from July 8-22, 2016. Volunteers will be reaching out to the community to give businesses and companies the opportunity to sponsor an event or program, or to join* the Chamber. The 2016-17 TRC "Olympics" leadership consists of: Chair: Shirley

Quattlebaum – State Farm, Vice Chair: Cheryl Bailey – Cullman Regional Medical Center, Vice Chair: Melissa Cartee – Cullman Electric Cooperative, Vice Chair: Roy Drinkard – Drinkard Development, and Vice Chair: Jimmy Hodges – Wallace State Community College. If you would like to sponsor one of the Chamber's programs or events, please contact Magan Bartlett at 256-734-0454 or by email at mbartlett@cullman-chamber.org for a list of volunteers. *Please note you may join the Chamber throughout the year.



2016-17 Leadership Cullman County Graduation

The Chamber is now seeking nominations for participants in our annual Leadership Cullman County class for the year of 2016-17. Class size will be limited to 20 participants. The tuition fee is \$575, which covers all expenses associated with the program. To nominate someone (self-nominations are also encouraged), please fill out an application online at www.cullmanchamber.org or call 256-734-0454 for more information. The application deadline is July 31st.

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2nd Fridays Is Back



It's the shop late, eat local event you have all come to love. The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and Cullman City Parks & Recreation have partnered together to bring 2nd Fridays back to the Cullman Area! This will be held at the Festhalle Market every second Friday from June through September. Come see what the Cullman Area has to offer after dark. This event features live music, children's activities, crafts, fresh produce, and a car cruise-in. July's featured produce is Corn and Jim 'N Nick's will be serving up samples of fresh produce. Live entertainment is sponsored by R.E. Garrison and will be provided by Ally and the Alley Katz. Thanks to our 2016 Presenting Sponsor, Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram.

Upcoming Elections for the City of Cullman

Who is running and who is not? Many locals have been asking themselves this question over the past couple of weeks. Many candidates have already announced their campaign and begun putting out yard signs advertising their intent. A few other undecided candidates will soon be making this important decision and beginning their campaign strategies.

All candidates must go through qualifying, which opens July 5th and ends July 19th. After the 19th, it will be official who the candidates will be in the upcoming election.

At this point, Kim Addison, who is currently holding School Board Place No. 1, and Brenda Bonds Howell, who is currently holding School Board Place No. 2 has indicated to the City Clerk that they will not run for their incumbent positions.

Mayor Max Townson has announced he will be running for another term, and it is assumed the other officials will be running for another term as well.

The other currently elected officials include: Andy Page for Council Place No. 1, Garlan Gudger for Council Place No. 2, John Cook for Council Place No. 3, Clint Hollingsworth for Council Place No. 4, Jenny Folsom for Council Place No. 5, Steven Sides for School Board Place No. 3, Jason Neal for School Board Place No. 4, and Suzanne Harbin for School Board Place No. 5.

Former Councilman Woody Jacobs, who served two terms as Council President from 2000-2008, has announced his intention to run for mayor of the City of Cullman, challenging two-term incumbent Townson.

The municipal election is August 23, 2016, and all city residents are encouraged to be a part of the process and come to the voting box!

Written & Submitted by:
Heath Williams
YELTEK
Governmental Affairs Committee Member

July Morning Blend



Come join us in the morning on Wednesday, July 20th for delicious coffee and great discussion at our Morning Blend, held every third Wednesday of each month from 8:00-9:00 a.m. at Karma's Coffee House in the Warehouse District. The Chamber staff welcomes mem-

bers and visitors every month to attend this free event and discuss the hottest topics in business and share tips, ideas and viewpoints. Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor Karma's Coffee House and to our Monthly Sponsor Servpro of Cullman/Blount Counties.

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July 18-22	Hydraulic Fundamentals & Troubleshooting	Trenholm State—Montgomery
July 18-20	Fall Protection & Prevention Train the Trainer	Rainsville ATN Center
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July 19-20	OSHA 10 Hour General Industry Training	Auburn Technical Assistance Center
July 19	Fall Protection & Prevention 8 Hr. Competent Person Training	Rainsville ATN Center
July 25-29	HAZWOPER 40 Hour Training	Muscle Shoals ATN Center
July 25	NFPA70E: Standard Electrical Safety	Trenholm State—Montgomery
July 27	Precision Measurement for Industrial Maintenance	Shelton State—Tuscaloosa

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